

# DELAWARE COUNTY PLEDGE OF RESISTANCE



P.O. Box 309 ~ Swarthmore, PA 19081 ~ phone & fax: 610-543-8427

Spring 2006

## Delco Pledge Sets Goals for 2006

by Brad Bradlee

I watched an old Seinfeld rerun the other day, the one where Jerry responds to his friend's embrace of certain aberrant behavior with the admonition, "George, we're trying to have a civilization here!"

Isn't that a proper rebuke for our George-in-chief?

Yes, sir, you're passionate about your anti-labor trade agreements, your illegal Haitian regime, your imperial army at the ready for intervention. But we don't swing your way, George. We're trying to have a civilization here!

Still, the Pledge isn't about scolding; we're here to act. So we've lined up some projects for the coming year—an agenda with a South American, Caribbean flavor. Here are some highlights of Pledge strategy session 2006.

Our membership is excited about the recent success of popular movements throughout Latin America. But history reminds us that Washington won't share our enthusiasm. We're going to urge our representatives to give up on the old policies and adopt positions that truly reflect democratic values. Our method is direct lobbying: we're scheduling meetings with our congress members, presenting them with our concerns, and asking them to sign on to our statement in support of economic and political self-determination for Latin America. We'll be letting these officials know that their constitu-

ents will get the word about which representative support American values of nonintervention.

Haiti is a Pledge priority. Conditions have worsened; our government is part of the problem, but our neighbors remain unaware. In terms of education, maybe the most important thing the Pledge can do is send people to Haiti; we're looking for delegates to make the trip, traveling with our financial support. These delegates will be valuable witnesses when they return. We'd like to see more about Haiti in the local press, too, so we're sponsoring a letter-writing campaign to the *Philadelphia Inquirer* to demonstrate that their readership cares about the topic and wants better coverage. Finally, our Washington representatives could use some firsthand knowledge of the situation; we'll invite them to travel with our Haiti delegations.

Nearly every major radio market gets to enjoy Amy Goodman's Pacifica broadcast, *Democracy Now*—but not us. This is an exceptional program that covers our issues, and we want it on the air in Philadelphia. We'll be push-



*Latin America remains a priority for Delco Pledge.*

ing WHYY to add *Democracy Now* to their lineup.

September's Haiti Forum at the Philadelphia Friend's Meeting House was a great success—well-attended, informational, and a starting point for activism. We'll hold more educational programs in 2006. Haiti and Latin American political developments will provide the topics—we're looking for expert speakers now.

We have you reading this newsletter—can we get another 50 interested parties to subscribe to our newsletter? We're aiming for a wider distribution, printing more copies, and taking these to meetings and events wherever we may go.

# Former CIA Analysts to Speak at Witness for Peace Retreat

Of the many thousands who have filed through the CIA's ranks during the past 50 years, Ray McGovern and David MacMichael are in an elite company of people who woke up and took a public stance. As Noam Chomsky has said, their motivation is partly being able to look themselves squarely in the eye while shaving. They are responding to the insistent call of their consciences, and have felt compelled to act.

On April 7-9, Ray McGovern and David MacMichael will be featured speakers at the Witness for Peace-Mid-Atlantic retreat, "Resisting the Oil Wars in Iraq and the Americas." The retreat will take place at Burlington Meeting House Conference Center, 340 High Street, Burlington, New Jersey, 5 pm Friday through 1 pm Sunday

In 2003, Ray and David joined with others to form Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity (VIPS). The first paper by VIPS, a *Memorandum for the President* sent on February 5, 2003, was a critique of Secretary of State Colin Powell's address to the U.N. that same day. In the memorandum, they warned that intelligence analysts were "increasingly distressed at the politicization of intelligence," and "were finding it hard to make themselves heard above the drumbeat for war." Both Ray and Dave offer unrivaled insight into how the White House ideological operatives transform straight analysis into disinformation (& lies) to legitimize torture, oil wars in the Middle East and intervention in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Ray McGovern was formerly one of the CIA's most senior analysts, conducting the daily briefings at the White House under the Nixon, Carter, Ford,

Reagan, and Bush I administrations. At retirement he was awarded the CIA's distinguished service award for his 27 years of service. He has appeared on the *PBS News Hour*, on the *Charlie Rose Show*, in videos, and has contributed to books. He testified last year at the hearing on the Downing Street memo convened by Rep. John Conyers. Ray and his VIPS colleagues have also appeared in several video documentaries—notably, Robert Greenwald's *Uncovered: The War on Iraq and Breaking the Silence: Truth and Lies in the War on Terror*. His chapter "Sham Dunk: Cooking Intelligence for the President" appeared in late 2005 in a new book *Neo-CONNED Again!* Ray currently works with *Tell the Word*, a publishing ministry of the ecumenical Church of the Savior in Washington, D.C. He writes and speaks for the arm of *Tell the Word* called "Speaking Truth to Power."

David MacMichael worked in the 1960s for the Department of Defense as a researcher in the Stanford Research Institute, which took him to Bangkok, Thailand, in the Office of the Special Assistant for Counter-Insurgency at the U.S. embassy. In 1980, he joined the Analytic Group of the National Intelligence Council of the CIA as an analyst specializing in Latin American issues. In 1983, he left the CIA and traveled privately to Central America assessing the situation in the light of the Reagan administration policy. In Nicaragua, at the time of the mining of that country's harbor (part of the so-called Contra war) he went public with denunciations of U.S. policy and the falsification of so-called "intelligence" used to support that policy. In 1985, he was a witness for Nicaragua in the case of Nicaragua vs. United States at the International



Ray McGovern (R), a former CIA agent, will speak at the Witness for Peace retreat. He is joined here by Joseph Wilson (L), former ambassador to Iraq for George H. W. Bush, and Cindy Sheehan (C), founder of the Gold Star Families for American Peace, at a House Judiciary Committee Hearing, Washington, DC., June 16, 2005.

Court of Justice at The Hague. David now serves on the steering committee of VIPS and speaks and writes widely on issues of foreign policy, human rights, and the role of the CIA.

Ron Adams will lead our reflections on Saturday and Sunday mornings. He is pastor of the East Chestnut Street Mennonite Church in Lancaster, Pa. He and his wife Marilou have been longtime supporters of Witness for Peace and of the peace ministry. Ron took part in a Witness for Peace delegation to Nicaragua in 1984. Among other evidences of his commitment to peace, he committed civil disobedience while demonstrating against the Contra war at the office of his congressman in 1986.

Julia Graff was an international team member for WFP during 1999-2002, first in Guatemala, and then Colombia. She subsequently attended law school at American University in D.C., where she specialized in international human rights and immigration law. She now works as a staff attorney at the American Civil Liberties Union of Delaware. Julia will lead the Friday evening session on our approach, history, and mission in Witness for Peace.

The retreat will include sessions on:

- Inside the CIA and inside the White House
- The CIA and how the Peace Movement can confront the policies of the agency dictated by the economic and

political power brokers of our nation

- Panel discussion on CIA methods in Latin America and Haiti
- Report on the Witness for Peace delegation to Venezuela February 2006
- Updates on Nicaragua, Haiti, Mexico and Colombia
- How Witness for Peace confronts our nation's economically- and resource-driven wars

The cost of the retreat is \$130 per person for the entire retreat and \$50 per person for Saturday only. Low-income people need pay only \$60 per person for the entire retreat and \$15 for Saturday only. We'll have comfortable dorm-style lodging and home-style meals. The cost also includes the costs of the program and materials.

Register today by sending your check made out to 'Witness for Peace-MidAtlantic' for \$45 as a deposit to: Andrew Mills, 94 Harlow Circle, Lower Gwynedd, PA 19002. For more information about the retreat, you can call Andy at (215) 628-3963, or email him at [helendymills@comcast.net](mailto:helendymills@comcast.net).

## Get on the Button!

The Pledge is minting a batch of buttons to promote our themes of peace, participatory democracy, and economic justice. We want this button to be an eye-catcher and conversation-starter and YOU can help us.

Simply compose a slogan or phrase we can pin on every Pledger! Think Pledge issues, think Pledge values, and give us a slogan. Yes, you are designing this button.

We'll have our buttons ready to distribute at events, fairs, forums, and any place we find an unadorned lapel or backpack. The winning submission receives a fistful of first edition buttons sure to turn heads from Washington marches to the Wawa checkout.

So send your ideas to P.O. Box 309, Swarthmore, PA 19018, or e-mail us at [info@delcopledge.org](mailto:info@delcopledge.org), and get your message on the button!

# Health Care in Port-au-Prince, Haiti

by Karen Wisniewski

Thirteen people from the U.S., seven of us from Philadelphia, participated in a health and human rights delegation to Haiti in mid-January. Although I have only been traveling to Haiti for a year, on this, my fifth trip, it seemed that the descent into chaos was steeper and wider. There were more kidnappings, more gun violence, and more confrontations between United Nations peacekeepers and civilians. The judicial process was at a standstill. Father Gerard Jean-Juste, imprisoned since July and declared a prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International, was becoming increasingly ill with leukemia and pneumonia.

During every visit, I have gone to the one hospital serving 300,000 people in the slums of Cite Soleil, Saint Catherine's. In February of 2005, the hospital was virtually closed due to lack of resources and money. In June, there was some activity, limited care being given, and the emergency room was busy. But there was no electricity and no running water. Then in October, Mediciens Sans Frontiers (Doctors Without Borders) came in. They restored electricity, brought supplies, staffed the operating room and inpatient care, while running the emergency room 24 hours a day. The surgeon on our delegation, Bob Boucher, had been planning to do ear, nose and throat and head and neck surgeries during our trip. However, there were so many gunshot victims that no free time was available in the operating room.

Despite all this, health and human rights projects we are involved in are moving forward. Haiti Rights Vision combines help for victims of rape (support groups, medical care, economic recovery) with organizing and training women to advocate for change. They are just now moving into a new site that



*U.N. peacekeepers patrol in Port-au-Prince.*

will give them the space for the clinic, offices, and groups to meet.

At Father Jean-Juste's request, a health project is beginning at his parish, Sainte Claire's. People from this very poor community have been selected to attend a three-month training to become community health workers. The plan is for training to continue and eventually a community-led clinic to be developed.

We participated in an open space workshop along with 40 Haitians. There was cross-class and cross-cultural communication about Haitian, American, and international health and human rights issues. Women rape victims from poor neighborhoods provided leadership in this day-long workshop attended by physicians, professors, students, and community leaders. It was a model of democratic action amidst the chaos.

For more information on any of the projects, Karen Wisniewski can be reached at [karenwphilly@yahoo.com](mailto:karenwphilly@yahoo.com).

# Guatemala Update

Compiled by Marge Van Cleef

## Campesinos—From the Guatemala Human Rights Commission (GHRC):

From the Moca and Cabas fincas in Alta Verapaz have come reports of evictions and ongoing acts of intimidation by members of the police and military, as the government fails to enact just land reform in Guatemala. In their communiqué, Union of Campesino Organizations of the Verapaces (UVOC) denounced the use of public security forces to destroy homes, crops, food, and clothing in the process. In addition, the detention of local leaders reflects an attempt to destroy the campesino organizing base, similar to the scorched earth policy of the 1980s. UVOC asked for solidarity from the international community, asking that human rights groups intervene to halt the persecution of campesinos in Guatemala.

**Human Rights Abuses**—2005 has been the worst year for human rights abuses in Guatemala since the peace accords in 1996. Many women raped, 3 judicial system members murdered and 75 attacked, 31 journalists attacked, street children disappeared. (GHRC 11/12/05).

Contact the Embassy of Guatemala. Tel: (202) 745-4952 FAX: (202) 745-1908.

## Congress Keeps Ban on Military Aid to Guatemala!

As Congress wrapped up the FY06 foreign operations bill, it decided to maintain the ban on military aid to Guatemala, in place since 1990. Grassroots activists groups called on Congress to keep the ban due to continued threats and attacks against human rights and social activists and lack of progress in implementing military reforms contained in the 1996 peace accords. The bill requires the Agency for International Development to appoint a special advisor for indigenous issues worldwide, an ef-

fort to ensure greater consultation with indigenous peoples and improve how they are affected by aid programs.

The Congress kept the requirement for the State and Defense Departments to make public a foreign military training report on U.S.

military training programs around the globe.

**Action Alert:** Find out how your local representative voted on HR 3057 and urge him/her to follow the human



*Protesters march at the Presidential Palace to demonstrate against a free trade agreement in March 23, 2004, in Guatemala City.*

## More CAFTA Failures for Bush Administration

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1, U.S. Newswire—As President Bush touted the benefits of free trade in his state of the union address, protests against CAFTA filled the streets of San Salvador on January 31. The Bush administration was forced to delay the January 1 CAFTA starting date as social movements are reinvigorated in their continued mobilizing against the worst aspects of the agreement and to ultimately thwart the implementation process.

The U.S. trade representative has been insisting that the six countries involved in the agreement go beyond the original provisions, especially in the areas of intellectual property rights and sanitary regulations. In particular, U.S.-based pharmaceutical companies have demanded legal changes in the Central American countries that would prevent generic drug companies from manufacturing low-cost medicines. The vice

rights situation in Guatemala. (Latin America Working Group, [www.lawg.org](http://www.lawg.org)). See full bill at: <http://www.rules.house.gov/109/text/hr3057>

president of Guatemala has gone as far as to threaten to pull the country out of CAFTA if the pressure from the trade representative does not let up. In mid-January the Bush administration added plant and animal health reforms to the mix of changes they are demanding before implementation, pushing Central American countries to eliminate domestic health regulations for U.S. meat exports.

On January 22, presidents from the five Central American countries met and agreed to open a new regional facility for antiterrorism and counter-narcotics monitoring in Guatemala. The facility would accompany a new U.S.-sponsored police school (the International Law Enforcement Academy or ILEA) that is expected to open this year in El Salvador. This is clearly an essential part of the strategy of expanding corporate trade and combating increased popular resistance with force. For more information visit <http://www.stopcafta.org>.

**Delegation to Guatemala:** March 25 - April 2. A Fair Trade in Action, organized by Global Exchange. Contact: Cristina Carrasquillo, [cristina@globalexchange.org](mailto:cristina@globalexchange.org), or (415)575-5523.

# Delco Peace Festival Celebrates Human Rights

by Robin Lasersohn

The Peace Center of Delaware County will hold the Fourth Annual Delaware County Peace Festival on Saturday, May 13, 2006. The event will be held on the one acre grounds at the Peace Center/Springfield Friends Meeting House, 1001 Old Sproul Road in Springfield, Delaware County, from 12 noon to 5:00 p.m. In case of stormy weather, the event will be held indoors at the Swarthmore Friends Meeting House. This annual family-friendly celebration of peace is growing into one of the Delaware County's most popular gatherings of activists, artists, craftspeople, educators, musicians, poets, and prophets of all ages, races, religions, and cultures. Last year, over 400 people attended the festival.

The theme of this year's festival is "Celebrating Human Rights—Stand Up! Speak Out! Sing with All Your Heart!" This year's festival will integrate education about human rights, stories about human rights heroes/heroines, music, art, and current day activism in a salute to the movements for human freedom, dignity, and sustenance.

John Flynn, one of the Delaware Valley's most compelling singer-songwriters, a spellbinding storyteller, and troubadour for justice, will be the featured performer. John, a favorite on the WXPN radio show *Kids' Corner*, will also perform a special concert for kids.

Tom Mullian, known as the Woody Guthrie of Media, will be on stage at the 2006 festival. *In the Company of Poets*, a fierce, female spoken word ensemble,

will shower the audience with words that are like shards of stars. *The Friends of Falun Gong* will demonstrate traditional Chinese dancing. *Makin' Music*, the popular Delaware County children's music company, will be there to get all the toddlers jumpin', jukin', and jitterbuggin'. Folks attending the festival will be able to join the drumming circle and/or poetry circle as active participants. There will also be games, crafts, good food, and fellowship for children, families, and people of all ages.

Community organizations will set up tables, booths, and exhibits to provide education and opportunities for ongoing action. The Peace Center will present awards to local individuals and/or organizations working for peace and human rights. Join us to celebrate and sustain our movements for peace, justice, and defense of the environment.

For more information on the 2006 Delaware County Peace Festival visit [www.delcopeacecenter.org](http://www.delcopeacecenter.org) or e-mail [greenseed@comcast.net](mailto:greenseed@comcast.net) or call 610-328-2424.

# Cinema Resistance Presents Hepburn in *Christopher Strong*

by Bob Small

On Saturday, March 25, 7 pm, Cinema Resistance will resume our schedule by presenting *Christopher Strong* (1933) in celebration of Women's History Month. The film will be shown at Media Friends Meeting, 125 W. 3rd St., in Media. There will be a pre-cinema introduction and a post-cinema discussion. Speakers TBA. Refreshments will be available, and donations will be accepted.

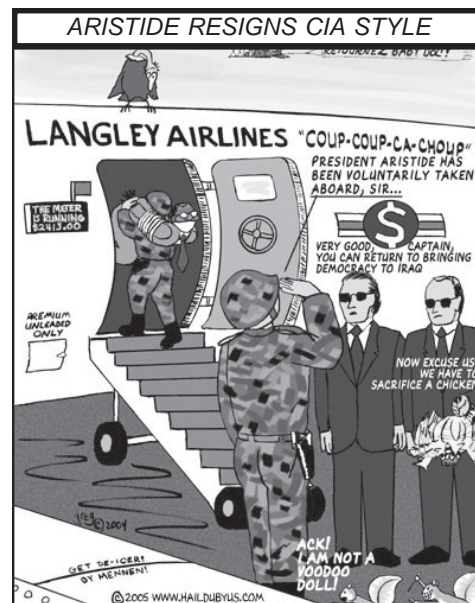
*Christopher Strong* stars Katherine Hepburn as a character reminiscent of Amelia Earhart. Her character, Lady Cynthia Darlington, is a woman in love with both a married man and the freedom of flying. Her lover, Christopher Strong, is a married member of Parliament. Christopher Strong is played by Colin Clive, destined, perhaps unfairly, to be remembered for his role as Sir Henry Frankenstein, whose

experiments went a tad wrong. Though the film is named after the male character, the film is really about Lady Darlington, an independent woman who struggles to remain independent. The film will be shown on DVD.

*Christopher Strong* is one of only a dozen films directed by Hollywood's only major female director of the 1930s, Dorothy Arzner. Arzner's films, especially those made before the censorship of the Will Hays code, are informed by a feminism not to return to Hollywood until the mid-1970s. She left Paramount Studios in 1932 and worked as an independent director afterwards, though still within the studio system. She stopped directing in 1943 for reasons that remain mysteri-

ous. That she was an avowed "out" lesbian did not prevent her from doing many other types of work, including a stint at UCLA's film school.

For further information, call 610-543-8427.



# U.S. vs. the President of Venezuela, Hugo Chavez

by Ronald Coburn

• Feb. 28, 2006—“President Chavez said the Bush administration should know that if they go over the line, they are not going to have Venezuelan oil.” *The New York Times*

• Feb. 28, 2006—“After the hurricane Katrina, Chavez was the first to offer aid in terms of heating oil. This was refused by the Bush administration.” *The Economist*

• Feb. 25, 2006—“Washington imposed restrictions on Venezuelan air flights. In response, Venezuela’s government announced that it is reducing the number of flights of American-owned airplanes that will be allowed to land in Venezuela.” *The New York Times*

• Feb. 14, 2006—An American military attaché was expelled from Venezuela because of suspected spying. Tit-for-tat, the U.S. expelled the number two official at the Venezuelan embassy. *The New York Times*

• Feb. 13, 2006—A Chavez quote: “The imperialistic, fascist, and genocide attitude of the U.S. president has no limits, and I think Hitler would be a suckling baby next to George W. Bush.” *Los Angeles Times*

• Jan. 25, 2006—Chavez explained why he thinks the U.S. military will invade his country. *BBC News*

• Jan. 18, 2006—Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice testifying about President Chavez before the International Relations Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives: “We are concerned about a democratically elected leader who governs in an illiberal way.”

• Jan. 15, 2006—Chavez’s comment about U.S. secretary of state Rice: “She is a complete illiterate with regard to comprehending Latin America.” *Peoples’ Daily*

• Nov. 23, 2005—Chavez denounced U.S. foreign policy regarding Iraq and Haiti. After the U.S.-assisted coup in Haiti, which ousted the democratically-elected President Aristide, Chavez called President Bush a *pendejo* (a jerk). *Democracy Now*

• Nov. 23, 2005, *Democracy Now* interview with Anthony Fenton; Feb. 26, 2006, *Venezuelanalysis.com*; Apr. 2002, *Observer Interna-*

*tional*. These reports indicated that the U.S.-funded National Endowment for Democracy and International Republican Institute were involved in a 2002 coup that removed Chavez from his presidency (he was reinstated two weeks later), in the unsuccessful 2003 strike that tried to force Chavez to resign, and in the defeated 2004 recall election (Chavez received 60 percent of the total votes).

• Oct. 2005—President Chavez was labeled the largest threat since the Soviet era and communism. *U.S. Army Doctrine for Asymmetric War against Venezuela*

• Aug. 25, 2005—“The U.S. would have dealt with Chavez long ago—except for their 14,000 CITGO petrol stations and his 70 percent popularity.” *The Guardian*

• Aug. 23, 2005—Pat Robertson, TV evangelist and founder of the Christian Coalition of America, who believes “the blessing of heaven is upon Bush”: “Assassinating Chavez would be a cheaper foreign policy option than launching another \$200 billion war.” Christian Broadcasting Network

• Feb. 4, 2005—“The iron fist of Hugo Chavez, the left wing leader of Venezuela, is moving toward total totalitarian rule.” *Fox News*

• 2005 to the present time: a boycott organized by the American Family Association of CITGO gas stations owned by Venezuela’s state-run oil company Petro’Leas de Venezuela.

• Feb. 1, 2004—U.S. secretary of defense Donald Rumsfeld compared President Hugo Chavez to Hitler and stated that Chavez is a threat to the region. Defense Department press conference

• Oct. 17, 2003—“Venezuela is the number one ally of social movements.” *Global Exchange*

These are selective quotes that demonstrate the dangerous deterioration of relations between the U.S. government and the government of Venezuela. The aggressive U.S. stance was amplified by



Cuban doctor Mirta Mendoza makes a housecall to a Venezuelan boy with an injured leg in the shantytown of La Vega. Cuban doctors regularly make housecalls to patients unable to come to clinic.

the December 2005 election in Bolivia of protest leader and democratic socialist president Evo Morales who shares views similar to Chavez. (Chavez's programs are discussed below.) Left-leaning presidents are in power in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Uruguay, as well. Also at issue is control of oil, fear of nationalization of multinational corporations, control of trade, the role of China as a potentially dominant trade partner, and Chavez's trade agreement with Cuba. The U.S. government sees its centuries-old hold on Latin America slipping. The loss of U.S. influence was highlighted when the U.S. did not get sufficient South American support for their extension of the North American Free Trade Agreement and the Central American Free Trade Agreement, as the Free Trade Areas of the Americas (FTAA).

Chavez's responses seem to reflect his fear of U.S. military intervention, economic domination, and assassination.

Most of the current generation of South American leaders came of age when the region was controlled by military dictatorships. Because the U.S. backed many of these dictatorships, many of the newly-elected, left-leaning South American leaders have long questioned and criticized U.S. interventions. They know well the history of the CIA role in the assassination of Salvador Allende, a democratically-elected president of Chile, which produced the horrors of dictator Pinochet's rule. They lived through U.S. support of the Contras and the Contra-Iran money laundering scandal. The recent U.S.-directed overthrow of the democratically-elected Haitian president Aristide offered another ominous reminder to South American leaders. In addition, the U.S. government is still supporting the military in many countries, including training their military officers at the School of the Americas in Georgia. A recent survey (Zogby International Poll) showed that 86 percent of Latin American professionals have a negative opinion of President Bush.

The most publicized leader in South America today is Hugo Chavez, president of a country where reportedly 40 percent of the people live in poverty

but which sits over huge oil fields that are developed and currently exporting more than 1.5 million barrels per day to the U.S. Chavez, who was elected president by a large majority in 1998, is leading political and economic change in South America. He

is a controversial figure and considered an enemy of some members of the upper classes in Venezuela. But he has also been cited by human rights organizations and been accused of exerting control of the media in his country. Chavez has developed ambitious social and economic projects, including a controversial land reform policy, and has stopped privatization of state services. In his seven years in office, he has brought 20,000 Cuba-trained doctors to Venezuela, funded free health care, and initiated state-funded supermarkets that sell discounted food to the poor. It is reported that education is now universal to the university level. He has put pressure on Exxon Mobil and Philips Petroleum, which operate independently of the state-owned oil company, to pay taxes and provide a higher percentage of revenue to the state, but he has not threatened to nationalize them. He severed long-standing ties between the U.S. and the Venezuelan military.

President Chavez has used Venezuela's oil wealth to forge a regional network that is challenging U.S. political and economic dominance. Chavez's model of economic development emphasizes integration of economies, science, technology, education, and health in different South American countries, rather than an economy built on U.S. investment and trade. He is selling dis-



*President Hugo Chavez (L) meets with Bolivian president Evo Morales in La Paz, Bolivia, January 22, 2006.*

counted oil to neighboring and Caribbean countries and has a trade agreement with Cuba. In addition, he has provided thousands of households in the U.S. living below the poverty level with 40 percent discounted oil. Some would see him as a Spanish-speaking Robin Hood. His plan complements Mercosur (Mercado Comun del Sur), South America's most important free trade zone, which has a trade mission similar to the Common Market in Europe, and seeks to unify South and Central American trade. At the fourth summit of the Americas in Mar del Plata, Argentina, Mercosur partners along with Venezuela shunned the FTAA in favor of continued efforts to deepen South American economic and political integrations. They criticized the FTAA, fearing that it would open up huge markets for U.S. companies but not alleviate poverty. Chavez argued that it would increase American domination of South American countries.

It is uncertain what the future will bring for South America; however, there is no doubt that we are seeing a new chapter in that continent's economic and social development. We hope that the Bush administration will realize that we need to reevaluate U.S.-South American policies. We urge the Bush administration not to consider further interventions in South American countries.

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# Community Calendar

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## BRANDYWINE PEACE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

March 8—Join “A Celebration of Democracy, Dissent, & Civil Liberties,” 4 pm, Delaware County Courthouse, Front St. & Veterans Sq., in Media, Pa., just across the street from the site of the former Media FBI office to celebrate the anniversary of March 8, 1971: A group calling themselves the “Citizens Commission to Investigate the FBI” broke into the Media, Pa. FBI office, removing hundreds of files which when made public document the FBI’s COINTELPRO (Counter-Intelligence Program) policy of spying, infiltration, and harassment of civil rights and anti-war activism at the time.

March 12—“Venezuela’s Option for the Poor vs. U.S. Greed,” 4:30 pm, Brandywine Peace Community potluck supper/program, University Lutheran Church, 3637 Chestnut St., Phila., Pa., panel discussion on Venezuela and U.S. policy. Panelists, recently returned from Venezuela: Pat Albright, Global Women’s Strike; Eric Gjertsen, Payday

(men’s network working with Global Women’s Strike); and Ray Torres, Mid-Atlantic Regional Organizer for Witness for Peace.

March 19 (3rd anniversary of Iraq war’s start): “From Mourning to Resistance,” 6:15 pm, candlelight vigil & sundown service, Independence Visitors Center, 5th & Market Sts., Phila., Pa., with recitation of names of war dead, bell-tolling, music, circle of peace. Speakers: Paul Hetznecker, human rights attorney in Phila.; Sarah Mullen, associate director of the Pa. ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union); Max Obuszewski, AFSC (American Friends Service Committee) in Baltimore, Md., who was spied upon by the National Security Agency (NSA); Beth Centz, cofounder of the Brandywine Peace Community, who was asked to be an FBI “informant” in the wake of the Media FBI break-in; John Braxton, Vietnam era draft resister; music by Tom Mullian, and much more. Bring your whistles or noisemakers to “raise-a-fuss” for democracy and civil liberties.

March 20: (AM time to be decided) non-violent resistance to the war’s chief profiteer, Lockheed Martin, Mall & Goddard

Blvds., Valley Forge, Pa. (behind the King of Prussia Mall) resisting the continuing war and in solidarity with National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance action at the Pentagon and weapons corporations nationwide. Those participating need to attend the non-violent resistance/civil disobedience preparation meeting.

April 9 (Palm Sunday)—Shane Claiborne, Simple Way religious activist and author of the just published *The Irresistible Revolution: Living as an Ordinary Radical*, 4:30 pm, Brandywine Peace Community potluck supper/program, University Lutheran Church, 3637 Chestnut St., Phila., Pa.

April 14 (Good Friday)—Stations of Justice & Peace, noon, Lockheed Martin, Mall & Goddard Blvds., Valley Forge, Pa. (behind King of Prussia Mall).

For more information, contact: Brandywine Peace Community, P.O. Box 81, Swarthmore, Pa. 19081; tel: 610-544-1818; e-mail: [brandywine@juno.com](mailto:brandywine@juno.com); web: [www.brandywinepeace.com](http://www.brandywinepeace.com).