

Peace History Society

Newsletter

Summer 2007

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 -From the President
-PHS website URL
- 3 -2007 PHS Conference
-PHS Members at SMH
-News from Germany
- 6 -Announcements
- 7 -Conferences
- 8 -2005 PHS Conference
- 9 -Book Announcements
- 10 -PHS Awards
- 11 -PHS Officers and Board

From the President

Dear Friends,

Writing this paragraph on Memorial Day at the Jersey Shore, I can't help reflecting on war and peace, citizenship and patriotism, scholarship and activism, and the current wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, and beyond. The shore town of Avalon is festooned with American flags, the American Legion Post is hosting an open house, and a local newspaper—distributed by realtors and dominated by their advertisements—carries an article that features a local boy who—at age 19—made “the ultimate sacrifice” during World War II. How should peace historians respond to this holiday that, too often, not only commemorates soldiers' service and sacrifice but celebrates American wars and military virtues?

Most peace historians respect the contributions of American soldiers; moreover, I would venture, most peace historians neither condemn all U.S. (or other) wars nor condemn all armed force. However, that said, we refuse to support all (or even most wars); we resist the celebration of war and militarism; we insist that peace—and peace activism—is patriotic; we explore the causes, social costs, and other consequences of war; we resist demonizing opponents and understand that death, destruction, and anguish occur on both sides of the battle front; we make causal links between injustice and violence; we explore—and often advocate—nonviolent alternatives to conflict resolution; and we observe that, in a world with proliferating weapons of mass destruction, war is a threat to human survival.

On Memorial Day, I don't hesitate to express my opposition to the Iraq War—and to war in general. But I seek common ground with those who don't share my convictions: by using republican language, by insisting that citizen peace activism is patriotic, and by arguing that antiwar dissent is central to the ideals represented by the flag. Indeed, antiwar dissent does not disrespect the fallen soldiers honored on Memorial Day; rather, dissent—and the vibrant citizen activism that it represents—validates their sacrifice and celebrates the American ideals of freedom, democracy, and liberty.

The PHS relies on its officers, board, and members to serve on committees and advance the organization in various other ways. In addition to the valuable work performed by the officers and board, I am delighted to recognize the contributions of the following people.

Tim Smith has volunteered to resurrect the PHS Newsletter. Beginning with this issue, Tim will publish an electronic newsletter two or three times annually. Tim needs news and articles to sustain this newsletter, so please send Tim material and contact him with suggestions.



Peace History Society Website:

www.peacehistorysociety.org/

(continued on page 2)

Continued From the President

In early June, the following people were elected to the PHS board: Harriet Alonso, Marc Becker, Mike Foley, David Hostetter, Kathleen Kennedy, Robert Shaffer, and Tim Smith. They replace outgoing board members Frances Early, Ian Lekus, and Marian Mollin. The Nominations and Election Committee—David Hostetter (chair), Wendy Chmielewski, Ian Lekus, and Marian Mollin—prepared the ballot and organized the election.

Mitch Hall organized a PHS panel at the Society of Military History Conference. Mitch chaired the panel, which included Scott Bennett, Wendy Chmielewski, and Brad Simpson. I have invited the SMH to participate on a panel at future PHS conferences, though it is too late to arrange something for the October PHS conference. I hope that this interaction continues—and that we develop similar exchanges with other groups.

We have established two new committees to elevate our profile and increase our membership. Larry Wittner has agreed to chair a Publicity and Outreach Committee; its other members are Marc Becker, Sandi Cooper, Carole Fink, Dee Garrison, Scott Bennett (ex officio), and Ginger Williams (ex officio). Ginger Williams has agreed to chair a Membership Committee, whose members include Scott Bennett, Larry Wittner (ex officio), and others to be named once Ginger returns from Central America.

Our prize committees are at work. The DeBenedetti Prize Committee—Doug Rossinow (chair), Chuck Howlett and Barbara Steinson—will announce the recipient of the 2005-2006 prize at the PHS Conference in October. The Scott Bills Memorial Prize Committee—Harriet Alonso, Charles Chatfield, and Peter van den Dungen—is currently accepting submissions for the 2006-2007 prize. For details on these prizes, please see the PHS website. Marc Becker maintains the PHS website. Michelle Ciarlo-Hayes maintains the PHS database and handles group emails to the membership.

The next PHS Conference will be held at Georgian Court University on October 19-20, 2007. Kevin Callahan and Kathleen Kennedy, the program organizers, have put together an excellent program around the theme: “Historical Perspectives on Engendering War, Peace and Justice.” See the PHS website for information about registration, hotel reservations, and the program. I hope to see you all at Georgian Court in October.

In closing, once again, I wish to thank the PHS officers, board members, and members—past and present—who have contributed their time, energy, and vision to the Peace History Society.



*Scott Bennett
PHS President*

For Peace and Justice,
Scott H. Bennett
PHS President

2007 PHS Conference

The Peace History Society will hold its biannual conference at Georgian Court University in Lakewood, New Jersey on October 19-20, 2007. The topic of the conference is “Historical Perspectives on Engendering War, Peace and Justice.” For information on the conference, registration forms and the conference program go to: www.peacehistorysociety.org/phs2007/

PHS Members Present Panel at the Society for Military History Conference --from Mitch Hall

Members of the Peace History Society presented a panel on April 21 at an unusual location, the annual meeting of the Society for Military History. The SMH president, Dr. Carol Reardon of Penn State University, invited former PHS president Mitch Hall of Central Michigan University to contribute to their effort of reaching across boundaries of history sub-disciplines. Reardon and Hall both graduated from the Ph.D. program of the University of Kentucky in 1987. The conference took place in Frederick, Maryland from April 19-22. The peace session was entitled “Recent Trends in Peace History: Case Studies and Overviews.” Wendy Chmielewski of Swarthmore College presented “Women for Peace: The Role of Women in the U.S. Peace Movement, 1818-2006”; Scott Bennett of Georgian Court University spoke on “Current Directions in the History of Pacifism”; and Brad Simpson of the University of Maryland-Baltimore County shared “Development Dictators: Military Modernization and U.S.-Indonesian Relations, 1958-1963.” Mitch Hall served as session chair and provided brief comments. In addition to the four panelists, there was an attentive audience of thirteen people. Although there was only a short time for audience comments, the questions were thoughtful and the experience was very positive. This prompted discussion among panelists of incorporating similar efforts into future PHS conferences.

News from the German Working Group on Historical Peace Research The German Working Group on Historical Peace Research and the Peace History Society Seek Greater Cooperation

Historical peace research in Germany has been strongly influenced by “peace history” in the United States. This influence is evident not least in the Working Group on Historical Peace Research (“Working Group”), an organization founded in 1983 after the model of the Peace History Society. Conversely, Americans have expressed interest in the history of European and German peace movements, a trend that has grown over the last several years. Intensive personal contacts between peace historians in Germany and the United States have existed for a long time. On an organizational level, however, the Peace History Society and Working Group began to lose touch during the 1990s. To address the current, regrettable situation, both associations call for greater cooperation and an improved exchange of information about their respective activities.

(Continued on p. 4)

Today, the Working Group has approximately 150 members, the majority of whom are historians from Germany, Austria, and Switzerland, though many also come from Great Britain, France, the Netherlands, and the United States. The Working Group defines historical peace research as an investigation into “the chances for and limits to realizing peace in all its historical dimensions.” Its work is oriented by the principle of peace and asks after the capacity of modern societies for peace. “These efforts do not adhere to a particular politicized notion of peace. Conceptually, peace is understood principally as the effort to institutionally contain and reduce the collective use of force against human beings.”

On this basis, the Working Group has addressed a wide variety of subjects during its nearly 25 years of existence. Unlike the Peace History Society, the Working Group does not publish its own journal. Instead, contributions to the association’s annual conference are published in a book series, entitled *Frieden und Krieg: Beiträge zur Historischen Friedensforschung* [War and Peace: Contributions to Historical Peace Research], in which the following titles, among others, have appeared: “Perspektiven der Historischen Friedensforschung” (2002) [Perspectives on Historical Peace Research]; “Der Bürger als Soldat. Die Militarisierung europäischer Gesellschaften im langen 19. Jahrhundert. Ein internationaler Vergleich” (2004) [The Citizen as Soldier. The Militarization of European Societies during the long 19th century: An International Comparison]; and finally “Deeskalation von Gewaltkonflikten seit 1945” (2006) [Deescalation of Violent Conflicts since 1945]. *Frieden und Krieg* is also open to monographs, and besides the most recent conference volume, the first monograph will appear shortly. In addition to this publication series, members of the Working Group receive the association’s bi-annual newsletter, announcements of meetings, information on individual members’ projects, and other notices. Reviews of the latest German- and English-language books from the field of historical peace research are distributed once a week under the Working Group’s editorial supervision via the H-Soz-u-Kult mailing list, a German off-shoot of H-Net.

Contacts between the Peace History Society and Working Group were quite good during the 1980s and 1990s. During this period, contributions from Working Group members and reviews of German-language publications appeared regularly in *Peace and Change*. Both groups seek to revive and expand upon these previous, intensive exchanges. Just as “News from the German Working Group on Historical Peace Research” will appear in *PHS News*, so too will “News from the Peace History Society” be reported in the Working Group’s newsletter. We gladly invite members of the Peace History Society to send notice (in English) of information and projects of interest to German peace historians to the Working Group’s executive committee. (See contact information below.)
(Continued on p. 5)

In addition, we desire closer cooperation between the Peace History Society and Working Group in the planning of future conferences. Up to now it has been customary on both sides of the Atlantic to invite foreign experts to speak at international conferences, such as at the Working Group's annual meeting in 2005, which took place in Bochum, Germany, completely in English, and thematized "Peace Movements since 1945 in Comparative Perspective: Symbolism, Patterns of Mobilization, Political Culture." In the future, our respective "partner organizations," and not just individual researchers, will be invited/included. In this fashion, organizational relationships will be made more clearly visible. One possibility would be to plan for "guest sections" during conferences. Eventually the Peace History Society and Working Group might co-organize a large conference.

The Working Group will discuss the improvement of transatlantic relations during a workshop scheduled for the association's 2007 annual meeting this November in Bremen, Germany. The next installment of "News from the German Working Group on Historical Peace Research" will follow this meeting at the latest.

Christian Scharnefsky (Berlin)
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Contact information for the Working Group on Historical Peace Research

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A Note from Scott Bennett, PHS President

Recently, I asked Christian Scharnefsky, a Germany Ph.D. student completing a dissertation on the War Resisters International, to inform the German Peace History Society (see above) that we would welcome establishing closer ties. Writing in the recent edition of the German PHS Newsletter (pp. 13-14), Christian passed along our wishes. I offer our warmest regards to our German colleagues.

Announcements

Marquette University has acquired the records of Voices in the Wilderness(VITW, 1996-2005) and the papers of its co-founder and coordinator, Kathy Kelly. These are housed in the Department of Special Collections and University Archives and will be processed within the next two years.

VITW utilized the means of nonviolent direct action, including civil disobedience and fasting, to oppose economic sanctions and war against Iraq. From its base in Chicago, the group organized over seventy delegations to Iraq which brought donations of medicine and toys to children in hospitals in open violation of the U.N. sanctions and U.S. law. The Treasury Department responded by imposing a \$20,000 fine. Refusing to pay it as a matter of principle, VITW closed its doors in the summer of 2005, re-forming under the name of Voices for Creative Nonviolence.

The Kathy Kelly Papers include personal correspondence and files on other peacemaking projects, including a nuclear disarmament action in Missouri for which she served nine months in prison, opposition to the US Army School of the Americas, and participation in the Gulf Peace Team. A former teacher in Catholic high schools, with close ties to the Catholic Worker movement, Kelly has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize on three occasions, once by Nobel laureate Mairead Maguire. Studs Terkel, a longtime friend and fellow Chicagoan, has called her "a direct descendant of Dorothy Day."

Phil Runkel

Archivist

Department of Special Collections and University Archives

Raynor Memorial Libraries Marquette University



Kathy Kelly with her papers outside the Raynor Library

Conferences:

IPRA Conference (Peace History Commission) Call for Papers

As many PHS members know, peace historians as part of their transnational outreach founded the Peace History Commission (PHC) at the International Peace Research Association (IPRA) conference in Valletta, Malta, in 1994. The PHC seeks to bring historical perspective to public understanding of the causes and consequences of interstate and intrastate conflict and of various past alternative peace programs and strategies advanced by citizens, diplomats, and governmental leaders. It has organized panels at many IPRA biennial meetings.

The PHC conveners most recently have been Günter Wernicke (Berlin) and Anne Kjelling (Oslo). For professional and personal reasons, they are stepping aside, and David Patterson has agreed to serve as the PHC convener for the forthcoming IPRA conference, which will be held at the University of Leuven (Louvain), Belgium, July 15-19, 2008, under the theme "Towards sustainable peace and development." More information on the meeting is at www.ipra2008.org.

The Leuven conference is a great opportunity for peace historians to provide a valuable historical dimension to the proceedings; they can also gain insights from the participants in other disciplines. Several PHC sessions are possible. The theme of the conference is broad, and the PHC will consider all subjects involving peace research and taking a historical approach.

The deadline for proposals is October 1, 2007. Please send all requests by e-mail to David at david.patterson@aya.yale.edu. As PHC convener, he will coordinate proposals for papers and panels with the IPRA secretariat.

--Announcement submitted by David Patterson.

Peace Movements in the Cold War and Beyond: An International Conference

The Cold War Studies Centre (CWSC) at the London School of Economics (LSE) together with the Centre for the Study of Global Governance (LSE) and Free University of Amsterdam are requesting support to host an international conference entitled 'Peace Movements in the Cold War and Beyond'. This conference will take place from 31 January to 2 February 2008 at the LSE in London, UK.

The objective of this conference is to discuss and highlight the significance of peace movements during the Cold War era in order to draw conclusions for the analysis of contemporary socio-political reality and the evaluation and resolution of its conflicts and to encourage research and teaching on the history of peace movements. Traditional interpretations of the Cold War focus on nation-states and governments. An examination of the role and impact of citizen movements in both East and West is important not only for the depth it provides to the historical records of the Cold War, but also because it exposes the impact and significance of civil society in the resolution of conflicts more generally. It challenges the belief in the utility of 'traditional' military buildups and coercive pressure. (continued on page 8)

Conferences (continued):

In the second half of the 20th century, imperial control was balanced and unbalanced at the same time. It was balanced in Europe but heavily challenged in Vietnam (US intervention), Afghanistan (Soviet invasion) and the Middle East (Israel-Palestine, Lebanon, Iran, Iraq) Weapons of mass destruction, sectarian and ethnic conflicts as well as local and international terrorism were among the main features of the struggle against imperial control. Last but not least, peace and human rights movements played a crucial role, in particular in Europe. This is the history of the Cold War.

The conference will bring together a unique combination of scholars as well as notable public and political figures, journalists, academics and post-graduate students, to discuss the significance of the peace movements during the Cold War era and today. The conference will coincide with the launch of the European Nuclear Disarmament (END) Archive which will be bequeathed to the CWSC and made accessible in the LSE library. For more information:

http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/CWSC/peace_conference/Default.htm

A Report on the 2005 PHS Conference by Ginger Williams

The last Peace History Society conference, with the theme of “Peace Activism and Scholarship: Historical Perspectives of Social, Economic, and Political Change,” was held at Winthrop University, from November 3-5, 2005. Sessions focused on the intersection of peace activism and scholarship, and the result was a lively and successful meeting. From the opening session (“Straddling Two Worlds: Historians Grapple with Their Work in the Academy and on the Streets”) to the keynote address (Father Roy Bourgeois, M.M., School of the Americas Watch founder), the conference highlighted that meeting place between those who act and those who write, the groups to which the scholar activists have belonged, and the challenges of trying to make the world a better place, within the academy and on the streets. The conference panels covered topics dealing with the Americas, Europe, Africa, and Asia, and from a variety of historical perspectives. The conference raised many questions about the role historians play as scholars, teachers, and activists, and the way they have been influenced and affected by social and cultural movements, political activism, and war.

The conference organizers were Lynne Dunn and Ginger Williams, both of Winthrop University, and the conference program co-chairs were E. Timothy Smith and Ginger Williams. Mitchell K. Hall, president of PHS in 2005-2006, welcomed the conference participants at the banquet, and E. Timothy Smith presented the first Scott Bills Memorial Prize to Michael S. Foley, for his book, *Confronting the War Machine: Draft Resistance during the Vietnam War* (Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 2003).

Book Announcements:

Peace Action is the Subject of a New Book

Peace Action, the largest peace organization in the United States, is the subject of a new and unique book, Peace Action: Past, Present, and Future. Published to coincide with the 50th anniversary celebration of that peace group, Peace Action is a collection of short, lively essays written by prominent leaders or supporters of SANE (the National Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy), the Freeze (the Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign), and their successor, Peace Action. Featuring an introduction by U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Lee and numerous unusual photos, the book examines a half-century of the activities of three of the most influential peace organizations in American history.

The editors of the book are Glen H. Stassen (Smedes Professor of Christian Ethics at Fuller Theological Seminary) and Lawrence S. Wittner (a former president of the Peace History Society and Professor of History at SUNY/Albany). Both are award-winning authors and members of the national board of Peace Action. Contributors to the book include Andrea Ayvazian, Steven Brion-Meisels, David Cortright, Sanford Gottlieb, Monica Green, Homer Jack, Randy Kehler, Barbara Lee, Patricia McCullough, Kevin Martin, Ria Pugada, Jon Rainwater, Marcus Raskin, Jim Rice, Ben Senturia, Glen Stassen, Jim Wallis, Cora Weiss, and Lawrence Wittner.

Peace Action was published in paperback and cloth editions by Paradigm Publishers (www.paradigmpublishers.com) in June 2007. Although the paperback version retails for \$16.95, for a limited time copies can be obtained for \$15.00 each from Peace Action (pdeccy.peace-action.org), with the entire purchase price going to that peace organization.

Japan and the League of Nations

Tom Burkman, who is stepping down after 13 years as the Director of the Asian Studies Program at the University of Buffalo, will continue to be affiliated with the program in a teaching and research capacity. His new book, Japan and the League of Nations: Empire and World Order, 1914-1938, will be published by the University of Hawaii Press in early 2008. His continuing project deals with international reconciliation and forgiveness in East Asia.

The American Peace Movement

Chuck Howlett's edited book, History of the American Peace Movement, 1890-2000: The Development of a New Scholarly Discipline, was selected by Choice Magazine as a 2006 "Outstanding Academic Title." His article, "A.J. Muste: The 20th Century's Most Famous U.S. Pacifist," Friends Journal (April 2006), was awarded Third Place by the Associated Church Presses in the category of the best biographical article for 2006.

Peace History Society Awards:

The DeBenedetti Prize

Since 1987-99, PHS has been awarding the Charles DeBenedetti Prize every other year to the author or authors of an outstanding journal article (published in English) on peace history. Articles submitted may focus on the history of peace movements, the response of individuals to peace and war issues, the relationship between peace and other reform movements, gender issues in warfare and peacemaking, comparative analyses, and quantitative studies. Articles appearing in Peace and Change are automatically considered. The deadline for the next award was May 1, 2007.

The Scott Bills Memorial Prize

The PHS awards the Scott Bills memorial Prize bi-annually (in odd years) for an outstanding English-language work in the field of Peace History. The Prize is awarded for an outstanding first book or an outstanding dissertation by a faculty member or independent scholar. The Prize carries a cash award of \$500. The next Bills Prize will be awarded for a first book published or a dissertation completed in 2006-2007. Please submit nominations (a brief statement will suffice) and ONE copy of the book or dissertation directly to EACH member of the Bills Prize Committee by February 1, 2008. The names and contact information of the committee members are listed below—and on the PHS website (under the Scott Bills Memorial Prize).

Bills Prize Committee:

Dr. Harriet Alonso
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Dr. Charles Chatfield
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 E. Timothy Smith, Barry University
 Virginia S. Williams, Winthrop University
 Lawrence S. Wittner, University at Albany—State University of New York

PHS Newsletter Editor:

E. Timothy Smith, Barry University

Please send all news items, short reviews or articles, and announcements to Tim Smith at esmith@mail.barry.edu. In addition, the editor welcomes any suggestions of a name for the PHS newsletter.