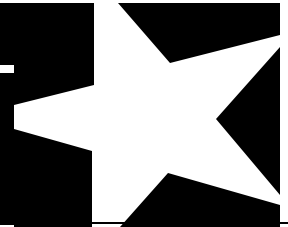


HIPP NEWS!!



Help Increase the Peace Project

Happy New Years!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

HIPP stands for the **Help Increase the Peace Project**,
Come meet new young people from across the valley:
The Help increase the Peace Project is having its
second
BASIC HIPP training of the year
Towards the end of February.

Help Increase the Peace Project began in Syracuse, New York in 1991 through the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), Youth employment project. HIPP was modeled after the Alternatives to violence program for prison inmates, developed by Quakers in 1975. Since then HIPP has expanded throughout the country and is still growing.

HIPP is an interactive and engaging program based on active learning. Through three-day workshops and follow-up activities, participants are empowered to reduce youth violence by strengthening cross-racial and cross-cultural understanding. Participants are encouraged to analyze the impact of social injustice on their lives and the lives of others, to become agents for positive *personal* and *social* change.

The three HIPP workshops - Basic, Advanced and Training for Trainers - are designed to increase levels of skill development. Participants have the opportunity to complete the training series and become HIPP facilitators themselves. HIPP workshops were originally designed for middle and high school participants but they have been successfully adapted for participants of all ages in various settings

Valley Free Radio — The Valley's newest non-commercial radio station, has its doors open. Consider joining the station. Call in at 585-1033. And tune in to 103.3 FM. Listen in on Wednesday mornings at 7 AM to *Diversity in Motion*, a show dedicated to the youth work in the valley, hosted by Raul Matta.

What's Up With HIPP?

Between January and June, youth HIPP trainers from AFSC, Youth Leadership in the Arts (out of Casa Latina) and FCAC Youth Programs will hold five peer-led trainings for high school-age young people in our region. We will hold 2 basic, 2 advanced and 1 training of trainers. At the end of the cycle, youth participants become trainers and join the 40 young people already training in our region (from Athol to Colrain to Springfield). Hopefully some of the new trainers will get a chance to participate in the national HIPP gathering happening this May in the Boston area. We would like to invite everyone interested to join a training, but seats are filling quickly. If you would like to participate, please call Jackie or Raul at the AFSC office. (The number is on the second page of the newsletter.) Please call soon so you can reserve you seats.

Zen Peacemakers Circle Intensive Training

A workshop for people from diverse spiritual backgrounds (including no spiritual background at all) who are interested in investigating how to integrate social action and spirituality. Participants will learn tools for personal, group and social transformation. Meditation, council, the sociocratic voting process and various brainstorming and facilitation processes will be taught. There will be opportunities to explore one's own deeply held values and to investigate the principles and practices of the Zen Peacemakers. Although the workshop's primary intent is to develop and nurture Zen Peacemaker Circles, the processes and principles presented will have direct application to classrooms and other social action groups.

6:30PM Fri. Feb. 10, through 3:00PM
 Sun. Feb. 12 The Zen Peacemaker's
 Maezumi Institute, Montague, MA

Early Registration Fee: **\$108**; Late
 Registration Fee: **\$130** Early registra-
 tion deadline is Monday, Jan. 30,
 2006 Scholarships for work exchange
 available.

To register contact Margi, margigregory@comcast.net or 413 585-8481

For more information on the Zen
 Peacemakers visit our website
www.zenpeacemakers.org

Lodging at Montague Farm is extra:
 \$40 per night for double; \$30 per
 night for dorm. Lodging fee includes
 breakfast. Contact Margi,

margigregory@comcast.net

to arrange for lodging or inquire about
 free home stays.





Western Massachusetts

Beth Mattison

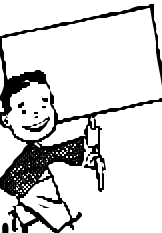
Youth Leadership in the Arts
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Florence, MA 01062
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beth_yla@hotmail.com

Raul Matta or Jacqueline Johnson

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Coming Events!!!!

We are pleased to announce that the members of GIRLS EYE VIEW AMHERST will show their works-in-progress in the following locations...

2 chances to see this new and exciting work!

**There will be a reception:
January 26, 4:00—6:30 PM**

**It will be held in the
Amherst Regional High School
Photo Room.**

**Then during February in the
Amherst Regional Middle School
during regular school hours.
There will be presentations by the
artists, darkroom demos, food,
And more!**

**For more information call:
Stacy Lennard @ Youth Action
Coalition—(413)-253-2158**

Do You Want To Know The Truth About Military Recruitment?

Military recruiters are trying to get the youth of America to join the military. They are targeting people of color and people living in poverty. They are taking advantage of the part of our population that has not been afforded equal opportunity, and unfortunately there is such a lack of opportunity, that we are losing many to the war in Iraq. Counter Recruitment offers statistics given by the US Department of Defense, to show the realities of joining the military. Recruiters are salespeople, they are trying to sell the military to people who are considering enlistment. They do not tell the complete story. They tell the story that will sell best. Counter Recruitment shows both sides, it acknowledges that many people are successful, and also shows how many are not. The goal of Counter Recruitment is to educate people about the military, so they can make an informed decision, when they sign over their lives. AFSC is offering Counter Recruitment trainings for anyone interested in learning more about why the military is not always the best decision for the youth of our nation. These trainings are free and can be held in any location. It is important that the people know the truth about military service.

For more information call Jackie or Raul @, 413-584-8975.

Or email us at Jackie@westernmassafsc.org or raul@westernmassafsc.org

Options Booklet We *all* have options!

Last year I had the option to work on an option's booklet. The option booklet was a great way for me to allow other youth to see that they have other options other than the military. The booklet encompasses ways that young people can receive transportation, housing, shelter, food, and any other resources that are available to the community. The options booklet is a great resource to have in your local schools and places of employment. It allows for there to be many options and many opportunities for young people. Option booklets can be done in many ways. If you have any questions or would like to get started on your own options booklet and would like some assistance. Please

contact me by email at Jackie@westernmassafsc.org

Conscientious Objector Support Circles

You have morals. You morally oppose some actions. If your government asked you to kill would you do it? What if it tried to force you? Protect yourself! Conscientious Objectors to war are protected from the draft. A.F.S.C. is trying to help local men and women under 26 think about where they stand, and what they should do to protect themselves and their friends from military conscription. Meet us on the third floor at Thornes Marketplace on the first Wednesday of each month. We'll be there from 6:00 to 7:30. Call Jo Comerford or Elías Sánchez-Eppler at the Western Mass. AFSC Office (413-584-8975).

In Amherst a similar group meets from 2:30 to 4 p.m. on the first Monday of each month, (except for holidays). The group meets at the Men's Resource Center, 236 N. Pleasant St (about a block from Bruegger's Bagels, going toward U Mass). The group is led by two students at Amherst Regional High School, who have helped lead workshops before about this subject—Daniel Stubbs and Owen Hayden.

For more information, e-mail Owen at owenhayden@earthlink.com

**A Counter-Recruitment community group,
the *Military Recruitment Education Network*,
meets the first Tuesday of the month at
North Star,
104 Russell Road, Hadley beginning at 6:30pm.
Call AFSC for more information: 584-8975.**