

They Reach Us

By David Smith-Ferri

At the makeshift school and community center,
Iraqi men stand straight as palm trees,
sparsely planted, self-contained.
Dusty green fronds of wordless longing unfurl about them,
flags of defeat.

The present is a prison,
a stone cell without doors,
a barred window.

They blink and try to see vast distances,
to discern tomorrow,
a year from tomorrow,
a way beyond today.

All around them, their children, unincarcerated, leap upon us,
climb Kathy like a fence,
pull at my arms, my legs,
twirl us like tops.

They have only their bodies to offer.

They hurl themselves against the future.

Laying their precious bodies down, head to toe,
like a bridge, like a cable across a chasm,
they reach us.

David Smith-Ferri read poetry from his book *Battlefield Without Borders* and showed photos from his trips to Iraq in Boise in Aug.

Radio Free Moscow by Jill Maxwell

Idahoans looking for alternative radio programming can find it in Peace Radio.

Co-hosts Sally Perrine, Jill Wagner and Jill Maxwell conduct interviews with local and national peace and justice activists. Previous guests have included BlackBoxVoting founder Bev Harris, authors Susan Nathan and Joshua Kors, and Voices in the Wilderness founder Kathy Kelly. Recent topics have ranged from efforts to keep Blackwater out of the Northern Idaho town of Coeur D'Alene; to a discussion of community gardening and the importance of grassroots environmentalism.

Each show includes music, news headlines, book and movie reviews, commentary, and a report on recent combatant and civilian deaths in Iraq and Afghanistan. Many shows wind up with a short children's segment.

Peace Radio is broadcast every other Sunday from 2-4.

Listeners outside of Moscow, ID can listen online at <http://www.radiofreemoscow.org> Links to some of the shows can also be found at the Palouse Peace Coalition website, <http://www.palousepeace.org>.

So, tune in to Radio Free Moscow and check out Peace Radio.



Idaho Peace Coalition members pose for a photo at the Boise Veterans Administration Hospital during a peace vigil with John Dear on Sept. 27. The rock is inscribed "The Price of Freedom is Visible Here"

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<http://peacecoalition.us/idaho>

Let's keep in touch!

Let's keep Idaho peace groups communicating and working together. Please submit your news and stories to the Idaho Peace News and "subscribe" for at home delivery!

Write Liz at idahopeacecoalition@msn.com
Thank you for your contributions and dedication.

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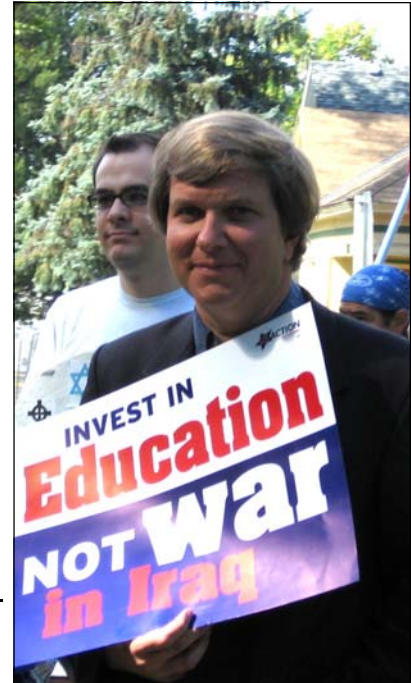
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John Dear Visits Boise

By Carol Ann Wassmuth, St. Gertrude's Monastery

What a blessing to be in Boise on September 27 and have the opportunity again to hear Fr. John Dear in person. The message of peace that he proclaims both in word and in action is so needed in our war-torn and violent world. Coming from a monastic background as I do I particularly appreciate his emphasis on the importance of prayer, solitude and community as we actively engage in peace making. He does not insist that we are all to work for peace in the same manner as he does. We each have our particular God-given role but we are all working toward the same goal - a world free from hatred, war and violence. If we are to have a world at peace there can be no compromising with the forces of evil even if that leads us to the cross as it did for Jesus.



Jeremy Scahill visits Spokane and North Idaho

By Sally Perrine, Palouse Peace Coalition

Jeremy Scahill, author of Blackwater: The Rise of the World's Most Powerful Mercenary Army, made appearances in Spokane and Coeur d'Alene in September. Sponsored by PJALS of Spokane and Peace Coeur d'Alene, Jeremy spoke at the Bing Theater in Spokane and at a small gathering in CdA in response to the threat of Blackwater's proposed move to an encampment "somewhere in north Idaho."

I had heard Jeremy speak a few months earlier in Portland during his book tour, and there met Bonnie Douglas of Peace CdA, who has been the spearhead of the anti-Blackwater movement locally. Jeremy's message in Portland was alarming and depressing, but not unduly so for those of us who had kept abreast of Blackwater activities. However, in Spokane his message was a whole lot more dire. He spoke of America "turning the corner" on corporate control of the country. And, as he'd been to both national conventions, he also described the enormous military/police presence (at a cost of \$50 million per city) to keep order and to keep peaceful protesters in line - including the IVAW soldiers who just wanted to have a voice at the conventions.

One of the attendees from Moscow was Leigh Robertes, the station manager of Moscow's independent FM radio station, KRFP. He was able to record the entire speech and Q & A, as well as interviews with both Jeremy and Bonnie Douglas. They are available via audio on the home page of KRFP. <http://www.radiofreemoscow.com/>. Take a listen. Contact Bonnie Douglas for news on Blackwater in North Idaho, rdoug@roadrunner.com