



New Garden Community Church (Unitarian Universalist) - a labor-peace church

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meeting at 6pm, UE (United Electrical workers), 37 S. Ashland, Chicago

January 25, 2007

"Love for the Earth, Justice for the People"

Calendar:

- **Sunday, January 28, 5pm** – for Film Night, we start off the **peace/nonviolence** series with the powerful biography "**Gandhi**" – bring food, we'll eat and watch together. It's a 3 hour film, so we're starting early, **5pm**.
- **Sunday, February 4, 6pm** – It's the season for "**Love**" – what is it really? Something you get, or give? Something that blasts you like a thunderbolt from the blue, or something you cultivate?

Spirituality Book Discussion Group

Tuesday, February 6, 6-8pm – look for the wisdom in *The Tao of Pooh*, by Benjamin Hoff. Meet at the back table, Westgate Coffeehouse, 924 W. Madison. The public is welcome.

- **Sunday, February 11, 6pm** – The **First Person** series continues with **Owen Wagner** talking about "Pegboards and Pegs" – figuring out where you fit in a world where everyone else seems to have a place.

A Season For Nonviolence

On January 30, 1948, Mohandas Gandhi was shot and killed by a disgruntled Hindu radical, thus ending his long life of service to nonviolent action. On April 4, 1968, Martin Luther King, Jr. was shot and killed by one opposed to his outspoken nonviolent struggle for racial equality, and then, for economic justice and peace in Vietnam.

First inspired in 1997 by the 50th and 30th memorial anniversaries of these two great men, the international *Season for Nonviolence* honors their vision for an empowered, nonviolent world. (<http://www.agnt.org/snv02.htm>)

At New Garden, we are inviting outside speakers on nonviolence during this season, culminating with a Peace Fair in May. Watch for these special events.

As I write, the World Social Forum meets in Kenya, a response and counterpoint to the World Economic Forum meeting in Davos, Switzerland. The WSF is a bottom-up gathering of social activists, representing third-world nations and NGOs from four continents. Its slogan is "Another World is Possible."

from the web:

Kenyan Nobel Peace Prize winner and environmentalist Wangari Maathai is one of the many prominent people attending the forum. She explained why the Forum is important to Africa.

"The agenda of the summit is probably best explained by the theme, which is it's possible to have a different world where these issues are addressed. In other words, the current world that we have with all the problems that we face at national level, at regional level, issues such as poverty, issues such as debt, which we have been speaking about for many years, issues such as environmental degradation and now the climate change, that it is indeed possible to have a world that these issues are addressed," she said.

Maathai said there is a difference between the World Social Forum and the so-called Doha round of trade talks.

"As you know the Forum was actually started, or it was inspired by Davos, the World Economic Forum. What we observed is that when leaders of the business world and political world meet in Davos they speak about a world which does not seem to care about the worlds of the poor, the worlds of the minority, the worlds of the marginalized. So it is almost like looking at

looking two different worlds in which we live,"
Maathai said.

(www.kenyanewsnetwork.com/artman/publish/article_2404.shtml)

Wangari Maathai won the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize for her work establishing the Green Belt Movement in 1977. This grassroots movement to mobilize rural women has done much to combat deforestation and desertification, and the model has been successfully applied in a number of other African countries.

Most recently, Maathai has begun a campaign through the United Nations Environment Program for people around the world to plant a billion trees in the next year, saying that the effort is a way ordinary citizens can fight global warming.

The project calls on participants — including individuals, schools and governments — to sign up on UNEP's Web site and register the trees they planted. (from <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/15622435/>)

While we mourn the deaths of great leaders of nonviolence, we celebrate the growth of nonviolent movements around the world aiming for a world with a more just distribution of wealth, availability of health care, investment, debt relief, and especially, involvement of people of the poorest nations in international policies that affect their well-being.

We invite you to remember the Season of Nonviolence this spring, beginning January 30, by creating some kind of ritual for yourself — make a notecard of a nonviolence quotation you like and read it with your morning coffee, take up yoga, take a deep breath before you chew someone out and decide not to, thank the day for arriving! A list of 64 things to do during this Season can be found at <http://www.agnt.org/snv64ways.htm>.

peace, Jean

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