

There is hope ...

On June 17th John Stewart and I, Anne Richter, traveled to North Andover, Massachusetts to attend the annual Space Organizing Conference of the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space's (GN) at Merrimack College. This was the GN's 19th Annual conference working to demilitarize space and create a sustainable future.

Where did we find hope?

- ✚ **In the dedicated work of people who came from all over the world** to stop our rush to annihilation. Delegates travelled from England, Sweden, Canada, Germany, India, Japan, and the United States. The excellent report on the Conference, N. Andover, Massachusetts by Bruce Gagnon, the coordinator is at http://www.space4peace.org/reports/gn_conference_11.htm
- ✚ **In their faithful presence** to raise awareness of the lethal work at the **Raytheon** (literally "light of the gods") plant: <http://www.raytheon.com/capabilities/missiledefense/>
- ✚ **In the non-violent demonstration** we participated in on Friday afternoon with over 60 people at the entrance to the Raytheon plant in North Andover.
- ✚ In the presentation by **PAROS: The Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS) Working Group** which was formed in April 2008 at the annual organizing conference of the GN by members of the GN and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. FMI please go to <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/legal/paros/wgroup.html>
- ✚ In the video **Pax Americana**, which is available from Amazon, helps explain the issues relating to weapons in space in a clear and graphic manner. <http://www.pax-americana.com/> This is a great resource and can be used to initiate a discussion.
- ✚ In the great music by **Pat Scanlon** whose new album *Where is the Rage* is sponsored by Veterans for Peace <http://www.patscanlon.com/store.html>
- ✚ In the **79th Annual Conference of Mayors**, which was held June 17-21 in Baltimore, Maryland, voted in favor of a **resolution stating the need to curtail spending on war and increase spending at home**. June 17, 2011: *Mayors See End to Wars as Fix for Struggling Cities* by MICHAEL COOPER http://www.nytimes.com/2011/06/18/us/18cities.html?_r=1
- ✚ In the **Bring our Dollars Home Campaign** which has successfully lobbied their legislators in Maine on this issue. <http://www.bringourwardollarshome.org/>
- ✚ In **The global effort at Jeju Island, South Korea**. South Korea wants to build a large naval base on this island to berth Aegis war ships (38 such ships form part of President Obama's US missile defense system). Building the base will destroy the environment - the coral reefs etc. as well as, people's lives and livelihoods of local fishermen and related jobs, etc. This is happening through strong US pressure and lots of US money. Activist Sung-Hee Choi is still in jail but has called off her 16 day hunger strike following Professor Yoon-Mo's release. She was arrested for holding a banner saying "not one flower, not one stone". A good article on the conflict: [One Island Village's Struggle for Land, Life, and Peace](#)

- ✚ In the great work of Carrie and John Schuchardt at their **House of Peace in Ipswich**. John Stewart and I were blessed to have stayed here and witness the joy of the residents who are refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Afghanistan, and others in need: <http://www.salemnews.com/local/x1690075192/Injured-Iraqi-kids-find-shelter-in-Ipswich>
- ✚ In the welcome from **Merrimack College**: When we were welcomed by an administrator from Merrimack Catholic College we were told that though the college receives much funding from Raytheon, he was pleased to welcome us to the campus.

Work to be done...

Information and inspiration for peace work are at <http://www.space4peace.org/>, the Global Network's excellent website. Some special issues of concern:

- ✚ **Drones**: There is a great need to expose the effects of our attacks by drones. Along with links on the GN website, the *NY Times*, June 10, 2011 article, *War Evolves with Drones, Some Tiny as Bugs* by Elisabeth Bumiller and Thom Shanker provides background on this issue: <http://www.NYtimes.com/2011/06/20/world/20drones.HTML> .
- ✚ **Raytheon's Silent Guardian**: This technology has been around for a few years but was new to us. It is an example of a new definition of "dual use": in the past, that term meant technology that has military and civilian use. Now, it also means technology that can be used on the battlefield and against U.S. citizens domestically. Here is an excerpt from "Targeting the Pain Business," an article in *The Guardian* (5 Oct. 2006):

"Imagine you're at a protest - at a nuclear plant, perhaps, or a military installation. You approach the perimeter fence, carrying your placard. The loudhailers warn you to keep away. But you ignore them; this is a protest, after all. And then it happens. Your skin feels as if it's on fire - a burning, relentless, intense pain as if you were touching a frying pan. You scream and jump back, trying to escape the sudden agony. You scabble a few meters away and it stops. Then you look closer at the buildings that are the object of your protest. Did it come from there? You approach the fence again and the pain starts again - until you jump back. That's the sort of scenario envisaged by Raytheon, an Arizona-based defense company. It has developed what it calls a "less-than-lethal directed energy projection system", trademarked *Silent Guardian*, and says it is "available now and ready for action"... The human testing showed that the beams will penetrate even tiny openings and cracks in any physical barrier, including clothes, walls and shields. It is as though it wraps around corners to affect any piece of exposed body - the fingers or face, say, of those trying to hide."

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/technology/2006/oct/05/guardianweeklytechnologysection>
- ✚ **Pax Americana**: We have purchased a copy of the video, *Pax Americana* and would like to share it and arrange some local showings.
- ✚ **Keep Space for Peace Week**- We would like to have some local attention to this national event during the week, of October 1-8.
- ✚ **Jeju Island**: Promote the signing of the petition to prevent the building of the US base on this island. Will you sign this petition? Click here: http://signon.org/sign/save-jeju-island-no-naval?source=c.em.mt&r_by=362758
- ✚ **PAROS: The Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space** support: <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/legal/paros/wgroup.html>