



# Peacemakers Incorporated

## Third Annual Peacemakers Luncheon



Patricia Smith Melton

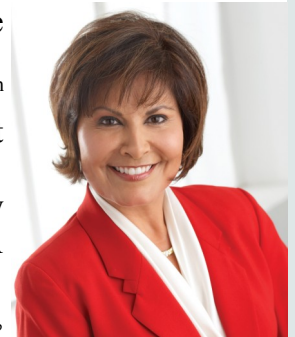
Please join us (and about 200+ other DFW residents) on Wednesday, September 21, 2011, for the Third Annual Peacemakers Luncheon, celebrating the United Nations International Day of Peace. The event is hosted by Peacemakers Incorporated and the UNT Castleberry Peace Institute.

The cost of luncheon tickets is \$75 for Peacemakers members and \$100 for non-members. (You can join Peacemakers or renew your membership for only \$35, or \$25 for students and seniors.) To buy tickets, click Tickets. If you wish to sit with certain people, you can indicate your wishes in the "Comments" section of the registration form.

The Luncheon will be held at the Tower Club on the 48<sup>th</sup> floor of Thanksgiving Tower, 1601 Elm Street in down town Dallas. Doors will open at 10:30 a.m. for the Exhibit Hall. The Luncheon will begin at 11:30 a.m.

The keynote speaker is Patricia Smith Melton, the producer of the documentary "Peace by Peace: Women on the Frontlines," which was broadcast on PBS. WFAA Anchor Gloria Campos is the emcee.

For information about purchasing a table for your group or friends, program ads, or exhibit booths, contact Peacemakers at 972-239-2942 or via email at [Peacemakersinc@aol.com](mailto:Peacemakersinc@aol.com)



Gloria Campos

## Upcoming August Events

### ***Hiroshima/Nagasaki Event sponsored by Dallas Peace Center, Interfaith Peace Chapel, Pax Christi Dallas***

When: Tuesday, August 9th

What: Commemoration of the dropping of the atomic bomb in Japan

Where: Interfaith Peace Chapel, 5910 Cedar Springs Road, Dallas

Time: 6:30 p.m.—Exhibit loaned by Dr. Rick Halperin, Director, Embrey Human Rights Program, SMU  
7:00 p.m.—Program with display of peace cranes by Jo Wharton

No cost. Open to the public.

### ***Final Program of the 7th Annual Summer Dinner Lectures Series of the Dallas Peace Center***

When: Thursday, August 11th

What: Lecture by Matthew Hoh, Director of Afghanistan Study Group, on "Rethinking U.S. Strategy in Afghanistan and Pakistan"

Where: Fun Asia, 1210 Beltline Road, Richardson

Time: 7:00 p.m.—Reception

7:30 p.m.—Program (Dinner will be served at sundown in observation of Ramadan.)

Cost: Reduced price tickets—2 for \$50. Contact the Dallas Peace Center

### ***Women's Equality Day sponsored by Women's Issues Network, Women's Museum, League of Women Voters of Dallas, Peacemakers Inc., and Dallas Women's Council***

When: Wednesday, August 24th

What: Celebration of the 90th anniversary of women achieving the right to vote. Wear white to honor the early suffragettes.

Where: Flag Room at Dallas City Hall, 1500 Marilla St., Dallas

Time: 12:00 noon — Women's Issues Network's proclamation at City Hall

1:00 p.m. — Box lunch, lecture, and exhibit at the Women's Museum

Cost: Box lunch and program at the Women's Museum \$10

## Civility Corner

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Capital punishment is not civil behavior. Nevertheless, 1,264 executions have occurred in the United States since 1976, when the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed the constitutionality of capital punishment. Texas conducted 37% of those executions. With 472 executions (since 1976), Texas has the highest number, followed by Virginia with 108. As a region, the South conducts 82% of all executions.

Thirty-five states in the U.S. have the death penalty. Fifteen states, as well as the District of Columbia, have repealed the death penalty, some as far back as the 1800s. Though we Americans consider the U.S. to be the most civilized country in the world, over 70% of the 193 U.N. member countries have either abolished the death penalty or they no longer carry out executions. That leaves us in the company of countries such as China, Iran, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, all of which we have accused of violating human rights.

In the 21st century, the number of executions in the United States has dropped 50%, and public support for the death penalty is declining. The decreasing public support is based on numerous factors. Many criminologists and psychologists argue that the death penalty is not an effective tool to deter crime. Statistics show that a disproportionate number of executed death row inmates are poor and/or minorities. The cost alone for maintaining individuals on death row is an effective argument against the death penalty. However, the strongest argument against the death penalty is the number of persons on death row who have been proven innocent with evidence of wrongful convictions, including DNA evidence now available to the courts. According to Amnesty International statistics, over 130 death row inmates have been released since 1973 due to such evidence. This causes one to wonder how many innocent people were executed before DNA evidence was available. Unfortunately, there is no legal appeal after death.

With all of these concerns about the death penalty, one might ask: For whom are we executing these people? This question was recently raised with regard to the execution of Mark Stroman of Dallas. In a misguided rage over the 9/11 terror attacks, Mr. Stroman shot and killed two South Asian immigrants and shot another, Rais Bhuiyan, in the face, leaving him for dead. Though blinded, Mr. Bhuiyan survived. After a lengthy recovery, Bhuiyan forgave Stroman and petitioned the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles to commute Stroman's sentence from death to life without parole. On July 20, 2011, the State of Texas executed Mark Stroman. We can conclude then that the executions are not for the benefit of the victim. The executions are for the benefit of the State. Thus, to change the law, we must vote for state legislators who favor repeal of the death penalty. It's the civil thing to do.

*Carol Donovan, Executive Director*

## Summer Internship

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Thursday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, was my final day as an intern at Peacemakers Incorporated. Over the course of the summer I had the privilege of working alongside many amazing people with the drive to help bring peace on earth. Unlike the clichéd intern position, with this organization I have been able to get hands on experience in completing tasks that aid in the functioning of the program. This summer I worked alongside Helen Stettler to evaluate and redirect the Good Neighbor Program, worked with several people to write and create three newsletters, attended a BePeace course taught by Rita Marie Johnson, and was able to assist in other administrative tasks. The experience I have gained through working with Peacemakers Incorporated will not only aid me in my future endeavors, but has also given me more hope for a better and more peaceful future. This organization did so much more than assist me in gaining relevant work experience. Through hearing the history of each individual I learned of the power of the individual and the infinite capabilities of a small group of like-minded people, which has given me the motivation to move forward in pursuing my passion for peace and human rights.

So I would like to extend my greatest appreciation to all the people I have had the pleasure to work with during my time here. I have greatly enjoyed this experience and will miss working so closely with such a wonderful group of people. I would also like to welcome Peacemakers Incorporated's future intern Maryanne Owiti. I hope your time here is as enjoyable and fulfilling as mine.

*Erica Mahoney, Summer Intern*

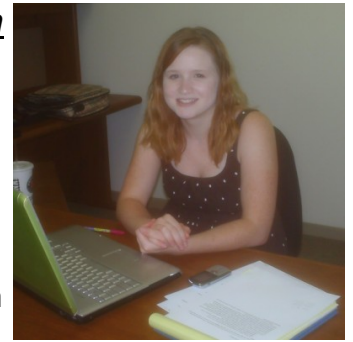
**Request from Program Chair Helen Stettler:**

*Would any Peacemakers be available to help refugee parents enroll their children in our Dallas public school system? Refugee Services of Texas are looking for volunteers to help refugees fill out the simple DISD enrollment forms beginning August 8. School begins August 22. Our contact would be Sam Nakarami 214-821-4883 (Refugee Services of Texas). They are also looking for mentors for refugee children. The location would probably be at schools in NE Dallas. Times would vary. Please contact Sam if you are interested. Any small amount of time would be appreciated.*

Note: Helen will be out of town until August 20 and will contact Sam when she returns.

**Peacemaker of the Month**

Summer Intern Erica Mahoney, a senior at UNT majoring in International Studies, plans to continue her academic work in Europe with graduate studies in the field of human rights. Not only was she a valuable asset to



Peacemakers in many areas during the summer, but she is also excited about being a "Peacemakers' ambassador" when she goes abroad and she looks forward to making international contacts for Peacemakers for our next international conference. Thanks, Erica, for your work and your enthusiasm.

**Luncheon Project: We need your help.**

**Gift Basket:** Our luncheon committee volunteers are planning to create beautiful gift baskets to sell at the Third Annual Peacemakers Luncheon on September 21. Each basket will have a theme, such as Spa, Wine, Coffee, Baby, Italian Food, Movies, Puppy, ethnic or school theme, etc. The contents should be new or like new and might include items that have been purchased, solicited from a store, or handcrafted/homemade. If you have items for a theme and/or baskets that you can contribute, please bring them to the Peacemakers office by August 25. Put all your items in a shopping bag with a note including your name, theme, and list of items. If you have any questions, please call Administrator Rosann Naim at 972-239-2942.

***President's Article***

I want to call your attention to three news items this month. First of all, I want to thank the Luncheon Committee for their diligent and dedicated work trying to bring us the best ever International Day of Peace event this year on September 21. This committee is chaired by **Anita Marcos**, and she really has us all working hard planning for success! We appreciate the help of new members of the committee this year, **Alice Martinez** and **Queta Garret**. My sincere thanks to them and all the committee members for their dedication.

Secondly, I wish to say goodbye and good luck to this year's summer intern, **Erica Mahoney**. She completed her internship at the end of July, and we will miss her! She has been of invaluable assistance to new administrator Rosann Naim and has done a superb job of keeping the office technologically up to speed. Thank you, Erica.

Thirdly, as a follow-up to my article on the United Nations last month, I want to update you on the latest news from the **Nothing But Nets: End Malaria Campaign**. Since the UN Foundation created Nothing But Nets in 2006, enough medicated mosquito nets have covered 76% of the people at risk for malaria and 11 African countries have cut malaria rates in half in less than three years. The NBN Tour comes to Dallas between August 26 and September 3, 2011, to work with partners and supporters to send 225,000 life-saving bed nets to Cameroon in Africa to protect families from this preventable disease. Supporters and partners include the NBA; the United Methodist Church; Boy Scouts of America; Major League Soccer; ExxonMobil; Orkin, Inc.; the Union For Reform Judaism; and the United Nations Association, Dallas Chapter.

Insecticide-treated bed nets are simple and cost-effective tools to prevent the spread of malaria. If you are interested in supporting this cause or want more information, log on to [www.NothingButNets.net](http://www.NothingButNets.net) to send a \$10 net and save a life.

I'll see all of you at our September 21<sup>st</sup> Third Annual Peacemakers Luncheon!

*Norma Matthews*

## BePeace Course

In 2002, Rita Marie Johnson created the BePeace program as a unique combination of Doc Childre's HeartMath and Dr. Marshall Rosenberg's techniques for non-violent communication. The practice of BePeace in Costa Rican schools has been shown to increase students' test scores and cognitive performance while decreasing anxiety, aggression, and depression. This is achieved through methods developed to decrease stress and assist individuals to identify and communicate feelings and needs.

During the week of July 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, I had the privilege of attending a BePeace course taught by Rita Marie Johnson in Arlington, TX. Prior to arriving at the course, I had no idea what to expect; I had never heard of BePeace, HeartMath or Nonviolent Communication before being invited to attend the course as part of my internship. Immediately the small intimate setting and hands-on methods of teaching the course caught my attention. The simple act of identifying feelings and needs while considering those of others was transformed into an enlightening experience through a step-by-step process and the addition of HeartMath. It was amazing to watch each person undergo constant transformation and realize meaningful revelations while learning the process of BePeace. On one of the final days of the BePeace course, I decided to test the limits of the process. That day I deliberately chose to consider a conflict in which I never thought I would forgive the other person. After walking through the BePeace path of self-empathy and empathy to the other, I gained a whole new perspective on the conflict and was able to set aside all the anger and resentment I still held on to.

The concepts taught in the BePeace course are adaptable to anyone in a variety of different ways. While the practice of BePeace will aid me in the stressful school days to come, it is also a technique that can be used when mediating between friends, relatives or children, or sorting through mixed emotions. Most importantly, BePeace gives you the tools to identify the underlying issues behind behavior. For example, anger with another person may be the result of an associated past negative experience or an unmet need you never knew you had. This aspect of BePeace will be a key tool in my future endeavors, especially when working with children.

I am very excited to see the ways in which I will be able to apply BePeace in my future and look forward to seeing how the BePeace program will grow as it moves into the United States.

For more information about this program, to register for a class or to purchase products, please visit the Rasur International website at [www.rasurinternational.org](http://www.rasurinternational.org).

For more information about the Institute for HeartMath, please visit [www.heartmath.org](http://www.heartmath.org); for the Center for Nonviolent Communication, please visit [www.cnvc.org](http://www.cnvc.org).

*Erica Mahoney* Summer Intern

## United Nations Update on Darfur



The United Nations Security Council heard Ibrahim Gambari, head of the UN African Union Mission (UNAMID), speak on July 22nd about the importance of peace in Darfur. Gambari reported that the Sudanese government and rebel forces signed a peace draft for the region that calls for a ceasefire and outlines a path for a peace settlement. However, he cautioned the council that although the document serves as a major step

toward peace in Darfur, it is only a first step toward the implementation of its ideals. The nation will still have to work through many obstacles to ensure its success.

Meanwhile, UNAMID partnered with the United Nations Development Program and the Sudan DDR Commission to organize an event to promote peace and security in Darfur after the official split of the country into two independent states. The event, which occurred on July 25<sup>th</sup> in El Srief, focused on spreading cultural awareness and peace through the performing arts. Through song and dance, the organizations hope to ease the process of disarmament and demobilization.

UNAMID and UNICEF also teamed up to provide water to the residents of the area. Through a combined effort, the organizations delivered 40,000 liters of water to the area while building and restoring water pumps around the city.

### Peacemakers Incorporated

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#### We're on the Web!

PeacemakersIncorporated.org



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