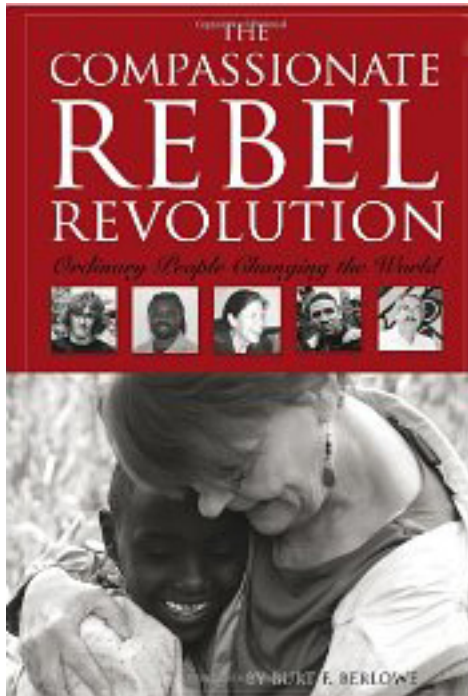


Book Review: Compassionate Rebel Revolution: Ordinary People Changing the World

(by Burt Berlowe, edited by Rebecca Janke. 486 pages. Mill City Press, Inc., Minneapolis 2011)

Review by Sue Ann Martinson



This heartening book, a follow-up to the original *Compassionate Rebel*, published a few years ago, is about how ordinary people make a difference in the world. Here you will find inspiring stories from Compassionate Rebels in the Twin Cities and around the country peaceful warriors fighting for peace at home and abroad; champions of compassion from the Katrina-ravaged streets of New Orleans to the impoverished villages of Africa; immigrants on a journey to freedom and civil rights; freedom fighters promoting people power around the world; local citizens remaking urban and rural America; female rebels standing up to war, gun violence, and domestic abuse; reformers taking back democracy in the media, at the ballot box, and in corporate America; and the next generation of change agents working to end war, save the planet, and make their voices heard for years to come.

Each person featured in this book has made a difference in the world by observing and taking action to help others and to work for peace and justice. Some of the people in this book may be familiar: WAMM members John and Marie Braun who founded the Twin Cities Peace Campaign, and Sami Rasouli of the Muslim Peacemakers Team. You will also hear about Greg and Sue Skog, who began the peace vigil at weapons manufacturer Lockheed Martin; international peacemakers Kathy Kelly and Mel Duncan; local peace community builders Ann Benson and Tony Simon; Chante Wolf from Veterans for Peace; artist Jane Evershed; young social

change agent Ben Grosscup; and longtime activist Marv Davidov. You may not be as familiar with Phillips neighborhood activist Muriel Simmons or Alan Zuya, who founded a Native American school in Minneapolis, but theirs are among the many wonderful and inspiring stories, as well.

Featuring more than 50 advocates and activists with amazing histories, *The Compassionate Rebel Revolution* describes the work of people who care about the future of the earth and humankind. The U.S. is fed a steady diet of too many garbage talk TV and radio shows, sitcoms that just aren't funny, so-called "survivor" shows, and news that too often deceives or glosses over the real issues, such as the siphoning of money into the wars and away from human needs. But the people in this book step forward into the real world to do real work to help people. Read these stories. You will find hope and encouragement. *Compassionate Rebel Revolution* is available at Mayday Books, Minneapolis, or ask for it at your local library. If they do not have it, ask them to order it.

Sue Ann Martinson is a longtime peace and justice activist with WAMM and Alliant Action, and an advocate for Coldwater Spring. She currently serves on the WAMM Board and media committee.