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*Life in Iraq has been extremely difficult for women for many years, and the unavailability of security, electricity, clean drinking water, health care, and education has made life more complicated.*

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*Shaymaa Abdulkadham Hasan in the doorway of her home. The safety of her family is a never-ending source of concern. Photo: Sami Rasouli*

## The Legacy of War: A Glimpse into the Life of an Iraqi Woman

Shaymaa Abdulkadham Hasan Hasan was born in Baghdad, Iraq, on 7 July 1982. She was only eight years old when the U.S. declared war on Iraq in January 1991. More bombs were dropped on her country in the 43 days of the First Gulf War than were dropped in all of World War II—the equivalent of seven-and-one-half Hiroshimas. Iraq went from a highly developed, technologically sophisticated and self-reliant country to a country whose people had to cope with totally new circumstances of life: no electricity, no clean or running water, food and fuel shortages, and transportation problems. People had to go to the Tigris and Euphrates rivers for their water, their refrigerators and stoves stopped working, their toilets would not flush, sewage piled up in the streets, and before long their children, the most vulnerable among them, began to die.

For most Americans, the First Gulf War ended in March 1991, but for Shaymaa's people the war had only begun. The new war of sanctions, which did not allow Iraq to import sufficient medicine and food, or materials necessary to repair the infrastructure, continued for 20 long years. It was a low-intensity war; it resulted in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of children and caused emotional and physical disabilities in two generations of Iraqi children. John and Karl Mueller reported in the May 1999 issue of *Foreign Affairs* that "the sanctions against Iraq have caused more deaths than all the weapons of mass destruction in the history of the world."

Then, on 20 March 2003, came "Shock and Awe," a second war, followed by eight years of occupation. And now Shaymaa lives under a puppet government in a country still devoid of basic necessities.

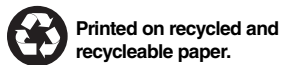
On 18 September 2010, Shaymaa traveled to the

United States with her eight-year-old son, Mustafa Al Tameemi, so that Mustafa could receive medical treatment. The following is some of the information that she shared with Marie Braun about Mustafa, her family, and what life is like for an Iraqi woman:

### Shaymaa's Story

I would like to tell you about Mustafa's accident. We live in a house that was built near a high voltage electric cable. We did not realize how dangerous this cable was until we witnessed what happened to Mustafa. He was up on the walled roof, where we sleep on hot evenings. Due to the humidity and the rain, the cable exploded and a bolt touched Mustafa. That tremendous electrical power traveled from his shoulder down his left arm and to both of his legs. We rushed him to the hospital. But the medical care was bad. There has been no progress or advancement in the neurosurgery or burn departments and also the artificial limbs unit. There is also corruption in the medical arena. Since most of the professional class was displaced, we don't have many qualified, well-trained nurses or doctors in Iraq. In the burn department, the officials did not take good care of my son and others. Patients were dying one after another despite simple injuries. They were dying from contamination and infection. Sometimes a patient was left four or five days with no medical treatment. This is a result of lack of oversight and lack of good management in a lawless state due to the war and occupation.

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recycleable paper.

The statements and opinions reflected in this newsletter are the views of the author and not necessarily official positions of WAMM. We encourage a diversity of opinion to represent the range of perspectives that coexist under the banner of WAMM's mission statement.

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MINNESOTA

# Margaret Randall, the Art of Dissent

by Lisa Albrecht

I am a huge Margaret Randall fan, and someone who has read her work for over 30 years. I have an entire bookshelf devoted to Margaret Randall, and I don't come close to having all the books that she has published in her lifetime. Now in her 70s, Margaret is a feminist poet, writer, photographer, and activist who has published over 90 books. Her work includes poetry, oral histories, essay collections, anthologies, photo collections, and a number of books that she has translated into Spanish. There is also a wonderful film about her life, *The Unapologetic Life of Margaret Randall*, made by Minneapolis filmmakers Lu Lippold and Pam Colby (and distributed by Cinema Guild).

Margaret will be speaking at a number of local venues and read from several new works: *To Change the World: My Years in Cuba* (Rutgers University Press), *First Laugh – Essays 2000-2009* (University of Nebraska), and *As If the Empty Chair: Poems for the Disappeared/Como si la silla vacia: Poemas para los desaparecidos* (Wings Press, limited edition).

Margaret lives in New Mexico now, but also lived in Nicaragua (1980-84) and Cuba (1969-80) during their revolutions. She also lived in Mexico City during the 1968 student movement. When she tried to return to the U.S. from Nicaragua in 1984, the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) ordered her deported under the ideological exclusion clause of the 1952 McCarran-Walter Act. The INS judged her writing as subversive, argued that her viewpoints contradicted U.S. foreign policy, and specifically said that her opinions were "against the good order and happiness of the United States." Sound familiar?

From 1984 to 1989, Margaret was defended by the Center for Constitutional Rights. Her case went through various levels within the U.S. court system; she ultimately did win back her citizenship and the right to live here in the U.S., where she was born. Yes, this was over 25 years ago, yet it mirrors much of what is happening today—the use of the Patriot Act to attack activists, FBI raids on anti-imperialists, and the war against undocumented immigrants.

In 1990, Margaret was awarded the Lillian Hellman and Dashiell Hammett grant for writers victimized by political repression, and in 2004 she was the first recipient of PEN New Mexico's Dorothy Doyle Lifetime Achievement Award for Writing and Human Rights Activism. In 2010, she was selected to be a judge for this hemisphere's most prestigious Spanish language literary prize, the Casa de las Americas.

Margaret is the mother of four—Gregory (living

in Uruguay), Ximena and Sarah (living in Mexico), and Ana (living in the U.S.) She is the proud grandmother of ten children. Margaret has lived with her life companion, painter Barbara Byers, for over 20 years.

As an activist writer, Margaret has always stood in solidarity with struggles all over the globe. Besides her words, Margaret's photographs, particularly of women and children, capture the revolutionary spirit within all of us. What I most love about Margaret's work is its feminist humanity. She speaks to all of us in a language that is accessible for all. Start reading her work today! **Her her speak at WAMM's Annual Meeting Saturday, March 5** (details on the back of this newsletter).

*Lisa Albrecht is a WAMM Board member. She directs an undergraduate Social Justice Minor at the University of Minnesota, is active in many local and national organizations, and is the local co-chair of the White Privilege Conference to be in the Twin Cities April 13-16, 2011.*

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**Not a Nursing Home**

Sheridan House provides 24-hour care for five elderly in a home setting. Private rooms, loveable dog, fellowship and community. Licensed. Operated by WAMM member Sally Kundert. Dementia and general care. County funds or private. 612-866-4637.

**Marla Kennedy, M.A., L.M.F.T.** Licensed marriage and family therapist, parent educator, speaker on parenting for peace and justice. Call 651-645-3303

**Not a Group Home**

I've had 30 years experience providing long-term, loving care for severely developmentally disabled people in my own family home. I now have an opening for an individual 18+. Must be ambulatory and not aggressive. My family includes: myself, Nancy Hauer, a WAMM member for over 20 years; Joyce, my partner for 12 years; our 9 year old daughter, whom we adopted together; and my adult foster daughter, who has been with me for 30 years. I am licensed for adult foster care and DD wavered services. Nancy Hauer 651-426-4917.

**Furniture Repair.**

Free pick up & delivery w/ad. Mike Mann 763-533-4784

# PM And Over on the Left We Have . . . ?

by Polly Mann

The only time I watch Charlie Rose on television is when I'm surfing the channels. I don't have anything against Charlie Rose, but, coming from the left, I question that my side receives equal representation on his show. And it appears that I am right.

In the November issue of *Extra*, the magazine of Fairness & Accuracy in Reporting, there is an analysis of the guests on the Charlie Rose Show, touted by Rose as featuring "people who don't ordinarily appear on television." Really. In the months of May and June 2010, out of 132 guests, 28 percent were journalists from major media outlets; others included seven well-known academics; seven corporate guests, most of them affiliated with Wall Street/financial firms; four corporate philanthropists; four U.S. government officials; seven foreign leaders; 13 medical/science guests; 15 performers (actors and musicians); four novelists and two chefs. The guest list was heavily male, with just 15 percent of women guests (20 total appearances). Of the six African-American guests, five discussed arts or sports.

The show is financed by corporations—Coca-Cola, the largest; Rupert Murdoch's News Corp.; and a few financial institutions and investment firms. Media mogul Barry Diller and fashion

## Whose Voices?

Josh Silver, president of the media advocacy organization, Free Press, issued this statement: "Yesterday [January 17, 2011], the Federal Communications Commission blessed the merger of Comcast, the nation's largest cable and residential provider, with NBC-Universal. The Justice Department immediately followed suit, removing the last obstacle to the unprecedented consolidation of media and Internet power in the hands of one company.

You should be afraid . . .

The new Comcast will control an obscene number of media outlets, including the NBC broadcast network, numerous cable channels, two dozen NBC and Telemundo stations, movie studios, online video portals, and the physical network that distributes that media content to millions of Americans through Internet and cable connections . . . Culmination of the deal, combined with the FCC's recent, loophole-ridden 'Net Neutrality' rules, sets the table for Comcast to turn the Internet into cable television . . . The merger further squeezes what's left of independent, diverse voices from the television dial, laying waste to President Barack Obama's promise to reign in runaway media consolidation."



designer Diane von Furstenberg are program backers as well as guests. As master of ceremonies at a 2002 Coca-Cola shareholders' meeting, Rose declared it a privilege to be associated with the company. Mugs on Rose's interview table were decorated with both Coke and Charlie Rose logos.

In a 2003 appearance with Amy Goodman of *Democracy Now!*, Rose said in response to her comment about the need for independent reporting: "I promise you, CBS News and ABC News and NBC News are not influenced by the corporations that may own these companies, since I know one of them very well and worked for one of them." Indeed.

*Polly Mann is a co-founder of WAMM and continues to be active with the organization. Her column appears regularly in the WAMM newsletter. Also find her writing at [www.worldwidewamm.org](http://www.worldwidewamm.org) in the Middle East Committee section and on the WAMM blog.*

by Mary Beaudoin

A week later the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* reported Hubbard Broadcasting, which currently operates four radio and 12 TV stations in Minnesota, Wisconsin, New York and New Mexico, is poised to purchase 17 major radio stations in a number of cities—among them: Washington, D.C.; Chicago; St. Louis and Cincinnati. With headquarters in St. Paul, Hubbard is known for its largesse to groups that support right-wing political candidates.

Ironically, while the power structure in Washington makes dubious claims about supporting democratic reform in the Middle East, it creates repression at home by supporting media consolidation, as well as pursuing subpoenas on activists and charges against whistleblowers who have exposed the brutality of U.S. foreign policy. These are the defensive tactics of a government that is afraid of its people knowing the truth and feeling empowered to do something about it. And, unfortunately many people are susceptible to believing the limited perspectives provided by the mass media. But repressive tactics have also served to expose hypocrisy further and energize grassroots movements more—people are exercising their

*Map of the world from Coca Cola's Marketing Department indicating countries it will not market to. Charlie Rose's sponsor coincides with U.S. foreign policy. The company has also been implicated by association with murderous oppression in Colombia and Gaza and hence has been the focus of boycotts around the world.*

## WORD UP!

### The Needy Corporations of the World

Under terms of the \$700 billion bailout signed into law by President George W. Bush the Federal Reserve doled out, in zero interest loans, to every major financial institution in this country. Among those receiving short term loans were: Goldman Sachs, nearly \$600 billion; Morgan Stanley, nearly \$2 trillion; Citigroup, \$1.8 trillion; Bear Stearns, nearly \$1 trillion and Merrill Lynch, \$1.5 trillion. Corporations receiving loans included General Electric, McDonald's, Caterpillar, Harley Davidson, Toyota and Verizon.

Also bailed out were foreign private banks and corporations including Deutsche Bank, and Credit Suisse, which The Federal Reserve claimed was necessary to prevent a collapse of the world economy. But today millions of Americans remain unemployed, and have lost their homes and life savings. Meanwhile, big banks and corporations are again making huge profits and paying their executives record-breaking compensation packages. What this disclosure signifies is that the Federal Reserve did not make appropriate demands on these institutions—for example, a requirement that they increase lending to small- and medium-sized businesses as a condition of the bailout.

—Excerpted from a statement made by U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders to the Senate on Dec. 3, 2010.

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## WAMM ACTION

### Bring the Troops Home Now! Local Protest March 19.

Rally and march on the eighth anniversary of the second US War on Iraq. Local protest in coordination with national protest events. See flyer and calendar this newsletter.

### Back to the Streets! WAMM Bus to NYC!

Bi-coastal antiwar demonstrations will be held April 9 in New York City and San Francisco. To reserve on the WAMM bus or donate so someone can go: call 612-827-5364.

## WORD UP!

### Reclaiming History: Sanctions on Iraq

Having launched a Hitlerite war of aggression against the country, plunging it into a living hell that has taken the lives of more than one million innocent people, displaced millions more and spread disease, ruin, terrorism, extremism and tyranny across the conquered land, the great defenders of Civilization in Washington lauded themselves for their magnificent act of clemency and mercy in ending the sanctions regime . . . As our public life—and our common humanity—become more and more degraded by the relentless, howling maelstrom of lies and meaningless inanity that pours down on our heads day after day, the task of preserving our historical memory—the record of reality—becomes more urgent all the time. Professor Gordon has performed an heroic task in reclaiming the story of this atrocity from the efforts of our corporate and militarist and political elites to erase it.

—Chris Floyd on *Invisible War: The United States and Iraq Sanctions*, a book by Joy Gordon (Harvard University Press, 2010)

### Legacy of War, *continued from front cover*

Mustafa had been moving his feet for a long time after the accident and had no problem, but due to the neglect of doctors and because he was not treated properly, his right leg had to be amputated below the knee. He also lost the use of his left arm.

When Mustafa became disabled, there was no financial aid to help our family survive this crisis. We lived with no hope. When we brought Mustafa home from the hospital, we had to hire a nurse for follow-up care. The nurse who was treating Mustafa was cruel. Sometimes when Mustafa cried because he was in pain, the nurse hit him. Therefore, we stopped bringing nurses to the home to treat Mustafa. I was his nurse for a long time, changing his dressings until his wounds were healed.

We submitted several complaints to the local government relative to the dangerous high voltage cable that injured Mustafa. When they did the investigation, the expert advised us to leave the house because it was dangerous for us to live there, but we had no money to move. We waited a year for the government to help us move or get the cable away from our house, but due to the corruption and changes in local government, nothing was done to help us. My husband and our other five children are still living in that house. We pray to God to help us with this dead-end situation.

Things are difficult for all my children. My

husband and I felt that we had to withdraw our daughter, Ayatt, who is 13 and a fifth grader, from school because she was not learning much and we were afraid that something might happen to her on the way to or from school. Many families don't send their daughters to school because of the fear that they might be kidnapped, raped, or killed. There is also a lack of books and qualified teachers, and some of the teachers use physical punishment, which complicates the situation. Ayatt was afraid of the teachers. Due to this cruel circumstance, she is staying home without education.

In Iraq, there are no schools for disabled people and there are many disabled people due to the latest war and the period of sanctions from 1991. I am very happy to see my son Mustafa going to school here while he is in medical treatment. He told me that he is so happy to be in school with the kids and that he wishes there was a school in Iraq where he could go to school with other disabled children.

Also, I would like you to know how much my husband is suffering, just like other Iraqis when they go out to make a living. The economy is really bad, with 60 percent unemployment. My husband is a taxi driver, but he only makes about \$10 a day, which is not enough to support our family. We never know if he will come home safely because there are lots of explosions; this is very fright-

*continued on page 7*



*Jerry-rigged electrical wires are a source of danger for the residents of Iraqi cities today. Outside corporations were awarded lucrative contracts but in a chaotic and corrupt environment, ravaged by war and occupation, Iraq's infrastructure was never properly rebuilt.*

*Photo: Sami Rasouli*

How is the war economy working for you?

**Funds for Jobs, Housing, Health Care  
& Veterans Benefits, Not War!**

# **Bring the Troops Home Now**



**Out of Afghanistan – End the War – Don't Extend it!**

**All U.S. Troops Out of Iraq**

**Say No to new U.S. wars in Pakistan, Yemen, Iran, Africa, Korea...**

**End U.S. aid to the occupation of Palestine**

**Opposing War is Not A Crime – Being Muslim is Not a Crime –**

**Stop Attacks on Civil Liberties and Democratic Rights**

## **Saturday, March 19, 2011**

**National day of local anti-war protests**

**1:00 PM GATHER**

Martin Luther King Community Center  
270 North Kent Street, St. Paul

**1:30 PM MARCH**

Through the streets of  
St. Paul

**2:15 PM RALLY**

State Capitol Building  
St. Paul

**Spring Actions to Bring the Troops Home Now**

Leaflet issued by Iraq Peace Action Coalition  
For more information:

**612-522-1861 or 612-827-5364**

**[antiwarcommittee.org](http://antiwarcommittee.org) or [worldwidewamm.org](http://worldwidewamm.org)**

**Saturday, April 9, 2011**

Bi-coastal demonstrations to Bring the Troops Home Now. New York City & San Francisco Buses from Twin Cities being organized. For more information on bus transportation, call 612-827-5364. For more information: [www.unacpeace.org](http://www.unacpeace.org)

# February 2011 WAMM Calendar

Please note that WAMM's provision of information on other group's events is not meant to convey or endorse any action contrary to public policy that would be inconsistent with exempt purposes under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) i.e., charitable purposes.

## Ongoing WAMM Vigils for Peace

### Vigil to End the War on Iraq:

Every Wednesday, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. on the Lake Street/Marshall Avenue Bridge spanning the Mississippi River between Minneapolis and St. Paul. FFI: Call WAMM, 612-827-5364.

**Vigil Outside of Weapons Merchant Alliant Techsystems:** Every Wednesday, 7:00 to 8:00 a.m. at 7480 Flying Cloud Drive, Eden Prairie. "Who Profit\$? Who Dies?" Sponsored by: Alliant ACTION. FFI and directions: call 612-701-6963 or visit [www.alliantaction.org](http://www.alliantaction.org).

### Vigil to End U.S. Involvement in

**Torture:** Every Wednesday, 12 noon to 1:00 p.m. Federal Courthouse Plaza, 300 4th St., Minneapolis. WAMM Tackling Torture at the Top (T3). FFI: 612-822-9520 or e-mail: [tacklingtorture@gmail.com](mailto:tacklingtorture@gmail.com)

### Vigil to End the Occupation of

**Palestine:** Every Friday, 4:15 to 5:30 p.m. at Summit and Snelling Avenues, St. Paul. FFI: Call WAMM, 612-827-5364.

For information on additional peace vigils in Minnesota and Wisconsin, call the WAMM office at 612-827-5364 or visit [www.worldwidewamm.org](http://www.worldwidewamm.org).

## Ongoing WAMM Committee Meetings

**Board Meeting:** Third Tuesday of each month, 6:00 p.m. at the Sabathani Community Center, 310 East 38th Street, Minneapolis. FFI: Call WAMM, 612-827-5364.

**Book Club:** Second Saturday of each month, 10:00 a.m. FFI and Location: Contact Suzy, 651-451-8627 or [suzykoch@comcast.net](mailto:suzykoch@comcast.net).

**Iraq Committee:** First Monday of each month, 5:30 p.m. FFI: Call Marie, 612-522-1861.

**Middle East Committee:** Second Monday of each month, 9:30 a.m. at the Sabathani Community Center, 310 East 38th Street, Minneapolis. FFI: Call WAMM, 612-827-5364.

**Media Committee:** FFI: Email the committee, [wammmmedia@gmail.com](mailto:wammmmedia@gmail.com).

**St. Joan of Arc/WAMM Peacemakers:** Note change: now meeting on the fourth Tuesday of each month, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. at St. Joan of Arc Church, Parish Center, 4537 Third Avenue South, Minneapolis. FFI: Barbara, 612-722-4444

**Tackling Torture at the Top (T3):** Second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, 10:00 a.m. at (Note change of location) Afro Deli and Coffee, 1939 5th Street South (Riverside and 20th Avenue), Minneapolis.

## Ongoing Events

### People of Faith Peacemakers

**Breakfast:** Second and fourth Wednesdays, 8:00 to 9:30 a.m., new location: African Development Center, on 20th Avenue, across from St. Martin's Table. A resource and support group for those concerned about peace with justice from a faith perspective. FFI: [www.justviewpoint.org](http://www.justviewpoint.org) or call 763-784-5177

### Grandmothers for Peace:

First Wednesday (Note: time and phone number change) 12:45 p.m., Edina Public Library, 5280 Grandview Square, Edina. Program around justice issue that helps us to understand our role in changing unjust systems. FFI: 952-929-1566

### Tea Time Conversational Salons:

Most Tuesdays, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Mad Hatter's Teahouse, 943 West Seventh St., St. Paul. Salons are open to all. Suggested donations \$3-\$5 include tea, treats. FFI: 651-227-2511 or 651-227-3228.

### Third Thursday Global Issues

**Forum:** 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Hennepin Ave. United Methodist Church, Groveland at Lyndale Ave., Minneapolis. FFI: [globalsolutionsmn.org](http://globalsolutionsmn.org)

### Middle East Peace Now:

Third Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. Refreshments, 10:00 a.m. Program. Location may vary. FFI: Call 651-696-1642 or see [www.mepn.org](http://www.mepn.org)

**MN 9/11 Truth:** Second Tuesday of each month, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Rondo Community Outreach Library, 461 North Dale Street, St. Paul. MN 9/11 Truth meets to educate and discuss the events of 9/11/2001. FFI: Visit [www.mn911truth.org](http://www.mn911truth.org).

## Special Events

**"Navigating the Aftermath" Iraqi and American visual art exhibit and events** through March 4, Gallery hours: Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 11 p.m., Saturday 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Quarter Gallery, Regis Center for Art, University of Minnesota, 405 21st Ave South, Minneapolis. Iraqi and American artists together in art and dialogue. Special events with Iraqis and Americans discussing political, cultural effects of Iraq War on both countries and how to move toward healing, a more peaceful future. Co-sponsored by Iraq and American Reconciliation Project, Muslim Peacemaker Teams and U of MN Department of Art. FFI: [www.navigatingtheaftermath.org/](http://www.navigatingtheaftermath.org/)

**WAMM Annual Meeting** Saturday, March 5, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at St. Joan of Arc Church, Hospitality Hall, 4537 Third Avenue South, Minneapolis. Good Music! Good Program! Good Brunch! WAMM Action! Meet old friends. Make new friends. Win raffle prizes. Support WAMM. Speaker: Margaret Randall on "Creative Challenges in a Time of Famine." FFI: See back page of this newsletter.

**Active Nonviolence Training** March 18 through 20 at Faith Mennonite Church, 2720 East 22nd Street, Minneapolis. Intensive, interactive three-day training in principles and practice of active nonviolence. Social change analysis, community-building, project planning to strengthen for action. Sponsored by: CCP FFI, registration: [www.creatingacultureofpeace.org](http://www.creatingacultureofpeace.org).

**Bring the Troops Home Now! Out of Afghanistan! End, Don't Extend War!** Saturday, March 19. Local protest on nationally coordinated anniversary day of second U.S. war on Iraq. How is the war economy working for you? Funds for Jobs, Housing, Health Care & Veterans Benefits, Not War! All U.S. Troops out of Iraq. No to new U.S. wars on Pakistan, Yemen, Iran, Africa, Korea. End U.S. aid to the occupation of Palestine. Opposing War is not a crime. Being Muslim is not a crime. Stop attacks on civil liberties and democratic rights. Organized by local peace groups. See flyer this newsletter. FFI. WAMM at 612-827-5364

**WAMM Bus to New York City. Back to the Streets March & Rally Against the Wars at Home and Abroad!** Saturday, April 9. Organized by United National Antiwar Committee, a coalition of hundreds of peace and justice organizations. FFI: [www.unacepeace.org](http://www.unacepeace.org) Buses are being organized now. To sign up to ride the WAMM bus or donate sponsorship: 612-827-5364.

**"This Land is Whose Land? Defining Citizenship. Understanding Access. Taking Action." The White Privilege Conference** April 13-16 at Sheraton Bloomington Hotel, Minneapolis. For students, youth, teachers, college faculty, activists, social workers, healthcare workers, anyone. Based on understanding, respecting, connecting. Fosters difficult, critical dialogues around white supremacy, diversity, multicultural education and leadership, social and economic justice, intersecting systems of privilege and oppression. Gain strategies for addressing issues to advance social and economic justice. Host: Minnesota Justice Collaborative. Sponsored by MN State Colleges and Universities, Augsburg, Gustavus Adolphus, Goddard, YWCA. FFI, registration: [www.uccs.edu/wpc](http://www.uccs.edu/wpc)

*Additional upcoming events are listed at [www.worldwidewamm.org](http://www.worldwidewamm.org), or you may call the WAMM office for more information: 612-827-5364. Other peace and justice events can be found on Minnesota Alliance for Peacemakers at [www.mapm.org](http://www.mapm.org).*



*Who pays the price for war? Eight-year old Mustafa Al Tameemi lost part of a leg and the use of his arm due to unsafe conditions and lack of proper medical treatment in Iraq. But his is an unusual case. He was eventually able to receive help in the U.S. Photo: Sami Rasouli*

ening for us. Since I have been here, my 20-year-old nephew disappeared while driving a taxi between Najaf and Baghdad. His family has searched for him, but they have not been able to find him and they believe he has been killed. I am afraid for my husband, as it is common practice for criminals to steal a taxi and kill the driver. The payment for such a heinous deed is \$100.

Life in Iraq has been extremely difficult for women for many years, and the unavailability of security, electricity, clean drinking water, health care, and education has made life more complicated. I spend most of my time cooking, cleaning, washing clothes, and caring for my six children. I wash clothes for eight people by hand because of the lack of electricity. My mother lives with us. She and my 13-year-old daughter help with cleaning and caring for the children. I do not have time to go out of the home to socialize.

Besides the physical assault, women have been targeted in Iraq when they pass through checkpoints to go from one place to another. Also, during the U.S. military raids and search for insurgents, the U.S. army arrested

Iraqi women. They are the wives, mothers, daughters, or sisters of Iraqi men who were suspected of resisting the occupation. The purpose of their arrests was to pressure them to surrender men who resist the occupation. Women have also been kidnapped and detained for long periods of time in American prisons in Iraq. Many of these women are physically abused, tortured, and sometimes raped. Because of the Iraqi culture, this results in extreme shame for the women and a burden to the honor of their families. Some women have been killed in order to defend the honor of the family.

Many peaceful people in Iraq have died or have been severely injured because of the random campaign of bombing. Other Iraqi families have lost their lives when they approached checkpoints that were set up by the U.S. and the British. The occupation forces would decide that Iraqis could not travel in certain areas in their own country. Iraqis, unaware of such restrictions, would suddenly find themselves in prohibited places and would be killed. This made travel very difficult in Iraq.

The doctor has told us that Mustafa should be checked every six months after he receives his prosthesis. We will go back to Iraq soon and it is very difficult to bring him back again after only six months. I hope that the work that has been done to help him will not go in vain, which I fear if we are not able to come back regularly. So I am asking for more help from the members of St. Joan of Arc to come back at least once a year or every other year so that Mustafa can be treated properly, so that he can grow normally like other children, so that we accomplish the goal of bringing him here, and so he continues to be as happy as he is now.

*(This concludes Shaymaa's commentary.)*

Mustafa now has a new prosthesis provided by Shriners Hospital and has had an operation at St. Mary's Hospital, Mayo, on his left arm, both of which will significantly improve his quality of life. Mustafa and Shaymaa returned to Iraq in early February. We were very sad to see them go and we wonder what life will be like for them. We know they have been forever changed, and so have we. But we will see Mustafa again when he returns to Minnesota a year from now for a new prosthesis and more repair to his left elbow.

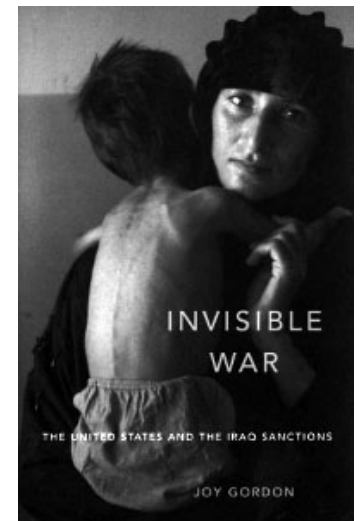
The treatment for Mustafa, which cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, has been graciously provided free of charge by Shriners Hospital, Gillette

*continued on page 9*

● **Navigating the Aftermath**

● Iraqi and American visual art  
● exhibit and events. Iraqi artists,  
● visitors and American artists  
● together in art and dialogue. Co-  
● sponsored by Iraq and American  
● Reconciliation Project,  
● Muslim Peacemaker Teams and  
● the University of Minnesota  
● Department of Art. See calendar  
● page 6 and FFI:  
● [www.navigatingtheaftermath.org](http://www.navigatingtheaftermath.org)

● **Invisible War**



● A book by Joy Gordon about the  
● Sanctions Period in Iraq (Har-  
● vard University Press, 2010)  
● <http://www.invisiblewar.net> or  
● ask your local library to obtain  
● a copy and spread the word.

● **Current Sanctions on Other Countries**

● What are sanctions doing to  
● Palestine? What is the effect of  
● blockading Gaza? What have  
● U.S. sanctions done to North  
● Korea? What is the effect of  
● tightening sanctions on Iran?



# Compassionate Rebel Revolution: Ordinary People Changing the World

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

## Hunger in the U.S.A.

15% of U.S. households, 17.4 million families, or approximately 50 million people were too poor to buy adequate food last year. More than 1/3 of these households, with as many as one million children, missed meals on a regular basis. These numbers have tripled since 2006. The poverty rate has increased over the past 3 years with over 50 million people now living below the official poverty line.

—Catholic Agitator Dec. 2010

## How's the War Economy Working for You?

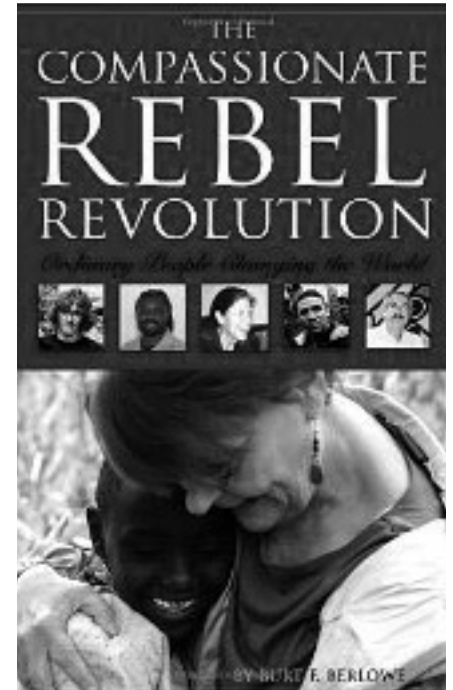
On December 22, 2010 Congress passed the \$726 billion National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal 2011. "Permanent war funding has become routine perfunctory business for Congress. At least Veterans for Peace staged a spirited protest with about 130 arrests on Dec. 16 in front of the White House."

—Jay Kvale

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



*Inspiring and heartening stories of more than 50 advocates and activists?ordinary people who care about and work to preserve the earth and humankind.*

find hope and encouragement. Look for *Compassionate Rebel Revolution* at Mayday Books, Minneapolis, or ask 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.*

## Whose Voices? continued from page 3

power: supporting remaining independent media, speaking freely as is their right, demanding subpoenas on activists be dropped and that persecution of whistleblowers stop. As Bolivarian democracy sweeps South America and Egypt, Yemen and Tunisia demand freedom from autocratic rule, we ought to be able to have the freedom of speech, assembly and association here, as well. **Join people on the street for those who are under attack everywhere, at home and abroad. Marches and rallies: March 19 and April 9.** See calendar page 6.

*Mary Beaudoin is the editor of the newsletter, Worldwidewamm. Report written for WAMM Media Committee.*

## WAMM THANKS

Lisa Knazan and Dennis Levendowski in honor of the Swift Family.



## WAMM Membership

- \$15-39 Low Income/Student membership  
 \$40-59 Annual membership  
 \$60-199 Household membership  
 \$200-349 Sustainer (amount above membership)  
 \$350+ Major Donor (amount above membership)
- This is a new membership.  This is a membership renewal  This is a gift membership  
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Contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Make checks payable to WAMM, 310 East 38th Street, Suite 222, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55409

## Pledge for Peace

(WAMM will send a coupon book)

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Monthly

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Quarterly

I want to volunteer for WAMM

## WAMM Committees

### Issues Committees:

- Book Club
- Counter Recruitment
- Immigration
- Iraq
- Media
- Middle East
- St. Joan of Arc/WAMM Peacemakers
- Tackling Torture at the Top

### Administrative and Other Committees:

- Coordinating
- Finance
- Fundraising
- New Member
- Newsletter
- Personnel
- Program/New Issues
- Silent Auction

For more information about how to join a WAMM committee, contact the WAMM office at 612-827-5364 or [wamm@mtn.org](mailto:wamm@mtn.org).

## WAMM Board

- Lisa Albrecht
- Terry Burke
- Ann Galloway
- Barb Hill
- Polly Mann
- Sarah Martin, Co-Chair
- Sue Ann Martinson, Secretary
- Carol Masters, Co-Chair
- Brigid McDonald
- Margaret Sarfehjooy
- Carol Walker, Treasurer

## Legacy of War, *continued from page 7*

Hospital, St. Paul Radiology, Mayo Clinic, and others. We owe them a deep debt of gratitude.

Sami Rasouli, an Iraqi-American, who has lived in Najaf for the past five years, brought Shaymaa and Mustafa to the United States with the mutual assistance of the Muslim Peacemakers Teams in Iraq and St Joan of Arc Church in Minneapolis. Sami tells us that there is less killing and fewer checkpoints since U.S. forces moved out of the cities, but there is still little repair of the infrastructure and the large criminal element that came with the war remains active, making it dangerous to travel any distance from one's home. Sami also reports that the sandstorms have decreased significantly since the military moved one million pieces of equipment out of Iraq. The great increase in sandstorms during the occupation was due to the movement of heavy military equipment, which broke the crust of the desert floor, leaving loose sand to be picked up by the wind and blown for miles. There was sand everywhere, making it difficult for the people to keep their home a clean and safe environment for their children.

The situation of Shaymaa and her family is only one example of the hardships endured by families living in Iraq. Hundreds of thousands of other children in Iraq lack proper medical care, clean

water, adequate food, educational facilities, and a healthy environment. Most of the educated middle class have been killed or have fled the country, and a majority of the remaining children and adults suffer from post traumatic stress. It will take decades for Iraq and its people to recover from the devastation of the illegal and immoral U.S.-led war and occupation.

*Marie Braun continues to work with the Twin Cities Peace Campaign, which she co-founded after traveling to Iraq during the sanctions period. She was a relentless advocate for lifting the sanctions. Also an activist with Women Against Military Madness, Alliant Action, and Iraq Peace Action Coalition, Marie has continued to act as one of the main organizers of protests against U.S. wars and occupations.*



## Keep Calling and Demand the Grand Jury Be Dropped!

- Stop Repression of Union, Anti-war and International Solidarity Activists!
- U.S. Attorney Patrick J. Fitzgerald at 312-353-5300 (Fitzgerald is responsible for the FBI raids and federal grand jury investigation.)
- U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder at 202-353-1555 or write an email to: [U.S. Department of Justice at AskDOJ@usdoj.gov](mailto:U.S.DepartmentofJustice@askdoj.gov)

## Keep Informed about Grand Jury Repression of Activists!

- Committee to Stop FBI Repression: [stopfbi.net](http://stopfbi.net)
- and [Mnstopfbi.wordpress.com](http://Mnstopfbi.wordpress.com)
- or call: 612-379-3585



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## HOW'S THE WAR ECONOMY WORKING FOR YOU?

# WAMM Annual Meeting 2011

Saturday, March 5, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

St. Joan of Arc Church, Hospitality Hall, 4537 Third Avenue South, Minneapolis



Photo credit: University of Minnesota

*WAMM is honored to present*

### **Margaret Randall: "Creative Challenges in a Time of Famine"**

The renowned feminist poet, writer, photographer and activist Margaret Randall lived in Latin America for two decades and was active in a number of social change movements. Subsequently, when she attempted to return to the U.S., she was denounced as a subversive and her deportation was ordered under the McCarran-Walter Act during the Reagan administration. Through a long court challenge, she was eventually able to have her citizenship reinstated. This was more than 25 years ago, yet it mirrors what is happening to FBI raids on anti-imperialists and immigrants today. Come hear her story. Margaret will speak after brunch and before the Meeting for Business. For more information, see article page 2.

**Good Music! Good Program! Good Brunch! WAMM Action!**  
**Meet old friends. Make new friends. Win raffle prizes.**  
**Support WAMM.**

FFI: Call WAMM, 612-827-5364.

