

The Department of Peace gains ground

By Terri Mansfield
Photography by Lynne Ericksson

Make no mistake about it — the Department of Peace (DOP) is not an anti-military movement but rather a complement to it. Many members of this movement are in or retired from the military. Their most staunch supporters are found in the Pentagon. It is their hope that someday a fifth service academy; the Peace Academy, will become a reality along with West Point, the Naval Academy, Coast Guard Academy and the Air Force Academy.

The DOP feels our military needs a proactive alternative force for settling differences around the world. The armed forces were not well-prepared to lead the Iraqi people to peaceful reconstruction of both infrastructure and government.

Throughout our history, when Americans approach that time of “critical mass” or that “tipping point,” great grassroots movements become realities. Just as Susan B. Anthony and many citizens worked tirelessly for years to give American women the right to vote in 1920, and just as Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr. and many citizens worked tirelessly to bring about the Civil Rights Act in 1964, so, too, are American citizens working tirelessly now to co-create a cabinet level Department of Peace in our federal government.

What passion motivates men, women and children to network with and to educate their families, friends, peers and neighbors about the timeliness and practicality of a new DOP? That passion has many names, and one of them is “change” for a better



Ohio Congressman Dennis Kucinich with Walter Cronkite

quality of life. Many years ago, Mahatma Gandhi urged all humans to “be the change that you want to see in the world.”

Everywhere the Arizona delegation of the Department of Peace went in Washington D.C., while attending the third annual DOP Campaign National Conference, they heard people express the desire to live in a friendlier, more compassionate and yet more empowering society. They sensed that people longed for less convincing and more connecting. It is their position that people are beginning to realize that peace begins within one person at a time.

They cite our national symbol on the back of our dollar bill where we see the eagle. In one claw, the eagle holds arrows representing defense; in the other claw,

the eagle holds olive branches representing peace. The proposed Department of Peace (the olive branches) will bring more balance to our government, and will give our elected officials, as well as all citizens, more tools with which to de-escalate violence at home and abroad.

Since April 2003, Arizonans have come together as liberals and conservatives, as elders and children, as men and women, as people of all faiths and economic backgrounds and ethnicities, to learn the language of the Department of Peace, find examples of the DOP in action and find examples of the

profitability of peace.

The Arizona Department of Peace (AZDOP) Campaign focuses on peace as an organizing principle in society. It is a proactive, inclusive, grassroots organization, and its members invite everyone to the table to find the peaceful solutions to the challenges that face our communities.

2005 has been a powerful time for the AZDOP Campaign to partner with many local, national and international people and events, and has seen the following milestones:

- February 5: Joint Peace Pole dedications to the cities of Phoenix and Baghdad, thanks to Hard Rock Cafe-Phoenix, World Peace Prayer Society, Goi Peace Foundation, Peace



Arizona Department of Peace delegation in the Pentagon Chapel and, seen in the background, the Peace Pole that was dedicated by Rev. Gerry Eitner in 2000

Left to right are David Radcliffe, Pentagon regional director for Southern Africa Office of African Affairs; Arizona delegates Colleen O'Donnell, owner of PR firm Breaking Gravity; Beverly Janowitz-Price, therapist; Rommy Banaszczyk, international educator; Judy Springer, Northern Arizona University environmental staff; Terri Mansfield, executive director & co-founder AZDOP Campaign; Annie Loyd, founder, The FUSION; Ann Marie Tate, co-director of AZDOP Campaign and West Point graduate (next to image of George Washington).



(L-R) Annie Loyd, Kell Kearns, Beverly Janowitz-Price, Judy Springer, Julie Anna Miller, Charlene Roycht, Mitch Tate (holding Department of Peace Conference placard), Ron Hansen, Anne Marie Tate, Cynthia Lukas, Terri Mansfield and Lynne Ericksson

Pole Makers and Lyle Skillen. www.peacepoles.com;

- April 8: Second anniversary of the DOP / AZDOP Campaign: proclamation from Phoenix Mayor Phil Gordon; dedication of 14-foot New River Peace Pole designed by Kit Carson and Bernie Molaskey;
- May 5: Delivered Mothers Day apple pies to all of our eight Congressional offices in Arizona, stating that “peace wants a piece of the pie” or two percent (\$8.8 billion) of the current Department of Defense budget (\$440 billion) to jump start the DOP;
- July 13: Co-hosted with Trish Adams, John Couleur and Mike Mansfield the “Power of Change” evening, featuring Dot Maver, executive director of The Peace Alliance, and Donna Zajonc, former Oregon politician and author of “The Politics of Hope”;
- July 28-29: Facilitated Japanese Zen Monks’ peace walk through Phoenix, Paradise Valley and Scottsdale with the Atomic Flame from Hiroshima;
- Aug. 9: Joined the Japanese Zen Monks in Trinity, New Mexico, for a peace ceremony where the first atomic bomb was tested on July 16, 1945 (the Pentagon gave us special clearance to be here at this time);
- August 26: Co-hosted with Trish Adams and Annie Loyd the “Authors of Change” brunch at Phoenix’s Wrigley Mansion with Scottsdale architect, Vernon Swaback and Dr. Gladys McGarey, as well as other best-selling authors Marianne Williamson, Lisa McLeod, Donna Zajonc and Soni Dimond;
- Sept. 6: Co-sponsored “Rise Up for Disaster Relief” with Annie Loyd, Betsy Bombeck and Rose Winters of The FUSION at Steele Indian School Park to support Hurricane Katrina refugees;
- Sept. 10-14: Attended the third annual DOP Campaign National Conference in Washington, D.C. www.thepeacealliance.org; and
- Nov. 4 & 5: Co-sponsor with Trish Adams & StarShine Academy and community leaders, the 8th United Nations International Peace Pals Art Celebration; this is the first time this event has been held in the United States, and it was hosted by StarShine Academy here in Phoenix. www.



In front of the U.S. Capitol Building, from the left are Ron Hanson, mediator; Annie Loyd, founder, The FUSION; JulieAnna Miller, investor, mother and wife; Beverly Janowitz-Price, therapist; Terri Mansfield, executive director & co-founder, AZDOP Campaign; Charlene Roycht, author; Colleen O'Donnell, owner of PR firm Breaking Gravity; Judy Springer, Northern Arizona University environmental staff.

starshineacademy.org

The DOP Campaign National Conference in Washington, D.C., was a truly inspirational event for the AZDOP delegation. They visited all eight of our Arizona Congressional Representatives' offices, took a private tour of the Pentagon, witnessed Congressman Dennis Kucinich (OH) reintroduce the Department of Peace legislation (HR3760) in the House of Representatives, saw the Children's Peace Cloth of Many Colors spread over the west lawn of the Capitol and heard Judy Collins sing Amazing Grace. It was particularly moving for them when they heard Walter Cronkite say, "What is clear and would become clear, as you go along with this campaign, is that you are trying (and I consider myself with you on this in every way) to create not only a massive, but a basic change in our culture and in our entire approach to our



Top left is Dr. Patch Adams (played by Robin Williams in movie of the same name). Top right are Annie Loyd; Coleen Rowley, "Time Magazine Person of the Year" (FBI whistle blower); and Terri Mansfield, co-director AZDOP. Bottom left are singer Judy Collins and Marianne Williamson, founder of the National Department of Peace Campaign. Bottom right are Annie Loyd; Barbara Marx Hubbard, who was nominated for Democratic Party VP in 1984 and is currently an author and futurist; and Terri Mansfield.

relationships with other human beings. It's not a matter of simply getting another department of government. You're speaking of an entire philosophical revolution."

The Department of Peace legislation, Senate Bill Number S1756, was introduced to the Senate by Senator Mark Dayton (MN) on September 22, 2005. Auspiciously, Dayton's legislation coincided with the 44th anniversary of the nation's oldest federal agency dedicated to peace. It was on September 22, 1961 that President John F. Kennedy signed legislation that created the Peace Corps. This was originally proposed by Senator Hubert Humphrey in 1957. Senator Dayton asked that the U.S. Institute of Peace, which President Ronald Reagan created in 1980, be elevated to a cabinet level Department of Peace.

This is the first time in American history, that "we the people" have taken the opportunity to co-create a cabinet-level department with our elected representatives. This will be, a wonderful legacy for our children, grandchildren and generations to come. Perhaps it is time to be the change that we want to see in the world.



The Arizona Delegation (14 of 18 seen here) at the Department of Peace Conference in Washington, D.C., are, from the left Charlene Roycht, author (seated); Judy Springer, Northern Arizona University environmental staff; JulieAnna Miller, investor, mother and wife; Colleen O'Donnell, owner of PR firm Breaking Gravity; Annie Loyd, founder, The FUSION (standing); Tanya Anderson, retired global flight attendant; Beverly Janowitz-Price, therapist; Kell Kearns, documentary film maker; Sri Sridharan, spiritual leader; Ron Hanson, mediator; Terri Mansfield, executive director & co-founder, AZDOP Campaign; Mitch Tate, pharmaceutical rep, Reserve Army Officer; Ann Marie Tate, co-director, AZDOP Campaign and West Point graduate; and Cynthia Lukas, author, former Scottsdale Councilwoman.

Arizona delegates not shown are Lynne Ericksson, photographer; Nikolas Diamondidis, photographer & documentary film maker; Susan Seats, international Rotarian and teacher; and Rommy Banaszczyk, international educator.



(L-R) Japanese Zen Buddhist Monk Keigaku Muchu, who helped carry the Atomic Flame from Hiroshima to Trinity, New Mexico, where the first atomic bomb was tested in 1945; Rommy Banaszczyk; Ann Marie Tate; David Radcliffe (Pentagon regional director); Terri Mansfield; Annie Loyd; and Nikolas Diamondidis

If you wish to encourage the support of Arizona Senators McCain and Kyl and Congressional Representatives Renzi, Franks, Shadegg, Pastor, Hayworth, Flake and Kolbe to join with Representative Raul Grijalva as sponsors of the DOP legislation, call 202-224-3121 or go to www.congress.org. Being a citizen in a democracy requires active participation, and it means you have to be proactive with your elected officials both in Arizona and in Washington, D.C. AZDOP found these men and women who are working hard in our government to represent us want the same things that we all want for our families: shelter, food, security, employment, health care, education, dignity and to live in peace and harmony. ■

If interested in the AZDOP Campaign, contact Terri Mansfield or Ann Marie Tate at information@azdopcampaign.org, and for further information visit www.azdopcampaign.org and www.thepeacealliance.org.