

This Holiday Season,
Let's
Give Thanks to Our Peacemakers
And
Give the Gift of Peace



What's on your gift list this holiday season?

Video games?

Cell-phones?

Starbucks gift certificates?

Diamonds?

Furs?

Cosmetics?

Many of the corporations that manufacture and sell these items reap their largest profits from war, occupation, and torture. Some of the items themselves are produced at great harm to humans, animals, and the planet.

Are you feeling the economic pinch? Will your gifts be more modest this year, perhaps hand-made? Does it make sense that we consumers are making sacrifices so that weapons contractors, polluting energy companies, politicians and banks might prosper?

Our government has proposed \$895 billion in total defense spending for FY 2011. This is more than the total defense budget request of \$855 billion for FY2010, more than the total budget request for Security and the War on Terror request of \$782 billion in FY 2009. This is more than Social Security spending (\$730 billion), more than Medicare and Medicaid combined (\$788 billion), more than the sum of all other discretionary government programs (\$520 billion), and more than the defense budgets of all other western countries combined. At the same time, spending on "non-security" domestic programs such as education, nutrition, energy, and transportation would be frozen, resulting in inflationary cuts to essential services for the US public over the upcoming years.

Our military dominates our government, our media, and our culture. Is there any way out? We encourage you to recognize the contributions of our peace organizations (see back) by including at least one of them on your gift list this year.

PEACE ORGANIZATIONS YOU CAN SUPPORT

BAY AREA LABOR COMMITTEE FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE: an ad hoc labor antiwar committee affiliated with U.S. Labor Against the War, working to end the occupation of Iraq, and promote a just solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, to secure justice for the victims of the Gulf hurricanes and subsequent government neglect and abuse, for single-payer health care, and local strike support. <http://calaction.org/organizations/Pid=160>

BAY AREA WOMEN IN BLACK stand against militaristic and fundamentalist leadership in all countries, including our own, and are committed to nonviolent resistance against injustice, believing that all people have the right to security, home, education, justice and freedom. <http://www.bayareawomeninblack.org>

CODE PINK: a women-initiated grassroots peace and social justice movement working to end the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, stop new wars, and redirect our resources into healthcare, education, green jobs and other life-affirming activities. <http://www.codepinkalert.org>

GRANDMOTHERS AGAINST WAR: are committed to ending the military presence of the US in the Middle East and Afghanistan, which kills and maims our grandchildren, escalates death and destruction, and impedes our ability to deal with our own country's social and economic needs. <http://www.gawba.org/>; P.O. Box 9476, Berkeley, CA 94709.

JEWISH VOICE FOR PEACE works for peace, social justice, equality, human rights, respect for international law, and a U.S. foreign policy based on Jewish ideals and opposes anti-Jewish, anti-Muslim, anti-Arab bigotry and oppression, and advocates for an end to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem with security and self-determination for Israelis and Palestinians. <http://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org>; 1611 Telegraph Avenue Suite 550, Oakland, CA 94612.

MIDDLE EAST CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE: a nonprofit humanitarian aid organization working for rights and the well-being of children in the Middle East, sending shipments of direct aid and providing support for projects in Palestine, Iraq and Lebanon, including clinics, schools, counseling centers, libraries and dance, music and art programs. <http://www.mecaforpeace.org>; 1101 Eighth Street, Suite 100, Berkeley, CA 94710.

NORCAL FRIENDS OF SABEEL is affiliated with Friends of Sabeel North America (FOSNA), promoting awareness and understanding of the conflict between the Palestinians and Israel through educational programs for North American Christians, engaging them and their churches in efforts to nurture relationships with the indigenous Palestinian Christians whose existence is threatened by political conflict. norcal.sabeel@comcast.net; 1700 Shattuck Avenue # 314, Berkeley, CA 94709.

PACE E BENE, through nonviolence education, resources, and action, is bringing a world with dignity, justice, and peace for all, with the tools to challenge the spiral of war, poverty and ecological devastation. <http://paceebene.org>; 2501 Harrison Street Oakland, CA 94612.

STUDENTS FOR JUSTICE IN PALESTINE: a diverse group of students, faculty, staff, and community members at UC Berkeley, organized to promote justice, human rights, liberation and self-determination for the Palestinian people, including the right of all civilians, including Palestinians and Israelis, not to be the targets of violence. <http://calsjp.org>.

VETERANS FOR PEACE are men and women who have dutifully served our nation, who work to affirm our greater responsibility to serve the cause of world peace by applying the concept of engaging conflict peacefully, without violence to increase public awareness of the total costs of war; seek Justice for veterans and victims of war; and abolish war as an instrument of foreign/ international policy. <http://www.vsasf.org/> (local Chapter 69); 216 So. Meramec Ave. St. Louis, MO 63105.

VOTERS FOR PEACE is educating, organizing and activating voters to end the occupation of Iraq and prevent future wars of aggression, by providing voters with the information and tools they need to be effective peace advocates. <http://votersforpeace.us/index2.php>; 2842 N. Calvert Street Baltimore, MD 21218.

WAR RESISTERS LEAGUE: the United States' oldest secular pacifist organization, resisting war at home and war abroad since 1923, working for nonviolent revolution and shaped by the new visions and strategies of each generation's peacemakers. <http://www.warresisters.org>; c/o Bob Meola, 2335 Acton Street Berkeley, CA 94702-2107.

WIKILEAKS is responsible for releasing, on October 22, 2010 the largest classified military leak in history which document the war and occupation in Iraq, from 1st January 2004 to 31st December 2009, as told by soldiers in the United States Army. The reports detail 109,032 deaths in Iraq, comprised of 66,081 'civilians'; 23,984 'enemy' (those labeled as insurgents); 15,196 'host nation' (Iraqi government forces) and 3,771 'friendly' (coalition forces). The majority of the deaths (66,000, over 60%) of these are civilian deaths. That is 31 civilians dying every day during the six year period. <http://wikileaks.org>.