

## Cambridge Peace Commission recognizes local peacemakers

Beginning in 1995, the Cambridge Peace Commission, initiated an annual awards evening. “The idea for the evening”, according to Peace Commission co-chair Moacir Barbosa, “ is to honor Cambridge’s youth, our elders, our activists, our "inspirers" and our "survivors" while they are living.” These awards are to individuals, groups, or programs whose efforts to make the community more just or more peaceful. By community the Peace Commission means many things - a neighborhood or a block, a school or church, a family or a culture.

Every year there is a theme. According to Barbosa, “we hope to solicit the names of people from different generations who are speaking out, speaking up, and inspiring us to be what is possible. We are encouraging the nominations of people or programs that build bridges and those who stand for peace and justice initiatives particularly in these times of conflict, war and divisions.” Awards will go to life long peace and justice makers as well as those among us whose daily lives may be inspirations to their community.

To nominate a person the community sees as a “worthy awardee (person or a group) who should be celebrated for their courage, justice-seeking or work as a peacemaker in Cambridge”, please contact the Peace Commission at 617-349-4694 (peace@cambridgema.gov).

### **2006 – celebration**

Charles Ogletree and “emma’s revolution” to Join Peace Commission Recognition of local honorees.

Once again, the Cambridge Peace Commission is preparing to honor a diverse group of local organizations and individuals who contribute to peace making in Cambridge. The event will be held Sunday afternoon, October 29 from 4:30-7:30 at Cambridge College, 1000 Mass. Ave. (Free parking available under the building entering from Bay Street). Civil rights advocate and lawyer Charles Ogletree will be offering remarks at the program. And internationally acclaimed emma’s revolution (Pat Humphries and Sandy Opatow) will be sharing their lyrics and sounds in celebration of peace and justice.

Entitled “From generation to generation – celebrating the voices of courage and peace”, the 10<sup>th</sup> annual recognition program will honor an exciting and inspiring range of those who have found ways to contribute to Cambridge community-building. Serving the well-being of young people within Cambridge’s neighborhoods, **Carol Thomas** has been a beacon for girls for more than 2 decades while **Wil Renderos** has more recently brought his dedication and restorative justice work to Latino youth at Centro Presente. **Queen Mother Frances Pearce**, a one woman “peace-making” light and institution of her own for more than 6 decades will be celebrated along with recent CRLS graduate and student body president **Sumbul Siddiqui**. **Poppy Milner**, nominated for her many years of volunteer and community work including the math literacy Algebra Project will be honored with her son **Chad Milner** and his inspiring colleagues **Omo Moses** and **London Hardy** of **The Young Peoples' Project**. Retiring from 25 years of service to Cambridge women through the Cambridge Women’s Commission but continuing efforts for civil liberties and Area 4 neighbors, **Nancy Ryan** is honored along with **Mary Harvey** who leaves her long leadership of the Victims of Violence program but keeps alive her radical philosophy of community-based, community empowered mental health through writing and activism. **Eric Weltman**, peace and justice advocate through writing and Cable TV will join the distinguished columnist and spokesperson for humanity **Richard Griffin**.

**Emmy Howe** planted “seeds” of diversity in Cambridge for school families and GLBT communities while **Carol Gomez and Lilly Marcelin** opened new consciousness about the

trafficking of women and extended support for women targeted for violence. **Moacir Barbosa** extended his brilliance to breaking the cycles of institutional and personal violence towards Cambridge's youth and communities of color while **Terry Greene's** environmental justice work was expanded by the death of her brother on 9/11 to do the same work through creating Families for Peaceful Tomorrows. **Brain Corr's** work expanding ACLU civil liberties and his "peace action" will be lifted up with the former ACLU director of 32 years **John Roberts** whose current voice lifts up the struggles for justice in the Middle East and the end of war-making around the globe alongside that of tireless **Hilda Silverman** whose vocal and mobilizing force for justice in Israel/Palestine has radiated throughout circles of faith and conscience for many years..

In addition to celebrating the 2006 honorees, the evening will include a posthumous recognition of a number of individuals who made significant contributions to Cambridge as a peaceable City and the United States as a beacon for justice. Impacting directly on Cambridge, we have seen the loss of presidential medal of honor winner and liberal economist **John Kenneth Galbraith**, Search for Justice and Equality in Palestine/Israel (SEARCH) founder **Ned Hanauer**, elder and spiritual mother to Adventist Congregational Church **Daisy Harewood**, Peace Commission founder (with her mother Peggy), teacher and activist **Abbie Schirmer** along with her distinguished father social justice leader, writer and lifelong "friend of the Filipino people" **Boone Schirmer**, Lawyer's Guild, Eviction Free Zone and peoples' supporter **Jan Solet**, and peacemaker and "friend" **Patricia Watson**. On the national front we also lift up with gratitude the contributions of subversive Southerner and racial justice stalwart **Anne Braden**, nuclear weapons and war opponent, author and SANE hero **Reverend William Sloane Coffin**, and founder of Black Voices for Peace and executive director of the National Black Environmental Justice Network **Damu Smith**.

Light refreshments will be available before recognition of the honorees and Ogletree's remarks followed by a performance with emma's revolution.

For Peace Commission co-chair and Nobel peace prize nominee Betty Burkes, "this recognition evening is a direct reflection of our mission of peace-making in Cambridge by celebrating its many forms and bringing people together for a chance of community building. " The suggested donation for adults is \$10 and \$5 for Children. For more information or to RSVP, call the Cambridge Peace Commission 617-349-4694.