

take action!

March 20, 2004 is the one year anniversary of the U.S. war in Iraq. U.S. soldiers continue to die and sources estimate that thousands of Iraqis have perished due to war-related destruction, starvation and disease. Write President Bush and share your feelings about this war.

Dear President Bush:

Photos by Nuestras Raíces Community members (Nuestras Raíces), Jan Sturmann (Seeds of Solidarity), Rachel Chandler-Worth (Food Bank Farm), The Daily Hampshire Gazette (Kimber Growers)



"The best part about gardening is knowing that what you get at the end is something you have grown with your own hands and is the product of us working the land."

—Percida Sánchez, Nuestras Raíces

m M a A r R z C o H

✎ In honor of Rigoberta Menchú Tum and her call for global education, learn about a social justice issue or volunteer at a community education center, such as the ones which appear in this calendar. For bibliographies, relevant websites or contacts, phone AFSC, 413.584.8975.

✎ Celebrate International Women's Day by participating in a local event. Call Susan, 413.367.9356.

✎ Find a personal way to renew your body, mind and spirit. A depleted person is a less effective ally or activist.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
On March 1, a report back from sojourners to a sister community in Las Mananitas in Panama (pictured). All welcome. Videos, crafts, discussion. Annunciation Church Parish Center, Beacon Street, Florence. Info: 413.584.3398 / pmarn@hotmail.com		On March 4, Roshi Bernie Glassman, Paula Green, and Thai activist Sulak Sivaraksa speak at Smith College as part of the <i>Resisting and Transforming Empire</i> series. Sponsored by the Buddhist Peace Fellowship, Karuna Center for Peacebuilding, and the Zen Peacemaker Circle. Info: 413.563.5197 ne-bpf@bpf.org.		<i>"There is a big change going on in the way people see the world: change in the concept of development, in the way people live together. But for this change to bear fruit, we need education on a global scale... Solutions will come when the world becomes educated about global values, the common values of its inhabitants and communities."</i>	—Rigoberta Menchú Tum, (1959), Quiché (Maya) human rights activist from Guatemala, 1992 Nobel Peace Prize winner	Purim (Jewish). Begins at sundown
Purim (Jewish). A Jewish festival which symbolizes the power of survival.	(1908) Women rise up against wretched working conditions, disenfranchisement and domestic violence to create International Women's Day.		Many Western Massachusetts groups and communities honor International Women's Day each year. Info: Susan, 413.367.9356	This month, The Department of Mental Health's Cultural Diversity Committee presents Perspectives of Mental Illness in Portuguese and Cape Verdian Cultures. Information: 413.587.6200	On March 13, 2004, <i>And Justice for All Parish Social Ministry Conference</i> , Elms College, Chicopee. Sponsored by Catholic Charities, Diocese of Springfield. Information: Sarita, s.hudson@dio springfield.org	Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence offers a talk by Rev. William Sinkford, the first African American President of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Information: 413.584.1390
	Birthday, Frances Crowe (1919) member of Mt. Toby Meeting of Friends (Quaker) and founder of Western Massachusetts AFSC <i>"Peace education is about crystallizing one's conscience."</i>	(1968) My Lai Massacre. U.S. soldiers kill 300 unarmed Vietnamese civilians in their village. News of the atrocity leads many to protest the U.S. war in Vietnam.	Some Vietnam Veterans have returned to My Lai to create a peace park and memorial. More veterans from all wars are speaking to schools and community groups about their own personal truths. Information: Veteran's Education Project, 413.253.4947 and Veteran's For Peace meekman@wildmail.com	<i>"The true revolutionary is guided by a great feeling of love."</i>	The Conscious Communication Institute (CCI) will host a day-long forum on March 27 for groups working in the field of communication, mediation and conflict resolution. Information: Sandra, 413.774.5952	Spring (or Vernal) Equinox (2003) U.S. war with Iraq begins. Many valley justice and peace groups will organize to mark this anniversary. Information: AFSC, 413.584.8975 Naw Rúz (Bahá'í). Begins at sundown.
Naw Rúz (Bahá'í New Year). Families gather to celebrate new life and renewal on the first day of the Bahá'í year.	Chaitra (Hindu). This spring New Year festival marks the start of the Hindu calendar.	<i>"Healing may not be so much about getting better, as about letting go of everything that isn't you—all of the expectations, all of the beliefs—and becoming who you are."</i> —Dr. Rachel Naomi Remen, author and pioneer in the mind/body holistic health movement	(1980) Archbishop Oscar Romero, El Salvadoran Catholic priest and activist, assassinated by a member of a right-wing group supported by the U.S. Romero supported indigenous people while distancing himself from the wealthy elite.	<i>"I do not believe in death without resurrection. If they kill me, I will be resurrected in the hearts of the Salvadoran people."</i> —Archbishop Oscar Romero (1917–1980), from a homily a few months prior to his assassination	<i>"Peace cannot suddenly descend from the heavens. It can only come when the root-causes of trouble are removed."</i> —Jawaharlal Nehru (1917–1964), first prime minister of independent India	
(2001) Zapatista Commandancias demand indigenous rights and culture in the Mexican Constitution. Birthday, Nydia Velázquez (1953), the first Puerto Rican woman elected to Congress.	There are approximately 3,000 migrant and seasonal farm workers working on valley farms. In Massachusetts, most migrant workers come from Jamaica although there is a rapidly growing community of Mexican and Central American workers who travel north from Florida. Working up to 90 hours a week to put food on our tables, they have no health insurance, no social security coverage, no vacation or sick days, and earn approximately \$8,000 per year. Because many fear deportation or retaliation they are hesitant to avail themselves of the few legal protections which exist for them.		Birthday, Cesar Chavez (1927–1993), co-founder of the United Farm Workers with Dolores Huerta	Getting sensitive to language We often use phrases casually, not noticing subtle references to racist phenomena. For example, we talk about our boss being a "slave driver," or poorly paid work as "slave labor." These comments trivialize the experiences of enslaved people. However bad my work situation, I am paid, I am not owned by another, and I am not beaten or killed at another's whim. Also think about what it means to call someone a "Nazi;" and what it means to use "cotton-picking" to mean contemptible or irritating.		

Rachel Chandler-Worth

