

Attorney General Ashcroft:

take action!

On October 26, 2001, President Bush signed into law the USA PATRIOT Act, giving the FBI and the CIA greater rights to wiretap phones, monitor e-mail, survey medical, financial and student records, and break into homes and offices without prior notification. It threatens rights guaranteed by the Bill of Rights of the U.S. Constitution. Info: www.bordc.org. Write John Ashcroft and voice your concern regarding the USA PATRIOT Act.



“What has kept me going since the early 1930s trying to help make our world a human and lovable place in which to live? Commitment ... Commitment is not static. It grows with one’s understanding. Commitment is a constant state of fertilization of the heart and mind which fuels the determination to live up to one’s beliefs. It means keeping a promise to oneself and others. Sometimes it can be scary. Nevertheless, one feels a sense of integrity, striving to express in action the soul’s deepest sense of what is right and good.”

—Wally Nelson (1909–2002)

“I am concerned to strive for a coherent, integrated life, so that the way I live and get my living might be the clearest statement I can make of my belief in nonviolence... by simplifying my needs and living more nearly within the bounds of my own productivity, I hope to reduce my exploitation of the earth and its inhabitants.”

—Juanita Nelson (1923)

Juanita Nelson moved to Woolman Hill in Deerfield in 1974 with Wally, her partner of 26 years at the time. Wally passed away in 2002. Today Juanita continues their life of radical simplicity, in a home with no electricity or running water, growing her own food. They met while he was serving a 33-month prison sentence for conscientious objection to World War II. Both were active in the early years of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), doing nonviolent actions to integrate public facilities, including Wally’s participation in the first Freedom Ride through the South in 1947. Both were also founding members of Peacemakers, a national movement dedicated to nonviolence, draft resistance and war tax refusal. Locally, Juanita and Wally founded the Pioneer Valley War Tax Resisters and are founding members of the Valley Community Land Trust.

