



BURN THE MORTGAGE



JOIN THE FIESTA !!!

A ST. FRANCIS HOUSE
CELEBRATION

FRIDAY, MAY 18, 2007

Second Congregational Church Fellowship Hall
45 Broad Street - New London, CT

*The future
will be different
if we make
the present
different.*

Peter Maurin
Co-founder
of the Catholic Worker
Movement

*What we
would like to do
is change the world ---
make it a little simpler
for people to feed, clothe, and
shelter themselves as God
intended them to do.*

*And, by fighting
for better conditions
by crying out unceasingly
for the rights of the workers,
of the poor, of the destitute -
the rights of the worthy
and the unworthy poor
in other words -*

*we can, to a certain
extent, change the world;
we can work for the oasis, the little cell of joy
and peace in a harried world. We can throw
our pebble in the pond and be confident that its
ever widening circle will reach around
the world.*

*We can give away an onion.
We repeat, there is nothing
that we can do but love, and,
dear God, please enlarge our hearts
to love each other, to love our neighbor,
to love our enemy as well as our friend.*

Dorothy Day
Co-founder
of the Catholic Worker
Movement

Thank You for Helping Us Burn the Mortgage; Welcome to the Fiesta!

A few weeks ago, the Bible study in our Community Meeting was the story of the miraculous catch of fish in Luke's Gospel (5:1-11). After borrowing the boats of Peter and his partners James and John to preach to a large crowd on the seashore, Jesus bade them "put out into deep water and let down your nets for a catch." They had toiled all night but caught nothing, but now they caught so many fish their boats were about to sink. Jesus told them, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching people." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him."

When Anne and Nathaniel and Sarah and I came to New London and began St. Francis House eight years ago, we did not "leave everything," but we certainly got quickly into "deep water." What we left was a "professional model of ministry," and what we sought was to be open to the call to discipleship - a more radical following of Jesus than we had done before. Mark joined us in 2004, but I believe he was caught by Jesus long before he came to St. Francis House. Others have joined us as residents for varying periods of time, and many in the wider community have chosen to become part of our life and work. We are still fishing.

The Bible study led me to think about a huge issue for our American society, our New London neighborhood, and ourselves. In all of our institutions - religious and social, political and economic, even the family - we tend to treat as permanent, or eternal, things that are, in fact, temporary and passing away. We human beings really are *sojourners* on this planet. The planet itself is not finally permanent. But because our culture has lost any sense of the eternal, we place all our hopes in things that cannot endure.

St. Francis House, as a community that extends beyond our immediate residents, and as a small institution in New London, can *know* and can *remind others* that "here we have no continuing city, but we are seeking a city that is to come" (Hebrews 13:14). I think that only people who seek that "city that is to come," can truly value the life that is passing away. Even our children are not our own! As King Solomon said, when he dedicated the Temple in Jerusalem, "If the heavens and the highest heavens cannot contain you [God], how much less this temple which I have built?" (I Kings 8:27).

And yet, as Christians, we believe that the Son of God has become incarnate, has taken on our human flesh, become poor for our sakes. Jesus did not "live and die as one of us" to eternize things that are temporal, but to teach us to value them for what they are, to live in and through them in a genuinely human life, so we can come at last to "our true native land." St. Francis House is not what is important. What is important is what we seek to point to: a life that is freely given, faithfully lived. So, thank you all for coming, thank you for being part of our life.

Thank you for helping us burn the mortgage. Welcome to the Fiesta!

Emmett Jarrett, TSSF
President, St. Francis House Board of Directors

THE ST. FRANCIS HOUSE ANNUAL FIESTA AND BURN THE MORTGAGE PARTY ! ! !

FRIDAY, MAY 18 - 6:30 - 10 P.M.

Fellowship Hall, Second Congregational Church, 45 Broad St., New London

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Attorney Chester Fairlie
Friend of St. Francis House

INVOCATION:

The Rev. Carolyn Patierno
President of the Board,
Homeless Hospitality Center

BANQUET SPEAKER:

The Rev. Canon Edward W. Rodman
Professor of Pastoral Theology, Episcopal Divinity School
Founding Member of the St. Francis House Board

FEATURING:

Members of The Writer's Block

Music by John Scott and Amizade

and Ben and Nancy Parent of *The Rivergods*

BENEDICTION:

The Rev. Russ Gundlach
American Baptist Pastor, Retired
Member of the St. Francis House Extended Community

Special thanks to Nate Jarrett for coordinating food preparations,
to the restaurants and other food providers for donating specialty items
and local businesses for donating Door Prizes (see insert page),
to OIC for the loan of the chafing dishes and
to Everyone who brought Hors D'oeuvres to share!
to Sarah Jarrett for providing "designated child care",
to Laura Burfoot, former SFH resident, and FRESH, New London,
for setting up the hall and to Nora Curioso and Bob Bassett for
coordinating general preparations and clean up

Special thanks also to our friends and neighbors at Second Congregational Church
for providing the space for this celebration.

We rejoice with you
as you celebrate the "burning of your mortgage"
and settle even further into your home in New London. We give thanks for your presence in our midst
and for the light of Christ that you carry so uniquely as an intentional peace and justice community. We
know you'll never run out of work to do, so we pray that as you receive God's spirit pouring into your
hearts and souls and bodies to energize you for this work, we will all give thanks and find ways to help
as well.

Peace and blessings to you always,

Your friends and neighbors at Second Congregational Church

*Congratulations, St. Francis House.
You put the Gospel message into action.
We are blessed to be part
of your extended community.*

Barbara and Doug Barrett

THE MEMBERS OF CONGREGATION BETH EL
WISH YOU GREAT SUCCESS AS YOU PARTNER WITH GOD
IN CREATING A BETTER WORLD.

Our best wishes and blessings to everyone at St. Francis House
We're proud to partner with you in our shared quest for justice and a strong community.

ALL SOULS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION



ST. FRANCIS HOUSE AND THE VOLUNTOWN PEACE TRUST : FIDELITY IN RELATIONSHIP



The community at the Voluntown Peace Trust (VPT) wishes to congratulate the St. Francis House Community on this its eighth anniversary and on the burning of the mortgage! Being new ourselves to this intentional community living and working -- or "experiment with truth" as Gandhi might put it -- we have some idea how much work and commitment the St. Francis House folks have been willing to embrace to lay the foundation for a new organization in a new location, while at the same time forming community. Bless you friends; it is with joy that we can call you friends.

This relationship between St. Francis House and VPT (the non-profit), between St. Francis House and this land in Voluntown, between St. Francis House and the communities who reside on the property in Voluntown, is akin to a covenant one. "Covenant" is rooted in the Hebrew concept of *hesed*. *Hesed* entails an absolute commitment to fidelity, according to which the question concerning relationship is never whether to relate with another but, rather, *how* to be in relationship with another.

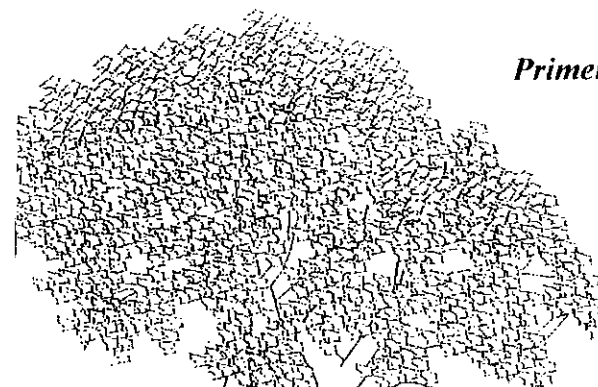
In 1998 while Emmett was still leading a congregation in Stone Mountain, GA, Anne, Sarah and Nate moved to Connecticut so that Anne could do a nine month sabbatical at Equity Trust which at the time was located on what is now VPT's property in Voluntown. Working with Equity Trust's founder and director Chuck Matthei, who helped with the initial financing for St. Francis House once that vision began to take shape, Anne helped with the day to day work on the property and also gained a deeper understanding of alternative economic processes, including community loan funds and how religious communities can use and transform their material resources in the service of community development. To this day when Anne visits, it is with delight that we see her move about the space with a familiarity that often comes with family.

After Chuck died in the fall of 2000, Equity Trust decided to move to Massachusetts. With the SE Connecticut Peace and Justice Network which St. Francis House had just begun to host, Anne worked with the new VPT Board to raise the substantial down payment in order for the Voluntown property to stay in the peace and justice community. And during the early VPT organizational stages in 2004, St. Francis House Community members worked to build a network of organizations to guide VPT's programming and support the first community that came to Voluntown after Equity Trust's move.

Upon our community's arrival in May 2005, we were immediately welcomed by the St. Francis House Community. They invited us to New London to join a constructive program study group and helped us meet folks in the region; this was so important to us because at that time, no one in our community was from this region (much less this State) and we knew virtually no one. For their hospitality, friendship and wise counsel, we will always be deeply grateful. Having Mary Novak of the VPT community join the SFH board in October, 2006 symbolizes how this relationship of mutual support has come full circle in an ongoing spiral of *hesed*!

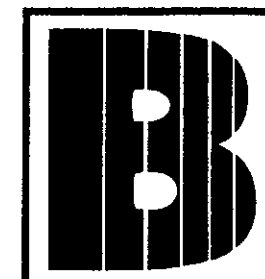
In their first newsletter in 1999, Anne noted that St. Francis House hopes "to be part of a network of people around the country who are making their own experiments with the truth vis-à-vis material resources." We are honored to be part of that network with St. Francis House.

This relationship (or relationships) started before there was a St. Francis House, before there was a VPT; but the question for St. Francis House has never seemed to be whether to be in relationship, but how. The folks at St. Francis House have embraced that question of how to be in relationship consistently, with love and in all of its messiness. That kind of fidelity is faith-filled; that kind of fidelity is overwhelming and awe-inspiring; that kind of fidelity is radical. Bless you friends.



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Reverend Daniel Martino, Pastor

*To our friends at St. Francis House,
We celebrate along with you and pray that you reach your goal to
"Burn the Mortgage."
May God continue to bless you all.*



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¡FELICIDADES!

"Tuve hambre y ustedes me dieron de comer,
Tuve sed y me dieron de beber,
Anduve como forastero y me dieron alojamiento." (MT. 25-35)

Gracias SAINT FRANCIS HOUSE por haber permitido que nuestro grupo concretizara algunas de sus ideas, brindándonos apoyo y un techo para poder realizar nuestras reuniones y actividades con la comunidad.

Es para los miembros de la Comunidad Unida por el Renacimiento de la Educación (CURE) una gran satisfacción que hayan podido ¡BURN THE MORTGAGE!, gracias a la colaboración de personas que han creído y apoyado su proyecto tan importante y necesario en esta vulnerable comunidad de New London.

Gracias a todos los colaboradores de Saint Francis House, por permitir que algunas personas necesitadas puedan tener y sentir el calor comunitario, el apoyo, la unidad y la solidaridad, en estos momentos en que el mundo esta perdiendo la fe, la esperanza y los sueños de vivir en un mundo mejor.

¡FELICIDADES SAINT FRANCIS HAUSE!

C.U.R.E.

CONGRATULATIONS SAINT FRANCIS HOUSE!

"When I was hungry you gave me food,
When I was thirsty you gave me water,
When I was homeless you gave me shelter". (MT 25-35)

Thank you SAINT FRANCIS HOUSE for allowing our group to assemble there. With your illuminating support we were able to meet and finalize some ideas and activities for the community.

It is with great pleasure that CURE members acknowledge the fact that you can BURN THE MORTGAGE! Thanks to the collaboration of people who believed and supported your project which is so important and vital to the city of New London.

Thank you to all the collaborators of Saint Francis House in permitting the needy to have and feel the warmth of the community, the support, the unity and solidarity in these times when the world seems to be losing its faith, hope and dreams of living in a better world.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

C.U.R.E.

COMMUNITY UNITED FOR THE RENAISSANCE IN EDUCATION

Attorney Chester Fairlie
And Joan Fairlie

Attorney Fairlie maintains an office in New London and primarily represents victims of injuries by drunk drivers and other types of auto accidents along with adult and child survivors of sexual abuse.

Telephone 443 - 5297

*With much gratitude
for welcoming, housing and nurturing
our son Ben and Nancy, Gabriel and Madeline at Victory House.*

Love, George and Marlies



CONGRATULATIONS !

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A ST. FRANCIS HOUSE CHRONOLOGY - 1998 to the Present



The following is not an exhaustive account of the development of the life and work of the St. Francis House community. But in reflecting on where we go next we have found it useful to reflect on where we have been and who has been part of the journey. So here is a selection of events and beginnings. Thank you for whatever part you have played in this sojourn!

In the beginning.....

1998 – Emmett takes a two month sabbatical in Stonington and works on "Christianity for Beginners" and Anne, Nate and Sarah join him for summer vacation.

1998-99 - Anne and the children spend the school year in Stonington with Anne doing a sabbatical working at the Voluntown Peace Farm with Chuck Matthei of Equity Trust. Emmett while still Rector of St. Michael and All Angels in Stone Mountain, GA becomes a Third Order Franciscan and has a vision of creating a house of hospitality in New London. Anne and he engage in discernment using the African Method of Bible Study over Christmas and decide to say "yes" to the move.

1999 - St. Francis House is formed as "a house of hospitality, a place of prayer and a center for justice ministry" and as a 501(c)3 corporation. 30 Broad Street is purchased with the help of Equity Trust and renovations commence. First *Troubadour* is published as a two-sided one-sheet publication. First board meeting in October.

December, 1999 – Clarification of Thought begun on Wednesdays. then changed to Fridays.

July, 2000 – Third floor renovations completed and Anne, Emmett, Sarah and Nate join Armand living at the House then joined by Chrissy in the Hermitage (renovated with the help of Calvary Church, Stonington)

February, 2001 - Episcopal Urban Caucus has national annual assembly in New London. SFH serves as administrative center for the national EUC 2000-2005.

Fall 2001 – Southeastern Connecticut Peace and Justice Network begins meeting the second Monday of the month at St. Francis House; We issue a local call for Prayer and Fasting (Sept. 26-Oct. 2) and continue regular fasting on Fridays.

Fall 2001 – Following a discussion over Labor Day picnic cookout, St. Francis House hosts Discussion of Leave No Child Behind. When subsequent forums outgrow the chapel space, the group forms itself into CURE under the leadership of Bienvenida, John and Anne and begin holding community Forums in the New London Public Library. Regular monthly and planning meetings held at Victory House when the new Conference room meeting space becomes available in 2003.

October, 2001 - Paul Jakoboski becomes the first local board member joined in 2004 by Doug and Barbara Barrett, Ted Olynciw and Eunice Waller.

2002 - Tupper is our first field placement seminarian from Cambridge, MA, Marina in the guest room and Dick is our first sabbatical resident in the Hermitage.

2002 - Board decides to "dream big" and buy 32 Broad Street. Arthur Lerner heads renovation effort completed in fall, 2003.

Winter, 2003 - Emmett becomes involved in helping organize support for St. James and St. Mary Star of the Sea opening the city's winter shelter in December instead of January 1.

December, 2003 – Display at SFH of prints and paintings of Baghdad by Amal Alwan, Muslim woman artist and friend of Chris Allen-Doucot of the Hartford Catholic Worker.



Summer, 2004 – SFH establishes community garden site on Cottage Street.

June, 2004 – First SFH Fiesta held in Williams Park with peace groups, Community Gardens, CURE, Islamic Center of New London and music by John Scott and *Amizade*. Mass on the Grass. Yearly celebrations continued in 2005, 2006.

August, 2004 - Mark Auer joins the St. Francis House community. Organizes SFH finances and oversees first audit in 2005. Manages homeless hospitality finances 2005-2007.

Fall, 2004-2005 – John George Robertson does 4 month sabbatical at SFH; does demographic research for CURE; Laura Burfoot in residence for 7 months; works at Shelter and begins planning with Arthur for FRESH.

April, 2005 – Mock Terror Attack on New London. SFH serves as Task Force meeting place.

May – June, 2005 - SFH helps organize the efforts to Save Social Services following City of New London's abolishing the department.

Summer, 2005 - Arthur Lerner and Laura Burfoot with eight New London teenagers begin FRESH. SFH serves as fiduciary. Garden constructed behind 30 Broad for basil and tomatoes- garden beds nested into woodchip base with Arthur's consultation.

Spring, 2005 – With Palmer Fund grant, the lower garden apartment at 30 Broad is rehabbed by Arthur and Ted. Since then three families have been in residence.

Fall, 2005 - present - Constructive Program Working Group starts meeting at SFH to explore what Gandhi's Constructive Program would look like today in this place.

November, 2005 – Anne and Conn. College intern Beth McBride engage in five month organizing process with CURE for a Community Conversation on Education.

2006 – Following Bill Walsh's death in the woods in April after the closing of the shelter, Emmett convenes a series of Task Force meetings at Victory House to plan for a year round shelter and the empowerment of guests. Mark takes on bookkeeping role. Following Danny Worobel's death in October, SFH helps coordinate the strong community response which enables the shelter to open a month early on November 1 at St. James. Two months later the daytime Drop In Center opens at All Souls.

Summer, 2006 – First weeklong Radical Discipleship Course held at SFH with 9 participants and much involvement from our friends in the community.

September, 2006 – Emmett, Eric, Nora, Glennys and others from our extended community engage in a 270 mile Peace Pilgrimage throughout Connecticut.

May 18, 2007 – Party at Second Congregational Church to celebrate end of mortgage payments to Equity Trust and celebrate possible new beginnings.....



A REPORT FROM THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY GROUP

George W. Bush was president, how awful it would be we did not yet know. The World Trade Towers and the Pentagon, signs of our economic and military hegemony, had been attacked, clearly a response to our terrorism and domination – but finer administration minds said that ‘they’ hated us for our freedom. And a small group of church folks decided to read – study – reflect – discern the Way together in the company of Ched Myers and his book *Binding the Strong Man: A Political Reading of Mark's Story of Jesus*.

Ched says in his preface: “It is offered as the Gospel itself is, to discipleship communities, however discouraged and weary, as part of our ongoing search for renewed direction and hope in our struggle to follow the way of Jesus in difficult times. A true reading of Mark compels us to come to terms afresh with our faith and most certainly our lack of faith (Mk 9:24). I pray that this study might help Mark to speak, and the reader(s) to have ‘ears to hear,’ the good news that promises yet to overthrow the structures of domination in our world.”

Wonder-full folks gathered –hosted in St. Francis House: people and priests/pastors, women and men, Catholic – Reformed – orthodox (but certainly all somewhat subversive) and began sharing. “Here indeed, we quickly agreed, was a scriptural study to reckon with. It invited (and shortly received) serious pursuit: reading, meditation, passionate discussion. Through Myers, Mark spoke, as the Quakers say, to our condition.” (Daniel Berrigan in his Foreword to Ched Myers’ book).

Each person brought to the group wisdom (lived – mother, pastor, welfare, church structures, patriarchy). Reading, we opened ourselves to the wisdom of Mark and Myers. We were not seeking ready-made prescriptions (though some of us may have been secretly ready to offer them) but we were inviting ourselves to be challenged by the text and our contexts. Would we give-up long-held convictions, preconceived notions – or at our ages (a rather mature group) were we already beyond such re-envisioning? But we found that, for example, Mark’s story of the rich man (Mark 10:17) “sell all that you have, and then come and follow me” even now audits us, and invites radical response – does it not?

We learned, shared, knit together, enjoyed each other, ventured beyond where we had been. Significantly, we continued, after Mark and Myers, to gather for study and koinonia. Reading, always, books/articles/novels that challenge the conventional wisdom of this age of domination and violence, materialism and militarism, the growing chasm between rich and poor – our world and the third world. We tend to be, want to be resisters, subversive – embracing the vocation of making and keeping human life human – peace-makers, justice-bringers. We need and are encouraged and strengthened by this community of resisters in order to survive – both in the church /our churches and in this society.

Howard Zinn, Arundhati Roy, Noam Chomsky, William Stringfellow and many good others became wisdom-sharers for us, our companeras of the Way.. We share their “seeing,” we know that Babylon cannot be forever, in this reading-reflecting community we search for the Way – toward resistance, in continuing to do the desperately needed acts of mercy (society fails to respond), and moving beyond to do the justice that brings peace. Justice work is hard, not so immediately rewarding as acts of mercy – a sharing community is thus an exceedingly valuable asset for the continuing struggle.

Last September we chose to do an action together. We would be Peace Pilgrims – walk 275 miles around Connecticut to share and invite sharing around Peace. One of our guides in study, Arundhati Roy, said: “It would be naïve to imagine that we can directly confront Empire. We need to create a universe of alternative information. The only institution more powerful than the U.S. government is American civil society. Yours is by no means a great nation. But you could be a great people. History is giving you the chance. Seize the time.” (from her book *An Ordinary Person's Guide to Empire*) The Peace Walk was a pioneering venture on behalf of our country and the world. Perhaps our vision can be that a small group, partners in study – dialogue – responding, can change the world. As Margaret Mead says: “Indeed it’s the only thing that ever has.”

Note: Our thanks to Eric Swanfeldt of Uncasville United Methodist Community for writing this reflection.

*Congratulations,
Saint Francis House*

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"Faces of the Homeless"

Seven Connecticut College students worked as interns at the New London Homeless Hospitality Center this spring and covered a wall at the Crozier-Williams Student Center with photos of our homeless guests and quotations from some of them about their lives. They called their project "Faces of the Homeless."

We began to see the faces of the homeless from Day One of our life at St. Francis House – in 1999, while we were still renovating 30 Broad Street, before we moved in. The first homeless person we knew was Melvin, who we helped to move into and furnish his apartment at 127 Hempstead Street. When he was evicted, we helped him move out, and he slept on the couch in the parlor while Emmett slept in a chair the night before we took him to SCADD, the local detox.

We had other personal connections in the following years, and worked with Pat Serluca and Marie Gravel of the New London Social Services in the winter emergency shelter run by the Salvation Army. But things got hot when Russ Carmichael came to town and began to organize folks into a Homeless Coalition in 2003. We supported that effort and got several churches to give us space in their parish halls during December, before the City shelter opened. The next year, 2003-04, Russ and Emmett and others from the Homeless Coalition and the New London clergy, ran the 26-bed shelter for four months in Mount Moriah Fire Baptized Holiness Church, through the generosity of Pastor David Cornish and his congregation.

When the City of New London eliminated the Department of Social Services from its budget in June 2005, St. Francis House and the Homeless Coalition led an unsuccessful effort to restore funding. We then cooperated with Sound Community Services, a private nonprofit agency whose mission is to the homeless mentally ill in running a 50-bed shelter at St. James Episcopal Church in the winter of 2005-06. When the City attempted to shut us down in December 2005, we knew we had to do more. In January 2006 St. Francis House invited people from faith communities, community groups, nonprofits, and concerned citizens to form a Task Force to create a year-round shelter and a daytime drop-in center to help guests obtain medical care, social security and other state benefits, and the services they need to improve their lives and find housing.

At the same time, the United Way and the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments organized local political and community groups to develop a *Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness* in our region. This effort focused on housing, including supportive housing, as the solution to homelessness, while we continued to work with our friends for whom housing still seems a long way off. The Homeless Hospitality Center was incorporated in 2006, opened the shelter at St. James in November of that year, and the daytime Drop-In Center at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Congregation in January 2007. The Homeless Hospitality Center hired Cathy Zall as Executive Director in April and is now fully staffed.

None of this would have happened without the generosity of individuals, businesses, foundations and community leaders. The deaths of Bill Walsh (April 2006) and Danny Worobel (October 2006) galvanized New London. The "faces of the homeless" are still full of pain, but the privilege of knowing and loving them is now more widely shared. The "beloved community" seems a more possible dream.

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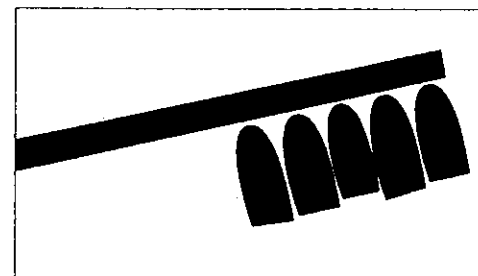
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The Southeastern CT Peace & Justice Network and St. Francis House

by Ronna Stuller

On Wednesday, October 16, 2002, Connecticut College students invited the public to participate in a rally opposing military action in Iraq. Students, staff and faculty members, as well as local religious and community leaders, read their statements of peace to the concerned citizens who filled Crozier-Williams' 1962 Room. As the meeting drew to a close, three New London residents – Sheila Herbert, Bob Stuller and Anne Scheibner – found themselves at the back of the room, asking, "What can we do?" The Southeastern Connecticut Peace & Justice Network arose out of that brief meeting, and St. Francis House was there at its inception.

The three continued to meet, along with a growing assortment of like-minded individuals, to find a response to the question that brought them together. When it became clear that a regular meeting schedule was necessary, Fr. Emmett and Anne graciously offered the use of St. Francis House. The SECT Peace & Justice Network has met there ever since, and St. Francis House has become a center, physically and spiritually, of our local peace movement.

It is simply not possible to list all the actions in which St. Francis House and the SECT P&J Network have worked in partnership over the last 4 1/2 years, but I will try to provide a few examples that illustrate the range of our activities and interactions.

- o In February and March 2003, Fr. Emmett helped plan the Connecticut College series "If War is the Answer, What is the Question?" and brought in members of the SECT P&J Network as speakers and participants.
- o Both Anne and Emmett participated in the "Not in Our Name" task force, which engaged in civil resistance at Rep. Rob Simmons' office in Norwich, challenging him to tell the truth about the reasons for going to war in Iraq; the network participated in the Iraq forum convened at Three Rivers Community College as a result of this action.
- o The association between St. Francis House and the Hartford Catholic Worker has resulted in a number of opportunities for our local network. In April 2004, the SECT P&J Network hosted an exhibit and sale of original paintings and prints by Iraqi artist Amal Alwan, along with a presentation by Chris Allen-Doucot about his recent visit to Iraq.
- o Both Anne and Emmett participated in the Mock Terror Attack task force, formed in response to New London's TOPOFF 3 drill in April 2005. The task force organized a forum featuring First Responder Megan Bartlett and Civil Rights Activist Ed Rodman, as well as a variety of TOPOFF week activities. After the drill, the group decided to focus on strategies for a just and peaceful future, and the Constructive Program Working Group was created.
- o On January 11, 2007, the International Day to Shut Down Guantanamo, Fr. Emmett traveled to Washington DC to participate in a demonstration and civil disobedience at the US Federal Court; in New London, Anne organized a downtown procession of 'guards' and 'prisoners' to raise local awareness of Guantanamo prisoners' plight and to offer opportunities for action.

Of course, ongoing involvement in the SECT P&J Network has also included, over the years, weekly vigils at New London's Soldiers & Sailors Monument, civil resistance at Electric Boat's all-too-frequent submarine launches, protests of USCGA graduation speakers Pres. Bush and Vice Pres. Cheney, peace education at New London High School, and so much more.

I think that, more than anything else, St. Francis House has become a community center for all who are working for peace and justice. Because it has been a constant presence and a welcoming one, St. Francis house has made it easier for us all to meet each other and come together. May we have many more years working and playing together.

"The moral arc of history
is long,
but it bends
toward *justice*"

Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Thank you for your "arc-bending" witness!

Love, Blessings and Best Wishes
To
St. Francis House
as you burn the mortgage!

Dr. Linda Powell Pruitt, n/TSSF
Rev. Canon Dr. Alonzo Pruitt, TSSF
Richmond, Virginia

Congratulations, St. Francis House

*We admire your efforts
to make the "kingdom of God"
a reality in our community
at this time.*

Neil and Pat Kluepfel

Dear St. Francis House,

Thank you for helping make our
community more beloved.

Love,
Nora Curioso

*"I think we're gonna need
a bigger tent when
it comes time..."*

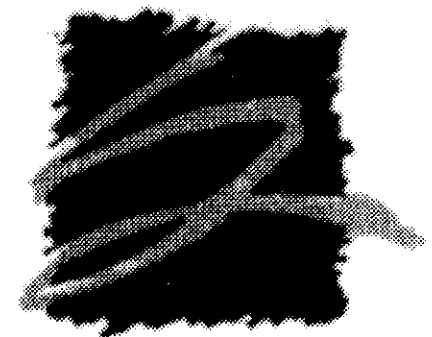


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F.OOD: R.ESOURCES, E.DUCATION, S.ECURITY, H.EALTH in NEW LONDON COUNTY

F.R.E.S.H. New London is focused on food and the local food system in New London County, CT. Interconnection is a major theme of our work. We are part of the current blossoming of ecological thinking; the connections between food and health, local agriculture and global economics, opportunities for youth and their achievements- the complex (and very real) world wide web of food and eating drives our work and feeds our souls. Organizationally, from our inception, F.R.E.S.H. has existed as a collaboration, a connection between individuals and organizations with a common interest in a just, locally based food system.

The story starts at Saint Francis House, the first place I worked after I moved to New London County in 2002 as a new family with my wife Emily and our six month old daughter Ellanora. For almost two years I worked with SFH doing various carpentry projects- the clear focus being the rehabilitation of 32 Broad Street. This was the work, but the reason I first met Anne and Emmett was a mutual interest in urban gardening. I had extensive experience with agriculture, having done small scale farming and gardening for over 10 years, and had also worked on urban projects including volunteering for a couple of years with Nuestras Raices (Our Roots) in Holyoke, MA- (a really great community development through agriculture group). By the time the building projects were done I really wanted to support gardening in New London, even more I wanted to work to increase access to fresh food and the necessary education to support best use of that food for people in New London- especially those without money. My desire to do this was strong. My skill set to create the program was uneven, but with some strong suits I knew enough to try. One of my biggest assets was the connection I had to SFH and the two year orientation to the city of New London I had gone through at SFH.

One of the people I met early on at 30 Broad Street was Paul Jakoboski at the Gemma Moran Food Center. Another person I met early on was Reona Dyess-Dunham, Director of the Drop-in-Learning Center (an organization which Anne was instrumental in creating many years ago).

Emergency food services and after-school programs for children combined with interested parties from city government, the private sector, and the neighborhood. Saint Francis House was the melting pot where I met many of the original collaborators and supporters of F.R.E.S.H. New London- including Laura Burfoot who in 2005 was a Resident Member of St. Francis House living at 32 Broad and who still works with us as Youth Programs Manager. A melting pot, a convener of complex collaborations- and how appropriate. Because FRESH New London- for all of its focus of food- is ultimately motivated by connections that go beyond the body. We are motivated to feed everyone because each of us contains a spark from the divine. We are motivated to grow locally because a working landscape is an outdoor classroom where children learn where their sustenance comes from and are able to witness life springing from the soil. And we are motivated to feed everyone *well*, because healthy people have the strength to pursue justice and make peace.

Peace to you, Arthur Lerner, Director, F.R.E.S.H. New London

Past, Present and Future.....

This book represents a milestone in the life of St. Francis House. We are grateful to all of you who have participated in so many ways in our journey to this point. Our thanks to all of you – our community colleagues, business partners, faith communities and neighbors..... It is a joy to be among you as friends and co-workers.

One of the questions raised in one of our extended community Business Meetings was why it was good news to the community – where so many of us are poor and in debt – that St. Francis House should be burning the mortgage and becoming debt free. That answer will become clearer in the days ahead, but it made us realize that now was the time to share several pieces of news.

In 1999 we purchased the 30 Broad St. property with money borrowed from Equity Trust which at that time was located on the Voluntown Peace Farm property. Our old friend and colleague Chuck Matthei was then director of the Trust which was set up as a community loan fund and technical assistance provider for a variety of community land trusts, affordable housing initiatives, religious orders seeking to do responsible community investment and community supported agriculture initiatives. Chuck died in 2002 and this Celebration Book gives us an opportunity to give thanks publicly for his life, witness and legacy of community economic development. Ellie Kastanopolous succeeded Chuck as Equity Trust's director and oversaw the issuing of a new loan agreement, this time for the purchase and renovation of 32 Broad St.. She also generously and wisely helped us renegotiate our agreement to pay back the money into the community loan fund over a five year rather than a two year span. We thank **Equity Trust** for their ongoing support in helping us build this new community.

Part of what was built into the original agreement in 1999 was the understanding that \$55,000 of the loan would be earmarked for work in SE Connecticut in retaining farm land and for community supported agriculture. We are now engaged with Ellie in discussing how that money can be used as the base for a new **FUND FOR SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT** which can be used for work in affordable housing, sustainable development and renewable energy in urban as well as rural areas in our region.

Several threads in our life and work may be converging at this time. The **CONSTRUCTIVE PROGRAM WORKING GROUP** which grew out of the Mock Terror Attack resistance efforts in April, 2005 has been meeting at Victory House as a study group for the past two years exploring the question, "What would Gandhi's Constructive Program look like today in our area?" The group will be concluding its work within the next two months and we look forward to seeing if its explorations of bioregional benchmarks for measuring economic limits and opportunities, local currencies and full employment economic development alternatives can provide us and the broader community with new ways of living into a just and shared future.

In our Tuesday morning Study Group we are reading Leonardo Boff's *Francis of Assisi: A Model for Human Liberation*. The ideas of redistribution and commitment to the poor, to non-violence and to care for the creation will hopefully become as central to our lives as they were to St. Francis. We look forward to working with all of you as we live into whatever God has in store for us. As Francis would say, "God give you peace."

The Community at St. Francis House

CONGRATULATIONS, ST. FRANCIS HOUSE

We wish you all the best in your continuing witness and ministry

**The Rev. Jean Barry Elvira Charles Rebecca Clarke
Dr. Marion E. Doro The Rt. Rev. Bill and Kathy Gregg
Paul Jakoboski Jenny D. Lassen
The Rev. Dr. Douglass and Penelope Lind
Ann P. McElroy Pamela and Jay Moffat
The Rev. Charles and Marian Palmgren
Dorothy J. Paulsen The Rev. Nathaniel Pierce
The Rev. Margaret Rose
The Rt. Rev. Jeffery and Anne Rowthorn
St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Mystic, CT
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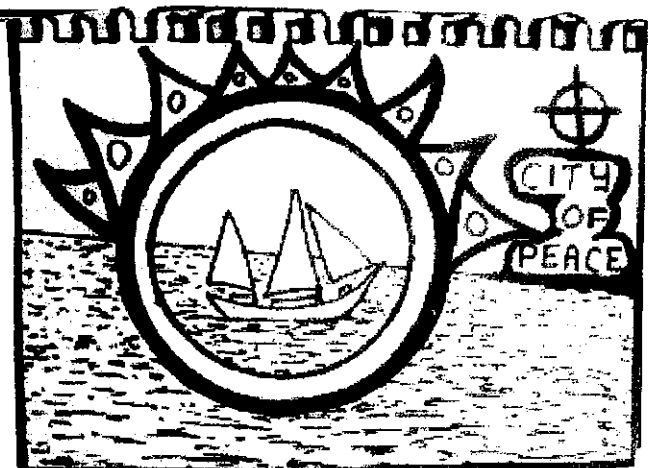
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to the St. Francis Community
on the Burning of the
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Arlene & Russell Gundlach

GO ST. FRANCIS !

GEORGE K. CLARKE ARTIST



THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONGRATULATES

Saint Francis House

on the retirement of the mortgages on Saint Francis House and Victory House, and on eight years of living and working among your neighbors as "a place of prayer, a house of hospitality, and a center for peace and justice ministry in New London, Connecticut."

WHO DO PEOPLE SAY THAT YOU ARE?

"I remember with special fondness my own two month residency in 2002 as a discernment exercise (a modified Ignatian Retreat) for my life in retirement. It has shaped my way of life over the past five years." **Richard Marks - founding and current Board member**

"The hospitality at St. Francis House is awesome. I knocked on the door in 2001 with a desire to do an internship in a place which would offer a totally new experience. Other doors had been closed to me, but the folks at St. Francis House said, Come in. Sit down. Would you like tea?"
Barbara Barrett - current Board member

"I had an interest in the Third Order of St. Francis. Meeting Emmett and Anne as well as the many people coming and going at St. Francis House solidified my commitment and reinforced my calling. St. Francis House is a very important place of prayer and respite during the busy day."
Paul Jakoboski, TSSF - current Board member



THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Barbara Barrett, Doug Barrett, Annie Brown, Paul Jakoboski, Richard Marks (founding member), Mary Novak, Ted Olynciw, Edward Rodman (founding member), Eunice Waller

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