

# CCDS MOBILIZER

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February 2007

## Bush's War Escalation Can Be Stopped

*The following statement was printed as a leaflet distributed by CCDS members at the massive Jan. 27th March on Washington to end the war in Iraq.*

The "new" plan to "win" the war on Iraq with 22,000 or more additional troops includes the creation of nine "military districts" in Baghdad—sprinkling them with 30 or 40 "joint military sites." The occupiers will commandeer large houses, fortify them with concrete blast walls, set up machine gun towers and ring them with barbed wire. Neighborhoods will be subjected to doors kicked in, families terrorized, arbitrary arrests and suppression of whole communities,

*Continued on back page*

## New NCC: More Political Activity and Marxist Education

The newly elected National Coordinating Committee, meeting Dec 1-3 in New York City, united around a program to build membership, invigorate chapters, and launch projects to set CCDS on a course of greater political involvement and Marxist education.

Energized by the left shift in the Nov. elections, the success of the CCDS national convention in Chicago, and the addition of new members of the NCC, the 3 day meeting concluded with plans for rebuilding CCDS locally and regionally. The NCC resolved to

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**4 Years Too Many  
Not One More  
Death  
Not One More  
Dollar**

**End the War on Iraq  
& Stop War on Iran**

*Organizing is underway for mass anti-war demonstrations in cities throughout the country on the 4-year anniversary of the U.S. attack on Iraq, March 17-19th.. Cities include Los Angeles, CA, Washington D.C., Chicago, IL, Covington, LA, Fayetteville, NC, New York, NY, Portland, OR, Delaware County, PA, Salt Lake City, UT. Contact your CCDS Regional Coordinator to discuss your local organizing activity and CCDS participation (see page 7).*

## CCDS Convention and Symposium Held

The 5th national convention of CCDS and a day long symposium preceding it were held in Chicago, IL July 20-23. Both events were jam packed with panels and discussion, featuring a host of renowned

activists, writers and international guests.

The symposium featured discussion on the current political moment with particular attention focused on the labor movement, immigrant rights, the anti-war movement and electoral strategies to defeat the right wing in advancing a progressive majority. A special luncheon presentation by Prof. Angela Y. Davis argued for the abolition the U.S. prison industrial system as part of the work to win a progressive agenda.

The CCDS national convention reviewed the state of the organization since the 2002 convention, discussed a peace and justice agenda in workshops on peace and global policy, economic and social justice, constitutional, civil and human rights, and organizing youth.

A special evening workshop open to the public on culture, youth and hip-hop was conduct-

ed by Poet Laureate Amiri Baraka.

Guests from the European Party of the Left, and Venezuela as well as a written greeting from the Consulate General of South Africa for Chicago added an internationalist perspective with welcomed expressions of solidarity.

The first round of elections for a new national leadership was held. The second round following the convention was conducted in a national membership referendum (see page 8).

Proposals for by-law changes were debated. Several resolutions were adopted including a Peace & Justice Agenda and a Plan of Work for the coming period (see pages 4-5).

Some 42 members attended, and more than 30 non-members participated one or more sessions - 14 were youth. There were 103 people who registered for the symposium.

Three new members joined during the convention.

*See pages 3-5 for more coverage.*



*International guests speaking at the CCDS national convention from left to right: Helmut Scholz, Political Coordinator of the European Party of the Left, Martín Sánchez, Consul General of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in Chicago, and Julio Chávez, socialist mayor of the 300,000 person city of Carora, Venezuela who was in the U.S. on a national tour.*

## CCDS Membership by Local Area

Following is as of 12/31/06. If a state is not listed, there are no memberships.

	Current	Arrears
Alabama	0	2
Alaska	1	1
Arkansas	1	0
California South	25	47
California North	69	131
Colorado	4	3
Connecticut	8	12
D.C./VA/MD	3	18
Deleware	0	2
Florida	6	8
Georgia	1	5
Hawaii	1	2
Iowa	1	3
Idaho	4	0
Illinois	19	20
Indiana	1	9
Kentucky	4	5
Louisiana	0	3
Maine	0	1
Massachusetts	19	30
Michigan	4	11
Minnesota	8	6
Mississippi	0	1
Missouri/Kansas	4	0
Nebraska	2	1
Nevada	1	1
New Hampshire	0	1
New Jersey	5	12
New Mexico	0	5
New York City	57	112
New York Upstate	6	4
North Carolina	2	3
Ohio	1	10
Oregon	13	10
Pennsylvania Eastern	7	7
Pennsylvania Western	6	7
Rhode Island	0	1
South Carolina	10	5
Tennessee	0	3
Texas	2	2
Utah	1	0
Vermont	0	1
Virginia	0	1
Washington	7	7
Wisconsin	1	10
West Virginia	1	0
At Large	0	2
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>525</b>

## Who We Are

CCDS is a membership organization dedicated to democracy and socialism with chapters in a number of cities. We are active in the day to day struggles for peace, justice, democracy, equality and hold a vision of a socialist future.

Annual membership is \$36 (\$18 for low income, unemployed, seniors, youth). Household membership is \$48. Add \$5 additional for a subscription to *Dialogue & Initiative*.

Send check payable to the Committees of Correspondence to:  
545 Eighth Ave, 14th Floor NE  
NY, NY 10018  
or go to the CCDS web site:  
[www.cc-ds.org](http://www.cc-ds.org)

## JOB OPENING

A full time organization coordinator in the national CCDS office in New York City is open. Salary is \$35,000 and includes health benefits. Call the national office at (212) 868-3733 for more information.

## Dialogue & Initiative

Subscribe to *Dialogue & Initiative*, a publication of the Committees of Correspondence Education Fund, Inc.

The Winter 2007 issue will publish presentations from the July Symposium and CCDS Convention as well as articles on Cuba and China.

\$10/year; \$5 with CCDS membership; \$3 for single copies, bundles are half price.

## Get In Touch

### CCDS Local Area Contacts

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Member contributions to this publication are welcomed. Pat Fry, Editor

# Fighting Back, Moving Forward: Strategies for Building a Progressive Majority



Jobs, immigrant rights, union organizing and the impact of capitalist globalization were discussed by panelists from l to r: journalist Carl Bloice, AFL-CIO deputy director of organizing Sam Luebke, and photojournalist David Bacon.



From left, Rev. Calvin Morris, leader of Chicago Jobs for Justice Clergy Committee, and Mark Solomon, CCDS national co-chair, present views on center-left unity and “connecting the dots” for a unified progressive agenda.



Above Prof. Angela Y. Davis talked of the need for community that is “conscious and organized.” She then called for the abolition of the U.S. prison system as part of the progressive majority agenda.

A day long symposium sponsored by the Committees of Correspondence Education Fund was held July 20th, the day before the opening of the 5th national convention of CCDS. Held at DePaul University, the program featured 4 panels of speakers and a special luncheon presentation by Prof. Angela Y. Davis. Pictured here are highlights of a richly packed day of discussion on building a progressive majority, focusing on the mid-term 2006 elections and the national presidential elections in 2008.

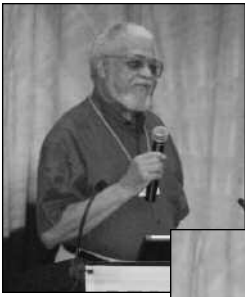
Below (from left): Panelists James Thindwa, Director of Jobs with Justice in Chicago, and Susan Adely of the Arab American Movement of Women Arising for Justice. The “summing up” panel was moderated by Charlene Mitchell, President of the Committees of Correspondence Education Fund.



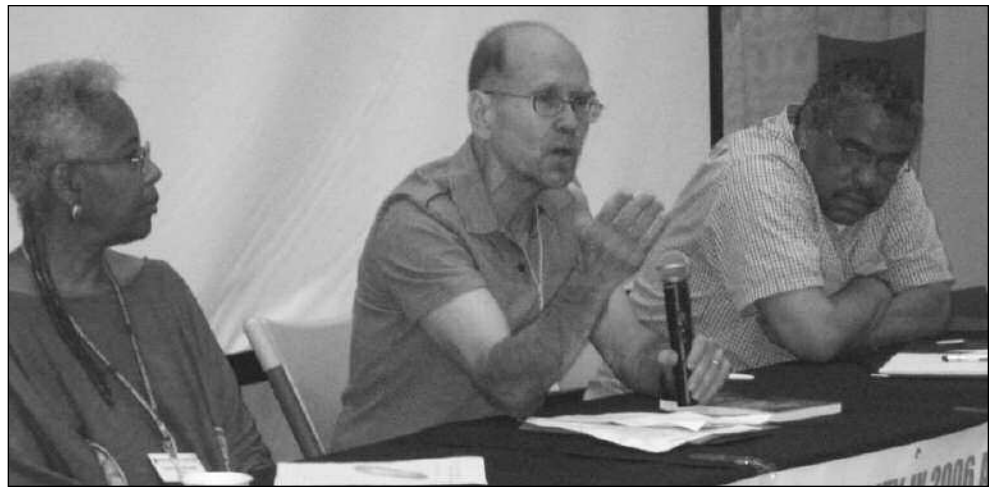
At left: Leslie Cagan, United for Peace and Justice National Director, and John Nichols (at podium), political writer for the *Nation* magazine discuss strategies for winning at the polls in the 2006 mid-term elections. Carl Bloice (center) moderated the panel.



# CCDS 5TH NATIONAL CONVENTION



National Co-Chairs James Campbell (top), Mark Solomon (above) and Charlene Mitchell (below) open the 5th National Convention.



A panel on "A Socialist Vision" heard from panelists (from l): Mary Louise Patterson, M.D. who has lived in Cuba and the Soviet Union, David Schweickart, author of *After Capitalism*, and Carl Bloice, journalist and CCDS national leader.



Howard Wallace (above), founder of the AFL-CIO Pride at Work, an organization of gay and lesbian trade unionists, and Mildred Williamson (right), a leader of CCDS who is active on community health issues, discuss the importance of the interrelationship of class, race and gender in building a progressive majority.



## A Peace and Justice Agenda

ADOPTED WERE THE FOLLOWING  
KEY PRINCIPLES:

**Defense and Advancement of the Rights  
of Working People Worldwide**

**Abolition of the Militarist State and a  
Foreign Policy Based on Intervention and  
War**

**Creation of a Universal Single-Payer  
Health Care System and Support for  
Cong. John Conyers bill**

**Initiation of a Process to Establish a  
Sustainable Environment**

**Defense of Constitutional Rights and the  
Advance of Human Dignity**



Renee Carter, M.D. of Washington, D.C., newly elected to the National Coordinating Committee, discusses the proposal for a Peace and Justice Agenda, adopted by the convention. Also pictured in front are CCDS members from Southern California, Marian Gordon and Don White.

Helmut Scholz (right), Executive Director of the European Party of the Left, addresses the CCDS convention. The Party, founded in 2005 in Athens, Greece, unites members of the European Parliament who are from left, socialist, and communist parties throughout Europe. Scholz stressed the importance of unity of left and progressive forces, and congratulated CCDS in its focus on building a progressive majority.



# JULY 21 – 23, 2006 IN CHICAGO, IL



Poet Laureate Amiri Baraka (r) headlined a panel on Culture, Youth and Hip Hop. In an interactive dialogue with Baraka were Sam Lewis and Andrei Mills, well known promoters of progressive hip hop in Chicago. The event was open to the public. On left are some of the attendees.



Duncan McFarland (left) and Mort Frank (below) lend their many years of activism on issues of peace and militarism leading the convention workshop on Peace and Global Policy.



Claudia Morcum (above), retired judge in Detroit, had just returned from Geneva where she testified before a UN Human Rights Commission on racism in the U.S. criminal justice system, discrimination against victims of the Katrina hurricane, and human rights abuses since 9/11 in Afghanistan, Iraq, Guantanamo and the U.S. Judge Morcum led a workshop on Constitutional, Civil and Human Rights.

## CCDS Plan of Work

ADOPTED WERE THE FOLLOWING KEY FEATURES:

**Members and chapters to work within progressive coalitions to defeat the right electorally, utilizing the UFPJ national end-the-war petitions and the CCDS peace and justice agenda.**

**The NEC to constitute itself as a core committee to help members and chapters to work with others in helping to build the movement for a progressive majority over the next two years. The core committee will be responsible for communicating ideas from chapters and individuals. Special sub committees may be constituted on peace and justice, and labor.**

**Steps to be taken toward articulating a 21st century vision of a democratic and socialist society, furthering dialogue in study groups, publications, electronic communications on theoretical questions of capitalism, class, race and gender, war and imperialism, and building democracy and socialism.**

**Expanding communication among members, chapters and leadership and measures to revitalize the base of the organization, re-establish committees for publications, finance, fundraising, and membership.**



The Economic and Social Justice workshop (above) discusses immigrant rights and labor. Below is workshop presenter Rudy Lozano, Chicago activist and educator.



Carl Davidson, Chicagoans Against War and Injustice (CAWI), and Ronelle Mustin, VP 22nd Ward Independent Organization (right), discuss grassroots electoral tactics and strategy.



The Youth Workshop raised the need for space for young people to come together on issues like the public education system failing a whole generation.

# National Coordinating Committee Decisions

*Following is a report on the decisions of the Dec. 1-3, 2006 meeting of the National Coordinating Committee:*

## Assessing the National Convention

The first NCC meeting of the new term convened Dec 1-3 in New York, taking up an ambitious agenda beginning with a round table assessment of the July national convention. The views expressed were varied and probing. Some voiced disappointment at the low turnout of members from local areas around the country. Of 103 people who attended the symposium and/or convention, 42 were members, 14 were youth. Three people joined during the convention.

Overall, NCC members commented on the rich quality of the presentations and discussion. Others noted that the good racial and age composition of the participants at both the convention and symposium were significant steps forward for the organization.

The 2006 convention marked progress toward greater unity on the purpose and role of the organization, it was noted by some. A concluding consensus was that the convention pointed a direction - to further ground CCDS in its socialist orientation and its political identification with the interconnected struggles of class, race and gender.

## Membership Report

Steve Willett reported on the number of current memberships and arrears (see page 2). It was noted that there has not been a political message sent to members urging renewal of membership for more than two years. The NCC approved a plan for a membership renewal campaign in early 2007. Willett also reported that there are 11 national sustainers who contribute regularly to CCDS, and 20 more who are in arrears.

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## November Elections: Shift to the Center-Left

*Following are highlights of the NCC discussion of the Nov. elections opened by Carl Bloice.*

The Nov 2006 election results demonstrate that the ruling hegemony of the center-right has shifted dramatically to the center-left. In the legislative branch and in the atmosphere of the country generally, the center-left is in the ascendancy.

The election results replicate what is going on throughout the capitalist world. In many European countries, the media reports on the party that won the biggest vote - usually the center-right parties, and in some cases, some far right party will have doubled their vote from 4-8%, but the unreported story is that the center-right has been replaced by the center-left. In each case the result is the same - the liberal sector of capital has sought to minimize the significance of the shift. The left is stigmatized in an attempt to divide the center-left coalition. The spin is that the center-left may have come to power but it should not stop the drive to "reform" the economy, i.e., killing pension plans, increased overtime without an increase in pay, etc. - all aimed at restructuring the economy for the benefit of capital.

Race has an important impact on this. The NYT carried an article arguing that because 63% of white men voted for Republicans, having all these Black people as chairs of congressional committees sets up a contradiction that cannot be resolved. In other words - white men represent something else than what is represented by black congressmen.

Who is doing this? It's the forces around the Democratic Leadership Council (DLC). Rahm Emanuel of Illinois is playing a leading role, coming out with a book denigrating the left and giving credit to the DLC for the Democratic victories. James Carville's attack on Howard Dean for his support for the center-left constellation plays the same kind of role. All this was calculated to be a full

fledged assault. The NYT reported that withdrawal from Iraq is off the table and that nobody supports it. Yet, the Progressive Caucus and the Out of Iraq Caucus favor withdrawal.

Tom Hayden was correct - the peace movement was responsible for the election outcome. To deny this is to say that popular opinion did not mean anything. The defeat of rightwing Congressman Richard Pombo by a progressive Democrat, Jerry McNerney, in the central California Republican 11th district and other contests around the country were carried out against the wishes of the DLC - grass roots activists like us made possible the victory for the center-left.

We have to place major emphasis on economic issues today. We tend not to. We face a looming recession and people are increasingly facing problems. People are being evicted from their houses all over the country, worsening in the last month. The rate of bankruptcies is increasing, and the impact is being felt more on African Americans. Meanwhile, the NYT runs articles on how the rich resent the super rich.

In discussion, NCC members from Southern states said the South did not experience the same kind of electoral dynamic as the rest of the country. Jim Campbell reported that in the Charleston, SC elections, seats for city council, mayor and the governor were lost to Republicans with one exception. Republicans are regrouping for 2008, resurrecting Trent Lott, he said. "Racism is the most faithful, persistent servant of capitalism," said Campbell.

Janet Tucker said that in KY there was a lack of organization among progressives in the 2006 elections. Divisions and cynicism hampered the movement. However, she noted that many in KY are stepping up efforts to organize for restoration of voting rights for former felons. "We have to deal with the questions of race and how they affect building a progressive majority," said Tucker.

## CCDS Regional Coordinators' Committee

by Harry Targ

At its December 2006 meeting, the National Coordinating Committee endorsed a proposal to create a regional coordinators' committee, consisting of four regional coordinators (see below) and representation of the national administrative committee to facilitate political organizing in each region where there are CCDS members.

The new Regional Coordinators (RCs) will work to increase the communication of organizational information and political analysis from the leadership of CCDS (the NCC and NEC) to the membership at large, and from the membership to the leadership.

The NCC unanimously endorsed the plan with the expectation that it will help the CCDS grow and be more effective as the mass movement grows. Also, the plan received support because it was recognized that there was a need to further distribute responsibility for organizational activities.

Each Regional Coordinator will recruit a committee of CCDS activists to form regional committees to increase organizational effectiveness, increase communication, and help increase membership and construct new chapters.

Since the NCC meeting, collective work of the Regional Coordinators Committee has resulted in several initiatives. A leaflet was organized for distribution at the Jan. 27, March on Washington (see page 1).

An anti-war statement answering Bush's State of the Union address was drafted by the Regional Coordinators and released on the birthday commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (see CCDS website: [www.cc-ds.org](http://www.cc-ds.org))

It was agreed that Regional Coordinators will participate on the editorial boards of the *Mobilizer*, and *Dialogue & Initiative*.

Lastly, the Regional Coordinators, working with the administrative committee, the treasurer, and the national office, are preparing an organizational

mailing with a mobilization letter to encourage members to renew their memberships and activism in CCDS. The mailing will include the February 2007 issue of the *Mobilizer*, and information about how to become a CCDS sustainer.

Following the mailing, Regional Coordinators will work with local areas to follow up with personal contact.

The Regional Coordinators, all members of the NEC, have begun a probing discussion on political organizing. The goal is to make CCDS a larger and more prominent participant in the left and the expanding progressive majority.

Members are encouraged to contact their Regional Coordinator to share ideas about the organization and their political practice. Volunteers for regional committee work are welcomed.

The regional coordinators are encouraged about the new enthusiasm and potential for growth of CCDS in the context of the growing mass movement. Now is the time to get involved in each region.

### Coordinators and Regions

*Harry Targ* will serve as the RC for the Midwest region consisting of ten states. He also will "coordinate the coordinators." Contact: [Targ@polsci.purdue.edu](mailto:Targ@polsci.purdue.edu)

*Michael Kaufman* is the RC for the West Coast (California, Washington and Oregon). Contact: [Michael.Kaufman@alamedanet.net](mailto:Michael.Kaufman@alamedanet.net)

*Renee Carter* is the RC for the Southern region of ten states. Contact: [ren-car@cox.net](mailto:ren-car@cox.net)

*Duncan McFarland* is the RC for the Eastern region. Contact: [Duncan.McFarland@sappi.com](mailto:Duncan.McFarland@sappi.com)

Charlene Mitchell and Pat Fry participate on RC Committee, representing the administrative committee and the national office.

The Regional Coordinators Committee meets regularly by phone conference call.

## CCDS Members in Jan 27-29 Anti-War Actions

From coast to coast CCDS members helped to mobilize for the massive anti-war outpouring Jan. 27 - 29th. Below are some highlights.

A CCDS "Stop the War" banner and contingent were among the 500,000 who poured into the nation's capital on Jan 27th. Washington D.C. and Maryland CCDS members anchored the organizational effort.

Some 300 buses from 40 states, thousands of trade unionists, youth, women's organizations, numerous elected officials, civil rights leaders, and members of military families contributed to the broadest expression of anti-war mobilizations since the beginning of the Iraq war.

Boston CCDS members helped organize a meeting for peace activists on the Bush escalation of war in Iraq and the direction of White House policy. Mark Solomon, CCDS national co-chair, led a lively discussion with a presentation on the Bush continued embrace of the neo-con vision and concerns about an attack on Iran. CCDS which is represented on the Boston United for Justice with Peace coordinating committee, helped to send 250 people on buses to the rally including many students and youth.

Some CCDS members stayed in Washington DC for the Monday Jan. 29th Lobby Day. A Sunday afternoon training session held in the high school auditorium of Bethesda-Chevy Chase H.S. was jam packed. Over 1,000 UFPJ-organized volunteer lobbyists from 47 states trooped to Capitol Hill the next day to deliver the message to Congress: stop the funding and end the war! They were adamant in insisting that Congress vote down the 100 billion supplemental appropriations bill which will sustain the war effort for another year. UFPJ also lobbied for Rep. McGovern's Safe and Orderly Withdrawal legislation, the comprehensive Iraq withdrawal bill sponsored by Reps. Woolsey, Waters and Lee, and urged Congress to adopt

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## NEW CCDS NATIONAL LEADERSHIP

The July 21-23 convention re-elected the four national co-chairs: Leslie Cagan (New York, NY), James Campbell (Charleston, S.C.), Charlene Mitchell (New York, NY), and Mark Solomon (Boston, MA).

Also elected at the convention were half of the 30 seats on the National Coordinating Committee that are required to be filled by vote of the convention. Elected in alphabetical order were:

Carl Bloice (San Francisco, CA)  
Renee Carter (Alexandria, VA)  
Carl Davidson (Chicago, IL)  
Attieno Davis (New York, NY)  
Pat Fry (New York, NY)  
Marian Gordon (Los Angeles, CA)  
Ira Grupper (Louisville, KY)  
Duncan McFarland (Boston, MA)  
Anne Mitchell (New York, NY)  
Ted Pearson (Chicago, IL)  
Harry Targ (W. Lafayette, IN)  
Janet Tucker (Lexington, KY)  
Meta Van Sickle (Charleston, SC)  
Mildred Williamson (Chicago, IL)  
Steve Willett (Oakland, CA)

In October, a mail-in vote was conducted for the remaining 15 seats on

the National Coordinating Committee, as required by the by-laws.

The following were elected:

Marilyn Albert (Cleveland, OH)  
Mort Frank (Philadelphia, PA)  
Todd Freeberg (Knoxville, TN)  
Ed Hemmingson (Albany, OR)  
Fred Hicks (Louisville, KY)  
Michael Kaufman (Oakland, CA)  
David Makofsky (Oakland, CA)  
Ted Reich (New York, NY)  
Jae Scharlin (Berkeley, CA)  
Walter Teague (Alephi, MD)  
Don White (Los Angeles, CA)

The CCDS by-laws call for 5 national co-chairs and 30 national coordinating committee members elected. Additional seats can be filled by a member of a CCDS local chapter. The convention decided to leave open a 5th national co-chair seat to be filled in the future, recognizing the weakness of composition in the national leadership of Latino, Asian-Pacific Islanders and young people.

## ¡Presente! Jean Von Hermann

By Steve Willett

Jean Von Hermann, longtime political activist and CCDS founding member, passed away last November at the age of 92. Jean died of a heart attack following a number of years of failing health.

Jean had a long history of activism around social and economic justice issues: she joined the Communist Party and worked with unemployed councils in Seattle during the 1930s; she was a staunch trade unionist and a strong supporter of *The People's World*; and, in one of her proudest achievements, she organized a demonstration on San Francisco's Market Street in 1951 to fight for the life of Willie McGee, a black man from Mississippi who was about to be electrocuted on a false charge.

In 2003, Jean expressed her vision

for, and support of, the CCDS by setting up a revocable trust, transferring ownership of her house to that trust, and drafting a will declaring the CCDS as her sole beneficiary. Her generosity means that the CCDS, both locally and nationally, will have additional funds to support our efforts over the next few years.

It remains for the members of the CCDS to guarantee that Jean's vision and generosity are used effectively to build the left and progressive movement in this country. This responsibility has become part of the discussion of how to move the CCDS forward in the next few years.

*The CCDS national leadership is tremendously grateful for the political example embodied in the Jean Von Hermann bequest. If you would like information on arranging a bequest to CCDS, please contact the national office.*

## Dues and By-Law Changes Approved

In a ballot referendum mailed in October, the membership overwhelmingly voted to 1) increase the annual dues by a small amount; 2) establish a new Sustaining Membership category; and, 3) change the dates for dues renewal.

There were 551 ballots mailed; 100 were returned, and 95 voted in favor of the proposed changes which were submitted by the Northern California CCDS. Specifically, the changes are:

**Dues.** Dues were increased as follows: Regular membership from \$31 to \$36 per year;

Low income membership from \$16 to \$18 per year;

Two person household membership from \$41 to \$48 per year.

**Sustaining Member.** A new category of membership is created, Sustaining Member. People who make sustainer contributions above the minimum regular membership rate are now considered members as long as their sustainer pledge is up-to-date.

**Membership Renewals.** Membership renewals for new members will now fall due each year in the month the member first joined. In the past, memberships all expired either at the end of December or the end of June.



[www.cc-ds.org](http://www.cc-ds.org)

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CCDS Website lately?**

**Action Alerts • Upcoming  
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What CCDS Members are  
Saying • Members Only  
Discussion Page • Much  
More**

# New NCC: More Political Activity, Marxist Education

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help mobilize for the Jan. 27th anti-war demonstration and build support for the single payer health care bill sponsored by Cong. John Conyers.

"If our organization is to be relevant, there has to be a sense that what we do has an influence," said Carl Bloice of San Francisco. "Relevance takes a couple of forms: political mobilization, and political discussion that flows from a Marxist analysis of political economy," said Bloice.

Excitement was generated by a free flowing discussion about the role and character of CCDS that took place on the last day of the NCC meeting. "We are not a cadre organization," said Ted Pearson of Chicago, "but neither are we a non-cadre organization because we are trying to influence events."

Janet Tucker of Lexington, KY, a newly elected member of the NCC, said CCDS is taking a "hybrid" approach. She said that at the time she started attending CCDS Midwest Regional meetings she was not looking for things to do but they were "tremendously helpful in providing a framework." The time is right for educating people about socialism, continued Tucker. "I have been an activist in Kentucky for 20 years. Socialism used to be a dirty word but that is not true anymore. A local activist woman stood up in a meeting one day recently and said 'I think I am a socialist.'"

Mark Solomon proposed reviewing the original documents of the Committees of Correspondence to see "where we have been and what has evolved." He said, at the time of its founding "we saw the Committees as a rallying point of diverse socialist forces that would reflect both the crisis and the new opportunities of the collapse of socialism in the 20th century." The evolution of the organization saw the falling away of people originally attracted who did not agree with the "mass policy in regard to the electoral process - a narrow tunnel vision of politics toward the masses of people within the Democratic Party who continue to work through it."

CCDS, said Solomon, "no longer reflects inheritance from various left backgrounds." He called for an opening up of a dialogue with the membership on "where do we go from here." The "relationship of CCDS with the Marxist tradition has to be stressed more strongly," said Solomon, "as is the case around the world," pointing to the Communist Party of South Africa, the Bolivarian revolution of Venezuela, the Cuban revolution, the new developments in China and Viet Nam.

Solomon called for deepening "dis-

**I have been an activist in Kentucky for 20 years. Socialism used to be a dirty word but that is not true anymore. A local activist woman stood up in a meeting one day recently and said 'I think I am a socialist.'**

cussions on how to relate to organizations that share our perspective.

Duncan McFarland of Boston said that "most socialists in Boston are not members of any organization." The question is "how does CCDS attract them?"

Mort Frank of Philadelphia called for furthering discussion in the organization on our conception of building a "progressive majority."

Mildred Williamson of Chicago drew attention to the need for CCDS to make clear the human rights dimension of immigration and health care issues.

Tucker proposed that CCDS make concerted efforts in bringing Latinos onto the NCC. As a member of the board of Kentuckians for Comprehensive Immigration Reform, Tucker said she has a keen appreciation for need for Latino participation in CCDS.

Charlene Mitchell made a brief report on the first meeting of the newly-established CCDS Labor sub-committee, held days earlier. There was agreement to proceed to hold a larger meeting of CCDS members and friends in the labor movement. The NCC members who are part of the

Labor sub-committee are: Charlene Mitchell, Anne Mitchell, Pat Fry, Carl Bloice, Marilyn Albert.

In addition to endorsement and mobilization for Jan. 27th and the Conyers health care bill (HR 676), the NCC also voted to endorse a comprehensive immigration bill framed as a struggle for human rights.

As a step toward building membership and chapters, the NCC voted to form a CCDS regional coordinator committee. See page 7 for a report on meetings of the committee.

To further Marxist political education, the NCC voted to participate in a week long summer school that would serve as the launch of a series of educational programs sponsored by the CoC Education Fund.

Additional resolutions unanimously adopted by the NCC are: development of a new organizational document on "Our Socialist Vision" that would revise founding documents; development of a document on the relevance of Marxism today with an emphasis on political economy; and, development of a position paper on strategy in the coming period through 2008 deepening the "progressive majority" concept, the center-left coalition, and the interconnectedness of class, race and gender.



**PRESENTE!**

In loving memory

Irving Beinin

Mimi Shuldiner

Clara Reich

Lifelong Fighters for  
Justice and Socialism

Lower East Side NY  
CCDS Chapter



# National Coordinating Committee Decisions

Continued from page 6

## Financial Report

The following Financial Report was adopted for the period 1/1/2006 - 10/31/2006: Total Income - \$31,210.90 Total Expenses - \$60,893.25. Expenses included a full time staff position in the national office.

A Finance and Budget Committee was formed with the following NCC members: Mildred Williamson, Treasurer, Charlene Mitchell, and Steve Willett.

## Portside

There was discussion on the impact of the change in identification with CCDS in light of the decision by *Portside* moderators to drop the CCDS tag line at the end of *Portside* postings. NCC members expressed disappointment and regret at the decision by *Portside*. It was noted that there was no official communication with CCDS about why the decision was made. A letter signed by CCDS national co-chairs was sent to *Portside* in September proposing a meeting in NY during the weekend of the NCC meeting to discuss the relationship between the organization and *Portside*. However, no response to the letter was received.

After some discussion, the NCC voted in favor with 2 abstentions to:

- 1) continue to support *Portside*;
- 2) continue to write for *Portside*;
- 3) when writing for *Portside*, NCC members will identify their positions in CCDS;
- 4) continue efforts to build the CCDS website and continue to link *Portside* on the home page.

## Middle East Resolution

A resolution on the Middle East submitted by the No. California CCDS was adopted. The resolution, to be added to the list of resolutions adopted by the July national convention, reads:

"The CCDS not only supports the Palestinian resisters to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and the Lebanese resisters to the aggression in Lebanon, but also supports the Israeli resisters inside and outside the military: The Israeli anti-

war citizen activists and military resisters have faced prison sentences for their convictions and scorn from the militaristic forces in Israel itself. The world owes them a great deal of gratitude for having the courage to oppose Israeli right wing nationalism, demanding the end of the Occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip now, and supporting the only principles that can bring peace to the area. In addition, CCDS opposes the killing of innocent civilians on both sides of the conflict."

A proposal to draft a CCDS statement on the current situation in Palestine, including an action proposal, was adopted unanimously.

## Report on Developments in Germany

Mark Solomon reported at the NCC meeting on his recent trip to Germany. He met with Helmut Scholz, Political Coordinator of the European Party of the Left and a leader of the Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS) of Germany who extended his greetings to CCDS leadership and said that he appreciated his visit attending the CCDS convention in July.

Rapid developments toward the founding of a new party of the left, called the Left. (with a period) were underway, said Solomon. In March 2007, the two components of the new party will meet, PDS and the WASG (the Labor and Justice Party), a coalition of trade union and other left forces around Oskar LaFontaine which has broken with the social democrats to the left. The two parties are expected to merge June 15-17th. They will vote on a process, a vision and a commitment to democratic socialism.

Solomon said that it will be important to observe the development of the new organization which will have long term implications for the left everywhere. The new party will bring together different political tendencies - communist, trotskyist and social democrats. Invitations will be extended for the June meeting and the PDS would like fraternal representation from CCDS.

The NCC proposed and it was agreed that Solomon would write a

report on the progress toward the new organization after the March 2007 meeting in Germany. It was moved and seconded that the NCC will decide who will represent CCDS at the June 15-17th meeting and how to raise funds for the trip. Approved 18; opposed:1.

## Restructured NEC

A newly restructured National Executive Committee (NEC) was discussed.

Adopted was a proposal for a 13 member NEC that will include the national co-chairs, and chairs of sub-committees. The sub-committees formed are: labor, finance and budget, socialist education project, and a new regional coordinators' committee. Also to be established are a peace committee and a youth committee.

Based on the adopted structure, following are the new NEC members.

National Co-Chairs: Leslie Cagan, James Campbell, Charlene Mitchell, Mark Solomon

East coast regional coordinator: Duncan McFarland

Southern regional coordinator: Renee Carter

West coast regional coordinator: Michael Kaufman

Midwest regional coordinator: Harry Targ

Treasurer: Mildred Williamson

Budget and Finance Chair: Steve Willett

Also elected to the NEC were Marian Gordon, Ted Pearson, Pat Fry

One vacancy for youth remains to be filled.

## Education Fund Summer School

Charlene Mitchell presented a proposal of the national co-chairs for a week long Summer School in 2007 sponsored by the CoC Education Fund. The educational project would be for members of the NCC and invited guests. Mitchell said proposed content includes: vision of socialism; lessons of socialism in the 20th century; organizational questions; interconnectedness of class, race and gender; and capitalism today.

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# National Coordinating Committee Decisions

*Continued from page 10*

In discussion of the proposal, Carl Bloice said that the core of our educational work should be political economy in the Marxist tradition. He noted that the "problem in the movement today is the absence of it."

Solomon added that the school should also review the organization's original founding documents. "It may now be time to take a closer look at it. The future viability of our organization is tied to closer identification with Marxism," said Solomon.

Mitchell said that the aim of the school is to help the NCC work collectively to build the organization. It is not a seminar of learned scholars, she said, but of those learning to be Marxist in a way that moves things forward. If the project is a success, it can be expanded to include others.

It was proposed and accepted that Carl Bloice take on responsibility for preparing the educational content of the summer school.

It was voted to make 10 scholarships available for youth and Latino participation in the summer school.

## Socialist Education Project Report

Ira Grupper reported on the 4 areas of the country that have had study groups that have to one degree or another utilized material of the SEP. San Francisco, CA has not functioned for a while; Louisville, KY has had meetings with varying degrees of participation; the Charleston, SC group has not met in a few months; and, the Los Angeles, CA study group, not

organizationally connected to CCDS, will begin again in January with discussion of "Global Migrations."

Grupper announced that the SEP is working toward organizing a trip to Viet Nam in February 2008. He reported that a planning committee met Dec 1st to move the project ahead. CCDS committee members are: Ira Grupper, Mark Solomon, and Duncan McFarland.

Harry Targ reported that the SEP web site is up and running.

Grupper announced unexpectedly his resignation as chair of the SEP. He said he was critical of national CCDS leadership for not consulting with him as chair of the SEP about the Summer School project. He said he would continue to work with the SEP, but not as chair.

Several NCC members urged Ira to reconsider in decision. Ted Pearson said that the summer school proposal germinated in a meeting of the national co-chairs and should not be viewed as a proprietary question. Charlene Mitchell asked him to reconsider the resignation, noting that there are times when the national leadership proposes a special project of the leadership.

A motion to urge Ira Grupper to reconsider his resignation was made and adopted unanimously with one abstention.

## Climate Change Catastrophe

Walter Teague presented a proposal for CCDS action on Climate Change Catastrophe (CCC). Following is the resolution adopted after discussion.

CCDS should:

1. Call for a worldwide recognition of the necessity to prevent a Climate Change Catastrophe.
2. Call for the quick development of best possible deadlines and what is needed to meet them.
3. Based on the best science available, call for the development of a worldwide plan sufficient to prevent CCC.
4. Call for all leaders to speak up, give direction and take all necessary actions to prevent a CCC.
5. Demand that we the people, be fully informed of the threats and progress in preventing the catastrophe.
6. Call for all other progressive organizations, leaders and movements to join in this effort.
7. Call on the US Congress to hold emergency hearings on preventing CCC.

In addition, the NCC voted to post material about CCC on the CCDS web site. Mitchell noted that a committee on environmental questions was formed at the national convention and should go forward. Committee members are: Steve Willett, Dave Morrison, and Carl Davidson. Several NCC members drew attention to the need to include issues of racism, social and class determinants of health issues. The class component of CCC comes to the fore when we understand that is it a direct result of capitalism, said Willett. For a full report of the CCC resolution, go to: [www.cc-ds.org](http://www.cc-ds.org) or call the national office.

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## CCDS Members in Jan 27-29 Anti-War Actions

*Continued from page 7*

binding legislation to stop an attack on Iran. The huge presence of anti-war lobbyists in the House and Senate office building corridors was one of the largest one-day grassroots lobbying efforts in U.S. history, a fact noted by elected officials.

In Los Angeles, CCDS was one of the many organizations who endorsed the Jan 27th march and rally that began

at the Democratic Party headquarters and ended at the federal building. Other endorsers included the Mexican American Political Association (MAPA), California Democratic Party Progressive Caucus, Gold Star Families for Peace and Iraq Veterans Against the War.

Even before the Jan 27-29 actions, plans were underway for national days of protest on the 4 year anniversary

of the U.S. war on Iraq. UFPJ is calling for a "massive outpouring of opposition to the war in locally based, decentralized actions throughout the U.S." from Sat., March 17 through Mon., March 19th.

For more details and to download a national petition against the war, go to the UFPJ website: [www.unitedforpeace.org](http://www.unitedforpeace.org). Also see the CCDS web site at: [www.cc-ds.org](http://www.cc-ds.org).

# Bush's War Escalation Can Be Stopped

Continued from page 1

eerily reminiscent of the disastrous "Phoenix" campaign of the Vietnam War. Such a "pacification" program will only deepen resistance to the occupation and intensify civil war.

Bush and his neo-conservative cabal press on, defying world opinion in light of impending enactment of a law by the Iraqi parliament to hand huge wealth to global oil companies. Nor are they willing to abandon their dream of strategic control of the Middle East, an outlook that involves growing threats to attack Iran.

## But The War Can Be Ended

- ♦ Resistance to Bush and the neo-cons is growing on all sides of the political spectrum.

- ♦ Opposition to the war is now shared by an overwhelming majority of the public. More than 70% oppose the escalation; more than 60% oppose the war in general.

- ♦ There is a widening split between the Bush neo-cons and "pragmatic realists" represented by the Iraq Study Group.

- ♦ Opposition to the war is growing within the military.

- ♦ The organized peace movement is growing and is beginning to reach traditionally non-activist segments of the public.

- ♦ Support among legislators for

the delusion and racist claims of the right wing to dictate moral and political values to the rest of the world.

## To End the War Now

The organized progressive majority must reach out to the unorganized progressive majority in religious, labor, fraternal, social, business organizations and in neighborhoods to create an unprecedented and irresistible force for peace. Now, as never before, that can be done.

That vast majority must focus on Congress to end the war. Our legislators should be overwhelmed by an avalanche of demands for the cutoff of funds for the war along with steps to bring the troops home now. Jobs at living wages, good education, a genuine adequately funded program to revive New Orleans and the Gulf Coast, and other pressing social needs must become the nation's first priorities rather than the immoral, wasteful and destructive

occupation of Iraq. It's time to set our country on a path to a peaceful, non-interventionist foreign policy.

It's time for peace with justice now.

## What You Can Do

**1) National Petition Campaign of UFPJ.** On-line petitions are not enough. Ask neighbors, friends, co-workers to sign the petition telling Congress to:

Vote for the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. forces from Iraq; Vote for full funding of veterans benefits; Vote against any funds for military action; Vote for aid to reconstruct Iraq under Iraqi control; Vote to redirect our tax dollars for social programs at home. For petition: [www.unitedforpeace.org](http://www.unitedforpeace.org)

**2) Support HR 508, Bring the Troops Home and Iraqi Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2007,** introduced by Reps. Lynn Woolsey, Maxine Waters, Barbara Lee, calls for withdrawal in 6 months, multilateral support for reconstruction and reconciliation, and prohibits US military bases in Iraq.

**3) Support for HR 746, Safe and Orderly Withdrawal from Iraq Act,** sponsored by Rep. James McGovern, would withdraw troops within 6 months.

a cutoff of funds for the war is beginning to develop under the pressure of a public that is ahead of the politicians in demanding an end to the occupation and is increasingly questioning

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