

# SILENT VIGIL FOR PEACE

In front of Borough Hall Monday nights from 5:30-6:30. This vigil is silent and peaceful in the Quaker tradition. Feel free to join us. Bring a candle and a peaceful sign if you wish.

*Opting for peace does not mean a passive acquiescence to evil or compromise of principle. It demands an active struggle against hatred, oppression and disunity, but not by using methods of violence. Building peace requires creative and courageous action.*

*-- Pope John Paul I (Jan. 21, 2003)*

**What is Peace?** It's not just about an end to war. It's a direction and a challenge to be active, thoughtful, conscious, informed and compassionate.

Peace is not a place we can get to. We can just move towards it or away from it in our actions.

Peace is something to think about globally, in our country, our city and in our homes. It's difficult to expect peace from world leaders when we have trouble staying peaceful towards our co-workers or family.

Peace is, foremost, a way we can try to relate to the people, things and situations around us. How thoughtful are we about the people we interact with? How aware are we of their reality and can we respect it?

Politically, peace is an issue in a number of areas:

- Are we being economically peaceful or violent? How peaceful or just is it that our country, 4% of the world's population consumes over 40% of the world's resources? What impact do our decisions have on the rest of the world? How do we, every day at home, contribute to economic inequality? Since we can't just solve the problem, what little things can we do?
- How aware are we of how our local, state and federal governments allocate their time and money? Do their priorities reasonably seem to be to raise our quality of life? Do their priorities agree with your priorities?
- Is political inactivity peaceful? How peaceful is it for us to not take responsibility for the actions of our government? We elected them either by casting or not casting a vote and we consent to their actions every time we remain silent.
- Is it more peaceful to leave a country alone with its problems or come in to solve the problems for them in the ways we know how to solve problems? How would we react to the same treatment with our country's problems now? What if opposition was punished here and we were starving – would we want another country to come in and take over to make things better?

Peace is also about the environment. Where does a soda bottle actually go when we throw it away or toss it onto the street? Do we harm someone's quality of living by that action: where are our dumps now and how do they effect the people who live near them?

*Please think about these questions and find your own answers. Peace isn't about everyone agreeing. It's about being as thoughtful to the harm we can create as we can and about putting positive energy into solutions. There are some statistics and facts on the back.*

# SOME FACTS AND FIGURES TO THINK ABOUT

It's tax time when most of us learn how much we send to the Federal Government, but few of us really know where it goes. Well, here's how Congress allocates the money it controls: The 'X' represents how much we'd have if we trimmed just 15% off the Pentagon Budget. ([www.truemajority.com](http://www.truemajority.com))