# WONDERINGS

In FNVW's April 1988 newsletter, the *Wonderings* column asked questions about the March 1988 direct action demonstrations in Minneapolis. These demonstrations were in response to sending U.S.troops to Honduras. The events that comprised these actions raised many questions about the peace and justice groups' philosophy and strategies, and the actions growing from them.

A Unity Process Task Force was formed to design ways to address these questions and to bring activists of the Minnesota Peace and Justice Coalition together for a series of discussions about their differences.

There are many political/religious perspectives on how to bring about substantive social change. Each group needs to know how other groups view the political, economic and religious state of society and how to build for change. Forums to begin such a process of exploration are planned for the Saturdays of January 21st and February 11th at the Sabanthani Community Center (38th Street and Clinton Avenue South) from 1:00 - 5:00 P.M.

Persons from a broad spectrum of social change perspectives will present position papers. Seven panalists have been invited. They range from those who reject non-violence to those who believe that pacifist witness is the answer. Each is asked to respond to these questions:

What are you trying to accomplish? Describe your vision.

How do you see change taking place? Apply this to the current political realities: how can change happen given these realities?

What should the peace and justice movement be doing today to foster this change?

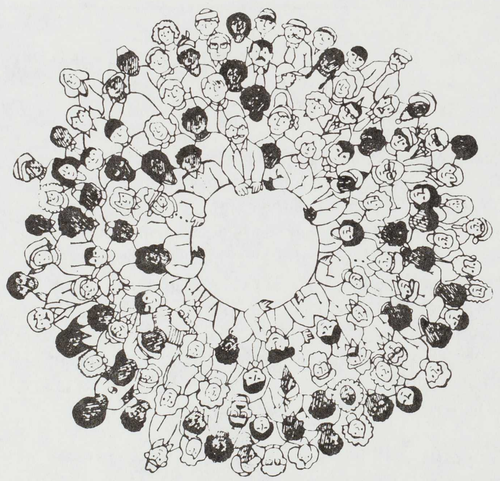
Most groups come to direct action with varying perspectives and strategies. With them goes the question of what it means to be effective. Should effectiveness be a criterion of our work for change? How is effectiveness measured?

Also, what does it mean to take responsibility for ones' actions? Does one use or reject the notion of enemies? If one accepts the notion of enemies, who or what may our enemy be?

We are sure that these and other questions will prompt a dialogue that is much needed and long overdue. From the perspective of a pacifist, I hope that this will be only the beginning of many such sharings and that these discussions will help us to develop skills for listening to, articulating and understanding the multiple ways we now go about working in our struggle for peace and justice. Perhaps these forums will provide us with experience with the non-violent processes of negotiation, conflict resolution and fostering tolerance and nurture the conviction that we must understand the change process we are moving through. As we are open to our own process of change, we can better understand the need for others to be granted patience in their own change process.

*John E Martinson*

*Program Director*



**Friends for a Non-Violent World** publishes this newsletter four times a year in January, April, July and October. FNVW has its roots in the Quaker faith and has been shaped by a belief in the power of nonviolence as a way of effecting change.

**Newsletter committee:** Jim Bruener, Jean Egbert, D. Perry Kidder, Emily Knight, John Martinson, Patty Wright.

For additional information or comments, contact FNVW at 2025 Nicollet Avenue South #203, Mpls., Mn. 55404 (612) 870-1501.



# MORRC JOINS PEACE CENTER

In November 1985 a small interdenominational group of Minnesotans, including Betsy Proechel of St. Paul and Jim Larson of Duluth, sponsored a conference on Central American refugees. The impetus of the conference was an increasing concern over the relatively low acceptance rate of Central Americans for refugee status in the United States, 2-3%, as compared to an acceptance rate of 60% by Canada. These Minnesotans and several Canadian refugee workers gathered, spoke, and strategized on how they could best facilitate the acceptance of more Central American refugees into countries of safety, in this case Canada. The Minnesota Overground Railroad (MORRC) was born directly from their efforts.

MORRC will celebrate its three year *birthday* in January 1989. FNVW has special cause to celebrate with MORRC this year. In December, MORRC began sharing an office with FNVW. The natural growth of MORRC's work has led to their need for an office space with phones, private space for interviews and a close proximity to the Canadian consulate in Minneapolis. They have already served more than fifteen Central American refugees seeking asylum, primarily El Salvadornan and Guatemalan, provided support to numerous host churches, and spoken widely in the greater Minnesota community.

FNVW staff and board are very excited about sharing space with the Minnesota Overground Railroad given its commitment to service, nonviolence and the high energy and enthusiasm of its volunteer staff.

Currently, MORRC staff consists of a dedicated group of volunteers. They are hoping to increase their fundraising capacity so that they can add a part-time paid staff person, cover growing operating costs as well as making bond money available to refugees in the custody of the Immigration and Naturalizations Service. Three volunteers have been putting a lot of time into MORRC. Colleen Beebe and Cadmon Whitty have been serving as volunteer refugee advocates - screening refugees for valid asylum cases, explaining their options to them and helping them connect with local resources and networks, specifically legal assistance and church sponsors. Mary Ann Van Cura is MORRC's volunteer convener - working on a variety of adminstrative functions including securing the rental space fron FNVW. MORRC also uses volunteer attorneys from the "Pro Bono Assylum Project", a part of the Minnesota Lawyers for International Human Rights.

*Jean Egbert*

# A NEW WAY TO SUPPORT FNVW

Cooperating Fund Drive (CFD), a ten-year-old competitor to the United Fund, supports small community-based organizations that promote social justice and social advocacy. Last year it raised more then $500,000, distributing an average of $11,600 to each of its member organizations. While Friends For a Non-violent World is not eligible for CFD membership, there is a way it can benefit from the annual CFD campaign. About 90 worksites conduct annual CFD payroll deduction campaigns. These include both the state and federal governments. Persons who work at these locations may designate that their payrooll deductions be given to a specific nonprofit organization, which does not have to be a CFD member. For further information, call or write CFD, 1619 Dayton Avenue, St. Paul 55104, (612) 647-0440.

*D. Perry Kidder*

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Circle amount to be deducted each pay period:

| Other $ _____ | $50 | $45 | $40 | $35 | $30 | $25 | $20 | $15 | $10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | $9 | $8 | $7 | $6 | $5 | $4 | $3 | $2 | $1 |

| # pay periods/year | |
|---|---|
| 26 | 24 |
| 12 | |

Total Pledge $_____ Cash Gift $_____ Social Security # _____

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Please distribute my pledge to all 37 CFD member organizations. $ _____ Per Deduction

I WANT TO DESIGNATE

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(#) (Agency Name) Per Deduction

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(#) (Agency Name) Per Deduction

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all or a portion of my pledge to the following MN. NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION, which is not a member of CFD.

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