

The Poverty Program

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

MAY 20, 2 PM UNITARIAN CHURCH, chairperson Rob Burnham
HUMAN RIGHTS - Movie *SOLDIER CHILD*

JUN 10, 2 PM FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE, 120 FRIENDS ST., AMESBURY, MA, chairperson Sam Baily
ARMS TRADE - Movie *LORD OF WAR*

JUL 22, 6:30 PM CONG. AHAVAS ACHIM, chairperson Rabbi Sadinsky
GENOCIDE - Movie *GHOSTS OF RWANDA*

AUG 19, 2PM TBA, chairperson Whitney Erskine
AIDS/HIV - Movie *FACING AIDS*

SEP 23, 2 PM BELLEVILLE CHURCH, chairperson Helen Hatcher
UN Peace Event- Movie *PEACE ONE DAY*

OCT TBA: UNITARIAN CHURCH, chairperson Rob Burnham
Millennium Goals, Vol. Job Fair

NOV TBA: Planning Meeting for 2008

If you would like to become involved with any of the programs, email povertyprogram@gmail.com.

Human Rights, Children's Rights and Poverty

May 20th, 2 PM

First Religious Society Unitarian Universalist

"Violations of the child's right to protection take place in every country, and are massive, under-recognized and under-reported barriers to child survival and development, in addition to being human rights violations. Children subjected to violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect are at risk of death, poor physical and mental health, HIV/AIDS infection, educational problems, displacement, homelessness, vagrancy and poor parenting skills later in life."-UNICEF *Child Protection from Violence, Exploitation and Abuse*

Film screening: Soldier Child, A Documentary by Neil Abramson

"On his own volition, filmmaker Neil Abramson traveled alone to war torn northern Uganda to create a documentary which chronicles the savageness faced by tens of thousands of children in this area of the country.

In this too often forgotten part of the world, children live in fear of being shaken from their sleep by strangers and forcibly taken from their homes to serve in the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

The children are made into rebels, brainwashed, tortured, starved and forced to kill. Many times, even ordered to murder their own loved ones. In addition to these horrors, young girls are raped and made concubines by the LRA soldiers." -Soldier Child International

NEWSLETTER: Letters to the editor, articles, calendar events may be submitted by the 15th by mail: 280 High Street, Newburyport, MA or email: povertyprogram@gmail.com. If you would like to receive the newsletter or stop receiving it, please contact us.

WEBSITE: Charities: if you would like to be listed or linked, or list volunteer or donation needs, please email (povertyprogram@gmail.com) or call Catherine at 978-463-0507. Events for the calendar may be submitted at any time but if you would like to be listed in the newsletter, please submit by the 15th.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

*Events must be submitted by the 15th of each month. For more information on events:
<http://www.povertyprogram.com/cal.html>*

WEEKLY PEACE RALLY
Every Sunday at noon at Market Square.

ABOLISH FREEDOM FESTIVAL
BOSTON COMMON
APRIL 21 NOON -5

OPPORTUNITY WORKS AUCTION
APRIL 22 5-9, CHECK LOCAL STATION SCHEDULE

Newburyport Neighbors of Nicaragua
APRIL 22 3 PM 35 ELMIRA AVE.
APRIL 29 NOON UNITARIAN CHURCH

GLOBAL DARFUR DAYS
APRIL 23 - 30

NEWBURYPORT LITERARY FESTIVAL
APRIL 27-29 NEWBURYPORT LIBRARY

BUILDING BRIDGES
APRIL 28 11 AM YWCA

15TH ANNUAL WALK AGAINST VIOLENCE
APRIL 29 11:30 BARTLETT MALL

POVERTY PROGRAM: HUMAN RIGHTS, CHILD SOLDIERS
MAY 20 2 PM UNITARIAN CHURCH

POVERTY PROGRAM: ARMS DEAL LORD OF WAR
JUNE 10, 2 PM FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE, AMESBURY, MA

THE DARFUR/DARFUR EXHIBIT
COMING TO BOSTON SEPTEMBER 7, 2007

POVERTY PROGRAM REVIEWS AND UPDATES

APRIL GLOBALIZATION, POVERTY & DEBT

Globalization was the primary topic of the April 15th Poverty Program. The speaker was Bob Crofts, Assoc. Prof. Of Economics (retired) at Salem State College.

The program explained why globalization is good in the long run, but bad in the short run. In the long run, because of the principle of comparative advantage, globalization results in increased productivity and higher incomes making it easier to deal with world poverty. However in the short run, globalization results in hard times and difficult adjustments for many who find their jobs outsourced. It is a value judgment as to if the long run gain outweighs the short run pains.

The program also looked at the debt crisis facing many poor countries. Should these debts be forgiven? And if so, should the World Bank and the IMF impose conditions on the forgiving of the debts and to future loans? These conditions would be items such as less corruption, a reasonable government budget, and an independent central bank. The discussion of this issue was to the effect that there is not a blanket answer – we should look at this on a country by country basis.

Finally the program looked at the issue of capitalism and markets versus socialism and central planning as opposing methods of organizing the economies of developing countries. The program concluded that the best method is a mixture of both with basically market based economies but with a major government influence.

Thanks to the many people who made this program a success!

FEB. PROGRAM SCHOOL NUTRITION RESPONSE

The Newburyport Public Schools participate in the National School Lunch Program. We offer many healthy choices every day. Menus are sent home each month as well as being posted in the Newburyport News on Saturday. The menus also appear on the local cable TV channel and are posted on the school district's website <http://www.doe.mass.edu/cnp/nprograms/nslp.html>.

Sincerely, *Diane M. Dore Food Service Director, Newburyport Public Schools*

VOLUNTEERING

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

Do you have extra time? Looking for something worthwhile to do with your time? The Unitarian Church maintains a page on their website listing volunteering opportunities: <http://www.frsuu.org/people-help.htm>. Please consider volunteering at any one of these important organizations.

PETTINGILL HOUSE & SALVATION ARMY

The Pettingill House and Salvation Army are serving more people this year - more than 12,000 more meals at Pettingill House - and are in need of our assistance in restocking their pantries. Please make a monetary donation or donate food (pasta & sauce, canned goods, mac & cheese, juice, cooking oil, condiments) or toiletry items to these organizations. The Salvation Army can also accept fresh and frozen fruit and vegetables. Poverty in our area is increasing. Please help.

BOOK & MOVIE RECOMMENDATION

BLOOD DIAMONDS

Blood Diamonds is a powerful movie about the horrendous way in which diamonds are mined as well as the wars, political conflicts and violence that surrounds the exploitation of a country's natural wealth and resources.

THE END OF POVERTY by Jeffrey Sachs

This is a must read for understanding poverty in the Third World, the West's policies that effect poverty, the burden of debt and aid, as well as not only explaining how we can end world poverty but why it is in our interest to do so.

CHILDREN'S NEWS

Children's Editor

The Poverty Program Newsletter is looking for editors, reporters either an individual or group of young people who would like to work together to write, edit, and contribute articles, pictures to this section of the newsletter. Please email povertyprogram@gmail.com.

LEARN ABOUT FREE TRADE

Several different learning games that teach about free trade. <http://www.traidcraftinteractive.com/main.php?25>

ENVIRONMENT KIDS CLUB OF THE EPA

Visit <http://www.epa.gov/kids/> for a wide variety of games, puzzles, and activities that will help kids learn how to protect the planet.

[HTTP://NOBELPRIZE.ORG/EDUCATIONAL_GAMES/](http://NOBELPRIZE.ORG/EDUCATIONAL_GAMES/)

Games that teach children about trade, polymers, lasers, and more.

ODDS AND ENDS

LITTLE THINGS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE - GO GREEN

- Have a clothes swapping party and donate any unwanted clothes to charity.
- Have your children in charge of recycling! Every ton of paper recycled saves 380 gallons of oil.
- Once a week, have an "unplugged" family night.
- Evaluate your car usage. Do you need to use the car for every errand? Walking 10 miles during a week instead of driving, saves 500 pounds of CO2 emissions!
- Reduce your electric use by simply turning off lights, computers, TV's.
- Use natural cleaning products: <http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Prairie/8088/clngrn.html>
- Buy plants, trees for Mother's Day and Father's Day.

For more information: <http://www.stopglobalwarming.org> <http://www.newburyportseed.org/>

BUY LOCAL: With the upcoming growing season and fresh vegetables and fruit arriving, please take the extra time to buy local and support our local farmers. More and more farms are struggling and as we lose farms, we lose not only access to fresh, locally grown vegetables and fruit but we lose jobs, open space, tax dollars and more. Please support our local farmers. For more information: <http://www.buyfresh.org/>

www.freecycle.com: This site is a great way to get things you may need for free, get rid of things you no longer want and is also good for the environment. There is no cost to join this and you'd be surprised what people are giving away from phones, to old train sets, to household items, children's toys and more. A great form of recycling!

3 OUTSTANDING WEBSITES

www.poverty.com

www.first8.com

www.globalissues.com

ACTION ALERTS

ONE CAMPAIGN: Please consider signing this petition asking Mayor Moak to proclaim Newburyport a City of One by either signing online (see below for web link) or signing petition below and mailing to Mayor Moak.
http://action.one.org/dia/organizationsONE/one/petition.jsp?petition_KEY=100&t=OneColumn.dwt

Dear Mayor Moak,

Please make our city a City of ONE. We are fortunate to live in a city so blessed. Our community's values and sense of justice make it our responsibility to lead the campaign to make poverty history. When you sign a simple proclamation, like the one below, our town will join other American cities in the fight against extreme poverty and AIDS.

Signed, (your name, address)

City of ONE Proclamation

WHEREAS, healthy people and healthy communities are the centerpiece of any strong and vibrant society; and WHEREAS, Americans from the [Your City] are amongst the most generous people in the world; and

WHEREAS, ONE billion people live on less than \$1 a day; and

WHEREAS, ONE: The Campaign to Make Poverty History, is a new effort by Americans to rally Americans - ONE by ONE - to fight the emergency of global AIDS and extreme poverty;

WHEREAS, a pact directing additional resources for basic needs - education, health, clean water, food and care for orphans - would transform the futures and hopes of an entire generation in the poorest countries; and WHEREAS, ONE is an unprecedented bipartisan American movement and part of a fast growing global movement to make poverty history;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, [Mayor Name], Mayor do hereby proclaim our community to be a CITY OF ONE.

AMERICA PLEDGED .7% - HONOR THE PROMISE: Please consider sending this letter to President Bush. America pledged .7% to the Third World to help alleviate poverty and we have only given .22%. America should honor the promise.

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500
USA

We respectfully ask our government to help stop the tens of thousands of preventable deaths that occur every day from hunger and poverty-related diseases. Specifically, we ask our country to honor the agreement it made and signed at the 2002 Monterrey Conference and again at the 2002 Johannesburg Summit to make concrete efforts towards giving 0.7% of our national income in aid to poor countries.

The United Nations estimates that when all 22 countries that signed the agreement meet the 0.7% goal, the resulting \$195 billion each year will be enough to effectively end hunger and extreme poverty in the world. We commend the countries that have already reached the 0.7% goal: Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, and Sweden. We also commend the countries that have set up a schedule to meet the 0.7% goal and encourage them in their efforts to reach it as soon as possible: Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Spain, and the United Kingdom. We respectfully ask the six remaining countries to honor their agreement and set up a schedule to reach the 0.7% goal: Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Switzerland, and the United States.

Thank you. Your Name and Address

2005 International Aid Donated (Official Development Assistance) SOURCE: OECD

COUNTRY	For each \$100 earned in the country, how much is donated in aid	Aid as % of income	How close the country is to reaching the 0.7% goal
Norway	93 cents	0.93	Already reached goal
Sweden	92 cents	0.92	Already reached goal
Luxembourg	87 cents	0.87	Already reached goal
Netherlands	82 cents	0.82	Already reached goal
Denmark	81 cents	0.81	Already reached goal
Belgium	53 cents	0.53	Scheduled to reach in 2010
Austria	52 cents	0.52	Scheduled to reach in 2015
United Kingdom	48 cents	0.48	Scheduled to reach in 2013
Finland	47 cents	0.47	Scheduled to reach in 2010
France	47 cents	0.47	Scheduled to reach in 2012
Switzerland	44 cents	0.44	No schedule yet
Ireland	41 cents	0.41	Scheduled to reach in 2012
Germany	35 cents	0.35	Scheduled to reach in 2014
Canada	34 cents	0.34	No schedule yet
Italy	29 cents	0.29	Scheduled to reach in 2015
Spain	29 cents	0.29	Scheduled to reach in 2012
Japan	28 cents	0.28	No schedule yet
New Zealand	27 cents	0.27	No schedule yet
Australia	25 cents	0.25	No schedule yet
Greece	24 cents	0.24	Scheduled to reach in 2015
United States	22 cents	0.22	No schedule yet
Portugal	21 cents	0.21	Scheduled to reach in 2015

GENOCIDE GAMES

What does the 2008 Olympics and genocide have to do with each other? Darfur. Because China has a large financial interest in Sudan; China buys 2/3 of Sudan's oil; China supplies the very weapons and military aircraft that has attacked civilians; China is a permanent member of the UN Security Council; China has the ability to influence the government in stopping the attacks on civilians by government and Janjaweed military actions; and has chosen not to. The 2008 Olympics are now being referred to as the Genocide Games and a French presidential candidate, Francois Bayrou, wants France to boycott the games. Can we as individuals boycott the Olympics and make a difference? Yes, pledge not only not to watch the Olympic Games and notify the network station but also by pledging not to purchase products from advertisers that advertise during the Genocide Games. Perhaps by doing this, China will be shamed into putting pressure on Sudan to stop the slaughter of innocent civilians. For more information: <http://www.sudanreeves.org/Article152.html>, www.savedarfur.org

RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS, ELEPHANTS & ZIMBABWE

What does chili peppers and elephants have to do with each other? Elephants are a serious problem for farmers in Africa as they raid the food that the farmers are growing. Growing chili peppers is a "low-tech" solution that keeps elephants away from the farms as well as not harming the animals. However, for the farmers to switch some of their crops to chili peppers, a market for the chili peppers had to be developed. The Elephant Pepper Development Trust trains farmers on using the chili peppers to deter elephants, and has identified uses for the peppers and markets for their products. Their Red Hot Chili Pepper Sauce even made it into Gourmet magazine's Best Products list. See <http://www.elephantpepper.org/about.html> for more information and to order chili pepper products: <http://www.elephantpepper.com/>

ARTICLES

EDUCATION IS A RIGHT

by Catherine Yesair Gould

I don't get it. How is it that our country spends more per student than any other of the 24 industrialized nations in the world other than Switzerland and yet the US is ranked one of the worst for educating our students? How about these facts from Education at a Glance 2006, a report from OECD:

2006 Mathematics MCAS Scores
Newburyport Results
Percentage of All Students in Grade Scoring in Each Category

	Advanced/ Above Proficient	Needs Improvement	Warning/ Failing	Adv/AP/Prof. Percentage Points above/below State Average
3	57%	33%	10%	5% above
4	45%	47%	9%	5% above
5	22%	41%	37%	21% below
6	29%	45%	26%	17% below
7	37%	43%	19%	3% below
8	35%	42%	23%	5% below
10	80%	13%	7%	13% above

Area School Results
Advanced/Above Proficient/Proficient Percentage Points above/below the State Average

Grade	Newburyport*	Amesbury	Triton	Pentucket	Beverly	Ipswich	Manchester
3	5% above	6% above	1% below	10% above	10% above	10% above	15% above
4	5% above	13% below	5% above	9% above	2% below	14% above	16% above
5	<u>21% below</u>	8% below	9% above	19% above	11% below	20% above	5% above
6	<u>17% below</u>	7% below	9% above	19% above	7% below	17% above	13% above
7	3% below	3% below	8% above	11% above	4% below	21% above	17% above
8	<u>5% below</u>	2% above	5% above	12% above	1% below	23% above	33% above
10	13% above	13% above	1% above	4% above	14% above	13% above	21% above

Areas of Concern	
*	<u>Underline</u> indicates worst performance of all area schools

- The US spends more on education per student than any other country other than Switzerland.
- Despite high spending per student, class size is larger than OECD average of 21.
- Teacher salaries are higher than OECD averages and US teachers are expected to teach on average 200 hours more.
- Adults who do not finish high school earn 35% less than if they had graduated.
- Over 25% of 15 year olds are not math literate - ranking the US 21, with only 5 other countries having worse scores.
- 30% of 8th graders do not read at an 8th grade reading level.
- National graduation rate is only 75%.
- Students in the US can expect 4 years less education than European students.
- The US has slipped from first to 7th of the OECD members in tertiary attainment level.
- Only 50% of US college students graduate.

Something is wrong with this picture: we spend the most but US students are not educated the best? We pay our teachers more, they teach 200 hours more and yet our students are not learning? Somehow we are

not getting our money's worth. How about school staff's salaries, raises being tied to whether they are raising the

literacy of their students? According to a USA Today article: “More than 50% of students at four-year schools and more than 75% at two-year colleges lacked the skills to perform complex literacy tasks.” And the Washington Post stated in December 2005 that “Only 31 percent of college graduates can read a complex book and extrapolate from it. That's not saying much for the remainder.” US drop out rate averages 34% and of the prison population, 67% are high school drop outs! China graduates 8 times the number of engineers than the US – India 5 times. These statistics should be alarming to all of us. Will our future (or current) leaders, politicians be able to read, evaluate information? How about corporate leaders? How will this reduction in learning, ability to analyze information change our society and our world standing? How is it that America spends more money per student than any industrialized nation other than Switzerland and our literacy level is one of the worst despite the money we spend on education? Seems to me someone is not doing their job.

As the world becomes a smaller place, Americans need to be competitive - our children need to be able to get jobs, maintain their jobs and a having poor literacy skills is not going to give them the competitive edge that they will need. Further, education or rather the lack of education, or the quality of education and the amount of education a person receives is closely tied to poverty. Lower education, lower literacy drastically increases the poverty levels of a nation, never mind, increasing the likelihood that the individual will live in poverty.

As individuals, as parents, as members of a greater world community, we must demand excellence from our schools, from the administrators and teachers who in turn, must place primary importance on the reason for their jobs - educating their students - and must in turn demand excellence from their students. Anything less is robbing our children of their potential and robbing them of their future.

<http://www.literacyvolunteers> <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/51/20/37392850.pdf>

“There is enough in the world for everyone’s need; there is not enough for everyone’s greed.”
Gandhi
