A HISTORY OF NEWTON DIALOGUES ON PEACE AND WAR

2001 – 2007

One community’s response in opposition to its government’s policies after the attacks of 9/11

Written and compiled by Linda Smith Nathanson, 2016

With help from Steve Nathanson and Dave Ascher
Special thanks to Louise and Sev Bruyn, Octo and Sarah Barnett, Doris Tennant, Dave Ascher, Dick Sterne, Dan Shaw, and Judith Hudson for allowing me to interview them about their experiences in Newton Dialogues.

*Dedicated to all my friends in Newton Dialogues on Peace and War*

“A time comes when silence is betrayal.”
—Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.
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Preface

Newton Dialogues on Peace and War (NDPW) grew out of small group of people who met in our Newton Highlands living room shortly after the attacks of September 11, 2001. Like many other people, we were confused and worried about what would happen next: How would our government react and what should we, as citizens, do?

It did not take long before the Bush administration launched an invasion of Afghanistan in an unsuccessful effort to find those responsible for the attacks and also to overthrow the Taliban and install a new government. Given the large number of Afghan civilians killed in this invasion, our opposition to our government’s reaction increased.

In 2002, talk of an invasion of Iraq—a country with no connection to 9/11—grew louder within the U.S. government. In response to the growing likelihood of another invasion, NDPW began a weekly vigil in Newton Center in July of 2002—eight months before the Iraq war began. We wanted to alert people to the threat of an extended and unnecessary war and to stimulate public opposition to it.

From the vantage point of 2016, politicians routinely describe the Iraq invasion as a “mistake.” But that was not the case in 2002-2003. It fell to hundreds of community groups around the country and around the world to stand up and protest this action by the United States government.

This is the story of one such community protest group.

The group that first met in our living room in 2001 grew unexpectedly large and in unexpected directions. It grew from about ten people to an organization with an email distribution of over a thousand. It also grew from simply having a shared sense of opposition to our government’s policies to an activist organization that, over many years, held hundreds of talks, demonstrations, workshops, vigils and petitions. Our speakers addressed issues ranging from the Iraq invasion and occupation to the Patriot Act, torture and Guantanamo, the Israel-Palestine dilemma, and many other issues facing the United States and the world community.

Though NDPW was begun by Newton residents, many people from other communities attended our programs, and we co-sponsored many events with protest groups from other Massachusetts towns and cities. NDPW sponsored hundreds of events, some in conjunction with the Newton Free Public Library, the West Newton Cinema, and with the Eliot Church in Newton Corner.

The great majority of events and most of our monthly meetings have taken place in the Eliot Church, and we acknowledge with deep appreciation the Church’s generosity and support.
Over time, a website was created for NDPW and later expanded and revised. Both sites are still available online: www.newtondialog.org and www.newtondialogues.org.

When my husband and I moved from Newton to Brookline in 2007, the entire archive of NDPW up to that point moved with us. This record seemed to me too important to be allowed to disappear, and it is that impulse that has led to the writing of this History.

The history of Newton Dialogues is a narrative of events and activities followed by an Appendix containing scanned flyers from most of NDPW’s talks and programs, as well as many other materials, and copies of the impressive newsletter, *Alternative Views*, written during the anguished year of 2003-2004. With the help of the Jackson Homestead and Museum (Historic Newton) (www.historicnewton.org) notebooks and folders of additional material will be preserved and made available to the public. The History itself, including the appendix, will also be available in the Newtonia Collection of the Newton Free Library.

The bulk of activities described took place during the years from 2001 to 2007, but NDPW continues to hold talks and events, and these more recent activities are listed toward the end of this book.

My hope is that the History of Newton Dialogues will be interesting and useful to people studying how a group of ordinary citizens in the aftermath of 9/11 organized to oppose what they perceived to be (and what has now been confirmed to be) disastrous policies on the part of their government.

I remain very proud of our efforts and grateful for the many good people I came to know through this experience.

*Linda Smith Nathanson*

*April, 2016*
A History of Newton Dialogues on Peace and War  
2001 – 2007

On September 11, 2001, nineteen men, mostly from Saudi Arabia, commandeered four planes and attacked the United States, killing nearly 3000 people. Like most people all over the world, Newton citizens reacted in horror and disbelief. Suddenly we learned about the fundamentalist Muslim group called Al Qaeda that had organized these attacks.

Within two weeks of the attacks, several Newton residents, some of whom had been part of earlier protests against the Gulf War of 1990-91, met to talk. As they later described it, they were “united by a sense of urgency about the challenges facing our country…they feared that our government would respond to the September 11 attacks with massive military force and that such a response would decrease the security of Americans and other peoples; [they] believed that efforts to prevent terrorism must be grounded in international cooperation; and…were disturbed that in the period after September 11, there was [too] little discussion and debate about how our country should respond to the threat of terrorism.”

Fearful and troubled, the group began meeting in a regular way simply to share their concerns—concerns which grew when the United States government began raids in Afghanistan to try to capture the leaders of Al Qaeda and then, when these covert military efforts failed, the U.S. decided to launch a full offensive war against Afghanistan.

Afghanistan at that time was governed by the Taliban, a strict Muslim sect that forbids girls’ education, forbids women from going outside the home without a male escort, and uses crushing punishment for the smallest deviation from their strict interpretation of the *Q’ur’an*. In March of 2001, the Taliban had destroyed 1700 year-old Buddhist statues with great religious and cultural value. Finally, the Taliban had provided a safe harbor for Al Qaeda leaders and their followers and allowed Al Qaeda to use their country as a training ground. These factors made it easy for many Americans to think that it was appropriate to fight against the Taliban. Most Americans focused on these facts and ignored the unpleasant reality that the 9/11 attacks on the U.S. were carried out not by Afghans, but Saudis.

The group of Newton residents who met informally in September and October of 2001 could not follow this reasoning. To them, the 9/11 attacks were carried out by terrorists, not by a nation-state; they were acts that demanded a criminal investigation and punishment, not an invasion and war that would inflict harm on civilians. As the Afghan invasion began in the fall of 2001, this small group of Newton citizens tried to figure out how best to express their opposition and influence the actions of the U.S. government.

The group of people that began to meet shortly after 9/11 grew slowly into a local effort to educate the public about war and peace issues in general and to create greater leverage to affect government policies on war and peace. Believing that democracy can flourish only if citizens discuss and debate government policies, rather than simply acquiescing in
them, we eventually named our group *Newton Dialogues on Peace and War*. In the following decade, Newton Dialogues on Peace and War (NDPW) organized hundreds of local programs, protests, and other events, focusing primarily on war and peace issues generated by U.S. policies but also on the Israel/Palestine dilemma and the civil rights challenge posed by the USA Patriot Act.

Local peace organizations sprang up all around the country in response to the United States invasions, first of Afghanistan in 2001 and then of Iraq in 2003. Newton Dialogues on Peace and War was one of hundreds of such groups around Massachusetts* and around the country that came into being after 9/11. This narrative recounts the growth of a local Newton peace group, what it did, and what it meant within the community at a time of great crisis in U.S. history.

*Note that an asterisk in the text indicates material that can be found in the Appendix to this history.*

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**Beginnings and Background**

Several of the Newton residents who gathered in the fall of 2001 to discuss U.S. responses to 9/11 had taken part in vigils to protest the First Gulf War more than ten years earlier. The latter protest began spontaneously in December, 1990, with a vigil—held every night in Newton Highlands before and during the Gulf War-- at the corner of Lincoln and Walnut Streets. This small group stood in the winter cold, marched in the 1991 Memorial Day parade, and held a vigil during the Fourth of July ceremonies. Since Newton Dialogues on Peace and War grew out of this 1990-91 “Newton Peace Vigil,” it seems appropriate to begin this history of NDPW with a description of the earlier group’s motivation and concerns.
The 1990-1991 Peace Vigil

The following documents summarize the concerns and motivations of the 1990-91 vigil, held to protest the First Gulf War. Below is the Newton Tab photo taken that winter.

A letter and statement of purpose were distributed to passers-by in Newton Highlands in September, 1991, to explain why the group was still holding a vigil (weekly by then, not nightly) to protest a war that had ended months earlier. Both the letter and the statement were distributed at that vigil to appeal for support and to encourage a peace presence at the Newton Harvest Fair to be held in October, 1991.

The letter (1) and statement of purpose (2) help to understand the backdrop which led a decade later to the creation of Newton Dialogues on Peace and War:
(1) Letter of September 19, 1991

Dear friends,

Many of you joined in the peace vigil during the Gulf War or know of our activities at that time. We want to bring you up to date on recent activities and to urge you to consider giving us your support. The enclosed statement describes our history and the rationale for our continued activities.

At the end of the war, we felt it was important to continue making a public protest and to counter the impression that the war was universally popular. In addition, we wanted to express our rejection of the militarism that dominates so much of our national approach to problems and to voice our desire for a massive shift of priorities from military to domestic needs. The end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union present us with a historic opportunity to reorient the goals and values of our national policies. Ironically, widespread political apathy and the lack of an effective loyal opposition have resulted in an absence of political debate and the most feeble assertions of the need for a genuine new world order.

Now is the time for people committed to peace and justice to demand an end to nuclear testing, an end to large scale military projects like Star Wars and the Stealth bomber, and a turn toward addressing the urgent health, housing, educational, and employment needs of both Americans and citizens of impoverished countries.

We have tried to assert peace-oriented values by holding weekly vigils and by participating in public events and ceremonies. We marched in the Memorial Day parade and stood vigil during the Fourth of July ceremonies. In both cases, we received strong expressions of support from many people. While we have encountered some hostility, we continue to be encouraged and strengthened by the warm and positive responses we frequently receive.

Our effort is a small one. Nonetheless, we see it as an important attempt to pierce the apathy, inertia, and sense of resignation that hangs over the political scene. We estimate that over 1500 people see our vigil each week, and we hope that our presence both stimulates thought and confirms the convictions of people who agree with us. Moreover, each of us has benefited greatly from the fellowship and support that we derive from standing together to express our common convictions.

Please consider joining us on Thursdays between 5 and 6 p.m. at the corner of Lincoln and Walnut. In addition, we need people to help us at the Harvest Fest in Newton Centre on October 6 between 12 and 5 p.m. If you have questions or would like to volunteer for October 6, please call one of us. Finally, if you belong to a group that would be interested in hearing about our activities and experiences, we would be happy to come and talk about the vigil.

Yours in peace,

Paula Chasan  Sarah Lamstein  Joan Labby  Dan Shaw  Alice Wolpert  Marvin Miller  Steve Nathanson  Verne MacArthur  Beth Lerbinger  Gilly Beram  Susan Mirsky  Doug Sherman  Ruth Sterne  Dick Sterne
Distributed with this 1991 letter was the following Statement of Purpose:

(2) Statement of Purpose

“The Newton Peace Vigil began in December, 1990, as an effort by Newton citizens to oppose the initiation of a war against Iraq. During the war, the vigil continued as a protest against the destructive policies chosen by our government and its allies.

We do not share in the ‘euphoria’ many felt when the war ended. While grateful that relatively few Americans died, we mourn for the untold numbers of Iraqis who died and suffered injury. We take no delight in the destruction of Iraqi water, electric and sanitation facilities, since these are necessary to sustain people’s lives. We grieve because the huge sums of money spent in the war are needed to provide education, health care, jobs, and housing for our own citizens and to assist people in need through the world.

WHY ARE WE STILL PROTESTING WHEN THE WAR IS OVER?

We are still here in order to combat the impression that everyone supported the war, that everyone is pleased with the results of the war, and that everyone supports continued emphasis on building and developing more weapons of destruction.

We are here to urge others to reconsider the alleged ‘triumph’ of the Gulf War and to resist the undue emphasis on military strength that dominates the thinking of our political leaders.

We are here to call for a change in our national priorities. With the end of the Cold War, there is a unique opportunity to redirect our society to peaceful ends. Americans should demand that there be a ‘peace dividend’ that is spent to improve our country. We should be investing scarce resources to bring education, jobs, health care, and a safe environment to Americans. We should not be squandering our tax money on Star Wars, Stealth bombers and other multi-billion dollar weapons while people among us go without food, shelter, medical care, education, and employment. Nor should we be exporting destructive weapons throughout the world.

We are here to protest against leaders who assure us that America is Number #1 while they fail to address the urgent problems that face our nation and the other peoples of the earth.

Finally, we are here because the only way for change to occur is for ordinary citizens to make our voices heard. If no one protests, no change will occur. Policies directed toward peace and justice will only be adopted if ordinary citizens demand them. We are here to express that demand.
If you share our concerns, please join us. Vigils will be held every Thursday from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the corner of Lincoln and Walnut Streets.

These vigils continued through the winter and fall of 1990-1991. In the months following the Gulf War, participants worked to create a peace presence by marching in the Memorial Day Parade and having a vigil at the Newton July 4th celebration in 1991. Members of the earlier vigil kept in touch over the years, and then came the attacks on September 11, 2001.

**Newton Dialogues Forms, Fall, 2001**

Although the 1990-91 vigil group and its values and concerns formed the initial core of the informal group (12) that met on September 30, 2001, those who came to the initial meeting following 9/11 had a variety of concerns. All, however, were sad, worried, confused, and wanted to talk with other citizens about the situation and about the U.S. government’s direction and values.

*A summary of the first meetings held in the fall of 2001, can be found in Notebook #3. All hard cover materials (Notebooks and folders) referred to in this narrative are available at the Jackson Homestead and Museum, 527 Washington St, Newton, MA.*

One the first things the group decided to do was to circulate a petition in Newton to protest the invasion of Afghanistan and the threat of widening war. In the fall of 2001, volunteers stood at the Newton Bread and Circus (now Whole Foods) and the Star Market in Newtonville. Our intentions were to stimulate discussion, educate citizens, and encourage political action. Petitions were circulated at the Newton Library, local stores, and at public events, such as the annual Newton Harvest Fair, and Newton Highlands Village Day.

The people who signed the petitions and expressed an interest in taking part in activities formed the basis of a growing list of contacts, with mailing and e-mail addresses. With no specific “growth” plan in mind, these email contacts were gradually collated into a distribution list that became the communication and organizing core of NDPW. At every event, more names and emails were added, and by 2007 this list eventually became a roster of 1000 people.

*One of the most important things to note about the growth of Newton Dialogues is the role of the Internet. Linda Nathanson sent out a weekly email letter to hundreds of people, publicizing NDPW actions and programs and those of other communities. The level of activism we achieved during the decade 2001-2007 could not have occurred without the organizing power of the Internet.*

In the winter of 2002 the group began to discuss: (1) outreach to Newton clergy and (2) organizing public events. To give a sense of the group at this point, below is a record of a group meeting held on February 3, 2002. As is clear, everything is very informal. The group as yet has no name, and no structure. Even at this point, however, ideas are flowing
from all participants, and people took individual responsibility for performing particular tasks.

Minutes of a group meeting held during our first spring: February 3, 2002

Our group keeps growing with each meeting, which is very gratifying. Please think about where we might meet in the future, as at this rate, we are going to need a space larger than an ordinary living room.

Attending on the 3rd were: Steve and I, Ruth and Dick Sterne, Susan Mirsky, Prasannan Parthasarathi, Edie Propp, Marvin Miller, Dan Shaw, Louise Bruyn, Susanna Porte, Donna LaMontagne, and Kathy Knight.

After introductions, we turned to the business of the evening:

- planning publicity on Father Drinan's talk
- updates on the March 1 petition action
- discussion of our group's "mission statement"
- other actions/business

Steve reported that the Newton Library will publicize Father Drinan's talk, "Reflections on the War on Terrorism." Our group will be the co-sponsors. It will be held on Wednesday, March 13, at 7 P.M. in the Main Library. We discussed additional publicity through Newton Cable, the League of Women Voters' Newsletter (as it turns out, we've missed that publication deadline), as well as the Tab and post cards and e-mails to friends. Dan is going to look into the possibility of having an article about the talk or an Emily Rooney interview with Drinan after the fact.

Edie urged us all to publicize the talk via cards and e-mail and speaking to friends, as this will publicize our group as well.

The Library is planning to hold two further talks, later in the spring, which will attempt to reflect other opinions on the war.

Prasannan then talked about the March 1 petition effort, coordinated by 15 Boston area communities. Peace organizations within these communities will march to the offices of its Congressional representatives to present a petition for restraint in the current crisis. Prasannan will send to all of us by this Friday copies of the final language of the petition, so that we can each try to get as many signatures on it as possible before Friday, March 1. The petition has six main points:

* Support an independent investigation of civilian deaths in Afghanistan
* Oppose widening the war beyond Afghanistan
* Support humanitarian aid to the victims of the war
* Repeal provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act that undermine our civil liberties
* Oppose increasing the military budget at the expense of needed domestic programs

Louise reminded us to think of arranging for photo coverage of this event.

Louise then passed around a brochure describing a walk by a Buddhist group to promote peace. It has begun in Western Massachusetts and will pass through Newton on Wednesday, February 13. They would like to meet for a morning prayer before beginning the day's walk to Boston and beyond, and we agreed to meet at 8:00 A.M. at the corner of Beacon and Center Streets. Those who can walk with them are welcome; those who can only wish them well are also welcome. She stressed again that arranging publicity with the Tab and Globe West is important.

Members then reported on the Saturday peace action meeting in Cambridge. Speakers there pointed out that the U.S. lacks international authority to extend this war, that the lack of international cooperation will have serious consequences. The question arises, as well, where are our senators in this crisis? Where is Barney Frank?
Notes, continued

- Prasannan pointed out that there is a connection between the military budget and current shortfall in school funds. We may want to try to bring that up in public discussions of a Prop 2 1/2 override. There is a connection between these things.
- Louise is concerned with alternative energy sources and the role that oil plays in these crises.
- Steve urged everyone in the group to follow Ros Winson’s example and write letters to the newspapers about these issues.
- Dick reminded us of Maureen’s suggestion at the last meeting of creating a sister-city connection between Newton and a city in Afghanistan.

We then discussed our group’s mission statement. Dick, Steve, and Dan each presented a version of the group’s goals and concerns. Dan distributed copies of these versions, and we each will read them before the next meeting so that we come up with a final statement at that time.

To help our group grow, we talked about trying to reach other peace-related groups in the city, such as NAND, WAND, 20/20, and the Coalition for a Strong UN, as well as the Society of Friends, the Social Workers for Peace and Justice, and the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom. We should each try to contact people we know and let these groups know of our existence and of the date of our next meeting:

Sunday, February 17, 7:30, at the Nathansons’ house, 11 Niles Road (off Brewster Road, which is off Woodward Street), 617-946-8707.

At this 2/17 meeting we will need to:
1. Plan the format of the Drinan event.
2. Approve a final mission statement.
3. Plan for the March 1 petition action.

Remember to come to Newton Center to support the Buddhist walkers “For a New Spring” on Wednesday, February 13, at 8 A.M.

Thanks to all,

Linda

P.S. On Monday, February 11, at 7 P.M. Rep. Kay Kahn will be speaking at the Highlands Congregational

This informal group gets a name.

During the fall of 2001, and into winter and spring of 2002, the group continued to meet in a succession of larger and larger living rooms. By early 2002 the group had adopted the name “Newton Dialogues on Peace and War.” The idea of “dialogue” was important to the group, allowing “room to disagree in a spirit of cordiality,” as Doris Tennant expressed it. Dick Sterne suggested that the word order “peace and war,” was preferable, as “war and peace” was already taken.

[In one very nice example of this approach we invited a representative of a local bookstore to meet informally to discuss his recent public remarks about Israel. Several of us had been very disturbed by his remarks, but one person in the group—a Quaker—just said, “Let’s invite him over to talk.” We did just that, and an informal meeting in Sev and Louise Bruyns’ living room produced real warmth and communication.]

As more and more people began hearing about the group and attending meetings, the problem of space became pressing. One participant (Diane Price) was a member of the
United Church of Christ (Eliot Church) in Newton Corner, and by September of 2002, she had arranged for rental of space in the church chapel. The church had offered support years earlier to the civil rights movement, and once again they graciously offered space for a nominal fee. For the rest of the decade the Eliot Church sanctuary and chapel were the main locus for the Newton peace group’s meetings and programs. In addition, some of the group’s early events were held at the Brown Middle School, and those that were co-sponsored by the Newton Free Public Library were held in the Main Library auditorium.

Our first public event was held on March 13, 2002*, at the Newton Free Public Library. It was a talk by Father Robert Drinan, former Newton representative to Congress, called “Reflections on America’s Response to the September 11 Attacks.” The article in the Newton Tab announcing the talk describes NDPW as a “citizens’ group dedicated to democratic dialogue and the goals of peace and justice. The group seeks peaceful, internationalist responses to terrorism and other global problems.”

A Steering Committee – The Working Group

While the monthly large-group meetings—often with speakers—served as a forum to learn about issues involved in war, peace, and other pressing political problems and to share outrage and fear, it soon became clear that in order to plan programs and events, a smaller organizing group was needed. This led to the creation of the Working Group in November, 2002, to act as a steering committee. By that time, we had a treasurer, a telephone tree to reach those who didn’t use e-mail, a Web site, built and managed by Octo Barnett, later maintained by Dave Ascher, and a committee to create signs to use at the weekly vigil that had begun in July, 2002. Notes at Working Group meetings were taken initially by Linda Nathanson, and eventually, the role of recording secretary rotated among the Working Group members. Newton Dialogues was not hierarchical, had no formal “membership” as such, and suggestions for programs and events flowed upward from individuals in the group as much as downward from this Working Group. Many notes from the Working Group can be found in Notebook #3 that accompanies this History in the Newton Historical Society, Jackson Homestead and Museum.
The Vigil

By the summer of 2002, it became clear that the Bush administration was planning a war against Iraq. In response, Newton Dialogues began to hold a weekly vigil to oppose a war in Iraq. The first one was held on July 11, 2002 in Newton Center, at the corner of Centre and Beacon Streets. Louise Bruyn created a huge banner with a wooden frame that identified the group. Later on, Dave Ascher made a collapsible frame out of PVC piping that was easier to carry. Different people contributed signs and posters, many created by Alice Aronow, who was later helped by a committee of poster-makers.

One person took responsibility for bringing the signs every week, and another person took responsibility for bringing the huge banner. This is a good example of how people in NDPW contributed freely of their own skills. Some contacted speakers, some suggested programs, some did the art work, some spoke at other community meetings to publicize the peace group and encourage others to take action to oppose the invasion of Iraq.

We printed a sheet of advice* to those who wished to stand with us in quiet vigil. However, sometimes, the vigil wasn’t quiet at all. This was especially the case that first fall when a large number of Boston College students joined. Their energy was greatly appreciated, even if louder than our usual crowd. In all kinds of weather, the vigil group stood at the corner through the decade after 9/11. It is still meeting at the time this writing, 2016. The weekly vigil numbered anywhere from 10 to 50, depending on events going on in Afghanistan and Iraq. Over 1000 people joined an extraordinary candlelight vigil for peace on the Newton Center Green on the Sunday before the United States invaded Iraq on March 20, 2003.

We publicized the weekly vigil by a notice in the Newton Tab, inviting people who opposed an attack on Iraq to join us. Many people joined the vigil because of these announcements, and others joined because they saw the protest every Thursday when they were driving home from work. The vigil gave participants a chance to connect with one another and to be witnesses against what protesters (and many others) considered immoral actions by the U.S. government.

Protesters in the vigil frequently interacted with drivers passing by, most of whom shouted support, and some of whom vehemently disagreed. Inserted before the Appendix at the end of this History, for instance, is the dialogue printed in the Newton Tab between Linda Nathanson and a woman in her red car who passed the vigil every week and always shouted, “What about 9/11!” Since Iraq had had nothing to do with the attacks of 9/11, it seemed important to answer this woman’s angry question publicly.

As both the war in Iraq and our weekly protest vigil continued, Dan Shaw made a folding easel on which another Dialogues member, Susan Mirsky, created a way of posting the growing number of Iraqi civilians killed and number of American military killed and
wounded. This easel of numbers of dead and wounded became a powerful presence at each vigil.

The vigil gave us an opportunity to talk with people and publicize events. At the vigil we collected e-mail and mailing addresses, and we soon realized that we needed a post office box for folks to contact us and a bank account for contributions. Slowly an organization was taking shape. In addition, Octo Barnett and, later, Dave Ascher, created and maintained a Web site to publicize NDPW’s events and provide links to other groups and events in other communities.

If we were going to organize programs, we realized that we needed a regular meeting time for the group. Having a regular place and time meant that the community would know that speakers and discussions would be taking place, and more and more people would be drawn into the conversation about war and peace. We settled on having a monthly meeting on the third Sunday of the month and publicized them with our yellow “vigil” card, distributed at every vigil and protest event.

The Working Group served to come up with the ideas, but it was through the vigil that programs, talks, and films were publicized. This small yellow card above was created to distribute at the vigil to passersby, so they would know who we were and why we were standing on that corner. At the vigil, more people signed up to receive e-mail notices of events, both in Newton and elsewhere, and the roster of participants continued to grow.
The weekly Thursday afternoon vigil has been an important part of Newton Dialogues since July 11, 2002, and persists until the present time (2016).

At every vigil and at every monthly meeting prior to the invasion of Iraq NDPW distributed the following Statement of Purpose:

Statement of Purpose in Opposing Attack on Iraq

Newton Dialogues on Peace and War
P.O. Box 610395
Newton, MA 02461
http://Newtondialog.hone.attbi.com

WHY DO WE OPPOSE A U.S. ATTACK ON IRAQ?

1. Because an attack against Iraq will lead to huge loss of life. Under the conditions of modern war, huge numbers of people, civilians as well as combatants, Iraqis as well as Americans, will be killed or injured. Iraq would be devastated, making life difficult for years to come.

2. Because attacking Iraq will make America less safe. Given the turmoil in the Middle East and the hostility of many Muslims to US policies, a US attack could arouse intense opposition in many countries, possibly destabilizing the regimes that we currently support. It could provoke exactly the kind of biological or chemical attack by Saddam Hussein that we fear and could inspire others to launch terrorist attacks against the United States and against Americans abroad.

3. Because it would violate the Charter of the United Nations. Article 33 calls for the resolution by "peaceful means" of "any dispute, the continuance of which is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security." Article 51 recognizes "the inherent right of individual or collective self-defense" but limits military actions to circumstances in which "an armed attack occurs against a Member of the United Nations." A preventive war would violate this provision.

4. Because it will alienate our friends and allies throughout the world. Virtually every other nation opposes an attack and favors the use of international institutions and diplomacy. A "go it alone" strategy will undermine both our status in the world and our hopes to combat terrorism, since this can only be done with the cooperation of others.

5. Because it will make us less able to meet the pressing needs of our society. We should be seeking a society in which all people have access to education, medical care, adequate food and shelter rather than spending our great national wealth on military action.

Newton Dialogues on Peace and War urges you to join us in opposing a US attack on Iraq. Use your democratic rights to call on Senators, Congressional representatives, and the President to renounce the plan for a pre-emptive war and to adopt an internationalist, diplomatic approach that is based on UN policies adopted at the end of the 1991 Gulf War.
In February-March, 2003 NDPW collected $3000 for an ad in the *Newton Tab* opposing the Iraq invasion. It appeared the week before the March 20, 2003, invasion began.

March 12, 2003
Newton Dialogue sent three bus loads (about 150 people) to the New York City protest against the invasion, February 15, 2003.

NEWTON DIALOGUES ON PEACE & WAR

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15
In NEW YORK CITY
We will Join People
From Around the Country
& Around the World
To Say No to War.
Be There With Us!!

Our Newton Dialogues bus will leave from Riverside MBTA
at 6:30 A.M. and return by 11:00 P.M.
First come, first served.

Reserve a seat now by sending a check for $30 to
Judith Hudson, 381 Linwood Avenue, Newton, MA 02460
Make checks out to Newton Dialogues on Peace & War.

Pictured left to right are Susan Mirsky, Louise Bruyn, Linda Nathanson, and Sarah Barnett, some of the 150 people from Newton Dialogues who traveled to New York City to take part in the massive protest march against the imminent invasion of Iraq.
The vigil that began in July 2002 continued into the winter of 2003, when it became clear that the war we had opposed so strongly was going to happen. As the war came closer, the numbers of people joining us grew, and at times, a huge number of people clustered on all four corners of Newton Center.

Many of us wondered whether the war could have been prevented if more people had stood on street corners in towns and cities throughout the United States.

In March of 2003 Newton Dialogues published a statement* by Dr. Bernard Lown, against a U.S. attack on Iraq. Dr. Lown, a Newton resident, is the co-founder of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War and the winner of the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize. See the Appendix for Dr. Lown’s statement.
Newton Dialogues on Peace & War was formed by a group of Newton Citizens shortly after the September 11 attacks. We were united by a sense of urgency about the challenges facing our country and a concern about the policies that our government might adopt in the response to the terrorist attacks.

Our initial concerns

When we first formed,

- we feared that our government would respond to the September 11 attacks through the use of massive military force;
- we thought that reliance on military means could decrease the security of our country and other peoples;
- we believed that efforts to prevent terrorism must be grounded in international cooperation;
- we were disturbed that in the weeks and months after September 11, there was so little discussion and debate about how our country should respond to the threat of terrorism.
- Believing that democracy can flourish only if citizens discuss and debate government policies rather than simply acquiescing in them, we named our group Newton Dialogues on Peace & War.

Our fears confirmed

In the time since our group began, many of our worst fears have been confirmed:

- Instead of a focused search for those who committed the September 11 attacks, the Bush administration chose to engage in a war against Afghanistan, leading to many civilian deaths and scattering terrorist groups to other countries.
- In September 2002, the Bush Administration announced a new national security policy that stresses a strategy of unilateral, preventive wars against possible enemies.
- The war against Iraq was the first of these wars, and forces within the administration favor additional wars—against Iran, Syria, North Korea, and others.
- In order to create public support for the war against Iraq, the Bush administration misled the American people, creating the false impression that Saddam Hussein was connected to the September 11 attacks and greatly
exaggerating the threat of an Iraqi attack against the United States, even though Iraq had no nuclear weapons.

* There continues to be a lack of serious debate about our country’s foreign policy, as political candidates fear denunciation for criticizing the President and “news” channels mislead people with one-sided propaganda.

### How the United States has been damaged

In launching the war on Iraq, the Bush administration acted with disdain for international law, the UN, and world opinion.

- Our country is now seen by people throughout the world as a major threat to peace and stability.
- While the war in Iraq has succeeded militarily, costly difficult tasks remain in restoring Iraq.
- The problems of terrorism and nuclear, chemical and biological weapons remain unsolved.
- Our own economy is weak, and state and local governments are in crisis.

**The United States needs a new direction**

- While we acknowledge that there are no simple answers to the problems that confront our nation and the rest of the world, Newton Dialogues urges a new direction for the United States.

### We oppose

The unilateral, militaristic policies of the Bush administration and its indifference to domestic policies that promote a good life for Americans.

### We support

- Multilateralism, international law, and the UN,
- Protection of our cherished civil liberties and constitutional rights, and democratic traditions,
- Resources to help children, the poor the elderly,
- Improving health care, education, the environment,
- Fair taxes and economic policies that will benefit the vast majority of Americans.

### What we have done

- Since the fall of 2001, Newton Dialogues has grown from a group of ten to over 600 members.
- We have a Website that is rich in information.
- We have sponsored public talks on the war on terrorism, the Middle East, the war on Iraq, nuclear weapons, and the USA Patriot Act.
- We have held a weekly peace vigil since July 2002, joined rallies in New York and Boston, and lobbied our Congressional representatives.
- Our members have spoken at local churches and taken part in numerous community events.
• A new electronic newspaper is being launched, and more community education and dialogue programs are planned.

**What you can do**

• Check our website for more information about our group: www.newtondialog.org

• Join our mailing list by writing to univ@attbi.com or P.O Box 610395, Newton, MA 02461

• Join us in our weekly peace vigil. We meet every Thursday, from 5 to 6 at the corner of Beacon and Centre Streets.

• Come to our monthly meetings, usually held at 7:30 on the 2nd Sunday of the month at the Eliot Church, 474 Centre Street, Newton Corner.

• Commit yourself to working for peace and justice in whatever way you can.

This four-page booklet--included in the Appendix--was distributed at every event and every vigil. Slowly, the local community and people from other communities began to recognize Newton Dialogues and its activities and to sign up to receive e-mail information.

**Alternative Views**

*Alternative Views* was a monthly publication of Newton Dialogues from June, 2003 to October, 2004. The complete collection of *Alternative Views 2003-2004* is included in the Appendix.

In March of 2003 Dr. Bernard Lown gave a talk at the NDPW monthly meeting about the efficacy of political action, recounting his own experience with International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War. In the course of his speech, he described an on-line newsletter in South Korea that drew together articles from the Internet and had a serious and broad political impact in that country.

After Dr. Lown’s talk, several members of NDPW were inspired by the example of the Korean on-line paper to establish a local Newton newsletter that would have articles that many people might otherwise not see from around the world: articles relating to the Iraq war, to human rights, Israel/Palestine, and other pressing questions. They called the newsletter *Alternative Views*, which was available on-line and in print form, distributed at local MBTA stops and at the Newton Free Library. Dick Sterne was one of the prime movers, and Dr. Lown contributed substantial seed money to the effort.

The newsletter had an Editorial Board of seven members of NDPW: Daniela Bartelesi-Graf, Severyn Bruyn, Barbara G. Flanagan, James Murdock, Frank Propp, Allan Rubin, and Dick Sterne. Jane Brown contributed occasional illustrations. AV was published
roughly every month, with its first issue on June 11, 2003 and the last on October 20, 2004.

Articles were taken from such diverse sources as the Guardian in the UK, the Toronto Star, The New York Review of Books, and from on-line sources as well. The newsletter included editorials and book reviews, a special issue on the legacy of Hiroshima, the USA Patriot Act, and the Level 4 Bio-weapons lab proposed by Boston University.

Prospectus of Alternative Views:

“When, in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connect them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God entitle them, A DECENT RESPECT TO THE OPINIONS OF MANKIND requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.” (The Declaration of Independence, in Congress, July, 1776. Emphasis added.)

In the spirit of the DECENT RESPECT FOR THE OPINIONS OF MANKIND invoked by the Declaration of Independence, Newton Dialogues on Peace and War launches with this issue Alternative Views, a print and electronic publication. It will provide you, our subscribers, with a broad spectrum of information and opinion from the United States and other parts of the world. The newspaper will cite, summarize and analyze news reports and editorial commentaries from local and worldwide print, Internet and broadcast sources.

In issues of Alternative Views, we’ll be asking you, our readers, for feedback on a particular item in our reports. A thoughtful alternative to the mainstream media—controlled by fewer and fewer owners—Alternative Views will also be an antidote of candor to the evasions and timorousness of most of the news and opinion sources with which we’re all familiar.

Our editorial focus will be on the need for citizens within nations, and nations within the world community, to understand and seek solutions to such fundamental problems as

- the enormous gap between the material wealth and relative security of a small number of people, and the hunger, malnutrition, disease, inadequate education and bleak future of the majority;
- the unfair denial to many groups of people of basic human and civil rights;
- the imperial ambitions of the United States and its recently asserted right—in defiance of the United Nations charter—to wage preemptive wars.

The editors of Alternative Views seek a world where social justice becomes a foundation of long-lasting peace.”
Below is a copy of the first page of the first issue to give a sense of the newsletter’s focus and to appreciate the eloquence of its initial statement of purpose. The newsletter, as Dick Sterne so well expressed it, became an “antidote against despair” for those contributing.

Alternative Views
www.alternative-views.org
Volume 1, Number 1
June 11, 2003

Bush planned Iraq 'regime change' before becoming President

By Neil Mackay

Sunday Herald (Glasgow); 9/15/02

A SECRET Blueprint for US global domination reveals that President Bush and his cabinet were planning a premeditated attack on Iraq to secure "regime change" even before he took power in January 2001.

The blueprint, uncovered by the Sunday Herald, for the creation of a "global Pax Americana" was drawn up by Dick Cheney (now vice-president), Donald Rumsfeld (defence secretary), Paul Wolfowitz (Rumsfeld's deputy), George W. Bush's younger brother Jeb and Lewis Libby (Cheney's chief of staff). The document, entitled Rebuilding America’s Defences: Strategies, Forces and Resources for a New Century, was written in September 2000 by the neo-conservative think-tank Project for the New American Century (PNAC).

The plan shows Bush's cabinet intended to take military control of the Gulf region whether or not Saddam Hussein was in power. It says: "The United States has for decades sought to play a more permanent role in Gulf regional security. While the unresolved conflict with Iraq provides the immediate justification, the need for a substantial American force presence in the Gulf transcends the issue of the regime of Saddam Hussein."

The PNAC document supports a "blueprint for maintaining global US pre-eminence, producing the rise of a great power rival, and shaping the international security order in line with American principles and interests."

This "American grand strategy" must be advanced for "as far into the future as possible," the report says. It also calls for the US to "fight decisively" with multiple, simultaneous major theatre wars as a "core mission."

The report describes American armed forces abroad as "the cavalry on the new American frontier." The PNAC blueprint supports an earlier document written by Wolfowitz and Libby that said the US must "discourage advanced industrial nations from challenging our leadership or even aspiring to a larger regional or global role."

The PNAC report also:
• refers to key allies such as the UK as "the most effective and efficient means of exercising American global leadership."

(Continued on page 2)

Alternative Views Prospectus

"When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, A DECENT RESPECT TO THE OPINIONS OF MANKIND requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation." (The Declaration of Independence, in Congress, July, 1776. Emphasis added.)

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Our editorial focus will be on the need for citizens within nations, and nations within the world community, to understand and seek solutions to such fundamental problems as:
• the enormous gap between the material wealth and relative security of a small number of people, and the hunger, malnutrition, disease, inadequate education and bleak future of the majority;
• the unfair denial to many groups of people of basic human and civil rights;
• the imperial ambitions of the United States and its recently asserted right — in defiance of the United Nations charter — to wage preemptive wars. The editors of Alternative Views seek a world where social justice becomes a foundation of long-lasting peace."

21
Resolutions Brought to the Newton Board of Aldermen

In the years after 9/11, Newton Dialogues presented five petitions to the Newton Board of Aldermen, urging them to take peace-oriented stands regarding United States policies. Although the wording of the final resolutions sometimes differed from what NDPW had proposed, between November, 2002, and October, 2009, NDPW sponsored five resolutions that were passed by the Newton Board of Aldermen.

NDPW Petitions

2002: Against the invasion of Iraq
2003: Supporting civil rights and opposing the USA Patriot Act
2007: Opposing building the BU Level 4 Biosafety Lab in Boston
2008: Calling for an immediate end to the Iraq war
2009: Supporting Barney Frank’s proposal for 25% reduction of the U. S. military budget

1. November 4, 2002: “Resolved that….President Bush and his Administration work with the United Nations for the peaceful resolution of this situation to exercise strong leadership in an international effort to disarm Iraq…and that only when all non-military options have been thoroughly exhausted should they…cause our country to enter into a war…that may produce intolerable casualties to both American and Iraqi citizens [and] destabilize the region….”

2. August 11, 2003: “Resolved that the Newton Board of Aldermen supports the government of the United States of America in its campaign against terrorism, and affirms its commitment that the campaign NOT be waged at the expense of essential civil rights and liberties of citizens of this country contained in the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights; and the City of Newton requests and urges its delegation in Congress to monitor the implementation of the USA PATRIOT ACT….”

3. June 18, 2007: Resolved “to urge a halt to the construction of the level 4 bio lab…until the successful completion of required environmental…reviews….and is…opposed to the construction of the BSL4 Laboratories in densely populated areas….”

4. February 4, 2008: Resolved to call on the United States Government to end the war in Iraq….”

5. October 19, 2009: Resolved “to…endorse Representative Barney Frank’s proposal to reduce the military budget by 25%....”

The text of all five resolutions* is included in the Appendix at the end of this history.
As part of the resolution against the USA Patriot Act adopted by the Board of Aldermen, NDPW requested that a sign be placed in the reference section of the Newton Free Public Library, informing citizens that the USA Patriot Act allows federal agents to obtain records of borrowers’ activities and “prohibits those Library officials from revealing when this has occurred.” Newton citizens were thus made aware that the Patriot Act permitted incursions into the privacy of library patrons. Nothing could be done to affect this federal law, but Newton Dialogues was rightly proud of this sign.

Also included in Folder 6 are articles from The Newton Tab covering the USA Patriot Act Resolution by the Newton Board of Aldermen.

The NDPW effort to bring this particular resolution successfully to the Board of Aldermen was organized and accomplished by the efforts of NDPW members, Dan Shaw, Prasannan Parthasarathy, Tony Winsor, Octo Barnett, Steve Linsky, and Joselyn Almeida.

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Actions and Projects of Newton Dialogues on Peace and War, 2001 - 2007

The following overview of the actions, speakers, workshops, and other events that were organized during this period gives a sense of the variety and scope of the programs this local peace group initiated (an asterisk* indicates that the text is included in the Appendix).

- Created a Mission Statement* and Statement of Purpose, opposing a U.S. attack on Iraq*
- Announcements* of coming events were distributed at each Sunday meeting. These were an important part of NDPW communication with the community. Those from 2003-2005 are contained in Notebook #2 with the copy of this History available at the Jackson Homestead.
- At every monthly meeting and every weekly vigil a sign up sheet was distributed. Through these sheets an e-mail roster of over 1000 people interested in peace and justice issues.
- Created By-Laws, December, 2004*
- Created a Web site (initially called www.newtondialog.org) with information about the group, its programs and links to related sites and events.
- Opened a post office box in Newton Highlands.
- Opened a bank account and appointed a treasurer.
- Held a weekly vigil since July 11, 2002*, against the Iraq war and government threats to our civil liberties. Information sheet given out at every vigil.*
- Prompted the Newton Board of Aldermen to pass five resolutions,* four with respect to U.S. foreign policy, and one opposing a Level 4 Bioweapons Lab planned for Boston.

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• Set up a peace information table at the outside entrance of the Newton Free Library every Saturday for several years. Petitions, fact sheets, etc. were distributed.
• Circulated statement by Dr. Bernard Lown, opposing the U.S. invasion of Iraq.*
• Formed Media Outreach Committee to publicize events, handle contacts with local media.
• Several members joined the local cable channel NEWTV to promote more coverage for peace issues. Two of these interviews can be viewed on VHS videos available in the archives of the Jackson Homestead.
• Two members, Doris Tennant and Sherry Moore, began a program for NEWTV, interviewing local academics and activists about public policy and peace.
• Held monthly meetings with speakers and discussion opportunities for the community. (Most flyers are included in the Appendix.)
• Organized hundreds of talks, demonstrations, and film showings*.

**Talks and lectures organized, 2002 - 2007:**

Meetings were publicized every week in the *Newton Tab*; those held in the Newton Free Public Library were also announced in the Library newsletter. Meetings are listed chronologically.

9. “Why We are in Iraq, Qatar, North Korea and *Trouble* and What We can do about It.” *Joe Gerson, AFSC, November 9, 2003.


15. “Remembering the Atomic Bombings of August, 1945.” Vigil on Saturday, August 7, 2004, and a film showing Hiroshima: The Legacy and “Thinking about the Bomb,” talk by Prof. Gerald Herman, August 7, 2004*


22. “A Declaration of Moral Outrage.* Evening of discussion to launch a drive to engage the whole community in a statement of outrage at the war of occupation in Iraq.


31. “Impact of the War in our communities” with Neighbor to Neighbor, April 9, 2006.

32. Special Mother’s Day Program, songs and poetry on the steps of Newton City Hall, May 14, 2006*.

33. “Focus on Iran,” special panel co-sponsored with Newton City Democratic Committee, Progressive Democrats, and Democracy for America, June 11, 2006.


35. John Bonifaz, candidate for Massachusetts Secretary of State, “The Case for Impeaching George W. Bush.” Sunday, July 9, 2006. (This talk led to a petition circulated by NDPW, “Vote to Impeach.”) See Folder #4 of photos.

37. Phone calls to support Democrat candidate for Congress from CT, October, 2006.


**Demonstrations, petitions and actions:**

- Circulated a petition to oppose the Iraq invasion, fall, 2002.
- Held an information table at the Newton Harvest and Spring Fests, and Newton Highland’s Village Day for several years.
- Participated in the November 3, 2002, anti-war rally in Boston.
- In 2002-2003 distributed Martin Luther King’s *Silence is Betrayal* speech, given at the Riverside Church in New York City, April 4, 1967.
- Created a leaflet of peace quotations and MLK stickers*, distributed to several Newton churches, weeks of January 12 and 19, 2003.
- Distributed two booklets of peace quotations* at Martin Luther King, Jr. Newton observances, January 20, 2003, prior to the March, 2003, invasion and often at the Thursday vigil.
- Organized three busses [150 people] to the New York demonstration against the invasion of Iraq; February15, 2003*.
- Raised over $3000 to publish a full page anti-war ad in the Newton TAB, March 2003.
- Organized local candlelight vigil (over 1000 people) on the Newton Green, Sunday, March 16, 2003, just prior to the U.S. invasion of Iraq.
- Participated in the March 29, 2003, anti-war rally in Boston.
- Fund Raisers held in the fall of 2003 and in 2006.*
- Spoke at Newton’s Mothers for Peace* gathering on Mother’s Day, May 9, 2004
- Vigils of remembrance held in early August on Newton Green to mark the anniversary of the Hiroshima-Nagasaki bombings.
- Presented a **Peace Petition** with 1000 signatures to Newton Mayor David Cohen, November 1, 2004.
- Supported a variety of letter-writing efforts to encourage voting in the 2004 election.
- Voter registration tables held at Newton Spring Fest and every week at the Newton Farmers’ Market. Over 300 people registered.
- Letter to Mayor David Cohen (2005)*, urging that high school students and parents be made aware of their right to opt-out of having their personal information sent to military recruiters. NDPW wanted to make students aware that this practice is a little known feature of the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.
- Organized local vigil* to mark the second anniversary of the Iraq invasion, March 19, 2005.
- Urged Mayor David Cohen to declare Nuclear Disarmament Day in Newton, August 6, 2005* See the [Proclamation itself in the Appendix.](#)
- Created and circulated the *Declaration of Moral Outrage Petition* 2006 and sent it to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld*.
- Supported petition campaign in Newton to put on the Withdrawal from Iraq* question on the ballot, February, 2006.
- Candlelight vigil with 120 people, January 11, 2007, to protest “surge” of new troops in Iraq.
- Organized fund Raiser for Newton attorneys Doris Tennant and Ellen Lobell, who were volunteering to represent a detainee at Guantanamo. This event was held at the Newton Free Public Library, April 4, 2007.* In the Appendix can be found also a letter from Tennant and Lubell explaining their defense of Guantanamo detainee, Abdul Aziz Naji and a list of *Top 10 Myths about Guantanamo Bay.*
- Supported statewide campaign to set a specific date for withdrawal from Iraq. See correspondence with Senator Edward Kennedy, October, 2008.*

**Workshops:**

- Martin Luther King Day Workshop* for members to take stock: January 19, 2004
- Letter writing election workshop, October, 2004
- December, 2004, training for peace work, with Mike Prokosch and Cynthia from United for Justice with Peace group in Boston.
- MLK -Workshop/retreat* to plan future activities: January 16, 2006
- Workshop meeting devoted to issues related to proposed immediate U.S. withdrawal from Iraq, February 12, 2006. Summary* provided.
Film Showings:

Many of these films were fund-raisers for NDPW. In some cases, we rented the use of the West Newton Cinema. These events drew large audiences and consisted of a film followed by group discussion.

- **Uncovered: The Truth About the War in Iraq*** a film by Robert Greenwald, shown at the West Newton Cinema, March 2004.
- **Outfoxed: The Fox News Story** Shown at the Klein-Strauss home, July 2004.
- **You Can’t be Neutral on a Moving Train*** Howard Zinn’s story, West Newton Cinema, January 25, 2005. Howard Zinn was present for this film and discussion.
- **The Revolution will not be Televised*** Venezuelan coup attempt, West Newton Cinema. The speaker was Rev. Mike Clark, pastor of St. John’s Church in Watertown. The film and talk were enriched by the presence of Venezuelans with different political views in our audience.
- **Unconstitutional:** The War on Civil Liberties, moderated by Charles Baron, Professor of Law, Boston College Law School. Held at West Newton Cinema, March 2, 2005.
- **Why We Fight*** May 31, 2006. Film focusing on the military-industrial complex. Held at the West Newton Cinema and honoring Dr. and Mrs. Bernard Lown.
- **Anat’s Children**, film about the plight of Palestinian refugees, Eliot Church.
- **Knowledge is the Beginning,*** film describing founding of a youth orchestra by Daniel Barenboim and Edward Said that is made up of Israeli Jews and Arabs, June 11, 2007.

Other Actions:

- Created brochure 2003 for distribution, **Dialogue on Peace and War***
- Created statement of reasons for opposing war in Iraq.
- Distributed list of “Things You Can Do.”** 2003
- “Making the Case for Leaving Iraq,”** 2006
- Distributed information on “Out of Iraq” bills in Congress* and contact numbers for congressional representatives.
- Awarded Peace and Justice Awards: 2003 to Howard Zinn, in 2004 to Dr. Bernard Lown and Louise Lown, and in 2005 to Alice Aronow—specifically for her creation of hundreds of posters for the weekly peace vigil. Alice created a cottage industry of poster making in her own home. She gave a face to NDPW’s presence at the vigil and other protests.
- Visited Senators Kennedy and Kerry, urging opposition to war on Iraq.
- Formed a committee to study the threats to our civil rights posed by the USA Patriot Act of 2001.
• Local actions to support inclusion of “Mosaic” programming on NEWTV that would reflect Arabic reality.
• Set up a table at the Newton Free Library every Saturday and for several years there, distributed NDPW material, statements about peace, and entering into challenging conversations about the invasion and the policies of our government.

**Presentations to local groups:** Several people within NDPW took responsibility for outreach. Among them were Octo Barnett, Dick Sterne, Prasannan Parasarathy, Susan Mirsky, and Linda and Steve Nathanson.

• Needham Council on Aging Current Events Group, Stephen Palmer Senior Center*
• Coalition for a Strong UN, Newton chapter
• Eliot Church Outreach Committee
• Lasell Village Association – two different presentations
• Newton Clergy Association
• Our Lady, Help of Christians*, Committee on Social Justice
• Needham Interfaith Committee
• Weston Dialogues on War and Peace (modeled after our group)
• Newton South High School program (2002)
• Newton League of Women Voters
• Newton Senior Center
• Newton South High School (2003)
• Unitarian-Universalist Society of Newton, Community Service for Peace, 9/11/06

**Committees:**

Below are listed some of the committees within NDPW. Some are on-going, some were created for a particular project.

• Working Group – meeting once a month, beginning in 2001 and ongoing. This group was key to organizing events.
• Creating and maintaining the Web page
• Israel/Palestine issues
• Opposing Military Recruiting in the Schools
• Legislative Action Committee
• Media Outreach Committee
• NEWTV interviewing program
• Alternative News staff
• USA Patriot Act
• Artists
• Election 2004
• Saturday Tabling Group, with petitions, and information sheets at an outside table at the Newton Free Public Library
Social events:

- Potluck Dinner, February 2, 2003
- Picnic for members, July 6, 2003
- Potluck dinner to welcome Camilo Mejia, an Iraqi veteran, now war resister.

Musical and theatrical events:

- Mystic Chorale Concert and Poetry Reading by Lloyd Schwartz, Fund Raiser,* June 6, 2004
- Folk Sing Honoring Pete Seeger’s 83rd birthday, May 2005.
- *Guantanamo: Honor Bound to Defend Freedom*, public reading, December 11, 2005, performed in the sanctuary of the Eliot Church in Newton Corner. The program brochure is included in the Appendix and the script itself can be found in Folder #1, hard copy located at the Newton Jackson Homestead. The play was created and originally performed by the Tricycle theatre company in England.
- NDPW held song fests, and songs were sung at multiple events*

Songs were frequently part of NDPW activities. Here are Dan Shaw playing the guitar, Steve Nathanson on the recorder, Sev Bruyn and Octo Barnett singing with others. Sherry Moore stands to the right. On the bench and standing to the left are Susan Mirsky Ena Lorant, Rhona Shoul, and Martha Penzer. Sarah Barnett is seated on the blanket.

Some of NDPW’s activities were educational, some were participatory. All of them energized those who planned them, and most provoked thoughtful reactions among the participants.
Two Peace Booklets

1. Martin Luther King, Jr., *Reflections on Peace and War*. This booklet was distributed at the City of Newton’s MLK service on January 21, 2003, at Temple Shalom in an effort to rouse protest against the coming invasion of Iraq. The booklet contains statements on peace from Dwight Eisenhower, Mohandas Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., and from the Books of Deuteronomy and Matthew.

2. NDPW *A Dialogue on Peace and War*. Like the MLK brochure, except that it contained more direct appeals for peace from the families of 9/11 victims. Created in 2002 and circulated thereafter at the vigil and at public talks.

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**REFLECTIONS ON PEACE AND WAR**

The threat of war hangs over our world at this moment. May we remember the wisdom of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. in earlier crises in our history. May we remember his message of non-violence and the importance of speaking out in a democracy.

“A time comes when silence is betrayal. Even when pressed by the demands of inner truth, men do not easily assume the task of opposing their government’s policy, especially in time of war...[but] If we do not act, we shall surely be dragged down the long, dark, and shameful corridors of time reserved for those who possess power without compassion, might without morality, and strength without sight.”

—Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., 1967

**Newton Dialogues on Peace and War**

We hold a peace vigil every Thursday evening from 5 to 6 P.M. at the corner of Beacon and Centre Streets.
These page booklets were created and circulated in Newton early in 2003 and thereafter. On the back page of each booklet were provided a brief summary of the goals of Newton Dialogues, as well as contact information for government officials. Both booklets in full can be found in the Appendix.

**Notes from the Working Group and Announcements at the Monthly Meeting**

We’ve said that the Internet was key to creating NDPW, but old-fashioned written notes kept it together and growing. Minutes of the Working (planning) Group (WG) were sent by e-mail to the 6 to 10 people who met every month to plan programs for the larger group, the monthly Sunday evening meetings, as well as speakers and films for the whole community.

In addition, at every regular Sunday meeting hard copies of Announcements of events (NDPW’s and other groups) were distributed to the audience.

For years Linda Nathanson sent weekly email letters were sent to the entire distribution list, with announcements and information about NDPW events and other groups’ events.

Samples of the Working Group minutes and the monthly Announcements are contained in Notebooks 2 and 3, available at the Jackson Homestead, 527 Washington St., Newton.

We usually drew from 30 to 40 people at Sunday meetings and passed the hat to collect money to cover rental of the space in the Eliot Church.

**Declaration of Moral Outrage**

In 2005 NDPW launched a campaign called, “A Declaration of Moral Outrage.”* The hope was that this statement would create a national movement of outrage. A petition was created, signed by hundreds of people, and given to Newton Mayor Cohen and sent in March, 2006, to Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld. All relevant documents---the initiative in 2005, the petition the following year with its explanation, the letter to Secretary Rumsfeld, and the Press Release to the Newton Tab-- may be found in the Appendix, along with the Declaration itself.

Below is the text of the Declaration of Moral Outrage that NDPW created and circulated in the years 2005-2006.

We are outraged at the illegal and immoral invasion and occupation of Iraq.

We are outraged at the fraudulent justification for the war and the lies and propaganda that the government uses to sustain it. Continued…

32
Our government and armed forces are committing war crimes and crimes against humanity: torture of prisoners, wanton killing civilians, destruction of cities, and massive displacement of populations. We are outraged by these crimes and ashamed that they are being done in our name.

We are outraged that the Bush administration exhibits callous disregard for the lives and well being of our soldiers and their families.

We are outraged at Bush administration’s stated intention to exploit Iraqi oil resources to pay for the cost of the war and occupation. Control over their natural resources belongs to the peoples and sovereign government of Iraq. See continuation on following page

The war impoverished the peoples of Iraq and destroyed the physical and cultural fabric of their country. The United States should pay for what it has destroyed.

We are outraged that the Bush administration is squandering our public resources to fund this war of occupation.

Each day the war goes on prolongs the moral wrong. It was wrong to send our troops to Iraq and it is wrong to keep them there. The possibility of a political solution is fading rapidly as the war of occupation continues.

This war, which violates principles and values that we hold dear, must be brought to an end.

We will not be silenced by the government’s fear-mongering about terrorism and national security.

We are signing our names as testimony to our moral commitment to turn our nation away from pre-emptive, unilateral wars and rejoin the community of peace loving peoples throughout the world.

*****

Newton Dialogues Committee Members


Octo Barnett        Allan Rubin
Faye Snider         Louise Bruyn
Dick Sterne         Sarah Barnett
Linda Nathanson     Diane Price
Steve Nathanson     Susan Mirsky
Judith Hudson       Dan Shaw
Prasannan Parthasarathi  Dave Ascher
Alternative Views Newsletter

Dick Sterne, Editor               Frank Propp
Barbara Flanagan                Jamie Murdock
Allan Rubin                     John Goode
Brita Gill-Austern              Lisa Schumann
Daniela Bartallesi-Graf        Peter Metz
Sev Bruyn

USA Patriot Act Resolution to bring to Newton Board of Aldermen

Octo Barnett                   Tony Winsor
Steve Linsky                   Joselyn Almeida
Dan Shaw                       *Prasannan Parthsarathi

Art (sign making, etc.)

Alice Aronow
Emma Vesey                     *Sherry Moore
Jane Brown
Amanda Hegarty

Election 2004

*Liz Cody                      Meta Nisbet
Alfonso Figueroa               Rohna Shoul
Erika Wilton                   David Rolde
Faye Snider                    Marilyn Sicurella
Margo Cantor                   Kathy Knight

Media Committee

*Ginny Robinson                Mark Brodin
Paula Chasan                   Greg MacGowan
Ann Regan                      Marilyn Bentov
Chris Gruener

Outreach to schools

Susan Mirsky                   Sue Dorfman
*Maxine Hart                   Lisa Schumann
Janet Moran Figueroa           Barbara Duellmann-McKee
Diane Price
Outreach to veterans

Sev Bruyn

Events Planning Committee

Barbara Duellmann-McKee
Emma Vesey

Speakers Bureau (as of 3/2003)

*Prasanna Parthasarathi
Marilyn Sicurella
Andre Sheldon
Mark Brodin
Kathy Knight

Peace Information Tabling on Saturdays (Newton Free Library rear entrance)

Ginny Robinson
Ann Regan
Edie Propp
Libby Gerlach
Marty Schotz
Prasannan Parthasarathi
Ros Winsor
Sherry Moore
Freda Rebelsky
Jane Brown
Dan Shaw
*Allan Rubin
Jerry Manning
Eleanor MacLellan
Donna LaMontagne
Julia Herskowitz

NewTV Peace Programming

Barbara Flanagan
Dan Fitzmartin
Sherry Moore
Doris Tennant
Joan Ecklein
Erika Walton
Liz Cody

Faneuil Hall Events

*Peter Metz
Jamie Murdock
Alfonso Figueroa
Harvest Fair in Newton Center, NDPW has a regular table

Susan Mirsky and Doris Tennant answering questions at Newton Harvest Fair

Susan Mirsky’s cookies. We created buttons to wear to events and a bumper sticker for our cars. Steve Nathanson designed the button, and a friend of Ann Regan made them.
Further summary of Newton Dialogues’ 2001 – 2007 activities

- Circulated peace petition with 1000 signatures to Mayor Cohen, 2004
- Created and circulated Declaration of Moral Outrage, 2004-2005
- Requested immediate resolution for withdrawal date, 2006 Petition to Rumsfeld
- Organized many Mother’s Day peace programs with songs
- Created a NDPW peace brochure, January, 2003
- Created and publicized Withdrawal from Iraq document, 2004
- Mobilization to End the War in Iraq, October, 2007
- Outreach to other peace and community groups: United for Justice with Peace (and through them links with 60 peace groups throughout the Boston area), League of Women Voters, Newton Democrats, Newton Clergy, Sherborn Peace Abbey, Progressive Democrats, Council for a Livable World, Coalition for a Strong U.N. American Friends Service Committee, American Civil Liberties Union, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, Progressive Democrats of America, Bill of Rights Defense Committee, Massachusetts Coalition for Healthy Committees, United for a Fair Economy.
- Supported and promoted efforts of members like Marty Shotz’s program on Cuba, Linda Stern’s showing a film at her home on immigrants from Mexico (2006), and Ann Regan’s fund raising idea of selling Sergio Lub (2006) bracelets, engraved with the word “peace” in different languages

What did Newton Dialogues contribute to the Peace Effort?

Asked this question, participants and members have offered the following answers:

- Dick Sterne has described it as an “antidote to despair.”
- It provided a place where people could bring their ideas and programs.
- It became a point of focus for the community.
- We provided a model for peace group action for other communities. (Judith Hudson)
- We circulated a once-a-week email letter to a roster of nearly 1000 names, announcing events in our group and in other groups around Boston. We could not have organized as quickly and effectively otherwise.
Comments from NDPW members

Dan Shaw: NDPW gave a sense of support and camaraderie…a place to express our outrage. I wasn’t a lone voice. The people in NDPW sharpened my thinking. People contributed different pieces of the puzzle. For the larger community we were a visible presence for people who were upset at what was going on. We articulated early on what became clear to people later.

We reached hundreds of people through the weekly vigil, the weekly tabling, the vigil to mark the Hiroshima bombing, and all the educational meetings. We were willing to be out there and talk.

Personally, I was the “man with the van.” I brought the folding table to the tabling at the Newton Library, I made the easel that we used at the vigil to post weekly count of Iraqi citizen and American military dead and injured.

Through the vigils, the tabling, monthly programs, weekly emails, and our website, Newton Dialogues was a tremendous presence in Newton.

Doris Tennant: “I felt grounded here with Newton Dialogues. I valued the sense of dialogue communicated by some members.

One of my most vivid experiences with NDPW was making videos with two other members, for NewTV. We created six half-hour programs called “What Matters” on which we interviewed fairly well-known people about the Iraq war and U.S. government policies.

Taking part in the public reading of Guantanamo opened my eyes to what was taking place there. Afterwards, my law partner and I began the process of getting clearance to represent a prisoner there, which we did from 2007 to the point then he was sent back to Algeria. NDPW held two fund raisers to publicize our work and to raise money to help us. Nearly $2000 was raised from the contacts created by these events.

I was so impressed, it was so exciting to be part of a community who cared so much, who were willing to question authority, who cared to make things better.”

Dick Sterne: The weekly vigil was key to NDPW’s visibility in the community. Also key were the monthly meetings and our outreach to other communities and to Newton groups. NDPW was an antidote to despair.
Judith Hudson:

I had just moved to Newton. Bush was making me crazy. I saw all these people standing with signs in Newton Center, and then I read about the vigil in the Newton Tab. I got active pretty quickly and helped in organizing the three busses that went to the protest in New York City in February, 2003.

It was so valuable to find a community of people who were taking action. NDPW was being vigilant in the world; it gave me remarkable energy. I was doing something and not just yelling at the TV.

The vigil was important because it reminded people of what was going on. Because we were there on the street corner every Thursday, it brought the world home, even momentarily. People were doing this around the country, reminding others that not everyone was going to be railroaded. People thanked us for protesting our government’s outrageous behavior.”

Sev and Louise Bruyn: Being part of Newton Dialogues was cathartic for us. It allowed people to express where they stood and to have some integrity. Everyone shared their skills. Making signs, poems, songs, organizing Hiroshima Day, petitioning, standing in the vigil. The group brought out the individuality of its members.

Committing ourselves to having a meeting every month meant that we had to plan events; people are coming, we’ve got to do something! Newton Dialogues was a natural outcropping of outrage and concern. NDPW created a place where we could get together and express these things.”

Steve Nathanson: When we began meeting shortly after the 9/11 attacks, we never dreamt that we would do as much as we did in the years that followed. Looking back, I remember realizing the power of “one thing leads to another.” Once we ran one program, then another, this led to ideas about what more to do, and the more we did, the more confident we became about our own ability to do yet more. It’s a good lesson for people facing mammoth problems that make us feel hopeless.

Of course, we did not stop the war, but we did what we could. And, you never know, starting by doing one thing may lead to success and real change. As Howard Zinn wrote, “Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world.

In the period from 2001 to 2007 Newton Dialogues became a channel for the outrage of citizens against policies of their government and a source of information for a large group of Newton residents and residents of other communities as well.
In the years following 2007 Newton Dialogues continued to hold a vigil and arrange for speakers and participate in protests. Below is a partial list of activities from 2007 to 2016:

**NDPW Activities from 2007 – 2016**

**2007**
- Held vigil to mark the death of 3,000 U.S. soldiers in Iraq, January, 2007
- Organized a Town Meeting on the War in Iraq, Sunday, January, 2007
- Meeting: *What’s Going on at Guantanamo and Why Should We Care?* Newton attorneys Ellen Lubell and Doris Tennant, March, 2007
- Petition to stop the BU Bio Lab, March, 2007
- Vigil to mark 4th anniversary of Iraq invasion, March 2007
- Newton Dialogues Mothers’ Day sing, May 2007
- Special Vigil to protest Bush veto of legislation calling for troop withdrawals from Iraq, May, 2007.
- Film: *Knowledge is the Beginning*, June, 2007.
- Table at Newton Highlands Village Day, June, 2007
- NDPW resolution opposing construction of BU Bio Lab is passed by the Newton Board of Aldermen, June 2007.
- Forum on Iran’s Nuclear Programs: What are they doing? How should the U.S. Respond? June, 2007
- Crisis in the Middle East: The War between Israel, Hezbollah, Lebanon, and Palestine, September, 2007

**2008**
- Meeting: Scott Ritter The Iran Talks, Tuesday, February, 2008
- Newton Board of Aldermen pass NDPW sponsored resolution to withdraw from Iraq, February, 2008.
- Newton lawyers, Doris Tennant and Ellen Lubell, speak about Guantanamo and Supreme Court Decision, June 2008
- Commemoration of Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings, August 6, 2008
- Petition* “Million Doors for Peace” to set a date for withdrawal from Iraq, presented by NDPW to Senator Edward Kennedy, September, 2008.
2009

- “Restoring our Rights,” Nancy Murray, ACLU, February, 2009
- Hosted Combatants for Peace on Boston tour, March, 2009
- Sixth anniversary of invasion of Iraq, vigil in Watertown Square, March, 2009.
- Senator Barney Frank speaks on “Cutting the Military Budget,” April, 2009
- Commemoration of Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings, August, 2009.
- “The Different Drummer,” Howard Zinn and others, fundraiser at home of Freda Rebelsky, to raise money for the GI Rights coffeehouse at Fort Drum, NY, October, 2009.
- “25% Resolution,” calling for cuts in military spending, passed by Newton Board of Aldermen, October 2009.

2010

- “Update on Iraq” speaker, Raed Jarrar, January, 2010

2011

- Meeting: Charles Derber speaking on “Greed to Green: Solving Climate Change and Remaking the Economy, January, 2011.

2012

2013
- Discussion, house meeting on Domestic Surveillance, May 2013.
- Petition drive to put resolution on the ballot, “Budget for All,” Summer, 2013.
- Discussion, house meeting on Terrorism, September, 2013.
- Discussion, house meeting on Economic Inequality, December, 2013.

2014
- Continuation of discussion, house meeting, on Economic Inequality: What can we do about it? March, 2014.
- Public meeting and discussion: Louise Bryun reading from her new book, She Walked for all of Us, April 2014.
- Petition drive to put the question on the Newton ballot to “Close the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant. The petition, summer, 2014, was successful and was followed by the Newton City Council’s approval of a Resolution to close the Pilgrim Power plant, September, 2014.
- Discussion, house meeting, “U.S. Policy in Syria and Iraq and the War on ISIS, December, 2014.

2015

2016
- Discussion, house meeting, “Israel/Palestine Update,” January, 2016.
Collage of Photos and Articles
Anti-war sentiment mounts

About 350 people from Newton Dialogues on Peace and War and other area anti-war groups gathered Saturday in Watertown Square to protest the threat of war against Iraq.

Peace vigil sparks mixed reactions

Newton residents rally against possible war versus Iraq

By Ryan Kearney  STAFF WRITER

The protesters were standing in a slight drizzle during rush hour, holding signs reading “No war in Iraq” and “No U.S. preemptive strike.” Some of them handed out pamphlets on the street corner, while others chanted with each other and passersby.

It was, indeed, a peaceful protest.

A tall, burly man changed all that. He pushed one of the protesters, sending the smaller man back several feet and nearly into a busy intersection. The aggressor, who didn’t give his name, also shouted epithets at the dozen or so people gathered, including a few older women.

Some threatened to call the police on him. “Here’s the number — nine-one-one,” the man replied.

The protesters were members of Newton Dialogues on Peace and War, and had gathered at Beacon and Centre streets in Newton Centre for a what they called a “vigil” against a possible war against Iraq.

Last week wasn’t their first demonstration — they’ve been protesting every Thursday since mid-July — but they say it was the first time they’ve experienced a violent backlash.

Doug Sherman, the man who was pushed, said that not since 1965 had he been physically attacked during a protest.

Highlands resident Susan Mirsky, a member of Newton Dialogues on Peace and War, showed the New York Times reporter around the site of the incident.

“I was surprised,” she said. “I’ve been around this thing for a while now and I’ve never experienced anything like this.”

A man who refused to give his name yells at demonstrators in Newton Centre last week.

STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY JACOBSON

PROTEST, page 20
Dear Woman in the Red Car:
Each Thursday night, as I stand in the Newton Dialogues' peace vigil in Newton Center, you drive by around 5:15 p.m. and yell at us. You always yell the same thing, “What about 9/11? What about 9/11?” You are angry and upset, and I would like to talk with you, but you drive by, and I cannot respond.

Since you and I are unlikely to have a “real” conversation, I am writing this letter to answer your heartfelt protest of our opposition to a war on Iraq. I want to address your question “What about 9/11?”

First, you and I agree that the terrible attack on our country needs a response. After a violent crime of such magnitude, no one disputes the need to pursue the perpetrators and to think about ways to deal with the threat of terrorism.

There is no clear evidence, however, that Iraq had anything to do with the 9/11 attack. Most of the actual perpetrators came from Saudi Arabia, yet our government has managed to shift the focus to Saddam Hussein. It is as if one bully beat up someone in the playground, and because that bully is out of reach, we decided to punish another one instead. Of course Iraq’s president is an evil man. No one questions that. But he is not responsible for the Sept. 11 attack.

Moreover, the whole idea of attacking Saddam Hussein is an illusion. To attack Saddam is to attack Iraq, and to attack Iraq is to attack its people — people like you and me who have no direct control over the actions of their leaders. A war would unleash thousands of weapons that would kill many other people, including many innocent civilians — men, women, and children who have nothing to do with Saddam Hussein’s actions.

In addition, to attack another country that has not attacked us but might be a future threat is unwise. The world is full of possible threats to our country. Who do we attack next? Pakistan has harbored many of the Al-Qaeda who fled Afghanistan and is a heartbeat (President Musharraf’s heartbeat) away from being controlled by extremists. Will we go after Pakistan next? North Korea? Syria? Libya?

Pre-emptive attack sets a precedent that many countries may decide to follow. India, for example, might say that Pakistan is a threat to its existence. And Pakistan can say the same of India. Both of them have nuclear weapons. We should not set a precedent that legitimizes preventive wars.

A U.S. attack on Iraq is both unwise and immoral. Initiating war in this region may lead to catastrophe. It will make us less safe rather than more. I am most reminded of the beginning of World War I. All the great nations thought at the start that war would be quick and easy and over in months. Instead it led to years of war and millions dead.

In this world, as opposed to 1914, nuclear weapons are part of the mix and could lead to even more horrific consequences.

I hope you will read this letter, because I want you to know that we who oppose an attack on Iraq are not blind to the pain and horror of 9/11. There is simply no evidence that Iraq was involved in that attack.

We began our vigil last July because we believe that the U.S. has no right to attack a sovereign country and kill thousands of its citizens — people who have suffered enough already. Millions of people throughout our country and the world oppose the war for just these reasons, and that’s why we’re in Newton Center every Thursday night.

Linda Nathanson is a member of Newton Dialogues on Peace and War.

The ‘lady in the red car’ responds

The following is in response to March 11 guest commentary from Linda Nathanson: Proudly, I am the “lady in the red car” who voices strong opposition to Ms. Nathanson and her group every week and I would like to set the record straight, as Ms Nathanson, not surprisingly, misquoted me in her letter that I was “angry” and that I “yelled at her.” I am very vocal every week for one simple reason … on 9/11, evil terrorists attacked our country, without provocation and 3013 innocent men, women and children were massacred. Since that day the USA has been at war with evil … terrorists who hate us, our way of life, our country and they are attempting to take away the ideals and freedoms we hold dear. The freedoms that Ms. Nathanson and her group enjoy each day.

Am I angry that 3013 people were killed that day? You bet I am. Am I angry that Saddam Hussein has killed his people using weapons of mass destruction? You bet I am.

I want justice for the evil that is threatening our freedom. What would the world be like had we followed Ms Nathanson’s “Stop War/No War” advice and not pursued Adolf Hitler? I believe the outcome would be very different. President Kennedy said it best: “Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or evil, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and success of freedom.”

I support our president, our leaders and our military. I will continue to vocally oppose Ms Nathanson and her group each Thursday, as I will be the voice of the 3013 who cannot speak, but I am concerned for my safety as on 3/11 about 5 or 6 of them came off the sidewalk, surrounded my car, yelling at me while I was waiting for the light on Beacon Street. It was frightening with a three of them actually yelling at me thru the passenger window. God Bless America. It is a compliment to me that I have peaked your anger enough for you to write a letter to the editor. I urge everyone to come out and let this group know that you support our troops and our country.

M.S. Reppucci is a resident of Newell Avenue in Needham.
APPENDIX

*Alternative Views*, 12 copies, from June 2003- October, 2004  
1A – 94A

Flyers for monthly meetings (in chronological order)  
95A – 129A

Films presented (in chronological order)  
130A – 137A

Board of Aldermen Resolutions (2002 – 2009)  
138A – 147A

Vigil Statement, July 11, 2002  
148A – 149A

Anti-War Groups in the Boston Area  
150A

Fund Raiser Documents, Fall 2003  
151A – 153A

“Things You Can Do”  
154A

NDPW Mission Statement 2002  
155A – 156A

NDPW By-Laws 2004  
157A – 158A

Three Peace Brochures 2003  
159A – 164A

MLK Jr.’s “Silence is Betrayal” speech, distributed January, 2003  
MLK labels  
165A – 166A

March 19, 2005 Rally in Newton Center  
167A

168A

*Appendix, continued*

Fund Raiser for 2004 Election Action ACT  
169A

Fund Raiser for Tennant and Lubell, Newton lawyers volunteering in Guantanamo  
170A – 173A

Opt-Out project to help Newton students understand their right NOT to have their names sent to the military  
174A – 177A

Workshops  
178A – 194A

Making the Case for Leaving Iraq (2006)  
195A

Declaration of Moral Outrage, with letter to Rumsfeld  
196A – 200A
Petition to Senator Ted Kennedy, “Bring the Troops Home,”
with his reply

Song Fests

Mystic Chorale Fund Raiser for NDPW 2004

Examples of Community Outreach

Interfaith Service, March 2, 2003
Talk at Needham Senior Center, January 2003

NDPW Bumper Sticker and Pins

Open Letter from Dr. Bernard Lown, 2003

Proclamation of Nuclear Disarmament Day,
Newton MA August 5, 2005

NDPW Ad opposing Iraq Invasion, March, 2003

Guantanamo: Honor Bound to Defend Freedom, program from
NDPW Public Reading

**Additional Notebooks and Folders**

These materials may be viewed in the Jackson Homestead and Museum, 527 Washington
Street, Newton, MA. Phone: 617-796-1450. They are available in hard copy only.

Folder #1 Script of Guantanamo: Honor Bound to Defend Freedom.
Reading given by NDPW on Sunday, December 11, 2005.

Notebook #2 NDPW Announcements distributed at monthly meetings, 2003-05

Notebook #3 Early meetings, 2001 – 2002
NDPW Minutes of the Working Group, 2003 - 2007

Folder #4 Photographs

Folder #5 NewTV Interviews by Newton Dialogues members, Doris Tennant
and Sherry Moore: “What Matters” (VHS only)

Folder #6 Articles relating to NDPW

Notebook #7 Alternative Views, June 2003 – October 2004