EVERY SAT
5-7PM
ALL ARE WELCOME

SUSTAINING CONTRIBUTORS
The Public i wishes to express its deep appreciation to the following sustaining contributors for their financial and material support:

World Harvest International and Gourmet Foods, 519 E. University, Champaign
Socialist Forum: An Open Discussion and Action Group, Meet 3rd Saturday of the month, 3-5 pm, at JMC, Broadway & Elm. (U)
Campus Faculty Association (CFA)
The Natural Gourmet, 2225 S. Neil, Champaign; 355-6365
Progressive Asset Management, Financial West Group
Sustainably Responsible Investing

Jerusalem Cafe, 601 S. Wright St., Champaign; 398-9022
The AFL-CIO of Champaign County
That’s Rentertainment, 515 E. John, Champaign; 384-0977
AWARE: the Anti-War, Anti-Racism Effort
Meetings every Sunday at 5pm at the JMC
Milo’s Restaurant, 2370 S. Philo Road, Urbana; 344-8946
Graduate Employees’ Organization (GEO) IFT/AFT 6300

Statement By Champaign’s Safe Haven Tent Community
Page 1
Affordable Low Income Housing
Esther Patt
Page 4
Autumn Glen
Evictions in Rantoul
Neil Partun
Page 5
A Veteran and Afghanistan
Margaret Fitzpatrick
Page 6
Statement By Safe Haven Tent Community

This document is a collective effort of the Safe Haven Tent Community and its supporters.

On the night of June 8, 2009, Leigh Estabrook, a member of St. Jude Catholic Workers House Steering Committee, contacted the Residential Volunteers of the House to inform them that the Champaign Police were coming to investigate the nature of complaints made by the neighbors about late-night disturbances. In response, Jesse Masenagle, a homeless man staying at the SHTC, contacted the officer, who had previously called Leigh, to further inquire into the situation. He was warned that the Champaign Police would speak with the officer and ask for his advice, as to where the community could legally relocate. Jesse called the officer, told him the SHTC would like to talk, and then informed him of being at the Times Center and Salvation Army, neither of which accepts women. There were several different responses to the question because each person had their own particular reasons why they didn’t or weren’t able to seek assistance from local shelters. Then Jesse said, “Some of us don’t have that option.” The conversation continued, as did the SHTC’s decision to call the police.

At this point, the Champaign County SHTC will continue to operate as an autonomous decision-making body in order to refine a sustainable living practice. The group’s members make decisions as a collective in roundtable discussions and live by the bylaws following the precedent set by Dignity Village, a sustained tent community based in Portland, Oregon. The project has recently become public because of an encounter with the Champaign Police Department. A network of affinity and solidarity from the Champaign-Urbana Community has become a key component of the SHTC’s endeavors. There is a hope within the SHTC that support for the existence, continuation, and improvement of this project can be generated, not only from the Catholic Work- ers’ House, but also from efforts in the larger community of Champaign County. There are institutions, collective, special interest groups, and individuals working on the housing issue in Champaign, whose involvement and assistance would make a difference to the vitality of the TC.
Mahomet Seymour Teacher Union Struggle

By Neil Parthun

On June 11, the Mahomet Seymour Education Association (MSEA) held a press conference to gain public support for their opposition to Mahomet Seymour teaching staff being asked to perform medical and health services as a condition of their employment, instead of these services being provided by medically licensed personnel.

At the start of the 2008–2009 school year, MSEA attempted to discuss mental/medical protocols and procedures with the school board and building administration. Some of those procedures could include catheterization, insulin injections, and diapering. The district has consistently refused to bargain the issue with the union.

This failure means that the district is not following best practice on the issue and may possibly be violating the law. The Illinois Department of Health Care and Family Services Handbook for Local Education Agencies is very clear that only licensed nurses can perform the procedures that Mahomet teachers are currently required to do. The Illinois Nurse Practice Act states, “A registered nurse shall not delegate any nursing activity requiring the knowledge, judgment, and skill of a licensed nurse to an unlicensed person, including medication administration.” Best practice is to have a nurse provide medical procedures and services.

If teachers wish to assist in medical procedures and services, MSEA has prepared a policy that addresses the issue. The policy recommends providing personal care and assistance. In addition, policy recommendations that would assist both homeowners and renters facing foreclosures are provided. An appendix lists survey questions and the names of local service providers that responded. The findings of the report are based on the survey responses of 1,700 local homeless service providers from all regions of the country. Respondents were asked to report the numbers of their clients who became homeless as a result of foreclosure, as well as about the coping strategies of families and the services and protections available to evicted families at the state and local levels.

The report examines related factors that contribute to foreclosures and homelessness, including health care costs and whether or not the family has access to legal assistance. In addition, policy recommendations that would assist both homeowners and renters facing foreclosures are provided. An appendix lists survey questions and the names of local service providers that responded. The results of this survey make clear that foreclosures are a major factor in the increase of homelessness in the United States,” NLIHC President Sheila Crowley said.

Sponsoring organizations of the report are: National Coalition for the Homeless, the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, the National Alliance for the Housing of Poverty, NLHIC, and the National Policy and Advocacy Council on Homelessness.

Foreclosures Lead to Homelessness for Many

WASHINGTON—June 26, nearly 80% of homeless service and advocacy agencies report that at least some of their clients became homeless as a result of a foreclosure, and one in five estimate that more than 40% of their clients became homeless because of a foreclosure. These data are among the results of a nationwide survey of local homeless providers conducted by national housing and homeless organizations and released as a joint report by the National Coalition for the Homeless, the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC), the National Alliance to End Homelessness, the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, and other national organizations.

The report, titled Foreclosure to Homeless 2009: The Forgotten Victims of the Subprime Crisis, will be released at a press conference on Friday, June 26. Details are below.

The findings of the report are based on the survey responses of 1,700 local homeless service providers from all regions of the country. Respondents were asked to report the numbers of their clients who became homeless as a result of foreclosure, as well as about the coping strategies of families and the services and protections available to evicted families at the state and local levels.

The report also examines related factors that contribute to foreclosures and homelessness, including health care costs and whether or not the family has access to legal assistance. In addition, policy recommendations that would assist both homeowners and renters facing foreclosures are provided. An appendix lists survey questions and the names of local service providers that responded.

“The results of this survey make clear that foreclosures are a major factor in the increase of homelessness in the United States,” NLIHC President Sheila Crowley said.

Sponsoring organizations of the report are: National Coalition for the Homeless, the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, the National Alliance to End Homelessness, the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth, the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, NLHIC, and the National Policy and Advocacy Council on Homelessness.

THE PEOPLE’S COMMUNITY POTLUCK

Sunday, July 5 & August 2 6–8 PM, Independent Media Center, 202 South Broadway, Urbana

The idea behind the People’s Community Potluck, a food-sharing communal gathering to discuss the economic and social problems in our community. The intention is to harness the talents and resources of local organizations and individuals to improve the conditions of working people, unemployed people, poverty-stricken people, and those who are physically or mentally unable to care for themselves. Given the sorry state of the economy and government economic policy over the past 8 years, which has been most concerned with the well-being of the very wealthy, and given the dismal state of Illinois’ government and economy, organizations and individuals at the grass-roots level are going to have to use their social conscience and talents to find ways of supporting the most vulnerable people in our communities. Additionally, we will have to pressure government at all levels to get our demands for employment and services heard. The movement and organizational activists are welcome to come and share their ideas and food with other socially conscious activists.
A press conference was held at the Independent Media Center on June 25, 2009, where community leaders spoke out about the police shooting of Toto Kaiyewu, a medical student from Carbondale. When Kaiyewu, who is black, was passing through Villa Grove, a former “sundown town,” his car was deemed suspicious and followed by a local cop. A chase ensued that ended with police gunning him down on I-74.

Those who addressed the media charged racial profiling. They included (from left to right) Patsy Howell, reading a statement from the Muslim American Society, Tracy Parsons, who called the actions of the authorities “deplorable,” Erma Bridgewater, long-time community activist, and Aaron Ammons of CU Citizens for Peace and Justice.

On Saturday, June 6 at 10 a.m., a memorial was held at the federal courthouse in Urbana to correspond with the funeral of Dr. George Tiller in Wichita, Kansas and similar memorials that were held across the country. On Memorial Day, Tiller was gunned down at his church by an anti-abortion activist in what many are calling a vicious act of domestic terrorism. In Urbana, a group of approximately 25 people gathered to honor Tiller and take a stand for women’s reproductive rights.

Growing up in Wichita, I remember the summer of 1991 when Operation Rescue locked off its so-called “summer of mercy” by protesting Dr. Tiller’s clinic. Tiller had become a lightning rod for the movement for his providing of late-term abortions. At the church where my now-wife (who was then and remains pro-choice) was attending, youth were being recruited to lie down in the road and block traffic along Kellogg Avenue.

Two of my close friends received abortions from Dr. Tiller. After he was killed, one of them wrote, “I love Dr. Tiller. He was an angel, a warrior, a zen-like human who cared about people—women especially. He performed my abortion when I was 17 and it saved my life. Dr. Tiller saved my life and the lives of countless women by helping them help themselves. Blessings to him and his family and all of us who care about Reproductive Justice.” Lisa is now the mother of two beautiful children and lives in Washington D.C.

Another friend of mine who had an abortion from Dr. Tiller is currently a jazz critic for NPR, has written two books, and is a free spirit who divides her time between Brazil and Costa Rica.

I still have many friends and family who live in Wichita. My mother recently told me the story of how when she worked at a local jewelry store, Mrs. Tiller used to come in to have her jewelry cleaned. One of my mother’s co-workers refused to wait on Mrs. Tiller.

My mom also told me the story of Mary Logan, more than 90 years old, who grew up with my grandfather in a small coal mining community in southeast Kansas and was a high school teacher in the Wichita public schools. She had a young George Tiller as a student and said, “He was one of those kids I wish I had a whole room full of.” Throughout the years, he called to check in with her. He was, she said, “just perfect in every way.”

Others at the memorial in Urbana had their own stories to tell. Ashley Price, who was nine months pregnant, came to show her support. She told me: “I’m nine months pregnant. In fact I’m due on Monday and I’ve always been pro-choice. I’m pregnant with a girl. I want her to have the same choices I did. She was a chosen pregnancy and the only reason why I haven’t needed an abortion is because I have had adequate access to contraception. I think abortion rights are tied to all reproductive rights. There are forces in this society that want to limit how and where a woman can birth. I’m planning a home birth which is not exactly legal in this state. It’s legal for me to give birth at home, but it’s not legal for a practitioner to be at my birth. But we still do it.”

Kristin Ehrenberger just completed her first year of medical school and complained about the lack of training in abortion procedures. She wore a white coat to the memorial and explained why: “I came as a medical student because I didn’t want the medical establishment to be unrepresented. There are in fact students, doctors, nurses, and other people who see abortion and similar procedures as legitimate, entirely legal, and, unfortunately, sometimes necessary medical procedures. I want the community to see that, which is why I wore my white coat. I didn’t want us to be invisible.”

I also spoke with Heather Ault, an artist and graduate student, who organized the event. I asked what compelled her to call people together. She said: “I was contacted by a friend who asked if there were any vigils in town for Dr. Tiller’s death. I didn’t know of any, others didn’t know of any. So I thought, well, there’s no reason why I couldn’t just step forward and get something organized. I emailed some folks and that just snowballed. Before I knew it we were having this vigil today. I’m just learning this week about Dr. Tiller’s life. It’s amazing to me how much of a hero he was to so many people within the medical community, within the social justice community. He touched so many women’s lives all around the world. It’s an inspirational story. I think he deserves to be honored. We want to share our prayers and our thoughts with his family. We want to let people know that this is an injustice we need to be aware of and talk about.”
By Esther Patt

Esther Patt is Coordinator of the Tenant Union program at the University of Illinois and has volunteered for the last 30 years at the Champaign-Urbana Tenant Union advocating against evicting policies for low-income tenants.

Ike Studios brought a festering situation to impending budget cuts on the state and federal need with the appropriate services. With reach programs that will connect those in especially for women, children, or couples, de or chronically homeless individuals. Serious resources to assist episodically, periodically, or chronically. Champaign-Urbana lacks adequate learned of the dire circumstances which theplexes, unexpectedly rendered homeless, one family to buy their first house or to subsidize rent for a lower income family for 4 years, most government officials will choose the different payment. Home ownership programs help revitalize neighborhoods, eliminate blight, and provide real housing stability for program participants.

THE POOR AND MIXED INCOME HOUSING

The catch is that the local families helped with down payment assistance usually have annual incomes of $25,000 or more while the households needing rent subsidy earn half that amount or less. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) uses the term “low-income” to describe households who earn 80% of the area median income. For example, Crystal View Town Homes, now under construction to replace Lakeside Terrace Apartments in Urbana, will have 7 market rent apartments, 35 apartments that are affordable to households earning 60% of area median income, 25 apartments for families at 50% of area median income, and 7 apartments or less. These percentages translate into dollar amounts of annual income—$33,750, $28,000 and $16,875 respectively.

What about all the hard-working people who make only $14,000–$16,000 a year at their full time jobs? Where do they live? The tiny supply of housing for the poor has been shrinking at the same time that the need has grown. Approximately 330 households in Champaign County receive rent subsidies through the Section 8 program. That includes the people who were forced to relocate from the 340 units of subsidized housing, both public housing and privately-owned buildings that have been demolished in the last fifteen years. The replacement housing for these apartment complexes is called mixed income housing and renting, rents in the "low-income" apartments requires an annual income of about $26,000.

For example, Crystal View Town Homes, now under construction to replace Lakeside Terrace Apartments in Urbana, will have 7 market rent apartments, 35 apartments which the owners are prohibited from discriminating against people because they use Section 8 housing vouchers to subsidize their rent. The same 1,300 households in the local Section 8 program whose rent would be subsidized in any location they choose, make up close to half the residents of the tax credit apartment complexes. Without a Section 8 voucher, no poor family could afford the rents, it would be a lot cheaper if the government would ban discrimination against people on Section 8 and not low income people in one complex is bad and both complexes should be redeveloped as mixed income housing.

Low Income Housing: Affordable For Whom?

By Esther Patt

Whether advocating relocation assistance for displaced tenants, providing services to homeless families or working on any anti-poverty effort, one reality will surely be the biggest road block. Most "affordable housing" is too expensive for low-wage workers.

More than one of every eight households in the county has income below the poverty level, yet only 10% of those households receive any help with the cost of housing. Is it any wonder that every day more than 400 Champaign County families are homeless and close to half of the homeless are children?

Many well-meaning people seem to think that homelessness is primarily caused by substance abuse or mental illness. The reality of homelessness is the insufficient supply of affordable housing for the working poor. To afford a cheap two-bedroom apartment in Champaign-Urbana, a household must have an income of at least $26,000 which is 47% above the poverty level for a family of three. More than one-third of households incomes lower than that.

Sadly, our nation’s love affair with home ownership plays a big role in causing homelessness. Given a choice between spending $15,000 to pay the down payment for one family to buy their first house or to subsidize rent for a lower income family for 4 years, most government officials will choose the different payment. Home ownership programs help revitalize neighborhoods, eliminate blight, and provide real housing stability for program participants.

Alternative Solutions Without Reliance

By Laurel Noblettes

Recent closures of Autumn Glen and Gateway Studios brought a fostering situation to Champaign-Urbana’s low-income economic situation. Former residents of these housing complexes, unexpectedly rendered homeless, learned of the dire circumstances which the existing homeless community has been facing. Champaign-Urban lacks adequate resources to assist episodically, periodically, or chronically. Serious deficits include lack of emergency shelter, especially for women, children, or couples, inadequate medical and legal help, and outreach programs that will connect those in need with the appropriate services. With impending budget cuts on the state and federal level, services may no longer be available to meet demand.

The Urbana Champaign Continuum of Care, a cooperative amongst Champaign County, the cities of Champaign and Urbana, and area social service providers, developed a ten-year plan to end chronic homelessness. The plan provides the homeless with “access to a coordinated array of housing options and supports that will enable them to sustain safe and decent shelter” by 2014. However, UCCC is behind in meeting several of their goals, including those set to assist two-parent households and female-headed households. This ten-year plan offers more immediate, short-term solutions, but continues to work within the framework of a consumer capitalist system that perpetuates and criminalizes poverty. Efforts become nullified as initiatives cannot survive within this political or economic environment.

Now we are amidst an economic crisis, and an increasing number of people are being pushed into poverty and out of their homes. Capitalism is no longer the panacea, and our government is proven more and more inefﬁcacious. Rather than remedy the housing situation, concerned citizens have begun establishing grassroots movements in Champaign-Urbana. The Safe Havens Tent Community, a self-organized group of homeless men and women, has created a safe, affordable, and dignifying alternative. Despite opposition from the city zoning commission, which has deemed the community illegal, residents continue to demonstrate their right to have housing. The People’s Housing Authority, born out of the First People’s Potluck at the BMC, works to improve issues surrounding housing in Champaign Urbana and participates in direct actions that prevent homelessness, like protesting evictions.

Other successful movements include:

• Mad Housers, Atlanta—construct huts and donate free of charge
• Homes Not Jails, San Francisco—advocate for the use of vacant and abandoned buildings by the homeless through adverse possession or squatting
• Dignity Village, Portland—a self-organized tent community
• Catholic Worker Movement—offers houses of hospitality to the homeless, working on principles of personalism and personal responsibility

Further organization within the homeless community is essential to dismantle the dehumanized population, allowing the oppressed to shed victimization and empower themselves. Community building helps construct small-scale social support networks, necessary for the decentralization of government. Groups can work to challenge a system that denies them, reconstruction of an inclusive society.
The families who lived at the Autumn Glen apartment complex in Rantoul had their lives totally upended after being forcibly removed from their homes. The residents of Autumn Glen paid an extra fee in their rent to pay for the gas bill. While the landlord took the money from the tenants, the landlord never paid the gas bill. The gas was shut off due to non-payment. The gas shut-off allowed the city to declare the building inhabitable and the tenants were removed from their homes.

While I’ve been involved with housing issues prior to this, the Autumn Glen crisis hit me personally because at least two students I taught lived in Autumn Glen. On one of my last visits to Autumn Glen, I was alerted that the landlord had chosen not to pay other bills as well. Garbage overflowed out of dumpsters and into the parking lot. Grass had grown knee-high. As I navigated this nightmarish scenario, I went to an apartment to speak with Ora—a mother of a student I taught. In our two-hour conversation, I learned that the landlord routinely had problems fixing the building and the tenants faced safety problems due to the deteriorating conditions. She was very adamant that the tenants dutifully paid their bills yet they were the ones losing their homes due to the landlord’s choice not to use the rent fees for their purpose. Because the landlord chose not to pay the bills, Ora and her family were losing the place that they had called home for the last fifteen years. Ora and her family have been pinballed around and are still looking for permanent housing because affordable housing has been rapidly decreasing for low-income families.

**Another student I taught and her family have experienced similar circumstances. The family temporarily lived in a hotel and are still looking for permanent housing as they move from home to home of friends and relatives willing to take them in.**

The stress and upheaval of forcible removal, especially when the tenants were not at fault, is something almost beyond comprehension for most people who have not had direct experience of it. The palpable fear, anxiety and anguish that Ora felt were very clear as we experienced it. The palpable fear, anxiety and anguish that Ora felt were very clear as we sat in her living room talking about what she was going to do. I couldn’t even begin to imagine the emotions her son was dealing with as he, not only had to worry about tests, grades and homework, but also about where he was going to be living once Autumn Glen closed.

The housing crisis very clearly impacts the classroom. Between frequent absences due to consistent moving in search of housing, incomplete assignments, the understandable lack of attention/focus when in attendance and acting out with negative behaviors as an attempt to cope, the students’ learning potential is being blocked. As a fellow activist in the housing struggle stated: “Our working class brothers and sisters... can do everything expected of them and still their wellbeing as well as that of their loved ones is at the mercy of a system that puts profit and property before human need.”

---

**Food Not Bombs**

From Wikipedia

Food Not Bombs offers free meal

Food Not Bombs serves a FREE meal to anyone and everyone in Champaign/Westside Park, on the corner of State St. and University Ave., every Saturday at 3 pm. All are always welcome.

**FIRST PRINCIPLES**

Food Not Bombs is an all-volunteer global movement that shares free vegetarian meals as a protest to war and poverty. Each chapter collects surplus food that would otherwise go to waste from grocery stores, bakeries and makers, some-times incorporating dumpster diving, then prepares community meals which are served for free to anyone who is hungry. The central beliefs of the group are:

- If governments and corporations around the world spent as much time and energy on feeding people as they do on war, no one would go hungry.
- There is enough food in the world to feed everyone, but too much of it goes to waste needlessly, as a direct result of capitalism and militarism.
- Vegan food is both healthy and nonviolent.

Food Not Bombs grew throughout the 1990s, and held four international gatherings: in San Francisco in 1992 and 1999; in Atlanta in 1996, and in Philadelphia in 2005. The 1995 International Food Not Bombs Gathering took place in and around United Nations Plaza in San Francisco at the same time the world was celebrating the 50th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations (at a historic conference in San Francisco).

Chapters of Food Not Bombs were involved in the rise of the Anti-Globalization Movement in the late 1990s, leading to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation resistance in Vancouver in 1997; the June 18, 1999 International Carnival Against Capitalism, and the so-called “Battle of Seattle” later that year, which shut down the World Trade Organization meetings. Food Not Bombs helped start the Low Watt FM Radio, the October 22nd No Police Brutality Day, and Homes Not Jails during the San Francisco days.

**FOOD NOT BOMBS SERVICES A MEAL IN A PUBLIC PARK**

Today, there are more than 40 chapters of Food Not Bombs listed on the www.foodnotbombs.net website, with about half the chapters active outside the United States. Food Not Bombs has a loose structure: every chapter of Food Not Bombs embraces a few basic principles, and carries out the same sort of action, but every chapter is free to make its own decisions, based on the needs of its community. Likewise, every chapter of Food Not Bombs operates on consensus. Besides collecting and distributing food for the hungry, many chapters of Food Not Bombs are involved in community anti-poverty, anti-war and pro-immigrant organizing, as well as other political causes.
After 30 years, Champaign native and Gulf War veteran, Shaheen Shorish, still vividly recalls the blood-soaked Persian carpets prominently displayed on the lawns of the royal palace in Kabul in 1978. The perpetrators of the Soviet-backed coup d’etat, that unseated recent royal usurper, Mohammad Daoud, and resulted in the slaughter of thousands of innocent Afghans, had plundered the country of its precious national heritages. The Soviet occupation, five-year-old Shaheen, her Michigan-born mother, her Afghan father, and her brother escaped the last commercial flight out of Kabul International Airport. They fled throughout Europe until they were at last able to return to the safety of their Champaign home.

In the years following the Soviet takeover, many members of the Shorish family's Tajik ethnic group, and many educated Afghans, such as the Shorish family, did everything they could think of to alert the rest of the world to the misogynistic and genocidal ideology espoused by the Taliban. Tragically, it was as if the rest of the world was screaming in space with no one listening, no one hearing.

"I remember so much greenness, the way the Taliban treat women," Shorish says, "that is not part of Afghan history. That is not part of Islam."

Shorish further says that the impetus to gaining rights for Central Asian women is that they are largely unaware that they have rights to begin with. "If you’re not Afghan they’re not going to tell you. So the best way, if they’re Muslim, is to say, ‘you do have these rights according to the Qur’an’. The Taliban use religious nonsense to keep women down, so why do you use the Qur’an to fight that?"

Shorish continues, "It is a beautiful, beautiful country. I remember what my childhood memories were. We would bear the con-sequences. It appears Massoud's warning fell on deaf ears. He was assassinated by the regime in 2001, just two days before the Twin Towers toppled.

As much as Shorish endorses humanitarian aid for Afghanistan, she states emphatically, 'Afghanistan needs to help itself from within. Women need to be educated. As long as women are educated, then they will help the men.' She says that once they saw the bloody carpets, we saw pieces of people hanging from trees and bloody carpets and understood that a coup d’etat had taken place. They knew they would have to flee, too.

"I don’t think it mattered what a person’s political leanings were at that moment, we were probably going to be killed if we stayed."

While Shorish will never forget this hellish interlude, she says she also remembers and misses many wonderful things about her father's birthplace. "I remember what my childhood memories were. We would bear the consequences." She states that once they saw the bloody carpets, we saw pieces of people hanging from trees and bloody carpets and understood that a coup d’etat had taken place. They knew they would have to flee, too.

"I don’t think it mattered what a person’s political leanings were at that moment, we were probably going to be killed if we stayed."

Shorish explains that while the Taliban suppressed the female half of Afghanistan’s population to a reign of gender-based terror, unprecedented in the history of the region or the world. Educated Afghans, such as the Shorish family, did everything they could think of to alert the rest of the world to the misogynistic madness. But, Shorish says, "It was like someone screaming in space with no one listening, no one hearing."

"If the U.S. had been focused on the Taliban, we could have conceivably prevented 9/11, or some aspects of it," says Shorish. "If only the U.S. had understood sooner..." she trails off, her brow furrowed in thought.

"It appears Massoud’s warning fell on deaf ears. He was assassinated by the regime in 2001, just two days before the Twin Towers toppled. Shorish surmises that one reason for the U.S. nonresponse to Massoud’s pleas may have been because the U.S. was interested in building an oil pipeline through the region. Shorish adds, Dr. Zahra Shorish-Shamley, was in some ways more successful than Massoud in conveying her warnings to the West, and in obtaining help to fight the Taliban. Her hard-won success was in a small way attributable to the timely intervention of her Washington, D.C. hairdresser. It’s funny how things get done in politics," Shorish says, recounting the chain of events that led to the Feminist Majority Foundation's assistance. Shorish says her aunt was at her hairdresser's, complaining that she couldn't get anyone to pay attention to the increasing abuses of the Taliban. In particular, she was concerned that the United States was on the verge of acknowledging the Taliban as a government. This was when the hairdresser said, "Don’t worry, I know someone who can help you." The next day the hairdresser spoke to another client, a politician who was concerned with international women’s rights. Soon, the politician met Shorish’s aunt and introduced her to Jay Lenos’s wife Mavis, and the Feminist Majority Foundation.

Subsequently, Dr. Shorish-Shamley testified before the United States Congress and the United Nations that rape is a war crime and that the violation of women’s rights cannot be tolerated if any lasting peace is to be achieved. Building on the ideals of Dr. Shorish-Shamley and other international feminist scholars, the Feminist Majority Foundation recently launched a new international public educational campaign, Exhorts President Obama, Vice President Biden and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to stabilize Afghanistan and defeat terrorism by focusing on educating and defending the rights of women and girls, rather than by the use of force. Shorish says, "We went to the United Nations that huge plate of glass in the area, and they are meant to completely demoralize the population."

Shorish’s parents, however, proceeded courageously back at the apartment, Shorish recalls, “Our mother covered us with a blanket and put us under a bed... Things were on fire everywhere. We had to stay away from windows. ”While this Michigan woman spent the next 30 plus violent hours keeping her two young children alive, Shaheen, My parents made a smart decision to get out, too. They say, “I don’t think it mattered what a person’s political leanings were at that moment, we were probably going to be killed if we stayed.”

"We didn’t know why we were there on the street near a tank. We don’t need a degree in journalism to be a citizen journalist. We are all experts in something, and we are all citizens who need a degree in journalism to be a citizen journalist. We are all experts in something, and we have the ability to share our information and knowl-edge with others. The Public i is always looking for writers and story ideas. We invite you to submit ideas or proposals during our weekly meetings (Thursdays at 5:30pm at the UCIMC), or to contact one of the editors.
Al Kagan was one of the original delegates to the founding meeting of USLAW. He is active in the UIUC Campus Faculty Association which is a local union member of USLAW.

"We are living in an era in which the government has manipulated our nation’s fear of terrorism to launch wars, destroy our economic security, undermine government services, erode our democratic rights and intensify racism, sexism, religious discrimination and divisions among working people."
—From the U.S. Labor Against the War Mission Statement, 10/25/03

Since its founding in 2003, US Labor Against the War (USLAW) has been the most important labor union voice against the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and in the Middle East in general. The organization’s premise is simple: our country’s serious social and economic problems cannot be solved without addressing US foreign policy and its consequences.

Although the organization was founded during the Bush Administration, the same concerns about the direction of our foreign policy continue under the Obama Administration. Unfortunately, allocating trillions of dollars for war and Wall Street bailouts is a bipartisan approach. The Iraq and Afghanistan wars continue, soldiers and civilians continue to die and be horribly wounded, people continue to be displaced all over the Middle East and elsewhere, and the US Congress continues the funding.

After eight years of the Bush Administration, President Obama seemed like a breath of fresh air. Many in the anti-war movement had grown tired and disheartened after so many years of war with no obvious end in sight. Barack Obama and many Democrats were elected on a hopeful approach. The Iraq and Afghanistan wars continue, very few US soldiers and civilians continue to die and be horribly wounded, people continue to be displaced all over the Middle East and elsewhere, and the US Congress continues the funding.

Given these realities, it is obvious that USLAW is still providing a voice for anti-war voters. Obama would have never won so many votes if he had not been candidates for war. The presidential campaign with the most affidavits nationally are AFT, AFSCME, and SEIU.

What does USLAW propose to do, given the grave and complex situation in which we now find ourselves? USLAW advocates a just foreign policy, diplomacy rather than war, global social and economic justice, an end to all US occupations with reconstruction of war-devastated countries, redirecting military funds to the needs of working families, supporting our troops by bringing them home, protecting worker’s rights and the human rights of all, and solidarity with workers around the world. In addition, USLAW has worked for justice and organized for change in Iraq and here at home by sending two delegations to Iraq to investigate workers conditions, sponsoring US tours for Iraqi labor leaders, working against the privatization of Iraqi oil, developing a great website resource for activists (http://www.uslaboragainstwar.org), and getting USLAW activists into contacting their elected representatives about the Bush Administration and its anti-war war policies.

In every corner of the globe, condemned the war for terror, and calling for the self-determination of the Iraqi people. EI General Secretary Fred van der Luyden stated: "As an international organization, EI anti-war work is an integral part of its activities and a responsibility it places upon itself as a trade union organization. EI General Secretary Fred van der Luyden stated: "As an international organization, EI anti-war work is an integral part of its activities and a responsibility it places upon itself as a trade union organization. EI activities are part of a broad international struggle for peace and for a world based on justice and respect for the rights of all people."

The UCIMC will host a table at the 17th annual Alternative Media Reception, Monday July 13th from 7-10PM at Experimental Station, 6100 S. Blackstone Ave., Chicago. Sponsored by the Alternative Media Task Force of the Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT) of the American Library Association (ALA). The Alternative Media Reception is an event that brings together small and independent publishers with progressive librarians from around the country.

The UCIMC will have a small display highlighting media products produced by our working groups, IMC merchandise for sale, and information about donating to our upcoming membership and donation drive.

About the Social Responsibility Round Table SRRT is a unit within the American Library Association. It works to make ALA more democratic and to establish progressive priorities not only for the Association, but also for the entire profession. Concern for human and economic rights was an important element in the founding of SRRT and remains an urgent concern today. SRRT believes that libraries and librarians must recognize and help solve social problems and inequalities in order to carry out their mandate to work for the common good and bolster democracy.