

Plowshares Institute



PLOWSHARES, ALICE AND BOB EVANS NOMINATED FOR NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

Plowshares is both humbled and honored by the 2002 Nobel Peace Prize nomination by members of the South African Parliament. The nomination came from colleagues who know our long history in South Africa as well as Plowshares peacebuilding programs around the world.

The Nobel committee has also received letters of support for Plowshares' nomination from other colleagues in South Africa, including a member of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission; from parliamentarians in other countries; and from a current US Senator and a former member of the US House of Representatives who wrote about Plowshares' role in U.S. cities. The Nobel Peace Committee accepts nominations only from members of a national parliament or governing body, members of the World Court, or former Nobel laureates.

The Evans see this nomination as a recognition of colleagues around the world who are committed to pro-active conflict transformation and peacebuilding. The nomination promotes the im-



portance of equipping local leaders in peace skills, particularly in this time of devastating global conflicts. The following excerpts from an article that appeared in *The Hartford Courant* provide further information about the nomination.

Group Nominated For Nobel :Plowshares Works To Build World Peace

February 10, 2002 By PAUL
MARKS, Courant Staff Writer

SIMSBURY -- For the past 20 years, the Rev. Bob Evans and his wife, Alice Frazer Evans, have worked at building world peace, sometimes on a national scale, but more often one neighborhood at a time.

They have spread techniques of "conflict transformation" from the rigidly racist world of South African

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Special points of interest:

- *There are a few openings on the August 2002 Plowshares' traveling seminar to South Africa*
See Page 8
- *Bob and Alice Evans will be teaching a class on Reconciliation for Congregations and Communities in a Global Context at Hartford Seminary in June* see page 4

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HARTFORD CENTER FOR CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION TO TRAIN HARTFORD POLICE

In August of 2001, a devoted Steering Committee of local leaders and five partner institutions launched the Center for Conflict Transformation in Hartford. The multi-faith, multi-ethnic Steering Committee selected former Plowshares staff member Margaret Steinegger-Keyser as its Director.

During its first year, the Center has been involved in a number of mediations and educational events, including a recent peace skills training for senior city officials, police officers, and community representatives. As a result of this training, the Center was asked to train 200 City of Hartford police officers.

Plowshares is proud to have been a mid-wife for this important center and to be one of its sponsoring partners. The Center has recently been awarded a grant of \$50,000 over a two-year period from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving to support training and community mediation. Excerpts from the following article published in *The Hartford Courant* provide more information on the Center's work.

Center Helps A Community In Conflict City Group Teaches Mediation, Listening Skills

February 4, 2002 By JOANNA MECHLINSKI,

Unlike many people who try to avoid conflict whenever they can, Martey Rhine tends to tackle it head on. Her job in organization development is all about helping people with problems. "Conflict is something I run into a lot," said Rhine. "A lot of people are afraid of dealing with conflict; I never have been."

For more than 20 years, Rhine has been searching for new and effective ways of mediation and communication. The best so far, she said, have been acquired at the Center for Conflict Transformation, a Hartford organization that has been training community leaders in conflict mediation and careful listening skills....

"It works way better than any other mediation technique I've used before," said Rhine. "It invites people to put their stories on the table and be heard."

Begun in Hartford in 2001, the center was one response to the fatal shooting by a police officer in April 1999 of Aquan Salmon, a 14-year-old robbery suspect.



Margaret Steinegger-Keyser, Executive Director of the Center for Conflict Transformation in Hartford

A group of concerned residents met and asked the Simsbury-based Plowshares Institute to train community leaders in "deep listening skills" and mediation. The center trains individuals from an assortment of ethnic, religious, professional and other backgrounds to learn to communicate and solve conflicts more effectively. "One of the key points is learning to understand the needs and interests of an opponent in a conflict," said Director Margaret Steinegger-Keyser.

"We move from strong positions to seeing the needs and concerns of others. People begin to see their own approaches to conflict very differently," said Steinegger-Keyser, a native of South Africa.

The [Center's] three-round training cycle begins with a 14-hour basic training workshop. This is followed by [another basic round plus] advanced training, three to six months later. The final round takes place yet another three to six months later, basically repeating the skills learned in the second round [to equip local leaders as trainers].

Abdul Rahmaan Muhammad, senior vice president and diversity manager at The Village for Families and Children, is a board member of the center and a co-trainer. He said the center's technique is not just about looking for the "right" position to take in a conflict, but to truly understand where each person involved is coming from....

It is in these sessions, said Steinegger-Keyser, that people can unload negative emotions and learn to deal with them more effectively. "If you get angry, let it out," she said. "That's your place of safety."

PEACE SKILLS TRAINING IN THE CARIBBEAN AND LATIN AMERICA

Thanks to a grant from the Atkinson Foundation, Plowshares initiated a pilot project in Cuba and Peru to train religious and community leaders in community conflict transformation. The February, 2002 Cuba workshop and consultations were sponsored by the Council of Churches of Cuba in cooperation with faculty members of the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Matanzas, Cuba. Participants included Cuban ecumenical church leaders who are exploring ways to develop dialogue and approaches to reconciliation, not only within their own congregations, but also with Cuban-Americans in the United States.

Dr. Heidi Hadsell, President of Hartford Seminary and Plowshares Board member, accompanied Alice and Bob Evans on this visit to Cuba. Additional meetings at the Seminary and with Cuban economists and social scientists strengthened cooperative relationships among Plowshares Institute, Hartford Seminary, and Cuban colleagues. Representatives from the Cuban Council and the Seminary are eager to continue the training in Cuba and suggested that the seminary become a conflict transformation training base for other Caribbean and Central American colleagues.

Lima, Peru

A similar workshop was held for community leaders in Lima, Peru under the auspices of Alternativa, a long-term partner of Plowshares Institute and one of the best known non-profit development and social service agencies in Peru.

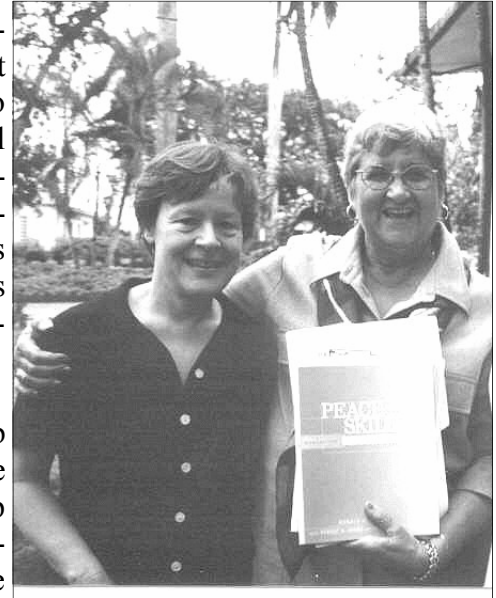
The workshop included representatives from religious, political, business, environmental, and women's organizations in the northern cone of Lima, along with members of the Alternativa staff. The training supported Alternativa's long term

leadership development program to equip local leaders to address fundamental issues of economics and democracy.

Alice and Bob Evans led the workshop with translation by Jaime Joseph. Participants responded enthusiastically to the training and requested advance training as well as building the skills training into Alternativa's basic leadership programs.

Peace Skills Spanish translation

Interest in Cuba and Peru in a Spanish translation of the *Peace Skills Manual* and *Leaders' Guide* led to meetings in Quito, Ecuador, with the Publications Division of the Latin American Council of Churches. The editor has made an initial proposal to translate the material into Spanish for a copy-ready CD that could be subsequently published and distributed throughout Spanish-speaking Latin America, as well as in the United States. A Spanish translation of these curriculum resources would greatly facilitate future workshops in the Caribbean and Latin America.



Heidi Hadsell, President of the Hartford Seminary and Ofelia Ortega, President of the Theological Evangelical Seminary of Matanzas, Cuba.

Plowshares Nobel Nomination, Continued

apartheid to the brutal Indonesian resistance to East Timor's independence, from the slums of Peru to the streets of inner-city Los Angeles, Philadelphia and Hartford.

The listening skills and group dynamics taught through their Simsbury-based Plowshares Institute have proven effective in moving members of different races and ethnic groups away from deadlocked disagreements and toward compromise.

Now Plowshares, a nonprofit group with just five employees including the Evanses, who are its peripatetic heart and soul, has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

The nomination was made by M. Stanley Mogoba and W. Joe Seremane, members of the South African Parliament who say the Plowshares training aided both the negotiations that did away with apartheid and the reconciliation process that followed.

Mogoba, head of the Pan Africanist Congress party and a one-time presidential candidate, notes in his letter to the Nobel Committee that, "Peace, unlike war, sometimes does not hit the headlines. The [Plowshares] training had a significant impact in preparing people to mediate and negotiate peacefully for their needs in the quest for land, employment, education and health."

Seremane's nominating letter notes that the Plowshares method, instead of taking an "all-knowing, patronizing" approach that would alienate participants, builds on values and traditions arising from the local culture. [Seremane is the chair of the National Democratic Party and former chair of the South African Land Claims Commission.]

Bob Evans, 65, and Alice Frazer Evans, 62, who founded Plowshares in 1981, emphasized that point during an interview Wednesday in the suite of offices that Plowshares Institute rents in the annex of the Simsbury United Methodist Church. The organization draws its funding from churches, individual donors and national philanthropies such as the Ford and Kellogg Foundations and the Pew Charitable Trusts.

Reflecting on the way prospects for peacemaking have been affected by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Bob Evans said he worries that too much U.S. effort is going toward military solutions and too little toward promoting understanding with the Muslim world.



Joe Seremane, member of Parliament, Republic of South Africa

"What became clear after that date, if it was ever in question before, is global interdependence - that we are really bound together as a people, worldwide, for better or worse. But conflict is both a danger and an opportunity, and this is an opportunity to rethink the way the U.S. is related to the rest of the world."

RECONCILIATION FOR CONGREGATIONS AND COMMUNITIES IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT

Hartford Seminary Course
Monday, June 10 - Friday, June 14,
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

This course, taught by Plowshares staff members Bob and Alice Evans, will help religious leaders develop perspectives and concrete skills to be effective agents of reconciliation in their congregations, communities and nation.

The course will use case studies, role plays and creative exercises to engage participants in conflict analysis, listening skills and creative approaches to joint problem solving. Contact Hartford Seminary for additional information and course application. (Website: www.hartsem.edu. Registrar: Karen Rollins (860) 509-9511; e-mail: registrar@hartsem.edu)

INDONESIA UPDATE

Plowshares' international partner, the Center for Empowering Reconciliation and Peace based in Jakarta, became an independent organization in March 2002. Dr. Judo Poerwowidagdo has resigned his post as rector (president) of Krida Wacana University in order to become the full-time director of the Center. Plowshares extends gratitude to Krida Wacana University for its original sponsorship of the Center, which was launched in March 2001 through the endorsement of former President of Indonesia, Abdurrahman Wahid.



Workshop on Empowering for Reconciliation at the Petra University, Surabaya, Indonesia

Political and military transitions and the effects of 9/11, particularly in predominantly Muslim nations, have made it increasingly important to have an independent center for reconciliation and peacemaking in Indonesia. The Center focuses on equipping interfaith teams with peace skills, and preparing them in the areas of mediation and trauma counseling to intervene in points of emerging cultural, religious and economic conflict in Indonesia. The Center, which is building a constructive and innovative record in this area, will have new energy and credibility through the establishment of a prominent interfaith advisory board.

This past March, Alice and Bob Evans consulted about the establishment of the new Center and plans for a crisis center, also based in Jakarta, to deal with national conflicts in Indonesia. Dr. Poerwowidagdo will also become a primary advisor of this crisis center, sponsored by the Indonesian Council of Churches. The Evans also consulted with faculty members at Jakarta Theological Seminary as they explore a graduate degree program in peace studies.

Peace Skills translation

A network of Indonesian and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) has been established in Indonesia to focus on the critical link between development and peace education. This group is exploring the use of the Plowshares *Peace Skills* curriculum that will be available in an Indonesian translation in May. World Vision International, the Center for Empowering Reconciliation and Peace, and Plowshares jointly supported the translation and publication of this material for use in Indonesia.

In mid-March Plowshares staff led an intensive introduction to peace skills for faculty, church leaders, and non-governmental organizations at Petra University in Surabaya. In the future, the Center for Empowering Reconciliation and Peace and the forthcoming Indonesia translation of the *Peace Skills* curriculum will support and nurture the growing skills and creative contextual approaches to peacebuilding among leaders in Indonesia's second largest city.

Indonesian delegation to South Africa

Plowshares and the Center finalized plans for a delegation of senior military, political, religious, and NGO leaders from Indonesia to visit South Africa in May 2002. This exchange visit follows a successful visit by a senior delegation of South Africans to Indonesia in March 2001. Craig Arendse, Director of Mediation and Transformation Practice based near Cape Town, with support from the Center and Plowshares, will coordinate the South African visit. The non-governmental sponsorship of these exchanges among key leaders in pivotal nations provides an important precedent for promoting values of democracy, transformation, and reconciliation. The exchange scheduled for May in South Africa promises to be as fruitful as the previous South African delegation's visit to Indonesia.



PLOWSHARES PROGRAM TO ASSIST CHURCHES WITH A GLOBAL MISSION FOR PEACE

Plowshares Institute offers programs to U.S. congregations to help them develop a global vision for mission, with an emphasis on Empowering for Reconciliation in a post-9/11 world. These programs are adapted to the particular goals of each congregation, with many choosing to focus on dealing constructively with conflict in their church and their community.

Plowshares staff members have found enthusiastic responses from local congregations and church bodies to the Introduction to Peace Skills program that enhances communication among divergent viewpoints and underscores skills of listening and cooperative decision making. One of Plowshares' primary goals is to empower congregations and church bodies to become effective agents of reconciliation in their own communities.

These programs also help congregations better understand national and international conflicts, particularly in light of widening military confronta-

tions in the Middle East. Drawing on Plowshares' experience in peace skills around the world, the workshops highlight concrete examples of reconciliation and renewal in extremely polarized situations, such as in South Africa.

The weekend workshops often include separate presentations to associations within the congregation such as men's, women's, and youth groups, as well as preaching and leading Sunday adult education and consultation with the pastoral and lay leadership of the congregation. These programs have occurred, or are planned, in Presbyterian, Methodist, or Episcopal congregations in: Sun City, Arizona; Clemson, South Carolina; Southern Pines, North Carolina; McLean, Virginia; Hartford, Connecticut; and Atlanta, Georgia. Honoraria from these mission weekends directly support Plowshares international and US peacebuilding initiatives. Additional information is available from the Plowshares office.

HONG KONG SEMINAR



Hong Kong Seminar on Facilitating Public Dialogue

Civic Exchange, a new non-profit organization in Hong Kong directed by former parliamentarian Christine Loh, invited Plowshares staff to lead an intensive workshop in March to develop skills for facilitating constructive public dialogue on crucial issues facing Hong Kong. The participants, who were from the business, governmental, and non-governmental institutions of Hong Kong, had previous training in conflict transformation or comparable work in mediation and negotiation.

The seminar led many in the group to take the first steps toward forming a network of people to further develop their community and large-group facilitation skills. This workshop was made possible by the support of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund for the work of Civic Exchange in Hong Kong.

Plowshares also made a presentation to members of the Conciliation Council of Hong Kong. The Council is just beginning to develop a section on community mediation to supplement its work in commercial and family mediation. Participants in both of these groups were interested in translating the Peace Skills curriculum (*Manual for Community Mediation and Leaders' Guide*) into Chinese.

Plowshares staff members acknowledge and thank all who have contributed to our ministry in 2001. We are especially grateful for sustaining contributions, often over many years, which make it possible to address needs in many places around the world.

Thank you all for your generous support in 2001!

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LEARNING ABOUT RECONCILIATION: A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

Plowshares Institute Traveling Seminar to South Africa, August 14-28, 2002

Plowshares staff members have led over 40 traveling seminars that have often influenced and even transformed people's lives. This occurs when a participant has an in-depth look at South Africa or China and in the process understands the U. S. from a new perspective. Being the guests of religious, government and civic leaders in pivotal nations where the struggle for peace with justice is underway, helps seminar participants appreciate the blessings and challenges of being an American.

There are openings in the August 2002 traveling seminar to South Africa which is jointly sponsored with the Christian Conference of Connecticut.

The past decade has seen the most dramatic positive changes in South Africa in the last century. Nelson Mandela's leadership initiated reform and renewal. Members of the majority government now face massive economic and political challenges in order to address historic inequalities and to implement reforms and development programs complicated with the pandemic of AIDS. Religious leaders who had significant roles in the liberation struggle are creating global models for resolving issues of truth and reconciliation and developing a culture of human rights. The SA Council of Churches is a case study in ecumenical leadership for social transformation and reconciliation.

In light of the long-standing interest of North American civic and religious leaders in the struggle for freedom in South Africa, this is a unique time to be in dialogue with those who are shaping the future of a nation. Plowshares Institute has been invited by these leaders to take a delegation to South Africa to experience the exhilaration and the challenges of a society in transition.

The delegation will have a number of dialogue sessions with religious, political, community, and academic leaders who are shaping policies for their institutions and South Africa. These meetings include the current or former leaders of government commissions including Truth and Reconciliation. There will also be visits to urban and rural areas. The group will stay in church guesthouses, except for one night when they will be guests (in pairs) in the homes of families in **Soweto**. The delegation will spend several days in **Johannesburg** and **Pretoria**. The group will then travel to **Durban**, the vibrant coastal city at the heart of the historic **Zululand**, and **Cape Town**, one of the most dramatically beautiful cities in the world.

Arrangements for the Seminar

The seminar will be led by **The Rev. Dr. Robert A. Evans and Alice Frazer Evans**, co-Directors of Plowshares Institute, Senior Fellows at the Centre for Conflict Resolution in Cape Town, and adjunct faculty of Hartford Seminary. The Evans have been working in South Africa for more than thirty years. They work closely with a wide range of people from religious, government, business, and grassroots communities. Many of these colleagues will be our hosts for the seminar.

Admission to the seminar is by application. The total seminar cost for each participant, including visa fees, travel from New York, housing, and all meals, is \$3,500. All costs, except for passports and personal expenses, are included. The deadline for admission is **June 30** with full payment of fees. For further information or to make an application contact:

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