

PEACE TALKS



PeaceJam Solano is a project of Youth Peace Initiative, a California 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation. As a Chapter of the PeaceJam Foundation, PeaceJam Solano brings Solano County youth together with Nobel Peace Prize Laureates to learn and practice nonviolence and conflict resolution while actively serving our community.

PeaceJam Solano Welcomes Eleven New Solano County Facilitators Certified to Teach PeaceJam Curriculum



On October 10, 2009, PeaceJam Solano held a Certified Facilitator Training session for volunteers who are interested in leading middle school and high school youth through the PeaceJam curriculum. The training was held at a meeting space generously donated by Fighting Back Partnership of Vallejo. Eleven community members became certified PeaceJam facilitators. They are trained to start new clubs as well as facilitate existing clubs in high schools, middle schools, elementary schools and community based after-school programs. The attendees learned about the twelve Nobel Peace Laureates that the PeaceJam curriculum explores. They also discussed the Laureates' Global Call to Action, a challenge set forth for youth to implement one billion acts of service in ten years. Facilitators work with youth to develop and carry out service-learning projects in our communities. Together these facilitators and club members will practice and pass on skills of peacemaking, leadership and conflict resolution through the PeaceJam curriculum. The next certified facilitators' training is scheduled for January 30, 2010.

Support PeaceJam Solano While Surfing the Internet

What if Youth Peace Initiative & PeaceJam Solano earned a donation everytime you searched the Internet? Or how about if a percentage of every purchase you made online went to support our youth? Well, now it can!

GoodSearch.com is a new Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up!

GoodShop.com is a new online shopping mall which donates up to 30 percent of each purchase to your favorite cause! Hundreds of great stores including Amazon, Target, Gap, Best Buy, ebay, Macy's and Barnes & Noble have teamed up with GoodShop so that every time you place an order, you'll be supporting PeaceJam Solano.

And if you download the GoodSearch – Youth Peace Initiative - YPI toolbar, our cause will earn money every time you shop and search online -- even if you forget to go to GoodShop or GoodSearch first! Add the Youth Peace Initiative – PeaceJam Solano toolbar at <http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbar/youth-peace-initiative-y-pi>

Armijo PeaceJam Club Fundraises and Creates Awareness with Eco-Friendly Fashion Show

Environmentally friendly fashionistas gathered in the Armijo High School cafeteria on a recent Wednesday evening for the Armijo PeaceJam club's Eco-Friendly Fashion show. A clothing swap preceded a fashion show in which students modeled clothing they collected in a clothing drive. Each outfit was auctioned off, many items resulting in a bidding war among audience members. Attendees received a brochure which encouraged awareness of the impact their clothing has on the environment and gave practical ways they could lessen this impact.

Think about it:

- Americans throw away more than 68 pounds of clothing per person per year.
- Every day, 4.5 billion gallons of water are used to operate washing machines.
- 90 million clothes dryers are the second-highest energy consuming appliance.
- Every year, enough clothes hangers are wasted to fill the Empire State Building 4.6 times.

What you can do:

- By hanging dry half of your laundry, you'll keep 720 pounds of carbon dioxide from the environment.
- Wash your clothing only when necessary and use cold water—these two changes can cut your carbon dioxide emissions by 100 pounds and save up to \$64 on your energy bill.
- Donate clothes to a local charity.
- Purchase organic and eco-textiles.



Happy customers left the show with fashionable and environmentally friendly outfits and a new outlook on their clothing consumption habits.



Featured Laureate: Rigoberta Menchú
“This world's not going to change unless we're willing to change ourselves.”

Rigoberta Menchú Tum was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1992 in recognition of her work for social justice and ethno-cultural reconciliation work based on respect for the rights of indigenous peoples in her native Guatemala. She is the first indigenous person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

Rigoberta was born in 1959 to a poor Indian family in the highlands of Guatemala. In the 1970s and 1980s, Guatemala's repressive military dictatorship began a large-scale repression of Indian peoples. Before she was 21, Rigoberta's mother, father and brother were brutally tortured and murdered by the Guatemalan army.

Rigoberta confronted the oppression faced by her family and her people by actively protesting labor and human rights abuses. In 1981 she was forced to seek asylum for safety in Mexico. On several occasions, Rigoberta returned to her home country to plead the cause of the Indian peasants, but death threats forced her back into exile. After receiving the Peace Prize, Rigoberta established the Rigoberta Menchú Tum Foundation which promotes the rights of indigenous people around the world.

From 1994 to 2003, Rigoberta served as the official spokesperson for the United Nations International Decade of Indigenous Peoples. She has held the position of Good Will Ambassador for the Peace Accords in Guatemala since 2004. Rigoberta is also president of the company Salud para Todos (“Health for All”), which aims to offer cheap generic medicines to indigenous people in Guatemala. Solano County students met Rigoberta at the 2006 PeaceJam Conference at Oregon State University.



Updates from our PeaceJam Clubs

The **Armijo High Club** is celebrating a successful Eco-Friendly Fashion Show and gearing up for their next projects. They are planning lunchtime activities and a date auction fundraiser for the New Year!

The **Buckingham High Club** will work with the Country High Club to decorate a tree for Opportunity House's Festival of Trees and are responsible for all the gifts under the tree. The BCHS will be presenting an interactive "Hot and Cold Violence" skit to the 5th graders at Sierra Vista Elementary School in Vacaville on 12/11 at 2 pm. We thank Principal Eldridge Glover for inviting us to come share PeaceJam. The club voted that ten percent of their fundraising will go towards a charity that works to end human trafficking.

The **Country High Club**, which meets weekly in the 6th period leadership class, is taking the lead on decorating a tree again this year for Opportunity House's Festival of Trees fundraiser. They have chosen the theme "Save our Animals" and will decorate the tree with donated beanie babies. They will distribute second hand clothes at the Trower Center on Dec. 9th and their second of four blood drives took place on the 1st of Dec. in the Country High parking lot.

Peoples High is in the beginning stages of starting a PeaceJam club. An enthusiastic group of students in the leadership class have taken on the challenge of getting PeaceJam started at their school.

The **Rodriguez High Club** is full of energy and excitement with new club members, officers, and a new facilitator. They are planning a chalk walk day in which they will use chalk to decorate areas of their school with messages of peace. Several conference fundraisers are in their planning stages.

The **Vacaville High Club** has an active, enthusiastic group of new club officers. They held a Winter Ball gown fundraiser on November 17th & 19th and will repeat it on Dec. 1 & 3, and are planning to visit elderly residents of Windsor House in Vacaville on Friday, Dec. 18th. Also in the planning stages is another sock drive for the homeless.

The **Will C Wood High Club** continues the school-wide recycling and is also collecting cans to raise money for April's conference. Their next service project will be visiting the elderly in nursing homes.

Reception honors PeaceJam Solano's new AmeriCorps VISTA

PeaceJam Solano donors, volunteers and students welcomed Mary Morris, an AmeriCorps VISTA member, at a dessert reception on Thursday September 3, 2009. Mary completed a week of training with the 27-member PeaceJam AmeriCorps VISTA team, and arrived August 31st to begin a year of community service work in Solano County. She will focus on building the PeaceJam programs in Solano County and throughout Northern California.

Mary grew up in the East Bay and recently graduated from UCSD with a degree in International Studies emphasizing in Political Science. During her time at UCSD she organized and participated in community service projects in San Diego County as well as internationally, in countries including Mexico, Russia and Peru.

Mary is excited about working with the PeaceJam Solano team to increase the capacity of PeaceJam programming in Northern California. She can be reached at (707) 333-0835 or mary@peacejam.org



Help PeaceJam Solano by signing up today!
Participating merchants -- including Macy's, Office Max, Pepboys Auto and Baja Fresh -- contribute each time you make a purchase using your free grocery loyalty or debit/credit cards that are registered with eScrip. No hassles for you -- and every purchase counts! Visit www.escrip.com to sign up today. Just follow the instructions and enter the Youth Peace Initiative-PeaceJam Solano **group ID# 500021410**.

Volunteer with PeaceJam Solano!

Thinking about a New Year's resolution? How about donating some of your valuable time to PeaceJam Solano? A few hours a month can really make the difference for our organization, which is completely volunteer run. Take the first step by contacting our Volunteer Coordinator today! Jackie King Walton: jkingwalton@msn.com or (707) 720-6075.

Featured PeaceJammer: Devin Murphy
Junior at Buckingham Charter Magnet High

How did you get involved in PeaceJam? I started PeaceJam as a freshman in high school. I wanted to begin to get active in the community, so I was trying to find various programs that would help me get active. I first began volunteering at the Vacaville Neighborhood Boys and Girls Club. One day a volunteer from PeaceJam visited the Boys and Girls Club to potentially get a PJ club active there. I definitely wanted to get involved, so I contacted Sherilyn Henry and she was thrilled that I was willing to start a club at Buckingham. After my first conference, I was really inspired and this added to my idea of starting a PJ Club. I began to recruit other members to the club. The Buckingham club meets every Monday, and we have many more active members--which is great!



Which PeaceJam Conferences have you been to with which Laureates? In total, I have attended three PeaceJam conferences. All the conferences have been inspiring. The first conference I went to was a regional PeaceJam conference at Oregon State University. The Nobel Peace Laureate at this conference was Adolfo Perez Esquivel from Argentina. He told about his trials and tribulations that occurred throughout his life. The conference was very short yet so inspirational. I also, just this past April, attended another regional conference with the keynote speaker being Shirin Ebadi from Iran. This conference taught me an immense amount about the lives of citizens in the Middle East. I went to various workshops where I learned how to get away from the stereotypes of terrorism and how to find ways of collaborating with others. This conference was special for me because I had the opportunity, along with a couple of other PeaceJam Solano members, to eat lunch with Shirin Ebadi herself. We had the opportunity to ask personal questions about her life and her struggle and how she overcame them. It was such an honor to be in the presence of someone so determined and courageous. What added to the spark of this conference is that it took place during one of the peaks of the problems the US was having with Iran. I also attended an International conference in LA at Loyola Marymount University. This conference had six Nobel Peace Prize Laureates including: Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Rigoberta Menchu Tum, Jody Williams, Betty Williams, Shirin Ebadi and Adolfo Perez Esquivel. This conference was the far most inspirational! Because it was an international conference, not only was there diversity amongst the Laureates who were there, but also, there was great diversity among the PeaceJam youth who attended the conference. I met people from South Africa, Costa Rica, Guatemala, East Timor, Canada, and those were only some places. When you have youth of different ages and different regions of the world in one room with the same goals...well, that is just the most powerful experience anyone can have! The different lessons I learned and all the people I met deeply affected my life. I still get goosebumps talking about it. Conferences create a great combination of fun and education, and provide great opportunities for youth to get inspired and determine to help this world become a better place. There is nothing like going to a PeaceJam conference!

What has been your favorite PeaceJam moment, activity or project thus far? I would have to say that my favorite PeaceJam moment was the entire 2008 PeaceJam International Conference with the six Nobel Peace Prize Laureates. There was so much energy and power in the building with all the youth who shared a common goal. This conference made me set that bar high for myself and made me ask myself, 'how am I going to make an impact in the world,' and 'how am I gonna be the change I want to see in the world. With my future goals involving being in politics and law, the education and leadership skills I received from the conference definitely related to how I was going to see myself at 'the end of the tunnel.' There is always one activity at the PJ conferences that I like the most which is the "Ceremony of Inspiration." This is an activity in which the youth at the conference have an opportunity to address the conference attendees and the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate(s) with their stories and how they have overcome specific obstacles. This part of the conference really begins changing lives. It makes me as a youth think 'if s/he did it, when they were my age, why can't I?' This is one of the most heartwarming activities at the conferences, and it completely serves the name 'Ceremony of Inspiration.'