



Peace Tax Fund *Update*

National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund & The Peace Tax Foundation

Issue 2, 2006

Peace Tax Fund Welcomes New Director Deep Gratitude to Tim Godshall; A Warm Welcome to Alan Gamble

By LYLE JENKS

Members of the Campaign and Foundation Boards unite in this time of transition and new beginnings to say a fond farewell to Tim Godshall as interim director and to warmly welcome Alan Gamble as our new executive director.

During the interim period following Marian Franz' retirement as director, Tim has ably led the organizations as the board has been busy in searching for the next director. In his three-year tenure with us, Tim has held every position within the organization, and we are appreciative of his clear and grounded approach to matters both programmatic and administrative. His creative talents and sense of humor have helped us all thrive during this transition period.

Tim will continue as interim director for a few more weeks before leaving the staff on June 30th. We wish him well as he discerns the next steps in his life journey, and are grateful for the time that he has shared his gifts and skills with us.

With a sense of great anticipation in what the future holds, we welcome Alan Gamble as our new director. Long associated with the Peace Tax

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Alan Gamble, the new NCPTF executive director, speaks at a reception honoring Marian Franz's 23 years of service working for the Peace Tax Fund. Gamble has been an active volunteer for the Peace Tax Fund for several years.

GRANT RISSLER

New York Quakers Declare Opposition to War Taxes

By CHRIS FRETZ

On April 7th, the New York Yearly Meeting of Friends released a statement proclaiming that military taxation violates their religious beliefs and members of the Meeting will live out this conviction in their communities. This statement is one of the most wide-reaching and definitive statements about opposition to military taxation to come from any religious group in this country. The New York Yearly Meeting (NYYM) is the umbrella organization for 89 Quaker Meetings and Worship Groups in New York State and parts of New Jersey and Connecticut.

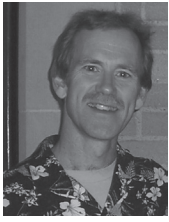
Representatives of the Meeting approved the statement at their Spring Business Sessions during the first weekend of April. It reads: "The Living Spirit works to give joy, peace and prosperity through love, integrity and compassionate justice among people. We are united in this Power. We acknowledge that paying for war violates our religious conviction. We will witness to this religious conviction in each of our communities."

NYYM has endorsed the National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund since 1972, and the meeting advocated for the Peace Tax Fund bill in their press release about the statement. Linda Chidsey, Clerk of NYYM, also spoke on behalf of the Peace Tax Fund at an interreligious service that was part of a large peace rally in New York City on April 29 (see Notes From the Field on page 5). Although the full implications of the statement have yet to be seen, members of the Meeting are firmly committed to living out the statement.

"As a religious body, we cannot in good conscience support war, and we have borne that witness for over 350 years," said Christopher Sammond, General Secretary of NYYM. "We are clear that violence only begets more violence, in a never ending cycle of horror that diminishes all humankind. Being required to pay almost half our taxes to support war-making is a violation of our religious convictions, and we will be seeking ways to redress this, individually and corporately."

• *Marian Franz honored for work* - See Page 5.

• *Lobby Day Summary* - See Page 6



By ALAN GAMBLE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Lord, Is It I? The Meaning of Membership

In her book *Questions That Refuse To Go Away*, Marian Franz used the question “Lord, is it I?” to remind us of the importance of each person exercising responsible citizenship in society’s well-being. In what ways might our actions

bring life and hope? Conversely, in what ways might our silence or lifestyle hurt others?

The humble question “Lord, is it I?” is also used at turning points in the lives of history makers. Just think of it. Moses, Mary, Martin Luther, Oscar Romero, Rosa Parks...even mythical Luke Skywalker - they all at one time wondered how their lives could possibly be used to transform society—to bring about justice and freedom—but they also humbly submitted with the words, “Here I am.”

I am calling upon each of us to be history makers. So many of us live our lives without true reflection on why we’re here and what we have been called to do. We remain asleep and unaware of God’s soft voice through “coincidences.” We think somebody else with more education, better speaking skill, stronger confidence or name recognition will lead us to the “promised land”. I once attended a conference where I learned the song “*We are the ones we’ve been waiting for.*” Each of us is truly more powerful than we’ll ever know in this life. We need to remember we are all children of God, born to make manifest the glory within each one of us.

I admit to some disappointment when our lobby day participants on May 16 seemed so small in number. How will God change this drop of water into the justice that rolls down like a mighty river? The lyrics of a favorite song remind me:

*“Step by step the longest march can be won, can be won.
Many stones can form an arch, singly none, singly none.
And in union what we will can be accomplished still.
Drops of water turn a mill, singly none, singly none.”*

The impossible often occurs through ‘ordinary’ people who ask “Lord, is it I You’re waiting on... to make that phone call... to write that letter to the editor...to meet with that senator?” Listening...submitting...doing ordinary actions in a spirit of service. I loved what Daniel Longwing said at the close of lobby day: “We don’t have to move mountains, we just need to move our feet!”

We will make the road by walking it. We can show by our actions we are worthy of the legacy and vision Jefferson, Madison, Lincoln, Wallace Collett, David Bassett, and Marian Franz have left for us. Each day we can wake up and decide to be a history maker, nurturing a revolution of freedom and conscience, of passion and compassion, of love and openness.

I need each of us reading this Update to consider the meaning of two memberships. First, what does it mean to be an *American* with rights of speech, worship, participation in collective decisions... and what do I need to do in order to manifest these rights for this and future generations? Next, what does it mean personally to be a member of the *Peace Tax Campaign*? Will you share my goal of passing this bill into law by 2010? If so, what seeds do we each need to plant this week in order to reap that long-awaited harvest? How will I connect with another member today?

I want each of us to imagine the passage of the *Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Act* is imminent. How will you become a certified peacemaker? Write out a statement of belief in the use of violence/physical force to accomplish an objective. What are the practical implications of loving your enemies and your neighbor as yourself? Who has influenced these beliefs (parents, teachers, books, films, experiences...). Send us a copy in the enclosed envelope, with a donation if you are able. With your permission, we will post some on our website or even compile into a book format. The next issue’s column will focus on our influences (*The Magic of Mentors*) and I’d love to include your input.

It truly is an honor to be asked to serve you. Let us put our minds together and see what we can create for ALL the earth’s children.

Thank You

In March, the Peace Tax Foundation received a generous bequest from the estate of Joseph and Florence Gomez. The board and staff of the Peace Tax Foundation wish to convey our sincere thanks to the family of Joseph and Florence Gomez for supporting the struggle of conscience during their lives and in their final acts of generosity.

Wallace Collett: Visionary and Activist

By LYLE JENKS

Those of us currently serving on the Boards of the Peace Tax Campaign and Foundation are grateful for the life and the example of Wallace T. Collett, long-time board member and active supporter of the Peace Tax Fund who died on May 9th after a full life of 91 years.

A long-time farmer, businessman, and company executive, Wallace brought much worldly experience to his stance for peace. An active Quaker throughout his life, he clerked the Friends Committee on War Tax Concerns, and served on and clerked the board of American Friends Service Committee, traveling throughout the world where AFSC was involved in peace work. His quiet, steadfast commitment to the ideal of a world at peace with justice has been a model, a pattern, and an example for many. His poetry and "typewriter art" gave further expression to his principles.

Wallace and his wife Carrie became war tax resisters many years ago, and bore witness to the peace testimony in their dealings with I.R.S. Their journey to this witness is eloquently described in a talk entitled "War, Peace and Conscience," which Wallace gave to the Haverford College student body in a campus-wide Collection during the spring of 1984:

"Under the clear guidance of our conscience, and directed by our religious belief, we have come to the time when we can no longer pay that portion of our Federal income tax that is used for military purposes -- for the preparation for war and killing... We take this position with both sorrow and determination -- sorrow that nations including our own are far advanced in preparation for nuclear war that would kill millions of our fellow humans and destroy the very fabric of life on our planet; and determination that we must no longer participate in this gross immorality but must bear witness that peace is possible among the nations....."

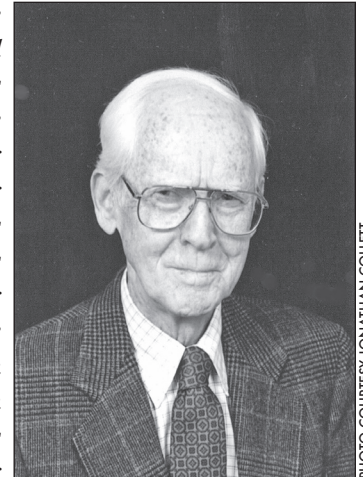


PHOTO COURTESY JONATHAN COLLETT

Wallace Collett served on the NCPTF Board of Directors from 1990-2000 and was a committed peace activist.

May the vision which Wallace advanced through his life, and particularly his commitment to the Peace Tax Fund effort, be a vision that informs us each as we follow what our conscience guides us to do.

Lyle Jenks is the Secretary of the NCPTF Board of Directors.

National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund & The Peace Tax Foundation



Executive Director: Alan Gamble
Interim Director: Tim Godshall
Web and Computer Administrator: Daniel Longwing
Outreach/Development Assistant: Chris Fretz
Board Chair: Steve Ratzlaff
Honorary Board Chair: David Bassett

Update is published 3 times annually and distributed to members of the National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund. *Update* equips readers actively to support peace tax legislation by informing them of news relating to the peace tax fund movement, drawing attention to the costs of militarism, and publicizing stories and viewpoints of individuals and groups who cannot, in good conscience, pay for war.

Membership in the NCPTF costs \$35 annually. Since NCPTF advocates for the legal recognition of conscientious objection to military taxation, membership dues and gifts to NCPTF are not tax-deductible. Tax-deductible contributions can be made to the Peace Tax Foundation, which educates the public about issues of taxes and war.

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Prisoners of Conscience

Conscientious objectors Joe Donato and Kevin McKee have now been in prison for over 3 months of their respective 27 and 24 month sentences. They were imprisoned for refusing to pay taxes they knew would be used for military violence.

Joe contacted the Peace Tax Fund and told us that he has greatly appreciated all the letters of support he has received, and is very thankful for people have taken the time to write to him. Please continue to send letters of support to Joe and Kevin.

For more info on their case, see Peace Tax Fund Update, 2005 Issue 3, available online at: www.peacetaxfund.org

<i>To send a letter of support to Joe and/or Kevin please use the following addresses:</i>	Joseph Donato # 40884-050 FCI Fairton- Satellite camp PO Box 420 Fairton, NJ 08320	Kevin McKee # 40886-050 FPC Schuylkill PO Box 700 Minersville, PA 17954
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Thank you, Marian!



Clockwise starting in upper left: Former Board Member Alan Eccleston pays tribute to Marian during the open sharing time; Steve Ratzlaff, Chair of the NCPTF Board of Directors, presents Marian Franz with a scrapbook of notes from friends, family, and colleagues; Board Secretary Lyle Jenks converses with Bill Strong, who preceded Marian as director of what was then called the National Council for a World Peace Tax Fund; Marian talks with former Outreach/Development Director Dan Chong, who holds his son Owen.



PHOTOS BY GRANT RESSLER



Over seventy people -- colleagues, board members, past and present staff, family, and friends -- gathered on May 18 in Washington DC to honor Marian Franz for her 23 years of service as the executive director of the NCPTF. The drop-in event included a wonderful time of sharing stories and appreciation for Marian.

Rev. Barbara Green, a long-time staff member of the Presbyterian Church (USA) Washington office who worked closely with Marian, spoke of Marian's passion and compassion. Lobbying with Marian on the Peace Tax Fund Bill was "a textbook case of moral clarity" said Green. Ned Stowe, of the Friends Committee on National Legislation, shared that his very first lobbying experience on the job was with Marian. Stowe compared Marian to the Energizer Bunny for her tenacity on Capitol Hill. Daryl Byler, of the Mennonite Central Committee Washington Office, praised Marian for her "incredible ability to hold

together the pastoral and the prophetic." Although unable to attend, Honorary Board Chair, and original board member, David Bassett sent prepared comments which were read by Chair Steve Ratzlaff.

Marian graced those present with a speech that chronicled the highlights of her years as executive director, including the challenges faced and the milestones reached. Marian's presentation was marked by the wit and unfailing vision with which she has guided this organization for over two decades. Her announcement that she plans to return again to work with NCPTF as a lobbyist was met with great applause.

The Board of Directors presented Marian with a cash gift, as well as a framed set of photos of artwork in remembrance of Mohandas Gandhi. Marian's church, Hyattsville Mennonite, provided delicious food for the reception, which was held at the United Methodist Building.

Peace Tax Fund Board Member Takes on IRS

The Following is a statement from Dan Jenkins, a member of the NCPTF Board of Directors, on his current court case with the IRS regarding his non-payment of a portion of his 2001 federal income taxes. He has gone through several appeals, and has filed a legal brief requesting an oral hearing. The court has not yet set a date.

Jenkins v. Commissioner of Internal Revenue Service

An Appeal to the Second Circuit Federal Court

In this case, Daniel Jenkins requests that the federal government accommodate an individual conscientious objection to military taxation by allocating his personal income tax payments to non-military purposes.

Jenkins maintains that some 'liberty of conscience' rights were retained 'by the people' when the U.S. Constitution and first ten amendments were ratified by the original states. The right of conscientious objection to coerced military service and supply of armament can be found in pre-federal state constitutions and statutes, and is thus protected by the First Amendment via the Ninth Amendment. He points out that the Amish refusal to pay social security taxes on religious grounds was accommodated by the government, and that the IRS is also capable of administering his request without undue burden.

Jenkins does not seek exemption from the payment of federal taxes. He placed the disputed amount in escrow when filing his income tax return and advised the IRS Commissioner in writing that those funds were available for non-military expenditures.

The accommodation requested by Jenkins is consistent with the manner in which state militia exemption taxes of conscientious objectors were allocated to non-military purposes in earlier times. The U.S. Tax Court rejected these claims without conducting a hearing and assessed a \$5,000 penalty for bringing a 'frivolous' suit. Jenkins raises an apparently novel argument and relies on the recent Supreme Court decision *Gonzales v. O Centro*, and the Second Circuit Court decision *Hankins v. Lyght*.

Notes From the Field

It's been a busy time for some of our local volunteers. From New York to California, Peace Tax Fund supporters are publicizing and lobbying for the bill in a variety of ways.

Cleveland, Ohio

On May 10, Thirteen people lobbied for the Peace Tax Fund at the local office of Rep. Stephanie Tubbs Jones, whose district includes Eastern Cleveland and the surrounding area. The group was organized by Penny Allen, a local activist from Ohio's 11th district, and met with Tubbs Jones's Deputy District Director, Chris Nance to ask for Rep. Tubbs Jones's sponsorship of the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund bill. Of the thirteen people present, nine were constituents of Tubbs Jones. Allen was grateful for everyone that lobbied with her. "They came, they cared, and spoke from their hearts so articulately," said Allen. She followed up on the local visit with a visit to Tubbs Jones's DC office during NCPTF's annual Lobby Day on May 16. Allen and two other Lobby Day participants met with Jorge Castro, one of Tubbs Jones's top staffers on tax issues (see Lobby Day article on page 6). We'd like to thank Penny Allen for her hard work, and encourage supporters in Ohio's 11th district to join her in asking Rep. Stephanie Tubbs Jones to cosponsor the H.R. 2631, the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Bill.

Arcata, California

On May 3, the Arcata City Council passed a motion to write a letter to Rep. Mike Thompson asking him to cosponsor the Peace Tax Fund Bill. Last summer, local volunteer, Sara Sunstein, collected a petition of 74 signatures in support of the Bill, and got the Bill onto the City Council agenda. The City Council later chose to table the letter until a community forum is held on the Bill. Sunstein said that if the City Council continues to support the Peace Tax Fund, she may expand her efforts to Eureka, a nearby city which is also the county seat.

New York City, New York

The Peace Tax Fund was well represented at a large peace rally in New York City on April 29. Karen D'Onofrio ran an informational table on the Peace Tax Fund at a peace and justice festival that followed the morning's march for peace. The table was set up in a legislative tent near the entrance of the festival, and D'Onofrio ran out of literature by mid-afternoon. "People are desperate for other ideas and I hope that I made some small impact," She said.

Continued on Page 6

NCPTF Supporters Lobby for C.O. Rights

By CHRIS FRETZ

On May 16, approximately 30 people came to Washington, DC to lobby for the rights of conscientious objectors. People came from as far away as Kansas and Minnesota for the annual Lobby Day, organized jointly by NCPTF and Center on Conscience and War. Participants lobbied Congress to support two pieces of legislation that affirm the rights of conscientious objection – The Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Act and the Military Conscientious Objection (CO) Act.



Tim Godshall, Interim Director of NCPTF, presents during Lobby Day's morning orientation session.

The Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Act, which was introduced by Rep. John Lewis (D-GA), would allow conscientious objectors to pay their federal income taxes into a non-military fund. It has 41 cosponsors to date. The Military CO Act would ensure a fair and just process for soldiers in the military who request a discharge with a CO status. This legislation has not yet been introduced into

Congress, and participants lobbied Representatives who are likely to introduce the bill.

The day began with a Congressional briefing on conscientious objection and military recruitment practices, which was hosted by the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) and Representative Cynthia McKinney (D-GA). Tim Godshall, Interim Director of NCPTF, presented

Notes From the Field, from Page 5

In the evening, Linda Chidsey, the Clerk of New York Yearly Meeting of Friends (NYYM), spoke on behalf of the Peace Tax Fund at an interreligious service. She spoke about the spiritual basis of NYYM's support of a Peace Tax Fund since 1972 and read the recent statement NYYM issued stating that paying taxes to fund military violence violates their beliefs (see article on the statement on front page). Chidsey reported that those present were enthusiastic about her message.

testimony on conscientious objection to military taxation. Other presenters included representatives of FOR, War Resisters League, Pax Christi USA, and other peace and civil rights organizations. The briefing was televised on C-SPAN that evening.

One highlight of the day was a visit that participant, Penny Allen, had at the office of Rep. Stephanie Tubbs Jones of Ohio. Allen arrived at the office with two other Lobby Day participants, and they were promptly informed that they would meet with Jorge Castro, one of Jones's top staffers on tax issues. Allen reported that the meeting went well, and speculated that Castro met with them because she was following up on a visit she made the week before to Tubbs Jones's local office with nine other constituents. (see Notes From the Field on page 5)

Although there were several good lobby visits, we would like a higher turnout for future lobby events. We want your input about what would make Lobby Day more attractive to attend. We will also continue working with supporters who are too far away to come to DC, and support you in effective local lobbying. Please contact Chris Fretz when lobbying so we can assist you and follow up on your visits and letters. Chris can be reached by phone at 1-888-732-2382, or by e-mail: chris@peacetaxfund.org.

Staff Transition, from Page 1

Fund effort, Alan has served as a Congressional District Contact in his home state of Michigan. His most recent professional experience has been as a faculty member at Jackson Community College. Alan will be in the office for some weeks of orientation and settling before he assumes all the multiple roles and responsibilities of guiding and directing the Peace Tax organizations on July 1.

Please read Alan's column on page 2 to learn some of his vision for our work together, and join us in welcoming him to this new place of opportunity in his life.

We look forward to Marian Franz's return in the particular role of lobbying, working with Alan and the Boards.

In this time of transition -- letting go, saying goodbye as well as hello and facing the future -- we join in Dag Hammarskjöld's affirmation of "For all that has been, Thanks. For all that is to be, Yes!"

Lyle Jenks is the Secretary of the NCPTF Board of Directors.






Peace Tax Fund *Activist Resources*

Brochures and Flyers

- Peace Tax Fund Basic Brochure - Redesigned 11/2005.....10 for \$1.00 _____
- Basic Q&A about the Peace Tax Fund Bill - Redesigned 9/2005.....5 for \$1.00 _____
- Funny Money - Spoof dollar bill flyer with info about Peace Tax Fund and National War Tax Resistance20 for \$1.00 _____
- Stages of Conscientious Objection to Military Taxation - From realizing taxes fund war to taking action, outlined in 5 steps.....5 for \$1.00 _____
- Federal Spending Bar Graph - Graphic portrayal of military spending vs. selected human needs..... 10 for \$1.00 _____
- Where Your Income Tax Money Really Goes - U.S. FY 2007 pie chart by War Resisters League.....10 for \$1.00 _____

Miscellaneous Items

- Button - 1.5 inches, blue and white, "Taxes for Peace Not War"\$1.00 _____
- 
- Bumperstickers - 11.5" x 3", blue and white
-  "Taxes for Peace Not War"\$1.00 _____
-  "Make Levees Not War"\$1.00 _____
- Lobby Packet - Give this to your rep. when you lobby - contains basic information, bill, endorsers & cosponsors, and cover letter.....\$2.50 _____
- Text of the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Bill - H.R. 2631 in the 109th Congress, 2 pages.....\$0.50 _____
- "Conscientious Objector" - Poem by Edna St. Vincent Millay.....5 for \$1.00 _____

Books

- "Congress Shall Make No Law" - Personal stories of conscientious objectors to military taxation, 14 p, 2002.....\$1.00 _____
- Conscience and the Courts* - Selected Supreme Ct. & other cases which define conscientious objection to participation in war, 2005.....\$5.00 _____
- Communities of Conscience* - Collected statements on conscience and taxes for the military, 2nd edition (105 p).....\$5.00 _____
- Handbook on Military Taxes and Conscience* - ed. Linda B. Coffin (1988, 212 p).....\$5.00 _____
- War Tax Resistance: a guide to withholding your support from the military* - ed. Ruth Benn, Ed Hedemann (2003, 144 p)..... \$15.00 _____
- Questions that Refuse to Go Away* - Marian Franz (1991, 103 p) \$5.00 _____
- Seeking Peace: Notes and Conversations Along the Way* - Johann Christoph Arnold, preface by Thich Nhat Hanh (1998, 237 p).....\$15.00 _____

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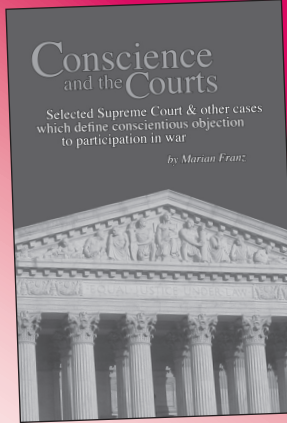
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new materials

order form on p. 7 or online at www.peacetaxfund.org **Two More Cosponsor H.R. 2631**

CONSCIENCE AND THE COURTS

It is now here, and hot off the press! This new book by Marian Franz concisely highlights 21 court decisions in the past century which have influenced the struggle for the rights of conscientious objectors. This is an essential resource for lobbying, research, or personal education and insight.



NEWLY DESIGNED BUMPERSTICKER AND BUTTON

Our bumpersticker and button both got a new look! Great new look, same low price!



BUTTON
1" round
white and blue



BUMPERSTICKER
3" x 11.5"
white on blue background

Reps. Chaka Fattah (PA-02) and Paul Kanjorski (PA-11) added their names to the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Bill on May 24, bringing the number of cosponsors to 43. The bill needs two more cosponsors to have the most cosponsors it has had since 1990. For a full list of cosponsors, visit www.peacetaxfund.org

Volunteer Opportunity

NCPTF is looking for a volunteer in the DC Metro area to do data entry several hours a week. The ideal volunteer would be able to work approximately a half day per week.

Skills needed: Proficient typing and the ability to pay close attention to detail.

Helping this cause takes all types of efforts, from public speaking and lobbying, to daily office work. If interested, contact Alan Gamble at alan@peacetaxfund.org, or by phone: 202-483-3751.

HELP OUR MOVEMENT GROW!

NCPTF is working hard to bring people together and strengthen our voices. Please help by sending your contribution (basic yearly membership: \$35) in the enclosed envelope. You may also make a secure, online donation at www.peacetaxfund.org. Thanks!



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