



March Newsletter

Welcome back to university and hi to all of our new members! I hope you all had a great summer break and are looking forward to getting involved again this semester...

Coming up in March we have:

How do we get serious on Climate Change? - Critical Voice Forum - Tuesday 4th March. James Duggie from WWF will be giving a presentation titled "How do we get serious on Climate Change?" in KBLT at 4pm. Following the presentation there will be an opportunity to ask questions and discuss ideas on where we should go from here in order to reduce our negative impact on the environment. We will then be screening "The Heat is On", an episode of Insight which was shown in May 2007. It takes a different look at how we might deal with climate change. So far there's been plenty of talk about nuclear power and clean coal technology but at best, they're well over a decade away. Is there more we could be doing right now to significantly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions? And, would it mean sacrificing our lifestyles, our jobs or the health of the economy?

US Labor against the War Convener speaking at Murdoch – Wednesday 5th March, outside the library in Bush Court at 12.30pm. Kathy Black, a national convener of US Labor against the War, will be visiting Perth on a speaking tour in early March organised by Just Peace and the Murdoch Guild of Students.

US Labor against the war is a group of unionists focused on increasing the participation of trade unions within the broader US anti-war movement. The group has over 150 affiliates across the US including state and city-wide labour councils and local union branches. In 2005 it successfully pushed for a policy demanding a rapid withdrawal of troops from Iraq at the convention of the AFL-CIO, the national peak union body in the US.

This will be an opportunity to hear first hand about how trade unions in the US are resisting George Bush's criminal wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the cost for ordinary working people in the US in terms of massive cuts to healthcare and other government services. Kathy Black has been an active unionist in Philadelphia for 20 years, and currently works for the national public sector and health care workers union AFSCME. She has been involved in many community campaigns over the years and is currently also active in the Coalition of Labor Union Women and the National Organisation of Women (NOW) Philadelphia.

Further information on US Labor against the war can be found on their website at

www.uslaboragainstar.org For more information on the event phone Ray on 0438 653 996.

Critical Voice Forum Tues 18th March. Australian Friends of Palestine (WA) and the Centre for Muslim States and Societies present: PALESTINE: is peace possible? an eyewitness report by: KIM BULLIMORE volunteer, International Women's Peace Service, West Bank, 2007.

In October 2007, Israel instituted widespread fuel and power cuts as part its ongoing and illegal collective punishment of 1.5 million Palestinians living in the Gaza. On January 20, Gaza's only power plant was forced to close down as reserve fuel ran out leaving more than 800,000 Gazans in darkness. The closure of the plant also affected the water supply and the disposal of sewage. More than 40% of Palestinians have been left without access to drinkable water.

After 85 days under complete siege and worsening humanitarian conditions, the Palestinian resistance took matters into their own hands, blowing up the wall that separated Rafah in Palestine and Egypt. Within hours, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians had flooded into the Sinai in order to buy much needed supplies, including food, clothing and fuel. The crisis that now engulfs Gaza is Israel's attempt to collectively punish the Palestinian population for electing Hamas in January 2006. In June 2007, Hamas overran Fatah forces in

Gaza following months of fighting between the two factions and Israeli bombing of Gaza. Palestinian President, Mahmoud Abbas, responded to the Gaza takeover by sacking the Hamas-led government. Kim Bullimore, a volunteer with the International Women's Peace Service in Palestine and a writer on Palestinian issues, will examine the causes of the current conflict in Palestine and the prospects for finding a lasting peace. Kim's reports on the conflict can be found at www.livefromoccupiedpalestine.blogspot.com.

Earth Hour 2008 is going global! Created to take a stand against the greatest threat our planet has ever faced, Earth Hour uses the simple action of turning off the lights for one hour to deliver a powerful message about the need for action on global Warming. This simple act has captured the hearts and minds of people all over the world. As a result, at 8pm March 29, 2008 millions of people in some of the world's major capital cities, including Copenhagen, Toronto, Chicago, Melbourne, Brisbane and Tel Aviv will unite and switch off for Earth Hour. **Take Action at 8pm, March 29th!** [Sign up & get tips on how you can get more involved](#)

Australian Orangutan Project's National Walk-a-thon – Sunday 30th March.

Lake Monger Reserve

Registration: 9.15am

Walk Commences: 10am

Please dress in orange or green on the day!

Great Prizes to be won

Join us for a **sausage sizzle** and lots of fun

for the whole family

All money raised will go directly to **The Australian Orangutan Project** www.orangutan.org.au
For sponsorship and registration form and further information please contact Lesley Rosser on 9457 0185 or 0409 049 518 – steamdry@bigpond.net.au. In 2008 **"Let's Make a Difference!"**

Language Classes – German & Korean. There are still places available in the Korean classes, which run on Mondays from 3.00-4.30pm in the Secretariat Meeting Room in the Guild Building.

German classes will be held on Saturdays in the Secretariat Meeting Room in the Guild Building at 12.30-2.00pm.

All classes cost just \$2 each and are aimed at beginners, so no prior knowledge is required. If you would like to enrol, please email swb@guild.murdoch.edu.au