



Speaking our Peace

Peace Center of Nevada County

Office Update

As of August 3, 2007, PCNC is still unclear about our office situation. We have given 30-day notice and must move from our current office unless we can find a renter for the office behind us or work some kind of new arrangement with our landlord. So, we are seriously seeking either that renter or a 200-300 square foot space in an exciting location for under \$500/month. We welcome constructive input.

PCNC Retreat Eyes Program Expansion

By Susheela Farrell and Rio

On a beautiful spring day in Nevada City, Board, staff, and dedicated members of the Peace Center gathered for the (approximately) annual retreat; a time to discuss our current position and focus our vision for the coming year. How can we encourage peace

and justice in our community and our nation in this time of war in Iraq and Afghanistan and of the governmental/corporate attack on our constitutional liberties and balance of power?

The gathering lasted most of Saturday, May 19, at the comfortable home of Lorraine Reich. The discussion was lively in spite of the uncertainty and concern over our office situation. We felt that we want to continue our counter-recruitment outreach, participate in local events (4th of July Parade, County Fair, Ridgestock, etc.), coordinate with national groups for world events, marches, vigils, etc., and create more of a center for political and social ideas and efforts.

One of the topics that sparked interest was that of focusing our attention on “the life we want,” rather than protesting against what we don’t want. The concomitant question is how to do that while also looking at what we feel is “wrong” in order to figure out how best to change it. In any case, the ensuing discussion led to a slight change in the wording of our Mission Statement (*See back page*).



The current (and future?) home of the Peace Center.

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About Us

The staff of dedicated PCNC members who bring you *Speaking Our Peace* twice a year continues to evolve. Thanks to Marianna Greenberg - our new layout editor who is responsible for most of our new look.

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-continued from page 1 PCNC Retreat...

There were a number of suggestions for new directions and programs, such as supporting peace candidates in our local area, seeing if we can help with the needs of wounded veterans, forming a "tolerance task force" to help locals who suffer any form of discrimination or disempowerment and can't find adequate support. The idea of a tolerance task force is being developed into the Positive Empowerment Program, or PEP.

A major part of the work of PCNC is developing the peacefulness and sense of justice in our selves through practicing with each other and in response to our community interactions. We are, after all, the conscience for peace and justice in our area, and we need to find issues that unite people and ignite their interest and involvement. Our goals are to develop more active networks and to work more closely with other organizations to foster peace in the individual, community, and the world. To that end, we are striving to bring our aspirations and energy into expanded programs for youth, veterans, and all of us in our community.

Anyone who feels inspired to help out with any of our programs can contact PCNC at 530.478.0699 or at pcnc@sbcglobal.net.

March 17 Demo

The PCNC sadly marked the 4th anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq with a gathering in Memorial Park in Grass Valley; followed by a march and demonstration through the downtown area



to St. Joseph's Cultural Center. The program at St. Joseph's featured a full spectrum of music and speakers, including Utah Phillips and a number of great peace activist musicians.

The program of events filled most of a sunny Sunday afternoon, March 17. With only an hour's break for clean-up and rearranging, St. Joseph's came back to life with a Dance for Peace celebration hosted by Michael Stone.

Some 400 people gathered together at the high point of the march, about twice the number that had filled Grass Valley's sidewalks two years ago.

Most of the passers-by were appreciative of our cause - some even joining in the demonstration; though there were still a few who met the marchers with scorn and ridicule.

Will there be a 5th anniversary march, or will the people finally say "No more!" before we have to do it all over again?

BriarPatch

By Rio

In this time of growth for the BriarPatch Coop, as the public is welcomed into their new store, there is apparently some discussion and disagreement over a number of management/employee issues. Viewpoints differ, not only between some management and employees, but also among employees themselves.

From our own perspective, as the Peace Center of Nevada County, in the interest of supporting peace in our community, we take this position on the issue:

We choose not to take any side in the discussion. We sincerely urge all parties to it to explain their positions clearly and patiently, to listen attentively and patiently to all other sides, to keep the interests of all members in mind, and to call us (or some other party) for neutral mediation or facilitation of negotiations should that appear useful. We might all do well to consider this to be an excellent opportunity for growth.

Venue for Second Membership Party

Sunday evening, June 3, Peace Center members celebrated another year of working together to promote peace and justice with an evening filled with great local music, food, and friendship. The potluck party at Seaman's lodge in Nevada City featured entertainment from Grace Fae and Thomas Spellman, The Buffalo Gals, Satori, Nory Fussell, Utah Phillips, Paul Kamm and Mikail Graham, and The Blue Shadows, as well as dancing and comradeship for all. Musicians graciously donated their time to help further the Peace Center's goals. Admission was free to all current members, and new memberships and renewals were available at the door.

Once again, organizers were surprised at the large number of supporters who came together for the party. This was our second annual Membership Party. Last year's version was held at the North Columbia Schoolhouse, and next year's... could be at your house!



Affinity Groups News

Women in Black

By Elizabeth Ormond

Women in Black is an international women's peace network. It was started by Israeli and Palestinian women in 1988, standing in silent protest against the occupation of Gaza and the West Bank; it has since spread worldwide.

Women in Black started standing in the United States on September 11, 2001. Here in Nevada County women came together informally during the Afghanistan war, and we have been formally standing in silent vigil since 2003, during the run-up to the bombing and invasion of Iraq.

Nevada County Women in Black is a fluid and informal group – sometimes there are many of us, sometimes only a few, sometimes there is nobody there at the appointed hour, sometimes the group all but disappears, to be revived when the need is pressing.

We stand vigil on Thursday afternoons, in the summer from 5:30 to 6:30, and in the winter from 4:30 to 5:30. We stand in silence, mourning all types of violence, from domestic violence and bullying to war and torture. We stand in witness to the suffering of victims all over the world. We stand in solidarity with people all over the world who struggle for peace and justice.

Food Democracy Alliance

By Rita de Quercus

Members of the Food Democracy Alliance continue to provide much of the leadership of the local food movement, including being key organizers of the March 2006 and 2007 Come Home To Eat events, involvement in the publication of the annual Farm Guides, the maintenance of a website localfood-coalition.org, and advocating on issues affecting local farmers and farmland.

We also continue to work to stop genetic engineering at the state and federal level. At the state level, AB 541 was introduced this year, which would shift liability for genetic contamination to the manufacturers of GE seeds. At the federal level, we are monitoring the progress of the farm bill as it proceeds through Congress, to prevent any language being inserted that would pre-empt the rights of states and localities to ban or otherwise control the growing of GE crops. To stay abreast of developments, go to calgefree.org.

Food Democracy Alliance contact information:

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Women in Black

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Phone: 530.478.0699

E-mail:

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@earthlink.net

Grandmothers for Peace

By Shirley McDonald

Our local Grandmothers For Peace is a very active group. We march with our messages of peace in the 4th of July parade and the Constitution Day parade (in Nevada City on Sunday, September 9th this year).

We are preparing to have another 3-day "Informational Picket" in front of Nevada Union High School during the first 3 days of school this year (August 15, 16, & 17). We stand on the sidewalk with our signs when students are getting out of school (from about 2:15 – 3:15 p.m.) giving them information and "Opt-Out" forms that they can turn in to the high school so their personal contact information isn't given to military recruiters. (As part of the "No Child Left Behind" Act, in order to receive federal funding, the schools are required to turn this information over to the recruiters UNLESS there is an Opt-Out form on file.)

Our one-year anniversary of having our message of peace on the back of the Gold Country Stage bus is August 1st. It looks like a HUGE bumper-sticker, but is actually paid advertising at \$75 a month. If you would like to contribute to keeping this message traveling around our community, call Shirley at 265.5545 for details on how to write out checks and where to mail them.



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—continued from page 3 *Grandmothers for Peace*

Other News: We sent a large batch of “Peace Cookies” (in a pizza box in the shape of a peace sign), along with a letter urging an end to “solving” problems using violence, to President Bush. We recently received a letter back from the White House.

We’ll also see people at the Peace Center booth at the Nevada County Fair (August 8-12) and out in front of K-Mart on Saturday afternoons between Thanksgiving and Christmas (giving gift-buyers information about creative and cooperative toys/games, rather than those promoting violence).

Our meetings are on the 1st Tuesday of each month from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the Peace Center office. Come join us! You can get on our e-mail list (to receive notices of meetings and of up-coming events and actions; not a bunch of political information being forwarded or a chatroom) by sending an e-mail. Put “add me to list” in the subject line.

Remember, you don’t have to be a biological grandmother in order to join us; it’s more about the archetype of grandmother, who is interested in...

Building a world of peace for this, and future, generations.

From Your Web’ster

By Marianna Greenberg

During the membership party I volunteered to do maintenance of the peace center website, www.npeace.org. Many changes in the presentation of the pages have been made; if you have not looked in a while, check it out.

Lots of work remains. The links still need re-checking, to make sure they will take you somewhere. The navigation is still evolving to make it easy to find your way.

The old pages from long ago are still stored on my computer, so if you want to see something revived, let me know.

Input is appreciated. What features and changes would you like to see? What is useless; what is useful? You get the idea...

Contact Information:

grannies4peace@

hotmail.com

Billionaires for Bush is a do-it-yourself grassroots media campaign using humor and street theater to expose politicians who support corporate interests at the expense of everyday Americans.

For more information about Billionaires for Bush, please visit:

billionairesforbush.com

Local contact:

info@nevadacounty

billionaires.com

Contact Information for website:

wemac2@gmail.com

Billionaires for Bush

By Darin Barry

Washington, D.C. June 19, 2007 — Billionaires for Bush teamed up with the Center for the Preservation of Dynastic Wealth – an umbrella organization of decadent heiresses, globe trotting playboys and their trust fund kids – to repeal the last Progressive tax in America. Dressed in tuxedos and gowns, members of the exclusive cabal kick off the campaign at the 2007 Take Back America conference at the DC Hilton.



“Only the richest 0.27% of Americans pay the Estate Tax. This is discrimination, and we’re tired of being forced to ride in the back of the proverbial limo,” said an indignant Phil T. Rich, B4B co-founder. With slogans like “Privilege has its privileges” and chants such as “Tax Work! Not Wealth!” the Billionaires will prove why the estate tax is unfair to people who have never worked a day in their lives. “If your dad leaves you a paltry \$4 million estate, you get to keep it all, tax free. But if your golden goose egg is \$40 million, you have to pay tax on some of that money. You can see the injustice here,” argued Campaign Director Monet Oliver DePlace.

It is estimated that repealing the estate tax will cost the treasury \$1 trillion over the next 10 years. Johnny NotinDebt (A.K.A. Darin Barry of Nevada City) suggested ways in which average Americans could help close the gap in their communities, including not fixing potholes for ten years, closing the Nevada County Public Library and privatizing the police departments. Thurston Morton Collinsworth IV, spokesman for the Center for the Preservation of Dynastic Wealth, highlighted what’s at stake for the 18 super-wealthy families that have been funding the repeal “movement” for the last decade, “The heirs and heiresses of the Gallo, Mars, and Wal-Mart



–continued from page 4 Billionaires for Bush fortunes, and others who have given generously to our lobbying efforts, stand to save \$71.6 billion if the repeal campaign succeeds.”

Billionaires will be represented at the Constitution Day Parade in Nevada City. We’ll be towing a Prius from a Hummer. This will be fun.

ACI

By Judy Duane

There’s a lot happening in the growing movement to impeach President Bush and Vice President Cheney. Americans for Constitutional Integrity (ACI) invite you to join us in putting pressure on certain Democratic Judiciary Committee members in the House to cosponsor H Res 333, the bill introduced by Rep. Dennis Kucinich to impeach Cheney. Only a few more cosponsors are needed to initiate an impeachment inquiry.

Why impeach Cheney first? If Bush were removed from office first, Cheney would be-

come president. Also, since Cheney is even less popular than Bush, chances of impeaching him might be greater. Finally, Cheney has openly threatened aggression against Iran absent any real threat to the United States – the prelude to another “pre-emptive war” based on lies.

Impeachment is the formal process of investigation of articles of impeachment brought against a civil officer, in the House of Representatives. In this case, it would expose the truth to the millions of Americans who are unaware of how our rights and protections under the Constitution have been violated since the present Administration came into power. This process is what needs to happen – regardless of the ultimate outcome. The American people need to know about the abuses of their government so that they can stand up to those abuses, now, while they are still able.

Join us at our bimonthly meetings at 7 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at the Peace Center.

*ACI Updates And
How To Take Action*

democrats.com

worldcantwait.org

impeachforpeace.org

afterdowningstreet.org

ACI Contact

information:

[info@constitutional](mailto:info@constitutionalintegrity.com)

integrity.com

or call PCNC at

478.0699

Speaking Out Letters

“Beyond Protesting” - Shirley McDonald

The first step in creating any kind of a change in the world is recognizing there is a problem with things the way they are. This is an important step because we often wouldn’t be motivated to take action if we didn’t believe that something was “broken.” The saying “If it ain’t broken, don’t fix it” would apply and our interest would be focused elsewhere.

So complaining, protesting, dissenting, etc. are very important stages in the process of change. But it’s important to realize that these are the initial steps; they are not meant to be all we do. It is meant to help us contrast what isn’t working, or what we don’t want, so we can get a clear picture about what we DO want...and then to take some action toward creating that!!!!

Unfortunately, some of us stay stuck in the complaining and protesting stage and never get into the improved vision/take action phase. To me, this is like staying in the developmental state of being a teen-ager; always complaining about what “they” are doing, as if we don’t have any real power ourselves to take the reins and create the change we want to see in the world.

The baby-boomers have been the most youth-conscious generation, and I think this has often

spilled over into remaining in that rebellious developmental state of protest/complaining. The problem with this is that it is disempowering. We can get into the mindset of feeling like helpless victims who are always “being done to.” It’s time to grow up!!! If we aren’t going to take charge of where this country is headed now, when will we? We are MIDDLE-AGED (or older)!!!!

My suggestion to others (and what I try to remind myself of):

- When noticing something that isn’t working, focus on the principle or the problem behavior (rather than the personality of the person doing the behavior).
- Use that for contrast to gain clarity to envision what it is that you DO want.
- Collaborate with others who hold the vision you want to create.
- Take action to make this new thing happen!!!

This makes sense to anyone who has seen the movie “The Secret” or has knowledge of “The Law of Attraction.” This will help us to keep our focus and attention on what we want to give our energy to.

I’m not advocating “burying our heads in the sand” and pretending that there is nothing that

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Speaking our Peace invites readers to send or email thoughts and letters to us for publication in upcoming newsletters. Since we publish infrequently it would be best if subject material is of long-term relevance. We can be reached at 530.478.0699 or pcnc@sbcglobal.net or Peace Center of Nevada County, 102-B Argall Way, Nevada City CA 95959.



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needs to be changed. I'm just saying, don't get stuck in that early step of the process, continuing to focus on what you DON'T want more of. Rather than just being reactive to what we don't want, we can choose to channel our focus and energy to create what it is that we DO want. Be the change we wish to see in the world, rather than waiting for "them" to do it.

What step will you take today (no matter how small) to create the world you would like to be a part of?

A PHILOSOPHICAL VIEW OF SOCIAL ACTION

By Bill Drake

Like many others, I was involved with the protests of the 60s. My view of social action didn't change much until ten years later, when I had the realization that, from one perspective, there were two core issues out of which have grown all of our harmful actions against our fellow human beings and our mother earth throughout human history. These were our lack of awareness of our oneness with all things and our lack of awareness of unconditional love. When one understands their relationship to all life, and has awakened to an awareness of unconditional love for both themselves and therefore for "others," it is very hard – even painful – for them to allow themselves to harm others or the earth. From this perspective, all problems of rape, genocide, war, environmental destruction, etc., are only symptoms of an underlying consciousness. It is important to stop the bombs so our children can grow up, and to protect the earth, but until this fundamental consciousness changes, the symptoms will continue to appear.

I also realized that if I wanted to affect the deeper cause of world problems it had to come through love and through making changes in my own consciousness. As well as loving the exploited tenant I was trying to help, I had to love the landlord as well. And I had to do my best to accept my self as I was, even if I appeared unloving.

Our lack of awareness of oneness (or at least interrelatedness) and love is reflected in our sense of separation from others and the earth. And when that is coupled with our human insecurities, the result is often an "us vs them" mentality. The VietNam War, like the war in Iraq, was only a symptom of "us vs them" thinking. We (the US) were right, they were wrong. We were good, they were bad. But this mentality was also reflected in most of us protesters. In the stance we took against the government, we ourselves expressed the very same "us vs them" approach that we so strongly opposed.

As Buddhists and many American psychologists acknowledge, what we react to in others are "projections" of traits within ourselves that are often unconscious. (This does not mean other people do not have the traits we react to. They may or they may not.) Over the years, I have come to see how all of the things I react to in the world can be found in my own mind or behavior, be it in the past or present, be it literal or as a metaphor. If I am concerned about racism, it is valuable for me to see that I have prejudice and racism. (At the very least I can see that I am prejudiced against people who are prejudiced.) If I am angry

about how our president appears self-righteous, it is helpful to acknowledge that in that moment I am being self-righteous. I am energized about me being right and him being wrong. And within my human nature, if I inquire deeply enough, are aspects of both the Dalai Lama and Hitler.

As I recognize and accept this about me, I am better able to accept it about others and come less from a place of "separation." Having this insight and holding at least the ideal of not acting out of an "us vs them" stance does not preclude social action, protest, etc., it just means that one can come more from a place of action instead of reaction, more likely from love instead of fear, and be more effective. It makes you more able, in Ghandi's words, to "be the change you want to see in the world."

PEACE AND THE POLITICS OF FOOD

By Lillian Gilbreth

Currently in our community, there is gossip, rumor and innuendo, regarding the new BriarPatch store, its management and its workers. Many old members are upset about the seemingly high prices of food and the talk of unions coming in.

The subject of unions is, and always has been, a highly charged topic, divisive and often violent. Here in Nevada County, home to miners and loggers, we are no different on the subject. All of us have our opinions about war and peace, social justice, unions, and/or what constitutes good vs affordable food.

We at the Peace Center also have our differences of opinion, and the question here is: How is the situation at the BriarPatch related to the Peace Center?

As a Board member of PCNC and as the first manager of BriarPatch (1976-1980), both of which are my passions, I would like to comment on this question.

PCNC advocates peace in all forms, "through open inquiry, education and non-violent direct action. We nurture peace, equality, dignity and social justice in ourselves, our community, and our earth."

These values are similar in principal and intent to those of the members of the BriarPatch and, in fact, many or most of our members shop there because of this. We are our community whether it is about food, a healthy environment, or world peace.

The BriarPatch store "strives to be an exemplary workplace by creating a clean, healthy environment: encouraging diversity, cooperation, support, involved decision-making, empowerment."

BriarPatch is dedicated to supporting local farmers, and to bringing organic foods, fair trade products, and non-GMO foods, to the people at fair prices.

The business of GMO's and healthy food is being hijacked by big business interests within the global marketplace. The GMO situation and corporate farming affects all of us. The shipping of food products over long distances contributes to the rising prices and is changing the nature of the entire food industry.

BriarPatch management is faced with running a new store with a big debt, a business owned by the members, who have various opinions on animal rights, organic foods, workers rights, unions and conflict resolution.



Are these the issues of peace?

It is impossible for me to separate what goes on in part of our food community from what goes on in the peace community. I have faith that we can find common solutions to our common problems. Together, as one community, we can find ways to build trust, and to set aside our differences, in order to find solutions which will benefit all.

How can we imagine world peace without affordable food!

CONNECTIONS

By Nory Fussell

It's all coming around. We were told, immediately after 9-11, to plan for some seemingly endless War of Civilizations – not a particularly inspired choice of policy or ideology. We have since seen this administration wage a constant, deceitful, cowardly, bludgeoning war on everybody and everything.



Congress, on-the-ropes or way-deep in cahoots, can't keep up with the assault. In the past month Alberto, Harriet, Dick, Scooter, and George have held themselves far above the law, scoffing at any notion of accountability, with no effective response from Congress. This tragedy of leadership is typified by a 3rd grader's response to the challenges of immigration — "Hey, let's build a big wall." HR 333 rots on the vine while Bush unveils a new Executive Order (www.whitehouse.gov 7/17/07) potentially criminalizing dissent. It's getting quite dark.

Those who promote, provoke and profit from terror hold the reins of state/power. Men of little imagination, less human decency, no visionary thought or concern for progeny, their type has never achieved a true greatness. FDR said, "...there can be no era of good feeling save among (those) of good will." Today, we in the Peace Movement are called upon to "turn up the lamps," shine that good will.

In the coming times, our most effective "weapons" may well be the quality of our connections; to each other, to the earth, to

our higher nature. Stay human. Do not succumb to fear, hatred and violence. Practice optimism. Forgive the difficulties and misunderstandings inherent in working together in such stressful times – don't splinter off or fragment your groups. Love that you are here for this work.

Become "the media" – daily, speak your truth without restraint. Engage those who think differently, asking and inspiring questions. Informed voices of hope and resistance are direly needed. Listen to the Elders – they've seen times like these.

The tools we use most to organize, strategize and plan our actions may be early casualties. Can you develop a network that's not reliant on power, telephones, computers and even independent media? Weekly meetings with 6-12 friends, study circles or salons – join or create one, and tap into the exhilarating discussions that are certain to arise. Keep trying. Keep trying. Stay human.

Your psychological preparation will be as important as any other. Practice, as though your life depended on it, that which

lifts your spirit to an undeniably higher energetic level – be creative, loving and artistic. Every day, BE the change, live in the world you want to see. Remember the words of one of our beloved elders, Howard Zinn, who said that although "they" have all the guns, "we" have the poets, the musicians and compassionate thinkers.

We are faced with matters of the heart – take courage. This is war. Resist!

Be Peace.

CODE PINK

By Tanya Rentz

When I was in Washington DC for my son's graduation, I went to a mini-workshop on May 11 at the Code Pink house (found it on codepink.org). Medea Benjamin was there (that was fun!) and about 10 other women who had come from around the US to join Code Pink in their various actions. At that time, they were unfurling pink "Stop the War" banners in the balconies of Congress. The workshop was a Media Training - how to communicate with the media in the most positive, concise manner. They used a pamphlet called "Media Training 101," published by Fenton Communications (1320 18th St., NW, Wash. DC, 20036, 202-822-5200). They had some concerns about Fenton, saying it's an expensive professional PR firm that supports professional causes; however, it's publication served as a good bouncing off place for the discussion.

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PEACE CENTER OF NEVADA COUNTY

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Peace Center of Nevada County honors the essential power of people in community.

Through open inquiry, education and non-violent direct action, we nurture peace, equality, justice and dignity in ourselves, our community and our Earth.

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Summary of points:

- Practice verbally with a friend to hone your skills
- Keep message short, clear, concise
- TV soundbites are 8 seconds
- Print reporters look for 10-20 second answers
- Organizations: choose a spokesperson, have a press liaison
 - Speak in whole sentences
 - Beware of double negatives
 - Think of a “mantra” you can repeat, for example, “Enough children have died”
 - Make it personal, develop personal relationships with media people (some people suggest sending birthday, anniversary cards to media people (I don’t know if that’s carrying it too far (?)))
- Keep an Excel list and spread sheet of media people
 - It’s OK to say, “I don’t know”
 - Back your statement up with facts, for example, “6 out of 10 Americans support a time-line for withdrawal.” If asked “why are you here?”, be prepared to know why you are here, at this



Office staff members at July’s general meeting. From left: Susheela Farrell, Elizabeth Ormond, Lillian Gilbreth and Rio.

specific time, in this specific outfit. It was the Friday before Mother’s Day, so, bring it back to Mother’s Day

- Stay positive. Say “Thank you for the way you covered this. We would have preferred...”
- Write a follow-up Thank you
- Don’t lose your temper, calm wins the day
- It’s good to practice with writing to Op Ed pages, youtube, snap.com

