

Cortright and Jacob Receive Gandhi Peace Award

Joining the ranks of peace activists Eleanor Roosevelt and Dr. Benjamin Spock, activists David Cortright and Karen Jacob were honored as recipients of the 2004 Gandhi Peace Award presented by Promoting Enduring Peace (PEP) on September 18, 2004, in a ceremony in New Haven, Connecticut.

PEP, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the achievement of lasting world peace, cited the Indiana couple's relentless lifelong efforts to work toward achieving enduring international peace founded on justice, self-determination, respect for diversity, compassion, and harmony.

PEP, Based in Woodmont, Connecticut, has given the Gandhi Peace Award thirty-seven times since 1960. The award is presented to individuals who have made a significant contribution to such a peace, achieved through cooperative and nonviolent means in the spirit of Gandhi. In addition to Roosevelt and Spock, other past recipients have included Linus C. Pauling, A.J. Muste, The Rev. William Sloane Coffin, Jr., U Thant, Dorothy Day, Dr. Helen Caldicott, César Chávez, Marian Wright Edelman, and U.S. Rep. Dennis Kucinich.

Cortright has been a visiting fellow at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame for the past fifteen years. He is also president of the Fourth Freedom Forum, headquartered in Goshen, Indiana, and a cofounder of the national Win Without War campaign launched two years ago to stop the war in Iraq.

While in the military during the Vietnam War, Cortright was active in the GI peace movement, and afterwards, during the 1970s and 1980s, was executive director of the Washington, D.C.-based Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy, (SANE), the largest anti-nuclear weapons activist organization in the country. He has worked diligently to expose the shortcomings of the U.S. missile defense programs, and has been a consultant to the UN Security Council and to the governments of Sweden, Norway, and Switzerland on aspects of alternatives to militarism. He is a renowned expert on the use of "smart sanctions" and has authored, co-authored, or co-edited numerous books and reports on sanctions, incentives, and nonproliferation. Cortright has also written five books on peace and nonviolence, his most recent being *A Peaceful Superpower: The Movement against War in Iraq* (Fourth Freedom Press, 2004).

Jacob grew up in Milford, Connecticut. As a young adult, she was secretary for nine years to Howard Frazier, PEP's Executive Director, and participated in



David Cortright and Karen Jacob receive the prestigious Gandhi Peace Award from Promoting Enduring Peace

three citizen diplomacy tours to the then Soviet Union as co-leader. Jacob grew increasingly involved in peace work, and met Cortright on the PEP Mississippi Peace Cruise in 1986. They were married three years later.

Jacob is president of PEP, and chapter president of Women's Action for New Directions (WAND) of Northern Indiana with a membership of more than 80 women and men. She serves on WAND's national board of directors to promote the organization's mission of empowering women to act politically to reduce violence and militarism, and to redirect excessive military resources toward unmet human and environmental needs. Jacob is also a registered nurse and has worked as an emergency room and cardiac nurse, and volunteers in medical programs for the poor. Cortright and Jacob reside in Bristol, Indiana.

Promoting Enduring Peace was founded in 1952 to initiate citizen diplomacy between the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and the United States, gradually initiating peace and justice programs also in China, Cuba, and other areas of conflict. With a revised program, but with the same mission, PEP currently leads citizen diplomacy tours to Vietnam and to Israel and Palestine. The organization is still deeply connected to the United Nations, and has taken an active role in the UN's deliberations about the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.

For more information, please contact Ruth Miller at 800-233-6786, ext. 10.

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