

collaboration of these smaller peace groups and in their capacity to effect change. Says Carrigan, "The hope is that after a big demonstration, people will get involved with groups where they feel comfortable. It's important to have different ways to get involved, important to have smaller groups so that lots of different people have options that work for them."

For those who want to explore and discuss changes at the root level of events such as 9/11, the war in Afghanistan and the war in Iraq, take a look at Progressive Responses. PR member Dan Goldrich says, "There has been so little response to the true nature of

9/11, no real policy. The situation is actually worse. We feel desperate about the world that's being created for our grandkids."

PR has a core group of 10 to 15 members who meet every week. Among their activities: They organize forums to frame the issues, coordinate op-ed pieces to stimulate community discussion, and organize paid advertisements in papers with signatures as a way for people to support the cause. They are able to gather up to hundreds of people to participate in various political actions.

Another political action group is Women's Action for New Directions. Talk to anyone in the peace community here, and

they will tell you that WAND is one fun, high-spirited group. Lane County WAND Program Chair Susan Cundiff, a former middle school counselor, says of the past year's events, "There's been huge discouragement." But she adds, "It's not a one-shot effort, ever. We have proximal victories. ... The peace movement is recognizing the crucial point we're at right now. We're fighting for our lives on many different levels." While WAND is a concerted part of the anti-war movement, they also work on issues regarding the environment, the new nuclear age and women's choice. Lane County WAND has also pioneered a sub group known as the Minute Women, WAND members who are "ready to ride at a moment's notice." The Minute Women have been active in voter registration campaigns and in lobbying at the regional level for alternatives to war with Iraq. They have served as a model for other WAND groups nationwide.

Spiritual and faith organizations also provide ways for people to get involved. Two Rivers Interfaith Ministries is an umbrella organization encompassing groups such as Faith in Action and the collaboration of faith centers who come together the 11th of every month in the Interfaith Prayer and Reflection Service. Faith in Action is currently coordinating "Call for Transformation: An Interfaith Prayer Service for Peace in Iraq," to be held June 30 at Broadway Plaza (see "Upcoming Events" for details). This is a service of reflection and healing to coincide with the official hand-over of political power by the U.S. to a new Iraqi government. Says

First Christian Church's Dan Bryant, one of the service coordinators, "Our president says we will fight evil militarily. But that is not our tradition. ... You do not fight evil with evil. You have to use goodness to fight evil. Reminding people of this tradition is the issue for us."

The Interfaith Prayer and Reflection Service, inspired after 9/11 by coordinator Siri Kaur Khalsa-Harris of the Sikh community, is an amazing gathering drawing hundreds of people together each month since 9/11. Says Khalsa-Harris, "The most important ingredient is not just bringing faiths together, but creating consistency." Services are built around a theme, and members from faith communities all over Eugene make presentations in the tradition of their particular faith. Services include music, meditation and socializing afterward. "This is a model gathering, and we are working with other communities to make this happen beyond Eugene," says Khalsa-Harris.

These are only a smattering of the peace activities going on locally, just a sampler of how you can get involved. For further involvement, *everyone* interviewed for this story mentioned the importance of the upcoming elections — saying if you can do only one thing this year, let your vote speak for peace. As PR's Goldrich says, "Democracy requires hard work, but it's necessary. ... We see a switching from generating energy to creating broad alternatives for people, creating possibilities in a very confusing situation. We want to get people behind positive alternatives." **EW**



Susan Cundiff of WAND.

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