



CALC at the 2007 Eugene Celebration

'People have a right to be involved in the process.' – Claire Syrett, ACLU

about making connections between Iraq and what's happening here in Oregon," Carrigan says. "Josh has eight examples of how the Iraq War is similar to the WOPR plan. It's not enough to say, 'Stop the war.' We need examples of what people can do to create peace in our community," he adds.

The ACLU's Syrett says, "Part of the purpose is reminding people that they have a right to be involved in the process — they have an obligation to be involved in the process."

Opportunities to be involved don't stop with the end of the rally. There's a "Party for Peace" event at Cosmic Pizza starting around 4:30 pm with the Skinnery City String Band, Urgent Carnival Political Theater and many more groups.

The day closes with a solemn candlelight vigil. Peace activist Betsy Steffenson says that the vigil is nonpolitical and more serious. "I've been on this committee to plan these events for years, and I don't feel celebratory. It's Palm Sunday, and some people want to be a bit more reverent," she says. So she and others have organized a reading of the names of 101 Oregonians

who have died in the actions in Iraq and Afghanistan and an equal number of Iraqi civilians who have died during the past year. "There are no speeches at the vigil," she says. "There will only be candles, music and the honoring of human beings who have died." Some of those reading the names are a group of students in LCC's culinary program, veterans of Vietnam and Iraq, Northwest Christian College students, the peace caucus of the Democratic Party of Lane County and religious and spiritual groups.

Sponsors of the day-long call for peace include Eugene PeaceWorks, CAUSA, Cottage Grove Stand for Peace, the Justice Not War Coalition, the Oregon Country Fair and a number of other local groups.

So: Rally. Parade. Rally. Sing. Pray. And keep up the fight — or rather, keep up the peace. "This brings people together to send a strong message that we want the war to end," Carrigan says, but it also "strengthens connections among groups, making for a more powerful coalition. It's only by working together that we can stay positive and work to end this war." **EW**

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