

Remembering Scott and Looking Forward... A CALL TO ACTION

by Anita Heckman, Resource Center for Nonviolence

On behalf of the Resource Center for Nonviolence, we thank you for the outpouring of support that so many of you have offered, from all around the world. We make our way, continuing our journey, grieving and remembering Scott's life and work. We cry, we laugh, we feel at once hopeless at the prospect of life without Scott, and hopeful of continuing to realize Scott's hopes and visions.

What Can I Do to Help? Here's a few replies Scott recently gave me: "You owe me big-time!" and "no excuses." We owe it to Scott to do everything in our power to keep his work going, and expand it so the ripples become waves of change.



RCNV Staff, 2008: Scott, Nanlouise Wolfe, Barbara Hayes, Marciano Cruz, Sandino Gomez, Anita Heckman, Bob Fitch. Left photo: Deena Hurwitz, Jane Weed and her son, Scott, Tom Helman in front of RCNV, September, 1991.

We need your help and support as we make our way forward.

Remember Scott with your thoughts and prayers, but also take action.

- ◆ **Work and hope together:** for freedom, justice, a vital earth, human rights, peace, and the way of nonviolence.
- ◆ **Support the Resource Center for Nonviolence and Scott's family,** not just now, but over the long-term.
- ◆ **Give us your financial support** so we can focus on the important program work ahead. Realize the potential of our new building at 612 Ocean. Help make it a dynamic place filled with people from all corners of Santa Cruz County and the world.
- ◆ **Help us to continue Scott's vision for justice and peace in the Middle East** and maintain Scott's ties locally, nationally and internationally.
- ◆ **Be inspired by Scott:** go on a delegation to the region with Interfaith Peace Builders.
- ◆ **Get involved:** join us in our evaluation process and planning for the future. **First meeting: Wednesday, December 28, 7:00p.m. at 612 Ocean St., Santa Cruz,** to begin evaluating our Resource Center for Nonviolence program and direction.
- ◆ **Volunteer:** offer your time, talents and connections.
- ◆ **Attend our programs:** help us to spread the word and expand participation.
- ◆ **We invite you to join us in finding new ways to continue what Scott began.**

Scott was adamant that we continue our work for nonviolence. He was so excited about the possibilities for the future of the Resource Center with our new building on 612 Ocean Street. In a recent *Good Times* article about the new building, Scott said: "We came to the conviction that there was great value in establishing a physical place in the community that people could come to rely on. Buildings are important and this is a really big change and improvement for the Center, but the most important thing is the people. A building is just a tool or avenue for us that hopefully will help support and sustain people's work."

Scott was busy planning a whole calendar of events and speakers for the new building's inaugural year. He was passionate about his work for nonviolence in Palestine and Israel. He was encouraged by the current moment of Arab Spring and the growing movement for nonviolent change

and popular uprising throughout the world.

We were looking to the future: in the last few months we started a process of evaluating and discerning the Resource Center's program and direction. Scott said: "The steering committee and staff are going through a process to really reexamine the work that we do and how we do it. We've been here for three decades and this is a chance to reinvent or regenerate the Resource Center for Nonviolence."

Passing the torch to the next generation: "We are very aware that we need to set the stage if not pass the ball to the next generation of activists." We were and are struggling for ways to help the next generation of activists commit to this work for the long haul. Scott was constantly searching for new ways to reach out to people and truly mobilize the movement for nonviolent social change. He didn't have any illusions that he could realize all he wanted from his life or his work during his lifetime, but that didn't stop him from trying to do as much as he could. And it obligates us to continue.

Our lives have been touched and changed in so many ways by our connections to Scott. He taught us so much and we will continue to be inspired and learn from his life.

Study and practice nonviolence. Speak up when you see injustice. Love others and yourself. Ask for what you need. Don't do it alone: remember the value of family, friends, community and teamwork. Listen. Stand up for what is right. Call yourself and others to accountability. Imagine. Take the work seriously, but keep a sense of humor. Touch. Remember and learn from the past and look to the future. Be generous with your time and money. Write. Look at the big picture. Plan. Take care of yourself. Prepare. Reach out to a friend in need, and be a true friend. Reflect. Search for creative alternatives. Laugh. Stretch yourself- move beyond the comfortable. Cry. Express your appreciation and be willing to acknowledge your mistakes. Motivate. Be a mentor and leader. Be willing to change. Engage. Follow your passions and be relentless in the pursuit of your goals. Don't give up.

Scott said: "During times of crisis, the RCNV's role switches from low key and quiet to a vital place that people can count on." We are counting on you to get involved now. We plan to brashly "charge on" and do our best to find new ways forward. We challenge you to join us as we "go for it!" "No excuses." ◆

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RCNV staff with Cesar Chavez, 1985: Doug Rand, Betsy Fairbanks, Sandy Sweitzer, Scott. Front: Jeannine Viljoen, Anita Heckman, Cesar, Shelly D'Amour.