

The Berkshire Eagle

search

This Site

Web Search powered by **YAHOO!** SEARCH

- Home
- News
- Sports
- Opinion
- Business
- Entertainment
- Obits
- Lifestyles
- Social
- Special Sections
- Weekly Ad**
- Autos**
- Real Estate**
- Jobs**
- Classifieds**

Kucinick promotes lasting peace

By Scott Stafford, Berkshire Eagle Staff

Posted: 09/18/2011 12:05:15 AM EDT

Like Maureen Sinclair and 10 others like this. Tweet 0

Updated: 09/18/2011 12:05:16 AM EDT

Sunday September 18, 2011

HANCOCK -- The Village of Peace, also known as Hancock Shaker Village, was the setting for a conference on peace Saturday as roughly 100 people came together from around the country to study the ways of peace both locally and globally.

The keynote speaker of the Peace Conference was U.S. Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio), a former presidential candidate and prolific critic of armed conflicts and America's role in them.

Kucinich told the gathering that while it would be difficult, it is possible to grow a lasting peace despite the prevalence of war in this society which has grown to promote and glorify a "warrior state."

He noted that more than half of America's discretionary budget, about \$5 trillion, goes to the Pentagon.

"That incredible arrogance is breathtaking -- that we're assuming we have the responsibility of life and death over others," Kucinich said. "The only way we interact with other peoples is through force and at this point, the violence is so pervasive we don't know anything else."

He praised participants of the conference, noting that such gatherings "have great power. Through the luminous quality of these gatherings you create a counter-balance, a potential for a new world to emerge. People are gathering all around the world for a similar aspiration."

The "War on Terror," Kucinich said, is a justification for "a war without end."

Too many people, he added, equate the

Advertisement

quality of their citizenship with their willingness to support militaristic ventures.

At the same time, he added, "international relations are heavily influenced by corporations who will use our military assets to advance their profits."

Kucinich is proposing that the federal government create a new agency -- the "Department of Peace." This department would promote peaceful coexistence, bring in new forms of education in skills of peaceful resolutions and seek new ways to prevent conflict before the shooting starts.

"This would be an American institution that legitimizes peace, just like the Pentagon legitimizes war," he said. "We have to challenge this thinking that to change people's minds, you have to threaten to kill them. That hasn't worked. Do we have a more peaceful world? No. Are we less threatened? No. Are we creating more threats? Yes, we are."

One of the basic philosophical points he made, one which was made repeatedly at several of the

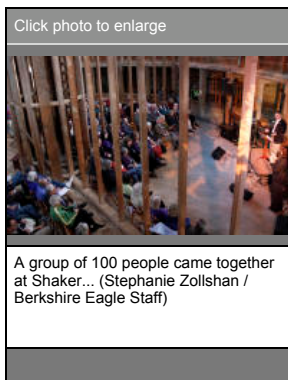
workshops earlier that day, was that in order to curtail war, one has to begin with one's self.

By seeking a peaceful heart, Kucinich said, people can have peace in their homes, peace in their communities, with the eventual result of "peace in the larger world."

Before he arrived, conference attendees took part in a variety of workshops examining various aspects of peaceful living and advocating for the avoidance of violent conflict.

The conference, called "Pathways to Peaceful Living: Tools and Explorations," was organized and presented by the Center for Peace Through Culture and Hancock Shaker Village.

In a Native American teepee there was a discussion about the International Day of Peace, which is coming up on



More News

- Seniors at home in old Lee school
- Heels given a workout for a good cause
- Pittsfield candidates to debate Monday
- Stimulus money director visits Berkshire recipients
- Pittsfield man imprisoned for robbery

Most Viewed

Most E-Mailed

RSS

(From the last 12 hours)

- Police: Victims' burial site is in Becket
- From Ice Glen to Breakneck, fun facts about our county
- Lenox restaurant only lasts four weeks
- Murder suspect Caius Veiovis fascinates world
- Kara Kennedy, daughter of Ted Kennedy, dies at 51

TOP CLASSIFIEDS

RENTALS STUFF AUTOS JOBS

- 2003 24...
- HARLEY DAVIDSON...
- CHEVROLET TRACKER...
- 2004 SUZUKI...
- FORD F150...
- FORD MUSTANG...
- MITSUBISHI 2001...
- MITSUBISHI 2001...
- 25 FLEETWOOD...
- 2008 TRAILBLAZER...

ALL LISTINGS

REPLAY

Clean American Natural Gas

Learn more about development here

Wednesday (Sept. 21). Later a Native American traditionalist, Richard Kastl, spoke at length about his past, his experiences with the Hopi nation, and on creating peace through stewardship of the land and each other.

Another discussion, led by Dorothy J. Maver, explored the international Roerich Pact, which in 1935 declared sites of cultural activity and historic value as neutral ground independent of international conflict.

Earlier in the day, Donald W. Goodrich -- whose son, Peter, was aboard United Flight 175 when it struck the World Trade Center on 9/11 -- led a discussion on the causes of extreme human violence, such as poverty and fear.

Another workshop was presented by Colin Goddard, who was shot four times in the 2007 Virginia Tech shootings. Since then he has been advocating for stronger gun control legislation, and he spoke about problems presented by gun violence and some possible solutions.

There were also musicians specializing in the spiritual and healing power in music and dance.

Peter Hansen, acting director of the Shaker history museum, said he had no idea what to expect when the peace conference began, but was "absolutely amazed at the turnout and the intense level of interest. They're all engaging in discussions about how to re-establish dialogue and turn the shouting down."

To reach Scott Stafford:

sstafford@berkshireeagle.com

or (413) 496-6241.

     [Font Resize](#) [Return to Top](#)

Welcome to our discussion forum: Click the login link below to sign in with or to [set up a Disqus account](#) or to access your social networking account. When you do, your comment should be posted immediately, provided it meets the guidelines. ([What are the guidelines?](#)) Report abuse by flagging a comment (mouse over the comment). Comments made here are the sole responsibility of the person posting them; these comments do not reflect the opinion of The Berkshire Eagle. So keep it civil.



Add New Comment

[Login](#)



Showing 0 comments

Sort by newest first

 [Subscribe by email](#)  [RSS](#)

Trackback URL

- [People](#)
- [Recent](#)
- [Popular](#)

Recent Comments



- [fly](#) The kids are more in control than the mobility scooter drivers but because they are seen as disabled (some are not) it's not politically correct to call them out as a hazzard to pedestrians. They...

http://www.berkshireeagle.com/editorials/ci_18907480?source=rss · 1 hour ago



- [Not Known](#) AlexDenova, please take your political statements to the Yahoo forums where I'm sure you will find the uneducated fans you're looking for. As for the article, the premise is spot on: we teach with...

http://www.berkshireeagle.com/ci_18920892 · 2 hours ago



- [SeamusMuldune](#) Splendid work Berkshire Eagle! I was reading this story in the print edition this morning when I found that half of it was missing. Is this a new tactic to drive traffic to your website? Take the...

http://www.berkshireeagle.com/ci_18920881 · 4 hours ago



- [CountyGuy](#) What? no comment on the "Six Flags" theme village sidewalks that were built with the stimulus money. No "meet and greet" with the public to hail the success?

http://www.berkshireeagle.com/ci_18902734 · 5 hours ago



- [dianegordon](#) Ah, but they don't, parklover!

http://www.berkshireeagle.com/ci_18907503 · 6 hours ago

community on **DISQUS**

<p>Buffett Confession 5 Principles Buffett has used to amass Billions - Free hiddenvaluesalert.com</p>	<p>3-in-1 Credit Scores - \$0 View your Credit Report & Scores from All 3 Bureaus in 60 FreeScoreOnline.com</p>	<p>Berkshire Hathaway 10 yr Fundamental Stock Metrics Quotes, Trends, www.YCharts.com/BRK.A</p>
Ads by Yahoo!		

About Our Ads | Copyright Notice | Privacy Policy | Contact Us | Subscriber Services | Site Map | Advertise | RSS MY YAHOO!
Town Profiles | Pearl Scholarship | Media Partners: CBS 6 Albany WAMC
MNGI Corporate Site Map | Weather Data CustomWeather, Inc | Media News Group WEBSITE
75 South Church Street | P.O.Box 1171 | Pittsfield, MA 01202 | (413) 447-7311

© Copyright 2011
Media News group

