

Students to Serve Social Justice Organization

This summer, FCCB and the Metta Center for nonviolence education are sponsoring a mentorship program that places college students with Bay Area community organizations to address issues of poverty, racism, immigration, environmental degradation and violence prevention. This internship prepares students to effectively apply nonviolence and social justice skills to actual societal needs while deepening skills in the practical utilization of nonviolence and social justice approaches to community work. Here are the ten participants for this year.



Amanda Barrera

Amanda is an undergraduate student of Social Welfare and Legal Studies at Cal. She has overseen theater productions at the Theatre and Dance Performance Studies Department, and has tutored High School students in English and Math through the Mentoring for Academic Success (MAS) program.

Amanda loves hanging out with family/friends and watching the Oakland A's. She also enjoys the feeling of accomplishments she gets when working for social justice and peace. She feels good when she is helping to keep society positive and fair.

Amanda Barrera will be working this summer with the American Friends Service Committee in Oakland. The AFSC is a 90 year old Quaker-based peace and justice organization that includes people of various faiths who are committed to social justice, peace, and humanitarian service. Its work is based on the belief in the worth of every person and faith in the power of love to overcome violence and injustice

For 9 weeks Amanda will be working on issues of prison expansion in California. She will work on promoting a new publication, *Buried Alive: Long-Term Isolation in California Youth and Adult Prisons*, distributing this publication, organizing talks related to it and doing press work. She will also become familiar with prison issues, especially with material related to the use of solitary confinement and long-term isolation in the prison system.



Audrey Lin

Audrey is getting her Bachelor degree in Ethnic Studies, Philosophy, and Peace and Conflict Studies at Cal. She is the recipient of the Service and Peace Fellow Cal Corps and Shinnyo-en Foundation, and an Outdoor Education Camp Counselor. She is currently developing a curriculum on peace building on the individual, interpersonal, and institutional levels through reflection, service and theory.

Audrey loves running, hiking, writing, backpacking, poetry, wandering, “talking story”. She lives for the transformations that she sees in both herself and those she encounters through the work of peace and social justice. The raw and genuine connections she makes through this work, makes her life feel real and hopeful.

Audry Lynn will work with Pace e Bene in Berkeley. Pace e Bene fosters a more peaceful and just world through nonviolence education, community-building, and action. As part of Pace e Bene’s Nonviolent Stories Documentation Project, Audry will research, identify, collect and edit stories of personal and social transformation catalyzed or strengthened by the application of principles, strategies and methods gained from Pace e Bene educational programming (trainings, workshops, classes, study groups, presentations) or resources (books, newsletters, CDs, etc.).



Phyllis Zhang

Phyllis is an undergrad student at Cal in Anthropology. She has done research on the issue of homelessness in Berkeley, and has conducted lab research on the Hepatitis C virus strain. Phyllis is a co-leader of a prayer team and a member of Intervarsity Cal Christian Fellowship on campus. She has visited Nicaragua on a mission trip with Living Water Church of Berkeley.

Phyllis loves singing, reading, journaling, and spending quality time with people. She also loves to help change people’s lives for the better, but even more so to empower them to help themselves.

For nine weeks, Phyllis will be working with Better Alternatives for Youth, Bay Peace, in Oakland California. Bay Peace supports and empowers young people to resist aggressive military recruiting and war. It serves youth around the SF Bay Area, but focuses on working class students of color in the East Bay who are especially vulnerable to economic pressures to join the military.

As a Youth Leader, Phyllis will lead workshops to help young people resist aggressive military recruiting and war and to access non-military alternatives for their futures. She will also participate in an organizational development training process that will be offered to BAY-Peace by our fiscal Sponsor the Agape Foundation and the Foundation Center in San Francisco.

Christopher Gregory Johnnidis

Christopher is a University of Pennsylvania alumni in Psychology with a minor in Computer Science. He has volunteered with the United Nations Association, Habitat for Humanity, and the International Rescue Committee. He led meditation groups at Penn and has helped form a small community of nonviolent practitioners on campus. He has recently become involved in a local sangha in the Thich Nhat Hanh tradition while living in New York.

Christopher enjoys many sports! (currently soccer), musical endeavors, wandering, photography, and good movies. He also loves the awesome, inspiring people he meets when working on issues of social justice and nonviolence. Working on these issues helps him understand himself, how he relates to the world, and how we all relate to each other.

This summer, Christopher will be working with the Buddhist Peace Fellowship in Oakland, California. The mission of the Buddhist Peace Fellowship (BPF), founded in 1978, is to serve as a catalyst for socially engaged Buddhism. BPF helps beings liberate themselves from the suffering that manifests in individuals, relationships, institutions, and social systems. BPF's programs, publications, and practice groups link Buddhist teachings of wisdom and compassion with progressive social change.

As an interim Program Coordinator, Christopher will lay the groundwork for three programs: 1) "Right to Practice" an international peace campaign to draw attention to the atrocities committed against religious in Asia, especially Burma and Tibet, 2) "One Peace" an educational campaign against violence, war and militarism promoting demilitarization and disarmament. 3) "Too Young to Do Time" to change attitudes and laws about incarceration of children under 17.



Stephanie Lassalle

Stephanie is getting a Bachelor of Arts in International Peace, Nonviolence and Social Justice at the University of Redlands, California. She is the founder of the Association of Mediators for Peace, member of the Peace Alliance, Amnesty International, and Students Taking Action Now Darfur (STAND).

Stephanie enjoys reading, sports, photography, educational campaigns, activism, and going to local coffee shops. She appreciates the solidarity she meets when working on social justice issues. She also appreciates the teamwork and ability to collaborate with others for a common objective.

For nine week Stephanie will be working with Code Pink Bay Area in Albany, California. CodePINK is a women-initiated & women-led grassroots peace and social justice movement that seeks positive social change through proactive, creative protest and non-violent direct action. CodePINK is a determined call for women and our supporters to wage peace and justice in our lives, our communities, our country, and around the world.

Stephanie will assist with organizing and coordinating various campaigns including the “Summer of Hope” campaign, which includes activism, free schools/teach-ins, art/music, culture, and sustainability. This campaign will call for people to come to Berkeley for July to say “the war stops here.”



Nanako Otsuki

Nanako is a Master student of Social Justice and Intercultural Relations at the SIT Graduate Institute of Brattleboro, Vermont. She has worked with the California Families Project at Davis, the California Hispanic Resource Council in Sacramento, and Even Start center in North Carolina.

Nanako likes cooking, baking, jogging and traveling. Working in social justice and nonviolence allows her to learn from diverse experiences and share time with other people. Connections with people and places are one of her favorite things when doing nonviolence and social justice work.

This summer Nanako will be working with the East Bay Sanctuary Covenant in Berkeley, California. The East Bay Sanctuary Covenant aims to protect, advocate for and support immigrants and refugees through the promotion of human rights.

Nanako will become knowledgeable of the Sanctuary as a movement of resistance. She will learn about the network of groups working to promote the rights of the refugees and will listen to testimonies of immigrant refugees. In addition, she will attend monthly Haiti Support Committee meetings and learn how to support the people of Haiti in their struggle.



Mary Ellen Solon

Mary Ellen is an undergrad student in International Studies with emphasis in Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Francisco. For one year she served in the Americorps National Community service in Sacramento organizing help relief for victims of hurricane Katrina. She has volunteered with the California Coalition for Women Prisoners in San Francisco, and has organized and coordinated student nonviolence training to attend the annual School of the Americas protest at Fort Bening, Georgia.

Mary enjoys reading in Golden Gate Park, long walks around San Francisco, sing-a-longs, listening to music, and sitting around a table with her parents sharing funny stories. Working on issues of social justice and nonviolence provides her with the unique opportunity to slow down and envision the type of world in which she would want to live.

For nine weeks Mary Ellen will hold the Peacebuilding Summer intern position with the American Friends Service Committee, San Francisco. She will document and promote AFSC vehicles for making the human costs of war more visible to the wider public through “The vehicles are Eyes Wide Open” project, “The Cost of War Banners” campaign, and the “Facing State Violence” project. Overall, she will review

documentation, identify materials needing to be developed, and, time permitting, develop some outreach materials.



Sierra Weir

Siera is majoring in Gender and Women’s studies at Cal. She has recently volunteered at the Women’s Daytime Drop-in Center in Berkeley where she cooked and coordinated childcare for homeless and low income families. She has been recently working an independent research on contemporary nativist backlash against immigration in the United States, focusing on the Minutemen movement.

Sierra enjoys photography, drawing, beading, and walking around Berkeley. Her favorite thing about working on nonviolence and social justice is the many strong, passionate, principled people she gets to meet.

Sierra will be working with The Women's Daytime Drop-In Center in Berkeley. WDDC is a non-profit program addressing the needs of homeless women and children to ensure that they have a safe daytime refuge where they receive support, nourishing meals, and access to community resources to overcome homelessness and regain self sufficiency.

As part of the WDDC team, Sierra will help women in crisis gain access to resources in the community, offer child care support, engage in household activities (knitting, art projects, etc), help maintain a safe and clean atmosphere, and she will supervise the office space. She will also do some advocacy work, educating the community about homelessness and the specific services the Center provide.



Diana Alvarez

Diana obtained her Bachelor’s degree from Cal in Political Science and Peace and Conflict Studies with a minor in Ethnic Studies. She has taught language to community college students, has counseled youth and issues of suicide, rape sexuality and abuse, and has published poetry in “After the Tanks Came: Poetry for the People”.

Diana likes dancing, listening to music, traveling and exploring, reading, and watching movies. Diana finds meaning for her life when working on issues of social justice and peace. Diana grows as a person and feels hopeful when doing this kind of work.

Diana will work for nine week with the Multicultural Institute in Berkeley. The Multicultural Institute helps transition immigrants from poverty and isolation to prosperity and participation. Its core constituencies are immigrant families and other youth and adults lacking access to critical services in the communities. The Multicultural Institute's main geographic focus has been the low-income neighborhoods of Berkeley, nearby communities of Oakland, and neighboring Richmond.

Diana will be the Summer Intern with the Day Laborer Program and the Youth Writing Festival Program. She will do ongoing work with Spanish-speaking day laborers and will support the Spanish language GED preparation course for bilingual immigrant adults and the Spanish language Lay Leadership Formation courses for bilingual immigrant adults involved in local church communities. She will also work with the Youth Writing Festival for young people, ages 8-18.



Anita Dahari Vishwakarma

Anita is a native from India who enrolled in the K.J. Somaiya College. She is enrolled in the Center for Gandhian Studies in India.

Anita will be working with the **Metta Center for Nonviolence Education** in Berkeley. The mission of the Metta Center is to *inspire, educate and support the practice of nonviolence*. While it focuses on educators, activists, and the media, the Metta Center is a resource for anyone who wishes to explore the integrative power Gandhi called “the greatest force at the disposal of humanity”. *Metta* (loving-kindness) can bring a paradigm shift towards peace and justice.

The Metta Center seeks a more sustainable, just and peaceful world community by applying the principles of nonviolence in its efforts to address societal needs. Through this, Metta is able to unite the ends of a just and peaceful world with the means in which we pursue its goals. It sees the path of nonviolence as supporting the ability of society to inspire, develop and enact alternatives to violence in all its forms—including physical, emotional, spiritual and structural violence.