

# Cape Codders for Peace and Justice

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Michael Albert to Speak, Veterans Will Topple Bush-Cheney Statue at June 26 ‘People’s Picnic’ at Aselton Park in Hyannis**

*– Speakers, Music, Theater, and Poetry Are Slated for Family-Oriented Community Event Organized by Cape Cod Opponents to Bush’s Foreign and Domestic Agenda –*

CAPE COD, Mass., June 22, 2004 – Cape Codders for Peace and Justice, the local affiliate of United for Peace & Justice, America’s largest and broadest peace and justice coalition, today announced “The People’s Picnic” to be held noon to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 26, at Aselton Park on the waterfront in Hyannis, Mass. Nearly 20 political, peace and justice, civil rights, veterans, community of faith, and other organizations have pledged to support and participate in the event, which coincides with and honors the 7th Annual United Nations International Day in Support of Torture Victims and Survivors.

“Our goal for ‘The People’s Picnic’ is to sustain, celebrate, and grow our community of peace on Cape Cod,” said Dr. Stephanie G. Wall, a CCPJ member and retired physician from Cotuit, Mass. “It will be a fun, family-oriented event where people can learn from various viewpoints, share their concerns about the current course of America, and find common ground in pursuit of peace and justice for all.”

The featured speaker is Michael Albert, editor of ZNet ([www.zmag.org](http://www.zmag.org)), the internationally acclaimed non-commercial media Web site visited by 300,000 people weekly. Historian Howard Zinn calls Albert “an important thinker who takes us beyond radical denunciations and pretentious ‘analysis’ to a thoughtful, profound meditation on what a good society can be like.” Albert, an economist and political activist since the 1960s, is a co-founder of Woods Hole, Mass.-based *Z Magazine* and Boston’s South End Press, as well as author of *Parecon: Life After Capitalism* (Verso, 2003), numerous other books, and countless articles dealing with economics, strategy and vision for social change, globalization, war and peace. MIT Professor Noam Chomsky, who frequently writes for ZNet, says *Parecon* “merits close attention, debate, and action.”

Cape Codders from all walks of life are invited to bring their families (and their lunches) to “The People’s Picnic,” which will feature a “children’s corner” as well as other speakers, music, and theater, including:

- Jessica Rimington, a 19-year-old activist and “Rock the Vote” organizer on Cape Cod, founder of Cape Youth Council on Sustainability and the Young People’s Decade of Commitment, and 2004 recipient of Do Something’s BRICK Award and the Massachusetts Governor’s Points of Light Award.
- A Veterans for Peace representative, along with Bob Silverberg, a World War II veteran from Cape Cod, who will read one of his original poems (several appear on the CCPJ Web site)
- Musical guests from the Cape Cod community – fiddler Denya LeVine, political satire singers The Raging Grannies, and bongo players from the group Roots Down Below
- A group of U.S. war veterans who will topple a 12-foot-high papier mache statue, created by Cape Cod artist Paul Liebner, of George W. Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney.

### Finding Common Ground to ‘Change the Course’ of America

“The People’s Picnic” – planned originally to “send a message” to Bush during his now cancelled June 25 visit to Cape Cod billionaire William Koch of Osterville – has united a diverse coalition of Cape Cod activists around the themes of “Change the Course” and “Restore the Promise of America,” according to David Agnew, a CCPJ spokesperson.

“Our message remains just as valid even though Bush isn’t here,” Agnew said. “We oppose Bush’s policies of war and torture abroad and oppression, impoverishment, and environmental destruction in America.”

CCPJ and its allies oppose major planks of the Bush Administration’s agenda and campaign, calling for:

- **An end to the U.S. occupation of Iraq and the so-called “War on Terror”** – bring the troops home now and immediately cease the torture, illegal “detentions,” indiscriminate killings of civilians, and other White House-directed military actions that blatantly defy the Geneva Conventions and public opinion worldwide while inciting terror and causing needless death and injury to U.S. soldiers, who deserve fully funded VA healthcare instead of scapegoating for crimes ordered by the administration and Pentagon brass.
- **An end to economic policies that value profits over people** – America’s middle class, poor and working people deserve universal healthcare, well-funded education, and good jobs. Developing nations deserve genuinely fair trade. We call for an end to the transfer of wealth from working and middle-class Americans and impoverished nations to multinational corporations, international financial institutions, and the super-rich.
- **An end to environmental policies that literally threaten humanity’s survival** – rampant pollution, untested genetically modified foods, and unchecked natural resource consumption – all aggressively supported by Bush policies as payback for corporate campaign contributions.
- **An end to the unconstitutional suppression of free speech and civil rights** – support nationwide gay marriage rights, repeal the USA PATRIOT Act, and eliminate other anti-democratic policies that deny fundamental rights, privacy, and due process – not only to “enemy” combatants but also to immigrants, foreign students, minorities and Native Americans, women, activists, and anyone opposing the Bush Administration’s agenda.

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#### **About Cape Codders for Peace and Justice**

**Cape Codders for Peace and Justice (CCPJ)** is a Cape Cod-based affiliate of United for Peace & Justice. The mission of Cape Codders for Peace and Justice is to actively promote and encourage democratic, multi-racial and non-violent decisions in all aspects of our nation's domestic and foreign policy. The group joins progressive individuals and organizations across the Cape, including ad hoc alliances well as ongoing affiliation with groups (and endorsers/participants in “The People’s Picnic”) that include:

- Alliance for Base Cleanup
- American Friends Service Committee-SE N.Eng.
- The Brewster Peace Organizing Project
- Cape Cod Bill of Rights Defense Committee
- Cape Codders for John Kerry
- Green CAPE
- Clothesline Project
- Fellowship of Reconciliation (Cape Cod)
- POCLAD (Program on Corporations, Law and Democracy)
- Social Justice Committee, First Parish Brewster, Unitarian Universalist
- WILPF Cape Cod (Women's International League for Peace and Freedom)
- Green-Rainbow Party of Cape Cod
- Let Haiti Live
- Outer Cape Peace and Justice Circle
- Resource Center for Peace and Justice
- South Shore for Kucinich
- Veterans Against “W”
- Veterans for Peace
- Z Magazine

Awareness, education and non-violent action are the tools CCPJ uses to better understand and confront our nation's dominant institutions and powers. CCPJ challenges global corporate capital in the promulgation of war, environmental destruction and impoverishment, and seeks peace, freedom, justice, democracy, and respect for the rights and security of all people, as well as the earth's living environment.