

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### STARVE WAR/FEED PEACE PEACE ACTIVISTS ON THE MARCH

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STARVE WAR/FEED PEACE is the message of this year's march and rally to end the war in Iraq. The goal is to press our representatives to go beyond discussion and resolutions and do all they can to bring home our troops and cut off the money for war.

Peace activists, families, children and all area citizens are urged to join this event on Saturday, March 17, 11 a.m., to promote the cause of peace. The march will assemble in the Walnut Creek BART parking lot, proceed through downtown and on to Civic Park (Civic Drive and Broadway) for a rally at noon featuring speakers and music. Thousands here in the East Bay will be joining peace advocates across the country in a national demonstration to protest the Iraq war.

"At a time when Congress is waffling in its response to the war in Iraq, citizens must get out and show that we expect our leaders to act boldly and courageously to bring this conflict to an end. This was clear from the last election, and we need to remind our representatives that we want peace now," said Mary Alice O'Connor, Executive Director of the Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Center.

The march and rally, which mark the fourth anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq, is sponsored by a coalition of Contra Costa peace and justice organizations and individuals, including the Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Center, Lamorinda Peace and Justice Group, American Friends Service Committee and Grandparents for Peace. The master of ceremonies is Brian Stein-Weber, Executive Director, Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County. Prominent activists, writers and local leaders will appear and speak. These include: Elizabeth de la Vega, former U.S. Prosecutor and author; Steve Morse, Veterans for Peace; Louise Clark, local activist who donated land for the Crosses of Lafayette; and Anne Roesler, mother of an Iraq soldier. Entertainment includes Annie and the Vets, the Shell Ridge Ramblers, Zach Roberts with Shaky Bones and Deborah Benyahia Kuhl.

The Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Center, which has been in existence since the Vietnam War protests, is your local voice for peace. Lamorinda Peace and Justice is a group formed after the events of September 11. Both organizations are key participants in the memorial called the Crosses of Lafayette, which has been featured in many recent newspaper and television reports.