

Academy Award Winning Filmmaker Comes To Philadelphia Area

On Thursday, September 14th, Academy Award-winning filmmaker Barbara Trent will be presenting the recent *Soldiers Speak Out*, a 28-minute first-hand testament to the reality of the military experience, told entirely in the words of American veterans who have been to war and are now opposing it. She will also screen her 2001 film, *New Yorkers Respond to 9/11*, a moving look at the response of those most deeply affected by the attack of 9/11, calling for peace as the nation waged war. After each screening, Ms. Trent will lead a question and answer session about the films. Following a reception with music and food at 6:30 PM, *Soldiers Speak Out* will begin at 7 as a special event of the Friendly Films Series at Providence Friends Meeting, 105 N. Providence Rd in Media. The event is free, and childcare will be provided. Donations will benefit distribution of *Soldiers Speak Out*. This event is sponsored by the Providence Meeting Peace and Social Action Committee, the American Friends Service Committee, and Veterans For Peace.

Barbara Trent directed *Soldiers Speak Out* as a counter-recruitment and organizing tool for veterans, activists, schools, and organizations. Veterans voice their thoughts on the deceptive military recruitment tactics, the Bush administration's erroneous reasons for the necessity of military campaigning in Iraq, and the incredulous combat environment soldiers are exposed to. Not only does it provide a sober view of the war in Iraq, but it also sheds light on the growing and courageous anti-war movement within the military and their families.

A seasoned activist and filmmaker, Barbara Trent won an Oscar in 1992 for the documentary, *The Panama Deception*, and has both directed and produced other films including *Waging Peace*, *Destination Nicaragua*, and *Coverup: Behind the Iran-Contra Affair*. She has publicly exposed criminal activities in the White House, Pentagon, and CIA; and has been the target of at least three FBI counter-intelligence operations. Appointed as an Expert Senior Training Specialist for the VISTA Program under Jimmy Carter, Ms. Trent has been decorated with the Gasper Octavio Hernandez Award by the Journalist's Union in Panama, and is a recipient of the American Humanist Association's Arts Award for her "courageous advocacy of progressive ideas." **Ms. Trent will be available for phone interviews from Monday September 4th until Monday September 11th, and can be contacted at project4@mindspring.com or by phone at (919) 967-3966.**

Soldiers Speak Out was directed by Barbara Trent and David Kasper, who co-direct the Empowerment Project, based in Chapel Hill, NC. The Empowerment Project is a media resource center serving hundreds of progressive videographers and filmmakers each year. It produces and distributes its own documentary films and videos, and provides facilities, training and other support for independent producers, artists, activists and organizations working in video and other electronic media. Its purpose is to work towards democratizing access to the media, and to provide the resources necessary to put the power of media in the hands of individuals and organizations working to further important social, political and artistic purposes. For more information, visit www.empowermentproject.org.

Background Information on Sponsoring Groups:

The American Friends Service Committee carries out service, development, social justice, and peace programs throughout the world. Founded by Quakers in 1917 to provide conscientious objectors with an opportunity to aid civilian war victims, AFSC's work attracts the support and partnership of people of many races, religions, and cultures. The American Friends Service Committee works locally and worldwide, grounding its efforts at the community level, to understand and address the root causes of poverty, injustice, and war. Recently, they have been active and influential in the anti-war movement, humanitarian assistance, and working for justice in human migration and mobility.

Veterans for Peace is an official national non-governmental organization founded in 1985, comprised of members across the country organized in chapters. The organization includes men and women veterans from WWII, Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf War, the War in Iraq, other conflicts, and peacetime veterans. They work to raise public awareness of the costs of war; restrain our government from intervening, overtly and covertly, in the internal affairs of other nations; end the arms race and to reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons; seek justice for veterans and victims of war; and abolish war as an instrument of national policy. The President of Philadelphia Chapter 31 is John Grant. More information can be found at www.phillyvetsforpeace.org or www.veteransforpeace.org.