

The Building Block

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July 2008

Our Conference on Preventing Gun Violence is Sept. 10 in Portland

The last major conference on gun violence in Oregon was in September 1998. Ten years later, on Sept. 10, 2008, the Ceasefire Oregon Education Foundation will host the 2008 Conference on Preventing Gun Violence, at Portland State University. Conference participants will review the incidence of gun violence in Oregon, explore effective interventions, and examine ways to bring this issue back to the forefront of the public's concerns. Conference cosponsors are the Sidney Lezak Project and PSU's College of Urban and Public Affairs. All Ceasefire friends and supporters are invited to attend the conference.

Speakers at the conference will include Bruce Goldberg, MD, Director, Oregon Department of Human Services; Multnomah County District Attorney Michael Schrunk; State Senator Ginny Burdick; PSU Professor Mark Kaplan, DrPH; Nina Vinik, Legal Director, Legal Community

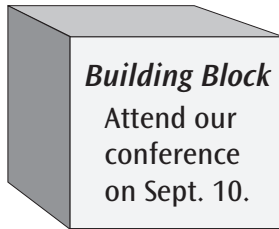
Against Violence; a representative from the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP); and other local and national experts.

Speakers will discuss the risks that gun violence poses to public health; access to guns in Oregon and limiting access by prohibited purchasers; federal and state gun laws; recommendations for reducing gun violence from the

IACP and others; how to involve the public in preventing gun violence; and how to engage the media.

In workshops, participants will discuss (1) how to involve the public in preventing gun violence, (2) how to gain traction for interventions at the federal, state, and local levels, and (3) forming a coalition to work on gun violence issues. The conference will conclude with a reception, providing participants another opportunity to talk and lay the groundwork for future discussions.

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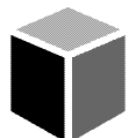
Our annual winery event is August 17

Ceasefire's annual Supper in the Vineyard will take place Sunday, August 17, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Helvetia Winery in Helvetia. Please join us as we honor Jean Morton with this year's Founders Award.

Kit Garoutte will once again play his acoustic guitar, and Terese Wallace of Salubrious will again provide delicious food. A new addition to the festivities will be a small silent auction featuring art objects and the use of vacation homes. Fine Helvetia wines for tasting and purchase will also be available.

This is Ceasefire's major fundraising event of the year and a time for supporters to learn more about our current programs and future plans. If you have not yet received your invitation in the mail, please contact us. ♦

Building safe and healthy communities free from gun violence



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Conference on Preventing Gun Violence: Sept. 10

We are inviting people from law enforcement, other government agencies, health care organizations, community organizations concerned about gun violence, the legal community, other groups, and all Ceasefire friends and supporters to attend the conference.

Please consider this newsletter your invitation. The registration fee is \$75 per person (which will cover some of the costs we incur in presenting the conference). We hope to be able to offer scholarships to people from nonprofits who would otherwise be unable to attend.

Conference goals include these:

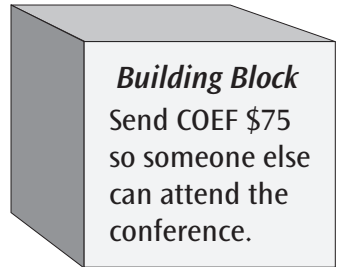
- Share information on gun violence and access to guns in Oregon
- Explore effective ways to prevent gun violence
- Examine how to involve the public in preventing gun violence
- Reconnect and re-energize Oregonians working to prevent gun violence
- Form a coalition of conference participants to work together to prevent gun violence

For more information, please send your name, job title, employer's name,

and contact information by email to info@ceasefireoregon.org. To register for the conference via U.S. mail, send that information and a \$75 check to the Ceasefire Oregon Education Foundation. You may use the remit envelope included with this newsletter to mail in your registration. You may also register online using a credit card; please go to www.ceasefireoregon.org/coef/conference.html.

If you can't attend the conference but would like to enable a community outreach worker at a nonprofit organization to attend, please send us \$75 for each scholarship you'd like to fund.

This conference offers an extraordinary opportunity to hear from local and national experts on gun violence issues and to discuss those issues with other Oregonians concerned about gun violence. Please register today for the Sept. 10 conference. We hope to see you there. ◆



The Ceasefire Oregon Education Foundation (COEF) works to reduce gun violence by educating the public and providing opportunities to dispose of firearms. Since 1994, we have provided for the safe surrender and disposal of over 6,700 guns. Our affiliate, Ceasefire Oregon, works to reduce gun violence by advocating reasonable gun safety legislation and opposing irresponsible bills.

Contributions to COEF are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Contributions to Ceasefire Oregon are not tax deductible because its primary function is to work on behalf of and against proposed gun laws. If you'd like to get involved or make a donation, please contact us. Please also send us your email address. We greatly appreciate your support. ◆



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Portland ASK Campaign moves forward

The Asking Saves Kids—ASK—Campaign encourages parents to protect their children by asking a very simple question: “Is there a gun where my child plays?”

Last November, the Ceasefire Oregon Education Foundation took this message to the entire Portland metropolitan area by launching a comprehensive Portland ASK Campaign. In partnership with PAX in New York, Ceasefire volunteers have raised funds and received ASK endorsements from many organizations. This initiative will penetrate the more than 220,000 Portland households with children under the age of 18.

Have you seen an ASK billboard around town? On display since January, they feature these community leaders and celebrities: Portland Mayor Tom Potter, Congressman Earl Blumenauer, DJ OSO Fresh of Z100 FM, Dr. Dana Hargunani of Doernbecher Children’s Hospital, pianist Tom Grant, and Blaze, the mascot for the Portland Trail Blazers. The eye-catching billboards have been raising community awareness about the dangers of firearms in the home, and linking the public to ASK resources and information.



The Portland ASK Campaign has its own website, www.portlandasks.org. Check it out! We enjoyed speaking with parents and kids about gun safety at the Safe Kids Day at the Oregon Zoo in May. Between now and the end of the yearlong campaign this fall, we hope to conduct parent education workshops, community events, and speaking engagements to reach even more parents on a grassroots level.

Gun violence in the United States is a public health problem of enormous proportions. Guns can be found in 40% of Oregon homes. In 26% of these homes, a firearm is loaded, and 64% of those firearms are also unlocked. (Data as of 2004.) These guns represent tragedies waiting to happen.

You can prevent such tragedies by asking if there are guns in the homes where your children play and if those guns are safely stored. Please help us encourage parents throughout the Portland area to ASK.

For more information or to arrange for a speaker or a parent education workshop for your organization, visit the Portland ASK Campaign website, www.portlandasks.org, or contact COEF at 503/220-1669. ♦



An ASK billboard in Portland, featuring the Trail Blazers’ mascot.

Next gun turn-in is November 1

Plans are underway for the next neighborhood gun turn-in, to be held Saturday, November 1, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in an east Portland neighborhood.

The Ceasefire Oregon Education Foundation will be working with KPTV—Fox 12—as media contact and with one of the east Portland neighborhoods in staging the event. As usual, a team of veteran COEF gun turn-in volunteers will provide guidance. A 40-second advertisement trailer will run a week beforehand on channel 12.

Ceasefire has sponsored gun turn-ins in the Portland area and as far south as Medford since 1994. In that time, more than 6,700 guns have been collected and destroyed. A merchandise certificate valued at \$50 is given in exchange for an operable gun. Please check our website for details about the next turn-in. ♦

One story, from one volunteer

John Holley is a volunteer with the Ceasefire Oregon Education Foundation. What follows here is a news article about his sister's death, and John's remarks on the impact of the tragedy. It is one of too many similar stories from across the United States, and we thank John for sharing it with us.

The New York Times, Tuesday, July 23, 1968

Inventor's Granddaughter Killed in a Gun Accident at Lake Placid

The 23 year-old daughter of a retired Michigan executive was killed here Sunday night in what the state police describe as a shooting accident.

Lynn Holley, granddaughter of the inventor of the Holley carburetor, was shot in the back during a barbeque at her family's spacious summer ranch four miles south of here.

According to the police investigator, Maj. Harold Muller, her fiancée, had been firing a 25-caliber automatic pistol outside, aiming at trees. He took it into the kitchen, where Miss Holley was preparing food with a friend.

Believing the weapon to be empty, her fiancée placed it on a table. When he picked it up again, it discharged, killing Miss Holley with a single shot.

According to Dr. Herbert Bergamini, the coroner, the bullet passed through the shoulder and entered the heart, killing Miss Holley 'almost instantly'.

When the accident occurred, my parents were in Colorado. As the oldest child I was contacted first and, after the initial shock, I called my parents to break the news and then left for Lake Placid to take care of preliminary arrangements.

This careless accident caused havoc for all concerned. Her fiancée was jailed. Following a long interrogation he was released on bail and finally freed. But he was so traumatized that he had to be hospitalized for a few days. My parents were devastated. Their vibrant young daughter had been taken from them. I had lost my best friend, my buddy.

This tragic death could have been prevented—easily. First, her fiancée did not have firearm training. He made the simple mistake of assuming the gun was empty. He inadvertently pointed the gun at my sister. And it went off, killing an innocent, young girl in the prime of her life. The death devastated two families and shocked a community. ♦

Why Ceasefire is honoring Jean Morton

The passionate, persevering, and deserving recipient of this year's Ceasefire Founders Award happens to be a cofounder of the organization herself: Jean Morton. The award is to be conferred on Jean at Ceasefire's annual Supper in the Vineyard on Sunday, August 17, 2008, at Helvetia Winery in Helvetia, from 4 to 7 p.m.

Since she first answered the call from Julie Wheeler in 1994 to help organize Oregon's first gun turn-in, Jean has served in nearly every imaginable role for Ceasefire, chairing the steering committee in the early years before the nonprofit organization was officially formed, and serving as an officer and director for both the Ceasefire Oregon Education Foundation and the advocacy group known simply as Ceasefire Oregon. Over the past several years, she has handled all the incoming mail for the organization, including logging all financial contributions and responding to each of them with a thank-you note.

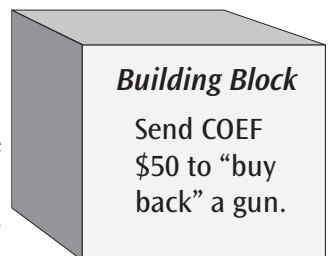
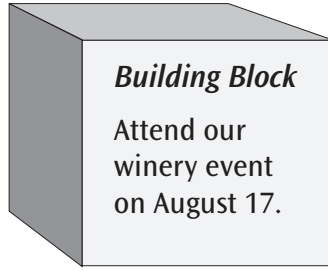
Among Jean's greatest gifts to Ceasefire has been her perpetual willingness to develop and execute gun turn-in after gun turn-in, during the course of which she has cultivated close working relationships with the Portland Police and Fire Bureaus; the Beaverton, Gresham, and Hillsboro Police Departments; the Clackamas County Sheriff's Department; and numerous additional governmental, civic, religious, and other organizations. Ceasefire's gun turn-ins have

collected more than 6,700 firearms over the past 15 years, a testament to Jean's tirelessness on behalf of the Ceasefire organizations.

Born in Washington and raised in Idaho, Jean spends her time away from Ceasefire in a variety of pursuits. She is a former president of, and still an active participant in, the OHSU

School of Medicine Alliance, and she cofounded and serves on the selection committee for the Nancy Ryles Scholarship Fund at Portland State University. She met her husband of 52 years, Dr. William Morton, after she broke her leg skiing and was taken to the hospital where Bill was an intern. Though she has given up skiing, Jean loves to walk, bike, and snowshoe, particularly at the couple's Sunriver cabin. She is also a very accomplished knitter, and dabbles in needlepoint. Jean and Bill are the proud parents of three grown children, Carol, Kristen, and Tom, and four grandchildren.

Not only is Jean supremely deserving of the Founders Award, it is particularly fitting that the award will be presented to her at this year's Supper in the Vineyard, an event she first conceived and organized several years ago to support the gun turn-ins. On August 17, please join us in honoring this remarkable colleague, friend, and activist. ♦



The Ceasefire Oregon Education Foundation seeks a bookkeeper who can volunteer a few hours per month. We also need a volunteer CPA for a short-term project. Please let us know if you can help. ♦

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U.S. Supreme Court says that some restrictions on guns are permissible

On June 26, the U.S. Supreme Court issued its decision in *District of Columbia v. Heller*, finding by a 5–4 vote that the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution protects an individual right to possess a firearm. Specifically, the Court found that there is a constitutional right to keep a loaded handgun at home for self-defense. The Court struck down the District’s ban on handguns in the home and its storage requirement.

The Court also stated, however, that “the right secured by the Second Amendment is not unlimited.” The Court explained that “nothing in our opinion should be taken to cast doubt on longstanding prohibitions on the possession of firearms by felons and the mentally ill, or laws forbidding the carrying of firearms in sensitive places such as schools and government buildings, or laws imposing conditions and qualifications on the

commercial sale of arms.” And, the Court noted, this list is not exhaustive, but simply sets forth examples of “presumptively lawful regulatory measures.” You can find the decision online at www.supremecourtus.gov.

For years the gun lobby has refused to support reasonable gun regulations, arguing that enacting such laws would one day lead to government confiscation of all privately held guns. The Supreme Court has put that argument to rest. Placing reasonable restrictions on access to guns will not lead to government confiscation and will not violate the Second Amendment.

Every year in this country, about 30,000 people are killed by gunfire. More than twice as many are injured. Ceasefire Oregon and the Ceasefire Oregon Education Foundation will continue to work to prevent gun violence and make our communities safer. Please join us. ♦