

# NEWSLETTER

The Manhattan Alliance will educate and organize  
for peace and justice at home and abroad.

Visit us online at: <http://www.mapj.org>

## *MAPJ Calls Special Meeting* Saturday 19 September 2009

First Congregational Church, 700 Poyntz Avenue

**All MAPJ supporters are encouraged to gather on Saturday, 19 September at 10:00 am - noon, at the First Congregational Church to take part in a most important endeavor: *deciding the organization's primary focus for the coming year.***

This meeting will be the culmination of a process that began this spring, in a workshop run by



organizing guru Suzanne Pharr, our annual meeting's keynote speaker. One concern raised was MAPJ's tendency to work on too many issues at once, diffusing our efforts. In discussions since then, the MAPJ

board has concluded that to be more effective, we will direct the lion's share of our energy and resources toward a single issue or set of related issues, with tangible goals, local/national impact, and strategies for reaching out to other local groups and populations who are currently under-served by the political process.

As you read this, the board is engaged in a phone survey of MAPJ members to get a better sense of your concerns and aspirations for our group. If you

haven't received a yellow postcard or phone call, you can find the survey online by going to [www.mapj.org](http://www.mapj.org).

On September 19, we will share results from the survey and use them to help choose our focus. Small groups will develop ideas according to criteria the board will lay out.

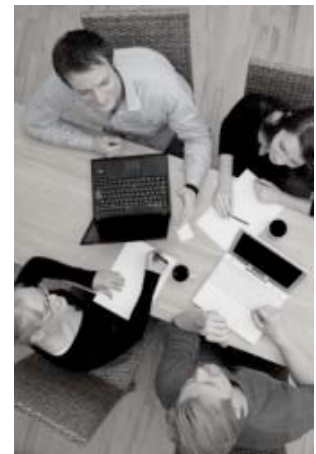
The small groups will pitch their ideas and the assembly as a whole will seek consensus.

Free childcare will be available for those who can use it (just contact Anne Cowan, 537-2025, to let us know). We will provide caffeinated beverages and some bakery items to fuel the creative process. **Bring friends and ideas.**

**People who have never been involved in MAPJ before are welcome.**

Every organization needs to go through this sort of process periodically. The strength of a grassroots group is its membership, and we are counting on your participation, your creativity, your enthusiasm.

**Please mark your calendars and help us make MAPJ a more effective force for progressive change!**



### **MAPJ Board of Directors:**

*Jon Tveite, Chair; Anne Cowan, Treasurer; Carol Barta; David Buck, Greg Covington; Bill Dorsett; John Exdell; Majka Jankowiak; Sam Lacy; Christopher Renner; Alley Stoughton; Ellen Welti*

# Announcements:

## Mark Rudd in Lawrence

**Thursday, October 22 - A** Veg Potluck at Lawrence Ecumenical Campus Ministry with Mark Rudd talking about his handmade, earth friendly house.

**Friday, October 23 -** Afternoon reception at the Perk and then a Potluck at Plymouth Church at 925 Vermont, sponsored by the Lawrence Coalition for Peace and Justice. The film, *Weather Underground* will be shown, followed by Rudd discussing the movement of the 60s and the movement now.

Mark Rudd, often characterized in Doonesbury, was active in the anti-Vietnam War movement and co-founded the Weatherman faction of SDS. His life at that time included the legendary occupation of five buildings at Columbia University.

For more information see the Lawrence Coalition for Peace and Justice website: [www.LCPJ.org](http://www.LCPJ.org)

## MAPJ Awarded RESIST Grant

MAPJ been awarded its fifth grant from the RESIST Foundation. This year's grant is for \$1500 and allows MAPJ to pay a staff person to work with K-State progressive student organizations.

Resist has been funding social change since 1967 and is also a resource center to social activist organizations, giving technical assistance and information about other funding sources. Resist has been an important supporter of MAPJ for several years. For more information or to donate to this foundation see the Resist website: [www.resistinc.org](http://www.resistinc.org)

## LOU DOUGLAS LECTURE SERIES - 2009

**Tuesday, October 13th, 7:00 pm,** K-State Student Union Forum Hall; *21st Century Slavery: Living Proof* with Simon Deng, a former slave who managed his own getaway, now leading the struggle to stop genocide in Sudan.

**Tuesday, November 3rd, 7:00 pm,** K-State Student Union Forum Hall *Great Plains Rising: Fuel for the 21st Century* with Nancy Jackson, Executive Director, Climate and Energy Project, working to build a resilient energy economy in Kansas and the Midwest.

## NEW GI NEWSPAPER

The first edition of this sixteen page newspaper, put out by GIs at Fort Hood, Texas is called *The Not So Great Place*. It is free to download at: [www.notsogreatplace.com](http://www.notsogreatplace.com).

It is interesting and comes with this warning: "This Unauthorized and Unofficial newspaper contains the TRUTH about what happens at Fort Hood. Regular readers have been known to suffer poor morale, be insubordinate to stupid ass commanders, and to ask too many questions."

JOIN MAPJ!

To become a MAPJ member, send us a donation or volunteer some time for a MAPJ project.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Pledge to be paid \_\_\_\_\_ (date or dates)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Projects I would like to take part in: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**For a tax deduction make checks payable to "MAPJ ED Fund"**

**Sent to MAPJ, PO Box 1561 Manhattan, KS 66505**



## MAPJ Monthly Film Series Presents: *Anthrax War* by Eric Nadler and Bob Coen

According to Bryan White, tipping points are “the levels at which the momentum for change becomes

unstoppable.” Since January, MAPJ has been working to bring to our community films that would otherwise not be seen in a public setting because of their perceived inability to generate revenue for the local cinema monopoly. At our August showing of *Food, Inc.*, we had over 150 people in attendance. Hopefully that marks a tipping point and means that Manhattanites are interested in film that informs and challenges the viewer to think differently about the world around us. Our feature film for September promises viewers to once again stretch their perceptions and assumptions.

*Anthrax War* is a remarkable documentary that brings back into focus events just before 9/11 that have gone completely underground in light of all the coverage on the economy, Afghanistan & the Obama Presidency. It takes a serious look at the \$57 billion “Bio-defense” industry boom which directly affects our community with the slated construction of the National Bio and Agriculture Facility and the contributions it will make to a “Germ War Arms Race” that may now be beginning around the globe.

In the weeks following the 9/11 attacks, the United States was confronted with the frightening reality of biological terrorism. Anthrax-laced letters were first sent to media outlet and then to elected officials in Washington, shutting down our government for the first time in modern history. These attacks resulted in the spreading of fear and panic around the world. Millions were put at risk, scores were infected and five people died. In the end it was discovered these “terrorist” attacks were developed in a US lab by a US scientist.

*Anthrax War* takes viewers into the Bio-defense labs of the United States and the U.S. Military’s testing grounds in the deserts of the American southwest. The filmmakers travel to a top-secret military installation of the former Soviet Union

where anthrax escaped thirty years ago, where civilians are still living with the consequences, and where biological weapons work may be continuing. They move on to the savannas of southern Africa, where they meet “Doctor Death” and his associates of the notorious Project Coast, who experimented with anthrax and other designer germs during the Apartheid Era, and where the anthrax used in the 2001 attacks may have originated.

**As co-director Robert Coen points out in his August 20 Community Bridge interview,** Richard Nixon signed an international treaty that prohibits the US from developing offensive biological weapons. Following administrations have interpreted the treaty to allow for “defensive” research ending in the current biological arms race. As the government pumps billions into securing our borders in their worry over ‘dirty bombs’ and other terror threats, they hustle to create new nightmares that can fall into unscrupulous hands and prove to be a greater threat than from what they are supposed to defend us.



Eric Nadler

**Anthrax War will be shown twice:**

- ➔ **Tuesday, September 8 at 6:30 pm in the Manhattan Public Library Auditorium,**
- ➔ **Wednesday, September 9th at 8:00 pm in the K-State Student Union Ballroom.**

**Both showings will feature co-director Eric Nadler as moderator, and are free and open to the public.**

**Visit the film’s website at:**

<http://www.anthraxwar.com>

**Future Film Series attractions:**

- \* **October 13 – What’s the Matter with Kansas?**
- \* **November 10 – Dirt (tentative)**
- \* **December 9 – Joyeaux Noel**

# Mixed Outcomes for GIs Resisting U.S. Wars

*This news summary was compiled from Internet reports and edited by Dave Redmon.*

Four recent court cases illustrate mixed outcomes for GIs who resisted continued participation in U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

**At Fort Richardson, AK, in September 2008, Pfc. Michael Barnes** was granted conscientious objector status and an honorable discharge when a U.S. District Court Judge overruled the Army's decision to deny Barnes's request.

Barnes, a 26-year-old from Portland, OR, enlisted in the Army for five years in March 2005 with the stated goal of "defending freedom and helping other people in countries no one else would help."

Barnes had told the Army that he experienced a religious awakening in Iraq that left him opposed to war in any form.

"Spending my time on this earth killing or supporting killing others is unacceptable to me," Barnes wrote. "Serving Jesus is doing the opposite of participating in war. It is loving your enemy, avoiding conflict, being humble and living peacefully. I am unable to serve the Lord and support war."

Source: George Bryson at <http://adn.com/military/story/534113.html>

**At St. Louis, MO, in April 2009, Sgt. Mathis Chiroux** received a general discharge under honorable conditions from the Army's Individual Ready Reserve (IRR), his rights to the G.I. Bill intact after he

had refused to deploy to Iraq. His hearing was held before a discharge board at the U.S. Army Human Resources Command there.

Chiroux, originally from Auburn, AL, was in the Army five years before entering the IRR and enrolling in college. When he was called up as an Individual Ready Reservist for duty in Iraq, he actively refused to participate on the premise that "Operation Iraqi Freedom" was and is an illegal

war of aggression.

A member of the Iraq Veterans Against the War's Winter Soldier writing project, Chiroux testified to his long experience in the military (serving in Japan, the Philippines, Germany and Afghanistan) and its mistreatment of its soldiers and innocent civilians. He was represented by Marjorie Cohn, president of the National Lawyers Guild. Source: Andy Lucker at <http://mag.org/znet/viewArticle/21240>

**At Fort Hood, TX, in August 2009, Spc. Victor Agosto** was demoted to private and sentenced to 30 days in jail for disobeying orders.

Agosto's contract was to expire in June 2009. But after returning from 13 months in Iraq, he became a victim of the stop-loss program that has extended the tours of more than 140,000 troops beyond their contracts since 9/11. Told that his next assignment would be deployment to Afghanistan, Agosto in April went public

with his intent to refuse orders. With the support of local residents, Agosto claimed that the basis of the occupation was "immoral and unjust."

At his court martial hearing, Agosto, 24, stated his belief that the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan violated international law, said his lawyer, James M. Branum of Oklahoma City.

"He's not opposed to all wars; he is opposed to this war, because it is not a war of self-defense," Branum said. Under a plea agreement, Agosto will be discharged after he serves his time in jail in Belton, TX, Branum added.

In his self-defense, Agosto made this statement before the court: "I have a good conduct medal. I have never before refused an order and I have only refused orders relating to my illegal deployment. I believe that this war is a direct violation of international law. The people of Afghanistan have not attacked us and this war has not been authorized by a United Nations Security Council resolution."



Top - Pfc. Micaeh Barnes, his wife and son (ABC news); center - Sgt. Mathis Chiroux; bottom - Spc. Victor Agosto

## GI Resisters, continued...

"Many soldiers feel the same way I do," explained Agosto. "But instead of honestly coming forward, they smoke marijuana in hopes of getting discharged."

"If I were resisting this war through becoming a pothead, I would almost certainly be leaving with an honorable discharge. But because I am being honest and forthright about my convictions, I am facing a jail sentence."

Source: Sarah Lazare at <http://ourageto resist.org/x/content/blogcategory/57/115/>

**Also at Fort Hood in August, Sgt. Travis Bishop** was found guilty of two counts of missing movement, disobeying a lawful order and going absent without leave (AWOL). A military jury sentenced him to one year at the Bell County jail in Texas, a rank reduction to Private, forfeiture of two-thirds of his pay for one year and a bad conduct discharge. Amnesty International has named Bishop a prisoner of conscience. An appeal is planned by his attorney, James Branum.

Bishop insisted it would be unethical for him to deploy to Afghanistan in support of an occupation he opposes on both moral and legal grounds. He applied for Conscientious Objector (C.O) status when he learned it was an option just weeks before his scheduled deployment. He served in Iraq from August 2006 to October 2007.

"As a real Christian, I must be opposed to all violence, no matter what, because that is what Jesus taught," Bishop stated. Sources: James Branum and Dabr Jamail at <http://truthout.org/081609Z#comment-96056>

Editor's note: dozens of military cases against GIs are pending. View their profiles at <http://ourageto resist.org/x/content/blogcategory/39/86/>



Sgt. Travis Bishop

## MAPJ Speaker Series

- presents -

**Dr. Sarah Shields**

*Associate Professor of History,  
University of North Carolina,  
Chapel Hill*

**Monday 9 November, 7:00 p.m.  
Little Theater, K-State Union**

Prof. Shields will speak on the historical background of the ongoing Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Shields is a long-time friend of MAPJ, having taught at K-State in the late 1980's. Look for a title and more information in the next MAPJ newsletter.

## Community Cultural Harmony Week Highlights

Complete information is available at: [www.k-state.edu/cchw](http://www.k-state.edu/cchw)  
**Sunday 20 September, 2:00 pm** - Walk, meet at Triangle Park. Presentations by representatives from the City of Manhattan, USD 383, Kansas State University, and Dr. Barbara Baker, the K-State graduate student who founded the Week in 1988.

**Monday 21 September, 7:00 pm** - CCHW Film Series: *Jerusalem is Proud to Present*, 2006 World LGBT Pride event in Jerusalem with reaction from Jewish, Muslim and Christian leaders. Directed by Nitzan Gilady, in Hebrew (subtitles) and English. Sponsored by Union Program Council Films

**Tuesday 22 September, 7:00 pm** - Asante Touring Company, *MLK in a Hip Hop World* examines the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., K-State Student Union Grand Ballroom.

**Wednesday 23 September, 12:00 pm** - Student Panel on Diversity, moderated by Deborah Muhwezi, Tilford-Dow Scholar, K-State Student Union Courtyard, ground floor/

**Thursday 24 September 7:30 pm** - Jon Nakamatsu, pianist, 1997 gold medalist of the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, McCain Auditorium.

**Friday 25 September, 10:30 am** - Justin Akers-Chacón on immigration (co-author of *No One Is Illegal*) K-State Student Union, Big 12 Room.

## CAFTA Suit Against El Salvador *by Anne Cowan*

While most of us are mired in the issues of the economy, war and health care, the people of El Salvador are dealing with a law suit against the Salvadoran government, filed by Pacific Rim, a Canadian/US gold mining company, claiming that their rights under CAFTA (Central America Free Trade Agreement) were denied.

Although El Salvador cannot afford to turn away investors, there is a strong grassroots movement to prevent mining of precious metals. Through the years the government has lifted tax burdens and created subsidies for investment by foreign companies, but this time the government has supported the grassroots in fighting the mining companies.

In 2002, Pacific Rim was awarded an exploration permit to test for the possibilities of gold in the El Dorado area. Now the government will not issue an extraction permit. Pacific Rim claims they have filed all the appropriate papers and that under CAFTA international companies must be given the same rights as the small local mining companies.

Thousands of Salvadorans have taken to the streets; more than 100 NGOs, the Conference of Bishops of the Roman Catholic Church, both past President Saca and current President Funes have all taken a stand against the mining on the grounds of environmental impact on this very small and densely populated country (275 inhabitants/sq km.) The government says that the project will generate more costs than benefits. There have been negative consequences from just the test drilling.

Oxfam America and independent hydrogeologists have studied the situation and report that the mining operation will be bad for the country. The mining, which uses cyanide in its separation process, will result in drying up of water wells, diverting underground water, and contaminating both water and soil in a large region. The effects are long term, but it is estimated that the mines will be exhausted in 10-12 years. Profits will leave the country.

The situation has turned violent in El Salvador. This summer Marcelo Rivera, a community leader opposed to the mining, was killed. A priest barely escaped a kidnapping attempt. Another organizer was shot, but survives. Community Radio Victoria workers have received death threats. It is not clear exactly who is creating the violence. There is an

international movement to support the Salvadoran grassroots call for an investigation into the killing.

President Funes's statements and legislative actions have been put on hold. The reason is unclear - is it international corporate pressure - or not wanting to take any action which might be used against them in the law suit? It is clear that Pacific Rim is lobbying the US government for assistance in their claims and support of CAFTA. It is clear that if El Salvador loses this suit, it will be devastating to their economy.

Similar arguments are taking place across Central America. Honduras and Guatemala are working to control outside mining interests of precious metals, but Free Trade Agreements may overrule the wishes of governments.

The court case, called Concession of Mining Exploitation is being handled by the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes, a part of the World Court. The case may take one to three years to settle and will set a precedent for Free Trade Agreements and its goal to protect foreign investment. Meanwhile another foreign investor has filed a Notice of Intent under CAFTA against the Salvadoran government.

This situation, of course, is more complicated than can be covered in this short summary, but is an alert for future Free Trade agreements. Who is going to be in charge under free trade laws, national governments or international corporations?

For more information on this issue see:

[www.elsalvadorsolidarity.org](http://www.elsalvadorsolidarity.org)

[www.cispes.org](http://www.cispes.org)

### Community Bridge Begins 4th Year of Broadcasting.

Manhattan's progressive voice in a sea of right-wing negativity returns on September 3rd. Tune in at 5:00 pm each Thursday as host Christopher Renner covers local and national issues of the day.

Visit: [communitybridge.blogspot.com](http://communitybridge.blogspot.com) for the latest in progressive news and opinions.



## Movies on the Grass Fifth Edition

The fifth annual Movies on the Grass series is moving off campus and into the community this year for 3 of its 5 free film events. In addition to Coffman Commons (the lawn south of Hale Library), there will be events at Douglass Community Center, Aggieville, and Sunset Zoo. **All films except "Playing for Change" begin Sundays at dusk (around 8pm)** and feature raffles, information tables, and refreshments.

This year features films about immigration, peace-making, sustainable building, and endangered species. Trailers are available from: [www.k-state.edu/moviesonthegrass/](http://www.k-state.edu/moviesonthegrass/)

The series kicked off with **THE VISITOR** (2008), ran on Aug. 30 at Coffman Commons. Drama about friendship between a reclusive college professor and two undocumented workers he discovers have unwittingly rented his New York apartment.

**PRAY THE DEVIL BACK TO HELL** (2008), will be shown on **Sept. 6 at Douglass Community Center Park**. True story of how women brutalized by civil war in Liberia turned the tables on warlords and the president, forcing a

negotiated peace settlement and elections.

**PLAYING FOR CHANGE: PEACE THROUGH MUSIC** (2008), will be projected on **September 10 at 8:00 pm Auntie Mae's, Aggieville and clips will be projected on September 18 & 19 at various times in Triangle Park, during Aggiefest**. Mark Johnson began his project visiting street musicians around the world who share a common message, sung together through the film.

**GARBAGE WARRIOR** (2007), will be shown on **September 13** at Coffman Commons. This film portrays Michael Reynolds, an architect of sustainable, off-the-grid housing in New Mexico for 30 years, re-building for tsunami victims and challenging skeptical legislators.

Come to the Sunset Zoo on **September 20** for **THE TIGER NEXT DOOR** (2009). Experts estimate that there are more tigers in private captivity in the USA than there are roaming wild in the world -- 24 of them live in Dennis H's backyard.

More information: Donna Schenck-Hamlin, K-State Libraries 532-7454

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## Military Veterans to Describe Their Cross-Country Peace Journey

Peace Pilgrims **Josh Stieber** and **Conor Curran** will speak at several receptions in Manhattan in early September to discuss their Contagious Love Experiment. The two are touring the United States on foot and on bicycles telling of their combat experience and spiritual change of direction.

In 12 weeks they have traveled from Washington DC to Baltimore to New York City to Boston to several cities in New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio. They'll make an appearance in Topeka before arriving in Manhattan. Afterwards they'll continue their journey on bicycles to appearances in Montana, Washington and California.

Both men were reared in Christian families and joined the military after high school to protect the U.S. from terrorists. After witnessing warfare first hand in Iraq, each was honorably discharged earlier this year, from the Army and Marine Corp, respectively. Josh won discharge as a Conscientious Objector.

Appearances are scheduled for **Sunday 6**

**September, Douglass Community Center Park, 901 Yuma Street, at 8:00 pm** before showing of "Pray the Devil Back to Hell" (how protest halted fratricide in Liberia). This video is part of the *Movies on the Grass* series supported by campus and community organizations. Additional appearances are scheduled for:

**Tuesday 8 September, 7:00 pm** in room 208 of the K-State Union sponsored by Ecumenical Christian Ministries.

**Wednesday 9 September, 7:00 pm** at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 481 Zeandale Road east of Manhattan.

**Sunday 13 September, 8:00 - 10:00 am** at the Bluestem Bistro in Aggieville so that well wishers can accompany Josh and Conor for a few miles on bikes as they continue their westward journey.

It's remarkable how well Josh and Conor are able to gently and directly respond to critics. View the website for examples:

<http://contagiousloveexperiment.wordpress.com/>

**Chair:** Jon Tveite (chair@mapj.org)  
**Vice-Chair:** vacant (vice-chair@mapj.org)  
**Treasurer:** Anne Cowan (treasurer@mapj.org)  
**Campus Organizer:** (campus-organizer@mapj.org)  
**Newsletter Editor:** ([newletter-editor@mapj.org](mailto:newletter-editor@mapj.org))  
**Committees:** MAPJ is developing a stronger committee system. If you are interested in becoming more involved, consider joining one of the following committees: El Salvador Sister City; Programming; Action on Iran; Rallies and Protests; Legislative Action; Newsletter; Nominating; Website.

MAPJ  
PO Box 1561  
Manhattan, KS 66505

**Return Service Requested**

**Prairie Festival XXXI, Salina, Kansas  
September 25-27, 2009**

This popular chautauqua-like event held at The Land Institute outside Salina includes speakers, music, food, discussion, a barn dance and art – plus an opportunity to camp overnight.

For details on registration, speakers and programming see: <http://www.landinstitute.org>

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**September**

**8 – MAPJ Film Series** presents *Anthrax War*, 6:30 pm Manhattan Public Library - See newsletter article on page 3 for details.

**9 – Reception for Josh Steiber**, Iraqi veteran and peace activist: UU Fellowship on Zeandale Road. See Newsletter announcement for details.

**10 – Community Bridge radio show**, 5:00 pm, KSDB 91.9 FM (every Thursday).

**13 – Movies on the Grass**, 7:45pm, presents *Garbage Warrior*, Coffman Commons, K-State Hale Library.

**17 – MAPJ Board Meeting** – 7pm, Radina’s meeting room; all members welcome.

**17 – Community Bridge radio show**, 5:00 pm, KSDB 91.9 FM.

**18&19 – Movies on the Grass** presents *Playing for Change* 7:45 pm, Triangle Park, Aggieville.

**19 – MAPJ Special Meeting** - See front page for details.

**20 – Movies on the Grass** presents *The Tiger Next Door*, 7:45pm, Sunset Zoo.

**20 - 25 - Community Cultural Harmony Week**, visit [www.k-state.edu/cchw](http://www.k-state.edu/cchw) for details.

**21 – K-State Nonviolence Rally** – 11-12:30 pm at KSU Union Bosco Plaza.

**24 - Community Bridge radio show** 5:00 pm

**26-27 – Prairie Festival**, Land Institute in Salina; see announcement above for details.

**October**

**1 – Community Bridge radio show**, 5:00 pm.

**13 – MAPJ Film Series** presents *What’s The Matter with Kansas?* 6:30 pm Manhattan Public Library.

**13 – Lou Douglas Lecture** – 7 pm, K-State Union Forum Hall - Simon Deng: *21st Century Slavery: Living Proof*.

**15 – MAPJ Board Meeting** – 7 pm, Radina’s meeting room; all members welcome.

**22-23 – Mark Rudd** appearances in Lawrence, Kansas – See announcements for details.

**November**

**3 – Lou Douglas Lecture** – 7 pm, K-State Union Forum Hall – Nancy Jackson. *Great Plains Rising: Fuel for the 21st Century*.

**9 – MAPJ Lecture Series** - Sarah Shields, Little Theatre, K-State Union.

**10 - MAPJ Monthly Film Series**, 6:30 pm, Manhattan Public Library Auditorium.