



our developing world's voices

Spring, 2003 — Vol. 9, No. 2

The Truth Will Emerge

by U.S. Senator Robert Byrd, Senate Floor Remarks - May 21, 2003

*Truth, crushed to earth, shall rise again, —
The eternal years of God are hers;
But Error, wounded, writhes in pain,
And dies among his worshippers.*

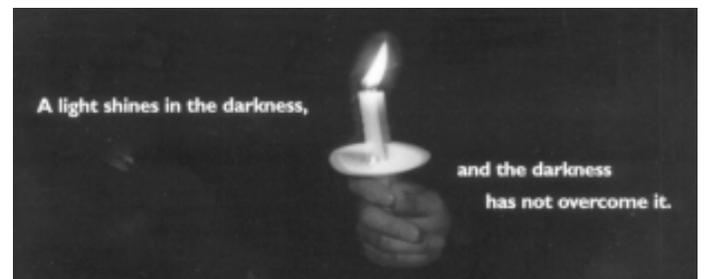
Truth has a way of asserting itself despite all attempts to obscure it. Distortion only serves to derail it for a time. No matter to what lengths we humans may go to obfuscate facts or delude our fellows, truth has a way of squeezing out through the cracks, eventually. But the danger is that at some point it may no longer matter. The danger is that damage is done before the truth is widely realized. The reality is that, sometimes, it is easier to ignore uncomfortable facts and go along with whatever distortion is currently in vogue. We see a lot of this today in politics. I see a lot of it —more than I would ever have believed— right on this Senate Floor.

Regarding the situation in Iraq, it appears to this Senator that the American people may have been lured into accepting the unprovoked invasion of a sovereign nation, in violation of long-standing International law, under false premises. There is ample evidence that the horrific events of September 11 have been carefully manipulated to switch public focus from Osama Bin Laden and Al Qaeda who masterminded the September 11th attacks, to Saddam Hussein who did not. The run up to our invasion of Iraq featured the President and members of his cabinet invoking every frightening image they could conjure, from mushroom clouds, to buried caches of germ warfare, to drones poised to deliver germ laden death in our major

cities. We were treated to a heavy dose of overstatement concerning Saddam Hussein's direct threat to our freedoms. The tactic was guaranteed to provoke a sure reaction from a nation still suffering from a combination of posttraumatic stress and justifiable anger after the attacks of 9/11. It was the exploitation of fear. It was a placebo for the anger.

Since the war's end, every subsequent revelation which has seemed to refute the previous dire claims of the Bush Administration has been brushed aside. Instead of addressing the contradictory evidence, the White House deftly changes the subject. No weapons of mass destruction have yet turned up, but we are told that they will in time. Perhaps they yet will. But, our costly and destructive bunker busting attack on Iraq seems to have proven, in the main, precisely the opposite of what we were told was the urgent reason to go in. It seems also to have, for the present, verified the assertions of Hans Blix and the inspection team he led, which President Bush and company

Continued on page 6 →



Thank you! • Thank you! • Thank you! • Thank you!

Not only for your subscriptions and extra donations, but for your words of support and appreciation. They mean so much to us! It was so good to hear from so many, and to still be in touch with many who were with us on reality tours many many years ago.

It's rewarding to have some return to volunteer/work with an organization we have visited. Last year reaped a volunteer for South Africa!

Hopefully, this year's tour to Cuba and Guatemala will yield more friends for years to come. This is certainly one of the many motivations to continue.🌍



odw Fiscal Sponsorship

COSECHA, founded by Roland Bunch with Honduran farmers, enables small farmers in developing countries to learn sustainable agricultural methods from one another, improving their lives and those of their families.

Honduran Medical Fund funds medicines for poor Hondurans.

WCI Middle School Program, begun by Julie Krug and *odw*, lets middle schoolers work side by side with poor Nicaraguans. The \$8200 raised will repair and expand the school and community center in Mateare, pay for an art teacher, a dance teacher, buy sports equipment, and pay for the installation of clean running water into 40 homes. Yeah WCI! In its third year, kids raise much of the money through a global geography quiz which now encompasses the entire school with Julie's "Teens Around the World" class teaching all the homeroom classes.

Santa Marta, El Salvador pre-school, a Los Gatos Unitarian Project for 5 years.

Kyrgyzstan Book Fund, the newest one. *odw* Board member Susan Sylvan, now a Peace Corps volunteer, says: "I feel very fortunate that I have received so many magazines and clippings; my (University) students write little thank you notes for them and enjoy having this English to read. They have no books except the ones left by the Russians which are summaries of classics that they do

not understand (*Gulliver's Travels*, or texts about aspects of life in English speaking countries, for example). I have been asked what the rules for cricket are, for example . . . this was an assignment in another class. I have some books which they can read and they love them—I am mobbed when I get another set from some of you."

If you have left-over books on a young adult level, sending them to the following address in a padded envelope would be appreciated:

Susan Sylvan

Kyrgyzstan

722360...Issyk-Kul oblast

Karakol City....A/R 22 Kyrgyzstan

(The A/R print the R backwards)

Make your tax-deductible check out to *our developing world*, 13004 Paseo Presada, Saratoga, California 95070

The books can be purchased from a distributor by friends in California who know what students can read. Sent from a distributor, they can be shipped to the Peace Corps in the States and then sent on, saving a fortune in postage. "I would love to have books to give my students next year..it really would make a difference."🌐

Tax deductible donations to odw can be earmarked for a specific fund or will be used for on-going work.

A Case in Point: U.S. Weapons of Mass Destruction

CLUSTER BOMBS, now in Iraq, still wreck havoc in Laos because many didn't explode and currently act like land mines. This prolongs the effects of the war's destruction for decades by killing many children and adults in fields and pathways. People must make the choice to work the fields to grow food but risk injury or death.

And the U.S. has yet to sign the **END LAND MINES** agreement signed by over seventy countries.

Using **DEPLETED URANIUM CASINGS** for U.S. bombs in Afghanistan and Iraq leaves civilians with many forms of cancer. Also, many babies already born and yet to be born have and will have genetic defects.

War kills and maims. After the carnage, war does so again, but this time in a slow and insidious manner. The environmental pollutants left behind seep into the water supply, causing birth defects and middle-age cancers. These ill people tax the already stressed health care system. Are any weapons of war ever kind to the environment?🌐





Putting Morals Behind Our Policy Making

Instead of letting our President use religious rhetoric to sound like he's getting his guidance for decision making directly from God, let's question authority. Let's speak out about the immorality of giving tax cuts to the wealthy while the poor pay for them in cuts to health care, jobs, education, and welfare.

While the richest get tax cuts, those who lost their pensions with the greed of the Enrons and World Coms get nothing.

Let's put morality into the budget making process.

In the long run it is less expensive and our grandchildren won't have a debt to pay.🌐

WTO Ministerial Meetings in Sacramento

Is it coincidence that the June Ministerial of WTO has genetically modified (GM) agriculture as the focus? Or does the former employee of Monsanto and now U.S. Cabinet Secretary of Agriculture have influence????

The intent, not surprisingly, is to persuade so-called developing countries to accept GM seeds in order to get U.S. food aid during a time of prolonged drought and starvation. It may seem incredible that governments of countries in such dire straits would insist on not getting GM food aid. (The modification insisted upon was milled grain rather than seeds that could be planted.)

Let's check out their point of view. GM seeds are terminator seeds. That means when they are harvested their seeds won't reproduce so farmers can't harvest and save seed for next planting season. They must buy seeds from the corporation that produced the seeds in the first place. (That's Monsanto) These terminator seeds are bred so that they can withstand more herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers (also produced by Monsanto). Clearly, these seeds

A New Context

One of the benefits of reality tours is the broader context one notices when observing back home.

Driving through California passing olive groves one thinks of the ancient olive trees bulldozed by Israeli tanks. Not only are these trees reminders of times past and the future, but they are central to much of the Palestinian culture.

Working conditions become a global concern.

Other parallels are observed. Some which we can learn from: family values meaning asking about family before other inquiries, taking care of and being concerned with extended family members; hospitality means even poor people offer something to eat or drink; children being loved and cared for even by non family members, sharing as an unconscious way of life.

Learning from one's ancestors is a part of many cultures and is one way to make sure that bad history doesn't repeat itself.🌐

are considerably more expensive: they must be bought every year, and require more additives.

If that wasn't enough, if one farmer buys these seeds and cross-pollination takes place through birds or wind blowing pollen, etc., the neighbor farmer whose crops are no longer organic, can be sued by Monsanto, who has already won such a case in Canada. The corporation claimed that the farmer owed it for using its seeds without paying for them. EVEN when the farmer didn't want them, didn't steal them, and has been ruined as a certified organic farmer. And European countries won't import GM foods.

The second focus of the WTO Ministerial is to convince the European nations to withdraw this prohibition. They could conceivably be taken to WTO court and lose. But as one analyst suggested, the nations are acting on the basis of popular citizen opinion. So even if GM food must be imported that doesn't mean it will be bought. We do have the power of the pocketbook!🌐

History, despite its wrenching pain,
Cannot be un-lived, but if faced
With courage, need not be lived again.

Maya Angelou in "On the Pulse of Morning"



Can We Put Morality into Policy Decisions?

Where we put our tax dollars: Can that have a moral component? An AP article by Jonathan Salant reports that child abuse is linked to adult crime. The report "Invest in Kids" by Fight Crime recommends that more money for prekindergarten and parenting programs be set aside to insure that children who might have become burdens on society grow up to be upstanding citizens.

Stephen Henderson of the Mercury News Washington Bureau reports that the Supreme Court ruled that States can take telemarketing companies to court who lie to donors about the percentage of donations actually going to the solicited charity. Some got 86%!

Instead of tax cuts for the wealthy why not help those who lost their pensions due to the greed that lead Enron

and World Com and others to wipe those pension funds out.

And how about giving money to States so that education and health care don't have to be cut when they are poorly funded to begin with? Not only does this deprive the most needy but it creates more poverty by increasing unemployment.

Redevelopment funds are cut when the housing shortage is at record levels and homelessness is at a record high, including the working homeless.

All of these suggestions could be adding instead of detracting to the health of our democracy. And demonstrating that we are a moral nation, a caring nation. And it's a lot cheaper than an arms race and war!🌐

A Vision of a Better World

by Dennis Kucinich

We had the pleasure of hearing Dennis Kucinich, an Ohio congressman and Presidential candidate. Amazingly, he didn't sound like a politician and he had a sense of humor. He has a vision and ideas of how we can work together to achieve it.

The America I envision seeks world unity instead of unilateralism. It gains its power through being the first to help, not the first to strike. It extends itself to the peoples of the world to lift their burden. It is an America, which when asked for help, dispenses bread instead of bombs, medical assistance instead of missiles, and food instead of fissile materials.

There is a role for America in the world. It is in working with the community of nations to achieve the security of all nations. It is in restoring the promise of the Non Proliferation Treaty to get rid of all nuclear weapons. It is in helping to assure international order. It is through strengthening and abiding by international treaties. It is in assuring control and eventual elimination of biological and chemical weapons, and landmines. It is in protecting our global climate by cooperating with the rest of the world

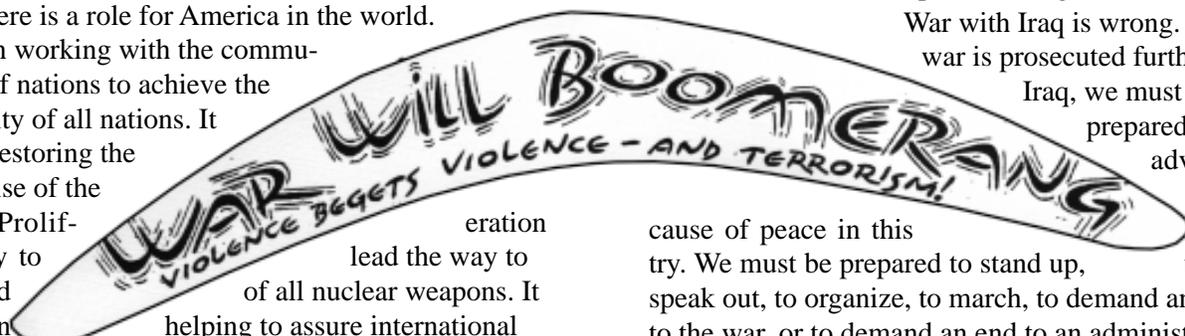
in reducing carbon emissions.

America can help protect the world. America can help save the world. But America cannot control the world, nor should we want to do so. Why is our nation preparing to use the most powerful military machine in history to wage an assault against the people of Iraq, to destroy their houses and buildings, to wipe out their water and electric systems and to block their access to food and medical supplies?

There is no answer which can separate itself from oil economics, profit requirements of arms trade, or distorted notions of empire-building.

War with Iraq is wrong. But if war is prosecuted further in Iraq, we must be prepared to advance the country.

We must be prepared to stand up, to speak out, to organize, to march, to demand an end to the war, or to demand an end to an administration which insists on war. We need to ask the questions: Why does America have hundreds of billions to ruin the health and take the lives of innocent people in Iraq but no money to provide health care for all





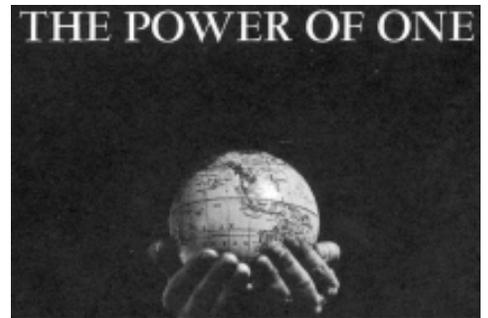
Americans? Why would America spend hundreds of billions to retire Saddam Hussein, but no money to protect the retirement security of its own people?

Why does America have money to blow up bridges over the Euphrates River, but no money to build up bridges over the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland? The path America must take is one of peace which leads to prosperity. It is one which understands that creating a structure of peace ensures that economic structures can be sound, affirmative of human needs and restorative of human values.

This is the dream of a Department of Peace which can help America take the first step towards making nonviolence an organizing principle in our society – making the work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. a reality –and working to make war itself a thing of the past. It is this ethic of peace-seeking and peace building which will cause us to take down weapons from the heavens and work to create a heaven on earth full of new possibilities. Peace and prosperity shall be as two pillars in a newly rebuilt America which provides for the economic and social security of its own people as a cause of nationhood and for the economic and social progress of peoples of other lands as a cause of brotherhood . . .

Our nation has always had a higher calling, de-

spite the darkness of 9/11 and the official response to it. It is a calling to maintain the quest for democracy, for freedom and



liberty in times of peril as well as in times of peace. We can sense that higher calling. That higher calling is our heritage. My friends, this is still your government. You have a right to have a say in how its destiny is being charted. That right derives from our very Declaration of Independence, which claimed self-governance as a basic right. Government does not just happen in Washington, DC. It is the result of a process that takes place in thousands of cities, villages and townships. It is also a process which takes place in our hearts, which is brought to life by our love of country, and our love of each other. It is your love which enables me to carry those hopes and dreams forward. And I shall do so courageously in the days ahead. Thank you.🌐

Thanks to Bill Cane for these quotes from Integrities, the IF newsletter.

Potential for Peace

Few travelers abroad can fail to realize that aversion to war, a longing for peace and tranquility, are not merely a national, but a worldwide state of mind.

Monumental problems remain to be dealt with. But they are not insurmountable. We know that mankind possesses, or can possess, the means to eradicate many of the causes of war —hunger, blight, diseases and despair.

There is more than a glimmer of reason illuminating present world attitudes about the inevitability of war. But neither governments' policies, nor institutions can build upon this potential for peace without the initiative and support of every concerned citizen. We must translate our feelings into purposeful activity in the cause of peace.

The time is now.🌐

Written in the '70s but poignant now.

Everywhere, a Peace Movement!

Such a pleasure to hear from people all over the country and in many parts of the world together in support of nonviolent solutions to problems. A call from Oklahoma City told us that there is a vigil there every week around the monument to those lost in that bombing. In Santa Fe we saw and met some of those who vigil every Friday at the same time we do in San Jose. KPFA lists at least 15 towns and cities in the S.F. Bay Area that are still holding peace and justice events weekly. In Ashland OR, Littleton, CO, in Montana, in Iowa, all across the country people are showing that they, too, feel there are better ways to resolve problems. And people feel that just because the war is over is no reason to stop because the Washington mind set that war solves problems is still there.🌐



→ *Continued from page 1*

so derided. As Blix always said, a lot of time will be needed to find such weapons, if they do, indeed, exist. Meanwhile Bin Laden is still on the loose and Saddam Hussein has come up missing.

The Administration assured the U.S. public and the world, over and over again, that an attack was necessary to protect our people and the world from terrorism. It assiduously worked to alarm the public and blur the faces of Saddam Hussein and Osama Bin Laden until they virtually became one. What has become painfully clear in the aftermath of war is that Iraq was no immediate threat to the U.S. Ravaged by years of sanctions, Iraq did not even lift an airplane against us. Iraq's threatening death-dealing fleet of unmanned drones about which we heard so much morphed into one prototype made of plywood and string. Their missiles proved to be outdated and of limited range. Their army was quickly overwhelmed by our technology and our well trained troops.

Presently our loyal military personnel continue their mission of diligently searching for WMD. They have so far turned up only fertilizer, vacuum cleaners, conventional weapons, and the occasional buried swimming pool. They are misused on such a mission and they continue to be at grave risk. But, the Bush team's extensive hype of WMD in Iraq as justification for a preemptive invasion has become more than embarrassing. It has raised serious questions about prevarication and the reckless use of power. Were our troops needlessly put at risk? Were countless Iraqi civilians killed and maimed when war was not really necessary? Was the American public deliberately misled? Was the world?

What makes me cringe even more is the continued claim that we are "liberators." The facts don't seem to support the label we have so euphemistically attached to ourselves. True, we have unseated a brutal, despicable despot, but "liberation" implies the follow up of freedom, self-determination and a better life for the common people. In fact, if the situation in Iraq is the result of "liberation," we may have set the cause of freedom back 200 years.

Despite our high-blown claims of a better life for the Iraqi people, water is scarce, and often foul, electricity is a sometime thing, food is in short supply, hospitals are stacked with the wounded and maimed, historic treasures of the region and of the Iraqi people have been looted, and nuclear material may have been disseminated to heaven knows where, while U.S. troops, on orders, looked on and guarded the oil supply.

Meanwhile, lucrative contracts to rebuild Iraq's infrastructure and refurbish its oil industry are awarded to Administration cronies, without benefit of competitive bidding, and the U.S. steadfastly resists offers of U.N. assistance to participate. Is there any wonder that the real motives of the U.S. government are the subject of worldwide speculation and mistrust?

And in what may be the most damaging development, the U.S. appears to be pushing off Iraq's clamor for self-government. Jay Garner has been summarily replaced, and it is becoming all too clear that the smiling face of the U.S. as liberator is quickly assuming the scowl of an occupier. The image of the boot on the throat has replaced the beckoning hand of freedom. Chaos and rioting only exacerbate that image, as U.S. soldiers try to sustain order in a land ravaged by poverty and disease. "Regime change" in Iraq has so far meant anarchy, curbed only by an occupying military force and a U.S. administrative presence that is evasive about if and when it intends to depart.

Democracy and Freedom cannot be force fed at the point of an occupier's gun. To think otherwise is folly. One has to stop and ponder. How could we have been so impossibly naive? How could we expect to easily plant a clone of U.S. culture, values, and government in a country so riven with religious, territorial, and tribal rivalries, so suspicious of U.S. motives, and so at odds with the galloping materialism which drives the western-style economies?

As so many warned this Administration before it launched its misguided war on Iraq, there is evidence that our crack down in Iraq is likely to convince 1,000 new Bin Ladens to plan other horrors of the type we have seen in the past several days. Instead of damaging the terrorists, we have given them new fuel for their fury. We did not complete our mission in Afghanistan because we were so eager to attack Iraq. Now it appears that Al Qaeda is back with a vengeance. We have returned to orange alert in the U.S., and we may well have destabilized the Middle East region, a region we have never fully understood. We have alienated friends around the globe with our dissembling and our haughty insistence on punishing former friends who may not see things quite our way.

The path of diplomacy and reason have gone out the window to be replaced by force, unilateralism, and punishment for transgressions. I read most recently with amazement our harsh castigation of Turkey, our longtime friend and strategic ally. It is astonishing that our govern-



ment is berating the new Turkish government for conducting its affairs in accordance with its own Constitution and its democratic institutions.

Indeed, we may have sparked a new international arms race as countries move ahead to develop WMD as a last ditch attempt to ward off a possible preemptive strike from a newly belligerent U.S. which claims the right to hit where it wants. In fact, there is little to constrain this President. Congress, in what will go down in history as its most unfortunate act, handed away its power to declare war for the foreseeable future and empowered this President to wage war at will.

As if that were not bad enough, members of Congress are reluctant to ask questions which are begging to be asked. How long will we occupy Iraq? We have already heard disputes on the numbers of troops which will be needed to retain order. What is the truth? How costly will the occupation and rebuilding be? No one has given a straight answer. How will we afford this long term massive commitment, fight terrorism at home, address a serious crisis in domestic healthcare, afford behemoth military spending and give away billions in tax cuts amidst a deficit which has climbed to over \$340 billion for this year alone? (The President's tax cut just passed was \$350 billion.)

We cower in the shadows while false statements proliferate. We accept soft answers and shaky explanations because to demand the truth is hard, or unpopular, or may be politically costly. But, I contend that, through it all, the people know. The American people unfortunately are used to political shading, spin, and the usual chicanery they hear from public officials. They patiently tolerate it up to a point. But there is a line. It may seem to be drawn in invisible ink for a time, but eventually it will appear in dark colors, tinged with anger. When it comes to shedding American blood —when it comes to wreaking havoc on civilians, on innocent men, women, and children, callous dissembling is not acceptable. Nothing is worth that kind of lie —not oil, not revenge, not reelection, not somebody's grand pipedream of a democratic domino theory.

And mark my words, the calculated intimidation which we see so often of late by the "powers that be" will only keep the loyal opposition quiet for just so long. Because eventually, like it always does, the truth will emerge. And when it does, this house of cards, built of deceit, will fall.🌐

International Women's Day

"Men, their rights and nothing more; women, their rights and nothing less." Susan B. Anthony

The origin of International Women's Day, celebrated widely the world over was the 1911 Triangle Fire in New York City causing the death of 140 female textile workers because the doors were locked. This condition continues thanks to WTO, corporate globalization, and greed. In Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Vietnam, women have shared stories of their miserable working conditions.🌐



odw Calendar — DO JOIN US!

LATE SEPTEMBER

A report back on our experiences in Cuba and Guatemala. We hope to have some of our tour members with us in late September. Check our web site www.magiclink.net/~odw or call 408-379-4431.

ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL HANDCRAFT SALE

NOVEMBER 22 11:00 a.m. p 4:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER 23 1:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Gifts for yourself and others. Learn the stories of the lives of the crafts people.

Events will be at the home of *odw* and Barby & Vic Ulmer at 13004 Paseo Presada near the corner of Paseo Lado, Saratoga. Take the #85 Saratoga Ave. exit heading North towards San Jose.

Teachers, check out our web site for teaching tools to make learning more fun and teaching more rewarding.

Borrow for summer school before June 30.

At this time when those in Washington would have us believe that dissent is unpatriotic, that “if you’re not with us you’re against us,” we must appreciate that our country was founded on dissent. We need to find ways of talking with those we don’t necessarily agree with to build trust and find common goals.

Look for Teach-ins, study circles, and discussion groups. All give opportunities to voice concerns and opinions in a supportive, learning atmosphere.

We need to rebuild our democracy. We need a population of caring active citizens, not just consumers. Or we may not have an economy that allows us to consume.⊕

Freedom was bought at a very high price.
It should not be sold at any price.

Moving? Dont’ miss an issue of voices!
Please notify us of your new address.

Clark Kerr 1950, Chancellor of UC Berkeley
when he was being wrongly charged
with disloyalty.

We are now asking \$10 per year from our readers to support the publishing and broader circulation of this newsletter. This issue is volume nine. Have you sent your donation for this new year to the address below?

Thanks

our developing world

13004 Paseo Presada, Saratoga, CA 95070



Address Service Requested

a non-profit educational project teaching about developing countries and diverse cultures through:

Local Lending Resource Library: hands-on material, original primary sources, visuals and K-12 ready to copy/use lessons, etc.

Teacher Staff Development, Presentations in the community

Study Tours, For purchase: videos, posters, simulations.

Co-Directors: Barby and Vic Ulmer, tel. (408) 379-4431

Fax: (408) 376-0755; e-mail: odw@magiclink.net

website: <http://www.magiclink.net/~odw>

Midwest Representative: Marilyn Peretti

voices layout editor: George Clark

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Saratoga, CA
Permit No. 208



TIME VALUE MATERIAL