

Questions From Readers (Continued from page 1)

We encourage readers to send in their questions. Presently, you can do this by sharing your questions with a volunteer in person at one of the multicultural potlucks, trade fairs or visual art exhibitions each year. You can also send in your questions by email: abwwrpeace@resist.ca
Below are some questions which we created to help readers learn more about the peace dollar.

Q: What is the mission of the peace dollar?

The Peace Dollar is a symbol of caring, created by community-minded citizens in the hope that it will help to build a more just and compassionate world. The work of the Peace Dollar is to strengthen social and economic relationships among people from the community, business and non-government sectors – and particularly among those in the community sector in greatest economic needs.

Q: Where did the idea come from?

It's not a completely original concept. Community currency turns up as the Ithaca Hour in Ithaca, New York, as Tlalocs in Mexico, as the Sel in France, the Toronto Dollar in Canada, and as LETS in many other countries. It's a choice that all people deserve to have.

Q: What's in it for me?

A safer, better place to live, for one thing. Most of us would like to see homeless families find food; low-income people find work and communities made stronger. In addition, peace dollars can only be spent at businesses that are not owned by multinational corporations or their subsidiaries. In addition, small, community projects are greatly in need of

fundraisers, and so far, there hasn't been an easy, practical way of fundraising for those projects. The Peace Dollar you use helps create funds for groups that are working to peacefully create a better world.

Q: How does that happen?

It will take many sunbeams to equal the warmth of the sun. It will take many new trees to replenish the forest. It will take many Peace Dollars to help build a better neighborhood. Collectively, we do make a difference. When you exchange your regular dollar for a bright new Peace Dollar, five percent goes to The Peace Network for community projects. You make a donation to the community and don't lose a thing because you can spend your Peace Dollars, dollar for dollar, at participating businesses and with anyone who will take them. Seventy-Five percent of your standard money is put into a credit union bank to back the Peace Dollar for registered merchants who may want to cash in their Peace Dollars. It's only registered businesses that can cash in and they get back seventy five dollars for every hundred Peace Dollars. Of course, if they don't want to cash in, they can keep using the money dollar for dollar with other participating businesses or in the community.

Q: I want my time to have a worldwide effect. How large can a community currency program become?

Immeasurable! Argentina's RGT has half a million participants throughout Argentina! The Tlalocs directory, LA OTRA Bolsa de Valores (THE OTHER Stock Exchange) is distributed to 70 countries and 850 organizations!

Join us!



We appreciate your desire to volunteer. Initially, we are focused on creating a nationwide network. We are accepting volunteers who have a minimum of 15 hours per week to volunteer and live anywhere in the US and its territories. Currently a (very) small stipend is given to volunteers able to help 30 hours per week. To volunteer, please send us an email or call and leave a message for us anytime, 24 hours a day at **(503) 973-1VOL**. Or, if you prefer, give your information to one of our volunteers in person at the Multicultural Potluck, Trade Fair and Visual Arts Exhibition events on February 19, June or August. We look forward to working with you in creating a better world!

Lots of thanks to the Northstar Organization for their kindness! www.northstarballroom.com

Community Calendar

- March** 6 - Multicultural Meeting - Peace Dollar -2:30pm, Central Library's Bank room, 1st floor entrance at 801 SW 10th Avenue, Portland, OR. www.freewebs.com/abwwrpeace/a.htm
- June** 19 - **The Epicenter of Peace II:** Multicultural Potluck, Trade Fair and Visual Arts Exhibition – Northstar Ballroom, 635 N Killingsworth Court, Portland,OR <http://www.freewebs.com/abwwrpeace>
- August** 25 - The Worldwide Theatrical Debut of "Perfection" Details: <http://www.BCArts.org>
- 26-28 - A World Beyond Capitalism Conference 2005, The Annual International Multiracial Alliance Building Peace Conference – <http://www.awbc.lfniiivaaaa.info>