

MEDIA ADVISORY
September 7, 2009
For Immediate Release



What : The 8th Annual HOPE OUT LOUD PEACE AND ARTS FESTIVAL

When: Sunday September 20, 2009 12 to 5 pm

Where: Bushnell Park, Hartford

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Organizing Sponsors:
CT Coalition for Peace and Justice and American Friends Service Committee

Featured Main Stage Performers include CT State Troubadour Lara Herscovitch, Positivity, and Cold Sweat.

Keynote Speaker Dahr Jamail, an award-winning unembedded journalist

On Sunday September 20th from 12 noon to 5 pm in Hartford's Bushnell Park the CT Coalition for Peace and Justice and the American Friends Service Committee will utilize the Arts Community's longstanding involvement in social change movements to promote a shared vision of peaceful co-existence within our communities and our world achieved through non-violent conflict resolution, social justice, and economic equity with sustainable environmental co-habitation.

Hope Out Loud 8 features outstanding performing artists, inspiring guest speakers, free kids and family activities and one of Connecticut's largest gatherings of organizations advocating for peace and social justice.

The Main Stage will present featured CT musicians, spoken word artists and speakers addressing diverse issues uniting around a central theme - Moving Beyond Hope.

More than 50 activists and advocacy organization are expected to have tables to promote networking and coalition building while providing multiple access point for people looking to achieve meaningful involvement in building peaceful communities.

Hope Out Loud is a family friendly free event open to everyone. An area of the Festival is devoted to children's and family activities that promote positive values.

During intermissions an Open Mic hosted by Fortune's Gale located at the Hope Out Loud Coffeehouse will provide a second stage area with the opportunity for local artists to perform.

HOL 8 is organized by the CT Coalition for Peace and Justice and the American Friends Service Committee and is sponsored in part by the Greater Hartford Arts Council and the City of Hartford and receives Media Sponsorship from the Hartford Advocate. Other sponsoring organizations include the CT Network Against the Death Penalty, CT Untied for Peace, CT Center for Nonviolence, Greater Hartford Coalition of Cuba, Hartbeat Ensemble, Hartford Community activist Choir, Hartford/Ocotal Sister City Project, Middle East Crisis Committee, No Nukes No War, Solidarity Fund, Spanish Speaking Center of New Britain, UNCONN Scholl of Social Work, West Hartford Citizens for Peace and Justice, Winsted Area Peace action and Youth for Peace – T.R.Y.B.E.

Lara Herscovitch of north Guilford is a charismatic, award-winning singer-songwriter whose original music is a skillful blend of acoustic/folk, pop, jazz, blues and Latin styles. She has worked and traveled extensively and has a deep appreciation for and understanding of the importance of global issues and cultural diversity. Lara was trained as a policy social worker, and has worked in the US, Latin America and Asia, on behalf of disadvantaged individuals focusing on education, community development, human services, and juvenile justice. Echoes of this work, including personal and global themes and questions of equity and social justice resonate in her music. The honorary position of State Troubadour was established in 1991 by the Connecticut Legislature. The State Troubadour functions as an ambassador of music and song to encourage cultural literacy and promote the State of Connecticut.

US Journalist **Dahr Jamail** is the author of, *Beyond the Green Zone: Dispatches from an Unembedded Journalist in Occupied Iraq*, published by Haymarket Books. He was the winner, with Mohammed Omar, of the 2008 Martha Gelhorn Prize for Journalism. He has also been awarded the James Aronson Award for Social Justice Journalism, the Joe A. Callaway Award for Civic Courage, as well as the Lannan Foundation Writing Residency Fellowship. He was honored by Project Censored several times and his celebrated 2007 book tour offered many Americans a first detailed look at the impact of the 2003 Iraq War and occupation on civilians.

Photographs are available in digital format.

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