

Acceptance Speech
Watershed Alliance of Adams County
2008 Peacemaker of the Year Award Winner
by Mark Berg

On behalf of the current and previous members of the Board of the Watershed Alliance as well as the members, thank you for awarding us the Peacemaker of the Year Award for 2008.

Of course, water is important to you only if you drink water ... or cook with water ... or wash with it ... or need it for sanitation. That is to say, virtually all of us. We take the availability of clean water for granted ... most of the time. And here in Adams County, it usually is. But as Charlie Skopic first told me, Adams is the only county in Pennsylvania into which no water flows. All we have is what falls from the sky and recharges our groundwater. And we're lucky at that.

You may have read that Georgia is trying to redraw its border with Tennessee to gain more water rights. California, Arizona, and Nevada have battled to divert larger portions of the Colorado River to meet their needs. Water levels in the Great Lakes have fallen, and an aquifer that extends from Nebraska to Texas has dropped 30 feet in some areas.

And globally, there is concern over the shortage of water. According to the United Nations Human Development Report for 2006, "The need to feed up to two billion more people by 2025, booming industrialization in developing countries like China, and a warming climate threaten the world's most precious natural resource...so that by 2025, if current global water consumption continues, more than 3 billion of the world's 7.9 billion people will be living in areas where water is scarce."

Instead of for oil, wars may be fought for water. As you know, there is no more water now than there ever was or will be. And yet, this year the world will spend \$1.3 trillion on weapons and war. \$1.3 trillion. Imagine what else the world could do with that much money. If there was ever a need for Peace and Justice, the time is now. The Interfaith Center for Peace and Justice has its work cut out for it.

And so, we of the Watershed Alliance intend to continue pursuing our mission, which is to improve and protect the water resources of Adams County. And let us all work for peace and justice, not only for ourselves, our children, and our grandchildren, but for the world's inhabitants.