Say "NO" to the Religious Right

They've distorted the message of the Bible, God, and religion—to justify war, torture, domestic spying, erosion of civil liberties, homophobia, reducing aid to the poor while cutting taxes for the rich, packing the federal judiciary with right-wing ideologues, and more. They blame independent women, gays and lesbians, and reproductive rights for eroding the family, and secularists and civil libertarians for "stealing Christmas" and undermining communal values.

Many secular people are “spiritual but not religious.” They are joining with progressives in existing religious communities to build a Spiritual Left to counter the Religious Right. We can speak to millions of Americans whose lives are made miserable by the culture of materialism and selfishness that surrounds them, but who have rarely heard America's spiritual crisis addressed in a progressive way. A Spiritual Left could be one of the most effective ways to break the power of the Religious Right—but we need your support to make it happen.

Here are three things YOU can do:


Speakers Include: CORNEL WEST, author of Democracy Matters; BENEDICTINE SISTER JOAN CHITTISTER, author of Job's Daughters: Women and Power; CONGRESSWOMAN LYNNIE WOOLSEY, chair, Progressive Caucus, U.S. Congress; RABBI MICHAEL LERNER, editor, Tikkun Magazine; REV. JIM WILLIS, editor, Sojourners magazine; CINDY SHEEHAN, mother of U.S. soldier killed in Iraq; RABBI BRIAN WALT, chair, Rabbis for Human Rights; ROBERT THURMAN, president, Tibet House and author of Inner Revolution; KATRINA VANDEN HEUVEL, editor, The Nation; WILLIAM SINKFORD, national president of the Unitarian Universalist Association; ARUN GANDHI, grandson of the Mahatma; CHRISTOPHER HEDGES, author of War is a Force that Gives Us Meaning; CHARLENE SPRETNAK, author of Missing Mary: The Queen of Heaven; ARCHDEACON MICHAEL KENDALL, Diocese of NY, Episcopal Church, USA; BOB EDGAR, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches; ABDUL AZIZ SAID, International Peace and Conflict Resolution, American University; PETER GABEL, chair, of the Spirituality and Politics Institute, New College of California; HARVEY COX, author of When Jesus Came to Harvard and of Fire from Heaven: The Rise of Pentecostal Spirituality and the Reshaping of Religion in the 21st Century; REV. JOAN BROWN CAMPBELL, former General Secretary of the National Council of Churches of Christ and now director of Religion at the Chahtaqua Institute; MICHAEL J. GORMAN, Dean of The Ecumenical Institute of Theology, St. Mary's Seminary; REV. GLEN HAROLD STASSEN, progressive Evangelical theologian and author of Kingdom Ethics: Following Jesus in Contemporary Context; MARIE DENNIS, director, Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns; REV. TONY CAMPOLPO, Evangelical minister and author of How the Culture-Controlled Church Neutered the Gospel; HARRY KNOX, Human Rights Campaign; MICHAEL BADER, psychoanalyst and author of Arousal; JANET CHISHOLM, Episcopal Peace Fellowship; REV. AMI ZEVA, pastor of the First Congregational Church of Oakland; REV. PAUL SHERRY, former national chair, United Church of Christ; REV. JAMES WINKLER, chair, Board of Church and Society, United Methodist of America; RABBI STEPHEN JACOBS, of Kol Tikvah synagogue; ENOLA AIRD, director, The Motherhood Project at the Center for American Values; BILL MEADOWS, president, The Wilderness Society; RABBI DEBORA KOHN, rabbi of Reutlinger Center for Jewish Life; RABBI ARTHUR WASKOW, chair, the Shalom Center; REV. OSAGYEFO SEKOU, chair, Clergy and Laity Concerned about Iraq; REV. PENNY NIXON, author of Queer Spirituality; SHEIKH KABIR HELMINSKI, Sufi mystic; DAVID BECKMANN, chair, Bread for the World; REV. ROBERT HARDIES, pastor of All Souls Church; REV. LOUISE GREEN, pastor of All Souls Church; HOLLY NEAR, a leading troubadour of social change; SVI SHAPIRO, professor of education, University of North Carolina; REV. LYNNE PINKARD, co-founder of City of Refuge, UFC, in San Francisco; STACY BANNERMAN, author of When the War Came Home: The Inside Story of Reservists and the Families They Leave Behind; JEFFREY KUAN, Prof. Old Testament, Pacific School of Religion; JONATHAN GRANOFF, chair, American Bar Association Committee on Arms Control and National Security; BARBARA COOMBS LEE, chair, Compassion and Choices; ROSHIE BERNIE GLASSMAN, chair, Zen Peacemakers; THEA LEVKOWITZ, chair, Partnership for Religion and the Environment, Wash. Association of Churches; MICHAEL POSNER, president. Human Rights First; REV. DEBORA JOHNSON, Religious Science minister; RALPH WOLF, chair, Western Association of Schools and Colleges; CARRIE NEWCOMER, singer; JOHN DEAR, S.J., author, Living Peace; MARY DARLING, professor of communications, Spring Arbor University. (For more information, look between pages 16 and 17.)

2. Join the Network of Spiritual Progressives. Your membership will send an important message: the Right does not speak for the millions of Americans who care about their spiritual lives and don't want them dictated by the Religious Right. Help us undermine the climate of hostility to religion in the liberal and progressive culture—and thereby win millions of people who feel condescended to by the contemporary Left over to a peace and social justice agenda they can believe in.


"Rabbi Lerner has written a book that sends a clear call to everyone who cares about the future of America to take part in the transformation of our history into something of beauty, meaning and justice—a work that, whether we think of it that way or not, is intrinsically sacred." — Los Angeles Book Review

Lerner outlines a politics of meaning that connects traditional liberal values to what have been inaccurately defined as conservative concerns. The Left Hand of God serves the vital purpose of articulating a progressive religious alternative to the conservative flavor of religion that has dominated American politics and society for the past 30 years." — Washington Post Book World

The Network of Spiritual Progressives (NSP)

More info or to register for the conference:
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