

Great Neck SANE/Peace Action

Iraq Veteran Brings the War Home

With Iraq War Veteran

Kristopher Goldsmith

Wednesday, May 7, 8 p.m.

Great Neck Library, Bayview Ave. and Grist Mill Lane, Great Neck

A native of Bellmore, LI, Kristopher Goldsmith enlisted in the army at 18, six months after graduating from high school. He wanted to be a soldier all his life and was motivated to enlist by the attacks of September 11th. Eager to serve his country, he became an artillery forward observer stationed in Sadr City, a northern suburb of Baghdad.

“I quickly learned it wasn’t at all how I thought it would be,” said Kris. “It was brutal and dehumanizing.”

At the end of his term of service he expected to return to civilian life and go to college; then President Bush announced the surge. The military initiated the Stop-Loss policy and Kris was drafted into service in Iraq for another 12 months. In desperation, not wanting to return, he tried to take his own life. This resulted in his being diagnosed with depression, anxiety, and PTSD (post-traumatic stress syndrome). He was given a discharge that notes the suicide attempt as misconduct. He therefore has no educational benefits. Kris is trying to get his life together, to go to school, and to share his story of personal transformation from warrior to active member of the growing numbers of Iraq Veterans Against the War. It is a powerful and moving story.

All are invited. Refreshments 7:30 p.m.

For information: Great Neck SANE/Peace Action, 516-487-3786

Co-sponsors: Long Island Alliance for Peaceful Alternatives, 516-741-4360, www.longislandpeace.org; Social Action Committee—Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock, Interfaith Alliance of Long Island, Reach Out America

Directions: LI Expressway to Exit 33. Take Lakeville Road north. At Northern Blvd. Lakeview becomes Middle Neck Road. Continue on Middle Neck to Old Mill Rd. (about 1.5 miles, Temple Beth-El is on NW corner). Turn left onto Old Mill Rd. Follow to end and turn right onto Bayview Ave. Library is down a bit on right side.