



PEACE NOTES

A PUBLICATION OF THE PEACE EDUCATION CENTER

WINTER · 2017

» WHAT'S INSIDE

Lobbying for Peace · page 2

Calendar · page 3-4

Contact your Representatives · page 4

Stepping Stones to a More Peaceful World:
Lansing's RDC · page 5

Network of Spiritual Progressives · page 6

PEC Meets with Local Imam · page 7

Peacemaker Award Nominations · page 7

Respecting Human Rights: Studying the Past
Can Help Us Today · page 8-9

PEC Calls for Syrian Ceasefire · page 10

Call for Items from Women's March · page 11

Peace Quest 2017: Joining Forces · page 11

Progress...Regulation of Police · page 12

Changing the World...Dialoguing · page 13

Greetings from Mexico · page 14

To our Donors · page 15

PEC Annual Meeting · page 16

Shaping the Future We Want to See

by Rebecca Payne, Editor

Cartoonist Tom Toles' terse slogan "["Make America Denigrate Again"](#) cleverly links recent political blather to our country's less-than-ideal past. The joke is funny, but let's not go back to that period in our history.

If we could go back, maybe we could back up just a bit to a time before the term "alternate facts" was uttered in all seriousness from a government spokesperson.

After the election, we at the Peace Education Center, like everyone else in the country, are asking the big question: What Now? As always, our "now" includes staying strong, active and confident, working to shape the world to be the just and welcoming place we know it can be. Check out our calendar, overflowing with events and activities that you can join in.

Here at the Center of it all, Education is our middle name. We hope you can find some inspiring articles in the next pages, telling of the work of local organizations and people doing their best to promote equality, peace and justice. There have been successes, as well as set-backs. But the bottom line is that the successes would not happen without all of us keeping informed and working in our own ways to keep the ideals of a peaceful world in the public eye.

This newsletter is full of hope. We live in one of the richest nations. We are among the most powerful citizens in the world, able to band together and make changes. We, who see the wrongheadedness of recent events, are the ones who have to get out there and march, speak, write, teach. We can shape our future. It's time to roll up our sleeves and get to work!

RIGHT: Quilt from the Quilted Conversations: Materializing Civil and Human Rights exhibition at the MSU Museum (see calendar On page 3)



» WHAT'S INSIDE

Shaping the Future... · page 1

Lobbying for Peace · page 2

Calendar · page 3-4

Contact your Representatives · page 4

Stepping Stones to a More Peaceful World:
Lansing's RDC · page 5

Network of Spiritual Progressives · page 6

PEC Meets with Local Imam · page 7

Peacemaker Award Nominations · page 7

Respecting Human Rights: Studying the Past
Can Help Us Today · page 8-9

PEC Calls for Syrian Ceasefire · page 10

Call for Items from Women's March · page 11

Peace Quest 2017: Joining Forces · page 11

Progress...Regulation of Police · page 12

Changing the World...Dialoguing · page 13

Greetings from Mexico · page 14

To our Donors · page 15

PEC Annual Meeting · page 16

Lobbying for Peace

by Terry Link

PEC is working with our partners at the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) to build effective citizen lobbying for our Congressional delegation from mid-Michigan, including Senator. Stabenow, Senator. Peters, Representative. Bishop, Representative. Moolenaar, and Representative. Walberg. The emphasis early this year will be on constraining military spending and redirecting attention towards human needs. FCNL does great work in staying engaged with Congress and guiding local advocacy groups like ours. The growth of FCNL advocacy teams across the nation is quickly growing as citizens wake up to the need to get active.

Our group works locally under the leadership of retired MSU Prof. Margaret Nielsen to develop relationships with staff of our Congressional delegation, both locally and in Washington. In 2017 we are spending more than \$600 billion on the military, spread out across 800 bases, and are pouring more and more into weapons that aren't needed or don't work. A recent Washington Post story leaked a report from the Defense Department that showed they found \$125 BILLION in waste. The Pentagon has never been audited, it's the only department in Washington thus far exempted, so the waste piles up. Email Terry Link at link@msu.edu if you want to get involved.



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Peace Notes

Editorial Board:

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Kate Darnell

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Terry Link

Peace Notes is a publication of the Peace Education Center. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the Board.

Late Winter & Spring Calendar for Peace and Justice

» meetings & meaningful events that celebrate and promote community.

» WHAT'S INSIDE

Shaping the Future... · page 1

Lobbying for Peace · page 2

Calendar · page 3-4

Contact your Representatives · page 4

Stepping Stones to a More Peaceful World:
Lansing's RDC · page 5

Network of Spiritual Progressives · page 6

PEC Meets with Local Imam · page 7

Peacemaker Award Nominations · page 7

Respecting Human Rights: Studying the Past
Can Help Us Today · page 8-9

PEC Calls for Syrian Ceasefire · page 10

Call for Items from Women's March · page 11

Peace Quest 2017: Joining Forces · page 11

Progress...Regulation of Police · page 12

Changing the World...Dialoguing · page 13

Greetings from Mexico · page 14

To our Donors · page 15

PEC Annual Meeting · page 16

Regularly Scheduled Events:

Every Friday • Noon Peace Vigil, 12-1 in front of the State capitol

First Thursdays • Peace Education Center Board Meeting 7pm at University United Methodist Church, 1120 Harrison Road, East Lansing.

1st Sundays • Islam 101, 2:30 p.m. [Islamic Center](#), Harrison Rd., East Lansing (see page 7).

3rd Mondays • Greater Lansing Network Against War & Injustice (GLNAWI) planning meeting, 7pm. Held in the PEC office at University United Methodist Church 1120 S. Harrison Rd., East Lansing.

2nd & 4th Thursdays • Cost of Militarism Education Team (Book Club) 7 – 9 pm, Everybody Reads Bookstore, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

Check the PEC website at <http://www.peceedcenter.org> for calendar updates

Upcoming Events:

Now through July 9 • [Quilted Conversations: Materializing Civil and Human Rights](#) - To raise awareness about civil and human rights issues. Exhibit features 16 provocative quilts from the MSU Museum's collection. MSU Museum.

Now through April 23 • [Beyond Streaming: A Sound Mural for Flint](#). Exhibit installation with student voices on the Flint Water crisis. Broad Art Museum, MSU

Feb 15 • [Appeal Date for Michigan Coalition against Tar Sands activist](#). Michigan Court of Appeals in downtown Lansing.

Feb. 21 • The Commemoration of Malcolm X in Greater Lansing. Two hour panel discussion discussing local commemorations of Malcolm X. Those who initiated the naming of a local street and building of a local monument will serve on a panel with those who knew Malcolm X. 7-9 p.m. LCC Arts & Science Bldg, Rm. 104/105.

Feb. 23 • [Life and Death at Kent State: 1960s Student Dissent as a Working Class Movement](#) - Thomas M. Grace, Author of Kent State: Death and Dissent in the Long Sixties. 12:15pm - 1:30pm. MSU Museum Auditorium.

Feb. 25 • [Rally – Justice for Devin Guilford](#), a young man killed in an encounter with an Eaton County Deputy. 1 to 3 p.m., State Capitol Bldg.

Mar. 3-5 • [Equitable Pioneers: a Cooperative Conference](#). Circle Pines Center in Delton, MI

Mar. 6 • Islam 101, The Islamic Center of East Lansing, 920 S. Harrison, EL., 2:30 p.m. Meets once a month. (see page 7)

» WHAT'S INSIDE

Shaping the Future... · page 1

Lobbying for Peace · page 2

Calendar · page 3-4

Contact your Representatives · page 4

Stepping Stones to a More Peaceful World:
Lansing's RDC · page 5

Network of Spiritual Progressives · page 6

PEC Meets with Local Imam · page 7

Peacemaker Award Nominations · page 7

Respecting Human Rights: Studying the Past
Can Help Us Today · page 8-9

PEC Calls for Syrian Ceasefire · page 10

Call for Items from Women's March · page 11

Peace Quest 2017: Joining Forces · page 11

Progress...Regulation of Police · page 12

Changing the World...Dialoguing · page 13

Greetings from Mexico · page 14

To our Donors · page 15

PEC Annual Meeting · page 16

Upcoming Events continued

Mar. 13 and 14 • [The Most Dangerous Woman in America](#). One-woman play on the life of labor activist Mother Jones. March 13 at MSU's RCAH Theatre. March 14th at UAW Local 602, Lansing. Times not set - contact John Beck at beckj@msu.edu for more information.

Mar. 15 • Searching for Justice Beyond a Two State Formula: Reflections on Peace, Justice and Settler Colonialism in Palestine. Prof. Stephen Gasteyer. 7 p.m. Red Cedar Friends Meetinghouse 1400 Turner St., Lansing. redcedarfriends.org

Mar. 28 • Budget Policy: What do we Value? First of a series of PEC-sponsored talks on the budget process. Prof. Charley Ballard. 7:00.p.m. East Lansing Public Library.

Mar. 29 • Discussion of issues raised in "Between the World and Me" by Ta-Nehisi Coates. 7 p.m. Edgewood United Church, E. Lansing.

Apr. 3 • Islam 101, The Islamic Center of East Lansing, 920 S. Harrison, EL., 2:30 p.m. Meets once a month. (see page 7)

Apr. 20 • Vigil in support of immigration. The Islamic Center of East Lansing, 920 S. Harrison, EL.

Apr. 22 • PEC Annual Meeting Univ. United Methodist Church, Harrison Rd. EL 3-5 p.m. (See page 16)

May 8 • Does the U.S. Government Spend Too Much on Defense? Prof. Emeritus Tom Weisskopf (UM), 7:00 p.m. Red Cedar Friends Meetinghouse 1400 Turner St., Lansing. redcedarfriends.org

USE YOUR VOICE!

If the issues you are reading about in this newsletter are important to you, your representatives in Washington (and in Lansing) need to hear from you. Take a moment each week to contact the people making decisions about war, peace and justice...

Senator Debbie Stabenow

1-202-224 4822

731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

www.stabenow.senate.gov/?p=contact

Senator Gary Peters

1-202-224-6221

724 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

www.peters.senate.gov/content/contact-gary

Representative Mike Bishop

1-202-225-4872

428 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

<https://mikebishop.house.gov/contact>

Representative John Moolenaar

1-202-225-3561

117 Cannon House Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20515

<https://moolenaar.house.gov/contact/email>

Representative Tim Walberg

1-202-225-6276

2436 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

<http://walberg.house.gov/contact/>

» LOOKING FOR MORE?

Keep Your Eyes on This: Current plans to rebuild (ahem, privatize) our infrastructure will funnel money to corporations which will take huge profits... and then will own the buildings, roads, etc. that they build! This is a huge transfer of public funds and services into private hands! Worth watching out.

Hightower Lowdown

» WHAT'S INSIDE

Shaping the Future... · page 1

Lobbying for Peace · page 2

Calendar · page 3-4

Contact your Representatives · page 4

Stepping Stones to a More Peaceful World:
Lansing's RDC · page 5

Network of Spiritual Progressives · page 6

PEC Meets with Local Imam · page 7

Peacemaker Award Nominations · page 7

Respecting Human Rights: Studying the Past
Can Help Us Today · page 8-9

PEC Calls for Syrian Ceasefire · page 10

Call for Items from Women's March · page 11

Peace Quest 2017: Joining Forces · page 11

Progress...Regulation of Police · page 12

Changing the World...Dialoguing · page 13

Greetings from Mexico · page 14

To our Donors · page 15

PEC Annual Meeting · page 16

Stepping Stones to a More Peaceful World: Lansing's Refugee Development Center & Other Helpful Organizations

by Julie Roy

The recent election cycle has left many in the US feeling anxious about the rhetoric used to describe women, various nationalities and even the existence of climate change. There are so many important organizations across the nation with the sole mission of providing support to those who need it. In the greater Lansing area we have many nonprofits providing this support in our community.

One such agency is [The Refugee Development Center](#) (RDC) a 501(c)(3) that was created in 2002 to provide educational and social support that refugees need to become self-sufficient. Since 2002 the RDC has grown from one part-time staff and a handful of volunteers with the ability to serve about 100 people per year, to a staff of 12 full time employees, 28 interns, about 300 volunteers and an ability to serve 1700 annually.

Of the 1700 newcomers that were served last year, 41 different countries were represented such as Bhutan, Nepal, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burma, and Iraq. Of those served this past year, approximately 950 were youths and 741 were adults. They participate in programs

such as English speaker of other language class, after school tutoring, peer support groups, GLOBE summer camp, newcomers' soccer, parent groups, women's sewing circle and more.

From 2004-2006 I was privileged to be able to volunteer with the fledgling center. I served as a tutor and summer program organizer. It was such a joy to learn about the cultures that were represented and to see how I was enabling youth and adults to gain skills to succeed in school and at work. It has been so encouraging to see this organization continue to grow over the years. Each year the US government allows a limited number of refugees into our country. Mid-Michigan is able to welcome many of them as new neighbors, thanks in part to agencies such as this that help to assimilate refugees into our region.

The RDC is able to continue to grow in operation due to generous financial and volunteer support. Visit their [website](#) to learn more, to make a donation, or to volunteer your time.

continued on page 6

LEFT: Peace Team at the March for Women in Lansing, Michigan on January 21st. Shadow, a dog, was also a peace keeper. The Peace Team monitors the demonstration to prevent violence.



» WHAT'S INSIDE

Shaping the Future... · page 1

Lobbying for Peace · page 2

Calendar · page 3-4

Contact your Representatives · page 4

Stepping Stones to a More Peaceful World:
Lansing's RDC · page 5

Network of Spiritual Progressives · page 6

PEC Meets with Local Imam · page 7

Peacemaker Award Nominations · page 7

Respecting Human Rights: Studying the Past
Can Help Us Today · page 8-9

PEC Calls for Syrian Ceasefire · page 10

Call for Items from Women's March · page 11

Peace Quest 2017: Joining Forces · page 11

Progress...Regulation of Police · page 12

Changing the World...Dialoguing · page 13

Greetings from Mexico · page 14

To our Donors · page 15

PEC Annual Meeting · page 16

The Network of Spiritual Progressives

by Rabbi Michael Zimmerman

The Network of Spiritual Progressives seeks to transform our materialist, corporate-dominated society into a caring one through consciousness raising, advocacy and public awareness campaigns that promote a [New Bottom](#) Line based on generosity, peace, and social transformation.

Our national organization has initiated two pieces of proposed legislation: a Global Marshall Plan introduced by Rep. Keith Ellison and endorsed by over 20 members of Congress, and an Environmental and Social Responsible Amendment to the Constitution, introduced on the House floor by former Rep. Dennis Kucinich.

Our new Greater Lansing Chapter is dedicated to providing spiritual support for activists, fostering unity and solidarity among progressive groups counteracting Trumpism, and bringing spiritual values of caring, wonderment, respect for opposing points of view, and hope for what we can accomplish to local progressive movements. Contact Rabbi Michael Zimmerman at kirabbiz@gmail.com to become involved.

Stepping Stones... continued

In light of the political fervor against certain populations, here are a few more organizations in our region that could also use your support:

Planned Parenthood delivers vital reproductive health care, sex education, and information to millions of women, men, and young people worldwide.

Firecracker Foundation - providing healing therapy for youth victims of sexual trauma

Women's Center of Greater Lansing - helping women to realize their potential

Boys and Girls Club - Providing Lansing area youth, ages 7 - 17, with physical fitness, recreation and educational activities.

Garden Project - Growing Healthy Food, Cultivating Connections. Provides access to land, how-to education, free seeds and plants, tool lending, a networking hub and more so that all community members can have access to fresh healthy food through gardening opportunities.

Sierra Club - For nearly five decades, the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter has organized the bold action of citizens working together to protect and restore our Great Lakes state's health and heritage.

LEFT: Islamic Center of East Lansing

RIGHT: Tom Schneider



» WHAT'S INSIDE

Shaping the Future... · page 1

Lobbying for Peace · page 2

Calendar · page 3-4

Contact your Representatives · page 4

Stepping Stones to a More Peaceful World:
Lansing's RDC · page 5

Network of Spiritual Progressives · page 6

PEC Meets with Local Imam · page 7

Peacemaker Award Nominations · page 7

Respecting Human Rights: Studying the Past
Can Help Us Today · page 8-9

PEC Calls for Syrian Ceasefire · page 10

Call for Items from Women's March · page 11

Peace Quest 2017: Joining Forces · page 11

Progress...Regulation of Police · page 12

Changing the World...Dialoguing · page 13

Greetings from Mexico · page 14

To our Donors · page 15

PEC Annual Meeting · page 16

PEC Meets with Local Imam

by Luke Roy

On, January 18, 2017, representatives of the Peace Education Center Board met with Imam Sohail Chaudhry of the Islamic Center of East Lansing to discuss ways in which the two organizations can work together to further the causes of peace and justice in the local community and the world. Imam Chaudhry indicated that the Islamic Center is actively working to forge relationships in the greater Lansing area, working with faith communities and other organizations to help non-Muslims better know and understand their Muslim neighbors.

Toward that end, the Islamic Center provides an ongoing class, entitled "Islam 101" on the first Sunday of every month. The class is open to all, and intended, as the name implies, to serve as an introduction to Islam and the Islamic community, for non-Muslims. While the series is structured as an eight class series, the Imam stressed that it is not required or even recommended that participants wait until the beginning of the sequence to attend, and that general questions regarding Islamic faith, practice, and culture are encouraged and appreciated. Participants are welcome to attend once or as frequently as they would like. More information about Islam 101 and the Islamic Center can be found at www.LansingIslam.com.

Nominate Students for the 2017 Tom Schneider Peacemaker Award

We recently sent out the annual request for applications and nominations to high schools in the tri-county area. This is the fifth consecutive year we have been able to fund this award, thanks to contributions from folks like you. It has been our joy to offer this award as a way of urging young adults to think about their contributions to a better world. Last year we had two winners from different schools. If you know of a student you think should apply or be nominated, please check out our website for more information, or email Terry Link at link@msu.edu.

Deadline for applications is April 1, 2017.

Tom was the PEC conscience and a wonderful board member for many years, besides all the other volunteer work he did in this community. With this award his legacy lives on in a manner he would be grateful to see – honoring young people who work for peace and justice!

Stay tuned for the announcements of this year's winner at our annual meeting in April. See the last page of this newsletter for annual meeting details.



Respecting Human Rights – Studying the Past... continued

» WHAT'S INSIDE

Shaping the Future... · page 1

Lobbying for Peace · page 2

Calendar · page 3-4

Contact your Representatives · page 4

Stepping Stones to a More Peaceful World:
Lansing's RDC · page 5

Network of Spiritual Progressives · page 6

PEC Meets with Local Imam · page 7

Peacemaker Award Nominations · page 7

Respecting Human Rights: Studying the Past
Can Help Us Today · page 8-9

PEC Calls for Syrian Ceasefire · page 10

Call for Items from Women's March · page 11

Peace Quest 2017: Joining Forces · page 11

Progress...Regulation of Police · page 12

Changing the World...Dialoguing · page 13

Greetings from Mexico · page 14

To our Donors · page 15

PEC Annual Meeting · page 16

some way that is prejudiced in their favor. Most of us would like to believe that we have no outsized biases in favor of kith and kin, but research findings from neuroscience make that pretty unlikely.

Embracing moral equality requires us to be as sensitive as we can to areas where biases can lead to unwarranted assessments. The practical implications of this are profound. Why should my children have better schools? Why should the neighbor who has lived here all his life face deportation to a country he has never known? Why is the young woman with brown skin more likely to be stopped by police? Why can people from my country set up communities in their country, but they can't do the same in mine? We are challenged, first, to notice unfair practices – and then to speak out against them. This might take the form of writing or calling political officials, challenging a family member, or even, possibly, civil disobedience. What kind of personal risks are we willing to take in defense of equality?

Second, it may be time for a refresher on human rights standards. Martin Luther King, Jr., said that the true prize was human rights, not simply civil rights. Civil and constitutional rights come from the state and can be revoked by the state. Human rights extend from our humanity. The rights negotiated into the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) were intended as a modern moral standard for the entire human race.

The UDHR asserts the rights to equality, due process, and human security, including the basic conditions for a life of human dignity. You do not lose your rights, even when they are broken. One

of those rights, laid out in Article 14, is the right “to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.” People who are fleeing persecution or who seek refuge from war and conflict have a right to asylum, and that right engages our duty not to turn away those seeking refuge (the principle known as non-refoulement). Presidential directives notwithstanding, we have a moral obligation and a legal obligation – anchored in both customary international law and treaty law – not to turn away refugees who arrive on our shores seeking asylum.

Closer to home, we can look for opportunities to help those who face new or amplified threats. At the risk of singling out one particular group for disproportionate attention, it is worth noting that Michigan is one of the top states for resettling refugees; many come to the Lansing area as their first stop. The strangers who settle among us can use a helping hand. Those who do not themselves feel immediately threatened may find opportunities to combat fear and bias with local groups working to bridge divides and build up a resilient community: Cristo Rey, Action of Greater Lansing, Black Lives Matter, the Refugee Development Center, the Islamic Center, or the Greater Lansing United Nations Association. Donations are certainly helpful, but so is human friendship.

Susan Waltz has long served in leadership roles for Amnesty International, specializing in human rights in North Africa, and was active in promoting the international Arms Trade Treaty. She is a professor at the Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan

PEC Calls for U.S. to Support Syrian Ceasefire

The PEC Board has approved a resolution urging the United States to support the ongoing negotiations to end the war in Syria and join with the international community to reconstruct Syria, provide humanitarian aid, and help repatriate refugees. It also calls for the U.S. to end the arming of rebel groups by its allies in the region and to abandon attempts to replace the Bashar al-Assad government. The resolution, as follows, was suggested by PEC's Cost of Militarism Education Team (COMET). For questions or comments, please contact Nelson Brown at nelsonbrown@ameritech.net

» WHAT'S INSIDE

[Shaping the Future... · page 1](#)

[Lobbying for Peace · page 2](#)

[Calendar · page 3-4](#)

[Contact your Representatives · page 4](#)

[Stepping Stones to a More Peaceful World:
Lansing's RDC · page 5](#)

[Network of Spiritual Progressives · page 6](#)

[PEC Meets with Local Imam · page 7](#)

[Peacemaker Award Nominations · page 7](#)

[Respecting Human Rights: Studying the Past
Can Help Us Today · page 8-9](#)

[PEC Calls for Syrian Ceasefire · page 10](#)

[Call for Items from Women's March · page 11](#)

[Peace Quest 2017: Joining Forces · page 11](#)

[Progress...Regulation of Police · page 12](#)

[Changing the World...Dialoguing · page 13](#)

[Greetings from Mexico · page 14](#)

[To our Donors · page 15](#)

[PEC Annual Meeting · page 16](#)

Whereas, the causes of the tragic war in Syria are complex and involve the interests of multiple ethnic, religious, and political factions within Syria as well as the interests of a number of foreign governments and groups; and

Whereas, the years of fighting have produced thousands of casualties on all sides and have compelled millions of people to flee as refugees to surrounding countries, creating destabilizing humanitarian and political crises in those countries; and,

Whereas the Bashar al-Assad government and its allies have now gained the upper hand militarily against the Jihadist forces making further military action a cruel and pointless excuse for continuing the suffering, casualties, and uprooting; and,

Whereas, peace and ceasefire negotiations involving Russia, Turkey, Iran, Syria and some rebel groups, excluding ISIS and its affiliates, have been initiated without the involvement of the United States; and,

Whereas, a failure to consider realistic alternatives to the fighting will only indefinitely prolong the slaughter, suffering, and diaspora; and,

Whereas, ending or limiting the war in Syria represents the national interests of the U.S. because it allows all parties to focus on the containment of ISIS and other Jihadist groups; and,

Whereas, the Lansing Area Peace Education Center has a long history of opposing damaging or unnecessary armed conflict and of supporting peaceful solutions to armed conflicts:

THEREFORE, the Lansing Area Peace Education Center supports the following resolution on mitigating the suffering and on ending the conflict in Syria:

First, the United States should support, or at least not hinder, the current ongoing negotiations to end or mitigate the current fighting in Syria and should remain open to entering these negotiations if an appropriate opportunity presents itself;

Second, any settlement between the parties should not have as a precondition that Bashar al-Assad or his government be replaced;

Third, the United States should cease providing any military support and training for the Jihadist groups and pressure other states supporting these groups, including Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states, to cease providing military support and training to them as well;

Fourth, any settlement agreement must provide amnesty for individuals who have given up military struggle and allow for their reintegration into Syrian society or safe areas without reprisals;

Fifth, any settlement should address how the parties will continue to oppose ISIS and its allies;

Sixth, the United States should work with the international community to provide humanitarian and reconstruction aid to restore Syria as a functioning society and repatriate refugees;

Seventh, any settlement should contain provisions that support peaceful resolution of disputes and that ensure some form of international oversight to enforce the settlement.

Furthermore, the Lansing Area Peace Education Center shall communicate this resolution to its members, appropriate elected officials, and the media.

Approved by the Peace Education Center, February 2, 2017

Call for Memories & Artifacts

Call for items related to the Women's Marches in Washington, DC & Lansing, Michigan. Please consider donating "your stuff and the stuff of your memories" to the MSU Museum to document this historic event for future generations. Before you send anything, contact Shirley Wajda, Curator of History at wajdashi@msu.edu.

Also, consider sending photos you'd like to share to the Peace Education Center at: peacedcenter@gmail.com for inclusion on our website's photo page.



» WHAT'S INSIDE

Shaping the Future... · page 1

Lobbying for Peace · page 2

Calendar · page 3-4

Contact your Representatives · page 4

Stepping Stones to a More Peaceful World:
Lansing's RDC · page 5

Network of Spiritual Progressives · page 6

PEC Meets with Local Imam · page 7

Peacemaker Award Nominations · page 7

Respecting Human Rights: Studying the Past
Can Help Us Today · page 8-9

PEC Calls for Syrian Ceasefire · page 10

Call for Items from Women's March · page 11

Peace Quest 2017: Joining Forces · page 11

Progress...Regulation of Police · page 12

Changing the World...Dialoguing · page 13

Greetings from Mexico · page 14

To our Donors · page 15

PEC Annual Meeting · page 16

Peace Quest 2017: Joining Forces to Increase our Impact

Last September, the mid-Michigan community began to fathom the depth and variety of its efforts for peace and justice when Peace Quest suddenly blossomed. What had been a few events to celebrate the International Day of Peace in the past grew to a full calendar for 2016, including lectures, sermons, films, concerts, a vigil, a peace march, children's activities, seminars, a bike ride and more!

Peace Quest 2017 will focus on steps citizens can take to promote peace, enhance justice, resolve conflicts, learn about others' faiths and cultures and enhance mutual understanding. Though events may occur at any time under the Peace Quest banner, the focus will begin Sept. 17 with an opening celebration, embrace the International Day of Peace Sept. 21 and end on Sept. 24 with

a concert organized by the Michigan Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence.

You can participate in several ways!

- Hold an event on that week or host a table at our opening ceremonies on Sept. 17. We'll include your event on our webpage and social media, and help you promote it. To become an event sponsor, contact Lynn Bartley, president of the Greater Lansing United Nations Association at lynnwbartley@gmail.com
- Become part of the planning team by contacting Lynn Bartley, Terry Link at link@msu.edu or Jim Detjen at jamesdetjen@gmail.com.
- Donate either funds or materials (e.g. food, printing, etc.) to help cover expenses. Donors will be recognized in publicity and at the event. Funds may be sent to GL-UNA, P.O. Box 283, DeWitt, Mi, 48820; an online donation page will be open soon.

Thank you! We hope in these tumultuous times you will support your community by celebrating and working for peace and justice – locally and worldwide!

» LOOKING FOR MORE?

[Run for Something](#) is a brand new online group looking to recruit progressive, diverse, welcoming people under 35 to run for offices. It has links to progressive groups, information, and, hopefully, money to help out.

This flyer and other information on policing the police can be found at www.peaceedcenter.org.



» WHAT'S INSIDE

Shaping the Future... · page 1

Lobbying for Peace · page 2

Calendar · page 3-4

Contact your Representatives · page 4

Stepping Stones to a More Peaceful World:
Lansing's RDC · page 5

Network of Spiritual Progressives · page 6

PEC Meets with Local Imam · page 7

Peacemaker Award Nominations · page 7

Respecting Human Rights: Studying the Past
Can Help Us Today · page 8-9

PEC Calls for Syrian Ceasefire · page 10

Call for Items from Women's March · page 11

Peace Quest 2017: Joining Forces · page 11

Progress...Regulation of Police · page 12

Changing the World...Dialoguing · page 13

Greetings from Mexico · page 14

To our Donors · page 15

PEC Annual Meeting · page 16

Progress toward Better Regulation of the Police

by Rebecca Payne

The recent publicized spate of police shootings of (mostly) black men has led local attorney Erick Williams to delve into what's going on inside police forces that leads to such horrifying shootings – and why punishments for such egregious conduct seem to be almost nonexistent.

Erick has found that a few police officers commit the majority of offenses and receive the most complaints from citizens; these few make their departments look corrupt and insensitive, even if the majority of officers are not. Erick learned that these “bad” cops, even if they are fired, can move to another city and continue their same behavior. Training a new officer costs a lot; most cities are glad to snap up a trained officer moving into their area.

Erick has written on this [see [here](#)] and presented his information to Senator Curtis Hertel, among others. Senator Hertel, in conjunction with three other State senators, just introduced a bill that would require police officers' records to reflect the reason they were removed from service – and would require hiring offices to look at these records before hiring an officer from another area. We are

thrilled that Erick's work has resulted in this legislation. This moves toward a solution to one problem – it would establish a record of bad behavior for problem officers, and hopefully, prevent those with multiple misconduct citations from being rehired.

But there's more that needs attention, too. Like most professionals, police officers are licensed by the state. Unlike those other professions, whose licenses can be removed for a whole host of infractions, police licenses are not scrutinized or revoked unless the officer is convicted of a felony. If police licensing boards had the power to remove licenses from police officers with lesser offenses and misconduct findings, there would be (let's hope) fewer unnecessary shootings and greater public trust in the profession.

Governor Snyder has created a Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) to “foster trust in law enforcement.” Please write to the governor and urge him to direct MCOLES to look at increasing the power of police licensing boards to independently review and act to remove licenses from cops who have a record of citizen complaints and misconduct. More effective regulation would indeed foster public trust.



Changing the World through Dialoguing - An Invitation

by Connie Detjen

» WHAT'S INSIDE

- Shaping the Future... · page 1
- Lobbying for Peace · page 2
- Calendar · page 3-4
- Contact your Representatives · page 4
- Stepping Stones to a More Peaceful World:
Lansing's RDC · page 5
- Network of Spiritual Progressives · page 6
- PEC Meets with Local Imam · page 7
- Peacemaker Award Nominations · page 7
- Respecting Human Rights: Studying the Past
Can Help Us Today · page 8-9
- PEC Calls for Syrian Ceasefire · page 10
- Call for Items from Women's March · page 11
- Peace Quest 2017: Joining Forces · page 11
- Progress...Regulation of Police · page 12
- Changing the World...Dialoguing · page 13
- Greetings from Mexico · page 14
- To our Donors · page 15
- PEC Annual Meeting · page 16

Two essential tasks for peacemakers are finding peace within self and communicating effectively. To these ends, my spouse, Jim, and I use a simple tool that works for us, called Dialoguing. Dialoguing guides each of us to get in touch with our own feelings, to communicate feelings in a framework giving equal voice to each partner, to feel valued by each other as a result of active listening, and to feel empathy with each other. The communication skills practiced in Dialoguing are transferable to other relationships, including those in the outside world. We will share the tool of Dialoguing at a one-day event that will take place on February 25, 2017, in East Lansing. The retreat, called United in Love, is for any couple in a committed relationship, regardless of age, race, faith, sexual orientation or gender identity.

Couples in committed relationships are invited to take a day away just for the two of them, at the United in Love retreat at Edgewood United Church, 469 N. Hagadorn, East Lansing. United in Love's purpose is to enhance committed relationships of all couples through personal growth, meaningful communication and the strengthening of mutual trust.

What happens at a United in Love retreat?

Starting at 8:30 a.m., ending at 5 p.m., this is a time for couples to focus on their relationship in a relaxed, private setting. Lunch and all materials are provided.

Leadership presentations include personal experiences, which can inspire couples to examine themselves and their relationships from a personal and a spiritual perspective.

This is not a marriage clinic or a counseling session. Couples are not asked to disclose any aspect of their relationship to others.

While this retreat is not for troubled relationships, committed couples of any age or orientation who want to enhance their relationship are welcome.

For more information, contact Connie Detjen (517)505-0068 conniedetjen@gmail.com.

Registration Deadline: February 17, 2017

Register now! Print and complete this form and mail it, with your \$50 payment (check payable to Edgewood United Church, with United in Love in the memo line), to C & J Detjen c/o Edgewood Church, 469 N. Hagadorn East Lansing, MI 48823.

Name of Partner #1 (First/Last)

Partner #1 Phone: _____

Email: _____

Name of Partner #2 (First/Last)

Partner #2 Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please list any dietary restrictions/medical/ accessibility needs:

» WHAT'S INSIDE

Shaping the Future... · page 1

Lobbying for Peace · page 2

Calendar · page 3-4

Contact your Representatives · page 4

Stepping Stones to a More Peaceful World:
Lansing's RDC · page 5

Network of Spiritual Progressives · page 6

PEC Meets with Local Imam · page 7

Peacemaker Award Nominations · page 7

Respecting Human Rights: Studying the Past
Can Help Us Today · page 8-9

PEC Calls for Syrian Ceasefire · page 10

Call for Items from Women's March · page 11

Peace Quest 2017: Joining Forces · page 11

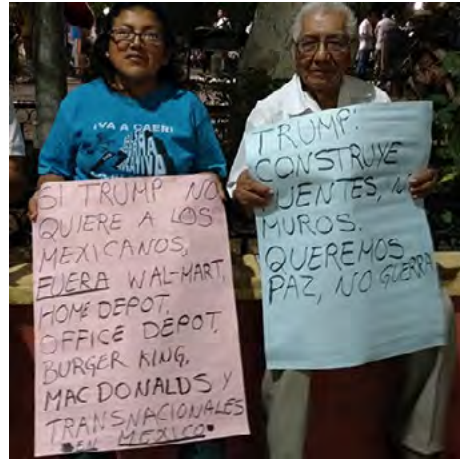
Progress...Regulation of Police · page 12

Changing the World...Dialoguing · page 13

Greetings from Mexico · page 14

To our Donors · page 15

PEC Annual Meeting · page 16



Greetings from Mexico

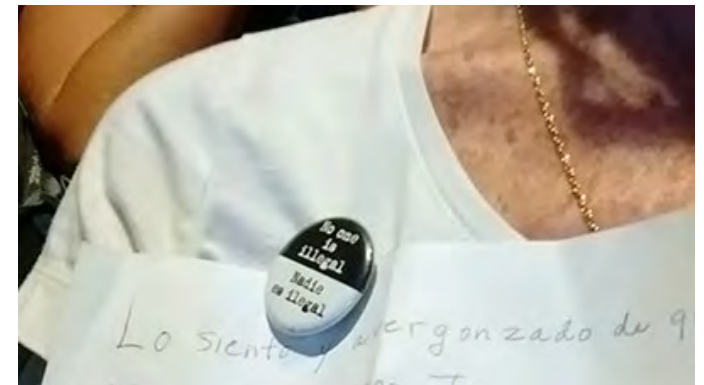
Mexican citizens are angry and bewildered by Trump's fervor to "build a wall" between our countries, his insistence that Mexico will pay for it and his continued insults. PEC board member Barb Thibeault is in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico for two months, and sent back these pictures from the day of President Trump's inauguration and from Saturday's solidarity gathering during the Women's March in Washington. (Clock-wise from top)

Merida, Yucatan citizen protest in main plaza on inauguration night. Given the 12% popularity of their president, Pena Nieto, the Mexicans I have spoken with understand all too well when a leader does not represent the people. Despite how much hardship U.S. policy has caused, there is a sense of commiseration and not blame.

Banner made by mostly Americans in support of Mexicans at a solidarity gathering on the day of Women's March. The banner was then hung in a public place and later sent to Washington, D.C.

I felt compelled to wear this sign on inaugural night in the plaza. There were heartfelt responses.

Headline on day Trump formally ordered the wall. All newspapers were full of news about protest rallies from all over the U.S. including Michigan. Our voices are heard and we are truly the diplomats now.





» WHAT'S INSIDE

[Shaping the Future... · page 1](#)

[Lobbying for Peace · page 2](#)

[Calendar · page 3-4](#)

[Contact your Representatives · page 4](#)

[Stepping Stones to a More Peaceful World:
Lansing's RDC · page 5](#)

[Network of Spiritual Progressives · page 6](#)

[PEC Meets with Local Imam · page 7](#)

[Peacemaker Award Nominations · page 7](#)

[Respecting Human Rights: Studying the Past
Can Help Us Today · page 8-9](#)

[PEC Calls for Syrian Ceasefire · page 10](#)

[Call for Items from Women's March · page 11](#)

[Peace Quest 2017: Joining Forces · page 11](#)

[Progress...Regulation of Police · page 12](#)

[Changing the World...Dialoguing · page 13](#)

[Greetings from Mexico · page 14](#)

[To our Donors · page 15](#)

[PEC Annual Meeting · page 16](#)

To Our Many Donors – Thank you!

The Peace Education Center Board

The Peace Education Center would like to take a moment to list the many community members who made financial donations to us during 2016. While we are an all-volunteer organization, the costs of running programs, keeping office space, printing and mailing, computing, etc. don't come free. We thank the generosity of all listed below, but also including numerous anonymous donors, including one who has given a dollar-a-day for a year!!! (These do not include the many donations from our annual December fundraising letter received in January 2017. We'll thank those folks in the next newsletter.)

Jim Anderson • Ann Francis • Irma Briggs-Hooker • Margaret Kingsbury • Catherine Clifford • Steve Esquith and Chris Worland • Jack Smith and Susan Waltz • James and Kathryn Booth • Lawrence Hennessey • Arlene and Dan Brown • Leslie Adadow • Cynthia Bridge • Kriss Ostrom • Dave Draggoo • Ralph and Marion Gorton • Loraine Friedl • Richard and Janet Weilbaeher • Kate Darnell • Paul and Carol Brun Del Re • Joan Tirak • Mary Hanna • Becky Payne • Ellen Ferency • Barb Thibeault • Jim and Connie Detjen • Mike Polzine and Andrea Autera • Gary Ashby • Carol Posthumus • Lois Lynch, Al and Beth Cafagna, Phil Ballbach, Tom and Linda Dufelmeier, Neila May Tillman, Bob and Laurie Barnhart • Melany and Rob Mack • Terry and Ellen Link • Liz and Bob Wasserman • Katherine Dennis • Julia Petry • James Giddings • John Sarver • Roberta Millar • Peter Dougherty • Richard Lee • Madeline Masterson • Carol Baker • Dave Wiley and Chris Root • Diane and John Revitte • Paul Pratt and Denise Chrysler • Helen Branch • Karen Amdorfer • Margaret Nielsen • Richard Peterson • Elise Harvey • Ruth Borgelt and Tom Rico • Gordon and Sheila Taylor • Daniel Brown • Mark Smith • Loraine Friedl • Richard Baker.

In addition, we had the following generous donors give specifically to the Tom Schneider Peacemaker Award Fund. This will be the 5th year we have offered monetary awards to graduating students from the tri-county area who have demonstrated a commitment to peace and justice and show promise for future community work.

Paul and Carol Brun Del Re • Mark and Amy Hill • Nancy and Don McDaniel • Adam and Dru Montri • Keitha and David Snider • Michael and Cynthia Wilmers • David Finkelstein and Elizabeth McLernon • Joseph Minton and Nancy Spates • Chris Antonides • Tim and Aspen Bernath-Plaisted • Ellen and Peter Cina • Gary Ferenchick • Kristen Gazley • Mary Beth and Matthew Lagrou • Gregory and Marijo Spencert • Joan Bauer • Mary Anne Macy and Gregg Chance • Florence and Ronald Cline • Chris and Barb DeRose • Barbara Marsh-Smith • John Leppman • Susan Bamford and Stuart Neils • Julia Petry • Kay Reigler • John and Julie Risch • Bernard Offerman and Janice Valder • Mar and Duncan Sibley • Marian Shaffer • Ray and Molly Thibeault • Carol Baker • Paula Fry • Lor Gaber • Peggy Judge • Greg and Peg Kerbawy • Sharon and Dan Park • Marilyn and George Stephens • Mary and James Daniels • Marguerite Demmers and Brad Beuer • Rob Hurand and Katchen Schibilsky • John Jerome and Jaye Hamilton • Lynn and Rose Vietzke • Keith and Ruth Ferguson • John Foglio • Ronald and Candace Voigt • Iris and Dan Lagrou • Martha Mikko and John Eicher • Terry and Ellen Link • Maryanne Boylan and Charlie Fanta • Teresa and Rick Bossard • Paula Clark • Polly Brainerd and David Corbett • Eileen Schwartz-Duty and Jimmy Duty • Tom and Lorel Evans • Kathy and Bill Hoag • Anna Mikko-Eicher • Elaine Fink.

Annual Meeting – Mark Your Calendars

Holding an annual meeting is both a required commitment to our organization bylaws, but just as importantly, a celebratory event of the peace and justice community. We will share a delicious potluck, then review the past year's efforts, review our budget, elect board members and lay out our proposed directions for the coming year. We also celebrate the work of key individuals for their work and commitment to peace with awards including the Tom Schneider Award (for students), Peacemaker of the Year Award, and often a Lifetime Achievement Award. If you want

to nominate anyone for these awards, please send us a note describing why you think the nominee is worthy of such recognition.

This year's meeting will be held on Earth Day, Saturday April 22, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the home of the PEC office, University United Methodist Church at 1120 S. Harrison, East Lansing. Bring friends, a dish to pass (if able) and a desire to celebrate the efforts of your local peacemakers to help us shape our work for the coming year!

» WHAT'S INSIDE

Shaping the Future... · page 1

Lobbying for Peace · page 2

Calendar · page 3-4

Contact your Representatives · page 4

Stepping Stones to a More Peaceful World:
Lansing's RDC · page 5

Network of Spiritual Progressives · page 6

PEC Meets with Local Imam · page 7

Peacemaker Award Nominations · page 7

Respecting Human Rights: Studying the Past
Can Help Us Today · page 8-9

PEC Calls for Syrian Ceasefire · page 10

Call for Items from Women's March · page 11

Peace Quest 2017: Joining Forces · page 11

Progress...Regulation of Police · page 12

Changing the World...Dialoguing · page 13

Greetings from Mexico · page 14

To our Donors · page 15

PEC Annual Meeting · page 16



Please Join us for the
**Peace Education Center
Annual Meeting and Pot Luck.**

Saturday, April 22, 2017

from 3pm until 6pm

*at the University United Methodist Church
1120 S. Harrison, East Lansing.*