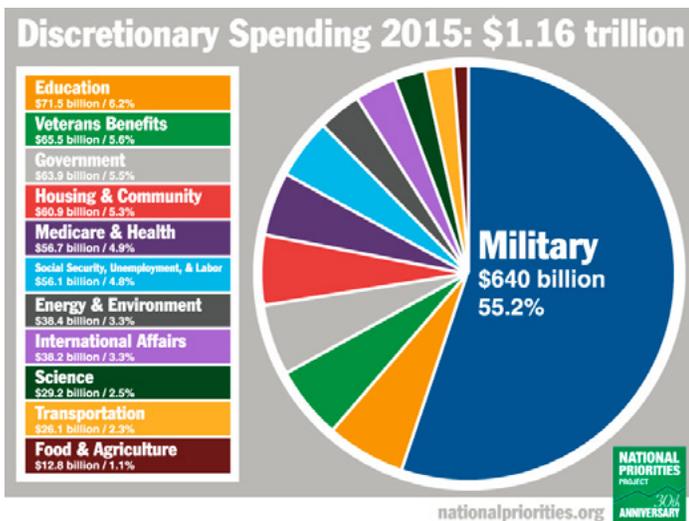


» So Many Causes... So Little Time

Contributed by Becky Payne



Even though we don't have riots in the streets like those during our incursions into Vietnam or Iraq, we are watching in shock and awe as little by little the endless "wars on terror" sap what is left of our nation's money, security, pride and cohesiveness.

So, the Peace Education Center will continue to be a "go to" agency in the Lansing area for action against war and the military-industrial complex by providing education and programs to highlight these issues.

We're not forgetting the other concerns that need attention. We hope to collect and post links to other local organizations on our website that carry out peace and justice work. So if you want to be involved with fighting evil and promoting peace, stay tuned to the Peace Education Center to keep up with what's going on in our local area.

As for making choices? We individuals have a lot of choice where we focus our energy, but as a society... we have no choice but to keep pressing for our rights and freedoms. Join us as we continue working to make war a relic of the past.

»LOOKING FOR MORE?: <https://www.nationalpriorities.org/>

Our nation's democracy has had a long sweet ride, but it's taken a lot of hits in recent years. Let's hope our constitutional rights and freedoms keep sputtering along until we can restore them to their former grandeur.

When we think of promoting peace and justice in the U.S. today – where do we focus? Pressing issues range from police brutality to drones, the prison complex, torture, the loss of privacy, poverty and the growing concentration of wealth. And looming over everything, there's the environmental crisis.

Peace Education Center board members recently had a short retreat where we named all these concerns and others, and considered how to respond. We ultimately decided to stick to our roots – working against the violence caused by war and militarism. This country's military-industrial complex actually contributes to many of those issues named above, even if they don't seem related. How can we address poverty, for example, if so much of our nation's cash goes to the military?

Year after year, Congress grants the Pentagon every penny it asks for – and more. Then compare that money to the budget for everything else this country needs. Is this just?

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Peace Notes

Editorial Board:

Terry Link
Becky Payne
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Tom Rico
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Peace Notes is a publication of the Peace Education Center. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the Board.

Netanyahu Statement Approved by PEC Board

From the PEC Board

This statement was signed at the February Board meeting and forwarded to our senators and representatives named therein.

We oppose the saber rattling and confrontational attitudes displayed by the many in Congress who attended and applauded Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's speech this week. Mr. Netanyahu has been using the same rhetoric regarding Iran for more than 20 years, threatening the imminent danger to Israel and the world should Iran develop nuclear weapons. The prime minister's long-running litany shows an equally long preference for confrontation over negotiation, at the same time that Israeli generals, intelligence officials, and many citizens in Israel and Jewish people around the world disagree with his claims and his approach.

As Middle East expert Prof. Juan Cole of the University of Michigan wrote recently, Mr. Netanyahu should be more concerned about at least four other dangerous threats to Israel: 1) al-Qaeda on its border in the Golan Heights; 2) the rise of ISIL in Syria; 3) the increasing alienation of European states resulting from the occupation of Palestine and the Israeli opposition to Palestinian statehood; and 4) the illegal colonization of the West Bank and the resulting Muslim anger and frustration that results.

We support the right of peoples to live peacefully with control of their own destiny. The continual ratcheting up of violent threats and violent actions by any actors, be they Iranians, Palestinians, Israelis or citizens of the United States, is both counter-productive and a waste of human and other resources. Accord through negotiation must be the foundation of peace in the Middle East. Rhetoric that strengthens the obstinacy of hardliners does not move us forward and away from war, but propels us towards it.

The world we share with the Middle East most immediately needs successful negotiated agreements to steer all parties away from unending war and violence. Those who believe that violence is the way to peace, regardless of the flag they hide behind, must be challenged if we are to turn away from war and violence. The Peace Education Center urges our U.S. Senators, Stabenow and Peters, and Congressmen, Bishop, Moolenaar, and Walberg to refrain from bellicose threats of additional sanctions or other hardline actions while negotiations are underway.

» LOOKING FOR MORE?

Learn more: <http://carnegieendowment.org/2015/03/04/down-to-wire-with-iran/i3gt>

Do more: make sure your representatives in Washington hear from you



PHOTOS: LEFT: Ruth Borgelt of the Peace Education Center with Kyrsten Lamb, a 2014 recipient of the Tom Schneider Peacemaker Award and Becky Schwarz. RIGHT: Caitlyn Theis and Max Doyle, two more 2014 recipients of the Tom Schneider Peacemaker Award, stand with Tom Rico, PEC co-chair at our 2014 annual meeting

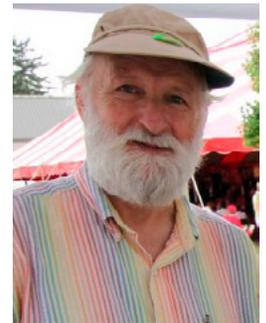
Peace Education Center Sponsors Scholarship Award

Contributed by Terry Link

Peace Education Center board member Tom Schneider died suddenly 3 ½ years ago, but his legacy of peace-making lives on. The Tom Schneider Peacemaker Award will be presented this spring to new high school graduates who have demonstrated a commitment to building a more peaceful community. This will be the third year the award has been presented. Last year three students, one each from Eaton, Ingham, and Clinton counties received the award. The award includes a check for \$500 to be used to further their own peace work through education, training, travel, or other peace driven explorations.

If you would like to nominate a student, check our website for more information.

We hope to announce winners this year at our Annual Meeting on April 25th. Fundraising to build the endowment to make this an award that continues in perpetuity continues. Donations gratefully accepted; either online at our website or at the address below.



Keep Up the Good Work, Ann Francis

From the PEC Board

This spring we send our love and best wishes to Ann Francis and her partner Nancy Lombardi as they move to their new home in Oberlin, Ohio. Ann has long been a powerful force in pushing for peace and justice in Lansing and well beyond.

From helping organize the Lansing Peace Council (which became the Peace Education Center) to working for LGBT, women's and workers' rights, Ann has long been a vital presence. At the PEC, among other things, she gained access to schools to make students aware of the seriousness of joining the military. She has been a leader and activist with the American Friends Service Committee; GLNAWI; Red Cedar Friends (Quakers); the Mid-Michigan Immigration Coalition; and the Allen Neighborhood Center, where she launched several community health initiatives. In the 1990s, she helped start a micro-loan project for Lansing-area women. Beginning as a pipefitter at General Motors, she started programs to help other women and minorities enter into skilled trades. Ann can often be found organizing, educating, marching and knocking on doors.

Ann, you are an inspiration and model for how to live and work toward fulfilling the dream of justice for all citizens in this country and the world. We will miss you, but we send our hopes that you long continue at full speed in Oberlin.

Building Useless Bombers is More Important than Building Schools?

Consider the funding for just one tiny Pentagon program - the F-35 bomber. President Obama's 2016 budget asks for an additional 57 of these behemoths - at a cost of over \$10 billion, eventually bringing the total cost to \$400 billion for 2,400 bombers. Even RAND engineers said recently that it is a plane that "can't turn, can't climb, can't run..."*

Obama's proposed education budget for 2016 is \$71.5 billion. It sounds like even the military could use more education!

* Pentagon's big budget F-35 fighter 'can't turn, can't climb, can't run,' Reuters, David Axe, July 14, 2014.

»LOOKING FOR MORE?: <http://blogs.reuters.com/great-debate/2014/07/14/pentagons-big-budget-f-35-fighter-cant-turn-cant-climb-cant-run/>

Contributed by Becky Payne

A Spring Calendar for Peace & Justice Activity and Action

» If you think no one cares... just look at the many upcoming meetings and events dealing with important topics.

March 28-30 · Saturday-Monday. “Bought and Sold: Voices of Human Trafficking” photo exhibit by Kay Chermush at MSU Law School.

March 30 · Monday. “What Comes Next After Israel’s Election?” with Josh Ruebner, author of *Shattered Hopes: Obama’s Failure to Broker an Israeli-Palestinian Peace*, former Middle East analyst for Congressional Research Service, Founder of Jews for Peace in Palestine, current director of national coalition of 400+ organizations working to support human rights, international law, equality in U.S. policy toward Israel/Palestine.

7 pm at East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Rd. Sponsored by Peace Education Center. Free and open to the public.

March 30 · Monday. “Working for Justice: Legacies of Latina Activism in SE Michigan” with Maria Cotera, Women’s Studies, U. of M.

12:15 – 1:30pm in MSU Museum Auditorium by “Our Daily Work Our Daily Lives”, Labor Ed., Women’s Sts.

March 31 · Tuesday. “Why We Still Need to Talk about Race” film series/discussion. This segment on “racialized structures”.

6:30pm refreshments; 7 – 8:30pm program at LCC Health and Human Resources Bldg. Room 024-5. Sponsored by LCC, Antioch Full Gospel Church, St. Paul’s Episcopal and Catholic Community of St. Jude. Free.

March 31 · Tuesday. Civil Rights for Immigrants (CRI) Monthly Meeting. 7pm at Cristo Rey Church, St. Martin Hall, 201 W. Miller Rd., Lansing. All welcomed.

April 1 · Wednesday. Road Funding Ballot Proposal Forum. Area voters can learn more about statewide road funding ballot issue. 7pm at Capital Area District Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. Sponsored by League of Women Voters and City Clerk.

April 2 · Thursday. “Women Sexual Violence Survivors in the Democratic Republic of the Congo” with Judy Bass. 12 – 1:30pm at MSU International Center Room 201. Sponsored by MSU African Studies Center.

April 2 · Thursday. MSU Counseling Center Sexual Assault Program 35th Anniversary and Teal Ribbon Award. 6pm reception followed by ceremony, screening of “Every Two Minutes” film & discussion. Broad Art Museum. Free.

April 2 · Thursday. Road Funding Ballot Proposal Community Forum (see April 1). Program will also include info on 2 proposed EL City charter amendments. 7pm at East Lansing Hannah Center, 819 Abbot Rd. Sponsored by League of Women Voters.

April 3, 10, 17, 24 · Fridays. Weekly Noon Hour Vigils for Peace and Justice in front of Michigan Capitol since September, 2001. 12 -1 pm at intersection of Capitol and Michigan Avenues, Lansing. Greater Lansing Network Against War and Injustice.

April 6 – 7 · Monday-Tuesday. Youth Behind Bars Capitol Forum. Focus: What have tough-on-crime laws, resulting in 1000s of children funneled into Michigan prisons, done to communities, families and public safety? Sponsored by Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency. Call 517-482-4161 for details.

April 7 · Tuesday. “Why We Still Need to Talk about Race” film series/discussion. This final segment is “Toward Equity” and looks at education as a central structural issue and is a call to action. (See March 31 for details).

April 9 · Thursday. Peace Education Center Board Meeting. 7 – 9pm at Unitarian Universalist (UU) Church, 855 Grove, EL. Lower level. Guests welcomed.

April 9 · Thursday. “Use of Police Body Cameras” panel discussion for Lansing Area Branch ACLU Annual Meeting. 6 -8:30pm at E.L. Hannah Center.

April 10 · Friday. “Organizing the Fragmented: Workers, Unions and the Fast Food Industry” with Maite Tapia, MSU Labor Relations. (See March 30, 12:15 for details).

April 10 · Friday. “Stand in Solidarity with the Parents of the Disappeared Ayotzinapa Students from Mexico” who are on caravans through the U.S. to seek justice for their children. Dinner, presentation and stories. 6 – 9pm at Cristo Rey Church, St. Martin Hall, 201 W. Miller Rd., Lansing. Donations welcomed.



PHOTO: The Friday vigil for peace continues. This community of activists has stood in front of the capital every single Friday since 2001. All are welcome to join - for an hour or a moment; every Friday or just one....

April 11 · Saturday. “War No More, War Never Again! Peace as Policy” with author/activist David Swanson. Pax Christi Michigan Annual State Conference in Auburn Hills, MI. Call 517-481-5280 for details.

April 11 · Saturday. “Facing Violence: Domestic, Guns, and Human Trafficking” with five presentations on these topics from local and national leaders. 13th Annual Keep Making Peace event. 9am-3:30pm at University Methodist Church, 1120 S. Harrison Rd., EL. \$15. including lunch.

April 13 · Monday. “A Conversation about Kids with Capital Area Policy Makers”. Refreshments, film screening of “The Raising of America” and community dialogue. 5:30pm at LCC West Amphitheater. Call ACTION to register at 517-580-0552.

April 15 · Wednesday. Ingham Conservation District Spring 2015 Tree Sale on-line order deadline. Proceeds benefit local conservation stewardship efforts. Go to www.inghamconservation.com/tree-sale. To volunteer, call 517-626-2290.

April 15 · Wednesday. Mid-Michigan Immigration Coalition (MMIC) Meeting. 7pm. Call 517-351-1868 for location. Guests and new members welcomed.

April 18 · Saturday. “An Interfaith Response to Boko Haram and Violence in northeastern Nigeria” with panelists including Cliff Kindy, Church of the Brethren Disaster Response worker recently returned from NE Nigeria, a Nigerian working with MSU African Studies Center, a representative from the Islamic Center and speaker on the militarization of Africa. Interfaith prayer, discussion and call to action. 6:30-8pm at the Islamic Center, 920 S. Harrison, EL.

April 22 · Wednesday. EARTH DAY IS EVERY DAY

April 25 · Saturday. Peace Education Center Annual Membership Meeting and Potluck Dinner celebrating the year’s work for peace and justice, board elections and Peacemaker of the Year Award. Members, volunteers, donors, as well as peace supporters and activists are welcomed to attend. 4-5pm potluck (bring dish to pass, if you can), 5-7pm program and camaraderie at Unitarian Universalist Church, 855 Grove St. upper level, EL.

April 26 · Sunday. East Lansing Poetry Attack in wooded area in front of East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Rd.

April 30 · Thursday. Legislative Education Day at State Capitol sponsored by Citizens for Prison Reform. 11-1pm Legislative/Constituent luncheon; families share experiences with their representatives.

May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 · Fridays. Weekly Noon Hour Vigils for Peace and Justice in front of Michigan Capitol. (See April 3 for details).

May 5 · Tuesday. Vote regarding statewide road funding ballot proposal.

May 5 · Everybody Reads Bookstore will celebrate its ninth anniversary by hosting PEC board member Rebecca Payne to read and sign her selection from the anthology “Blended: Writers on the Stepfamily Experience”. 7-9 p.m. 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

May 15 · Friday. International Conscientious Objection day, marked around the world as a day to celebrate those who have and those who continue to resist war, especially by refusing to be part of military structures.

May 17 · Sunday. “Profit and Loss” film documenting story of indigenous people dealing with Canadian tar sands extraction, as well as native people confronting destructive mining in remote Papua, New Guinea. Part of documentary series “Standing on Sacred Ground”. 7pm at Unitarian Universalist Church, 855 Grove, EL.

May 19 · Tuesday. The Biggest Humanitarian Challenge in a Generation: the Syrian Crisis in Global Perspective featuring speaker Susan Waltz, Ph.D., international human rights expert, leader in Amnesty International and Quakers U.N. office. A fundraiser for Refugee Assistance and a Peace Community Farewell Sendoff for Ann Francis and Nancy Lombardi At Unitarian Universalist Church Fireplace Room. 6:30 – 9:30pm; program at 7. Hosted by GLNAWI, Peace Education Center, Red Cedar Friends Quaker Mt., Adult Religion Education Com.

A war with Iran won't be carried out without lots of boots on the ground. Our army manpower is already strained. Our already fragile economy will take a big hit, as will our civil liberties.



Four Reasons Why Attacking Iran Isn't a Good Idea

Contributed by Bob Wasserman

- 1.** There is a moral or ethical problem. At least 8 nations have nuclear weapons at their disposal. Which countries should have nuclear weapons and which cannot? Answering this gets into the thorny distinction between evil and righteous nations. A simpler answer is "might makes right."
- 2.** There is the legal problem. The International Atomic Energy Agency and our own National Intelligence Estimate have found no evidence that Iran is preparing to make a nuclear bomb. Even former Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta said they don't have a nuclear weapons program. Article IV of the Non-Proliferation Treaty states that it is "the inalienable right of all the Parties to the Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes." And yet the UN and the US have been repeatedly imposing more and more severe sanctions on Iran, demanding that it "suspend all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities."
- 3.** There is the cost. Our occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan have been very costly and destructive. Iran is much larger, stronger and better prepared to defend itself than either of those countries. A war with Iran won't be carried out without lots of boots on the ground. Our army

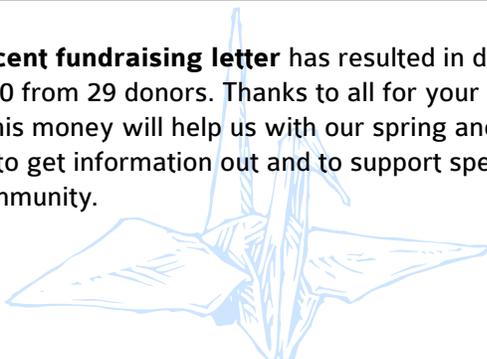
manpower is already strained. Our already fragile economy will take a big hit, as will our civil liberties. Moreover, with the present general instability in the Middle East, an attack by us could be the spark that ignites a holocaust of the entire region.

- 4.** Finally... why? The suspicion and fear of Iran, promoted and exploited by Congress and amplified in the media, is reminiscent of the lead up to the Iraq war. We attacked Iraq because we were afraid they had weapons of mass destruction. Now fear mongers are worried that Iran might be going to have nuclear weapons. A nuclear attack by any country would be suicidal (except possibly by the U.S.). Nuclear weapons held by Iran would add only marginally to that danger.

To find the real reason for this push to war in Iran, consider our involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan. We were never really worried about their danger to us either. But Iraq's oil and Afghanistan's location for an oil pipeline were attractive. More generally, a large military presence at various additional critical points throughout the Mideast could provide a congenial atmosphere for us to promote our culture and values and our business interests and keep out undesirable influences.

Thank You to Our Supporters...

Our recent fundraising letter has resulted in donations of \$2250 from 29 donors. Thanks to all for your generous gifts! This money will help us with our spring and summer efforts to get information out and to support speakers in this community.



... and to New Aladdin's Restaurant

For years, Frandor's New Aladdin's Restaurant has been a steady and faithful supporter of the Peace Education Center by contributing food for events. Recently, they donated a meal for our board meeting. What a treat to have lovingly-prepared food while working through the mundane business of keeping this organization afloat. We give a heartfelt thank you to Ali and Emal and the Aladdin's staff!

“Increasingly, it is being recognized that a compassionate response is neither craziness nor a dodge. It is the opposite; it is a signal of our own evolution, a measure of our humanity...our profound interconnectedness with all beings...don't apologize for the sorrow, grief and rage you feel. It is a measure of your humanity and your maturity. It is a measure of your open heart, and as your heart breaks open there will be room for the world to heal.”

Joanna Macy

Sadness at Loss of Frieda Brown

From the PEC Board

We mourn the recent death of Frieda Brown, MSU professor. She was on one of the first PEC Boards in the 1970's and continued to be a loyal supporter all these years.



As her obituary says, “she will be most remembered for her passion, enthusiasm and strong convictions. She was a champion of civil rights, the peace movement and progressive politics.”

We couldn't say it better. We are sorry for this loss to our community and to her circle of family and friends

Peace & Justice Resources

Contributed by Terry Link

Academic librarians are using technology to develop “Research Guides” on just about any topic. For an example of one relevant to Peace and Nonviolence see this one from MSU that provides an organized approach to following topics of peace and justice.

»**LOOKING FOR MORE?:** <http://libguides.lib.msu.edu/pj>

Libraries are part of our community commons. They are a place where everyone can have access to information, art and literature, regardless of their means. Many people do not know that the Michigan State University Library is open to all residents of Michigan although not all electronic resources are available to community members due to licensing agreements.

May 15th is International Conscientious Objection Day

Contributed by Kate Darnell

Our calendar and our history books are full of days commemorating wars, the ends of wars and the veterans of wars, but for every war, there have been those who chose not to fight. May 15th is their day.

During every conflict there are people of conscience who stand firm in their conviction that war is fundamentally wrong. Throughout history and around the globe, they have been stigmatized, and imprisoned, and their heroism has often been forgotten.

Young people in the U.S. today do not currently face a military draft, and many may have a distorted image of the C.O. as a draft dodger or coward.

If you are a parent or teacher, or if you have young people in your life, take a moment together on May 15th to hold these heroes in your thoughts and talk about the concept of conscientious objection and role C.O.s have played in our history. Make sure they know that there are non-violent options in times of war, and that the Army or Marine recruiter visiting their school this spring does not have the only answer to the question “how can I serve my country?”

A fine resource for information about conscientious objection is the Center on Conscience & War

»**LOOKING FOR MORE?:** www.centeronconscience.org

» **LOOKING FOR MORE?**

The Peace Education Center website will soon have links to more organizations, more information and more resources for Peace and Justice in our community....Stay tuned.



PEACE EDUCATION CENTER

Annual Meeting Announcement

The Peace Education Center's annual membership meeting and potluck dinner will be held on

Saturday, April 25, 2015, 4 pm – 7 pm
at the Unitarian Universalist Church in East Lansing.

The potluck will be from 4 p.m. – 5 p.m. The program and membership meeting will be 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. featuring special guest speakers, board elections, and the Peacemaker of the Year award ceremony.

PEC members, volunteers, and donors as well as Peace supporters and activists are invited to attend.

Please bring a dish to pass, if you can.

Working for Peace

» STRIVING FOR JUSTICE