



PEACE NOTES

A PUBLICATION OF THE PEACE EDUCATION CENTER

SUMMER · 2017

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Juvenile Lifer Rally for Justice

by John Masterson

This rally began at noon on June 18th in downtown Detroit. Organizer Elena Herrada started the event. The second principal organizer, Efren Paredes spoke later from his cell in Ionia prison where he is serving life without parole for a murder someone committed when he was 14 years old.

A former Michigan Judge outlined the two US Supreme Court decisions which have given a new hope that the warehousing until death represented by the Juvenile Life Without Parole sentence, (JLWOP), would be abolished.

Miller vs. Alabama in 2012, declared that Juvenile Life without Parole is a violation of the 8th Amendment, which prohibits cruel and unusual punishment. It declared that children and teenagers are not fully formed adults, mentally or emotionally. This decision stated that juvenile's actions are often characterized "by immaturity, impetuosity, and the failure to appreciate risks and consequences." This decision did not consider the situation of the over 3600 people already sentenced. Even more tragic is that a large number have suffered, often for years, mental and emotional abuse while in prison.

Montgomery vs. Louisiana, in 2016, declared that the Miller vs. Alabama ruling applied retroactively to all past juvenile life sentencing. Justice Kennedy wrote: "...prisoners like Montgomery must be given the opportunity to show their crime did not reflect irreparable corruption; and if it did not, their hope for some years of life outside prison walls must be restored."

Unfortunately, in Michigan very few have been released so far. A number of prosecutors have moved fast to resentence all of them to a life sentence without parole.

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LEFT: Theresa Ellis speaks about helping others sentenced as juveniles
 RIGHT: Efren Paredes; now in his 28th year in prison after being convicted at age 14.



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Rally for Justice continued

US District Court Judge John Corbett O'Meara ordered Michigan to create a structure for providing parole hearings, excepting "the rare juvenile offender who exhibits such irretrievable depravity that rehabilitation is impossible." This is all currently being ignored or aggressively operated against by prosecutors in the counties with the largest number of inmates to whom these rulings apply.

A highlight of this rally was the testimony given by some recently released persons. Theresa Ellis, now working to help others sentenced as juveniles, said "There's no point in blaming the prosecutors. We have to look in the mirror and ask what we can do."

David Walton went in at 17 and today is 60, with no birth certificate, no social security card and no money, but he was working to see that others in prison would get the same chance he did. "I'm not mad at anyone," he said. "I just want to find my way," he continued, "and I want to move forward to see that other young people don't end up where I did".

Efren Paredes, sentenced at age 14, spoke remotely from prison. In prison for 28 years, he has maintained his innocence all along. He was sentenced on the plea-bargained testimony of young men with criminal records who committed a robbery, but said that Efren committed the concomitant murder. He was, at the time of the murder, an honors student with no previous difficulties with the law.

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- Cost of Militarism Education Team
- Youth Outreach! Program

Sponsoring Organizations

- Edgewood United Church of Christ
- Fellowship for Today
- First Church of the Brethren
- Greater Lansing Unitarian Universalist Church
- MSU Mennonite Fellowship
- Red Cedar Friends Meeting

Affiliated Organizations

- Greater Lansing Network Against War & Injustice
- Meta Peace Team

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- Becky Payne, Editor
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Peace Notes is a publication of the Peace Education Center. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the Board.

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This can have the positive effect
of keeping families together.



“Sanctuary Everywhere” in Response to Immigration Policy

by Paul Brun Del Re

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A New Sanctuary Movement providing refuge to those facing deportation has arisen in faith communities. On May 17, 2017, members of various religious groups and friends met at Cristo Rey Church in Lansing to discuss local participation. Sanctuary is an ancient tradition of Hebrew and Christian faith communities for people to seek refuge for being wrongfully accused..

The goals of Sanctuary most immediately include the dropping of deportation cases, stays of removal or other deportation relief. This can have the positive effect of keeping families together. Other goals include preserving administrative prosecutorial discretion and expanding sensitive locations where ICE should not operate. In addition Sanctuary can help to put political pressure to defend and expand the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Deferred Action for Parents of Americans (DAPA) as well as comprehensive immigration reform.

As congregations discern whether to become a Sanctuary they have several options. They can house an individual or family and advocate on the issue, or negotiate privately with ICE officials for a stay of removal before launching a public case.

The legal ramifications of doing Sanctuary are subject to interpretation. There is some risk in offering

Sanctuary but no congregation has been prosecuted in over 40 years. Sanctuary Everywhere can extend to schools and various units of government such as villages, cities, townships, counties and states. Lansing-based Meta Peace Teams holds workshops to help people learn how to respond to hateful speech and actions.

If you would like to become a part of the local network, contact Oscar Casteneda at Action of Greater Lansing at oscar@actionofgreaterlansing.org. Action of Greater Lansing also conducts “Know Your Rights” for undocumented persons.

» **LOOKING TO DO MORE?**

Learn more about immigration issues and get involved in Sanctuary movement.

Sanctuary Initiative Task Force
pejohnston@tds.net

Action of Greater Lansing
517-580-0552
actionofgreaterlansing@gmail.com

Refugee Development Center
Phone: 517-999-5090
info@rdclansing.org

Summer & Early Autumn Calendar for Peace and Justice

» meetings & meaningful events that celebrate and promote community.

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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 pm [Islamic Center](#), Harrison Rd., East Lansing (see page 7).

1st Mondays • Keeping Hope Alive. Worship sharing in the manner of Quakers, 6:30 pm Red Cedar Friends. 1400 Turner St., Lansing.

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.peacecenter.org> for calendar updates

» KNOW SOMETHING WE DON'T?

Please share! We are always looking for calendar items that pertain to peace and justice events and actions.

Upcoming Events:

Now through Sept 15 • Conscience of the Human Spirit: The Life of Nelson Mandela. Exhibit. MSU RCAH LookOut! Art Gallery

Tuesday, July 11 • “Disturbing the Peace” film. 7 pm. Citizens for Peace at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile Road, Livonia.

Friday, July 14 • Memorial for Bob Alexander. 5:30pm gather. 6:30 Tributes, memories, music, video, sing-along Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd, East Lansing.

Friday, July 28 • Jessi’s Message fundraiser, 7pm. Sponsored by Michigan Coalition Against Gun Violence, 235 Maplewood E. Lansing

Friday-Sunday, August 11-13 • Great Lakes Folk Festival – visit the PEC table on Saturday or Sunday. Downtown East Lansing,

Sunday, Sept. 17 • Peace Quest Day of Action, sponsored by GLUNA and PEC. More info to follow. SAVE THE DATE!

Tuesday, Sept. 19 • Java Café on Peace, sponsored by GLUNA, 7:00 pm, E.L. Public Library

Tuesday, Sept. 24 • Concert Across America to End Gun Violence, 3 pm. 5509 S. Pennsylvania Ave. Lansing.

Shut Down Line 5 Protect our Great Lakes

by Kathie Kuhn

Enbridge is a Canadian company responsible for Line 5, a 64 year old oil pipeline running through the Straits of Mackinac. It was only engineered to last 50 years, and has had over 2,400 structural defects. It is truly an oil spill waiting to happen that would release a projected 8 million gallons of oil into Lakes Michigan and Huron.

Over 65 municipalities in the state and 12 First Nation tribes have passed resolutions to shut it down. Enbridge is also responsible for our nation's largest oil spill, into the Kalamazoo River, in 2010, which is still dangerously toxic.

Both Governor John Snyder (517-373-3400) and Attorney General Bill Schuette (517-373-1110) have the authority to decommission Line 5. They need to hear from us!

» LOOKING TO DO MORE?

Attorney General Bill Schuette recently declared that this dangerous line should be decommissioned. Follow this and other news about protecting Michigan's water here:

Clean Water Action

<http://www.cleanwateraction.org/states/michigan>

Food and Water Watch

<https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org>

And of course, letting your representatives know what you think is always good.

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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/>

Abandon the Ground-based Defense Boondoggle in Michigan

by Terry Link, Dave Wiley, Erick Williams

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Michigan's entire Congressional delegation (except Rep. Amash) along with Governor Snyder have been lobbying the Department of Defense to make Ft. Custer (near Battle Creek) a third site of a national Ground-based Midcourse Defense (GMD) system. This roughly \$3.2 billion expenditure of our taxes has not been requested by the Pentagon. It has been nurtured by defense contractors who hope to profit and by politicians attempting to "bring home the bacon" for their next re-election bid. This bloat resulting from appeals by members of Congress for weapons and programs that the Pentagon does not want or need adds to the \$125 billion of waste and inefficiency identified by the DOD's own Defense Business Board in 2016.

Tests of this system have failed in hitting the target more often than they have succeeded. Navy Admiral William Gortney, commander of the North American Aerospace Defense Command and the US Northern Command is reported as stating, "If I had one more dollar to do ballistic missile defense, I wouldn't put it against the East Coast [Ft. Custer] missile site."

If you think this at least bring jobs and income to the local area, note that most of the spending will go to Boeing for the 60 missiles installed at \$35-40 million per missile. Not only do military bases

pay little to no local property tax, military employees don't pay state or local income tax. And, as economic studies have shown, military spending creates many fewer jobs than similar investments in education, health care, green energy or infrastructure [Garrett-Peltier, 2014].

We fear the Michigan delegation's myopic focus on this \$3.2 billion potential base in Michigan, will make them too willing to make even further deals in supporting an unnecessary increase in military spending, such as the \$54 billion DOD increase requested by the administration last month. Michigan's senators and representatives should be seeking economic conversion funds to further develop communities with local community development, as has been accomplished in part by the Ft. Custer Industrial Park.

Missile defense -- "star wars" technology -- has never worked in practice. It is a once-big dream that, over time, has become more and more suspect. This \$100 billion enterprise to date does not have a future, and luckily so. If the missile defense ever worked, it would destabilize nuclear detente. A nation that truly possessed the ability to defend itself against all missile attacks would be free to launch first-strike nuclear attacks with impunity. This is not the U.S. we want.

» KEEP LOOKING...

The PEC is updating its website so we can add more content. It is a work in progress right now; new items are being added as we are able.

“There is no way to peace
peace is the way.”

Edith Greene Balch,
founding member of WILPF
and Nobel Peace Prize winner, 1946.



The Dedication of a Nuclear Protestor

by Becky Payne, Editor

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One of the great things about the PEC is the interesting people who wander by. Recently we learned that a cross-country Nuclear Free Futures tour was heading our way. We agreed to set up a stop in Lansing.

This tour, sponsored by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), consisted of one woman, Ellen Thomas, raising publicity to eliminate nukes. But lest you think a one-woman tour was a small thing, let me tell you, meeting Ellen was fascinating!

Ellen spoke eloquently about the dangers of a nuclear world. She covered the gamut of potential harm from our nuclear age – the dangers from 15,000 open uranium mines, the dangers of leaks at power plants, and the ever-present threat of nuclear war. She urged us to support legislation (introduced unsuccessfully every year) to abolish nuclear weapons, and asked us to encourage cooperation among nuclear powers to eliminate their stockpiles. ([See WILPF website.](#))

And she urged us to bring publicity and outrage to the trillion dollar program that is just gearing up to “modernize” US nuclear weapons. ([See WILPF website for more.](#))

But the most interesting part of the evening was Ellen Thomas herself. Ellen gave away her belongings to join a nuclear protest, where she spent the next 18 years protesting day and night on the street in front of the White House! Talk about dedication!

As you might imagine from years living on the streets, she had many stories! Over coffee after her talk, she told us about this years-long live-in protest. She met and married her husband at the protest site. She met presidents and many high officials. Pres. Clinton told her once, “It’s a great cause, but it’ll never happen.” Ellen thinks that Alice and Elmont, the homeless Doonesbury characters who camp in front of the White House may have been inspired by her and her husband.

These stories reveal the patience and determination of Ellen and her group who love the earth and all of us in it enough to devote themselves entirely to stand for a nuclear free future. We at the PEC are honored to promote such work!

» Learn More...

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom has worked for peace and justice for over 100 years. Check them out: wilpfus.org

LEFT: Angela Waters Austin:
Peacemaker of the year for 2017



Angela Waters Austin: 2017 PEC Peacemaker of the Year

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At our annual meeting in April, Angela Waters Austin was honored as Peacemaker of the Year. Angela has been working for decades on making the world a better place, but her work in the past year has been even more extraordinary. Not only has she continued her good work with One Love Global, My Brothers' Keeper, and the Peace and Prosperity Youth Action Movement but she added her energies to help co-chair the local Black Lives Matter effort and most recently, with the support of Mayor Virg Bernero, has successfully launched a statewide Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation program now funded by the WK Kellogg Foundation.

Earlier Angela co-chaired the Power of We, a coalition of social welfare agencies and nonprofits trying to improve the well-being of those in our community. She was most visible as a strong voice for justice and peace.

Angela is also known as one with a deep commitment to social justice issues for young people. As coordinator of Ingham County's Community Coalition for Youth, whose mission was a comprehensive, community-wide strategy to ensure youth make successful transitions to young adulthood, Angela brought an array of skills in media, data collection, and networking.

Angela's work is guided by her faith, experiences, observations, research, outreach, and knowledge that perseverance is necessary to create change. She is willing to talk to anyone, to consider any creative approach, and to create a safe space for un-heard voices to be heard. She has a gentle spirit with tenacious commitment to peace and justice issues.

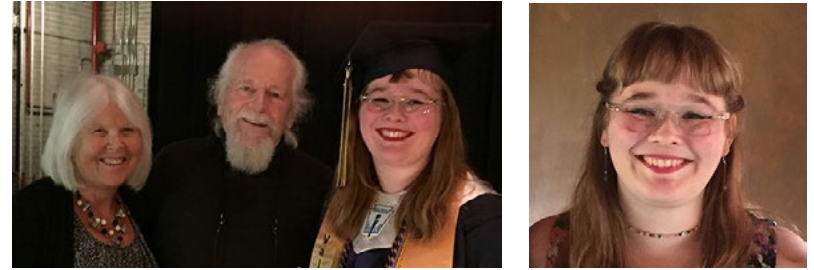
She is a most worthy recipient of this award.

» "Only" \$52 Billion?

Pentagon CEO John Roth responded to news that the Pentagon is scheduled to get a \$52 billion budget increase in fiscal year 2018 with: "...And we're not done... .. we'll probably go in [for 2019] with a request that will have some degree of growth."

Read about the military budget on page 11, and call your representatives (find them on page 5)

Becky Schwarz and Peter Dougherty present the fifth annual Tom Schneider Peacemaker Award to Gabrielle Kindig



High School Peacemaker Award Winner Noted for Speaking Out

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The fifth annual Tom Schneider Peacemaker Award for 2017 was awarded to Gabrielle Kindig, a graduating senior from Lansing Eastern High School.

Gabrielle stood out among the nominations received from high schools in the tri-county region. Besides her fine academic achievements, of which there are many, we noted that Gabrielle's willingness to speak out.

Gabrielle advocated on several occasions before the Lansing School Board to save INSIGHTS, a higher learning program in the school district. She also addressed the LCC board to try and save the community swimming pool. As an avid swimmer, she felt this pool helped build a sense of community while encouraging a healthy lifestyle, and said "it seemed worth fighting for."

Gabrielle came to this work early. One letter of reference noted that in elementary school she led a neighborhood drive to get more students involved in ecological awareness. As one of her reference letters highlights, Gabrielle couples all this with a "rare gift of valuing and cherishing each human person." She herself makes this clear when talking about caring for her aging grandmother, which broadened to caring for others

in the nursing home - coloring pictures, sewing pillows, and entertaining them with her guitar and songs.

Gabrielle was recognized at our annual meeting in April. I'm sure our late friend Tom Schneider would be pleased to see Gabrielle Kindig recognized in his name. The award and a \$500 check will be presented by Tom's widow, Becky Schwarz, and longtime friend Peter Dougherty at Eastern High School's honors night.

» Honoring Young Peacemakers The Tom Schneider Peacemaker Award

is named for board member and life-long peacemaker Tom Schneider who passed away suddenly in December 2011. Graduating high school seniors from the tri-county area are eligible. We seek to recognize students who have been active in peace and justice issues in their school or community. The awardees receive a \$500 honorarium. Donations to keep the award available can be made at:

<https://www.peacedcenter.org/donate/>

Make sure you designate it for the Tom Schneider Award.

Peace and justice activist: Joan Tirak accepts the PEC Lifetime Peacemaker Award



Acceptance Remarks for the Lifetime Peacemaker Award

by Joan Tirak

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I am deeply humbled to have been chosen by the Peace Education Center to receive this year's Lifetime Peacemaker Award. The PEC deserves recognition for all they do to bring peace with justice to our broken, but beautiful world.

I want to honor PEC board member Paul Brun Del Re, who nominated me, for his Military Counter-Recruitment efforts in high schools, his years of marching, vigiling and protesting for peace with justice, and... with his wife Carol...for dedicating themselves to the protection of human rights for immigrants. In years past their family hosted 2 children from Guatemala as recipients of the Heal the Children program. Now one of these is an integral part of their family. Paul and Carol were also co-founders of Loaves and Fishes Ministries with me and others, serving about 20 years on our Core Community Board of Directors.

This 'lifetime' award means...since I am still alive... I have a lot more work to do to honorably merit this recognition...a mandate to keep:

- Working for peace with justice, locally & globally.
- Joining protests and marches against wars and the unleashing of weapons of mass destruction.
- Obstructing policies and laws designed to rob others of their civil and human rights.

- Advocating for children, women, workers, LGBTQ friends, people of color, Muslims and those of all other faiths.
- Helping to rescue and care for the victims of our unjust, politically-manipulated system.
- Confronting evils against refugee and immigrant sisters and brothers.
- Boldly decrying the destruction of safeguards for our seriously endangered environment.
- Standing up to those who abdicate caring for the poor in favor of serving the rich and powerful.
- Calling on churches to condemn ALL sins that hurt and kill others.

Receiving this award means remaining faithful in uncertain times, supporting and accompanying all of you on your peace with justice journeys through the Peace Education Center, Pax Christi Michigan, GLNAWI, Meta/Michigan Peace Team, Action of Greater Lansing, Indivisible and other social justice movements. It means assuring the homeless through the Loaves and Fishes Ministries that we will continue to "house the homeless, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, care for the living and the dead." As Elizabeth Warren says, let us boldly declare that "This Fight is Our Fight".

Focus on Shrinking the Military Budget

by Terry Link

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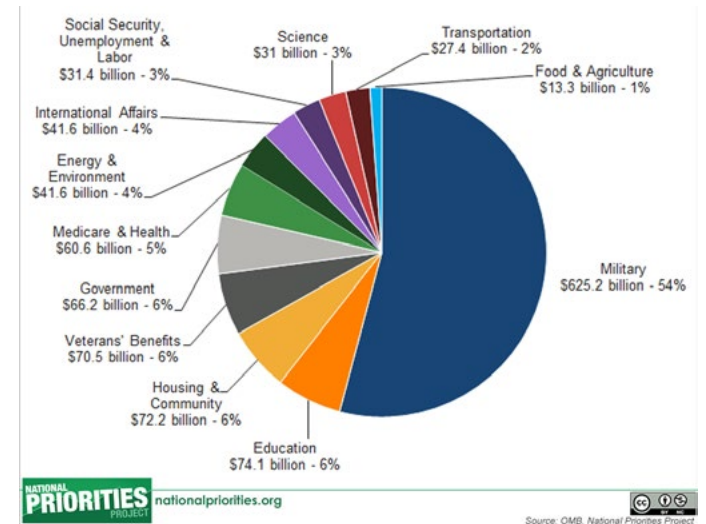
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The PEC has made shrinking the military budget a major focus this year. We have hosted two forums with another planned for September, sent out updates and information about how concerned citizens can make their voices heard at key moments and we have worked with the local Friends Committee on National Legislation advocacy group to stay informed on pertinent legislation and to connect directly with our members of Congress.

There was a brief moment of satisfaction when in April we heard that Congress had reduced the \$30 billion extra funds for the Pentagon Trump had requested to \$15 billion for the remainder of the current budget year. But we learned later that \$14 billion had been slipped into to the Overseas Contingency Operations at the same time. So as this is written, Trump's budget for 2018 calls for \$54 billion additional dollars for militarism. To pay for this he proposes significant cuts in non-defense discretionary spending.

Hardest hit are Medicaid, SNAP, Temporary Aid to Dependent Families and the Earned Income Tax Credit, all of which help those who are struggling. In addition the following cuts to other non-defense departments have been proposed:

- 31.4 percent cut to the EPA
- 29.1 percent cut to the State Dept.
- 20.5 percent cut to Agriculture
- 19.8 percent cut to Labor
- 16.2 percent cut to Health & Human Services
- 15.8 percent cut to Commerce
- 13.2 percent cut to HUD
- 12.7 percent cut to Transportation
- 10.9 percent cut to Interior



US FY2016 Discretionary Budget (Military budget section does not include military pensions, VA, nuclear weapons, etc., which total more than an additional \$1 trillion.) [Learn More](#)

So our work to repel and redirect our revenues and expenditures will require constant vigilance, research, and action if we are to change the direction he has pointed us in. We don't have to start from scratch. The Congressional Progressive Caucus has released a People's Budget which is a distinct and more humane and sustainable budget alternative. We need to ask our officials to review it seriously and optimally to sign on as co-sponsors.

Other organizations to follow as this moves through the summer include: the Friends Committee on National Legislation, National Priorities Project, Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, Project on Government Oversight. If you are interested in joining the local FCNL advocacy team, send an email to Margaret Nielsen at msunielsen@yahoo.com

Rally for Justice continued from page 2

Efren urged us to work to see that the following three items would be the focus of a campaign to evenly apply the Supreme Court decisions across Michigan.

- 1 Prosecutors will uphold the Model Rules of Professional Responsibility statement as ministers of justice, to have more than a nominal commitment to rehabilitation, and stop delaying juvenile lifer resentencing hearings across the state;
- 2 Judges will impose the minimum term-of-year sentence allowed pursuant to MCL 769.25 for all juvenile lifers being resentenced, which is currently 25 to 60 years, and stop imposing life without parole (LWOP) sentences on juvenile offenders;
- 3 Lawmakers will pass legislation abolishing JLWOP sentences for juvenile offenders and giving jurisdiction to the Parole Board to begin reviewing all juvenile lifer cases for meaningful parole consideration annually after serving 15 years.

In 2007, 185 members of the UN voted to condemn life sentences without parole to juveniles. The one negative vote was the United States.

» **LOOKING TO DO MORE?**

The ACLU has filed suit against Michigan in an attempt to speed up the review of some 360 juvenile lifer sentences. Follow this at: <https://www.aclu.org/end-juvenile-life-without-parole>
Support Efren Paredes' re-sentencing [HERE](#)

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STATISTICS...

Statistics on juveniles sentenced to life without the possibility of parole as, provided by the Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth.

- Nearly 80% reported witnessing violence in their homes; more than half witnessed weekly violence in their neighborhoods.
- 80% of girls and nearly half of all children sentenced to life in prison without parole have been physically abused.
- 77% of girls and 20% of all said they have been sexually abused.
- African American youth are sentenced at a rate 10 times that of white youth.

According to a 2014 ACLU study, the racial disparities increase with the severity of the sentence imposed. The level of disproportionate representation of blacks among prisoners who are serving life sentences without the possibility of parole (LWOP) is higher than that among parole-eligible prisoners serving life sentences. The disparity is even higher for juvenile offenders sentenced to LWOP, and higher still among prisoners sentenced to LWOP for nonviolent offenses.

Although blacks constitute only about 13 percent of the U.S. population, as of 2009, Blacks constitute 28.3 percent of all lifers, 56.4 percent of those serving LWOP, and 56.1 percent of those who received LWOP for offenses committed as a juvenile.

LEFT: Nola Warner
RIGHT: John Masterson



PEC Welcomes Two New Board Members

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At our annual meeting in April, we voted in two new members of the PEC board: John Masterson and Nola Warner. We are thrilled to have both of these intelligent and committed people join our work. Here are biographical statements from each.

Nola Warner

For over a decade I have dedicated energy towards peace, justice, and a sustainable human culture. In 2012-2015, I served as Co-Director of the Kalamazoo Peace Center (KPC), an organization that had sown seeds of mobilizing students to grow into activists. During my undergraduate career at Western Michigan University, I was an active member of KPC. I have served in the Student Conservation Association, spreading knowledge in environmental education in both Louisiana and Alaska. I've taught science-based classes to youth in Kalamazoo, spearheaded organizing Really Really Free Markets, and co-initiated what became a yearly Do-it-Yourself Celebration called Hullabazoo which ran for 5 years.

After moving to Lansing two years ago, I dove into my work with the MSU Student Housing Cooperative (SHC), planning professional Conflict Mediation Trainings, and getting the Cooperative up to par with other valuable trainings such as Anti-Oppression/Collective Liberation, Consent, and Bystander Intervention. I have also dedicated the last several months to supporting the East Lansing Food Cooperative by facilitating their Public Planning Meetings as they

transition into their next chapter of life as a Co-op.

I've begun my journey with the PEC as a supporter and volunteer. It's clear after having the chance to settle here, I'm ready to step into a new role. I have experience working with several boards, including the KPC, the MSU SHC, and the Wesley Foundation of Kalamazoo. I have many passions, and the PEC is a wonderful center to express them all.

John Masterson

I was an original member of the Peace Education Center when it began its life as the Lansing Area Peace Council in an old house on what is now part of the LCC campus in 1969 or thereabouts. While opposition to the Vietnam War served as the principal catalyst for organizing, our eyes were further opened to a slew of issues, all related to peace, by the profound statement, "If you want peace, work for justice".

I concentrated on several of the many issues of the '60s and '70s. I was among the group that founded the East Lansing Draft Information Center, housed in an upper room on Grand River Avenue. It became a center for both draft and military counseling, preparation for conscientious objector hearings

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and assisting movement to Canada for those who needed to do that.

We helped get a United Farm Workers structure organized to support the young organizers who settled into our community to organize with us the grape and wine boycotts. I also joined the group who successfully put pressure on the real estate companies who were keeping East Lansing white by not showing houses there to people of color.

On MSU's campus I helped organize faculty participation in the largely student anti-war movement, at times bailing a lot of students out of jail. More specifically, we helped make public the very specific and secret role that MSU played (through a \$25 million government grant) in building up the Ngo Dien Diem American constructed government in Vietnam between 1964 and 1966 which, in violation of the Geneva Accords, cancelled the planned elections for a peaceful settlement and eventual unification, and restarted the war between the north and the south.

In the '70s and '80s with Barb Thibeault and others, the Sami Esmail Defense Committee was put together to get MSU engineering major Sami Esmail (also a student in a calculus class I taught) out of Israeli prison after he was sentenced, with no evidence of illegality given at the trial. The Committee spread to 15 other locations in the US and later helped found

the Palestine Human Rights Campaign which concentrated on Israel's largely unknown, many-faceted program beginning in the late 1940s to drive the Palestinian population off the land their ancestors had lived in for over 1000 years, an Apartheid-like program that is still going on.

With David Dwyer and others during this period I also helped put together the cable television program *Between the Lines*, which for several years presented political issues on cable TV, interviewing experts on various issues.

Since this is a bio, I have listed the things I predominately involved myself in. The PEC as a whole had many other important programs going on. It has been a very vibrant peace and justice group for a long time and I am pleased to be helping again.

» **WANT TO HELP?**

Want to help the PEC? Join us at our monthly board meetings or contact us if you'd like to get involved. Currently, we could use help in handing out literature at our table at the Great Lakes Folk Fest, planning for this fall's Peace Quest week of activities, planning and designing newsletters and materials for distribution.