



PEACE NOTES

A PUBLICATION OF THE PEACE EDUCATION CENTER

Spring 2018

Peace Notes

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Wondering Where You Fit?

Becky Payne, Editor

In the face of all the wrongs going on in the world, we can feel overwhelmed and helpless. Good people are founding new organizations, supporting all kinds of causes and speaking out. Where do you fit in? You don't have to start a new organization to make a difference. Neither do you need to be a great speaker or leader. Below is a simple listing of how to get started in becoming powerful in your own way.

Find a cause that interests you. Is it the environment... women's rights... peace... racial justice... LGBT issues... politics? Find what groups work on that issue and in what ways. Can anyone walk in and join? Do they meet at a place and time that works for you? Are they reputable and doing work that you support?

Don't be shy because you don't think you have anything to contribute. Most groups can use as many behind-the-scenes helpers as out-front activists. Set limits on how much you can contribute. Don't get overwhelmed. Make sure the work feels rewarding.

It might take going to a few meetings to find your best match. Ask those involved about their work. If it's not quite right, ask if there are other groups working on similar causes and see if they can steer you. Most will be glad to help you find a place that works for you.

Once you've found your group, listen and learn and then start weighing in. One step at a time and pretty soon... you're there! The feeling of belonging and pride in contributing is immense! When the weight of the world gets you down, just remember that you can't be everywhere, but you are doing your part.

The "hive" mind is greater than any one mind. When, for example, people guess how many buttons are in a jar, rarely does any one person get it right, but if you average all the guesses, the whole group, the hive, is extremely accurate. So, the more voices we have pushing for good causes, the better the outcomes will be. So, go out there and start adding your voice.

This newsletter has information on past and upcoming happenings from the PEC's "hive." Read about the recent lecture from William Hartung on military spending or actually view it from the link elsewhere. Check out the calendar of upcoming events. You are always welcome to join us at the PEC board meetings or our sponsored events. A good place to try us out is at our annual meeting, coming in April (see elsewhere for details).

Learn about Socially Responsible Investing

by Terry Link

Do your investments align with your personal values? Are you against war but invested in arms production? Alarmed by climate change yet invested in fossil fuel companies? PEC is sponsoring along with friends at Edgewood United Church a program on **Socially and Environmentally Responsible Investing (SRI)** on **Wednesday, March 28th at 7:00pm at Edgewood United Church**, 469 N. Hagadorn in East Lansing. The program will feature a Skyped-in presentation by Dr. Julie Gorte, Vice President for Sustainable Investing with Pax World (recently Impax Asset Management). Dr. Gorte who received her M.S. and PhD from MSU is an internationally recognized leader in SRI. We will also have discussion of local investment options.



Dr. Julie Gorte

Calendar

Regularly Scheduled Events:

Every Friday, noon to 1:
Peace Vigil in front of the
State Capitol Bldg., Lansing

1st Thursdays: Peace
Education Center Board
Meeting, 7pm, at University
United Methodist Church,
1120 Harrison Road, EL.

1st Sundays: Islam 101,
[Islamic Center](#),
Harrison Rd., EL.

3rd Mondays: Greater
Lansing Network
Against War & Injustice
(GLNAWI) planning
meeting, 7pm, at
University United
Methodist Church, 1120
Harrison Road, EL.

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

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

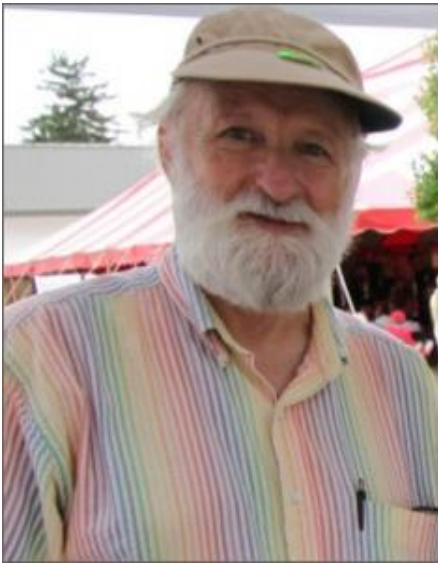
Greater Lansing United
Nations Association
Java cafes on deck:
<https://www.gluna.org/java-Cafe>

Action Alert!

*Call Congress :
1-478-488-8059
and insist that your
senators and
representatives support
and vote for the
bipartisan
Dream Act now!*

Upcoming Events:

- ◆**March 12, 13, 15: Mother Jones Play:** A one-woman performance on the famous labor activist of the early 1900s. 2510 W. Michigan Ave. Lansing.
- ◆**Tue. March 13: Political Economy of Mass Murder: Indonesia's 1965-66 Killings and the Cold War.** Bradley Simpson, 4pm. 303 International Ctr. MSU.
- ◆**Wed. March 14: #Enough National School Walkout,** to protest Congress' unwillingness to do more than thoughts and prayers in response to gun violence. 10am for 17 minutes. (see article from MI Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence)
- ◆**Wed. March 14: Voter Registration Presentation** with someone from Lansing City Clerk's office, Lansing Public Library, Capitol Ave, Lansing, hosted by MI8 Indivisible, 6:30pm.
- ◆**Thurs. March 15: My Truth , Our Reality: Student Perspective Is it Time for Truth and Reconciliation in Post-Ferguson America?** MSU Law Review symposium, Huntington Club in Spartan Stadium. 9am-12:30pm
- ◆**Mon. March 19: Resilience and Hope,** film at Edgewood United Church 469 N. Hagadorn, EL, 6-8pm.
- ◆**Tues. March 20: Town Hall: Toward a CLEAN Energy Future for the Lansing Area,** David Karowe, Prof. of Biological Sciences at W. Michigan University, discussing the effects of climate change on the Great Lakes region. Also information and displays on BWL's proposed new natural (fracked) gas construction. Red Cedar Meetinghouse, [1400 Turner St., Lansing](#) 6-8pm.
- ◆**Thurs. March 22: World Water Day.** Rally at the Capitol.
- ◆**Sun. March 24: March for our Lives:** March against gun violence. 220 Trowbridge Road, 1pm. (see article).
- ◆**Wed. March 28: Social and Environmentally Responsible Investing.** Dr. Julie Gorte, VP Sustainable Investing, Impacts Assets Management (see article) Edgewood United Church 469 N. Hagadorn, EL. 7pm. Dinner preceding at 6pm.
- ◆**Wed. April 4: NEA Big Read "Into the Beautiful North"** Book Reading Group discussion. PEC Office, 1120 S. Harrison, EL. 7:00pm.
- ◆**Mon. April 9: The Stages of Memory: Reflections on Memorial Art, Loss and the Spaces Between,** Dr. James Young, MSU Jewish Studies Lecture. Kellogg Ctr, Lincoln Rm. 7-8:30pm.
- ◆**Tues. April 10, "Effective Citizen Advocacy: Building the Future We Seek".** Jim Cason, Legislative Policy Director, Friends Committee on National Legislation. 107 S. Kedzie, MSU (see article) 7:00pm
- ◆**Wed. April 11: Indonesia 1965-66: Crimes, Calamities and the Quest for Accountability.** Phelim Kine 303 International Center MSU, 4pm.
- ◆**Wed. April 11: Citizens for Prison Reform's "Annual Legislative Day"** at the State Capitol in Lansing. CPR is working to reform Michigan's prison system through legislation. Contact micpr.org@gmail.com or 269-339-0606 for details. www.micpr.org
- ◆**Sat. April 14: Keep Making Peace Annual Symposium.** University United Methodist Church 1120 S. Harrison, East Lansing 9-4. (more information [here](#))
- ◆**Sat. April 14: People, Poverty, Planet: Our Prophetic Mission,** Pax Christi Michigan's Annual Statewide Conference, Westland, MI. (More details [here](#))
- ◆**Wed. April 18: MSU Big Read** - Public reading and Q&A with author of *Into the Beautiful North*, Luis Alberto Urrea. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Avenue, Lansing, 7-9 pm.
- ◆**Wed. April 18: Social Justice Reading Group FOR KIDS,** East Lansing Library, register at elpl.org. 10:30am. Meets monthly.
- ◆**Thurs. April 19: Collateral Damage : The Environmental Consequences of War and Militarism,** Edgewood United Church 7:00pm, joint program of GLUNA and PEC (see article)
- ◆**Tues. Apr. 24: Incitement to Mass Murder: The 1965-66 Indonesian Genocide,** Saskia Wieringa, 303 International Center MSU, 4pm. www.Asia.isp.msu.edu
- ◆**Fri.-Sat. April 27-28: The Political Jesus Seminar,** Celene Lillie, Arthur J. Dewey, UUMC, 1120 S. Harrison Rd. EL, (see flyer), Friday eve., all day Sat. rev.wmbills@gmail.com.
- ◆**Sat. May 19: PEC Annual Meeting** Community potluck, Peacemaker of the Year awards, reports on annual events. UUMC, 1120 S. Harrison Rd. EL, 4:00pm (see article).



High School Peacemakers Wanted

Nominations/applications are being accepted **UNTIL April 1, 2018** for the [2018 Tom Schneider Peacemaker Award](#) given annually since 2013 to graduating seniors who have demonstrated a commitment to peace and justice. Seniors from Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties and Laingsburg are eligible.

The award honors the memory of Tom Schneider, who gave so much of himself to make our community and our world a more peaceful one. Like Tom, who served the Peace Education Center (PEC) as a board member and volunteer extraordinaire, the PEC believes that our young peacemakers deserve to be recognized for their contributions toward a better world for all, and are honored to support this award in Tom's name. Application form is available at our [website](#). Please share with parents or school leaders and encourage them to nominate worthy students. The recognition is accompanied by a \$500 honorarium.

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Come to the PEC Annual Meeting

Every spring we open our doors for a social gathering and potluck to assess where we have been and where we need to go in the coming year. This warm gathering of peace supporters - THAT'S YOU!! - allows us to hear from our friends, share our concerns and hopes and chart a way forward as an organization committed to moving our community and world away from violence towards peace and justice.

Join us as we recognize peacemakers who have demonstrated remarkable efforts over the past year, or over a lifetime, and recognize young peacemakers with the Tom Schneider Peacemaker Award. If you have an interest in serving on our all-volunteer board, please contact us in advance. We will also vote for at-large board members.

We hope you will put this date on your calendar to gather with friends, old and new, as we report on past accomplishments and plan future efforts. All are welcome to join us on **Saturday, May 19 from 4-6 pm** at the **University United Methodist Church** 1120 S. Hagadorn, East Lansing.

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PEC has signed on with "[Divest from the War Machine](#)" launched last month. You can sign on yourself by taking the [pledge](#):



Divest from the War Machine

Divest from weapons companies and invest in ethical, life-affirming solutions. We can only achieve a more peaceful world if we reduce the power of those who profit from war. Investors face an historic opportunity to cut ties with the corporations at the root of the war machine, and to reinvest in ethical, life-affirming sectors that support our communities and protect our planet. This is a moral issue for all of us. It is time to put a stop to the havoc wreaked on people and the planet by the spread of U.S. wars and militarism. We believe it is unethical to profit from weapons companies that fuel U.S. military interventions, the global arms trade, and the militarization of U.S. police forces.

We all believe that killing, oppressing, and violating the rights of others is wrong. Aiming to profit from the companies perpetuating such actions is no less wrong. Divesting from the war machine is one of the most effective ways for investors, communities, and individuals to align their values with their actions, and take responsibility for the resources they control. At its core, divestment is a question of doing what we can with what we have.

Contact your Representatives

Senator Debbie Stabenow

1-202-224 4822

731 Hart Senate Office Bldg*

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

Senator Gary Peters

1-202-224-6221

724 Hart Senate Office Bldg*

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

Representative Mike Bishop

1-202-225-4872

428 Cannon House Office Bldg*

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

Representative John Moolenaar

1-202-225-3561

117 Cannon House Office Bldg*

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

Representative Tim Walberg

1-202-225-6276

2436 Rayburn House Office Bldg*

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

Use your voice!

Call for change!

* Washington DC 20515

A Conversation with Jim Cason Legislative Efforts to Shift Away from War

As part of our ongoing efforts to reign in military spending we are delighted to welcome Jim Cason to East Lansing. Jim is the veteran foreign policy legislative director for the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL).

A veteran journalist and lobbyist with extensive experience in and with Africa his effectiveness on the hill in Washington is highly regarded. Jim will not only bring us up to date on important and pressing legislative struggles but offer sage advice on how we can be more effective as citizens in shifting our nation away from war and towards peace and justice. **Join us in hearing and interacting with Jim Cason on Tuesday, April 10th at 7:00 p.m. in 107 S. Kedzie on the campus of MSU.**



An Economy Based on War Means We Need to Manufacture Enemies *Points from Lecture by William Hartung* *by Becky Payne*

Because the U.S. puts over half of its tax money each year into the military, every state wants a slice of the military pie. Every locale is happy when the Pentagon announces a new project in their area. Politicians shout “jobs, jobs, jobs!” and practically throw a parade. Factories hum churning out bombs and bullets. Stocks go up, pleasing everyone with a retirement or stock account. Politicians get big, fat checks from military-industrial lobbyists.

So every year, our leaders opt to send more money to the Pentagon. What’s the problem with that? What would happen if we had no more enemies to fight? Basing our economic prosperity on always needing to build more, and consequently use more, weapons means that we face economic collapse if there were no more wars.

A recent visit by noted military spending expert William Hartung pointed out just how badly off kilter our budget has become as we “manufacture” reasons to keep throwing ever more money to the Pentagon. Mr. Hartung directs the Arms and Security Project at the Center for International Policy. He is author of noted books on the arms industry.

Some facts from his research:

- The Pentagon has \$25 billion in excess overhead. It hasn’t passed an audit... ever.
- Half of the Pentagon budget goes to corporations.
- There are 700-1,000 lobbyists working to secure more military spending.
- Lockheed-Martin, just one of many military contractors, gets \$30 billion a year –the size of many state budgets!
- A dollar in the Pentagon budget creates fewer jobs than if used for social programs.
- The new administration proposes building more “usable” nuclear weapons – raising the possibility that they will actually be used. It is proposing spending \$1.7 trillion over 30 years on nukes.

Our budget deficit is growing by leaps and bounds and politicians still scream that the military is underfunded. The only way to get more money for the Pentagon is to take it away from social programs... or raise taxes... or create bigger deficits. We are facing the perils of all three, as we rush headlong into permanent war.



Watch and Listen to William Hartung’s Lecture

You can now hear this lecture given recently at MSU on our website by William Hartung, Director of the Arms and Security Project at the Center for International Policy in New York City. Fortunately we had Petra Daher record his talk for those of you who missed it and it is now up on [our website](#). There is no better introduction to this mess than Mr. Hartung’s words.

No War With North Korea

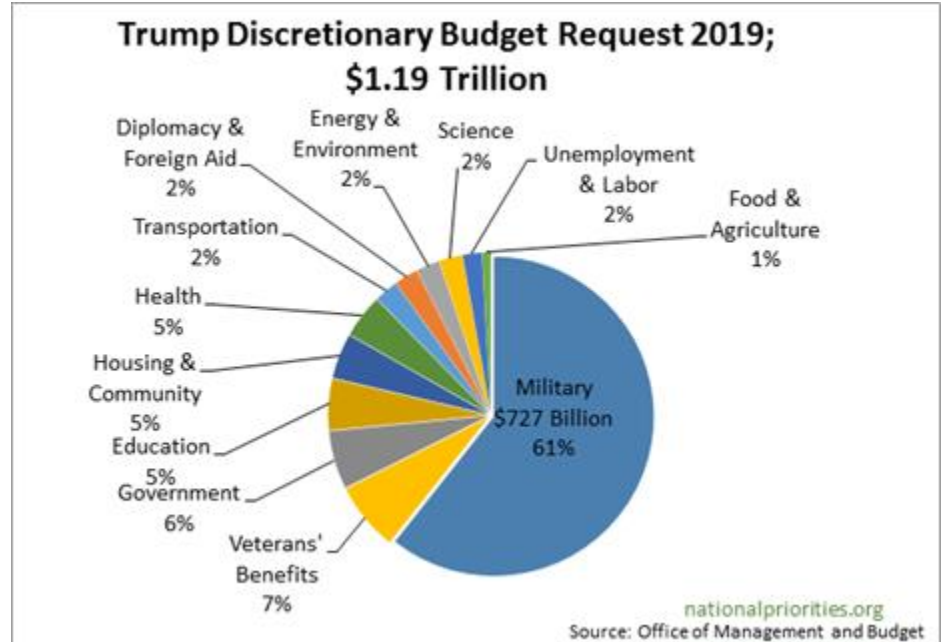
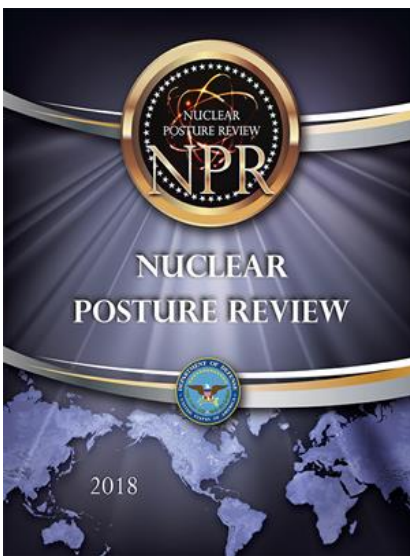
by Terry Link

PEC 's Cost of Militarism Team has crafted a "Resolution on Limiting the Conflict with North Korea" which you can read and share with elected officials, friends, and family. The recent adoption of a budget agreement by Congress has opened the floodhouse gates for military spending for at least the next two years. The Project on Government Oversight (POGO) [has determined](#) that the total budget for the national security for next year is at \$1.2 Trillion. That's not a typo. That is a "T". Our friends at the National Priorities Project has put this in a nice graph (below).

This graph does not include the percentage of the payments on the national debt related to military spending, nor military health care or retirement costs, veteran's affairs, or homeland security. The *Wall Street Journal* recently reported that the arms lobby that Hartung so vividly describes in his talk, saw [stock prices rise 27% in 2017](#) with the bonanza promised by the recent budget deal having their CEO's salivating.

Don't expect this rush to gush money towards the arms lobby to slow down. The administration's recently released twin pack Nuclear Posture Review and the [National Defense Strategy](#) are sure to feed the coffers of arms lobby. Each of these documents

attempts to raise the fears that if we fail to pour our tax dollars into the military-industrial-complex, we will surely be run over by - your choice, North Koreans, Russians, Chinese, Iranians or some random terrorist. Without fear mongering, it's hard to see why we would continue to throw bags of money at the Pentagon and weapons makers. Though, the US, has always taken good care of its weapons makers, often being the salesman for them to others around the world. This is being [heightened and more blatant](#) under the new administration.



The [Nuclear Posture Review](#) released in February also, has a minimum [price tag of \\$1.7 Trillion](#) for an upgraded nuclear arsenal. As the *Guardian* reported (Feb 15) this plan is fraught with "wasting billions on nuclear bombs that serve no purpose and are a security liability." As Hartung clearly demonstrated, the new toys of war are driven largely by the arms lobby. That explains to a large extent why Sen. Gary Peters [proudly hawks](#) his efforts to bring a mid-course ground based missile system to Ft. Custer in Battle Creek, even while the Pentagon hasn't requested it. You can bet that Boeing, the manufacturer of the missiles, has been working the halls of Congress with their multitude of lobbyists urging members to support this project development as an engine of economic development. Forget of course, that the bulk of the money likely goes to Boeing to manufacture the missiles not in Michigan. Sen. Peters isn't alone as the entire Michigan delegation has signed letters of support. This is the bigger system we are fighting.

As absurd as this all appears on its face, you might think the incredible waste in the Pentagon that continues to be disclosed on an almost weekly basis, would provide some rein on Congress being such cozy bedfellows with the M-I-C. Just in the last few months there have been these stories which might finally lead to an actual audit of the Pentagon.

[An article](#) in December in *Forbes*, co-written by MSU economist, Mark Skidmore, found that "that for fiscal year 2015 the Army failed to provide adequate support for \$6.5 trillion in journal voucher adjustments." As *Foreign Policy in Focus* reported "In the six years from 2009 to 2015, the [Special Inspector General for Reconstruction in Afghanistan](#) tallied around [\\$17 billion](#) in "questionable spending" throughout the country by the Pentagon, the State Department, and USAID, while the comparable office for Iraq suggested that [\\$8-\\$10 billion](#) (of \$60 billion total) in reconstruction money was wasted as a result of corruption and mismanagement."

Then there was a [report on February 5](#), that the Defense Logistics Agency could not provide evidence of paperwork for **\$800 million** in construction projects. This all in addition to the \$125 billion waste the Pentagon found but tried to hide in before the [Washington Post uncovered](#) in December 2016. Maybe one could try to defend this if in fact this flooding of Pentagon and MIC coffers brought us lasting peace and prosperity. But as a [recent Pentagon report](#) indicates even after 16+ years we still are not winning the war in Afghanistan.

We clearly need to keep educating our community and elected officials about the insanity of growing military spending. Come join us. Join the local Friends Committee on National Legislation Advocacy Team by contacting Margaret Nielsen at msunielsen@yahoo.com

Staying Indoors Protects Against Nuclear War?

by Terry Link

A recent piece in the *Lansing State Journal* on surviving nuclear war might have been well intentioned. But to seriously suggest that the proper response to the threat of nuclear war is to stay indoors is ludicrous on many levels. After a nuclear explosion, trying to protect oneself by staying inside once the missiles start flying is a little too late.

Today's weapons pack way more explosive power than the two bombs that killed more than 200,000 citizens in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. It is probably wishful thinking that if the blast doesn't kill you that there would be access to local radio or internet

Better preparation perhaps would be looking at photographs from the aftermath of Hiroshima/Nagasaki to encourage us to work with legislators to reduce both these horrendous weapons and the threats of war. There is bipartisan support for legislation, **H.R. 4837**, that would bar the president from launching a war against North Korea without approval from Congress. A similar bill, **S.2047**, has been introduced in the Senate. But unless Congress is pushed by us citizens to uphold their constitutional power to declare war, they will likely continue to relinquish their responsibility, as we edge closer to war and a nuclear exchange.

A recent Congressional Research Service report predicts that in the first few hours of a war between North and South Korea (U.S.) tens of thousands would die, mostly Koreans, but there are currently more than 100,000 Americans near the demilitarized zone. The Joint Staff has confirmed that the "only way to 'locate and destroy'—with complete certainty—all components of North Korea's nuclear weapons program is through a ground invasion." This would likely lead to millions of deaths on both sides. The last Korean War killed more than 2,000,000, including more than 50,000 American soldiers.

As we certainly should have learned from our invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan, the costs of war greatly exceed the generals' and war enthusiasts' estimates in cost, carnage, destruction, and length of time. War is not the answer. We have used diplomacy successfully in the past to avoid war and the calamities that come from it. Even Presidents Reagan and Gorbachev were able to reduce the stockpile of nuclear weapons.

Our tax dollars are increasingly used to build weapons rather than achieve diplomatic agreements that prevent war. The distortion of the budget priorities in favor of the arms makers was well depicted by military and arms industry analyst William Hartung in a talk here just the week before the LSJ article.

South Korea and North Korea are talking again, even collaborating for the Olympics. If we would put even a small fraction of support for diplomacy that we pour into arms production and sales, our chances for long-term peace and prosperity would be enhanced. The just released [2018 Nuclear Posture Review](#) by the Department of Defense calls for enhancing our nuclear arsenal. As the Project on Government Oversight reported on February 1, "*A look under the hood of nuclear modernization reveals an extraordinarily excessive and expensive effort, the justifications for which seem to be heavily drawn from reports funded by companies with a vested financial interest in an expansive modernization plan.*" The more than \$1 TRILLION the upgrades will cost is money not available for diplomacy, schools, health care, infrastructure, renewable energy or other human needs.

We can't hide from nuclear weapons, but we must see them eradicated. The arms lobby does exceedingly well when they can hawk the threat of war. Tell Congress, *No to War*.

Check our website at www.peacecenter.org for calendar updates, additional information, live links, and background to some of the stories listed here.

Earth Day Program

Collateral Damage: The Environmental Consequences of War and Militarism is a joint program sponsored by the [Greater Lansing - United Nations Association](#) and the Peace Education Center.

The program will screen a film, "Scarred Lands & Wounded Lives" followed by a panel and audience discussion of the film and topic. Panelists include Dr. David Wiley, Dr. Stephen Gasteyer, and Terry Link. The event will be held at Edgewood United Church, 469 N. Hagadorn, East Lansing at **7:00p.m. on Thursday, April 19th.**

Gratitude to our Donors

We only send out one fundraising letter per year. We couple that with our Annual Alternative Holiday Sale each year to support the work our all-volunteer crew strives to do. We would be amiss if we didn't recognize all those who chipped in this past December and January to support our work. We sincerely thank our donors. Whether this is your first donation to our organization or whether you've been supporting us for years, we appreciate all of you! Working for a more just and equitable world is of the greatest importance. We promise to do our best to keep the issues in the public eye.

Infinite Thanks to :

- Julie Horn Alexander
- Carl & Mary Archambeau
- Phil Ballbach
- Tom & Lynn Bartley
- Andy & Cynthia Beal
- Julia Bishop
- Brendan Boyle
- Daniel and Arlene Brown
- Paul & Carol Brun Del Re
- Al & Beth Cafagna
- Kate Darnell & Raoul Mitts
- Frank Dennis
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- Ralph and Marion Gorton
- Colleen Hyslop
- Dorothy Jones
- Kierin Kerbawy
- Jessica Kovan
- Gary and Pat Lee
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- Mark & Cindy Servis
- Jack Smith & Susan Waltz
- Bob & Renee Swanson
- Gordon & Sheila Taylor
- Neila Tillman
- Joan Tirak
- Bob & Liz Wasserman

Other Ways to Help

Just as many of the Peace Education Center's Board are eligible for Social Security, we recognize that many of our supporters are too. We encourage you to consider leaving even a small bequest in your will to help keep the work of the PEC going after we cease our inhaling and exhaling. There is little doubt that the work before us today will need just as much help in the future. The Peace Education Center is a community owned resource and we thank all who contribute funds or their time and skills.

Speaking of time and skills, the PEC has lots of tasks for which we could use help. We need help with:

- Web design and updates
- Help with email messages using MailChimp
- Help plan and carry out events
- Research and write about topics of concern around peace and justice
- Help with newsletter design and layout
- Bookkeeping
- Office management
- Building membership lists
-

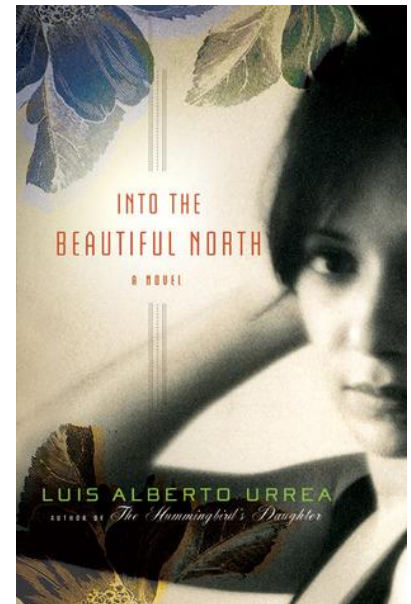
If you have a few hours to share in any of these areas, we'd love to chat with you! Give us a call or email Terry Link link@msu.edu or Becky Payne rapayne777@gmail.com



Join the Community Big Read

PEC is partnering with Michigan State University College of Arts and Letters and the Capital Area District Libraries to host the [National Endowment for the Arts \(NEA\)](#) Big Read in the Greater Lansing/Mid-Michigan area. Associate Professor of English Sheila Contreras, who wrote the successful grant will be bringing the author Luis Alberto Urrea to discuss his recent book *Into the Beautiful North* with the community. PEC is one of the area hosts for a book reading group that will read and discuss the book, **Wed. April 4, 7:00pm**, before the author visit in mid April. Copies of the book are available for free for those interested in joining a reading group. Send us a note.

Urrea's novel about migration from Mexico to the United States will introduce many mid-Michigan readers to Chicano/Mexican-American literature and to underrepresented perspectives on migration. "For our Mexican-American readers, this may well be the first opportunity to read a novel written by someone from their own community," Contreras said. "As a specialist in U.S. Latina/o Studies, I am committed to enhancing the visibility of our literature and diversifying content both in and out of the classroom. The Big Read helps to carry out that work."



MSU Big Read - Public reading and Q&A with author of *Into the Beautiful North*, Luis Alberto Urrea.
Wednesday, April 18, 2018, 7-9 pm. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Avenue, Lansing, MI.

*"The NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest."
"El proyecto NEA Big Read es una iniciativa del National Endowment of the Arts (el Fondo Nacional para las Artes de Estados Unidos) en cooperacion con Arts Midwest."*



The Michigan Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence is calling on every citizen, every person who cares about the welfare of our communities and our children, to **TAKE ACTION** in as many ways as possible. We must demand that our legislators strengthen Michigan laws that keep weapons out of schools and to re-enact laws to make military-style weapons illegal entirely. We must tell them **NO** to proposed legislation such as [Senate Bills 584 and 586](#) which will allow hidden, loaded weapons in schools. **DEMAND** that every official stands up to the gun lobby, rely on consistently-proven gun violence research, and **ACT** to save lives.

There is **blood** on the hands of the gun lobby, gun manufacturers, and our elected officials who refuse to act in the face of crisis. This experiment by lawmakers to make Americans safer by putting more guns in the hands of more people in more places and at more times...has failed. Michigan's lawmakers have already removed basic firearms safety regulations which have been in place for more than a half century.

[Extreme Risk Protection Order](#) legislation could have made a difference in the Parkland shooting and one was introduced in June of last year ([HB 4706 and 4707](#)). It languishes in the House Judiciary where they refuse to have a hearing.

It is also beyond time for an assault weapons ban. Elected officials need to love our kids more than they love guns and blood money.

- Call your school superintendent's office to request your school board join with other districts in passing written resolutions opposing SB 584 and 586 AND KEEP YOUR SCHOOLS GUN FREE ZONES!
- Contact your Michigan House Representative and ask them to demand hearing on HB 4706, 4707 and vote against SB584 and 586. [Click here to get a list of all your representatives from the President to the State Senators and House Members.](#)
- Contact your Michigan State Senator and ask them to demand a hearing on [SB 293](#) (Child Access Prevention) and to vote against Permitless Carry;([HB4416](#))
- Get at least five of your friends and family to take these actions.

We must work together to stop this madness and we will. Let us follow the courageous leadership of the students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

See calendar for local event dates. Check [website](#) or Facebook for more.