Let's start off with what everyone knows: The climate crisis is here and we're seeing its effects every day. Early this summer, we saw some of the worst flooding ever in the Midwest, July was the hottest month ever recorded, and hurricane Dorian was one of the most powerful storms ever recorded to come off the Atlantic, to name a few of the latest examples.

There is good news though. Our leaders are finally starting to talk about solutions that match the scale and urgency of the crisis. Every major Democratic candidate for president has endorsed some version of the Green New Deal and while none of their versions are perfect, it’s leaps and bounds from where we were in 2016.

And just so we’re all on the same page, for us, the Green New Deal is a 10-year plan to mobilize every aspect of American society to 100 percent clean and renewable energy by 2030, a guaranteed living-wage job for anyone who needs one, and a just transition for both workers and frontline communities.

We know that it’s not enough to have politicians simply express support. Fossil fuel CEOs and corrupt politicians stand to lose billions if we make this transition and they’re going to be doing everything they can to stop the momentum that is building. So what's the plan? We have to take over; it’s not enough to just elect Green New Deal champions. If we’re going to tackle this crisis at the scale and urgency that science demands, we’re going to need millions of people taking to the streets, refusing to cooperate with the status quo, to make this happen.

From the labor strikes in the 30’s to the lunch counter sit-ins and bus boycotts of the civil rights movement, and again with the grape and lettuce boycotts of the late 70’s, we know that real change is brought about when millions of people refuse to cooperate with the status quo.

Researcher Erica Chenowith actually studied hundreds of movements around the globe and found the magic number for how much of a population needs to participate in mass non-compliance to bring about systematic change: 3.5 percent. When 3.5 percent of a population participated in sustained non-cooperation, that movement was guaranteed to win. Whether they were overthrowing a dictator or fighting for equality, that was the mark for success.
The Sunrise Movement: (cont.)

What does that look like here? Three and a half percent of our population is 10 million -11 million people. Does that number feel daunting? It should. The largest demonstrations in this country topped out at a few million and we need 10-11 million to not just march, but stike and participate in non-compliance.

I don't bring this number up to paralyze you but to ground you in what our movement is fighting for. If you take just 10 percent of people under the age of 35 in this country, that's around 14 million people. And if I've learned anything working with Sunrise, our generation is waking up like never before.

The Sept. 20th youth climate strikes we're a good first step to reaching that number but we still have a long way to go. That's why our plan for the next 13 months is simple: Organize. Vote. Strike. Repeat. There are three more mass strikes on the calendar, Dec. 6th; April 22nd, 2020; and sometime in December of next year. Each strike we are working to grow larger. Each strike we are preparing people to up their level of risk. Each strike, we are bringing the urgency of this crisis face-to-face with those that will inherit a world of climate chaos and have done nothing to cause it.

Looking at where we plan to go, I feel a lot of emotions: I'm excited, terrified, overwhelmed, humbled, unsure, and still, hopeful. That last one feels the hardest to hold on to but it's the most essential.

The future looks uncertain in so many ways but envisioning the strength of the movement we are building, believing in the just world we're trying to create and the world we deserve, and feeling the certainty that this is what we need to do, this is what we're meant to do, allows me to get out of bed every day.

This future of ours is so uncertain and sometimes feels so dark and bleak. But together, we will change this country and this world, sure as the sun rises each morning.

Worried about Climate Change? Get involved!

By Becky Payne

As the effects of climate change grow ever more deadly, we need to examine places locally where we can lower the release of carbon into the air.

Lansing residents are fortunate to have a municipally owned water and electricity provider with the Board of Water and Light (BWL). As it is a public entity, we have the opportunity to oversee and guide this provider toward a cleaner energy future.

The BWL is presently inviting public comment on its 2020-21 Energy Waste Reduction Plan. BWL has a document up on its website for public comment. As it reads now online, this is the two-year update to its Energy Waste Reduction Plan.

This is a very short and difficult to understand document. It states that they will continue their same pace and programs which they have been implementing since 2016 - with no updates at all! You can find it on their website under Public Notices.

The BWL website also gives descriptions of the energy waste reduction programs and measures for low-income, residential and commercial customers, so you can see what is currently offered and what may be needed.

The Lansing Environmental Action Team (LEAT) is planning a meeting to review the plans and propose improvements for BWL consideration. At the meeting, we will explain and answer questions about the BWL documents and suggest possible methods for researching and providing input about improvements.

Our goal is to enlist help from as many volunteers as we can to work on comments for this plan and help to be prepared to weigh in on the Board's 2020 Integrated Resource Plan in the coming months.

If you would like to be involved, email Becky Payne at rapayne777@gmail.com.
Calendar

Regularly Scheduled Events:

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

1st Thursdays: Peace Education Center Board Meeting, 7 p.m., at University United Methodist Church, 1120 Harrison Road, East Lansing

1st Sundays: Islam 101, Islamic Center, 920 S. Harrison Rd., East Lansing

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

1st and 3rd Tuesdays: Plant Justice, Grow Peace.
5:30-7 p.m. A faith-based study and action group for peace and justice. Grand Traverse Pie Co., Orchard Room, 1403 E. Grand River, East Lansing

3rd Thursdays: Mid-Michigan Immigration Coalition (MMIC), 5:45-7:15 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lansing, 5509 S. Pennsylvania, Lansing. For information contact Judy Olson atolsonj@msu.edu.

2nd Tuesdays: Civil Rights for Immigrants (CRI) Task Force, 5:30-7 p.m. Cristo Rey Church, 201 W. Miller, Lansing. For information contact Oscar Castaneda at oscar@actionofgreaterlansing.org

Upcoming Events:

Fri., Nov. 1-Sun., Nov. 3, times vary. Greater Lansing Community Members Host Annual Day of the Dead Celebration. Events include a free screening of the film “Una Noche Con ... Coco” at Lansing Public Media Center, followed by a short procession to Casa de Rosado to open the celebration at the gallery, located at 204 E. Mt. Hope Ave, Lansing. There also will be a public viewing of 12 ofrendas, elaborately decorated, tiered table-top memorials filled with flowers, candles, memorabilia and food meant to welcome the spirit of a loved one that has passed on.

For times and locations of events, visit https://www.facebook.com/events/711898505944068/.

Fri., Nov. 1, 12:15 p.m. MSU Center for Gender in Global Context presents “Work and the Body Politic: Gender, Occupational Health, and the Fate of Democracy.” Join speaker Elizabeth Faue of Wayne State University’s Department of History. “Our Daily Work / Our Daily Lives” is a joint project that focuses on the artistic traditions of workers and on workplaces as contexts for the expression of workers culture. MSU Museum Auditorium.

Wed., Nov. 6, 4:30-7 p.m. Board of Water and Light Open House: BWL’s Energy Future. In 2016, the BWL finalized its current strategic operational plan, which includes ending all use of coal by 2025 and replacing the utility’s Eckert Power Station and Erickson Power Station with a natural gas-fired power plant and an increase in renewable power. The utility seeks public input on the plan. 1201 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. There are several other open houses planned in November. For information visit https://www.lbwl.com/community/newsroom/2019-10-22-bwl-seeks-public-input-on-future-energy-plan-region.

Sun., Nov. 10, 4 – 7 p.m. Beyond Borders: Resistance in a World of Walls. Featuring Huwaida Arraf and Nicole Ramon. This is the Meta Peace Team's signature 2019 event. Al-Malek Banquet Hall, 28937 Warren Ave., Garden City, MI. $60 per seat; $500 for a table of 10. For information: www.metapeaceteam.org/signature-event.

Tues., Nov. 12, 6-9 p.m. Screening of the film “Meherjaan.” Introductory lecture by Martha Olcott of MSU’s James Madison College, followed by small group discussions. “Meherjaan” is a drama dealing with the aftermath of the 1971 Bangladesh war. MSU Main Library Green Room (4W). Free.

Fri.-Sat., Nov. 15-16. Peace Education Center’s Alternative Holiday Sale, featuring a variety of vendors, many offering local artists’ gorgeous creations, as well as practical goods for home and body. Hours: Friday 5-9 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday's sale coincides with the Ten Pound Fiddle concert featuring the group Windborne. Edgewood United Church, 469 Hagadorn, East Lansing. Admission to the sale is free. Proceeds benefit many of the Peace Education Center’s yearly programming and organizing around peace and justice issues. For information visit https://www.peaceedcenter.org.


Check the PEC website: http://www.peaceedcenter.org/ for calendar updates
PEC hosts “Building a Peace Economy” conference
By Terry Link

This year’s International Day of Peace was recognized as one of the Peace Education Center’s most successful programs in years.

More than 100 attendees came from around the area and across the state to participate in “Building a Peace Economy – Shrink the Pentagon for People and Planet.” More than 300 additional folks viewed the live streaming of the event and more than 200 have viewed it since.

The Peace Education Center’s “Building a Peace Economy” afternoon sessions included a panel with (l-r) Valerie Jean Blakely (Poor Peoples Campaign), Lea Dyga (Sunrise), Johanna Bozuwa (Democracy Collaborative), and Lindsey Koshgarian (National Priorities Project). Each addressed her organization’s efforts to shrink the wasteful military spending and redirecting those funds to build better and more secure communities.

Some of the 100+ attendees.


Dr. Lloyd “Jeff” Dumas, economist and author of “The Peacekeeping Economy,” kicked off the conference with a portrait of how economies work and why moving to a peace economy builds stronger, lasting, and more secure relationships with each other and the planet we share.

William Hartung, author and director of the Arms and Security Project at the Center for International Policy, gave a brief review of the military-industrial-congressional complex and how the arms lobby works to manipulate it.

William Hartung was one of several experts who spoke at this year’s “Building a Peace Economy” conference. Director of the Arms and Security Project at the Center for International Policy, Hartung gave a brief review of the military-industrial-congressional complex and how the arms lobby works to manipulate it.

Elizabeth Beavers of the People Over Pentagon coalition gave an upbeat look at the emerging efforts by a wide array of groups working to make cutting the Pentagon budget a key component of the 2020 election.

The afternoon sessions included a panel with Valerie Jean Blakely (Poor Peoples Campaign), Lea Dyga (Sunrise), Johanna Bozuwa (Democracy Collaborative), and Lindsey Koshgarian (National Priorities Project), each addressing their organization’s efforts to shrink the wasteful military spending and redirecting those funds to build better and more secure communities.

We finished up with all speakers and attendees identifying possible actions to move this agenda forward.
It’s back! Alternative Holiday Sale Nov. 15-16

Holiday shopping can be hard. But the Peace Education Center can make it just a little bit easier.

The PEC’s Alternative Holiday Sale provides the mid-Michigan area with a wonderful opportunity to shop in a way that makes spending money feel good and do good for the world.

This year’s sale takes place Nov. 15-16 at the Edgewood United Church, 469 N. Hagadorn, East Lansing. Sale hours are Friday, Nov. 15, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.; and Saturday, Nov. 16, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

There will be a variety of vendors, many offering local artists’ gorgeous creations, as well as practical goods for home and body.

Supporting local vendors promotes the economic growth of our area, and also is a sustainable shopping option. Furthermore, some profits from the sale will go toward assisting the Peace Education Center in its yearly programming and organizing around peace and justice issues.

Like last year, the Friday evening sale will take place during the Ten Pound Fiddle concert, which features the internationally acclaimed folk band Windborne, who are returning from two years ago.

Specializing in close harmony singing, the group is deeply rooted in American Folk singing traditions and has performed all over the world.

To find out more about Windborne go to https://www.tenpoundfiddle.org/event/windborne/.

Entry to the sale is free, but tickets are necessary for the concert. In addition to all the sale items, dinner will be available on Friday, as well as lunch on Saturday.

More information is available at the PEC website; https://www.peaceedcenter.org.
The Last Opening Day for North Lake Correctional Facility
By Duncan Tarr, No Detention Centers in Michigan

On Oct. 1st, the private prison giant GEO Group announced that it was opening its prison in Baldwin, Michigan once again.

In response, people from around the state – from Detroit, from Traverse City, from right down the street in Baldwin itself – converged at the gates of the prison, North Lake Correctional Facility. Undeterred by the torrential downpour, from 5:30 a.m. until well into the afternoon a group of people remained at the front gate with signs and banners condemning GEO Group abuses and expressing sympathy with the immigrant prisoners that GEO Group plans to lock up at the site.

GEO Group was very clear that the opening on the 1st did not necessarily ensure that there would be a bus of prisoners arriving on that day. They are guarding that information very closely, allegedly for “security” reasons. But the reality of the situation is that they know that the political climate under which they are opening the prison is volatile and they know that incarceration inevitably breeds rebellion. GEO Group knows it is vulnerable – vulnerable to divestment campaigns as much as blockades – and that in part explains the numerous county police and state troopers present that day.

And the police were not afraid to put people behind bars. Early on that morning three people were arrested for standing in the road, allegedly impeding GEO Group employees from getting to the facility (“disorderly conduct”). They were bailed out within a few hours and defiantly rejoined the demonstration, but after this it became apparent that the police were eager to arrest any alleged troublemakers they could find.

After a long day outside the gates of North Lake Correctional, my car departed for home. We were cold and wet, yet also determined to return to Baldwin as soon as possible. We made some new friends there who also hate GEO Group and we made commitments to each other to stay in touch. And we also got to see the prison up close. The razor wire was ominous, but as black revolutionary Assata Shakur once wrote:

“And, if I know anything at all, it’s that a wall is just a wall and nothing more at all. It can be broken down.”

Here’s to making this opening day the last, for GEO Group, for North Lake Correctional, and for all the future prisons that they will try to build.

Peace Education Center co-chair Terry Link caught up with U.S. Rep. Rashida Tlaib at this year’s Michigan Progressive Summit, held Oct. 19 at the Lansing Center. Terry was able to meet with her briefly to discuss the issue of cutting military spending. Before being elected to the U.S. Congress, Tlaib was the first Muslim woman to serve in the Michigan legislature. A well-known progressive warrior, Tlaib is a member of “The Squad,” a group of four congresswomen, all women of color, who were elected in 2018.
PeaceQuest 2019

A Peace Pole Pursuit, a “Celebration of Global Diversity” dinner, a conference focusing on a peace-time economy, as well as a host of other events marked this year’s PeaceQuest.

The month-long event this past September was designed to promote peace and justice in the greater Lansing area and beyond, as well as pay homage to the Sept. 21 U.N. International Day of Peace.

Among the organizations sponsoring the event were the Peace Education Center, the Greater Lansing United Nations Association, Intercultural Association of Michigan, Shalom Center for Justice and Peace, as well as others found at https://peacequestgreaterlansing.org/host-organizations.

Below are a number of photographs that captured the essence of the month-long celebration of peace.
Cody O’Rourke back in Michigan Nov. 8 – Dec. 9

He has worked all across the West Bank and Jerusalem, but the majority of his work in the field has been in the old city of Hebron and the surrounding villages facing Israeli settler violence.

O’Rourke grew up in the Beaverton Church of the Brethren but has most recently been attending the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Jerusalem, where he had spent a year on the church council.

The father of a 7-year-old Jewish Israeli, O’Rourke has lived in the Holy Land since 2012, the year his son was born.

He also is co-founder of the Good Shepherd Collective. Centered in Um al-Khair in the South Hebron Hills, the GSC operates within a framework that understands the ongoing violence in Palestine/Israel as rooted in the structural inequalities of the law. As such, the organizational aim is to develop strategic advocacy campaigns on both winnable and meaningful targets.

GSC runs several community-based projects, including a greenhouse, a community center and library, a honey project, and a travel program.

Visit the GSC website at goodshepherdcollective.org.

To learn more about O’Rourke’s visit to Michigan, or to schedule him to speak, contact Paul Brun Del Re at pbrundelre@yahoo.com.

PEC Board endorses “Back from the Brink” campaign

At its October meeting, the Peace Education Center Board voted to endorse the “Back from the Brink” campaign. “Back from the Brink” seeks to prevent nuclear war and the use of nuclear weapons.

Launched earlier this year by Pax Christi USA, the “Back from the Brink: The Call to Prevent Nuclear War” campaign believes that the massive death, damage, years of suffering, and pure adulteration of humanity and creation caused by nuclear weapons should never happen again.

The goal of this campaign is to get your local government (state, city, town, or county) to adopt publicly a “Back from the Brink: The Call to Prevent Nuclear War” resolution. Many places around the country are already doing this.
“Back from the Brink” campaign (cont.)

Specifically, the campaign calls on the United States to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war by:

* Renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first;

* Ending the sole, unchecked authority of any U.S. president to launch a nuclear attack;

* Taking U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert;

* Canceling the plan to replace its entire nuclear arsenal with enhanced weapons; and

* Actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals.

Writing for Peace

By Becky Payne

We are still hoping to compile your memories from the last 50 years of the Peace Education Center for a written record of stories, interviews, highs and lows and hijinks - everything about working for peace in mid-Michigan.

We are finding that many people have great memories of rallies and protests, committees, interesting characters and campaigns, but not many want to write them down.

To help get those thoughts in a form we can keep, we are planning a workshop after the first of the year to bring people together to share stories and then, hopefully, commit some to paper.

Keep pulling out those memories and plan to join us for some winter musing and sharing time. We’ll be in touch with details - or email us at peaceedcenter@gmail.com with thoughts or questions.

All contributions are welcome. For example, pictures such as the two below would be most welcome additions to our memory book. (Those are pictures of PEC board member Tom Oswald, in Chicago in the early 2000’s protesting the Iraq war.)
Staying connected to peace, nonviolence and justice issues

By Terry Link

The Peace Education Center publishes only four newsletters a year. So what you read in them is a significant reduction of available news and reports that might be of interest. We do link to a lot of pieces through our Facebook page, so if you are a Facebook user, visit us there at Peace Education Center of Greater Lansing.

Here are some of the sources we look at regularly. Take a peek and see if they are ones you might want to visit to be better informed about the issues of peace and justice.

**TomDispatch.com** is a long-standing website with only five to seven pieces published per week. Tom Englehardt started this almost two decades ago and his stable of regular writers include Maj. Danny Sjursen, Andrew Bacevich, Rebecca Gordon, William Astore, Bill Hartung and many others.

**Truthdig.com** is an award-winning website started by long-time investigative journalist Robert Scheer in 2005 that attempts to report on the news major media misses. It is the home of a large stable of writers including Scheer, Chris Hedges, Amy Goodman, Bill Blum, Jim Hightower, Robert Reich and many others. It publishes numerous pieces every day.

**CommonDreams.org** is a collection of material from around the progressive community. It’s a good way to check in regularly for what news you might be missing. It picks up some of the pieces published in the sites above.

**Informed Comment** [http://juancole.com](http://juancole.com) is published by University of Michigan Prof. Juan Cole focusing on foreign policy, globalization and climate change. It provides particularly deep coverage of Middle East issues, as Prof. Cole is internationally recognized as Middle East authority.

**Lobelog.com** was launched by Inter Press Service (IPS) in 2007. LobeLog was headed by Jim Lobe [https://lobelog.com/author/admin/](https://lobelog.com/author/admin/), the IPS Washington D.C. bureau chief from 1980 to 1984 and from 1989 to 2015. Lobelog is the only weblog to have received the prestigious Arthur Ross Media Award for Distinguished Reporting and Analysis of Foreign Affairs (2015) from the American Academy of Diplomacy [https://www.academyofdiplomacy.org/award/arthur-ross-media-award/](https://www.academyofdiplomacy.org/award/arthur-ross-media-award/). Initially focused on neoconservatives and their influence on U.S. foreign policy, it gradually broadened its scope to feature analyses of U.S. policy toward the Greater Middle East with an emphasis on Iran, Israel-Palestine, and the Persian Gulf states more generally.

**TheIntercept.com**, co-founded by journalists Greg Greenwald and Jeremy Scahill, does adversarial journalism with in-depth investigative journalism and analysis on global issues.

**Antiwar.com** is a project of the Randolph Bourne Foundation and takes a libertarian/anti-imperialist focus opposition to war especially as relates to the U.S. It gathers stories and reports from many sources and is a publishing site for pieces by Danny Sjursen, Andrew Bacevich and others.

**Global Justice in 21st Century** [http://richardfalk.wordpress.com](http://richardfalk.wordpress.com) is the work of 88-year-old international legal scholar Richard Falk. He writes almost every week on some issue through his international legal lens. He is a strong supporter of international legal norms and the need for global solutions to many of our issues. His insights are typically illuminating.
We published four issues of Peace Notes and have promoted nonviolence, conflict resolution and peace through e-mails, petitions and social media. On Nov. 15 and 16 we will sponsor our popular Alternative Holiday Sale, which benefits nonprofit peace and justice groups.

As we look to 2020 and to continue this important work we do, we ask for your support with a tax-deductible contribution to the Peace Education Center. Please also consider leaving a gift to the center in your will and supporting the Tom Schneider scholarships (note any designations on your check).

If you would like to assist us in our volunteer campaigns, we would relish your time and energy. You can contact us at peaceedcenter@gmail.com or (517) 515-5634 for more information.

PEC appreciates your support

For almost half a century the Peace Education Center, an all-volunteer organization, has worked to build bridges instead of walls. We have sought to bring people together rather than push them apart. We have sought to create a healthy planet where there truly is Peace on Earth.

The Peace Education Center's core mission is to promote education and action to press for an end to war and militarization. In September we hosted "Building a Peace Economy – Shrink the Pentagon for People and Planet." The day-long event, which coincided with the U.N. International Day of Peace, brought together leaders who understand why and how we might redirect our tax dollars away from endless war and militarism.

In addition, we co-sponsored a month-long series of events known as PeaceQuest 2019; met with representatives from the offices of Sen. Debbie Stabenow, Sen. Gary Peters and Rep. Elissa Slotkin to promote a peace and justice agenda; and hosted a talk by a Michigan State University professor whose research has found more than $20 trillion in unauthorized spending within the U.S. departments of Defense and Housing and Urban Development over a span of 17 years.

We gave out Peacemaker of the Year Awards to long-time local activists Will Lawrence and Anna Fisher. Awarded Lifetime Peacemaker Awards to Laura Sager and Terry Link. And gave out the Tom Schneider Award and scholarships to Eleanor Carr of East Lansing High School, Reilly Farr of Waverly High School and Graham Diedrich of Haslet High School.

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IN PEACE WE TRUST