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### Peace Notes

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*Peace Notes is a publication of the  
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expressed are not necessarily  
those of the Board.*

## President Biden Must Keep Us Out Of Endless Wars And Entanglements

By Nelson Brown

While most attention on the problems that President Biden will confront has focused on his domestic challenges, he will also have to address foreign-policy issues that have festered under President Trump. In particular, the Biden administration must look to at least three principles that should govern our foreign affairs.



Photo Credit: [petradaher.com](https://petradaher.com)

**1** First, he must not follow post-cold-war foreign policy ideologies resting on American exceptionalism – be it neoliberalism or neoconservatism. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union and its surrogates, the dominant foreign-policy principle that America was the exceptional and indispensable nation. This unilateral assessment of our role in the world was rationalized with high-sounding ideals like the need to promote democracy. In spite of these high-sounding ideals, in practice, the United States ended up supporting authoritarian regimes when it served our purposes, like Egypt, or created chaos when it overthrew authoritarian regimes, like in Libya. In sometimes using rhetoric like the “American Century,” President Biden has indicated that he may be susceptible to the arrogance of power that supports such pronouncements.

**2** Second and linked to the first point, President Biden must gain control over the ever-burgeoning military budget. In the last decades, the United States has regularly outspent on the military the next highest 10 to 20 foreign government expenditures combined. But our increased expenditures have not enabled us to decisively win wars since 1991 in Kuwait. Moreover, the United States confronts no existential threats from other nations.

Every year under both Democratic and Republican presidents, the military budget has grown, less reflecting some increased foreign national threat and more to the political power of the military/industrial complex to scare Congress. These lobbyists threaten Congress members that failure to increase the military budget will create economic problems for their districts and will also show they are soft on foreign threats. Only strong leadership from the president can create a political climate where Congress can resist the political pressure. This leads to the third point.

## No Endless Wars Or Entanglements (cont.)

**3** Third, President Biden must work to define what the minimal and fundamental American interests in the world are. Without such an assessment, it will be harder politically to argue that we do not need such massive expenditures. To define these interests, the president will have to evaluate what essential American national interests are. This remains difficult because neoliberals and neoconservatives have exaggerated claims of what our national interest is.

This exaggerated notion of what American interest is often focuses on the Middle East, especially as it relates to Israel, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. These countries want to involve the United States in what these countries believe are their self-defined interests. These interests are not necessarily in America's interest. Especially with Israel, it is often the case that Israel wants the United States to support extreme policies whether in threatening Syria and Iran or to endorse Israel's harsh and unfair actions toward Palestinians.

For President Biden to move our foreign policy to one of "measured restraint" does not amount to phony charges of isolationism. The United States has interests in the world, but these interests need to be thought through rationally, not with exaggerated notions arising from American exceptionalism and indispensability.

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## PEC Looking for Bookkeeping Assistance

Our all volunteer organization is looking for someone to assist with our bookkeeping needs. Our revenues and expenditures are quite minimal to track and record, but we would like someone with some experience. We do have a Quickbooks account for those familiar with that software. Interested parties should send a note to us at:

[peacecenter@gmail.com](mailto:peacecenter@gmail.com)

If you know of others who might be interested and support the mission of PEC please refer them to us. We might be able to offer some compensation.

## PEC Newsletter Intro

By Terry Link

As PEC moves forward, Becky Payne and Nelson Brown will co-chair our efforts this year with John Masterson carrying the treasurer's duties and Jim Detjen handling secretarial chores. We couldn't do much of anything without their dedication to the mission of PEC. Thank you, thank you, thank you!! The full board (including Paul Brun Del Re, Nate Jemison, Petra Daher, Thasin Sardar, John Metzler, and Terry Link) will meet for a retreat via Zoom on February 13 to determine where to focus our limited resources in the most effective ways.

While this annual exercise always unearths many areas of concern, we recognize that we can't address them all. Thus we rely on building stronger relationships with others working on overlapping issues. We will continue to share those in the newsletters we produce this year. This winter issue highlights some possibilities as we start both a new year and a new administration in Washington. Nuclear weapons have been an increasing concern during the past administration and because of the possibility of global catastrophe, remains a crucial one as you'll see in one piece in this newsletter.

Of course, the pandemic has prevented us from doing many of the face-to-face gatherings that bring us together (Alternative Holiday Sale, Annual Meeting, public programs, etc.) so we recognize the need to up our digital game, even after we can look at the pandemic in the rear-view mirror. Thanks to generous gifts from the estates of two recently deceased committed peace and justice neighbors, we might be positioned, once the pandemic is behind us, to staff our office and be more open to the public. We may even be looking for a part-time office manager. So if you have those skills and interest in supporting the work of the PEC, or know someone who does, let us know.

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## Kudos, Kudos, Kudos

By Becky Payne, Co-chair

Just need to take a minute to say that Terry Link served admirably as our lead co-chair for many years now. Terry has asked to step back, though he is still a member of our board. His willingness to stick around gives me the backing I need to go forward with the job of co-chair, along with Nelson Brown. At our last in-person annual meeting (2019), we gave Terry a lifetime peacemaker award. Thanks, Terry for your tremendous energy and thoughtfulness. We appreciate your past, current and future efforts.

Another reason for confidence is the large, powerful and generous group of supporters that don't necessarily show up for our meetings but are behind us in other ways. I want to express thanks to Charlie Tassinaire, who helped with peace efforts behind the scenes for many years. Even after his recent passing, he continued his push for justice by leaving us a monetary gift that will help keep us in the black for another year. And I want to honor Jim Noble, who also left us a gift following his recent death. You can read more about both Jim and Charlie elsewhere in this newsletter.

# 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**, 2:30 p.m.

**Islamic Center**,

920 S. Harrison Rd., East Lansing

**3rd Mondays: Greater Lansing Network Against War & Injustice (GLNAWI) planning meeting**,

7 p.m., PEC office, University United Methodist Church, 1120 Harrison Road, East Lansing

**1st and 3rd Tuesdays: Plant Justice, Grow Peace.**

3:30-5:00 p.m., The Spirit of Peace Church of the Brethren's group is a faith-based study and action group for peace and justice now meeting via zoom. Contact Anne Seuss at [whiteann@msu.edu](mailto:whiteann@msu.edu) to participate.

**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 at [olsonj@msu.edu](mailto:olsonj@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](mailto:oscar@actionofgreaterlansing.org)

Check the PEC website:

<http://www.peaceedcenter.org/>  
for calendar updates

# Upcoming Events:

**Monday, February 8, 9:15 - 10:15 am**, Livestream, The MEI-CENTCOM Annual Conference

The Middle East Institute (MEI) is pleased to make available to the public a keynote address by Gen. Kenneth F. McKenzie Jr., Commander of U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM), which will kick off the first MEI-CENTCOM Annual Conference. This closed conference will address the key challenges and opportunities for the Biden administration in the Middle East through a series of high-level conversations among experts and practitioners from the United States and the region.

Registration: Programs Department, [events@mei.edu](mailto:events@mei.edu), 202-785-1141 ext. 202  
<https://www.mei.edu/events/keynote-address-gen-kenneth-f-mckenzie-jr>

**Monday, February 8, 1:30 pm EST**, Emergency summit: America besieged by racism, materialism, and militarism

**REGISTER** at <https://masspeaceaction.org/event/emergency-summit-america-besieged-by-racism-materialism-and-militarism/>

Please join us for a virtual round table with Danielle Allen, Peter Beinart, Reverend Liz Theoharis, Daniel McCarthy, and Neta Crawford. President Andrew Bacevich will moderate.

**Tuesday, February 9, 6:30 pm EST**, Citizens for Peace (The War Mentality)

A Talk with Charles Eisenstein. Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81510102337> Meeting ID: 815 1010 2337

Our meetings begin at 7:00 pm on the second Tuesday of each month, but we ask participants to join our Zoom meeting between 6:30 and 6:45 if possible. If you have any questions, please contact our president Tada Gunter:

P: 734-355-5953, [tadajoyful@gmail.com](mailto:tadajoyful@gmail.com)

**Thursday, February 11, 1:30 pm EST**, How Biden can end the war in Yemen: A new US approach

Join US Representative Ro Khanna (D-CA), Aisha Jumaan, and Annelle Sheline as they discuss how to address the world's greatest humanitarian catastrophe. Quincy Institute Executive Vice President Trita Parsi will moderate the conversation.

REGISTER: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/2016123895995/WN\\_n-JGt5WLTzyx1pRSFfpIDQ?mc\\_cid=16b7a4b19c&mc\\_eid=b90d5b0ad5](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/2016123895995/WN_n-JGt5WLTzyx1pRSFfpIDQ?mc_cid=16b7a4b19c&mc_eid=b90d5b0ad5)

**Thursday, February 11, 5:00 pm** Slavery to Freedom | Patrisse Cullors

An American artist and activist; an advocate for prison abolition in LA and a co-founder of the Black Lives Matter movement. She also is a New York Times Best Selling Author, Fulbright scholar, popular public speaker and Sydney Peace awardee. <https://tinyurl.com/PCullors>

**Thursday, February 25, 5:00 pm**, Slavery to Freedom | Dr. Cornell West

Thought-provoking speaker, social commentator and academic who has written more than 20 books, he's best known for his classics Race Matters and Democracy Matters. Professor West's work examines the crossroads of race, gender and class in American society. <https://tinyurl.com/DrCWest>

**Upcoming Spring Events with Citizens for Peace**

**Tuesday, March 9:** "Gun Violence Prevention: The Post-Election Political Landscape" with Christopher E. Smith, Board Chairperson of MCPGV

**April 13, 2021:** "Climate, Peace & the Future" with Terry Link

# Be Careful What You Wish For

By Becky Payne

After the alarming violence in our nation's capital, peace and justice supporters were pleased that authorities were finding and arresting the perpetrators. And we've been happy to see additional punishments meted out, for example, people being fired from their jobs, being placed on no-fly lists, banned from social media, banking and more.

Yes, many of those people were violent thugs committing criminal acts, but some of these punishments may very well blow back on social justice activists. Remember what happened after the vague term "terrorist" was used to ban people from entering the country? It didn't take long until the terrorist label was being used against some social justice advocates, especially those from Muslim countries.

The melee at the capitol was indeed a dangerous action against our government. It is appropriate to find and punish those responsible. Yet how equally dangerous if outrage over this incident leads to further erosion of our hard-won rights and freedoms. We need to wait to see last week's miscreants adjudged through laws and established procedures.

Recently on NPR's Fresh Air show, journalist Kai Strittmatter spoke of China's chilling suppression of minority groups and dissidents. With ever-present surveillance cameras, citizens are watched and punished and socially outed for even minor offenses like jaywalking. Their populace is assured this keeps them safe, but we know where heavy-handed oversight of a society leads - hence our country's fierce protection of our Bill of Rights.

Over the last few years, we've watched with alarm as our fellow citizens have been hypnotized by Trump's rhetoric. How sad that free speech has whipped up people into such a fury that they descend on our seat of government intent on overthrowing it, thinking they are helping further democracy. We desperately need a way to reconnect and reengage. Maybe if we peace activists insist on a careful consideration of some of the more overwrought punishments, that will be a step toward bringing this country back toward the freedoms we all cherish.

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## Stolen Treasures

By Terry Link

On January 22nd, the [TPNW \(Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons\)](https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/tpnw/) <https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/tpnw/> came into force. Of course, the U.S. and other nuclear nations have refused thus far to support it, but enough nations of the world have ratified it, that it is now in force. Of and by itself it will not shrink the number of nuclear weapons capable of destroying civilization and our planet. But it gives another wedge for those willing to push to move us away from the dangers of nuclear war, whether intentional or accidental.

During the last administration, the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists moved their Doomsday Clock closer to midnight, closer than it has been since the clock was established, to denote the risk of nuclear war. Founded in 1945 by University of Chicago scientists who had helped develop the first atomic weapons in the Manhattan Project, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists created the Doomsday Clock two years later, using the imagery of apocalypse (midnight) and the contemporary idiom of nuclear explosion (countdown to zero) to convey threats to humanity and the planet. The decision to move (or to leave in place) the minute hand of the Doomsday Clock is made every year by the Bulletin's Science and Security Board in consultation with its Board of Sponsors, which includes 13 Nobel laureates. The Clock has become a universally recognized indicator of the world's vulnerability to catastrophe from nuclear weapons, climate change, and disruptive technologies in other domains. The 2021 clock may be adjusted next on January 27, 2021.

PEC will continue to shine our light on this issue and how concerned citizens might help leverage actions with others around the globe to remove the threat of nuclear annihilation from our worry list. I attended a [90 minute webinar](https://www.armscontrol.org/events/2021-01/nuclear-challenges-biden-administration-first-100-days) <https://www.armscontrol.org/events/2021-01/nuclear-challenges-biden-administration-first-100-days> hosted by the Arms Control Association just before inauguration day that focused on nuclear challenges (Iran, North Korea, Russia, China) Joe Biden is facing in his first 100 days. The speakers, all well versed in the complexities and nuances of nuclear arms diplomacy, offered a succinct view of the current global nuclear arms landscape. It's an example of the kind of work being done that is not covered by the daily mass media (it's too complex and nuanced to deal with in a sound bite).

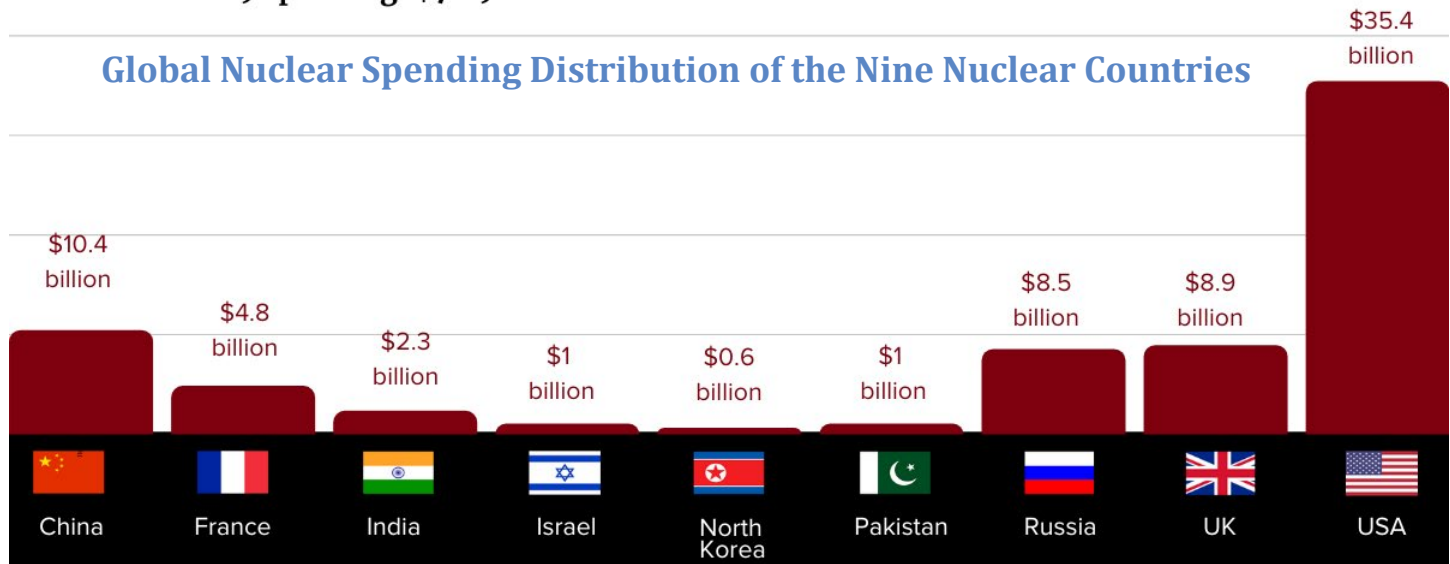


# Stolen Treasures (cont.)

Meanwhile, the Nobel Peace Laureates, the International Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons, [estimated https://www.icanw.org/report 73 billion nuclear weapons spending 2020](https://www.icanw.org/report-73-billion-nuclear-weapons-spending-2020) that the nine nuclear nations poured \$72 Billion into these monstrosities in 2019. These grossly misdirected funds could be utilized towards all the Sustainable Development Goals the nations of the world have agreed to meet by 2030. Every year we throw more money at the nuclear arms industry slows real progress on attaining those goals.

**Total 2019 spending: \$72.9 billion**

## Global Nuclear Spending Distribution of the Nine Nuclear Countries



Rather than go on here at length in this brief newsletter we are listing and linking to some of the many organizations that are working on this issue. If you glance through them you will see multiple approaches. Perhaps one will resonate with you. We'd love to have interested PEC supporters join us in developing programs and actions that bring these issues and potential solutions to the eyes of more citizens and our elected leaders. If we could shrink our own nuclear weapons footprint, we'd have more funds to address our deeper security issues – health, inequality, climate destabilization, etc. As retired lieutenant colonel and history professor William Astore recently wrote, we are all prisoners of a war mentality.

[Abolition 2000](http://www.abolition2000.org/en/) – Global Network to Eliminate Nuclear Weapons. <http://www.abolition2000.org/en/>

[Arms Control Association](https://www.armscontrol.org/) – is a national nonpartisan membership organization dedicated to promoting public understanding of and support for effective arms control policies. <https://www.armscontrol.org/>

[Beyond the Bomb](https://beyondthebomb.org/) – a grassroots effort in the U.S. <https://beyondthebomb.org/>

[Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists](https://thebulletin.org/) – The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists has been issued without interruption since December 10, 1945, when it was launched by Manhattan Project scientists shortly after the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. <https://thebulletin.org/>

[Don't Bank on the Bomb](https://www.dontbankonthebomb.com/) – focuses on the nuclear weapons industrial complex, including the financiers behind it. <https://www.dontbankonthebomb.com/>

[Friends Committee on National Legislation](https://www.fcni.org/issues/nuclear-weapons) – One of their central issues. Good entry for citizen lobbying and be sure to subscribe to their weekly [Nuclear Calendar](https://www.fcni.org/issues/nuclear-weapons) to find upcoming (now largely web-based events) on the topic of nuclear weapons. <https://www.fcni.org/issues/nuclear-weapons>

[ICAN – International Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons](https://www.icanw.org/) – 2017 Nobel Peace Prize winner and drivers of the TPNW. <https://www.icanw.org/>

[Ploughshares Fund](https://ploughshares.org/) – For 40 years Ploughshares Fund has supported the most effective people and organizations in the world to reduce and eventually eliminate the dangers posed by nuclear weapons. <https://ploughshares.org/>

[Unfold Zero](https://www.unfoldzero.org/) – Works specifically through the U.N. to reduce nuclear weapons. <https://www.unfoldzero.org/>

[Union of Concerned Scientists](https://www.ucsusa.org/nuclear-weapons) – One of the long term major thrusts of this organization is nuclear weapons. <https://www.ucsusa.org/nuclear-weapons>

# News From Our Local Sunrise Movement

By Jessica Diaz

Sunrise is a youth-led movement that focuses on organizing our communities to combat the climate crisis. The goal of the Sunrise Movement is to ensure a just and livable future for all. Through actions and empowerment, Sunrise unites with other movements to achieve racial, social, and economic justice and liberation for everyone.

The Michigan State University, East Lansing Hub equips members of the movement with the skills to fight for climate justice and bring radical change at a local, regional, and national scale. The East Lansing Hub focuses on leadership development, community building, and educational programming around environmental justice, non-violent direct action, and political advocacy.

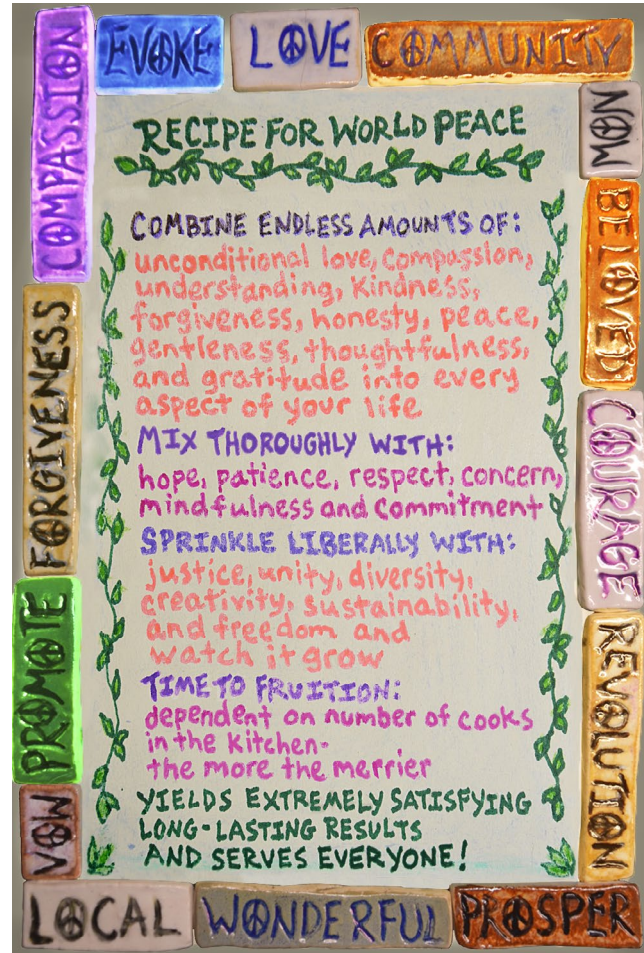
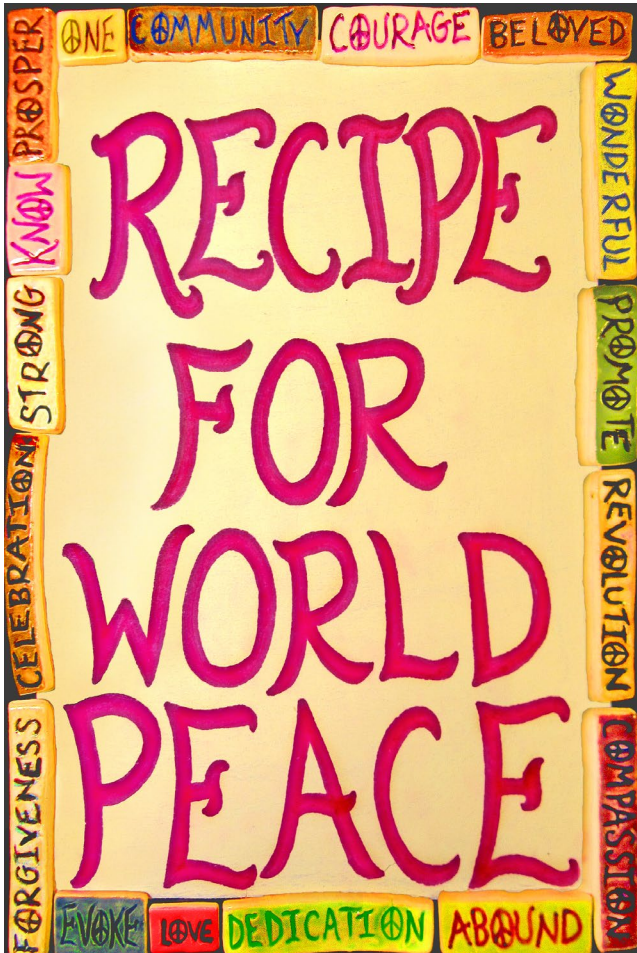
An important aspect of building strong people power is the time focused on community building. Through these skills, members learn about group accountability, create spaces for debriefing and processing, and connect and grow with other students dedicated to environmentalism.

The East Lansing Hub has worked in coalition with local organizations in the Greater Lansing Area including: Lansing Tenants Union, Graduate Employees Union (GEU), Michigan Student Power Network (MSPN), DreaMSU, and Prison Reform Advocacy Group (PRAG). The East Lansing Hub is always looking for opportunities to work with other organizations and welcomes all new members who are ready to fight for a clean, green, sustainable earth. You can connect with our local Sunrise Movement @sunrisespartans and our webpage: <https://linktr.ee/sunrisespartans>.

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## Recipe for World Peace

By Kathie Kuhn, made for the public domain





# The Year In Photos : PEC 2020 Edition

By Petra Daher [petradaher.com](http://petradaher.com)



Angela speaks July 20



Urban art July 2020



BLM Summer 2020



Metro Lansing Poor People's Campaign



Summer of Protest 2020



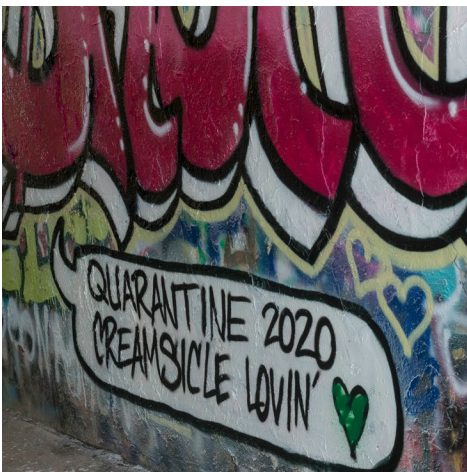
Right to Carry Lansing, MI BLM



Pastor Knox Jr., Poor People's Campaign



One Human Family POC Matter



Found under the bridge MSU



Masks at the Allen Market



MSU Graduation Day, masquerading as the Corona premier, May 2020



# Memorials

Recently, we have lost some of our long-term supporters. Several have left us funds from their estates. Others left their legacy of years of work toward social justice. Here are short remembrances of a few.



## Commeration of the Life of George Griffiths

By John Masterson

George Griffiths, a member of the Peace Education Center since its inception, died at his home in Holt at the age of 91. He had been active in issues of peace, justice and human rights throughout his years in the Lansing area.

He and his wife Helen were among the group of people that started the Lansing Area Peace Council (LAPC) in the late sixties. In a few years after a couple of address and name changes, the LAPC became the Peace Education Center.

After earning his BA in what was then Michigan State College, where he and Helen had met, George enlisted in the Air Force and was stationed in California. Upon discharge, with what was now their family of four, he and Helen returned to East Lansing where George earned his MA in Education and began teaching social studies, math and shop at Walter French school in Lansing. Throughout the years that followed, one of the affiliations that pleased him much was his membership in Veterans Against the War.

George was active throughout his adult life in the Democratic Party. Conservative candidates generally filled most of the elective offices as the sixties turned into the seventies. George was elected to the East Lansing City Council in 1971, swept into office on a wave of student votes that followed the lowering of the voting age to 18.

With another liberal Democrat George Coburn elected at the same time, they became known as “the two Georges”. Supported by a strong campaign on campus, they secured the passage of a city ordinance prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation. East Lansing was credited by the LGBT community nationally as enacting “the first anti-discrimination law protective of gays”.

The two George’s were also instrumental in having the City of East Lansing reduce penalties for possession of marijuana. John Sinclair, the founder of the White Panther Party, had been sentenced to a term of ten years in prison for possession of two marijuana cigarettes. He had been very active in support of the rights of members of the Black Panther Party.

East Lansing passed a resolution recommending the release of John Sinclair and all other Michiganders convicted of marijuana possession charges. The Michigan Supreme Court soon declared that the state’s marijuana laws were unconstitutional and the city of East Lansing passed what was then called a “traffic ticket” marijuana ordinance. It was the second city behind Ann Arbor in making marijuana possession a misdemeanor.

He was a quiet person who, despite his accomplishments, tended to stand in the background. About his years of political activity he once said: “I was on the Council at an exciting time. I can claim credit for very little of it”. Through these years in the political spotlight he regularly appeared at many programs for the rights of minorities, peace and justice and supporting the rights of workers and the struggles of unions including the farmworkers, opposition to war and much more.

George was also a fine woodworker. He built a couple of houses and all the cabinets in them. He built a large set of bookshelves for the Peace Education Center. One of those cabinets still contains part of the library in the current PEC office.



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## Honoring the life of Jim Noble : Oct. 12, 1948 - Sept. 27, 2019

Jim Noble, a local realtor, spent his life working to promote respect, harmony, peace and justice. His love of singing led to concerts and fundraisers over the years in support of peace and justice causes, including the Peace Education Center. As a gay man, he stood proudly for civil rights for the LGBTQ+ community. Jim left the PEC a bequest in his will. We thank Jim for that as well as his tireless efforts toward a more civil society.



## Memorials (cont.)



Photos taken at a PEC Friday Vigil by Petra Daher. When I took these photos, Charlie said he viewed his activism as a performance. He knew how to use his magnetism to get a photographer's attention.

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## Remembering Charlie Tassinare



That gallant eccentric, Charlie Tassinare, passed into the ethereal realms on April 9, 2020 after 71 years with us. A man of unquestioned integrity, he was an activist for peace. He held strong views on righteous conduct and the truth, yet was self-effacing. He epitomized the best of the human character. He was kind and generous, humble and courteous, guileless and sincere. He was preceded in death by his immediate family. His family of friends remain to fondly remember him and the twinkle in his eye. Donations in his honor may be made to the Peace Education Center of Greater Lansing or to Sparrow Hospice Services.

Published in Lansing State Journal from Apr. 12 to Apr. 14, 2020.

## Commemorating Charles Amos Nash 3/30/44 - 9/13/20

The Peace and Justice community is commemorating the life of artist Charlie Nash. Charlie was a long-time Peace Education Center member, anti-war activist, and regular at the PEC's Friday Peace Vigils that started in response to the September 11 attacks in 2001. The silent vigils happened every Friday from noon - 1 for 15 years and promoted non-violent alternatives to militarism. Below is Charlie's obituary written by Jake Johns, and a link to his memorial website. Visit it to see samples of Charlie's artwork and music videos. <https://charlie.b414.org/>

Charlie Nash—intransigent anarchist, respected artist, and prolific maker of noise—is dead. In his 70-some years, the transient instigator forced a circus of creativity on Lansing, MI. Among his many disruptive contributions to culture, he was influential in the no wave scene (Arsenal), he was the publisher of Queer Magnolia (zine); he was a motor force of the noise scene; and he was central to the Snake Rodeo, Hum House, and basement414.

Charlie was outspoken in his opposition to war and gentrification. He rejected rules, telephones, and the Internet. He embraced ghosts, glitter, and genitals. His art, music, poetry, performances, and collaboration made us all even more strange.



Gone but not forgotten

# Grassroots Lobbying with FCNL

By Erick Williams

Readers of the Peace Education Center Newsletter may be acquainted with a grassroots lobbying organization. There are several in the neighborhood, each following different-but-similar models. The one that I am familiar with is the Friends Committee on National Legislation.

The FCNL office in Washington DC is located on D street, across from the Senate Office Building and the Supreme Court. They have a staff of about 30 lobbyists. They keep track of legislation that is moving or likely to move in congress. In the rest of the country outside DC, FCNL has organized what it calls “advocacy teams.” These are about 120 local groups, located in 42 states. The DC office feeds information to its advocacy teams about what is moving or likely to move in congress, and the job of the advocacy teams is to seek meetings with their congress members and lobby for the legislation that FCNL is pushing.

What FCNL decides to push depends on what we think we can pass -- and what we think we can stop – at any given time.

FCNL is affiliated with the Religious Society of Friends. It started in 1943 as a collection of pacifist congregations in Indiana and Ohio. FCNL began putting together its grassroots lobbying organization in about 2015. One of the first assignments for the advocacy teams was to build support in the Senate for the Iran nuclear deal.

In the larger political world, FCNL is slightly left of center. In the narrower world of congressional debate, they are far left. The FCNL website, <https://www.fcnl.org>, has a list of the issues they follow and the legislation they are supporting right now.

## Economic Justice

By most measures, the United States is a country of wealth and abundance. Yet, for many people, the economy isn't working. Every day, people in our communities experience the frustration and indignity of struggling to pay rent and put food on the table.

Legislative ask: America Needs Significant Additional COVID-19 Relief.

## Environment & Energy

The U.S. Congress is pivotal to national and global efforts to meet the challenge of climate disruption. However, for Congress to be part of the solution, leadership is needed from members of both political parties. Our moral obligation to address climate change and protect vulnerable communities transcends partisanship. By changing the dialogue in Congress on climate change, we are paving the way for meaningful legislative solutions to gain bipartisan support and become law.

Legislative ask: Urge Your Member of Congress to Support Carbon Pricing.

## Middle East & Iran

Friends are called to help build a foundation for world peace. When crises break out in the Middle East, the United States too often turns to violence first. FCNL lobbies for nonviolent engagement in the Middle East to prevent, de-escalate, and resolve longstanding conflicts. Political grievances contribute to instability and violence, so lasting peace in the region will require engagement with all stakeholders and an end to U.S. complicity in the violence.

Legislative ask: End U.S. Military Support for the War in Yemen

## Immigrants & Refugees

The immigration policies we envision will allow people to migrate to the United States regardless of their wealth or skill levels, to preserve their families' unity, to change their places of employment and to apply for lawful permanent status and eventual citizenship.

Legislative ask: Pass the Dream and Promise Act.

## Justice Reform

We all lose when we lock people away. Incarceration denies the opportunities for rehabilitation and healing that are necessary for a person to fulfill their potential. This is a loss not only to the individual and his or her family, but to society as a whole. We call for a transformation of our current criminal legal system, which today is used principally as an instrument of retribution — a policy contrary to our Quaker beliefs.

Legislative ask: Support Justice in Policing.

## Native Americans

The federal government has a trust responsibility to protect and enhance tribal self-determination and economic prosperity. FCNL works to hold the federal government accountable to tribes and to American Indian and Alaska Native people by advocating for legislation that will protect tribal sovereignty and treaty rights.

Legislative ask: Support Tribal Provisions in the Violence Against Women Act.



# Grassroots Lobbying with FCNL (cont.)

## Gun Violence Prevention

Gun violence is a public health crisis that our country has been facing for decades. We seek a society where we can feel safe in our communities without the risk of violent death.

Legislative ask: Enact Universal Background Checks.

## Nuclear Weapons

Decades after the Cold War, the drive to build nuclear weapons continues, energized in no small part by the policies of the U.S. government. The faith of Quakers is grounded in the belief that there is that of God in every person. The awful power of nuclear weapons indiscriminately threatens all people.

Legislative ask: Stop the New Intercontinental Ballistic Missile.

## Peacebuilding

In our pursuit of a world free of war and the threat of war, we are changing U.S. foreign policy from one that is overly militarized to one that prevents, mitigates, and transforms violent conflict.

Legislative ask: The Fragile Peace in Colombia Needs American Support.

## U.S. Wars & Militarism

FCNL seeks to create a world free from war and the threat of war. Since September 11, Congress has largely ceded its constitutional authority to determine when and where the United States goes to war, and three presidents have expanded our country's military presence around the world. The result has been a ballooning military budget, a legacy of torture and other unlawful mistreatment, indefinite detention at Guantanamo Bay, the use of drones to kill people far from traditional battlefields, and the deaths of over 335,000 civilians.

Legislative ask: Repeal the 2002 Iraq Authorization for the Use of Military Force.

## Voting & Elections

The damaging effects of money on our politics are clear. When money pours into our elections, the voices of average Americans are silenced. And voter suppression, too, continues to threaten our democracy.

Legislative ask: Pass the For the People Act.



There is an art to lobbying, and it can be taught. Indivisible has a well-known guide. <https://indivisible.org>. FCNL has a webinar called, "Learn to Lobby in Thirty Minutes," which, I believe, they plan to repeat periodically during the pandemic. In more normal times, FCNL has field workers who travel about the country offering classes and organizing advocacy teams.

But books and classes are not enough. It's the partnership between professional lobbyists in DC giving signals to constituents in the states and districts that gives a grassroots lobbying organization its power. And experience. By joining an advocacy team, whether through FCNL or one of the other grassroots lobbying organizations, and participating in a few face-to-face visits, you can develop skill in the art of lobbying – skill that can be effective with state and local as well as federal offices – and a skill that you can use to advance all kinds of political issues that you care about.

## Fifty Years of Highlighting Peace – Thanks to You!

By Becky Payne, Co-chair

The Peace Education Center after 50 years, still retains supporters who have been a part of us from the beginning. Nelson Brown, our current co-chair, was one of the first peace center members. Working to deemphasize the power of the military over this country is still a valued goal. Antiwar work is less popular than it was in the Vietnam era or even the post-911 era. There are so many competing causes that deserve attention: the environment, race and class issues, morality within government, education, hunger... not to mention the COVID emergency.

But behind all of these issues loom the fact that huge portions of the US tax dollars fund the Pentagon, resulting in fewer dollars for anything else.

As other causes take priority, we struggle with getting attention focused on military reforms and oversight. There is still no effort afoot to audit the Pentagon's wasteful spending. Each year legislators from both parties happily send ever more of our tax dollars to this bloated entity. The media focuses on the crisis of the day, with military overreach rarely attracting their attention.

We press on! Enough of you thoughtful supporters are behind us that we can continue to do this important work. Thank you all for paying attention! If you'd like to be more involved, please join us at board meetings or contact us if you'd like to join your cause with ours. We are open to partnering with organizations that share our goals.

## Thanks for your support!

Thanks to these recent donors to PEC. We couldn't survive without your support.

Jim Anderson, Carol Baker, Richard Baker, Bob and Laurie Barnhart, Nan and Maurice Barone, Lynn and Tom Bartley, Beth Bogue Kathleen and David Borzenski, Brendan and Kathleen Boyle, Cynthia Bridge, Linda Brundage, Al and Beth Cafagna, Kate Darnell and Raoul Mitts, Jim and Connie Detjen, Peter Dougherty, Joe Droste, Anna Fisher, Ann Francis, James Giddings, Diane Grettenberger, Colleen Hyslop, Lawrence and Mary Hennessey, Joe Hess, Victoria Hoelzer-Maddox, Karen Hooker, Mary Jeffries, Bob Johns, Wendi Tilden and James Clift Melinda and Roger Kochenderfer, Steve and Leslie Lacy, Rex and Kathy Lamore, Gary and Pat Lee, Terry and Ellen Link, Lois Lynch, Rob and Melany Mack, Madeline Masterson, John Masterson, Rebecca Meszaros, John and Adeline Metzler, Shawn and Wendy Nicholson, Margaret Nielsen, Mary Jo Zeter Amy and Patrick O'Brien, Richard Peterson, Julia Petry, Peter Pratt and Diane Chrysler, John and Diane Revitte, Karrie Richards, John and Peggy Roberts, Susan Russick, Gordon Schleicher, Roni Sionakides, John Sarver, Lynn and Randy Scott, Renee and Bob Swanson, Sheila and Gordon Taylor, Ray Thibeault, Joan Tirak, Unitarian Universalist Church, Charlene Vanacker, Jim Veurink, Susan Waltz and Jack Smith, Ellie Wilbur, Dave Draggoo

## Mosaic

By Kathie Kuhn

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The planet is a canvas full of precious gifts and together we create an irresistibly beautiful mosaic ever dancing and expanding; healing every heart, releasing every fear and ending every war as we hold each other near and dear.

## Grow

By Kathie Kuhn

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We can't not grow even if we try  
So let's grow up right into the sky  
Expanding out like a sprout  
Deep and far and wide  
With love as our guide  
Peace multiplies

## Contact your Representatives

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