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Peace Notes

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*Peace Notes is a publication of the
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Want to Save Democracy? VOTE!

By Tom Oswald



Women's rights protesters assemble at the Michigan Capitol.

“We strongly believe that passage of these proposals is vital to the health and well-being of democracy in our state and nation, as well as to the many women in Michigan who are affected by these laws,”
said Nelson Brown, co-chair of the PEC Board.

The Peace Education Center is urging Michigan voters to support the three proposals that will appear on this year's mid-term ballot.

At its October meeting, the PEC Board unanimously approved a resolution supporting the proposals, which include changes to the state Constitution regarding term limits for state representatives and senators, preserving voting rights in our state, and reproductive freedom for Michigan women.

Proposal 1

While some supporters of Proposal 1 stress that it makes candidate finances more transparent, its main purpose is to approve longer term limits for Michigan's house and senator candidates. Under it, these candidates could now serve up to 12 years divided between the house and senate. While the PEC opposes all term limits because they give more power to in-the-know lobbyists, this measure alleviates the problem.

Please support Prop 1.

For more information on Prop 1, visit https://www.bridgemi.com/michigan-government/proposal-1-michigan-what-term-limits-ballot-measure-would-change?gclid=CjwKCAjwqJ5aBhBUEiwAg5W9p-ZZPWB4iuJ24BNdn6hRa8HuQ87VCSRhh8XNV8JZfjaXD50kMLo8GB0Cy6QQAyD_BwE

Proposal 2

The Peace Education Center **urges a yes vote on Proposal 2**, which supports voting rights in Michigan at a time many states are trying to take them away. The list of reasons why Prop 2 is right for Michigan are lengthy and includes recognizing the fundamental right to vote without harassing conduct; requires military or overseas ballots to be counted if postmarked by Election Day; requires state-funded absentee-ballot drop boxes and postage for absentee applications and ballots; as well as many others.

More information on Prop 2 is available at https://promotethevote2022.com/about/?gclid=CjwKCAjwqJ5aBhBUEiwAg5W9p5CItPctHEvGebzbjKxwKLFpa-ufQBihgJ3Gqwonzs2rBudLBAGvhoChF4QAvD_BwE.

Want to Save Democracy? VOTE! (cont.)

Proposal 3

The Reproductive Freedom for All proposal would write broad new reproductive freedom rights into the Michigan Constitution, invalidating a 1931 abortion ban and potentially other existing regulations. Specifically, it would, among other things, guarantee that every individual in the state has a fundamental right to reproductive freedom. That would include the right to make decisions about abortion, but also prenatal care, childbirth, postpartum care, contraception, sterilization, miscarriage management and infertility care.

Please support Proposal 3.

A “no” vote would leave abortion access up to elected officials in Lansing or judges, who have so far suspended enforcement of the state’s 91-year-old ban under rulings that abortion opponents are appealing to higher courts.

Also, the proposal would still allow elected officials to prohibit or otherwise regulate abortion after a fetus reaches “viability,” which is generally considered around 23 to 24 weeks into a pregnancy. However, the state could not prohibit any abortions that a medical professional deems necessary to “protect the life or physical or mental health” of the pregnant individual.

It would also prohibit the state from penalizing or prosecuting an individual based on “actual, potential, perceived or alleged pregnancy outcomes,” including abortion, miscarriages and stillbirths.

For more information, visit:

https://www.bridgemi.com/michigan-government/abortion-ballot-measure-what-proposal-3-would-do-michigan?clid=CjwKCAjwqJsaBhBUEiwAg5W9px0HH1ZUVJkXZ4q4fVeWRBYVKg1wzv0jSOIZlp0kX7IweAtDSc4EgBoCEOwQAvD_BwE

Of course, there are many more items on this year’s ballot, including races for governor, U.S. representatives, state representatives and senators, and judges, as well as many local races.



A guide to this year’s voting can be found here:

https://www.bridgemi.com/michigans-guide-elections-2022?utm_source=Bridge%20Michigan&utm_campaign=19d393f822-Bridge%20Newsletter%2009%2F28%2F2022&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c64a28dd5a-19d393f822-73900241&fbclid=IwAR3qZIkLio4m_7VesJLu-bexAGGunokiVGtKZVNvAsb08fvUueJXXoyA130;

and here: <https://lwvmi.org/>.



Climate Protest at the Michigan Capitol

Photo Credits: Petra Daher

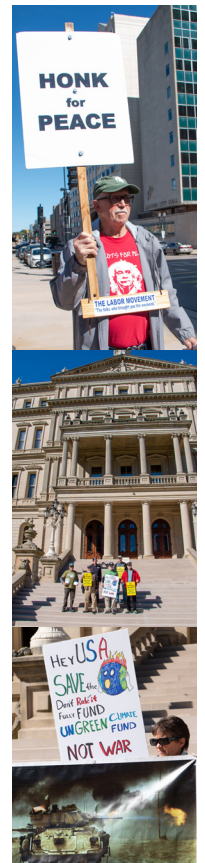


Veterans, Allies Demand Funds to Stop Climate Crisis, Not Enrich Weapons Makers

By Jim Rine, Veterans for Peace

On Sept. 23, U.S. Army veterans on the steps of the Capitol led dozens of people from environmental and peace organizations in a protest over the gross overspending by the federal government on its military versus on the worsening climate crisis and other critical social needs.

“Stop War, Save the Climate” was the theme of the event. After the rally, at which peace and environmental group leaders listed their objections to excessive U.S. military spending and offered alternatives, members of Veterans for Peace (VFP) and its Climate Crisis and Militarism Project blocked the intersection of N. Capitol Avenue and W. Michigan Avenue in front of the Capitol with their bodies, signs and a banner.



Climate Protest at the Michigan Capitol (cont.)



“While the only current attacks on the U.S. homeland are by climate disasters, we are projected to spend more than 20 times more on our military than on climate action,” said Jim Rine of Veterans for Peace. “Sens. Gary Peters and Debbie Stabenow have an obligation to save lives by changing spending priorities to work against the real and present danger of the climate crisis.”

Veterans carried a letter with their demands to the office of Peters, who sits on the Senate Armed Services Committee, a committee that recommends military spending levels.

“How is it that the U.S. can devote hundreds of billions to the war industry but only fulfill a tenth of what Biden promised to the UN Green Fund (\$11.4 Billion) that is desperately needed?” said Bob Barnhart, president of the Greater Lansing United Nations Association. “We need our senators to help shift priorities.”

After organization leaders spoke from the Capitol steps, the protest moved to the intersection of N. Capitol and W. Michigan Avenue, where veterans Rine and Elliot Adams were arrested for blocking traffic. Rine told the arresting officer: “I’ve written papers and lobbied Congress to no avail. Now I feel acts of civil disobedience are needed to wake the public to the dangers of the climate crisis.”

The event was part of the international Fridays for Future climate strike events, which were started by Swedish activist Greta Thunberg.



Photo Credits: Petra Daher

New Study Finds TV Gun Violence “Ubiquitous”

A recent study from the University of Southern California shows just how much gun violence is carelessly depicted on your television.

The study, from the USC Annenberg Norman Lear Center’s Media Impact Project, found that guns are “ubiquitous” in scripted TV dramas, while depictions of gun safety are “rare.”

Of 250 episodes sampled, the report found that one-in-three showed at least one person being shot, and that the victims were “disproportionally” white. About six in 10 episodes surveyed included gun-related content, but “fewer than 10 percent of episodes with such content included depictions of secure gun storage or discussions related to gun laws or origins.”

The study, which received support from the [Everytown for Gun Safety](#) Support Fund, examined 250 episodes from 33 scripted TV dramas over two seasons to gauge their depictions of gun safety practices, “common myths” about guns; discussions of gun laws; characteristics of those holding firearms, and the demographics of shooting victims.

And while most victims of [gun violence](#) on TV are white, in real life, the report says, “Young Black men are 20 times more likely to be killed by a gun than young white men. This inaccurate representation of gun casualties masks and distorts the ways in which shootings by law enforcement disproportionately affect communities of color. In reality, this violence is far from colorblind; Black Americans are three times more likely to be killed at the hands of law enforcement.”

The study, “Shooting Straight: What TV Stories Tell Us About Gun Safety, How These Depictions Affect Audiences, and How We Can Do Better,” was authored by Soraya Giaccardi, M.S.; Shawn Van Valkenburgh, Ph.D.; Erica L. Rosenthal, Ph.D., and Erica Watson-Currie, Ph.D.

For more on this study, visit <https://deadline.com/2022/09/usc-study-finds-tv-gun-violence-ubiquitous-victims-are-disproportionately-white-and-rare-depictions-of-gun-safety-have-positive-1235130047/>.

More information on gun violence also is available at the Michigan Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence website: <https://michigancoalitiontopreventgunviolence.org/>.



Our Forever Wars – and Why Women Should be Making Foreign Policy

By Becky Payne, PEC co-chair

Last night I read an article titled “Women of Color Should Be the Ones Remaking U.S. Foreign Policy” (Newsweek, 11-17-20) <https://www.newsweek.com/women-color-should-ones-remaking-us-foreign-policy-opinion-1548013>. It’s an intriguing idea worth considering, but while reading on that, I clicked on an embedded link that took me in another direction.

I landed on the Fallujah Hospital Facebook page where doctors post images of newborns <https://www.facebook.com/fallujahhospital2012/>. Not the happy pictures you might expect; these are very disturbing images. Fallujah has the highest rate of birth defects in the world. Not minor birth defects, these are children born with limbs and lumps growing out of their bodies in odd places, missing or deformed limbs or with bodies misshapen in ways that sometimes make them hard to recognize as babies at all.

In 2013, doctors reported that 144 out of every 1,000 babies there were born with birth defects.

Between 2002 and 2005, we dropped six billion bullets in Iraq – a total of 200,000 to 300,000 bullets for each person killed. The “Shock and Awe” campaign in 2003 dropped 800 cruise missiles within the first 48 hours. <https://merip.org/2020/09/birth-defects-and-the-toxic-legacy-of-war-in-iraq/>. Many bombs and missiles we use contain depleted uranium, a highly toxic chemical that remains lethal for thousands of years. We are truly creating “forever wars.” These days, military industries are crowing about expanding production to sell to even more countries than our own.

This is the hidden legacy of our forever wars. This is what our military spending spree causes. If you believe in “right to life” for the unborn or if you just believe in human decency, take a look at these baby pictures, consider the unmeasured costs of war and join us in believing that war is never the answer.



Map/Image credits: Wikipedia.org



Location within Iraq



Bridges of Fallujah over Euphrates River, Iraq.

Fallujah, you might remember, is a city in Iraq where we concentrated much of our hostilities in our campaign against Saddam Hussein. Then, we moved on. Who remembers Fallujah now? Who cares? Certainly not our government, which spews war and destruction on these cities, then finds a new target, our industries happily churning out ever more bombs and bullets to drop somewhere else.

Yes surely, if women were in charge of foreign policy, I can’t help but agree with the authors that “collateral damage” such as this and other hidden tragedies such as the children mutilated when they pick up unexploded bombs, the women raped, children orphaned, the starvation, disease, and families made homeless would get more consideration. Collateral damage is such a sanitized term for all of this non-combat devastation.

The Newsweek article stated that
our war on terror alone has killed 801,000 people and displaced at least 37 million globally.

Contact your Representatives

Senator Debbie Stabenow

202-224 4822

Hart Senate Office Building, Suite 731,
Washington, DC 20510-2204

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

Senator Gary Peters

202-224-6221

Hart Senate Office Building, Suite
724, Washington, DC 20510

<https://www.peters.senate.gov/contact/email-gary>

Rep. John Moolenaar

202-225-3561

117 Cannon House Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20515

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

Representative Tim Walberg

202-225-6276

2266 Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington,
DC 20515

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

Rep. Elissa Slotkin

202-225-4872

1531 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

www.slotkin.house.gov/contact



The United States and Ukraine are playing A Dangerous Game of Russian Nuclear Roulette That Only Negotiations can Prevent From Disaster

By Nelson Brown, PEC Co-Chair

The escalating war in Ukraine appears to be on the road to a very dangerous destination: Russia's possible use of a tactical nuclear weapon. Before the United States passes the point of no return where such a catastrophe strikes, all those concerned about peace should understand how we reached this juncture and why the US and Ukraine must start negotiations with Russia to avert a possible nuclear catastrophe.

What Has Led Up To The Current Crisis?

The immediate origin of reaching this crossroad starts with the overthrow of the democratically elected Russian President of Ukraine in 2014 during the "Orange Revolution." Until that time, no major NATO power stood directly on Russia's border: both Ukraine and Belarus were not part of NATO. After the Orange Revolution, the new Ukrainian leaders expressed a desire to join NATO – a move that aroused, with Russian support, several of Ukraine's heavily Russian-peopled Eastern regions to declare their independence. Without official designation, Russian forces then moved into these regions, including Crimea, and engaged in continuous limited fighting with Ukrainian forces there.

After this fighting started, Russia and Ukraine, with outside assistance, attempted to negotiate a settlement that would satisfy Ukraine's sovereignty but would prevent Ukraine from joining NATO. In 2015, Russia and Ukraine reached the Minsk II agreement that, inter alia, would turn Ukraine into a federated state with each region having an ability to veto Ukraine's entry into NATO; however, Ukraine never implemented this agreement. So, this dispute festered with no functioning agreement when the Russians launched a "special military operation" in February, 2022 with the apparent aim of toppling the Ukrainian government.

At first, Russia's invasion focused on taking Kyiv, but heroic Ukrainian resistance aided by some NATO military support stopped the Russian forces in their tracks, forcing Russian forces to withdraw. Thus, Ukraine handed Putin a strategic defeat and guaranteed that whatever else happened in the Eastern regions, Ukraine would survive as a sovereign state. The fighting now shifted to the Eastern Regions of Ukraine. At this moment, NATO, i.e., the United States, started to play a decisive military-support role in the war with one aim to "weaken" Russia as a great power. After initial Russian gains in the Eastern regions, a US armed Ukrainian military is now retaking some previously Russian occupied territory from a weakened Russian military. What might Russia do in this moment?

Only Negotiations Can Be Sure To Avert Disaster

What happens when an irresistible force hits an immovable object? This physics question also reflects the conflicting military and political forces at play in the moment. With their military success and NATO support, the Ukrainians now plan to win the war, which means that they expect to drive Russia from all territory occupied since 2014, including Crimea. Rather than accept a possible humiliating complete defeat, Russia has doubled down on winning something, although it remains unclear what President Putin would consider a victory. Putin has ordered a troubled "partial" national mobilization; has officially annexed the four Eastern Regions (Crimea was previously annexed); is crippling Ukraine's electrical power grid; and, most dangerously, has threatened to use a tactical nuclear weapon ("this is not a bluff") if the Russian territory was threatened. And remember, Russia has the largest nuclear arsenal in the world.

If ever a moment called for diplomatic negotiations to find an "off ramp" for both sides to conclude this war, it remains hard to guess what it is. But so far, Ukraine has continued to insist on retaking all territory, and the US has said there would be a dramatic but non-nuclear response if Russia uses nuclear weapons. President Biden has said the US will support Ukraine "for as long as it takes" to get Russia out of all Ukrainian territory. It seems that if these are the Ukraine's and the US's goals, they represent an irresistible force meeting Putin's immovable threat of using whatever means he has to defend what he considers Russia's vital interests, including nuclear weapons. And remember, in both physics and politics, there is no such thing as an irresistible force meeting an immovable object: something has to give.

By ignoring or downplaying Putin's nuclear threat without starting some diplomatic negotiations to find "off ramps," Ukraine and the US are playing a dangerous game of Russian nuclear roulette: spin the nuclear cylinder and see where it lands and pull the trigger; just take your chances. Of course, this is madness; the Russian threat has to be taken seriously. If Putin is pushed against the wall, he may use them. Of course, the US will respond, but how? And if the US response is severe, isn't Putin likely to respond in kind? And then what? Just keep spinning the cylinder and hope it doesn't stop on even more use of nuclear weapons? And round and round it goes, and where it stops nobody knows. The only way out of this dangerous game are negotiations to find these "off ramps" for both sides. We had better start diplomatic negotiations before the cylinder stops on nuclear war and we pull the trigger with disastrous results.

PeaceQuest 2022 Events Many and Varied

By Tom Oswald

PeaceQuest, the Lansing-area's annual celebration of peace and justice, took place this September, providing an eclectic range of activities, including authors and art to films and food to protests and poetry to sewing and singing.



PeaceQuest (PQ) is a community-wide celebration that happens every September. Its mission: To celebrate the United Nations' International Day of Peace, which was declared by the UN General Assembly with a resolution passed unanimously on Sept. 21, 1981.



One of PQ's most popular events is the Art Challenge, in which students are invited to create an original poster on a certain issue. This year's was The Universal Declaration of Human Right.

This year's winners were Willow Wright from Holt High School and Brielle Romero, a student at Kinawa Middle School in Okemos.

Their art projects can be viewed above and below, as well as several other photos from 2022 PeaceQuest.



The events are sponsored by many local organizations that promote peace and justice, including the Peace Education Center, the Greater Lansing United Nations Association, and many others. For a complete list of PeaceQuest organizers, please visit

<https://peacequestgreaterlansing.org/sponsors/>.

One of the more well-attended PQ events this year was the Salaam Peace Festival, held at the Islamic Center in East Lansing. Please see a separate story on this event.



Islamic Center of East Lansing Hosts Salaam Peace Festival

By Thasin Sardar



Muslims hailing from various countries showcased art, crafts, pottery, jewelry, clothing and other unique items specific to their countries. Vendors sold food from their countries of origin and took pride in offering a wide choice of international cuisine. The food vendors committed to donate upwards of 50 percent of their profits to programs that support recent arrivals from Afghanistan.

While young girls and women got Henna tattoos on their hands, children enjoyed face painting, balloon twisting and a bounce house. Inside the Islamic Center there was a Discover Islam poster exhibit and an Islam 101 session at the top of every hour. A young student recited verses from the Holy Quran and another station offered a chance for visitors to check their knowledge about Islam and Muslims by taking a quiz.



The word salaam in Arabic means peace and is a traditional greeting used by Muslims all around the world. And in the name of peace, the Islamic Center of East Lansing opened its doors to the community for a celebration of diverse Muslim cultures, fun and food on Sunday Oct. 2.

Organized as part of PeaceQuest 2022 in recognition of the United Nations (UN) International Day of Peace, the festival drew dozens of visitors to join members of the Islamic Center in an exchange of pleasantries, dialog and even offered an opportunity to learn about the faith of Islam and what Muslims believe in.



In a press release prior to commencement of the Festival, worship leader Imam Sohail Chaudhry said: "In line with the UN's widely celebrated International Day of Peace, we are excited to organize this festival in an attempt to share the Muslim culture and Islam's peace of message."

The Islamic Center organizers were pleased to host this festival as part of PeaceQuest, to celebrate the United Nations International Day of Peace, "a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples."



Calendar

ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY SALE

Friday, Nov. 18, 5pm - 9pm

Saturday, Nov. 19, 9am - 5pm

Edgewood United Church

469 Hagadorn Road, East Lansing

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, 6 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

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 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.

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

For calendar updates:

Check the PEC website:

<http://www.peaceedcenter.org/>

Visit us on twitter and facebook:

<https://twitter.com/PeaceEdCenter>

<https://www.facebook.com/peaceedcenter/>

Alternative Holiday Sale set for Nov. 18-19

By Tom Oswald

Holiday shopping can be challenging. 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. 18-19 at the Edgewood United Church, 469 N. Hagadorn, East Lansing. Sale hours are **Friday, Nov. 18, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.**; and **Saturday, Nov. 19, 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 this year features the internationally acclaimed folk band Windborne.

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-alternative-holiday-sale-concert/>

Entry to the sale is free, but tickets are necessary for the concert. In addition to all the sale items, meals and snacks will be available for purchase.

More information is available at the PEC website: <https://www.peaceedcenter.org>.

Update on the LGBTQ Kakuma Refugee Project

By Christina Reuther

Recently, due to the rise in life-threatening homophobic violence in the Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya, there has been an exodus of LGBT asylum seekers into South Sudan. An estimated 30 LGBT are now seeking asylum in The Unity Refugee Camp run by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. This is a temporary camp built in Unity State, South Sudan.

Daily camp-wide homophobic violence, persecution and discrimination continues in Kakuma. The hostile state of Kenya is still not offering protection to the LGBT community of asylum seekers who are criminalized in Kenya. They are unable to integrate into the complex milieu due to homophobia and violence. They are experiencing 21 out of 30 human rights violations and several crimes against humanity ranging from sexual violence to murder attempts.

The homophobic human rights violations range from being unable to attend religious places of worship, being denied education and work opportunities, lack of asylum, lack of protection from persecution, inability to visibly be who they are, and denial of basic needs items such as food and water without violent attack.

The asylum system is designed to contain the LGBT community in the camp with little hope of obtaining refugee status and resettlement. There is no protection for this community we estimate at 500-600 LGBT. Many refugees have lost hope and have given up on the UNHCR Kenya and the Kenyan government to provide protection and protect their human rights. The asylum seekers are running to other countries now in a desperate attempt to preserve their lives.

The situation has reached a crisis state. Global activists are now calling for emergency evacuation and asylum out of Kenya for this vulnerable, at-risk population.



I would like to tell you the story of Ismal, my dear friend and the coach of our men's LGBT football team, The Warriors FC Kakuma. Coach has built this team up from the ground with very little funding and support from the global community. Up until a few weeks ago, four of our players played barefoot. The players and coach suffer homophobic harassment on and off the field. They play with a lack of equipment. Transportation to the matches and team meals before the game have been challenging to get funding for. Yet, no matter what challenges these refugee footballers face they refuse to give up.

That's why we named the team The Warriors. Because that's what they are, warriors for freedom for the LGBT community in Kakuma. They have given a sliver of hope to the community who are very proud of their football team.

Recently coach Ismal was outed as a member of the LGBT community. He had been closeted, disguised as a heterosexual man so he could work and earn money. He was outed by his colleagues during work hours and was ambushed by 15 homophobic Somalis who stoned him, hit him with sticks, and chased him with machetes trying to kill him. Because he is an athlete he was able to out run them and get away.

He finally escaped the Kakuma refugee camp and began walking to the South Sudan border. He went days without food and water and had to hide and sleep on the side of the road. Three days into his exodus to save his life, a few men driving a gas container truck pulled over to help him. They could see he was in terrible condition and they had compassion for him. They smuggled him over the border into Sudan as he hid in the back of the truck.

They took him to the Unity camp in South Sudan where he is now seeking asylum. The camp officials have put the LGBT asylum seekers cases on hold for the next two months to figure out what to do with them. Only time will tell the fate of coach Ismal as his life hangs on by a thread.

Kakuma Refugee Project (cont.)

My heart breaks for my dear friend Ismal. I love and admire him very much. He is an exceptionally courageous and brave man who barely has escaped death. He is a kind and beautiful man who refuses to give up.

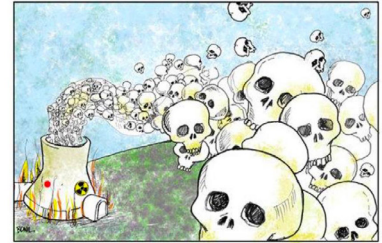
I am looking for private donors to sponsor these men to financially assist them. They are in desperate need of support. I will connect you with these brave men directly, and you will find out for yourselves why I am so honored to call them my friends.

(Christina Reuther is an international human rights defender, advocating for LGBTQIA community members from Eastern Africa escaping genocide.)



Zombies Against Palisades (ZAP)!

Bailout/Restart the Closed Palisades Atomic Reactor?
Now That's SCARY!
What'd Somebody EAT YOUR BRAIN?!



Saturday, October 29, 2022, 1-3pm
Exterior Grounds, State Capitol Building, Lansing, MI

Dress Up as an Anti-Nuke Zombie (Diabolical Beastie, or other Crazy Critter)—Protest Scheme by Gov. Whitmer, Energy Secretary Granholm, & Holtec Int'l for a Billion Dollar Public Bailout, to Restart this Dangerously Age-Degraded Monster!

For More Info., Contact:
Kevin Kamps, Beyond Nuclear and Don't Waste Michigan,
(240) 462-3216, kevin@beyondnuclear.org,
www.beyondnuclear.org

Digging Potatoes with Quinnie

By Becky Payne, PEC Board co-chair



I waited to dig the potatoes this fall until my two-and-a-half-year-old grandson arrived for a visit from his home in Texas. Spending time with Quinnie is the highlight of my year. He's so precious, a tiny bundle of nerves and heartbeats, eagerness and joy.

Every spring, I have always felt the urge to get a few vegetables in the ground. At this stage in my life, my garden always includes potatoes. True, potatoes are cheap and plentiful, but there is just something delightful about turning over a shovelful of dirt and finding the soil full of them. I hoped little Quinn would feel the same.

The first chance we had, I took him to the garden, gave him an orange toy shovel and we started digging. "There's one," I said, and much to my delight he was hooked. We dug until our basket was full and headed to the house to show his parents.

That night, immediately on arriving home from a long day out, he grabbed his shovel and asked if we could go dig more potatoes. My heart swelled.

Digging potatoes may seem to be just an afternoon's playtime, but with every shovelful of dirt we turned over, I was hoping to plant in Quinn a love for the Earth, this mother of us all who is equally as fragile as this darling child. I hoped that he would fall in love with the gentleness of working the soil, the generosity of the dirt that holds and gives up its treasures when we treat it right. I hoped that he would learn the joy of hard work and accomplishment.

If he visits in the spring, I hope he can learn the patience that comes with setting new hope and waiting for those little bits of last year's potatoes to magically turn into this year's crop. I hope he will learn to look for the warm sun and gentle rains.

My heart tightens every time I think about this frightening age he was born into with its endless wars, unstable governments, and most especially, climate change. His life is going to be so much harder than ours. Hopefully, I can give Quinn the memory of a time when the Earth gave up its blessings easily and the beginnings of the skills to maintain it.

PEC Survey

If filling out on paper, please return the survey via the included donation envelope to the Peace Ed Center office at 1120 S Harrison Rd, East Lansing, MI 48823

Peace Education Members and Supporters,

Please take a few minutes to fill out the survey below. Your responses will help guide us as we work to keep you informed on local and international peace related news and events!

How did you find out about the Peace Education Center?

How do you hear about PEC events?

(multiple selections accepted)

- ☐ Facebook
- ☐ Twitter
- ☐ Website
- ☐ Newsletter

Other:

How do you prefer to attend PEC events?

- ☐ Virtually
- ☐ In-person

How do you prefer to read the PEC newsletter?

- ☐ Paper- receive through mail
- ☐ Digitally

What do you visit the PEC website, Facebook, or Twitter for? (multiple selections accepted)

- ☐ Upcoming events
- ☐ PEC Statements
- ☐ News - local and international

Other:

Which topics are you most interested in? (multiple selections accepted)

- ☐ Upcoming local events
- ☐ Petitions to sign for various peace-related actions
- ☐ Information on militarism, wars, and conflict areas in the world
- ☐ Information on joining the military
- ☐ Information on the costs of war
- ☐ How our elected officials vote on militarism
- ☐ Environmentalism
- ☐ Women's Issues
- ☐ Local and international news

Other:

Would you like to volunteer with the PEC?

If yes, in what capacity? (multiple selections accepted)

- ☐ Event Planning
- ☐ Tech Support
- ☐ Advocacy Efforts
- ☐ Article Submissions (PEC Newsletter)
- ☐ Alternative Holiday Sale

Other:

Volunteer Cont. Do you have other skills or ideas you'd like to contribute to the PEC? If yes, please include your contact information along with your skills or ideas.

What was your most memorable/favorite lifetime peace action or event? *Can we publish your response?* Yes / No

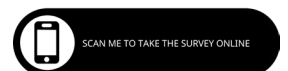
How old are you?

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this survey!

If you have any additional comments or suggestions please use the space below.

How to use the QR Code to take the PEC survey online:

- 1) Open the Camera app on your smart phone or tablet.
- 2) Select the rear facing camera.
- 3) Hold your device so that the QR code appears in the viewfinder in the Camera app. Your device will recognize the QR code and show a notification.
- 4) Tap the notification to open the link to the PEC survey.



PEACE EDUCATION CENTER
1120 S Harrison Rd, East Lansing, MI 48823

Working for Peace
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IN PEACE WE TRUST

The Peace Education Center's Annual **Alternative Holiday Sale**

Celebrate an annual community tradition!

Local Vendors & Artisans, Fair Trade Goods
Peace & Justice Groups and Homemade organic snacks & lunches



Friday, November 18th, 5-9PM
Saturday, November 19th, 9AM-5PM

in the Edgewood United Church Building

469 N Hagadorn Road in East Lansing

for more information contact: peaceedcenter@gmail.com

“Although attempting to bring about world peace through the internal transformation of individuals is difficult, it is the only way. Wherever I go, I express this, and I am encouraged that people from many different walks of life receive it well. Peace must first be developed within an individual. And I believe that love, compassion, and altruism are the fundamental basis for peace. Once these qualities are developed within an individual, he or she is then able to create an atmosphere of peace and harmony. This atmosphere can be expanded and extended from the individual to his family, from the family to the community and eventually to the whole world.”

Thich Nhat Hanh

Devoted to social justice,
Thich Nhat Hanh was nominated
for the Nobel Peace Prize by
Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1967.