



PEACENOTES

A PUBLICATION OF THE PEACE EDUCATION CENTER



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Tom Oswald, Editor
Samantha Dillon, Designer

Love and Support for Gaza, Solidarity from Michigan

BY THASIN SARDAR

While the people in Gaza demonstrate what it means to be resilient in the face of relentless airstrikes against their homes and civilian infrastructure, the people in the Greater Lansing area showed what it means to be resilient and steadfast in their solidarity and support for the people of Gaza despite a snowstorm which they braved to ride on a bus journey to a rally to Washington D.C. on Jan. 12th, 2024.



the Greater Lansing area but a couple each from as far as Muskegon, Mt. Pleasant and Grand Rapids as well. The people joining us from far and wide on a two-day trip to D.C. and back was a testament of solidarity with the people of Gaza from all across Michigan.

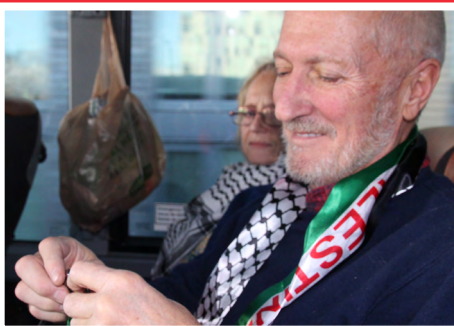
And if there was another bus going from Lansing, we could have easily filled that up as several students started calling in the days just before the trip and by then the bus was full. In all, over a dozen buses departed from various cities in Michigan and several others drove in their own personal vehicles and some chose to fly to the rally.



to us on our bus seats. The long ride was filled with exchange of stories and opinions with fellow co-passengers.

We broke into smaller manageable groups and identified our meeting point for our scheduled departure 12 hours later and dispersed into the crowds of marchers in D.C. Unlike the grey skies and snow laden roads of Michigan, D.C. felt pleasant as there was plenty of sunshine and temperature was around 50 degrees. We had taken flags of several countries that are strongly protesting the crimes against the people of Gaza, namely South Africa, Yemen, Algeria, Lebanon etc.

As we marched, we witnessed people expressing their support in various forms from waving flags to singing to enacting the crimes being perpetrated by the Israeli Defense Forces. The site of the rally was



When the rally was announced back in mid-December, several of us spontaneously made a commitment to join it. On the day we were supposed to depart, we got between 6 and 8 inches of snow in the Greater Lansing area and several more inches in many other parts of the state. Cathryn Young, who rode the bus with us, joined us all the way from Muskegon. She left home in the morning to beat the storm and reached the Islamic Center of East Lansing, at 2 p.m., although the bus departure time was 9 p.m., as she did not want to miss the bus. Fifty-four people had signed up for the trip, mostly from



Ten minutes after we departed on the bus, we saw a semi had crossed the median between north and southbound US-127. That sight left me wondering what the next 10 hours of our ride to D.C. would entail! Our driver, Raheem Wilkerson, kept a steady hand at the wheel and foot on the pedal and drove us safely out of the storm in Michigan. Once we were well into Ohio, he picked up speed and with a couple of rest area stops, he got us into D.C. around 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 13. A group of women at the Islamic Center prepared to-go meal packages which we enjoyed during the long journey to D.C. with new found friends that sat next

packed, and we could barely see the stage as there were between 450,000 people rallying.

Our group members stayed in touch with their respective group leaders to make sure no one was lost or in need for any support. The speeches were inspiring and the crowds were roaring with support for the people of Gaza. One individual in a Spiderman costume climbed up a light post and waved the flags to the pleasure of the cheering crowds.

CONTINUE READING >>

PEC, Other Organizations Work for Gaza Ceasefire

BY LAURA SAGER

The world is watching, marching, and demanding an end to the carnage caused by Israel's brutal bombing, tank, and sniper attacks on the 1.5 million civilians trapped in Gaza — 70 percent of whom are children. We join with most countries, especially those in the Global South, in calling for a permanent ceasefire and safe passage for humanitarian aid to the starving civilians.

The Peace Education Center — working with Lansing-area organizations and individuals in the Coalition for a Free Palestine — has joined the millions in the U.S. and across the globe to demand an end to this horrendous war starting with a permanent ceasefire, providing humanitarian aid, Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and negotia-

tions leading to justice for Palestinian aspirations.

We are working to educate the public about the history of Palestine and to support protests and other actions to pressure political leaders and President Biden to compel Israel to support a permanent ceasefire and to stop hindering humanitarian relief, all under penalty of stopping military and other aid.

Today, the U.S. stands virtually alone both in vetoing a ceasefire and in denying a resumption of funding to the UN Relief and Works Agency, the organization that has historically managed the distribution of food and the provision of education and shelter to Palestinian refugees.

Our country's actions blatantly disregard the International Court of Justice's finding of sufficient evidence of war crimes to continue its investigation into possible Israeli genocide and ethnic cleansing of Palestinians in Gaza, especially after Israeli leaders have called Palestinians "animals" and "sub-human" to justify their elimination and/or removal.

The following represents some of work the Peace Education Center and the Coalition for a Free Palestine are doing to support Palestinians in Gaza and on the West Bank.



1. LISTEN TO MICHIGAN CAMPAIGN

The most effective effort to pressure the Democrats and Biden to change course has been the tank, campaign, which asked voters to vote "uncommitted" on the presidential primary ballot on Feb. 27. (Many individual Peace Education Center members have supported this effort, although our nonprofit status means we cannot do so as an organization.)

The outstanding press coverage of this effort has put the eyes of the nation on Michigan, a swing state vital to Biden's efforts. (The campaign does not take a position on people's votes in the general election.) This brilliant strategy is demonstrating the strength of the public's anger over his support of Israel's continuing assault on civilians. If you want to read some of the campaign coverage, go to Listen to Michigan.

The Listen to Michigan campaign has been covered by thousands of news outlets, including the New York Times' front-page stories. Notably, Sen. Bernie Sanders has now presented a resolution to block funding for Israel that was not acted upon. Pressure by constituents has won some allies in Congress.

Biden has already softened some of his rhetoric in a response to the campaign, but his administration continues to block efforts for a ceasefire, for restoring UNWRA funding, and for other humanitarian aid to the surviving Palestinians dying from famine and thirst, horrific wounds, disease from overcrowding and lack of sanitation. The scope of this humanitarian disaster cannot be overstated. It is enormous.



2. CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

PEC members were among the throngs of residents who packed the Lansing City Council meeting on Monday, Feb. 12, to support a resolution calling for a ceasefire. **The City Council members voted unanimously to endorse the resolution.** This effort was spearheaded by **Lansing for Palestine**, with members of the Coalition for a Free Palestine, Hurriya (a student coalition of 20 groups), and others in support. **Their public comments and the vote that followed later in the meeting can be viewed here.**

While the East Lansing City Council recently voted down a ceasefire resolution, East Lansing residents have not given up and will be presenting new resolutions for the Council's endorsement.



3. PEC SUPPORTED A BILLBOARD CAMPAIGN

You may have seen billboards calling for a ceasefire around the Lansing and Detroit areas, with the Greater Lansing Peace Education Center as the sponsoring organization.

We're proud to be in alliance with other organizations that have worked together to use billboards to bring this demand to the attention of state residents.

CONTINUE READING >>

Are They Dead Yet?

BY BECKY PAYNE

Shhh, let's not talk about the Gazans. Our TVs don't talk about them – on the Sunday morning news shows since October 7, the pro-Israel bias is between **60 – 95%**. Only one guest has been Palestinian. Our politicians don't talk about them either - only **five senators** support calls for a ceasefire. Our nation is singing *la, la, la* to drown out the horrifying devastation.

Those of us who do pay attention have shuddered as Israel has driven over 85 percent of Gazans out of their homes. We cringe as the few hospitals that haven't been destroyed run out of anesthesia, pain medication – and even clean water. We shake our heads as parents sob over tiny body bags holding their children – or children clutch at the body bags of their parents. Gazan hospital workers have coined a term for the many children whose entire families are dead – Wounded Child with No Surviving Family; WCNSF for short.

And now the U.S. is cutting its support for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency's food aid. When the money runs out at the end of February, other aid groups say they **will**

not be able to fill the need. So, we wait for the remaining Gazans to starve. Let's get it over with so we don't have to listen. *La la la...*

But isn't starving two million people **illegal**?

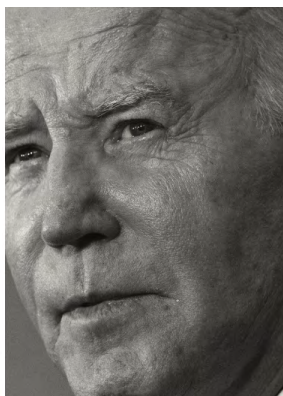
It's complicated, our leaders say, as they send billions to Israel for weapons. It's complicated, they say, as Israel faces charges of genocide. It's complicated, they say, as the U.S. fires missiles and drones toward sympathetic militants who dare to fight back, causing war ripples in the Middle East that are only beginning to spread.

Funny, how much we care about those shipping channels, though. Now *that* gets our attention.

Out of all our country's recent military incursions, this one is so painful to watch ... and so **preventable**. This war is the **most horrific and destructive** in modern times. The U.S. has great clout with Israel. We could stop this. But President Biden, Sens. Peters and Stabenow, and local representatives Slotkin and Walberg join the chorus... *la la la*.

I'm shocked. Especially at you, Sen. Stabenow. Weren't you trained as a social worker? Don't you see the hungry children sleeping in the mud? Don't you hear the reports of disease spreading? Children so traumatized they shake uncontrollably? Your term is ending; you no longer need to kowtow to get those big donations. *La la la*.

My heart breaks. Doesn't yours, Senator? No? Then where is it, I'd like to know.





PEC Board Member Recalls Middle East Visit

BY JIM DETJEN

In May 2018, PEC board member Jim Detjen and his wife, Connie, visited Palestine and Israel to learn more about the Palestinian-Israeli crisis and to learn about Biblical history in the region. They participated with a tour group that was organized by a Disciples of Christ pastor who had a reputation for fairness. They learned a great deal on this trip but were shocked by how most Palestinians were treated by Israeli officials. They also realized how one-sided most media coverage in the United States is. There is a strong bias favoring the Israeli government and the Palestinian viewpoint is rarely heard.

Our bus approached a checkpoint on our way to the Sea of Galilee. Everyone stopped talking when two Israeli soldiers entered the bus and asked to see our passports. The young men, clad in olive green uniforms and bulletproof vests, methodically examined each of

our IDs. Each man was about 20 years old and carried an AK-47 assault rifle.

When finished, the soldiers exited and passengers began talking again. We were on our way to see where Jesus, the Prince of Peace, had preached "Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God." We were less than 10 miles from the Golan Heights where gun fire punctuated the nighttime air. Military vehicles were parked along the sides of the roads.

What the soldiers didn't know was that in the back of the bus, covered with blankets, was our guide's Palestinian wife. A devout Christian, she had wanted her entire life to see where Jesus performed his miracles. But under Israeli law she was prohibited from going there because she was Palestinian.

It was May 2018 and Connie and I were touring the Holy Land on a visit to Israel and Palestine. We were part of a 14-day "In the Footsteps of Jesus: An Alternative Tour" to see where Jesus was born and baptized, preached, and then crucified. Eighteen Americans and Canadians were part of this pilgrimage organized by a retired Disciples of Christ

pastor.

It was a thrill to visit the Holyland which I first learned about in the 1950s in my Sunday School class in upstate New York. Among the Biblical sites we visited was the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem where experts say Mary gave birth to Jesus. And in Jerusalem we crowded into the Church of the Holy Sepulchre to see where Jesus was tried and crucified.

But we also learned a great deal about the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. I was saddened -- and sometimes shocked -- at the militarization of Israel and the way many Palestinians are mistreated. Everywhere we encountered heavily-armed soldiers, roadblocks, checkpoints, and walls. There was a palpable feeling of tension during much of our pilgrimage.

Israel is a small country, just 300 miles long and 85 miles wide -- about the same size as New Jersey. But it has been racked by deadly violence since it became a nation in 1948.

[CONTINUE READING >>](#)

AMERICA NEEDS A CITIZENS' PEACE MOVEMENT

BY NELSON BROWN

Events keep showing that America needs a citizens' peace movement to prevent its mistaken and disastrous wars and interventions. Since World War II, the United States has been involved in seemingly endless wars and military conflicts, a good number disastrous or inconclusive despite our military superiority.

These wars have been sold to the public by a foreign-policy elite that predicts dire consequences if they were not fought, but almost always the rationales for these adventures turn out to be false or overwrought. In response to these wars, especially starting with the Vietnam War, popular peace movements and organizations composed mostly of non-establishment volunteers, like the Peace Education Center, have emerged to oppose these wars and interventions, and the rationales for them. And viewing the historical record, the peace movements' opposition to these wars and their rationales has been more of-



ten vindicated than the judgment of this elite.

In its over 50 years, since its founding to oppose the Vietnam War, the Peace Education Center has challenged America's wars and interventions, and time has vindicated this opposition. In the 60s, the elites' "best and the brightest" argued, using the "Domino Theory," that unless the United States stopped the Communists in Vietnam, the other countries of Southeast Asia, and beyond, would fall to Communist domination.

Groups like the PEC argued that the war was started under the trumped-up Gulf of Tonkin incident and that it represented an undefeatable national liberation struggle to free Vietnam from the vestiges of foreign domination, whether Chinese, French or American. In 1975, an embarrassing helicopter exit from the American embassy in Saigon ensued. No other countries fell to Communists.

After the shock of 9/11, this foreign-policy elite overcame the last effects of the war-hindering "Vietnam Syndrome" and rushed the country into long-sought wars against Afghanistan and Iraq. This elite falsely linked Afghanistan and Iraq to al-Qaeda and claimed that Iraq was developing weapons of mass destruction.

With a traumatized public's support, American forces quickly overthrew the Taliban and two years later invaded Iraq. Facing these impending wars, the peace movement, including the PEC, spoke out and organized against overthrowing the Taliban as opposed to lesser actions

to oppose al-Qaeda, and challenged that Iraq was involved in 9/11 and had weapons of mass destruction. Again, the criticism of the peace movement proved more insightful than that of the policy elite.

Currently, the war in Ukraine and now the Israeli assault on Gaza dominate the news. While the peace movement, including the PEC, has condemned the Russian "Special Military Operation" in Ukraine, the movement has urged the United States and Ukraine to end the conflict with a negotiated settlement because the war is not winnable. The current stalemate vindicates that view. Again, the less-well-funded peace movement has shown better judgment.

Now the main challenge facing the peace movement is to stop the Israeli horrendous war crimes in Gaza and settler terrorism on the West Bank. Facing this horror, the peace movement, including the PEC, have called for a ceasefire and humanitarian relief. The movement has also called for the United States to publicly criticize Israel and cut off military aid if our advice remains unheeded. Without a peace movement, Israel's war crimes would go unchallenged.

Events since the Vietnam War have shown that in foreign relations, especially for war making in an age of few Congressional checks on the president, the urgent need for a citizen-motivated peace movement to challenge the military/industrial/foreign-policy elite's mistaken wars and military interventions should be obvious. Locally, the PEC has tried to be a voice to fill this need to speak truth to power.



How's That War on Terror Working Out for Ya?

BY BECKY PAYNE

Once I tried to stomp out a fire in a pile of leaves. But every time I stomped, burning leaves just floated up and settled in other places, lighting more fires. I think of that when looking at our nation's ham-handed "War on Terror."

President George W. Bush famously announced a global, U.S.-led war on terror, in 2001:

"It will not end until every terrorist group of global reach has been found, stopped, and defeated," he said.

Unlike the usual wars on foreign countries with leaders and boundaries and specific territories, this was a war on an idea. There can be no end to a war on an idea as long as the precipitating cause remains a bitter reality for those affected.

When President Obama was elected, I assumed that such foolishness would stop. But he and now Biden embraced and expanded the concept.

In 2022, the Friends Committee on National Legislation published an issue brief studying the success or failure of the war on terror. Guess what? They found that

terror attacks worldwide increased fivefold.

In countries where the U.S. invaded or conducted air strikes, terror attacks rose by **1,900%**.

Two decades of a militarized approach to terrorism has caused almost incalculable harm, both at home and abroad. It has killed and injured hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians, most of them Black, brown, and/or Muslim; displaced millions and put them at increased risk of malnutrition, disease, and exploitation; caused severe environmental destruction and exacerbated the climate crisis; and cost U.S. taxpayers more than \$8 trillion.

Stomping on those leaves created so many little fires that the surrounding woods began to burn. Terrifying. Luckily, the fire department was able to put that one out. But who do we call when our nation's leaders keep stomping on hot spots around the world – especially now, when the winds of discontent are gusting ever stronger?



DOOMSDAY CLOCK KEEPS ON TICKING

BY TERRY LINK

No one believed Katrina would happen before Katrina happened. No one believed Fukushima would happen before Fukushima happened. Virtually no one believes a nuclear war will happen before it happens. But a nuclear war happening is not a disaster; it is a holocaust. Nuclear war must be averted, and most countries have already taken steps to opt out of nuclear madness. However, nine nation-states cling to their nuclear arsenals, throwing the planet and all its beings into devastation's way.

This was the opening paragraph of [an essay](#) I recently read which inspired me to try to address this often-ignored crisis for which the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists currently sets the [Doomsday Clock](#) at 90 seconds to midnight.

With the tinder in many places awaiting just a spark to set ablaze, most of us give it not a second thought. But thankfully there are groups of citizens around the globe doing what they can to reduce the chance that a spark might engulf us all.

In the preamble to the essay, the editor(s) lay out the broader context nicely:

While the perils of climate breakdown and Artificial Intelligence garner and even monopolize attention today, humanity and its leaders neglect addressing other formidable dangers – notably, nuclear war and militarism more broadly. Not only is the existential threat of nuclear war real and pressing, but, at this historical juncture of multiple planetary crises, humanity cannot afford investing in any aspect of the military machine.

Yet of course that is exactly what the biggest global military spender is set to do yet again. As we await any day President Biden's 2024-25 budget proposal, we can expect it to approach \$1 trillion for militarism in this election year.

You sure don't want to be seen as soft on defense, and the hardline hawks are sure to push for more on top of whatever he proposes. Neither can we expect either of our senators, nor our local representative, to challenge the slush fund that is our military budget, one that continues to fail an audit every year without penalty.

The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) and its Local Advocacy Teams are lobbying simply to remove the gravy train known as the Unfunded Priorities List, a huge platter of pork, which was instituted during the Trump administration.

Urge your representative to support the Streamline Pentagon Budgeting Act (H.R.4740) and your senators to support a similar proposal from Sen. Elizabeth Warren. For more information see FCNL's [Backgrounder](#).

The [Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons \(TPNW\)](#) has been in force since 2021 and has been signed by 93 countries. Not surprisingly, none of the nuclear powers have signed. Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA) has introduced H.R. 77 which calls for the U.S. to actually work toward making the treaty work. [Here's a link](#) to information on the resolution and how to reach out to Congress.

Noted veteran military analyst William Hartung shares the following in a piece reviewing the release of the film Oppenheimer.

"The Nobel prize-winning International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) reports that the U.S. spent [\\$43.7 billion](#) on nuclear weapons last year alone, and a new Congressional Budget Office report suggests that another [\\$756 billion](#) will go into those deadly armaments in the next decade." (Those are funds now unavailable to deal with climate change, housing availability, health care, etc.)



CONTINUE READING >>

RESOURCES	
Abolition 2000	Global Zero
Arms Control Association	ICAN International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons
Back From the Brink	International Peace Bureau
Beyond the Bomb	Nuclear Threat Initiative
Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists	Nuclear Weapons Ban Monitor
Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament	Physicians for Social Responsibility
Center for Arms Control and Non-proliferation	Ploughshares Fund
Common Dreams- Envisioning a World Without Nuclear Weapons	SIPRI Stockholm International Peace Research Institute
Council for a Livable World	Union of Concerned Scientists
Don't Bank on the Bomb	UN Office of Disarmament Affairs
Federation of American Scientists	Unfold Zero



Negotiated Settlement Only Solution to Ukraine Stalemate

BY NELSON BROWN

What do you do when you have a stalemate where the other side probably has the longer-term advantage? Even mainstream media like the New York Times recognize Ukraine's summer counteroffensive failed with both sides suffering heavy casualties and material losses. Even if Congress votes more money, it is unlikely to make much difference militarily.

Then, what are the rational choices to deal with a stalemate? Continue the bloodletting, direct U.S. intervention or negotiating the best settlement possible? Negotiations are the only sensible response even if the result emerges as far from perfect from Ukraine's and the U.S.'s perspective. [LEARN MORE.](#)

But the thought of continuing a war that remains, at best, a stalemate also raises troubling moral questions. One is the

morality of continuing a non-winnable war given the pointless death and destruction that means. Another is letting Ukrainians serve as cannon fodder to support imagined American interests in weakening Russia. The only possible justification for continuing a winless war would be that it supports some epic purpose.

To justify a winless war, some will drag out tired Munich analogies. But there exists no objective evidence supporting the claim that Russia has any plans – let alone the ability – to go on an expansion binge if it gets a favorable settlement.

Some who are fearful make contradictory arguments. They say Russia will soon be attacking another country if successful in Ukraine, ignoring of course that as a NATO member, that means a war against the U.S. and NATO. These same people also often argue that war has shown how incompetent is the Russian military. Ukraine's initial success in repelling a Russian advance on Kyiv demonstrated that Russia's military remains no match for NATO.

Under objective standards, finding negative epic consequences represents fearmongering, like using the 60s Domino Theory on Vietnam or Weapons

of Mass Destruction for Iraq. As Prof. John Mearsheimer argues, Russia took a defensive move against Ukraine because it did not want a nuclear-armed NATO directly on a key border. The same with Georgia.

John Mearsheimer: Israel-Palestine >>

The irony here is that by trying to surround Russia to prevent war by containing it, the U.S.'s desire for complete control sparked the war it intended to stop.

Even a less domestically repressive Russian leader than Putin – who clearly is a bad, bad guy – would have been tempted to do what Putin did. The Russian elite see NATO as a hostile force they do not want on their border. Russians remember Napoleon's and Hitler's invasions.

Moreover, the so-called-rule-based-order risked nuclear war to keep nuclear-armed missiles out of Cuba. Nations are sensitive to having hostile countries on their borders. Such disputes should be negotiated, not settled on the battlefield. Such is the need for diplomatic settlement in Ukraine.

The fundamental problem is that our foreign-policy elite see America as the "indispensable" world power. In resolving conflicts, the U.S. operates on a zero-sum-game approach with our military power as the final arbiter of disputes. The U.S. needs a win-win foreign policy approach. We need a foreign policy that combines recognizing the reality of international power politics with the need to find negotiated solutions to the conflicts that arise. In the case of Ukraine, a negotiated settlement is the only realistic solution to the war.

One group that is trying to develop such a foreign policy is the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft. [CHECK IT OUT.](#)



VIRTUAL PROGRAM BY
GL-UNA & ZONTA DISTRICT 15:

International Women's Day

An Overview of the Equal Rights Amendment

March 7
at 7 pm



Africa's Invisible Conflicts: Focus on the DRC

BY JOHN METZLER

Over the past three months, the mainstream media in the U.S. have been focused almost entirely on two international stories: The ongoing conflict in Ukraine and the crisis in Gaza.

Of course, as reported in other stories in our current newsletter, these reports are all too often biased and incomplete. Erased by our media's near laser-focus on these two conflicts are serious crises in other regions of the world, including conflicts in Africa that are all too often invisible or sparsely covered by our media. And, when covered, they are most often limited to a few paragraphs that report on, inter alia, the body count of a clash between competing ethnically based militia, providing no background, context, or meaningful analysis.

As an Africanist, I have been frustrated throughout my professional life with the lack of meaningful coverage of African stories, particularly of stories that focus on the positive developments throughout the continent. In recent years, when African stories are covered in the media, they have often focused on two of our government's obses-



sions since 9/11.

First, "fighting global terrorism," which in the African context, has been a fixation on the activities of Islamic-affiliated groups such as Boko Haram in northeast Nigeria, al Shabaa in Somalia, a variety of militia in the Sahel, such as al Qaeda in the Maghreb (Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso). The current crisis in the Sudan is most often presented to reflect official U.S. concern over the spread of "radical" Islam, and support for global terrorism.

And second, Africa continues to be seen through the lens of a cold war legacy, which in its current manifestation is perceived as competition with China and Russia (e.g. fixation with the work and purported influence of the Wagner Group in countries such as the Central African Republic), which can be a focus of a future newsletter piece.

Lost in this laser focus are other crises in Africa, including the decades-old conflict in the

eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) which has resulted in the deaths of more than 3 million Congolese since 1996, the current internal displacement of 6.2 million people and more than 1 million Congolese seeking refuge in neighboring countries in east and southern Africa, not to mention widespread endemic hunger and the decimation of health care infrastructure.

When our news media covers the DRC, as intimated above, it reports gruesome statistics but most often without context or meaningful analysis. Moreover, when there is an attempt to explain, the media resorts to what social scientists refer to as "explanatory constructs" such as ethnic rivalry ("tribal conflict") that only serve to obfuscate the reality and reinforce stereotypes that have

[CONTINUE READING >>](#)



NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS!

2024 marks the 12th year that the Peace Education Center has offered to recognize graduating seniors in the tri-county region with the Tom Schneider Peacemaker Award. Each year since Tom's sudden departure, we have raised funds to be able to offer, along with a beautifully calligraphy-designed framed certificate, a \$500 check to the winners. We don't call it a scholarship, although many past winners have been worthy of academic scholarship recognition. What we look for in going through the nominations and references are young people who have stood up to address some flaw in our social environment and given themselves to finding a solution.

We seek nominations again this year which are due by **April 1, 2024**.

If you are aware of a student who has



demonstrated a commitment to peace and justice, we encourage you to nominate them or have them apply. We will be celebrating the winners at our annual meeting and at their graduating high school honors event.

Inspired by the life of Tom Schneider, a former PEC board member and remarkable and inspiring peacemaker, it is one small way we keep the message of peace as a calling alive in our community.

Last year's award winners were Avery Blair of Okemos High School, Isabella Grass of Grand Ledge High School, Katelyn Ryals of Bath HS, and Colin Scheib of Bath HS.

[LEARN MORE >>](#)



CONSIDER DONATING TIME, TALENTS AND MORE TO PEC

The headline in the top story of the Peace Education Center's last newsletter, published in the fall of last year, read "PEC Calls for Ceasefire in Gaza." Unfortunately, despite our best efforts, and those of many others around the world, that has not come to pass.

As noted in a story in this edition of PeaceNotes, the PEC has been extremely involved in educating the public about what this war means and how it is affecting the millions of people who live in or have family and friends in Gaza.

As noted in the story, within this past year we have helped in protests and demonstrations that have taken to task Israel's war on the Palestinians, as well as the Biden administration's support. One of our board members spearheaded a trip to Washington, D.C., to take part in a protest that brought together hundreds of thousands of people. That's in addition to many other projects that we have whole-heartedly supported.

For us, that's just another day at the office. For more than 50 years,

the PEC has been among the leaders, not only in the greater Lansing area but throughout the state, in helping bring to light the injustices that plague this troubled world in which we live.

In fact, the PEC launched the **Michigan Peace Alliance**, a state-wide consortium that connects over 25 Michigan-based organizations that are dedicated to peace.

It seems the work never stops. We look to Ukraine and Palestine as examples of needless bloodshed, but there are other serious, just-as-violent conflicts going on worldwide. Our view is: We see peace as involving relationships, not just between nation states, but within societies and communities everywhere.

As we continue this important work, 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 visit the **PEC WEBSITE**.

You can also make a **secure donation online**. Thank you!

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✉ PeaceEdCenter@gmail.com
 🌐 PeaceEdCenter.org
 📍 1120 S Harrison Rd
 East Lansing, MI 48823

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GREATER LANSING AREA

2024 EVENTS

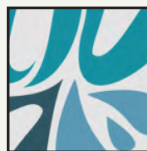


MARCH 6, 7 PM

EDGEWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE GAZA CRISIS

The Situation, the Context, and the Call for Action. Presented by Stephen Gasteyer, associate professor of sociology at MSU and member of the steering committee of the national United Church of Christ Palestine-Israel Network.



MARCH 21, 6 PM

VIRTUAL PROGRAM

CLIMATE, AFFORDABILITY, AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Water Equals Life webinar hosted by Michigan Clinicians for Climate Action to understand the detrimental effects of unaffordable water rates and explore solutions. [LEARN MORE>>](#)

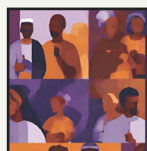


MARCH 7, 7 PM

VIRTUAL PROGRAM

INTL WOMEN'S DAY

GL-UNA & Zonta District 15 Women's Day Program: "An Overview of the Equal Rights Amendment." Featuring Rebecca Goldman, Justice Reform Legislative and Policy Specialist at the LWV of the United States. [LEARN MORE >>](#)



SUNDAYS THROUGH 3/26, 7 PM

UNIVERSITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

HOW TO FIGHT RACISM

University United Methodist Church and virtual Lenten Adult Study Class, based on the book "How to Fight Racism" by Jemar Tisby. For information or to reserve a space: office@eluumc.org



MARCH 8, 8 PM

UNIVERSITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

BROADWAY REVIEW: ALL THE MANY COLORS OF LOVE

UUMC's Choral Scholarship fundraiser. Tickets are \$50 each and may be purchased on Sunday mornings in the Gathering Space, in the church office, or via Venmo: [@UUMCDonation](#).

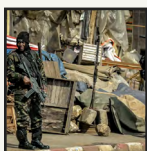


MARCH 27, 4 PM

VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM

QUARTERLY MICAN MEETING

Join MiCAN staff and fellow members at their virtual Spring Members' Meeting for a few new-in-2024 organizational updates. [LEARN MORE >>](#)



MARCH 9, 8 PM & MARCH 23, 8 PM

2 PART VIRTUAL SERIES

THE CAMEROON CRISIS

Sponsored by Meta Peace Team. Join Stephen Asek and Dr. Alain Martin, International Governance Institute, Cameroon, for a 2-part virtual series on how deep-seated divisions have brought Cameroon to crisis. [LEARN MORE & REGISTER](#)



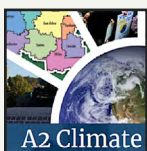
ALTERNATE MONDAYS, 7:30 PM

VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM

PALESTINE READING GROUP

The group is currently reading "The Hundred Years' War on Palestine" by Rashid Khalidi. If interested, please email imsager@pm.me.

Note: Opportunities to get involved in addressing crisis in Palestine are also provided to the group.

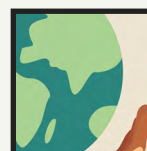


MARCH 10, 1:30 PM

GENESIS OF ANN ARBOR, 2309 PACKARD ST

A2 CLIMATE TEACH-IN

Build Your Climate Action Toolkit. Keynote speaker Congresswoman Debbie Dingell. [LEARN MORE & REGISTER >>](#)



APRIL 22, 2024

EARTH DAY

Many events locally, statewide and nationally. [LEARN MORE](#)