

Looking Back... Moving Forward

Contributed by Terry Link



Our new (and old) home at the University United Methodist Church in East Lansing

The Peace Education Center's office is moving back to the University United Methodist Church, 1120 S. Harrison Rd., where it was located years ago. Much of our center's historical material has been donated to the Special Collections of the Michigan State University; we've been adding more as we prepare to move.

Sorting through old boxes, what unfurled before me was the passion and commitment of the dedicated ones who gave birth to this movement and have kept the hope for a reduction of violence and glimpses of nonviolence.

Some of those have passed away – David Greer, Kathleen Guins, Bill Petry, and Tom Schneider to name a few. Others have moved away, Dave and Anabel Dwyer, Ann Francis, Bruce Roth. Looking at flyers for events, meeting minutes, and newsletters from the 1970s was a reminder of the various causes that were championed – conscientious objection, ending the Vietnam War, ending support for the Shah of Iran, ending the occupation of Palestine, abolition of nuclear weapons, to name just a few. Some of the same issues remain today, joined by newer ones and yet we find fewer volunteers. The aging of our active members is a concern as we try and keep the light and possibility of nonviolence aglow.

The Peace Education Board is the best of many boards

I have ever had the privilege of serving on. Everyone chips in their precious time, supports each other, and fearlessly shares truth as they see it. We recognize that there are so many threats to residents of this planet we share – racism, human rights, income inequality, poverty, hunger, disease prevention, failing criminal justice system, ecological degradation, climate change, endangered species, animal welfare, proliferation of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction, unrestrained production, trade and use of armaments, and legacies of colonialism, to name a few.

As we note elsewhere in this newsletter, you get what you pay for. And we are paying for military and armaments while starving diplomacy, development aid, infrastructure, and ecological integrity. If we are to turn this ship away from a violent future, we need to join together and realign our spending with our values. We encourage you to join with us on any of the important challenges before us. It's our money that builds the weapons of war. If we aren't tackling what you think we should, come join us and throw your shoulder to the wheel with the rest of us. We can use all the help we can get.

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In Memory

Bill Petry (1940 - 2009)
Tom Schneider (1942-2011)

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Peace Notes is a publication of the Peace Education Center. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the Board.

Is War about Protecting Us... or Profit?

Becky Payne, Editor

It's tax time again. Time to take a really hard look at where all those dollars we send to Washington are spent. Over half of the nation's discretionary tax money goes to one thing – the military. Schools, roads, prisons, health care, everything else takes a back seat to our perceived need for "protection." How protected are we when our service net is falling apart, and our kids can't get a decent education? Is all that military spending really necessary?

Modern warfare, when you study it closer, is less about keeping us safe than about feeding money into the arms industries. Read the review of the book *Disarming Conflict* in this issue. Because of the tremendous profits to be made in producing arms, the author states, "The arms race itself becomes a primary point of contention while the political issues at stake are lost first to the drum beat and then the fog of war."

Then turn to the pie chart to see where your money actually goes. Note the tiny little slivers that go to the services that run this country. Post this on your refrigerator so you don't forget. Whenever there is a new "enemy" making politicians' and newscasters' hair stand on end, think of the phrase that cuts to the heart of so many legal and political issues – Cui bono?, or To whose profit? Look behind the panicky headlines and find out who the real enemy is – often it is not the so-called "terrorists," it is the greedy hands reaching out for an ever-bigger slice of the budget pie.

» LOOKING FOR MORE?

To learn more about military spending and alternatives to it, join our Cost of Militarism Education Team book discussion group (see regularly scheduled events on page 4). Or, check out the following websites, suggested by Terry Link:

National Priorities Project

<https://www.nationalpriorities.org/campaigns/military-spending-united-states/>

Global Campaign on Military Spending <http://demilitarize.org/>

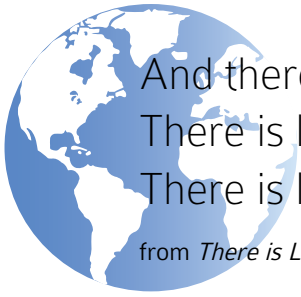
Council for a Livable World <http://livableworld.org/>

Arms Control Association <http://www.armscontrol.org/>

Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs <http://pugwash.org/>

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute <http://www.sipri.org/>

If you want to tell your congressional representatives what you think about military spending, their contact information is on page 5. Use your voice!



And there is peace deeper than war
There is love stronger than fear
There is love

from *There is Love* by Kathie Kuhn

TPP Threatens Self-Governance

Contributed by Phil Ballbach

Congress later this year will be asked by the administration to pass the highly controversial Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), an international trade agreement involving the United States, Canada, Mexico, Japan, and eight other "Pacific-rim" countries. This proposal, considered by some critics to be one of the most pro-corporate, anti-democracy requests to ever come before Congress, would in effect prevent member countries, including the U.S. and its individual states, from passing laws to improve the quality of life for people.

Actions such as raising the minimum wage, improving working conditions, restricting fracking, requiring food labeling, inspecting food imports, allowing generic drugs, and regulating banking would be prohibited where corporate profits are impacted.

If a country went ahead and took such an action, it could be sued by affected corporations for the amount of lost profits. Cases would not be decided in civil courts, but rather by international tribunals with judges appointed by global corporations.

The PEC's Cost of Militarism Education Team (COMET) will be hosting a discussion and consideration of possible actions regarding the proposed TPP on Tuesday, March 15, 7-9 pm, at Everybody Reads Bookstore, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. If you would like to participate in the discussion, please contact Phil Ballbach (332-4274 or pballbach@comcast.net) to receive reading materials beforehand.

YEA for this Great Summer Camp

Contributed by Morgan Linn

When most kids think of summer camp, they think of the traditional place - a camp to occupy their time, and maybe make some new friends along the way. However, when I attended summer camp for the first time last year, it turned out to be so much more than your standard program - I came away with priceless memories, overflowing knowledge, and a new sense of self-confidence.

Youth Empowered Action Camp, (YEA Camp) is for kids ages 12-17 who want to learn ways to make a difference in the world. We learned from role-model activists about various social justice causes and how to become involved in them. I love animals and was immediately drawn to animal rights activism. Luckily, I was surrounded by other kids and mentors who cared about the same things I did, and were eager to help me out.

Each day we had classes talking about different causes and ways to improve as a change-maker. We covered issues of animal rights, women's rights, race, education,

sexual orientation, and other current important topics. Skill workshops taught about leafleting, canvassing, starting clubs, fundraising, and talking to people about issues that are dear to us. We did team building exercises, had campfires, had a talent show, and went on nature walks. The other kids I met at YEA Camp were all so inspiring and motivated, and I can honestly say that they are my family away from home. I have made several life-long friends that I know will always be there for me when I need them.

This was the most life-changing experience I have ever had. I left more confident, compassionate, open-minded, and motivated. To any kid out there who wants to make a difference, this is the place to be. To parents looking for a summer camp for their kids, YEA Camp is, without a doubt, the best.

Morgan Linn is a 2015 Okemos HS grad, now attending MSU. She is very active in anti-animal cruelty and pro-sustainable food issues. She is a Member of VegYouth and Okemos Action.

A Spring Calendar for Peace & Justice Education, Action and Celebration

» Upcoming meetings, discussions on important topics and events that celebrate, and promote community .

Regularly Scheduled Events: Upcoming Events:

Every Friday • Noon Peace Vigil, 12-1 in front of the State capitol

First Tuesdays • Greater Lansing Time Bank Potluck and Orientation at Foster Community Center from 6-9 p.m., midmichigantimebank.org

First Thursdays • Peace Education Center Board Meeting 7pm in the PEC office at University United Methodist Church 1120 S. Harrison Rd., East Lansing

3rd Mondays • Greater Lansing Network Against War & Injustice (GLNAWI) planning meeting, 7pm. March in the lower-level conference room of the Unitarian Universalist Church, 855 Grove Street, East Lansing. Contact peaceedcenter@gmail.com for later locations.

1st and 3rd Tuesdays • The Cost of Militarism Education Team (COMET) Reading Group, 7pm at Everybody Reads Bookstore, Lansing - explores the use of U.S. military power to protect corporate interests, the excessive allocation of funds to "defense spending," and the costs of American imperialism. pballbach@comcast.net

» Be SANE!

Contributed by Terry Link

Support the SANE Act (Smarter Approach to Nuclear Expenditures) H.R. 1534, S. 831, a bill to reduce the number of nuclear-armed submarines operated by the Navy, to prohibit the development of a new long-range penetrating bomber aircraft, to prohibit the procurement of new intercontinental ballistic missiles, and for other purposes. The U.S. has a responsibility to our fellow humans, as agreed to in nuclear arms treaties, to REDUCE our nuclear arsenal, not to strengthen it. This bill is one possible approach to slow and reverse the proliferation of weapons that do not discriminate.

Tuesday, March 15 • Discussion and consideration of possible actions on the proposed TPP (see separate article)

Wednesday, March 16 • Flint Water Crisis: Health, Governance, and Infrastructure, IPPSR Public Policy Forum, 11:30am-1:30pm. Anderson House Office Bldg, Mackinac Rm., Lansing. 517-355-6672 or www.ippsr.edu.

Thursday, March 17 • Smart Grid in Michigan – Networking 5-6. Presentation 6-7. Michigan Energy Options, 405 Grove St., EL. Pat Hudson, Michigan Public Service Commission Manager.

Saturday March 19 • Everybody Eats 2016 - a one-day conference poised to energize food system awareness and reform in Mid-Michigan communities. St. Casimirs School, 800 W Barnes Ave., Lansing. Register online at [Everybody Eats](http://EverybodyEats.org) or 517-432-1034.

Sunday March 20 • Open House at Red Cedar Friends Meeting 12-2pm. Celebrate 6 years in the building and the receipt of LEED certification. Tour and hear about this energy-saving site.

Sunday March 20 • "Making a Killing: Guns, Greed and the NRA" (video) 7pm at East Lansing Hannah Community Center. \$5.

Friday, April 1 • Application deadline for the 2016 annual Tom Schneider Peacemaker Award. This financial award is for teens who are finishing high school this year and are committed to working for peace and justice. Apply for yourself or for someone you'd like to recommend. See www.peacedcenter.org for information and an application.

Monday, April 4 • Naomi Klein, Author of The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism. MSU Wharton Center, 7:30pm <http://www.whartoncenter.com/events/detail/naomi-klein>



PHOTO: PEC distribution of yard signs and United Nations holiday cards at the annual Alternative Holiday sale is both a fund-raiser and a way to send a message of peace.

Saturday April 15 & 16 • 14th Annual Keep Making Peace Conference: Locked in, Locked up, Locked out. Mass incarceration and inequality - University United Methodist Church, 1120 Harrison Rd. EL, 9am-4pm.

Register at www.msuwesley.org/kmp2016.

Thursday, April 21 • Zero Energy Homes – Networking 5-6. Presentation 6-7 Michigan Energy Options, 405 Grove St., EL. How to design and build a home that produces as much energy as it uses. www.glrea.org.

Saturday, April 23 • Pax Christi Michigan State Conference: Breaking the Silence: Confronting Race, Power and Privilege. Cristo Rey Church, 201 W. Miller Rd., Lansing 517 481-5280 www.paxchristimi.org

Tuesday, April 26 • Global Wave (Protest March), Petition for Total Elimination of Nukes, 1pm. Corner of Woodward and 11 Mile, Royal Oak.

Saturday, April 30 • PEC annual membership Meeting and Potluck Dinner 4 - 7 p.m. University United Methodist Church 1120 S. Harrison Rd., EL. All are welcome.

Thursday, May 26 • Clean Power Plan, Networking 5-6. Presentation 6-7. Michigan Energy Options, 405 Grove St., EL. Discussion of the Clean Power Plan to reduce power plant emissions. www.glrea.org.

Friday-Saturday, June 24-25 • Great Lakes Renewable Energy Fair, Ingham Co. Fairgrounds, Mason.

<http://www.2glrea.org>

Saturday August 8 • 70th anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki Atomic Bombs. - Oak Ridge Tenn. To sign up for chartered bus or carpooling from Michigan, contact Kim Bergier at 2mistnbc@gmail.com, or 248-515-2380

If you have an event related to peace & justice, let us know so we can consider it for our next newsletter!
peaceedcenter@gmail.com

USE YOUR VOICE!
 Your representatives need to hear from you on important issues!

Senator Debbie Stabenow
 1-202-224 4822
 731 Hart Senate Office Building
 Washington, DC 20510
www.stabenow.senate.gov/?p=contact

Senator Gary Peters
 1-202-224-6221
 724 Hart Senate Office Building
 Washington, DC 20510
www.peters.senate.gov/content/contact-gary

Representative Mike Bishop
 1-202-225-4872
 428 Cannon House Office Building
<https://mikebishop.house.gov/contact>

Representative John Moolenaar
 1-202-225-3561
 117 Cannon House Office Bldg
 Washington, DC 20515
<https://moolenaar.house.gov/contact/email>

Representative Tim Walberg
 1-202-225-6276
 2436 Rayburn House Office Building
 Washington, DC 20515
<http://walberg.house.gov/contact/>



...wars don't start without access to arms. The lack of sustained arms could prevent (or shorten) armed conflict, even with the other conditions prevailing.

Disarming Conflict: A Book Review

Contributed by Terry Link

In [Disarming Conflict: Why Peace Cannot Be Won on the Battlefield](#) (2015) Ernie Regehr, co-founder of Project Ploughshares, and highly-regarded expert on war and peace has analyzed every armed conflict since the end of the Cold War (1989). Interestingly, in the 98 wars he identified, almost none ended with a clear victory for one side. As he walks us through these conflicts, we begin to see the futility of war, and our apparent ceaseless ignorance of that fact.

Below are four chief factors that start wars.

- 1) The presence of heightened political, economic, and social grievances;
- 2) Intergroup competition and conflict that reflects disunity within a society;
- 3) Capacity for sustained use of force (arms); and
- 4) The perceived lack of ways to settle grievances through conflict resolution.

He points out that wars don't start without access to arms. The lack of sustained arms could prevent (or shorten) armed conflict, even with the other conditions prevailing. But we need to address the other three conditions as

well - that is where the majority of wars are resolved. Regehr doesn't suggest that military efforts are not useful, but the evidence provided overwhelmingly supports more efforts at diplomacy and resources aimed at diplomacy to address the causes of the conflict. To quote:

... the greater the armaments and armaments competition, the more the focus shifts away from the political and economic substance of the conflicts to concentrate instead on the competitive accumulation of arms and fighting forces and the political distortions that accompany them....

...a relentless culture of vulnerability is promoted by the military-industrial-congressional-scientific-think tank complex (one could keep adding to the list of the component elements). It seeks to keep military funding on track and helps to shape the political culture and national psyche. (p.134-5)

If we expect this to change, we need to more vigorously challenge this dominant cultural psyche, as we can see displayed in our own federal budget (see elsewhere in the newsletter)

Could Reality Finally Be Settling In?

Contributed by Terry Link

For 2017, the President's proposed budget would designate the Pentagon to receive about two-thirds of this year's discretionary budget. Willam Astore, retired lieutenant colonel (USAF) and professor of history, recently called the Pentagon, "[The World's Deadliest Spoiled Brat.](#)" Astore points out there are too many special interests at play. Congress members and Senators are always protecting their local piece of the pie. They won't try closing an unnecessary base or canceling a boondoggle weapons system. Even the usually conservative Forbes magazine writes about ten Pentagon budget busters that could be eliminated or at least reduced. But will any of our elected officials be brave enough to call out the Pentagon's waste and unbridled growth?

Congress isn't even willing to audit the Pentagon. If you are concerned, ask your representatives to support the Audit the Pentagon Act ([S.327](#), [H.R. 942](#)). As of this writing, not one of our local representatives or senators has signed on as a sponsor. If you signed the letter we recently circulated and received a response, please let us know. If the response was sympathetic, contact them again and ask them to co-sponsor the legislation. Without pressure from citizens, the rabbit hole of military spending will just get deeper and deeper, thus turning off the valves for funds that might relieve hardship, improve infrastructure, and preserve and restore our fragile ecological systems.

Inspired by the work of the peace and justice lobbying group Friends Committee on National Legislation, this group is attempting to develop relationships with our elected federal officials...

Knockin' on Legislative Doors

Contributed by Terry Link

As part of a newly-formed local group of concerned citizens, I met recently with staff from Rep. Mike Bishop's office to discuss repeal of the 2001 and 2002 Authorizations for Use of Military Force (AUMF) that have led to what seems like endless war. Inspired by the work of the peace and justice lobbying group Friends Committee on National Legislation, this group is attempting to develop relationships with our elected federal officials and to share with them both our support for peace and nonviolent conflict resolution, as well as to raise alarms around military spending priorities, criminal justice system reforms and other topics of concern to the peace and justice community.

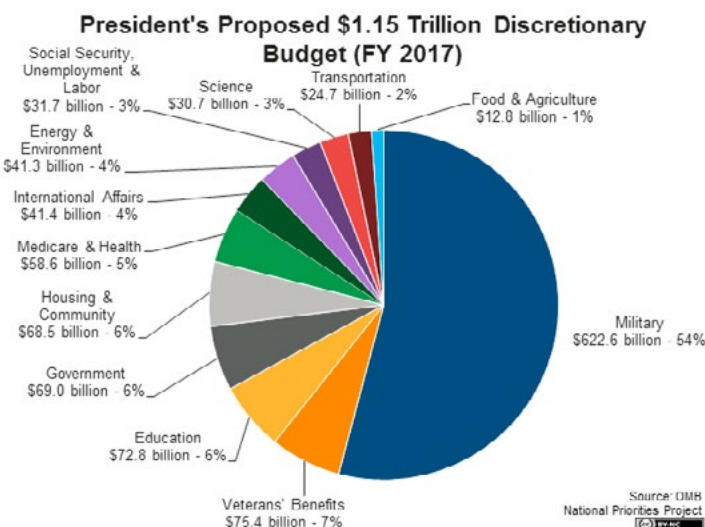
The group is attempting to arrange meetings with the Congressional officials and staff representing the greater Lansing area, including Senators Stabenow and Peters, and Representatives Bishop, Walberg, and Moolenaar. In our meetings we provide information and rationale for moving away from armed conflict, while listening to the concerns of the elected officials. In our most recent meeting with Stuart Pigler, key staff member for Rep. Bishop, we pushed for Bishop to support Congressional

debate over authorization of military force, a constitutional responsibility of the Congress. Specifically we asked for:

1. Immediate repeal of the AUMF, enacted on 9-18-01 in response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks, and the AUMF enacted on 10-16-02 on the Iraq war;
2. A Congressional Finding that open-ended AUMFs, such as these, are inconsistent with the authority of Congress to declare war; and
3. A sunset provision limiting the duration of any new AUMF.

We encourage PEC members and supporters to contact their federal officials asking them to support these three basic actions. Rep. Barbara Lee, the only member of Congress to vote against the 2001 AUMF immediately following the 9/11 terrorist attacks, has sponsored a resolution ([H.J.R. 30 Comprehensive Solution to ISIL](#)) that calls for the US to work with the international community through the United Nations to remove the ISIL force, rather than simply unleash mass destruction onto countries and innocent civilians through bombardments.

Reality Finally Be Settling In? (continued)



Remember, Congress has a major say in what is funded and Congressional hawks are calling for even more funds for the Defense department. [The president's budget proposal](#) for 2017 includes:

- \$583 billion for the Pentagon and war, a \$2 billion increase over 2016
- \$7.5 billion (less than 2 percent of the Pentagon's total budget) for operations against ISIS
- \$59 billion for the slush fund known as the Overseas Contingency Operations
- Quadrupled funding, or \$3.4 billion, for the European Reassurance Initiative



PEACE EDUCATION CENTER

Annual Meeting Announcement

Don't miss the PEC annual membership meeting and community potluck!

Saturday, April 30th from 4-7pm

It will be held at our new location:

University United Methodist Church
1120 S. Harrison Road in East Lansing.

Take a tour through our new office. Share a potluck meal with folks who share your passion for making the world a better place. Hear updates on what's going on in the local peace and justice community. Find out how you can become involved. Board elections, annual report, and year in review.

Please bring a dish to pass.

» ATTENTION ALL HIGH SCHOOLERS!

The PEC is accepting applications through April 1st for the 2016 annual Tom Schneider Peacemaker Award. This financial award is for teens who are finishing high school this year and are committed to working for peace and justice. Apply for yourself or for someone you'd like to recommend. See www.peaceedcenter.org for information and an application.