Upcoming Events...

**Thursday, December 4**  
**Movie: Beyond the Divide @ the Roxy**
7 pm. War, peace, and the courage to find common ground. Fifty years ago, an enduring divide began between those who served in Vietnam and those who fought a different war at home. Through the courageous acts of a Vietnam veteran and a peace advocate in Missoula, Montana, BEYOND THE DIVIDE illuminates a path to healing old wounds while reimagining peace. If you missed this last spring, this is your chance to see this locally made film about peace. It has been winning awards around the world.

**Don’t miss it this time!!**

Join us for these FUN Holiday Traditions

**Friday, December 5, Kid’s Night, 5-7 pm** — Our Traditional event where kids can do their holiday shopping without parents. This is a favorite for both kids and parents. Parents, you get a break. Kids, you can find and wrap something for your parents without the discovering what it is.

**Saturday, December 13 at the old Selvage Studio** JRPC will host the Hip Strip warming station. Come fold cranes & wrap gifts with recycled paper — all for a donation of your choice. We are also planning on an OPEN HOUSE at our 519 location so you can get some great sales on fair trade gifts to wrap! Please come see us!

**Friday, December 31, 4 pm-midnight, Caras Park** — First Night Luminaries -- Bring a luminary to Caras Park and help make a giant peace sign to usher in the New Year.

First Night Luminaries Volunteer Opportunity

Usher in the New Year by helping people create messages for peace! Every New Year’s Eve, the Jeannette Rankin Peace Center creates a peace sign made from luminaries in Caras Park as part of Missoula’s First Night Celebration. First Night participants are invited to make a luminary of their own and add it to the peace sign with their own wishes for peace in the New Year. JRPC provides the materials. Volunteers from JRPC welcome those who wish to make luminaries, keep the candles lit, and watch over the peace sign. This is a wonderful way to help usher in the New Year in the spirit of peace. We need eight volunteers, two each for 2-hour shifts from 4:00 pm to midnight. To volunteer, please contact Nancy Leifer, JRPC’s volunteer coordinator, at volunteer@jrpc.org or by calling 406-207-9114.

Double your holiday gift giving!

A donation to JRPC, a gift membership, or a memorial/honor donation make a great GREEN gift.
Letter From The Director

Dear friends,

Pretty soon, we will see wishes for “peace on earth” all over town. But we know that it is more than words on a card. This is my tenth December as the Executive Director at JRPC. It is a job filled with constant challenges and demands. But it has also been filled with the opportunity to get to know so many of you and to work side by side with you for something we believe deeply in. I am so thankful for the opportunities you have given me to be part of this community and to serve in this role.

Part of the job is to ensure that the organization grows and thrives. And for that, I tip my hat to all of you because it is your financial contributions, membership dues, and volunteer time that make that happen. This time of year, you get many requests to remember local organizations with end-of-year donations. I would not be doing my job if I didn’t make sure JRPC was on your list for places to consider donating. I thank you in advance for taking the time to consider honoring us with a donation. We’ll make sure it works for “peace on earth”!

As you plan for the 2014 tax season, I hope you also remember the Montana Endowment Tax Credit, a way for donors to pay less in Montana state income tax when they make a planned gift to a qualified Montana charitable endowment like JRPC. Planned gifts are a way of giving that allows donors to maintain access to income during their lifetime, provide estate and tax planning tools, and build permanent wealth for Montana’s non-profits. Things like gift annuities, charitable trusts and some estate gifts all fall into this category. The incentive is 40 percent of the gift’s federal charitable deduction, up to a $10,000 tax credit, per year, per individual, and a credit of 20 percent of a direct gift by a qualified business, up to $10,000 per year. And remember, this credit is in addition to your charitable deduction! The bottom line is a big win-win for you and the organizations you support. Talk to your attorney or tax advisor to find out more.

This month Rusty and I will pay our own JRPC membership dues, and we will include a special end-of-year donation as well. We believe it is important to support the businesses and organizations we love, and JRPC has given both of us an opportunity to practice living our values and to learn from others who inspire our journey. I hope you will join us to support the work JRPC has done and will continue to do, with your help.

My wishes for peace to all of you my friends,

Betsy
Non-Commercial Holiday Sharing Ideas:

So many of you are looking for different ways to give to others for the holidays. We have a list for you to get you thinking. Be as creative as you can. Just being with others: friends, family, neighbors, anyone. Help someone in need. Volunteer time to Imagine Missoula, Transition Missoula, Time Bank, JRPC or any favorite non-profit. (in your name or someone else’s)

Give experiences.
Focus on others, reconnect with loved ones.
Is someone on your list pregnant, elderly, has an upcoming surgery or spousal deployment? Fill their freezer with home-made food.
Run errands for a busy or housebound relative.
Does someone love to entertain? Offer to cook and/or clean up for their next party.
Give your time or money in their honor to a cause that is close to their heart. You may even find that the recipient wants to volunteer with you.
All that being said, **sometimes the only way you can make someone happy is to buy them exactly what they want.** In those cases, buy something from their list that is in the budget and not from a corporation we refuse to support. My highest priority for the holidays is to let people know that we love them and think of them, and some people feel love in different ways.

Further Resources
**Etsy** a shopping site devoted to handmade items. You can search by location if you want to keep your carbon footprint low.
**The Crafty Crow** collects kids craft ideas from many blogs.
**Sew Mama Sew** sewing focused blog, that is currently doing a series of posts with ideas for people with lots of different ideas.
**Poppytalk** a Canadian idea blog with it’s own handmade marketplace. Many places they link to also ship to the US.

Gift Your Skills
Whatever you can do, people need and appreciate the help. Some ideas:
- Babysitting
- Computer tech help
- Yard work
- Tax/accounting help
- House or closet cleaning
- Dog walking
- Errand running
- Offer to scan/digitize old photos
- Donate volunteer time at meaningful place for recipient
- Assistance with elder care

Creative Stuff
Create and share a playlist
Compose a list of your favorite things from the past year: movies, books, music, blogs, cookbooks, etc.
Create a set of greeting cards with watercolors or collages and meaningful quotes
Make a set of fun refrigerator magnets—glue magnets onto small toys/objects such as thimbles, white-tipped pencils, etc.
Fancy hand-lettering of your favorite quote or song lyric for the gift of frame-able inspiration
Write down a favorite memory with the recipient in a nice, keep-worthy card

Culinary Creations
Homemade body scrub
Granola or cookie/scone mix in a jar
A “coupon” to be redeemed for a home-cooked meal
Little bags of custom spice mixes

More ideas
Simple decorations, modest gifts, a potluck dinner (community), quality time
Donate what you do not need to a children’s hospital
Make your own decorations
Gift swap instead of buying for everyone
Give gifts that give back: —heifer international and 7loaves.com
Donate extra $ saved or put it into a fund for a needed item
Collect recipes from my mother, grandmother and aunts, and create a personalized cookbook.
Write and record a song with verses about family lore. Make your mother’s famous caramel popcorn — No one knew I cut out the nuts, which were too pricey for my meager budget.
Sing or attend free holiday concerts!
Read together.
Watch holiday movies. Turn on holiday lights, Snuggle under cozy blankets, and watch your favorites.
Drive around to look at holiday lights.
Spend time with family and friends. Connect with old friends and distant relatives through holiday cards.
Bake your favorite cookies and candies.
Have a family sleepover in the living room by the Christmas tree.
Add nature to your list too. As the weather gets colder, our love of the outdoors is often forgotten. Find more ways to celebrate the holidays outdoors. Let the kids go outside in their Christmas pajamas at night to look at our lights and get their picture taken. A hot chocolate and cookie picnic could be another fun tradition to start!

Bonus idea
**Kids’ Dinner Party/Free Parent Night**
Double up on the gifts here. Invite a few kids over for dinner without their parents, giving parents a night out. **Join us for this idea on Dec. 5th at 5-7pm. See page one for more details.**

Also, shop at the Jeanette Rankin Peace Center for all your fair trade giving needs.
Here are the businesses that have supported us with a business membership!

Please take time to personally say thank you.

Bernice’s Bakery
China Woods
Heritage Timber, LLC
Roger Hogue
Janet Allison, PhD
Kent Bros Automotive
Longview Branding
Nmchak Retreat Ranch
Portico Real Estate
Spirit at Play
University Congregational UCC
Veterans for Peace

Thank you all so much!

How can you help JRPC?

1. Become a member
2. Refer your friends to become members
3. Make a donation to help fund one of our activities, or a donation to honor or remember a friend or family member... makes a great GREEN Gift
4. Set up a charitable gift annuity benefiting JRPC and get a great tax credit
5. Wear your JRPC Button around town and advertise for us
6. Better yet, get a JRPC license plate for your car and take peace everywhere you go!
7. Donate to and use our large reference library
8. Attend our events
9. Join the Rankin File and make a monthly automatic pledge of $5 or more
10. Collect foreign and commemorative stamps and bring them here for donations through the National Friends
11. Donate an in-kind item we need or are looking for --
   • Subscriptions to The Missoulian, The Nation or another relevant subscription
   • Heavy metal or cement table and chairs for patio area out back of Peace Center in the garden in the alley.
   • Tall ladder
   • Sturdy metal covered trash can for outside in the back
   • a stereo sound system
12. Give us your input and ideas to make us a stronger organization
13. Search the internet using Goodsearch and make JRPC your designated non-profit or designate JRPC when you shop on Amazon at http://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-3591327
14. Buy Fair Trade at our store
15. Volunteer
16. Practice peace and justice in your own life
17. Remember us in your will. Check out www.legacymontana.com

JRPC Library by Jane Duncan, librarian

The JRPC maintains a library of both print and media materials available for checkout. Of particular note are media materials depicting local and regional events of the past thirty years. Many of these were on VHS tapes donated by JRPC members and patrons. DVD duplicates are also on the shelves. Stop by and take a look at the media available as well as the substantial collection of books. We have a few checkout rules, and a few materials are RESERVE—to be used in the library—only. Discover our resources next time you visit us.

Dish Pantry

JRPC has a large supply of dishes and equipment for all of your kitchen needs for events, parties, and large gatherings. We have 165 large plates, 220 small plates, 128 bowls, 45 wine glasses, 92 mugs, 668 spoons, 346 forks, 378 knives, 300 napkins, and 50 vases or candle holders. Please call us for details.
Volunteer News from Nancy

November is now a memory, but I still wanted to make sure in this season of thanksgiving to let you know how thankful we are for all of our volunteers. JRPC would not exist if it weren’t for you!

Here is a heads-up about the various volunteer opportunities coming up soon over the holidays at the Jeannette Rankin Peace Center. We have lots of interesting things coming up. If you are interested in helping with any of these, shoot me an email at volunteer@jrpc.org or call me at 207-9114.

December 5th – Annual Kids’ Night at the Fair Trade Store! A wonderful chance to share the spirit of Christmas with a young person. Volunteers are needed to match up one-on-one with children ages 3-12 and help them choose and wrap presents for their parents and family.

December 13th – Holiday Open House at JRPC! Come on in for some holiday cheer, and do some Christmas shopping! Volunteers get 20% off on Fair Trade items in the store.

December 13th – Gift Wrapping Fundraiser on the Hip Strip! New this year, JRPC is manning the Warming Station at 509 South Higgins (the former Selvedge studio) from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm with hot cider and giftwrapping materials for holiday shoppers. We need volunteers to help in shifts with gift wrapping and folding of peace cranes/doves for peace-themed trimming.

December 23 – Barnes and Noble giftwrapping fundraiser for JRPC. Most of the shifts are covered, but we still need someone for the end of the day.

December 31 – Annual Luminaries as part of First Night Missoula, Caras Park. A wonderful way to usher in the new year by helping others share a message of peace for the year to come. Ongoing opportunities:
- Help in the Fair Trade Store
- Schedule and promote the Dish Pantry
- Office assistant to help file and update records
- “Housecleaning” keeping the Center and Store clean and sparkling
- Event planning and organizing
- IT Troubleshooter

As we marked the anniversary of Armistice Day last month and the world saluted veterans, we were touched by this beautiful poem written by JRPC member Carolyn Snively to honor a Vietnam Veteran she knew.

Eulogy For a Beautiful Man

We killed you.
We killed you as surely as if we had pulled the trigger.
Our Christian nation has killed you.
We have your blood on our hands.

You sought out God and truly came to know
The essence of Christianity, which is pure love.
Love for others.
Love for yourself.

Your desire was to share this love
With all who crossed your path.
But our path for you led to Viet Nam,
Where your brilliant mind could not reconcile
Your passionate love for others
With vicious killing.
You witnessed villagers, children, soldiers dying.
The non-stop barrage of burning, bombing and shooting.

This path crucified you, not with nails,
But by shattering your mind.
You did cry out,
“My God. My God. Why have you forsaken me?”
As you slogged through the killing field.
Sickened beyond caring, you held your rifle under your chin
To end this un-Godly nightmare,
Only to be unthankfully rescued by another soldier.

When you returned home, you sat with eyes wide open,
Fearing to close them,
Dreading the terrors and horrors living behind them,
Indelibly imprinted in that darkness.
The outgoing, loving, tender, kind man you had been turned inward,
Filled with fears and the constant need to protect yourself,
For you could not leave Viet Nam behind.

Then a kind friend reached out to you.
You felt the warmth of love missing in Viet Nam, and you felt joy.
But marriage and fatherhood could not save you.
They could not dispel what was consuming you.
As your last act of love, you forced wife and child to leave you,
For you saw you had become dangerous.

The demons persisted.
You wondered if there really was a God.
Your hopes of loving others felt futile, negated, lost.
In your final despair,
You again put your rifle under your chin and this time
Pulled the trigger.

Today we cry for you, Michael.
We will always cry.
New Team on the Block!

JRPC Board members had the opportunity to answer three Questions and tell us about themselves:

1. What draws you to this work?
2. What in the peace movement excites you or gives you energy?
3. What impact are you looking for?

Here’s who we heard from so far!

**LIZ DAVIES (used to be Stoeckell)**

1. I became inspired to work for peace while I was obtaining my Master’s Degree in Social Work at UM. During the summer of 2008 between my two years in Graduate school, I lived in a very rural part of Guatemala and volunteered with indigenous Mayan students. I learned about the history of oppression against indigenous people during the Guatemalan Civil War and our country’s role in the violence. I witnessed the lingering effects of this oppression and the resilience of the people, especially the women. I developed a passion for social justice work and committed myself to doing whatever I could to educate myself and our community about peace and justice issues.

2. I am excited and energized by the other people working in the peace movement — the sense of solidarity, camaraderie and cooperation that exists amongst peace activists.

3. I hope to create dialogue in the Missoula community about peace and justice issues locally, nationally and globally to raise awareness and inspire others to work toward creating change so that we all live in a more peaceful, tolerant world.

**Ruth Crystal (Recent environmental studies/ international development graduate)**

1. As a recent graduate, I am trying my best to not get lost in the swarm of work and finances that comes with the life of a post undergrad. Remaining with the peace center, more specifically the fair trade department, reminds me that there is a whole world out there that is pushing for a better world. I find this work and this organization to be very inspiring and very humbling for someone my age! I would love to always remain a piece of this peace-building network.

2. Whenever life seems overwhelming, it is grounding to know there is a whole web of people who are going through the same, if not tougher, struggles and still remain kind, happy, and humble. I love looking around Missoula and seeing how many people are willing to devote time to fighting for a better world through water rights, local economies, international aid, and beyond! I am proud to be a part of this movement in even the tiniest of ways.

3. I am looking to generate a way to get all generations involved in generating a lifestyle that intertwines peace in daily actions, thoughts, and ideas. I would love to find a way to make peace the center of every thought and action, and remove the stigma that peace is a dream rather than a reality.

**Tish Herries**

Immediately upon graduation from college I served two years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Sierra Leone, West Africa. Although that was a long time ago, my experience there created in me a life time commitment to issues concerning peace, cultural diversity and international relations. I strive to live in harmony and happiness with my fellow human beings and with the earth, hoping to be an example and inspiration to others, especially youth. In turn, children and youth are an inspiration to me.

**Maggie Lough**

1. My purpose is to be peace, justice, and stewardship of the earth in service to love.

2. Knowing there are so many people who are doing everything they know to bring peaceful solutions to conflict situations.

3. To make a difference one encounter at a time
We received the following donations...

in memory of Mariah Crossland
In honor of Andy Shott
from Marguerite Shattuck
from Miriam Morgan

...Thanks!

Congratulations to Susan Stubblefield who won the “Raise the Roof” quilt.

Susan was surprised, grateful, and delighted when she won the “Raise the Roof Quilt Raffle.” She says, “My thanks to all the Peace Quilters who put their hearts, their time, and their talents into creating a really wonderful work of art. The quilt is on my bed, perks up my bedroom and warms me at night. One small segment of the quilt glows in the dark.”

Susan will enjoy staying warm and sleeping under this quilt made with all the love and wishes of the Peace Quilters. Thank you all who purchased tickets for our year long raffle. Thank you quilters! We received about $3,500 for our new roof fund.

Check out the city of Missoula’s plans for renovating the Jeanette Rankin Park. We are counting on several volunteer work days to make this happen in conjunction with Missoula Parks and Recreation. Thanks so much to the Missoula Parks and Recreation for this beautiful design. Work will begin in the spring of 2015. Please call us at 543-3955 and sign up to get your hands dirty for peace.

Photo by Richard Chapman
Should we be concerned about ISIS/ISIL?

Islamic State of Syria (ISIS) & Islamic State of Levant (ISIL)

Dr. Mehrdad Kia, a history professor at UM, was born and raised in Iran but calls himself a nomad. On an extremely cold Thursday evening, November 13, 2014, Dr. Kia presented a broad history lecture to a packed room at JRPC. He also fielded several questions at the conclusion. By the end we were all cozy and warm.

This fall Dr. Kia has been “visiting civic organizations, high schools, university classes, and even participating in radio talk programs, and ISIS comes up in each and every occasion as a topic of tremendous interest.” The Jeannette Rankin Peace Center and the Central & Southwest Asian Studies Center (CSWA) have co-sponsored an evening presentation on the ISIS issue and the U.S. military involvement in the Middle East.

Dr. Kia showed us pictures to demonstrate his points. The Arab world includes 21-22 different countries, not including Iran, Turkey, or Israel. It is defined by the use of the Arabic language. The Arab world is a young population (70% are under 35 years old) with poverty, unemployment, corruption, and political despotism. It is interesting to note that the borders of these Arab countries were created in the 19th and 20th centuries. They did not exist prior to this.

The map borders were colonial creations after WW1, mostly British and French, called the Sykes-Picot Agreement. The French created Syria with 20 provinces and 22 different ethnic groups forced to live as one country. The majority in Syria did not want to work with France. Many challenges exist in this situation.

In one picture, the leaders of Iran and Iraq are shaking hands and smiling. Dr Kia said Iran informally runs Iraq, and they believe Iran will last and America will eventually go away. Iran will “support anyone as long as they perpetuate Iranian interests.” Iran is expanding its influence beyond its borders and the US is quietly their closest ally. Saudi Arabia is calling for American action against Syria and Iranian expansion of power. The Turks are also concerned with Iran.

Another theme presented by Dr. Kia was strategy. The concept of a near enemy and a far enemy was addressed quite often. European allies and the US are their far enemies. The Al-Qaeda strategy is very different from the ISIS/ISIL strategy. Al-Qaeda and bin Laden focused on their far enemy and utilized the 9/11 event to strike us here. ISIS/ISIL has the opposite strategy; they are focusing mainly on their near enemies and believe the US will go sooner or later.

Currently, the US is arming the Free Syrian Army, an Islamist group whose main business is major trade of humans, especially foreign journalists. Dr. Kia calls the Free Syrian Army a band of thugs in business to make money. No easy alternatives exist. “Syria and Iraq are a mess… colonial creations have disintegrated and are not sustainable.” Killing leaders will not solve this crisis. The Arab world is going through an incredibly painful and violent destruction of the old empires and trying to re establish their world. Dr. Kia said Iran loves this chaos. Iran says if you think we are bad, look at the many others who are worse.

ISIS/ISIL are rational actors with goals, they are fast and efficient, and they are going to come here to the US. Dr. Kia says we must “take them very seriously!” They will rattle us, i.e. financially or otherwise. The entire Arab world needs modern education and massive democratization, but he says only the Arabs themselves can accomplish this. This presentation was very informative by a very knowledgeable and energetic speaker.

Thank you so much Dr. Kia for presenting and all those who joined us for participating.
JRPC Annual Peace Party Swings with Roarin’ 20s Theme

JRPC’s annual Peace Party fundraiser rocked Caras Park this year on Sunday, September 21 with music from the Hellgate Jazz Band in keeping with the theme of the Roarin’ 20s. Folks came dressed for the occasion in Great Gatsby, flapper and suffragist clothing. The event marked several celebrations: 100th anniversary of Montana approving women’s right to vote; International Peace Day for 2014; and the decade of the ‘20s that saw the first international declaration outlawing war in the aftermath of WWI. Fifty volunteers were involved in preparing and hosting the party. Thank you again to all those who helped!

Homestead Organics provided an excellent meal of dishes invented in the ‘20s, e.g. chicken ala king and gelatin, with their usual tasty flair. This year’s raffle prize was the “Raise the Roof” multi-colored 92” rectangular quilt made by the Peace Quilters with squares depicting various kinds of roofs, to raise funds to cover the remaining cost of fixing JRPC’s roof. Donations of approximately 350 items made the Silent Auction full and rewarding. The Live Auction included some unusual items this year: two tickets and a back-stage pass to the Joan Baez concert; 5 nights stay in an apartment in New York City; film and unlimited showing rights to the film “Beyond the Divide” about Missoula’s peace sign and the dialogue it generated between peace activists and Viet Nam war veterans; a ceramic plate depicting the peace sign; solar windows for the Peace Center; and sponsoring the portrait of Gandhi for the coming year. The Live Auction also included 16 different dinners from all around the world. We have a few dinners left for purchase; call, email, or come into the Store if you are interested!

Reopening Auction for Dinners:
We are reopening our auction for these unsold dinners. Please send us an email to peace@jrpc.org with your bid. Each plate will be considered a separate bid. The highest bidders will get the dinners until all the plates are gone!!

Un Tour de France with jazz and joy on Saturday, January 25, 2015, 5 highest bidders
Turkish Adventure on Saturday, February 21, 2015, 1 highest bid
Authentic Indian Dinner on Saturday, March 28, 2015, 2 highest bidders
Saluting the Gay Men’s Choir on Saturday, May 23, 2015, 4 highest bidders
All Products have a Story!

By Aurora Boylan

In an age of rampant consumerism, one can easily forget where our products come from - we do not see the face behind the item; the delicate mother’s fingers crafting whatever bobble or trinket we’re paying a cheaper price for. Many of us sometimes forget to shop our values and contribute to the JRPC’s message. There is no peace and sustainability that comes from big box stores. There is no love or compassion in a flimsy plastic object.

But, at the Fair Trade Store, all of our items have a story. Our products come from all over the world: Peru, Africa, Vietnam, and even our own beloved Missoula. Every item is handcrafted in a way that preserves the cultural aesthetic and method of the artisan; constructed from materials unique and often recycled from the region. We currently have a plethora of hand-made winter wear items from Peru, made of alpaca wool: a soft and incredibly warm material that comes from an animal thoroughly integral to the South American culture.

When we place an order, we work directly with companies that pay their employees a living wage. This provides them with a deserved sense of dignity, as well as an opportunity to provide for themselves and their families without having to make sacrifices. Many of the handcrafters working for fair trade companies can now send their children to school, buy and cook healthy and nutritious food, and boost their local economies without living in squalor, all while giving the residents of Missoula (and you!) access to gifts with a moral and ethical background. We at the JRPC thank you for your ever-generous patronage, not only to us, but to the workers that deserve to live their lives with basic human rights. In turn, you receive the highest quality gifts money can buy, as well as- and most importantly- peace of mind.

Words of Wisdom from our friends at 350.org

350 Missoula: Getting Active Now Before We Reach the Tipping Points by Jeff Smith

A new activist group has come together in Missoula to encourage a speedy transition to sustainable energy generated from wind, water, and solar technology. We believe activism is especially important right now because Montana is ground zero for new fossil fuel development, and our electoral system is broken.

350 Missoula is an affiliate of the international organization, 350.org, which the writer, Bill McKibben, started in 2008. Our name comes from the work of NASA scientist James Hansen, who studied the greenhouse effect that occurs when pollution from burning fossil fuel gets trapped in our outer atmosphere. Hansen concluded that 350 parts-per-million (ppm) carbon dioxide (CO₂) in our atmosphere is the measure of stability beyond which there will be permanent damage to our planet’s ability to support life.

For 800,000 years, in fact, atmospheric CO₂ has remained between 260 and 280 ppm. This has changed only in the past 120 years, with carbon pollution topping out at 400 ppm for the first time in 2012 and averaging 395 ppm in 2013. The United States is increasing its carbon emissions by two percent a year.

McKibben says that we are rapidly approaching several tipping points where changes in the climate may accelerate beyond our ability to control them. He says we need to deal with this situation. It’s not a choice. It’s not about politics or about China or Exxon. It’s about physics and chemistry.
The work of Stanford professor, Mark Jacobson, makes clear that Americans, right now, have the technology, the know-how, and the money to make this transition. What we lack is the political will. You can see what this new world, with 100 percent sustainable energy, would look like by going to Jacobson’s website, thesolutionsproject.org.

In any event, 350 Missoula has two priorities. The first is working with students, faculty, and community members to divest the University of Montana Foundation of all fossil fuel stocks. And the second is working to prevent the largest coalmine in the state’s history from breaking ground at Otter Creek in southeastern Montana.

We are very encouraged by the $80 billion Rockefeller Brothers Fund, and others, who are paving the way to divestment in fossil fuels. To draw attention to these successes, 350 Missoula helped sponsor one of the largest and most vocal demonstrations on campus – September 16 – when state Senator Dick Barrett and Nobel Prize winner Steve Running, a University of Montana scientist, spoke out on divestment and dozens of students briefly took over the first floor of the administration building.

We are also contesting the permitting process for the Otter Creek mine, which will double Missoula’s train traffic as its owner, the Arch Coal Company, seeks foreign markets – the only ones left – for its product. The Montana Land Board has the authority to permit the mine and has directed the Montana Department of Environmental Quality to write an environmental impact statement (EIS). Another agency, the federal Surface Transportation Board, is writing an EIS for a 60-mile railroad spur from Otter Creek to Montana Rail Link’s main line at Miles City. We believe, bottom line, that both agencies should offer public hearings in Missoula when they take comment on their conclusions. The Missoula City Council and Missoula’s legislative delegation have each written letters encouraging these Missoula public hearings, while the Missoula County Commissioners are considering such a letter.

We’ve also been resisting the increase in coal exports by demonstrating repeatedly near the railroad crossing at Madison Street in Missoula. We’ve set up informational pickets at events when statewide politicians have come to Missoula, we’ve tabled at the first Friday art walks and the farmers’ market, and we’ve developed a supporting network of several hundred people who are turning up at our events.

As our climate gets hotter so does our resistance. If you’d like to join us for our March 13 demonstration, our biggest yet, or get involved in other ways, you can contact us at info@350missoula.org or by calling 880-8320.

Fight Against Coal Exports Takes Off in 2014 by Nick Engelfried

When Montana author and environmental advocate Rick Bass was arrested on the Missoula railroad tracks this August, it marked one of the culminating events of a nonviolent movement to stop expanded coal development that reached new heights in Western Montana this year. Along with three other Missoula-area residents concerned about coal’s impact on our climate and health, Bass participated in an act of civil disobedience that delayed a coal train from coming through Missoula. It was one of a series of nonviolent actions that engaged well over 1,000 people across the state in one way or another. While residents of Eastern Montana have spent decades fighting new coalmines that affect ranching and tribal lands, the resistance arrived in Western Montana more recently. This resistance has spread and grown as residents of towns like Missoula become concerned about increased coal train traffic from mines feeding West Coast export markets. In 2014, this movement reached new heights.

It began in February, when more than two hundred people gathered near downtown Missoula for a community rally against coal exports, which brought together rail line neighborhood residents, UM students, and members of ten local environmental and social justice groups. The largest rally against coal exports in Western Montana at that time, this event was followed just a couple months later by Montanans for Climate Solutions, a statewide day of rallies in more than a dozen communities that engaged over 1,500 people in calling for climate action.

These events helped show that large numbers of Montanans care about a healthy future free from coal pollution. But two other actions in spring and summer truly underscored the moral imperative of stopping coal exports through the willingness of ordinary people doing what it takes to stop these projects. At peaceful protests in April and August, citizens peacefully delayed coal trains from passing through Missoula by staging sit-ins on the railroad right-of-way as a train entered town. Both these acts of nonviolent civil disobedience resulted in participants being arrested and charged with trespass.

In fact, there seems to be a growing realization that to stop coal exports, what’s needed is a nonviolent campaign that follows the example of other successful social movements, which employed tactics like civil disobedience, mass mobilizations, and divestment from companies promoting social injustice.

In the months ahead, the movement to stop coal exports will continue to grow. To get involved contact nicke.activism@gmail.com, and let us know you want to join the nonviolent campaign.
Hope to see you at one of these holiday events!!!

**Thursday, December 4, 7pm, the Roxy.**
**Movie: Beyond the Divide War**, peace, and the courage to find common ground, directed by Jan Selby and featuring the Missoula Peace sign, Dan Gallagher and Betsy Mulligan-Dague. If you missed this last spring, this is your chance to see it again.

**Friday, December 5, JRPC, 5-7 pm** Our Traditional **Kid’s Night**

**Saturday, December 13, 11 am-5 pm, 509 S. Higgins (the old Selvedge Studio)** JRPC will host the hip strip warming station to fold cranes & wrap gifts with recycled paper. We are also planning on an **Open House** at our 519 location with refreshments, sales and more fun! Please stop in for a visit.

**Friday, December 31, 4 pm-midnight, Caras Park**
**First Night Luminaries** usher in the New Year with a personal wish for **PEACE ON EARTH**