announcing...

The 2016 Peacemaker

Patrick Weasel Head

Sunday, May 22
4-6 pm at the
Payne Family
Native American Center
on the UM Campus

You are invited to join us as we honor our 30th Peacemaker and unveil the quilt made specially for him by the Missoula Peace Quilters. One of nine children from simple roots in Browning to one of 13 Native American students attending a not very welcoming University of MT to living as an openly gay man in Missoula, Patrick set out to walk a good path, fight discrimination, relax stereotypes, enjoy the experiences of life and make every moment count. He has reached out to others to understand, build trust and use humor and teachable moments (in a calm way) to help us all learn from each other and find ways to serve. Patrick has a long and varied list of volunteer positions, including delivering Meals on Wheels and several months as a driver for Paws Up so he could learn about how others live and also educate visitors to MT about Native Americans. Patrick believes in education and is passionate about mentoring disenfranchised students to better themselves as he was helped. Patrick stepped up many times to fill a void and serve others. Join us as we welcome him to the list of honored Missoula Peacemakers.
You inspire us to be better!!
JRPC Coordinating Council Retreat
Notes from January 23, 2016
By Kris Bayer

A whole day of conversations that matter
to the Jeannette Rankin Peace Center
Coordinating Council
Lots of discussion, ideas, and
recommendations were generated.
Wow. That sounds exciting.

Common themes: engaging members,
welcoming others who differ, reaching out
to the community, and including and
collaborating with other organizations.

How? Bring people together for
community potlucks. Have monthly get-
togethers with students for discussion and
presentations. Ask thought-provoking
questions. Meet people where they are.
Do more community outreach. Be
available with respect, curiosity, and
compassion. It's like a dance rather
than a head on collision. Teaching
NVC and conflict resolution skills.
Connect and educate at the schools.
Create committees. Ask why JRPC is
important. Clarify our product.

Opening space for peace...

Questions that linger in our minds:

- What is our WHY?
- What things would our members like to see?
- Are we alienating others with our mission?
- What is our tolerance level in receiving other viewpoints and opinions?
- Are values and needs more important than taking sides on a particular issue or event?
- What values and needs should we focus on?
- How can we reach out and care for more people?
- Are we willing to be with “the people”?
- What is the perception of the Center?
- How do we turn passion into action?

...and we’d love to hear what’s on
your mind!

You are invited to celebrate
30 Years of Peacemaking
By Liz Rantz

30 years ago a group of peaceniks, hippies
and people of faith broke bread together
and talked of peace. From those gatherings, the Jeannette Rankin Peace Center evolved. Some of those good folks are still
in Missoula!

2016 will be a year-long
Anniversary Party!!!

Join us as we explore ways to increase the practice of peacemaking in the city and in
the world. Come to our "unconference"
with our birthday party, Peacemaker of the Year event, a bigger-than-ever fall Peace Party, and our monthly Potlucks.

Tessa has turned the Olive Branch into an exciting place to browse around and dis-
cover surprises. Watch for news of our online store coming soon!

Why not make 2016 your year to be more involved, to volunteer, and to consider serving on the Coordinating Council. Make the Peace Center truly YOUR center. Help us reach our goal of 1000 members this year. Most importantly, be sure you receive the weekly email newsletter for exciting events that bring you into the peacemaking work of the Center.
Missoula Stands Together in Love, March 1, 2016
by Betsy Mulligan-Dague

Thanks to Josh Farmer and his band and to Kevin Kicking Woman for the gift of music. And thanks to everyone who showed up to support Love in Missoula

A few months ago a group of Missoulians decided to join communities around the world stepping up to assist the millions of people displaced by conflict. That decision has cast Missoula into a national debate about refugees in general and Muslim refugees in particular.

Christian vs Muslim
Refugee vs our own homeless
Safety vs danger
Understanding vs misunderstanding

Conflict is a sure sign that people care very deeply. Some of our best decisions as a nation have been when dissenting opinions were expressed and heard and it opened up doors of dialogue and deeper understanding. We will not resolve the conflict by focusing on what or who is wrong or using labels, making judgments or demonizing anyone. What makes a community whole is the love they share and that is our task today and in the days ahead. Today we are hundreds standing together all across Montana to commit ourselves to rise above the conflict and focus on the love we have to share – the love we MUST share.

• Love enough to welcome those fleeing conflict and disaster across the world.
• Love enough to support those in our own community who are threatened or persecuted for who they are, what religion they profess, the color of their skin or however else they may be different from us.
• Love enough to support the politicians and leaders who speak up for what they believe is right and are attacked.
• Love enough to care for those among us who go without basic needs.
• And even love enough to understand those who disagree with us.

Take a look around at all the support for a Missoula filled with just such love and welcome and know that you are part of making our community whole.

Thank you for rising above our differences, for lifting your lamp beside the golden door, standing up for the values our country was built on and working to create a more compassionate Missoula, ready to welcome and support those who need us and to celebrate the richness that diversity can bring.

There are still questions to be answered and concerns to be addressed. Coming here today did not erase those concerns. But what it has done is show the depth of support for a more compassionate response. Hopefully you have learned something today that will help you answer questions put to you. And even more so, I hope you feel the connection and support of this gathering – each other -- as you go. With courage, respect and integrity, let us embrace the work of supporting our neighbors and extending an outstretched hand of welcome.

Let us BE the Missoula we want to see.
Let’s play beach volleyball! We were in Gotha, Germany, this past August at a summer service peace camp. Our service consisted of the restoration and maintenance of a cemetery that commemorated World War II victims. “What was the most memorable thing that happened to you there?” An easy answer would be the trip to Buchenwald or walking through the cemetery on the last day after all the work had been done. In truth, however, the most memorable part of our service learning trip to Germany was a story. A story told not by the Germans or by other Europeans, but by an Eritrean refugee. Tewolde had been living in Germany for about a year and had a surprisingly good grasp of English and German.

The story began with his journey to Europe. Tewolde talked about his insanely difficult trek across the Sahara, how his group was twice stopped by bandits and held at gunpoint until they gave up all of their valuables. Finally, he mentioned his two brothers who had died on the journey. After he mentioned his brothers, he stopped and started to cry. We will never forget the words that eventually bled out: “I cannot continue, my brothers.” Although we longed to hear the rest of his story, he did not need to continue. As we looked around the room, several people were openly crying and many others, ourselves included, were close to tears.

Our contact with refugees did not stop there. Later that night, we invited several newly arrived refugees from Iraq to play beach volleyball. The next day we played again, this time with refugees from Albania. As the days went on, beach volleyball became our nightly ritual. We played with refugees from Syria, Iraq, Albania, and Eritrea. We mainly interacted with young people (most of whom spoke little or no English) over beach volleyball matches. This experience offered the chance to gain exposure to new cultures while participating in something very enjoyable. These games were the highlight of the day for the migrants as they were often sitting around bored while our camp was in session and seemed to be excited to play whenever we asked. It was also memorable for us as we had a unique opportunity to interact with people who still lived life with energy and joy despite the unfortunate circumstances they found themselves in and bleak future they faced. Although none of us had a common language, there was still communication through laughter and high fives. It was a beautiful time when we all could put aside our differences and worries through one another’s company. Our interactions in Germany helped us perceive our common human bonds. Today’s hosts can be tomorrow’s refugees and vice versa. Mutual caring overcomes all kinds of divides.

When we returned to the United States, we did some research on the refugee crisis in Europe. After conducting this research, we realized how serious the problem is. The story that the Eritrean refugee told us was not an outlier; in fact, tragic stories like this are common. The migrants who make it are the lucky ones as many die on the trip. Even if refugees reach Germany or other wealthy countries safely, they are faced with immense challenges. They do not know the language; they are often forced into poor and overcrowded housing. In addition, they are sometimes treated with hostility. As we reflect on Tewolde’s story and our contact with the other refugees through beach volleyball, we realize that the refugee crisis is a problem that needs to be addressed on many levels. We also know that this problem cannot be solved easily or overnight, and that it will take an enormous effort by countless people and countries. However, seemingly small interactions like we had in Germany can, while seeming small, have an enormous effect on breaking down barriers, increasing understanding, restoring hope, and improving chances for peace. Fun not only changed our perception of the refugees and their outlook on their new circumstances, it allowed us to connect with them in a way that would not have been possible otherwise.

If Missoula once again accepts refugees, a critical factor in making the transition a smooth one for all would be providing opportunities to have fun. Fun should be an essential part of Missoula’s resettlement plans. This would not only make refugee families feel more comfortable and accepted, it would also provide the Missoula community with a positive context in which to get to know them. Even simple activities such as sports or other games would provide a much needed break for the refugees as well as an opportunity for them to connect with hospitable Missoulians. We believe that fun brings out the best in everyone. All of us can use a little more fun in our lives.
You are invited to help us create community. Gather with us for Global Dialogues, every **second Sunday from 5:30 to 7 pm in the JRPC Community Room.** These are informal opportunities to break bread with old and new friends and engage in informative dialogue, a reinvention of our former monthly potlucks. **Mark your calendar:** 5/8, 6/12, 7/10, and every 2nd Sun.

April 10 the presenter was Arthur Weatherwax, a Native student who studied abroad in Australia last semester. He spoke on the Aboriginal people of Australia and the similarities of their challenges to Native Americans.

When groups like the Peace Center share a meal, it is about saying we are one, whatever our differences, whatever arguments we have had today, we are one. **Eating together is essential to community building.** From earliest recorded history faith groups, tribes, revolutionaries, even politicians gather over food. Hard to fight with your mouth full!

Join us every second Sunday that you are able to share the friendship, the search for peace and for each of our roles in its blossoming. Your presence is the most important thing; bring whatever you want to share, or if you are not able — bring yourself!

If you have ideas for speakers please let us know as we organize the calendar for the months ahead.

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**10 Things You and I Can Do to Contribute to Internal, Interpersonal, and Organizational Peace**

From Gary Baran and The Center for Nonviolent Communication

1. Spend some time each day quietly reflecting on how we would like to relate to ourselves and others.
2. Remember that all human beings have the same needs.
3. Check our intention to see if we are as interested in others getting their needs met as our own.
4. When asking someone to do something, check first to see if we are making a request or a demand.
5. Instead of saying what we DON'T want someone to do, say what we DO want the person to do.
6. Instead of saying what we want someone to BE, say what action we'd like the person to take that we hope will help the person be that way.
7. Before agreeing or disagreeing with anyone's opinions, try to tune in to what the person is feeling and needing.
8. Instead of saying "No," say what need of ours prevents us from saying "Yes."
9. If we are feeling upset, think about what need of ours is not being met, and what we could do to meet it, instead of thinking about what's wrong with others or ourselves.
10. Instead of praising someone who did something we like, express our gratitude by telling the person what need of ours that action met.

The Center for Nonviolent Communication (CNVC) would like there to be a critical mass of people using Nonviolent Communication language so all people will get their needs met and resolve their conflicts peacefully. 2001, revised 2004 CNVC. The right to freely duplicate this document is hereby granted.
I Am Jewish. I would like to bring a Jewish perspective to this talk of Syrian immigrants. Most of you are aware of the traditional tensions between Jews and Muslims. When I hear the descriptions of Muslims as rapists, terrorists and criminals. When I hear that they should be kept under surveillance. When I hear that they should be prevented from entering this country or expelled. How do you think I feel? Anybody venture to guess?

When I hear those things, I hear that I AM NEXT! When one religious minority can be the target of so many lies and deceptions by American political demagogues, I am frightened. Of course I am scared about the fate of the Syrian refugees. I am also scared for my Muslim friends and neighbors. I am scared for our increasingly violent country! I am scared for this world! And yes, I am scared for me…

Who’s next? Jews? Catholics? Sikhs? Chinese? Latinos? Where does it end? It’s happened to all of the minorities in this country. It still happens to many and yes, it will happen again unless we stop it now!

A little history is in order.
Let’s go back to July 1938 as the situation for German and Austrian Jews was deteriorating. The western powers held a conference in Evian, France to decide what to do with the increasing number of Jewish refugees, much as they meet today to discuss the fate of Syrian refugees. Hitler’s response was ”I can only hope and expect that the world will… be generous enough to convert its sympathy into practical aid. We are ready to put them at the disposal of these countries, for all I care, even on luxury ships.”

The intention of the United States, of Roosevelt was to get… other countries to take them. They were not wanted here. Australia’s response was “We don’t have an ethnic problem. We don’t want to import one now.” Canada’s response was “One Jew coming here is one Jew too many.” The US response was “we have a small Jewish quota and we don’t intend to increase it.” Actually, after Evian, the US said it would do less for the refugees. Evian was seen by some as ”an exercise in Anglo-American collaborative hypocrisy.” Has anything changed since?

The Evian diplomats looked for countries that would accept “non-whites.” This gives you an idea of how fluid concepts of race actually are. Hitler took this as even more incentive to execute his final solution. The West doesn’t want them either. And some historians believe that the failure of Evian was a contributing factor to Kristalnacht, the massive anti-Jewish pogrom in November of that year.

Shiploads of fleeing Jewish refugees crossed the Atlantic Ocean, and shiploads of fleeing Jewish refugees were turned away at ports in the US and Canada. Some were accepted in Cuba and elsewhere in the Caribbean. Many returned to their doom in the Holocaust.

German Jews fleeing to France were imprisoned because they were “illegal aliens.” Sound familiar? Many were expelled back to Germany. Only the ones with peculiar stories survived to tell them. The vast majority were not so lucky.

Who’s next? Jews? Catholics? Sikhs? Chinese? Latinos? Where does it end? It’s happened to all of the minorities in this country. It still happens to many and yes, it will happen again unless we stop it now!

The American response to Jewish refugees fleeing the Nazis is a crying shame on American history. We are seeing that shame repeated again now with Syrian refugees.

80 years ago, Americans, mostly white Americans, were terrified of what foreign Jews might bring if allowed into their country… a different religion, strange ideas, economic burdens, possibly infiltration by the Nazi enemy. And yet while more than 50,000 did manage to come here, NONE OF THAT EVER HAPPENED.

80 years later, Christians have accepted Jews in the West almost completely and absolutely. For my parents, antisemitism was a daily fact of life. I have the good fortune to have never directly experienced it, a remarkable change. Jews are integrated into society at almost every level, contributing enormously to American culture, science, literature, technology and so forth. And we brought Bagels & Lox!

If we take the long view. If we have the courage to push past our initial fears, we not only may live up to our moral duty by reaching out to Syrian refugees, we may make our society stronger and richer and better than it ever has been.

The phrase “Never Again” has been a central man-
tra of the Jewish Community since the Holocaust. When we say “Never Again,” let us mean it. Let us never again be instruments of genocide! Let us fight genocide the way it is meant to be fought: With love and acceptance. It cannot harm us.

I can’t say that I blame the frightened American public for succumbing to these lies about Arabs and Muslims. I do blame our leaders whose interest is in perpetual war, making enemies, making profits and selling weapons. We have to talk to our neighbors, regardless of how abhorrent we may think their racism is. We have to debunk the lies of our leaders. We have to understand our neighbors’ fears, and understand that, at root, their fears may have little or nothing to do with Arabs, Muslims, immigrants or refugees. We have to treat them with the humanity that we want of them.

And we have to stop American militarism. The US attack on Iraq spawned two million Iraqi refugees, most of whom went to Syria and Jordan. That’s not counting the millions more internally displaced. Ponder that. That dwarfs the current crisis. And why was that not considered a crisis then? Or now? And of course the upheavals due to such a massive migration has to be a contributing factor to the violence there.

Yes, it’s very important to welcome Syrian refugees and treat them with love and hospitality as best we can. But if that’s all we do, and we don’t stop the American military machine, then we are condemning more and more people to become refugees in the future. Thank you.

(SLM) is a group of dedicated citizens, business owners, and non-profit organizations who have come together with the goal of opening our city, arms, and hearts in a sustainable way to refugees from around the world.

The US State Department defines a refugee as someone who has fled from his or her home country and cannot return because he or she has a well-founded fear of persecution based on religion, race, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. There are currently 15.1 million U.N. registered refugees worldwide. The definition of what “legal refugee status” means for resettlement in the U.S., is enormously different than the mass migration of asylum seekers currently in the EU. People that apply to be “Refugees” are registered with the United Nations and qualify for one of 3 “Durable solutions.” 1. Working with the host country to assist the refugees in returning home. This is called Repatriation. 2. Local Integration. 3. Third country resettlement. This is a tiny fraction of refugees; the U.S. will see less than half of them — that’s less than 1% of refugees worldwide.

Since 1975, the United States has resettled more than 3 million refugees from around the world, including 169,000 from Bosnia and more than 100,000 from Iraq. Three quarters of a million of those refugees entered the U.S. since 2001. Due to the nature of war and persecution, the countries of origin for refugees resettled in the US changes yearly. In 2015 most refugees resettled in the US came from Bhutan, Burma, Iraq, Somalia, and Cuba, in that order.

This information is from Soft Landing Missoula Frequently Asked Questions document. For information on the Department of State Vetting Process, contact Betsy at the Peace Center.
Humphrey Fellows Return!

JRPC will again host 11 Humphreys Fellows from around the world for presentations about their home countries while they are here in Missoula preparing for their fellowships. Mark your calendars to be here for these most enjoyable and informative sessions. Thursdays, June 2, 9, 16 and July 17, 5:30 pm, JRPC.

Roots and Wings:
How Will You Take Radical Responsibility For A Better World?
JRPC Unconference & 30th Year Celebration
Saturday, June 11, 2016 at the University Congregational Church

Celebrate Jeannette Rankin’s birthday with us as we host our second annual “Un-conference” and use open space technology to explore how we can live up to Jeannette’s example and co-create a world of peace. Children are said to need both roots as well as wings. Roots to our traditions and values. Wings to our future and destiny. JRPC has been the roots of the peace community for 30 years. You are the wings!! How will you take radical responsibility for a better world? How can you reach deep to the strength, courage, and personal resources inside? How will you take responsibility for the possibility and potential of peace extending out to seven generations and beyond?

Following the Un-conference we will open up the space to all of our members, volunteers, donors and friends to help us celebrate the 136th birthday of Jeannette Rankin and the 30th anniversary of the Missoula Center that bears her name — the root of peace in Western MT. We would love you to come to the Un-conference. But even if you can’t come all day...

Your presence is requested from 5-7 pm in the UCC Garden to help us celebrate 30 years together!
YOU can be a local hero for many non-profits — including JRPC.

Missoula Community Foundation is excited to announce Give LOCAL Missoula County 2016, a 24-hour, online giving event. This is the third year of our campaign – in 2014 we raised $135,000 and in 2015 we more than doubled that and raised over $270,000 for local nonprofits. The goal this year is to raise $300,000 for about 130 nonprofits (including YOU!) on May 3, 2016! With a minimum donation of only $10, it is easy to give back to your community--especially if you are new to giving.

We at JRPC celebrate your generosity. It has kept us a vital part of Missoula for 30 years. And now you are invited to fund the future!! We set a target to raise $3000 for the Peace Center. And we already have several generous folks who stepped up to give us a matching fund of $1000. So once we raise $1000, that amount is matched with another $1000. This means that every dollar you give goes twice as far for peace!

Here are some special ways you can participate and help JRPC:

- Volunteer to be the first donor at midnight between May 2nd and 3rd and select JRPC for bonus funds.
- Be a donor under 40 between the hours of 8 and 11 am that could be randomly selected to choose JRPC to get extra bonus money.
- Make a donation anytime that morning and join Betsy at the Florence Building between 11 am and 12 noon for a random drawing of all donors that have given since the previous midnight. If you are selected you can choose JRPC.
- Stop by JRPC between 12 noon and 4 pm to enjoy some snacks with us as we watch the leaderboard and enjoy the day. If you need help placing your online donation — please ask us!
- Give to JRPC between 10 and 11 pm and help us possibly be randomly selected for bonus funds.
- Volunteer to be the last donor at midnight May 3rd and select JRPC to get the bonus funds.
- Answer our challenge to give $30 to JRPC in honor of our 30th anniversary.

Donor lounges will be set up all over Missoula on May 3rd to offer assistance, make giving fun and provide some great freebies! The complete list of donor lounges will be posted soon at the same website you will use to make your donations on May 3...

https://givelocalmissoula.org/

All donations will be processed through this website. Donations on Give LOCAL Missoula County are 100% tax deductible. You will immediately receive an email confirming the deduction from the Missoula Community Foundation. The GiveLocalMissoula.org website is powered by Kimbia, and is a secure PCI-Level 1 compliant site for donating to your favorite charities. You can be sure your personal information is protected when you donate through our GiveLocalMissoula.org Kimbia platform.
Meet JRPC’s Newest Council member:
Kimberly A. Maynard, Ph.D.

Dr. Kim Maynard dances in the interface between what exists and new possibilities. For nearly 30 years, she worked in the heart of disasters and wars in the world’s troubled spots, supporting their transition from crisis to peace and renewal. Kim sees natural disasters, political upheaval, and violent conflict as a rare opportunity to change society’s status quo and create different, more functional ethos.

One of Kim’s more recent interests has been in exploring the larger relationship between the Global South and the Global North and the potential creative collaboration there for addressing our issues in partnership. She is especially excited about the worldwide transformation that is currently underway and how individuals, organizations, and Missoula are contributing to making this world even better. Her own journey links into this place of possibility.

Kim is currently a Mansfield Fellow in International Affairs at the University of Montana. She holds a doctorate in International Affairs and is the author of numerous publications including, *Healing Communities in Conflict.*

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Celebrate Islam Week
by Clem Work

Learn about and celebrate the world’s second-largest religion, in a week of Missoula events slated for April 25-30. The sponsors are SALAM (Standing Alongside America’s Muslims) and Jeannette Rankin Peace Center.

- A dinner and discussion starting at 5 pm **Monday** at St. Paul Lutheran Church kicks off the week. IndiaCurry House will cater a $10 meal. Muslims from four countries will give short presentations followed by discussions at tables. Seats are limited. To reserve a place, please write salammissoula@gmail.com
- **“The Muslims Are Coming”** screens **Wednesday** at 7 pm at the Hellgate High School auditorium. The 85-minute documentary follows Muslim comedians around the country as they perform and explore Islam and Islamophobia. The film will be followed by audience discussion.
- UM Arabic instructor Samir Bitar will give the keynote talk at a **Thursday** panel discussion at Urey Lecture Hall, starting at 7 pm. Bring your questions for Samir and the other panelists.
- Celebrate Islam Week’s last event is on **Saturday** at 7 pm. Congregation Har Shalom will host Dances of Universal Peace, using music and themes from Judaism, Islam and Christianity as well as Rumi poetry. No musical or dance experience is required!

For more information, go to SALAM’s Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/SALAMMissoula](http://www.facebook.com/SALAMMissoula)
Purchase Rhanda Johnson’s new song "Peace Walk" about a certain peace sign on the hill and some of the profits go to JRPC. [http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/rhandajohnson3]

Last Reminder...
Fr. Jim Hogan’s **Search for Peace Art Award**

Elementary, Middle, High School and University Students are encouraged to submit art, poetry, photography, and essay entries that address the theme **“Welcoming”** as we prepare to welcome refugees to our community

**Deadline:** Friday, April 22, 5 pm, JRPC.
**Watch for our event showcasing the entries on First Friday, May 6.**

30 years seems like a good time to try new things, so...

Mark your calendar for the **2016 Peace Party** celebrating JRPC as a beacon of peace shining toward the future that you help us create!

**Sunday, October 16, 3-7 pm**
Missoula Fairgrounds
Home Arts Building
**Donations accepted!!**

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**Donations in honor of:**
- Ann Oberg
- Jane McAllister
- Shirley Tiernan
- Kelsey Stamm & Ben Jiminez
- Mike Rae

**From:**
- Susannah Oberg
- Patricia McAllister
- Miriam Morgan
- Heidi Machel
- Nora Moseman

**Donations in Memory of:**
- Joyce Clarke

**From:**
- Mary Anne Buckhouse

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**Thanks for remembering your loved ones with peace!**
We want **YOU** to be part of celebrating our 30 year history in Missoula…

Check inside for details on the following:

- Our 30th peacemaker
- Our 30-year / $30 challenge for Give Local Missoula
- Our 2nd annual Un-conference on Roots and Wings
- The birthday party for Jeannette Rankin on June 11
- Our October 16 Peace Party at our new location!
- Our continuing work to reflect on the plans to settle refugees in Missoula again and the ongoing dialogues needed to make Missoula a welcome, educated and supportive community