I am so excited by this year’s peace party theme because to me it is at the heart of what we are about — CONNECTIONS! We cannot afford to work in silos and not take advantage of every opportunity to collaborate — as individuals working together or as organizations. Making peace happen is linked to the hungry being fed, the planet being healed and many other visions. It is work we must do together — to know each other, to share our challenges and successes and to define the future together. We are inviting many of the fine groups in Missoula to join us at the party as a way of living our commitment to be connected! I hope you will join us...Betsy

Jeannette Rankin Peace Center is working to build a world that is nonviolent, socially just, and environmentally sustainable. We are working to make peace visible every day!
A Breath of Fresh Air
by Charlie Landman

We all know that the structure of a gathering defines, and often limits, the relationships between those who attend. And so a typical conference generally features presentations by a series of experts to an audience whose role is to listen passively and perhaps ask a few questions if time allows. The content is determined by the speaker, who follows her logical outline, perhaps with a joke or story along the way, wrapping her thoughts into a neat little package complete with a tidy conclusion. The relationship between speaker and audience runs in one direction: from those leaders to the audience, with no return, and with few opportunities for deeper engagement between individuals. I have been on both sides of this relationship in conference settings, and I have long felt that, while much can be learned by listening to experts, the experience is often dry and sterile, for both sides.

Of course we all recognize this form, because, beyond conferences, it happens to be the current structure of our politics and our government. The recent gathering hosted by the Jeanette Rankin Peace Center, titled “Beyond Us and Them: What is Possible?” was styled an “un-conference” and provided a thought-provoking alternative to the typical expert/audience conference model. Using a so-called “Open Space” format, we, the audience, were invited to nominate topics for discussion, and to take responsibility for leading the discussion of our topic. The topics were shuffled into a schedule of times and locations, and throughout the day we each chose those sessions that sparked our interest.

The sessions were not presentations of expert information, but instead what turned out to be a series of rich and engaging conversations that flowed from our individual stories and perspectives and often flowed from one session into another. The conversations were seldom linear, but instead circled and spiraled through the opening topic and our individual interests and experiences. The quickest way from A to B may be a straight line, but it is seldom the most interesting or enlightening.

We were each responsible for the conversations, and each of us contributed our unique threads to the tapestry we were weaving from our questions: who are “we” and who are “they”? Are we really so different? How are we different, and why? How do we engage each other across our differences? Is there really a place beyond us and them? What is the more beautiful world we hope for? How does that world allow for our differences? Do fear, hatred, greed, and resentment have a place in the world we hope for? There were no conclusions, no neat answers wrapped in a bow, but what we accomplished was surely more valuable: a deeper understanding of the complexity of the world and a new found appreciation for each of us, as unique jewels in the web of things, as humans, as we are.

As we gathered together, shared a meal together, danced Dances of Universal Peace together, and above all shared with each other our stories, our sadness and joys, our fears and our dreams, I couldn’t help but marvel at how naturally we eased into our new relationships, how easily we trusted each other, and how confidently we took on our new roles, our new responsibilities to our groups and to each other. In a heartbeat, audience became co-creators. We know how to do this: when given the opportunity, this is how people have forever come together to understand the world and our place in it.

I came away from the “un-conference” thinking that perhaps one of the pathways to a world of peace and joy will be to find once again ways of being together with our differences and questions as we share with each other our hopes for a better world. There has been much interest of late in using the simple art of conversation to help people talk to each other across what seem insurmountable ideological divides. A first step may be to come together simply to tell our stories to each other and to share with each other what matters most in our lives, our fears and joys and dreams, without engaging in the issues which seem to mark our divisions. It is just possible that through such conversations, we may discover that, at the deepest levels where our hearts reside, we are much more alike than different, more alike than our current divisions allow us to know, or perhaps even imagine. Some tentative thinking and planning has begun to organize such a gathering. If you are interested, please check back with the Jeannette Rankin Peace Center webpage for more information as this idea evolves.

(See Highlights on page 9)
Introducing the new assistant!
By Carol Schwartz

Hello Peace Center Community! I originally hail from the beautiful city of Anacortes, WA and came to Missoula three years ago to finish my undergraduate education at the University of Montana with degrees in History and Central & Southwest Asian Studies. When I’m not at the Peace Center you are most likely to find me walking along the river, planning a grand adventure, or talking to a new friend. Above all else I love learning, and in many ways it was this love that led me to the Peace Center.

I first found JRPC back in March of 2015 when I attended an event at Hellgate High School centering on discussion of the Charlie Hebdo Shooting. This event brought together several panelists of various perspectives to discuss the shooting with community members and Hellgate students. I walked away from that event energized by the discussion that had occurred and excited by my discovery of JRPC. To me, this is what makes JRPC so special. Over the course of its 31 years in Missoula, the center has become a place where discussions like that can happen.

For two years the Peace Center has been my home away from home, and I am thrilled to be transitioning into this assistant role and feel confident that with the combined imagination of Betsy and I we can continue to improve, expand and maintain what makes JRPC so great.

Donations made in honor of or in memory of your loved ones in 2017

In Honor of:
Betsy Mulligan-Dague’s 60th
Bruce Bender
Carol Hecker
 Ethel McDonald
Eunice Amaya
 SJ Beck
Neal Straus
 Paxson Swierc
Polly Peterson & Gary Shelton
Robert Jacobson
Serena Early
 Sue & John Anderson

In Memory of:
Great pets — Newman, Molly and Siddhartha
Amy Wickman

Dan Gallagher
Dottie Rollins
Fran Hoffman
 Hattie Humes
Jane Kurinsky
 Jane Ragsdale
Joyce Clarke
Joyce Gale
Marj Dewitt Lindsey
Mary Tyvand
 Matthew Shephard
Reta Ballas
Zachariah Walker
 Roy Wenger

From:
Tom & Carol King and
Kathi & Woody Wood
Marc Bender
Sharon Hecker
Mary Ann Flockerzi
Jane Duncan
Britta Remes
Laura Straus
Kathi & Woody Wood
Laura Straus
 Laura Straus
 Robin Childers
Erik Anderson, Ser Anderson and Marty Anderson

From:
Pat Adams
Susan & Robert Schephorn, Cornelius & Dollie Kelly, Timothy Trotter, William Sawyer and Nicolette Connell
 Kathy & John Heffernan, Jane Duncan, Gloria & Charles Horejsi, David Felton and Tara Gallagher
 Susan Near
Gerry Blackman
First Security Bank
 Miriam Kurinsky and Susie Clarion
Jane Duncan
Elizabeth William and Mary Ann Buckhouse
Jane Duncan
Gerry Blackman
Jane Duncan
Patrick Boise
Rayna & Frank Stanley
Annette Walker
Lillian Wenger

Thanks to everyone who donated to JRPC through Montana Shares and the Missoula Community Foundation... ...We couldn’t do it without you!!
Tickets

Single $40
Couple $60
Family $70

$10 discount for JRPC members

Table of 10 $300

Buy tickets at jrpc.org

Peace
Piece It Together
Sunday, October 15th 3-7pm

Home Arts Building at the Missoula County Fairgrounds

For more information call 543-3955 or visit 519 S Higgins

Jeannette Rankin Peace Center

2017 Peace Party

Raffle
Live & Silent Auctions
Entertainment
Kids Activities

Food
Included:
Dinner by Homestead Organics
Complimentary Beer & Wine
### TICKET PRICES

#### Members
- $30 each
- 2 for $50
- Family $60
- Living Lightly $25

#### Nonmembers
- $40 each
- 2 for $60
- Family $70
- Living Lightly $35

#### Table for 10
- $300

#### Raffle Tickets
- $5 each or 3 for $10

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**TICKET PRICES**

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**RAFFLE TICKETS**

We are currently putting together a list of great raffle prizes to represent our fabulous community of donors, including a float trip for two with a shore lunch! You could win that or more if you are lucky enough to have a winning ticket — so make sure your name is in the drawing!
I arrived April 5th in Missoula, and since I started to walk its streets I knew that I would have very good moments in this place. One of those was when I got to know the work of the Jeannette Rankin Peace Center. When you enter in this place you feel that the people who are there really want to talk about peace and want the world to live in peace. But readers will wonder why my interest in this Center, if in addition to this foundation there are hundreds of other institutions that could have caught my attention in Missoula. This is because, like many other Colombians, I have a special interest in talking about peace today. Especially in talking about the peace we are building in Colombia after the signing of the agreement reached between the National Government headed by President Juan Manuel Santos and the FARC guerrilla group.

There have been many episodes of violence, which will come to an end if we really succeed in ending a conflict that has taken place throughout Colombia for more than 50 years. The FARC guerrilla was created in 1967 after 20 years of partisan violence, a phenomenon that was the seed that created three different armed groups against the State and the phenomenon of paramilitarism, all acting outside Colombian law. However, the FARC, perhaps because it is the largest of these groups, is the one that has had the greatest impact in the face of the tragic effects that we have suffered as Colombians in this war. Also it has combined its military activity with its participation in the business of drug trafficking; so its presence became very strong, to the point of having recruited more than 7,000 men, women and children to be part of its army.

In this way a national tragedy took place with more than 220 thousand dead, 25 thousand disappeared, 30 thousand kidnappinged and more than 8 million displaced persons. For this reason, for more than six years, President Santos decided to test all his negotiating capacity to achieve the signing of a peace agreement with the FARC. This was achieved in November 2016, when Colombia happily arrived at the end of the war, with an exemplary Peace Agreement for the whole world. The Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame in the United States, concluded “based on careful stud-

ies of the 34 agreements signed in the world in the last three decades to end armed conflicts, the peace agreement of Colombia is the most complete and comprehensive ever reached”. This feature of the agreement is perhaps one of the reasons why the Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded President Santos the Nobel Peace Prize in December 2016.

Therefore, the agreement includes elements in five important areas that encompass most of the major issues confronting Colombia. First, it was agreed to create policies to transform the Colombian countryside, and for this the main agreement is to make comprehensive rural reform. Second, the agreement includes elements of political participation, in order to create a democratic opportunity to build peace, that is, to allow people who withdraw from groups outside the law to create a political party. It also contains the operational elements to reach the end of the conflict, such as the process to hand over to the State all the weapons owned by this guerrilla group. Fourth, elements were agreed upon to achieve a solution to the problem of illicit drugs. Finally, the document contains agreements on how to replace the victims of the conflict, all the suffering caused by the war.

Moreover, these five elements included in the agreement, make it broad and involve the entire Colombian population. As a result, members of the Norwegian Nobel Committee exalt the fact that “the award goes to President Santos only, but must also be understood as a tribute to the Colombian people - a people that despite great hardship and innumerable abuses has never lost the hope of a just peace”.

(continued on page 7)
Peace comes through nonviolence, social justice and continued measures to care for our planet. That is exactly what Fair Trade strives to do. The Jeannette Rankin Peace Center and The Olive Branch adhere to this through our mission statement and our actions. As members we are ecstatic to have you on this journey along with us. The heartbreaking truth is that our world clearly does not run on the same mission statement we all share, which is why it is so important that we do the work that we do. We are world changers. We are being the change.

In the United States many of our rights as workers are protected. It is not the case in the rest of the world, especially in developing countries. A Fair Trade certification means that vendors are rewarded for doing the right thing and protecting the rights of their workers. Women escape sex trafficking and families escape the slums in Bangladesh through passionate, inspired, and dignified work. Being paid a living wage often aids generosity as in Peru, where it’s found that 20-30% of wages earned through Fair Trade voluntarily go to community capacity building projects such as funding small hospitals and schools. Making a living wage in good working conditions and with cultural respect transforms the lives of individuals and communities all over the world.

The materials used in the products we sell commonly come from within 100 miles of where they are made. You likely won’t find grass crafts, such as baskets from Nepal anywhere else but the Olive Branch; and the same is true for felting crafts, such as the fairies we carry from Kenya. Sourcing materials close to where they are made cuts down on the overall travel of the product and is better for the earth. Many items we carry in the store are made by repurposing the material from saris, a traditional dress of women in India. Through sustainability, artisans cleverly craft by upcycling materials that may normally go to waste.

Maybe most surprising is that all of this goodness, social justice and sustainability, doesn’t increase the cost of the product. For the quality of the product, Fair Trade stays in line with free trade products that you would normally see. This is because the distribution line for Fair Trade is much shorter than it is for free trade. In Fair Trade the product goes from the artisan to an importer to the shop. On average, there are 3-4 steps in the distribution chain. In free trade there is an average of 18-21 steps in the distribution chain. That’s 14 extra people minimum, on average who are paid for the transportation of the item alone. We can afford to pay our artisans living wages because we aren’t paying 14+ people to move the product across the world. We are only paying for meaningful, sensible work.

Next time you are considering a gift for a birthday or housewarming party, a card to celebrate or commiserate with a friend, or something nice for yourself, think of the story of the item. Is it a story of uplifting humanity? A story of creating peace through justice? We hope so. And we hope to see you soon.

“If you want peace, work for justice.” ~ Pope Paul VI

Columbia (cont.)

I am part of that group of Colombians, who look forward to Colombia starting a path of development marked by the effort we are all willing to make to build peace in our country and the world. As President Santos said in his Nobel Prize-giving speech, Colombian people are demonstrating that the impossible can be possible. That is why when I first visited the JRPC I felt that it was a space to share the deep and heartfelt feelings of Colombians and a place where the dear friends I met in Missoula will be able to know and support this wonderful challenge of building peace in Colombia.

Pictured above is Mary Poole, our 2017 Peacemaker with the Missoula Peace Quilters and the quilt they made for Mary. You still have time to submit your nomination for 2018 Peacemaker by October 1. Nomination forms are available at jrpc.org or call 543-3955

JRPC Bids Farewell to Tessa... We wish you love and light in Boise!!

Friends we made around the world through the Humphrey Fellowship Program and UM

Missoula Welcomes Refugees
What Does The Future Hold?
by Kris Bayer

The JRPC has been lucky enough this year to receive the Missoula Project for Nonprofit Excellence (MPNE) capacity building grant, a project of the Missoula Community Foundation and the Big Sky Institute for the Advancement of Nonprofits. The first part this spring was an in-depth evaluation of our organizational capacity in eight areas: Vision & Planning, Programs & Campaigns, Fundraising & Resources, Budgeting, Accounting, & Reporting, The Board, Public Communications & Alliances, Staff and Members Volunteers & Leaders. We learned SO much thanks to all who participated and to Suzanne Wilcox our assessment consultant for the spring.

It is clear from interviews and survey responses that there is organization-wide concern about staying relevant for the future and questions about what that looks like. We all agree we serve a vital role and want to continue to do so. One survey respondent said, “thank you for leading the way for peace that benefits our entire community and the world.” We also struggle with an aging membership and a need to reinvigorate our board of directors. Last year as we celebrated our 30th anniversary as an organization it made sense to re-evaluate our model and ask, “what needs to change?”

The conversations we had as part of this process revealed three areas critical to our work today and in the future: making and nurturing connections, facilitating conversations that matter and educating and inspiring the community. Now the challenge is to flesh out these areas with what, who, when, where and how! We are looking forward to this work with great excitement. And we are fortunate to be adding three wonderful new council or board members to our group — Lisa Robertson, Carly Hosford-Israel and Debbie Norheim. They join Steve McArthur, Kim Maynard, Maggie Lough, Pat Cross, Paxson Swierc and Peter McDonough to round out a Coordinating Council that rocks!!

The comprehensive assessment gave us several recommendations for building capacity so this fall we will contract with Terry Kendrick to lead us through some strategic planning and board and staff development. Terry was on the JRPC board 25 years ago and has done prior strategic planning for us. And she knows the Missoula community and many of its nonprofits well.

JRPC has many strengths that provide an excellent foundation. We are grateful to have a highly committed, loyal, and engaged core group of volunteers and members, a strong inner circle of council members, staff and volunteers who share a tremendous commitment to the mission and generally organizational-wide high regard for Executive Director. The number and quality of our volunteers is the envy of many nonprofits as is our phenomenal 84% member retention rate (compared to 40 industry-wide) and we have you all to thank for much of that!!

It’s an exciting time for the Jeannette Rankin Peace Center. Opportunities abound, and our world needs the work of the organization, perhaps more than ever. A strong, committed and passionate inner circle of volunteers, board members, and staff have the opportunity to define the future of the organization and to determine what difference JRPC will make in the world. We invite you to let us know your thoughts and ideas as we begin the exciting work of answering it and ushering JRPC into the future. We are grateful you have chosen to join us.
Peace It Together at the Peace Party

Sunday October 15, 3-7 pm, Missoula County Fairgrounds
Home Arts Building