Dear peace community,

2016 was a year for real peacemaking. It began with us in the middle of conversations — often heated — over the question of welcoming refugees in Missoula. And the year ends with conversations about where to go from here and how to make sure our country lives up to the ideals of liberty and justice for all. To be about peace, we have to find ways to talk to each other and be willing to learn from each other — to focus on our common humanity instead of our differences. Indeed these are the days for real peacemakers to stand up and be counted. There are many people who are fearful and need us as allies and many who are fearful and need us to reach out to them in understanding and compassion. There could be no more important time for us to hone our skills as people of peace and hope. The recent election has ignited many who want to do something to get involved somehow and that is a great thing. It’s about time we realized that “we are the ones we’ve been waiting for” — the ones who will change the world. As always, the JRPC is here as a resource to help organize, to connect and network and to educate and inspire. Let’s look for ways to find the good in the world and to reach out in the voice of peace to realize the world we know is possible.

Thank you all for the support and guidance you have given us. You are the future of PEACE in Missoula!!
A Word about Stamp Collecting at JRPC
by Kathi Wood

I recently had a conversation with Earl Walker, who heads up the Quaker Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR) stamp project which began in 1996. Since then, they have received $71,000 from recycled stamps. Thanks to those who send in their stamps to JRPC, our organization has been the recipient of donations from time to time. Earl explained that people are now buying stamps online and some are more valuable than others. Those include the Old Fashioned Banana Split and Milk Shake, also the Planets Forever stamps. Check these out online, and tell your friends to use them. Let’s get the word out. Other RSWR collectibles are Old Post Cards, Old Letters prior to 1960, Baseball Cards, and Coin Collections.

Stamps should be cut from envelopes with 1/8” to ¼” around the stamp. If you just leave that much space around your stamps, we will do the trimming for mailing them in. For foreign mail include the envelope as well because many dealers collect foreign envelopes. Save the envelopes of domestic mail postmarked prior to 1946 too. Do not remove stamps from very old letters, as the envelopes and letters can have considerable value. For more infor-

Happy Winter Everyone!

We cannot express the depth of our gratitude here at the Olive Branch for your loyalty and support of Fair Trade products over the past 27 years. How have you changed the world? Let me tell you a few of the ways: You support community capacity building through empowered artisans who erect schools and hospitals. You support gender equity by providing work for mothers and women who wouldn't have the opportunity otherwise. You support kids as Fair Trade means no child labor. You give hope and dignity to people all over the world who make a fair living wage for a hard days work. We look forward to seeing your friendly faces throughout the holiday season and into the new year. Keep your eyes watchful for a Membership Loyalty Program and 12 Days of Sales coming up in December.

Blessings and Warm Thoughts,
Tessa &
the Olive Branch Staff
(Carol, Sheridan and Haley)
Celebrating our 30th Peacemaker Patrick Weasel Head...

79 donations were made in honor of or in memory of your loved ones in 2016, including these from the last quarter.

**In Honor of:**
- the Orlando Pulse Victims
- Mike Rae
- Liz Rantz
- Brielle Clark’s 1st birthday
- Mike & Kerry Darrington
- Suzy Hampton & Love Literature
- A bench in the peace park for Betsy

**From:**
- Patty Ceglio
- Nora Moseman
- Carolyn Abbott
- Amy Belden
- InFaith Foundation
- 25 Friends
- Ethel MacDonald & friends

$39,973 net profit from our 2016 Peace Party attended by almost 250 people in a new location at the fairgrounds! **Mark your calendars for the 2017 party — same location on Sunday, October 15!!**

$7,400 generously donated for new double-pane, energy efficient windows across the front of our Center. We look forward to being warmer this year. Steve Loken is working on ordering the glass and making the frames. We are so excited to see our new look very soon and we are SO grateful to all of you for your support. Thank you so much!

...and 58 people attended the 2nd Annual Peace Un-conference which looked at the Roots of peace in our community and explored the ways we all give it wings to the future!!

YOU are invited to attend our 3rd unconference on June 10, 2017. Better yet, maybe you want to join our planning committee?!!

So far 10,000 pieces of “Love Literature” have hit the streets to spread a little good feelings around! Thank you Suzy Hampton. She had the idea back in 1999 — and she had it again in 2016!!! Have you gotten one? Do you want to be a kindness elf? Let us know. We’ll still be spreading it around into 2017...

Your year-end donations are a big part of our annual budget. **Thank you SO much for continuing to make us a priority. Together we make peace more visible!**
As a member, you get free use of our

- **Dish Pantry** saving lots of paper
  (used for 23 events in 2016!)
- **And our Community Room**
  (used by 40 different groups in 2016!)
- **Not to mention the library, the store discount,**
  **discounted and special events and the knowledge that**
  **you are part of a community dedicated to peace!!**

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**Wish List Plans for 2017:**

- New screen and ceiling mounted LCD projector
- Continue to upgrade our computer functionality and efficiency
- A printer that works!!
- Sound system to surround the center and store in music
- Updated, modernized store fixtures

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**Our Annual New Year’s Eve Peace Sign Luminary**

Join us December 31st between 4pm and midnight in Caras Park, Missoula, MT.

Add your much-needed message for PEACE this new year.