Jeannette Rankin Peace Center is working to build a world that is nonviolent, socially just, and environmentally sustainable through connections, education and conversations that matter. We’re so grateful to share that work with all of you.

New Store Manager
This fall, we welcomed our new fair trade store manager, Jenny Zaso. She brings with her professional experience in retail, merchandising, fundraising and non-profit management. She has an M.B.A. in Sustainable Business from Antioch University. It has been her dream to work with fair trade merchandise, after working in the fashion industry for large corporations in New York City and seeing the vast difference that fair trade operations can make in reducing the exploitation of human and natural resources. Most recently, before joining us at JRPC, Jenny worked in fundraising for conservation and environmental non-profits. She is excited to be a part of the peace and social justice community here in Missoula in her new position at The Olive Branch.

We Peaced it Together at the 2017 Peace Party with 268 of you and 18 of our fellow Missoula nonprofits...

...plus we raised over $6000 from 32 folks to put the Missoula Peace Sign back together. Stay tuned for more excitement as we complete that work in 2018!!

57 people attending the 3rd Annual JRPC Peace Un-Conference, Beyond Us & Them: What is Possible?

22 events used over 2700 items from our sustainable dish pantry

We celebrated our 31st Peacemaker, Mary Poole of Soft Landing Missoula

38 groups used our Community room

Plus we planned, attended, and sponsored over 50 other events in the Missoula area. Let us know which ones you enjoyed! We always appreciate your feedback.
1117 Members support us financially, including 38 Sustaining Rankin File Members and 27 Business Members… thanks!!! And on top of that, 8 generous donors have contributed to our permanent endowment to secure the future of JRPC. We would love to talk to you about the tax benefits of a planned gift or discuss a legacy donation for the future of the JRPC

FROM THE BOARD CHAIRS, Kim Maynard & Steve McArthur

For 31 years, the JRPC has been focusing on fair trade as part of our mission to make the world a more just place for people around the world. We are committed to fair trade because it ensures a living wage to our global neighbors and it does so while also caring for the environment, preserving indigenous cultures, creating capacity and economic opportunity, protecting children, and developing transparent and accountable relationships. The people who make our goods are real people that our purchases are lifting up economically and socially.

We believe it is time for us to make sure the same economic opportunity applies to our own workers. As you can see from the graphs above, we are not different from many other nonprofits in that personnel is our biggest expense. This work is about people and people make the connections, conversations, and inspiration that keep us going. Unlike the business sector, we try to be as thrifty as possible with our expenses. But when it comes to appreciating and rewarding our people, thrift is not wise. We believe it is time for us to step up and pay a more livable wage to our own people — just like our free trade work ensures for artists and crafts-folk around the world. And today, part of a living wage must be benefits like health care, which JRPC is unable to offer at present.

In order to make sure we are capable of recruiting and retaining the folks we need, we are asking for your help. We have the opportunity for an exciting new model of shared leadership with the addition of our new store manager. If you check out her amazing background on page 1, you can imagine the benefit she can bring to our organization. We want to be able to pay her the living wage that is commensurate with what she brings us. We also want to offer our folks health insurance. In order to make progress toward these admirable goals in 2018, we need $20,000 more than we have in our budget as of now. On behalf of the JRPC Council, we are asking you to consider giving an extra year-end donation to help us live the mission and values for which you appreciate us. Your generous gift today will go into a special Living Wage fund to make working at JRPC not only rewarding but personally sustainable. Kim and Steve
CONNECTION, CONVERSATION, EDUCATION: JRPC REFINES ITS FOCUS
Kim Maynard

JRPC recognizes that the world of today is not that of yesterday. The challenges facing us are increasing in both complexity and speed. Today, the PC’s role in engaging our community on these issues is especially critical. It is thus imperative that we use our resources to maximize our impact and streamline our efforts to be the most pertinent to these changing times.

To that end, the JRPC has embarked on a year of reflection on its mission and its relevance to the Missoula community. The aim has been to take a step back and look at what ways the PC supports social justice, non-violence, and environmental sustainability and where we might adjust to better serve the community today. With this in mind, the PC launched two exciting initiatives.

The first began this spring when the Peace Center invited selected Missoula community members to a three-part series of discussions on the direction of the PC. The twenty-plus participants first looked at the big picture: where the world is headed and what stands out as critical areas of interest. The second round dug a bit deeper into what opportunities exist for our community within these areas and the third examined specific ways the JRPC can contribute. These were lively, rich discussions that resulted in a refined direction for the Peace Center:

To encourage connection between people of all views
To spark conversations on issues that matter
To educate on issues of collective concern.

While connection, conversation, and education have been very much a part of JRPC’s work in the past, this process helped us recognize the importance of them in today’s times and now enables us to hone our work specifically to that end.

The second initiative was to apply for and receive (!) a grant called the Missoula Project for Nonprofit Excellence from the Missoula Community Foundation. This enabled the PC to hire a consultant to look at how we functioned as a nonprofit and to make recommendations for improvement. The PC received many high marks for its impressive membership numbers and retention and its financial management. The recommendations were for council capacity building and strategic planning, especially in light of the new direction.

Gratefully, the Missoula Community Foundation gave JRPC a follow-on grant to put the recommendations into action. This winter, the council will first undergo training to improve its knowledge and capacity to uphold its responsibilities. Then council members and staff will participate in a day-and-a-half long strategic planning session. The aim is to bring our new focus on connection, conversation, and education into concrete action.

This yearlong visioning process has re-invigorated the mission of the JRPC, adding legs to an already stalwart organization by taking what we do well and refining our direction to better serve our community. We welcome your input as we strategize how we can connect deeply and honestly with others, catalyze conversations that matter about issues of importance, and provide educational opportunities on subjects that affect all of us.

Thanks to our 12 Coordinating Council members who will continue this work into 2018:
Co-chairs—Kim Maynard and Steve McArthur, Secretary—Pat Cross, Treasurer—Maggie Lough, Paxson Swierc, Lisa Robertson, Debbie Norheim, Peter McDonough, Carly Hosford-Israel and Emeritus members Anita Doyle, Jon Bertsche and Ethel MacDonald
Giving the gift of fair trade this holiday season will not only bring a smile to your family and friends’ faces when they receive that warm wool scarf, decadent chocolate, or handcrafted piece of jewelry, but it will also make a difference in the lives of others around the globe. Buying fair trade ensures the rights of children, supports empowering and safe working conditions, respects cultural identities and cultivates environmental stewardship for communities involved in fair trade certified production and distribution practices for the goods they make and sell.

We hope you will stop by The Olive Branch for your holiday shopping needs and treat someone to a fair trade gift this year, or to the experience of shopping fair trade by giving them a gift certificate to the store. Most importantly, cherish each moment with your loved ones this holiday season and spread peace and good cheer wherever you go!

**Warm wishes for a happy and safe holiday season.**

*Jenny Zaso, Store Manager*

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**Upcoming Events:**

**Kids’ Night** is Friday, December 1 from 5 to 7 pm. Bring your young ones with a list and a budget and we’ll help them be the perfect “fair” gift-givers for the holidays, complete with recycled and upcycled gift wrap!!

The Peace Center is asked to be part of a non-profit float in the **Parade of Lights on Saturday, December 2 at 6 pm.** Wouldn’t you love to ride the float with us holding a lighted peace sign??

And you can’t forget the best lighted peace sign of all — the Luminaria one we all make to welcome in the New Year at **First Night, December 31 from 4 pm to midnight.** Volunteers are always needed.

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398 Peace Plates are making peace visible across MT...