"Step with care and great tact, and remember that life’s a great balancing act.” ~Dr. Seuss

Dear friends,

The world is full of tragedy and there are people who do not have our best interests at heart. Issues like the proposed tax plan and the increased income inequality and national deficit it will likely bring with it, health care for all -- or the lack thereof, protection of net neutrality and our public lands, not to mention potential war with North Korea or the provocation of tensions in the Middle East are all worthy of our angst. It was wonderful to see over 200 people at the Missoula courthouse yesterday to add their voices of protest to a tax plan that hurts our neighbors and the safety nets so desperately needed. Anger and frustration are appropriate. It is what we do with those emotions and how we do it that determines our character -- and our outcome. Name-calling, hateful attacks and facebook posts that discredit and belittle may be tempting and even temporarily make us feel vindicated. But they do not solve anything and do little to help us reach a place of resolution and healing. It's not easy for anyone to listen to other perspectives when they are framed in such negativity. Something I have learned in Rotary is the Four Way Test: Is it the truth?; Is it fair to all concerned?; Will it build good will and better friendships?; and Will it be beneficial to all concerned? A long-ago Rotarian used it to build a failing business back up. And I believe it has much to offer us who want to build our communities back up and keep the arc of the universe bending toward justice. The pain we feel requires action and the road ahead requires all of our energy. Yes, the high road is much harder than the alternative but remember -- it's about being the change...and now is the perfect time to start!

With hope, Betsy

Calendar

Thursday, December 7, 5-8 pm. Imagine Nation Brewing. Climate Smart Missoula's Year 2
Celebration. Join Climate Smart in the INBC taproom and community room for a fun, festive celebration of our second full year! Come say hello, hear what we've been up to this past year and what's on the agenda for the next, and help us honor the "Smarty Pants" who are helping us build a climate smart community (5:30 awards). Snacks, INBC beverages, raffle, sweet solar lanterns for sale, and a great opportunity to support our work to address climate change in Missoula. Family friendly with kids activities. See you there!

Thursday December 7, 7:30-9 pm, Open Way Mindfulness Center (702 Brooks). Mindful Community Conversations Series will feature a discussion on Grief and Loss led by Greg Grallo. Format: Sitting meditation (10 minutes), Speaker (30 minutes), Open sharing/questions. 549-9005 or openwaysangha@gmail.com

Saturday, December 9, 2-3:30 pm, Le Petit. Students from the UM Social Work Department will have a panel discussion invite you to join them for appetizers and a panel discussion on how to rise up in a time of crisis. Panel members include Michelle, who is a nurse in Missoula and who was in Las Vegas at the time of the recent shooting with her family, and Patrina, or one of her children, survivors of domestic violence. Money raised will go toward a memorial bench for victims of violence. You can donate by contacting Paige at paige.furniss@umconnect.umt.edu or 396-1604.

Saturday, December 9, 5 pm, U of M Ballroom. The Annual Missoula Gay Men’s Chorus Christmas Cabaret, the single fund raiser for the Chorus. Besides dinner and musical entertainment, there is also a raffle. Tickets are $50 and available by contacting Gary Bowman at Morgenroth Music Store.

Mondays, December 11 & 18, 6:30-8:00 pm, 210 N. Higgins, Suite #207. Need a calm moment? These two evening mini-retreats, will teach you some simple, effective relaxation, guided imagery and self-hypnosis tools to help you go through this holiday season more relaxed, calm and self-connected. You will learn simple, yet powerful tools to relax yourself when you're stressed or triggered, so you can feel safer and calmer. $30 for both evenings. Preregistration Necessary! Register Online: http://www.innerworkingsresources.com/StressRelief

Wednesday, December 13, 12 noon, JRPC (2nd and 4th Wed. every month). Patrick Marsolek leads a free practice group for those interested in learning to use Nonviolent Communication Techniques more effectively. 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month. Join him to learn more about this critical skill. www.InnerWorkingsResources.com

December 31, 4 pm-midnight, Caras Park. Make time in your first night evening to stop by Caras and add a luminaria to the peace sign we make each year to usher in a new year and a new wish for peace. Volunteers needed -- contact us at volunteer@jrpc.org

Saturday, January 6, 208 E. Main (2nd floor Union Hall Building) New Year Aikido Intro for Beginning Adults. Try the martial art of harmony with an orientation followed by four guided basics classes. For more information visit http://www.AikidoMissoula.com, call 549-8387 or come by the dojo. Preregistration required by January 3.

Action Opportunities

Montana Nonprofit Association asks us to write to Congress, and particularly the “tax conferees,” to preserve nonprofit nonpartisanship and to reject any changes to the Johnson Amendment. Each bill contains multiple provisions that would harm the ability of charitable nonprofits to advance our missions. The most damaging is Section 5201 of the House-passed bill; it would radically change the longstanding, vital protection in law for nonpartisanship of charitable, religious, and philanthropic organizations, known as the Johnson Amendment. Section 5201 would allow political operatives to pressure those organizations to endorse or oppose candidates for public office, and powerful donors to exert even more pressure by giving or threatening to withhold charitable contributions to get the organizations to endorse or oppose candidates the donors prefer. The proposed change would also make political donations – for the first time ever – tax-deductible when funneled through charitable nonprofits, houses of worship, and foundations.

War Abolition 201: Building the Alternative Global Security System. World Beyond War is offering this course online from January 29 to March 19, 2018. It will include video and text, discussion forums, assignments, and feedback from the best instructors. It will not involve any scheduled live events; rather, you can do the course on your own schedule. This is the course to take if you've already taken our beginner's course on ending war, or if you simply want to focus on replacing war with systems of peace. Details are being added, but you can read about it here and be the first to sign up.

Plus remember, JRPC has a dish pantry so you can borrow cloth napkins, plates, silverware and even candle holders and vases -- for a small donation or free for members of JRPC!

Do you have any area rugs or pieces of fabric that you would be willing to donate to The Olive Branch for use in the store? We would love them to jazz up the store a bit. Please call or e-mail our store manager, Jenny Zaso, to let her know! E-mail store@jrpc.org or call (406) 543-3955.

Visit the Missoula Resistance Library for great reading lists on topics that are relevant today. [https://missoularesistancelibrary.wordpress.com/]

We accept nominations for peacemaker throughout the year. Now accepting for the 2019 award. Go to [https://jrpc.org/programs/peacemaker-award/]

Fair Trade News

We are all decked out and stocked with great gift ideas -- with more things arriving every day! We hope to see you in the store this holiday season for all of your gift giving needs. There is nothing more rewarding than giving a fair trade gift or giving someone else the experience of shopping fair trade with a store gift certificate. Make sure your shopping matches your values at The Olive Branch -- or our neighbor Upcycled!

Check out our online store at [http://the-olive-branch.shoplightspeed.com]

Ongoing Events and Meetings

- **Women in Black** Fridays, North end of the Higgins Bridge, 12:15-12:45 pm. missoulawib@montana.com
- **Balanced View Clarity Online Call** every Sunday, 11am-noon MT time. Contact: CheyenneRivers@BalancedView.org.
- **Veterans For Peace** first Monday of each month (September 11), 4-6 pm, JRPC. 406-363-6150 or pvaughan184@gmail.com
- **Citizens Climate Lobby** 2nd Monday of every month, 6pm, Imagine Nation Brewery. Contact Scott at sebovard@gmail.com.
- **JRPC Coordinating Council** Third Monday of every month, 5:30 pm at JRPC. All are welcome to attend!
- **350Missoula Coal & Renewables Committee** third Monday of each month, 5:30 pm, Imagine Nation Brewing. leemet@bigsky.net
- **Women in Black of Polson** Mondays, 12-12:30 pm, Polson courthouse. c211p110@earthlink.net
- **Knitting For Peace** every Tuesday, 1–3 pm, JRPC. 543-3955.
- **Nonviolent Communication Practice Group** Second and Fourth Wednesdays, 12-1 pm, JRPC info@patrickmarsolek.com
- **The Cranium** creates origami delights Wednesdays, 1:15-3:15, JRPC. bonnie@bonnietarses.com
- **Time Bank Orientation** Contact info@missoulatimebank.org for individual and group orientation for new members at a location TBD.
- **Missoula Moves To Amend** Contact Sue at 543-3254

Articles Of Interest

Have you read an article that inspired you? Share it with us so we can share it with others!!

Check out the Library at JRPC for lots of great resources. Donations are always welcome!

Ways to Help JRPC

Consider a gift membership or honor donation as a great "green" holiday gift for that hard to buy for person on your list!

And we would be honored to have you consider a donation to JRPC as you plan your end-of-year giving.
Jeannette Rankin Peace Center has been in Missoula since 1986, working to build non-violence, social justice and sustainability. We are pleased to be a member of the Montana Shares Network, a partnership of Montana-based nonprofit groups devoted to improving the quality of life in communities throughout the state. Give to JRPC through your workplace. www.montanashares.org

The JRPC e-newsletter is sent to our listserv each Thursday. Deadline for calendar items is noon, Wednesday. We always appreciate your contributions, comments and suggestions. If you would like to be taken off our mailing list, please unsubscribe below. To sign up, click this link.

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519 S Higgins Ave.
Missoula, MT 59801
United States