Dear friends,

Tomorrow is the longest night of the year. Many of us will celebrate the growing light that follows the solstice. But the longest night is also a fitting time to remember those for whom the cold and dark are inescapable realities. I am referring to those in our community who do not have a warm, safe place to live. The following homeless individuals died this last year, exposed to the elements. Their stories will not be written in the paper and few of us will note their absence. Part of peacemaking is bearing witness to the stories that need to be told. We may never know the hopes and struggles behind these names but each one was someone I perhaps walked past on the street, someone who faced challenges I will never know. Please join me tomorrow evening at 5:30 in front of the Courthouse to speak their names and bear witness to their struggles. May they each rest finally in peace...

Betsy

Jerry Wright
Dennis Yuhazs
Michael Schumacher
Thomas “Wade” Schell
Susan Egeland
Madison Allen
Jim Laufenberger
Wayne Munnell
Ron Clark
Andy Wilder

Calendar

Friday, December 21, 5:30 pm, Missoula County Courthouse. JRPC, the Poverello and other organizations are planning the annual Homeless Persons' Memorial. Pay tribute to the homeless folks in our community who have died. There will be time to share and discuss at dinner after at First United Methodist Church.

Monday, December 31, 4 pm to midnight, Caras Park. New Year's Eve Peace Sign Luminary Lighting. Ring in 2019 with friends and family while spreading the message of peace by lighting a luminary to help create a giant symbol of peace in Caras Park on New Years Eve day.

Saturday, January 12, 11:30 am-1 pm, 208 E. Main (Union Hall, 2nd floor). New Year Aikido Intro for Beginning Adults. Try the martial art of harmony with an orientation followed by two guided basics classes. For more information visit http://AikidoMissoula.com, call 549-8387 or email plant@jrpc.org.
come by the dojo. Preregistration required by January 9.

Monday, January 14, 5-7 pm or 7-9 pm, Doubletree. Session 1 of the Missoula Master Plan Public Design Workshop. Help create the future of downtown Missoula. Also see the following sessions:

- Tuesday, January 15-Thursday, January 17, 10 am-7 pm, The Public House. Stop by anytime to see and share your ideas.
- Friday, January 18, 4-6 pm, The Wilma. See the final wrap up presentation.

Monday, January 21, 9 am-4 pm, Helena State Capitol. Join MT Human Rights Network for the 2019 MLK Jr Lobby Day. They will be providing training for how to talk about the issues, how to contact and find your legislators and give you an opportunity to engage your civic leaders and lawmakers. Contact garrett@mhrn.org

Saturday, February 16, 9 am-4 pm, Imagine Nation Brewing. Dismantling Hatred: Skills and Strategies You Can Use, presented by the MT Racial Equity Project.$80 per person. info@themtrep.org

Action Opportunities

New Year's Eve Peace Volunteers Needed -- Every year the Jeannette Rankin Peace Center makes it possible for folks to bring in the New Year by making a luminaria message of peace and adding it to the candle-lit luminaria peace sign on the Caras Park bandstand. This special event is part of Missoula’ First Night celebration. Volunteers are needed to hand out luminaria-making supplies of paper bags and sand, light candles and generally keep on eye on the luminaria peace sign. First Night in Missoula is a magical and wonderful way to bring in the New Year. You can get a free button for admission to all First Night events by volunteering for a 2-hour shift at the Jeannette Rankin Peace Center’s Caras Park Luminaria Peace Sign celebration! Free buttons are limited, so sign up soon! You can sign up by sending an email to volunteer@jrpc.org

- When: Monday evening, December 31, for a 2 hour shift between 4:00 pm and midnight
- Where: Caras Park bandstand, in downtown Missoula, Montana (yes, you will be outside for your entire 2-hour shift. Dress warmly.)

We accept nominations for peacemaker throughout the year. Now accepting for the 2020 award. Go to https://jrpc.org/programs/peacemaker-award/

Fair Trade News

Missoula's only all fair trade store, a program focused on JRPC's international peacebuilding efforts. Who wouldn't love a gift that brings more peace and justice to the world!!!

Ongoing Events and Meetings

Climate Smart Missoula, First Thursday of every month. Topics vary. 5 - 7 pm, Imagine Nation Brewing Co. Contact: amy@climatesmartmissoula.org

Women in Black & Veterans For Peace Fridays, North end of the Higgins Bridge, 12:15-12:45 pm. missoulawib@montana.com

Balanced View Clarity Online Call Sundays, 11am-noon, or Mondays 5-6pm. Contact: CheyenneRivers@BalancedView.org. Visit http://www.Bright.how

Veterans For Peace first Monday of each month (September 11), 4-6 pm, JRPC. 406-363-6150 or pvaughan184@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.

Jewish Reading Group One Wednesday a month starting on January 23. Read Allegra Goodman’s Knees

Falls. readingjewsmissoula@gmail.com

Nonviolent Communication Practice Group Second and Fourth Wednesdays, 12-1 pm, JRPC info@patrickmarsolek.com

The Cranium creates origami delights every 1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesday, 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.
Montana Moves To Amend statewide phone calls 4th Tuesday of each month. Contact Sue at 543-3254

Articles Of Interest

Human Rights at 70: Time to De-colonize Human Rights

Thanks for your support so that PEACE PARTIES ON! Now, please support our donors with your business to say thanks to them! And check out Our Event Photos

Ways to Help JRPC

1. *We want to reimagine our community room space and we are looking for folks to help. If you have ideas or*
2. *creative energy to share, please call us.*
3. *We are always looking for good folks to help lead our organization by becoming great board members. Call and talk to us about his great opportunity to be a bigger part of our great family*

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](http://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.