Dear friends,

Many of you may know that I once planned to go to Africa with the Peace Corps so that I could make a difference in the world. Now I didn’t end up going (which is another story) and that is OK, because I learned that I could make a difference in my own community without going halfway around the world. However, Africa and her people continue to have a place in my heart. I was filled with hope to read of the work of one group -- Initiative For Equality, a network of activists around the world working to empower people in some of the poorest regions to work together for greater social, economic and political equality. One group they are working with is the indigenous Batwa and Bambuti people of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burundi and Rwanda, one of the most ancient human societies on earth. They have been the subject of massive land grabs, rights violations, sexual violence and mass killings over the past few decades, due to a combination of local prejudice compounded by the financial incentives created by international companies seeking minerals, timber, and land for cash crops such as palm oil. Initiative for Equality is working to change that. With their help, a growing movement of educated, internet-savvy Batwa men and women are standing up and fighting back on behalf of their people. I encourage you to learn more about the plight of the Batwa people and the work of IfE to help them. There are so many tragedies in the world, but there are also many points of hope. The more we know, the more light we can shine on the struggles and the successes...Betsy

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**Calendar**

**Thursday, January 10th, 5:30-7:30 pm, Good Works Ventures (129 W Alder St).** Please join Montana Human Rights Network in Missoula to kick off the **2019 legislative session**. Get the information you need to engage with your representatives this legislative session. Learn about this year's policy priorities. Hear the report out on the first few days of the session. Hosted by Montana Women Vote, ACLU of Montana, Montana Budget and Policy Center, Montana Human Rights Network, MontPIRG, and Forward Montana.

**Friday, January 11.** The Olive Branch Fair Trade Store will re-open. Thank you for your patience. We can’t wait to see you.

**Saturday, January 12, 9 am-1 pm, University Center Ballroom.** Creative Crossroads: Cultural Dil i Ch i W ld i f th tbl d bth t i f
Diplomacy in a Changing World, a unique conference that blends both stunning performances by internationally renowned dancers and musicians and insightful conversations with performers and diplomats shaping international relations through cultural diplomacy. This event, a continuation of the annual Art of Diplomacy conference, is free and open to the public as part of the Rocky Mountain Ballet Theatre's Ballet Beyond Borders. Sponsored by the Mansfield Center.

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 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.

Saturday, January 19, 12-2 pm, UM Oval. This year, in lieu of a march, local Women will gather to rally in support of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. Please join us.

Monday, January 21, 5 pm, Caras Park. We Were Made for These Times Youth Rally to begin the MLK Celebration. The rally will be followed by a Community Social at St.Anthony’s Church 6 PM (217 Tremont Street). For more information, go to http://missoulamlkday.com

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

Wednesday, January 23, 12-1 pm, MT State Capital, Helena. Clean Power For All: Rally at the Capitol. Hosted by Northern Plains Resource Council https://www.facebook.com/events/399521607256260/

Saturday, January 26, 9 am-12 noon, Payne Family Native American Center. Join us for a follow-up to our last Unconference -- a workshop on cultural Identity presented by Dr. Udo Fluck. Free and open to all.

Saturday, January 26, 9am-5pm, Red Willow Center, Emotional In Intelligence: The 5 Emotional Cancers, based on the work of Dr. Stephen Covey -- the 5 C's that drain our potential: criticizing, complaining, competing, contending and comparing. $95. Register HERE!406-880-2639

Sunday, January 27, 1:30-4:30 pm, Har Shalom. Introduction to the Community Resiliency Model of the Trauma Resource Institute, a free 3 hour workshop. You will leave the workshop with a better understanding of the nervous system, a few new strategies to help yourself and/or others, manage stress or trauma triggers, and perhaps a newer, gentler perspective on why we (and others) behave in the ways we do. RSVP to danaeisenberglcsw@gmail.com or call 406-239-1106.

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

Wednesday, March 6, The Roxy. Details pending. In celebration of Women's History Month, every Wednesday there will be films directed by women, starring women. The film selection highlights particularly creative approaches to the art of filmmaking and offers points of view from America to around the globe. This week will feature FRIDA. Other films include:

- March 13 - THE LURE
- March 20 - PERSEPOLIS
- March 27 - WAITRESS
Action Opportunities

Local Activist, Briana Lamb has been asked by Senator Jon Tester to be his guest at this years State of the Union Address in Washington D.C. on January 29, 2019. Her main focus will be to continue raising awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women at the national level. You can help her raise money to travel there at https://paypal.me/pools/c/8bdbTdL8oH

On January 18, 2019, the Indigenous Peoples Movement is marching on Washington to unite Indigenous Peoples across the world to stand together to bring awareness to the injustices affecting them. Event details: https://indigenouspeoplesmovement.com/ipmdc19/ and FACEBOOK EVENT PAGE.

Then on January 19, 2019, the 3rd annual Women's March will take place https://www.womensmarch.com/2019/

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.** Second Tuesday 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 *Kaaterskill 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

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 creative energy to share, please call us.*
2. *We are always looking for good folks to help lead our organization by becoming great board members. Call and talk to us about this 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

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.

To unsubscribe from this newsletter click here
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