



Merrimack Valley

People For Peace

Serving the communities of the Merrimack Valley

Merrimack Valley People for Peace, Inc. works for a sustainable future for all life on our planet. Our members commit themselves to the interrelated activities of education for peace and justice, the prevention of war, an end to arms sales, the abolition of nuclear weapons, and protection of the environment.

January 2018 – June 2019

Good News

Asylum On Saturday, March 30th, the Merrimack Valley Interfaith Sanctuary Network welcomed its first asylum seeking guest. This individual will be staying at the Christ Church United while his legal case for asylum is being processed through the Boston court system.

The Merrimack Valley Project set up the Merrimack Valley Interfaith Sanctuary Network in 2017. Cantor Vera Broekhuysen of Temple Emanu-El in Haverhill led the organizing. Christ Church United, under the leadership of Pastor Peter Lovett, chose to set aside space in their church building to house an immigrant or immigrant family in need.

You can contact the Merrimack Valley Project to assist. Training is available for volunteers.

Millions of students walk out of classes in global strike for the climate. Young activists in cities around the world launched a one-day global strike on March 15, and another one on May 24, demanding that governments take the necessary measures before climate change becomes irreversible. The March 15 action saw an estimated 1,6 million participants. More than 1,350 separate strikes in every continent on Earth were planned for May 24. Inspired by 16-year old Swedish high school student Greta Thunberg, young people all over the world raise up to tackling the issue of climate change.

In Massachusetts, organizers of the Youth Climate Strike released a list of 22 demands including building no new infrastructure that depends on fossil fuels like oil and natural gas; switching to 100 percent non-fossil-fuel sources of propulsion, heat, and electricity by 2030; creating a committee to implement the Green New Deal that has subpoena power; and declaring climate change a national emergency.

The board of the Massachusetts Teachers Association unanimously passed a motion supporting the strike.

Events 2018 - 19

Our work with MA3 was published on the web in July. MA3 was the Mass Peace Action effort to better inform readers of the platforms of candidates for the seat Niki Tsongas retired from.

We continued to attend monthly vigils called Jericho Walks drawing attention to the plight of immigrants being detained by ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement). There were usually around a hundred marchers at the ICE Burlington MA office. We also joined vigils by other local groups in Andover and Newburyport, supporting immigrant and refugee rights, as well as supporting victims of mass shootings.

Some attended the Rolling Ridge Peace Conference which focused on environmental justice.

<http://www.merrimackvalleypeopleforpeace.org/>

You can view newsletters on line (where most links work) at <http://www.merrimackvalleypeopleforpeace.org/oldmins.hym>

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We again held our Hiroshima vigil on August 6 in Andover. Our table and tent greeted crowds at the Lowell Folk Festival, the Bread and Roses Festival, and Andover Day.

People from Boston and Lowell joined us in front of Raytheon October 11 to remind people to keep space for peace, and December 13 with signs advising Raytheon to stop supporting Saudi Arabia's bombing in Yemen.

We attended other regional events concerning Yemen and Raytheon also. In Cambridge we saw Medea Benjamin speak, and at U Mass Lowell we stood in front of a Raytheon job fair. In March we saw Dr. Elaine Scarry introduce a film by Noam Chomsky.

Mary and Jim moved, so Brian took Mary's library of peace related books and CDs. They will go to a library.

August 13, Masood and Susan Nicholson (North Shore Coalition) and members of the Jewish Voice for Peace met with Congressman Seth Moulton to discuss BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions) and demolitions of Palestinian homes.

Newburyport's energizer bunny, Niki Rosen, died August 28. A big vigil was held there in her honor.

The gas line crisis delayed our sharing a movie about drone warfare at the Andover Memorial Library. It will be shown this summer or fall.

We submitted a tree at the 25th annual Methuen Festival of Trees. Needless to say, it was a Peace Tree, decorated with peace signs, doves, strings of gold and silver stars inscribed with the word "Peace" in about 80 languages, lights in all the colors of the rainbow and topped with a beautiful Earth globe.

We invited speakers for two events that were also open to the public. In February Jonathan King updated us on local efforts to resist nuclear war and nuclear power. In March, we heard "Voices from the Border: A Cry for Justice" by Sunny Robinson, Jeanne Gallo and Sr. Linda Bessom, a presentation on and discussion of current US immigration policy. The talk was based on the co-authors' own witness of the situation at the US-Mexico border and illustrated by multiple slides.

Some of us had the opportunity to hear from an insider about the 2014 Crimea-wide referendum to return to Russia and the following processes in Crimea. "What Is Going On In Crimea?" was the title of Tatyana Bukharina's talk at the House of Peace in Ipswich.

In February, when WWII veteran, Jim McCue, died at 97 years old, Pat brought his Veteran's for Peace presence to honor the man. We supported VFP's marching in the 100th anniversary of the WWI Armistice and the recent Memorial Day.

The Peace Monks' Walk for a New Spring went through Ipswich this year.

Our weekly vigils at Shawsheen Square and at Raytheon continue.

Meeting Notes

6/22/18 At our annual meeting, speaker Adelina Janiak gave us a local lawyer's perspective on the dangers to immigrants and refugees. Much help is needed.

7/24/18 We planned for the Lowell Folk Festival, Hiroshima Day, Bread and Roses, and Andover Day.

8/22/18 In an online vote we cosponsored the Quaker event in September, The Right to Peace - The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70.

8/28/18 We scheduled for October 11 the Keep Space for Peace vigil at the Raytheon plant in Andover.

9/25/18 Brian has listed the books and media from Mary Todd's "library" and will find a new home for them in a library.

-We reviewed events round Niki's life and noted we have posters her friends made to commemorate nuclear war victims.

-We will present a tree at Methuen's festival of trees.

10/27/18 We planned for the Stone Soup Supper, with speaker Jonathan King. We discussed contributing to a fund for the gas line crises, as a group or individually.

11/20/18 Stone Soup Supper meeting. Due to snow and ice, we met, but convinced Jonathan King not to drive here from Cambridge.

No December meeting. The year end giving committee met.

1/22/19 At our January pot luck we planed for February and March meeting speakers.

2/26/19 Speaker Jonathan King from Mass Peace Action recommended encouraging state government to send messages to the Federal government concerning nuclear arms and nuclear power.

3/26/19 Sunny Robinson and Sister Linda Bessom shared their experience at the Mexican Border, and the demonstrations by School of the Americas Watch.

4/23/19 Our budget needs a fund raiser, probably in the fall.
-We discussed some ways to raise money. We set up dates for the Annual meeting, June 7 or 14. (It is June 7)
-The Nominating Committee will solicit board members and officers for 2019-20.

5/28/19 For a fundraiser, Wolfram's band may be available. Other possibilities are also being explored. We planned for the annual meeting. We will discuss what will MVPP and the peace movement do next.

Coming Events

Sat. - Sun Jy 20-21 Rolling Ridge Peace Conference

Sat. Jy 27 Lowell Folk Festival table at Boarding House Park Noon to 6pm.

Tue. Ag 6, 7pm. Hiroshima vigil at Andover Old Town Hall.

Mon. Sept 2 Campagnone Common. Bread and Roses Festival. Noon to 6pm.

Sat. Sept. 7 Andover Day. Noon to 6pm.

Thur. June 27, 7pm at Newburyport Public Library, C-10 (Citizens Within Ten Miles) will have its annual Public Meeting with Dr. Victor Saouma, Professor of Civil and Structural Engineering at UC, Boulder CO. His talk concerns serious issues of alkali-silica reaction at Seabrook Nuclear Station.

Mass Peace Action Events:

<http://masspeaceaction.org/events/>

Membership

**To continue to receive this newsletter...We Invite You to Join /Rejoin Us
(Unless 2019 appears on your label, your dues have expired. Please remember to renew.)**

\$20.00 Individual

\$10.00 Student/Senior

\$30.00 Family

Circle One

\$50.00 Supporting

\$75.00 Sustaining

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Telephone _____ E-Mail _____ Date _____

Return to
P.O. Box 573
North Andover, MA 01845

MVPP is registered with the IRS as a 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions to MVPP are tax deductible.

Check here if you prefer to receive your newsletter via e-mail.

Weekly Vigils

Andover: Sunday, noon-1 pm; Shawsheen Square, Junction of Routes 133 and 28; Lawrence Friends Meeting/ Shawsheen Peace Witness; Allan Sifferlen, 978-397-6432.

Andover: Thursday, 7:00-8:00 am; in front of Raytheon plant near Routes 133 and 93; Raytheon Peacemakers; Allan Sifferlen, 978-397-6432.

Gloucester: Saturday, noon-1 pm; Grant Circle.

Marblehead: Tuesday, 6:30-7:19pm in front of the high school and Community Center at the lights at the intersection of Humphrey-Pleasant and Lafayette Sts.; Tom Gale, 781-631-1218.

Nashua, NH in front of Nashua City Hall from 11 to Noon every Sat. www.nashuapeace.org

Newburyport: Sunday, noon-1 pm; Market Square; Paul Paulsen (978) 462-7894

Reading: 2nd Saturday/each month, 11 am-noon; Reading Square; Reading People for Peace; Bob Connor, bobconnor1@yahoo.com.

Rockport: Wednesday, noon-1 pm; First Congregational Church (silent for peace).

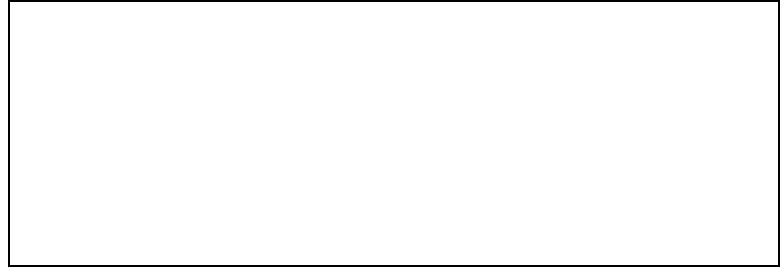
Salem, MA: Saturday, 11-noon; Riley Plaza (by the Post Office).

Merrimack Valley People For Peace
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<http://www.merrimackvalleypeopleforpeace.org/>

PEACE IS
PATRIOTIC

ANNUAL MEETING
Fri. June 7 at 6:30



The MVPP Newsletter is printed periodically and has a current distribution of 70. We are grateful for suggestions, comments, and help with publication

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Newsletter contributors: Arthur and Margaret Brien, Brian Quirk, and Boryana Tacconi,.

CALL AND WRITE YOUR REPRESENTATIVES & SENATORS TO MAKE YOUR VIEWS KNOWN

Every legislator knows one letter is worth a thousand votes.

President Donald Trump (202) 456-1414 comments
The White House (202) 456-1111 switchboard
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500
Contact: www.whitehouse.gov/contact/

Senator Elizabeth Warren (202) 224-4543
317 Hart Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510
Form: www.warren.senate.gov/?p=email_senator

Senator Edward J. Markey (202) 224-2742
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510
Form: www.markey.senate.gov/contact

Representative Seth Moulton (District 6)
1408 Longworth
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Washington, DC 20515 21 Front Street
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Form: <https://moulton.house.gov/contact/>

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492 Main Street **Acton**, MA 01720 (978) 263-1951
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A link to all in US legislature:
thomas.loc.gov/home/legbranch/legbranch.html

How Senators and Representatives voted:
US Senate:
www.senate.gov/reference/common/faq/how_to_votes.htm
US House: clerk.house.gov/evs/2004/index.asp

State Voting Information: Find your representatives at:
<http://wheredoivotema.com/bal/MyElectionInfo.aspx>

State Bills
<http://www.mass.gov/legis/hbillsrch.htm>