



## 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.

**July 2019 – June 2020**

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## Good News

**The protests are going on.** The uprising against police brutality and anti-Black racism continues to sweep across the United States and countries around the world, forcing a reckoning in the halls of power and on the streets. The mass protests following the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis on May 25 have dramatically shifted public opinion on policing and systemic racism, as “Defund the police” becomes a rallying cry of the movement.

In the words of Black Lives Matter co-founder Alicia Garza, “When we talk about defunding the police, what we're saying is invest in the resources that our communities need. So much of policing right now is generated and directed towards quality-of-life issues, homelessness, drug addiction, domestic violence. ... But what we do need is increased funding for housing, we need increased funding for education, we need increased funding for quality of life of communities who are over-policed and over-surveilled.”

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One of the striking differences from years past has been the large number of white protesters everywhere.

Some cities have responded with gestures of support. New York Mayor Bill de Blasio has pledged to shift money from the NYPD budget to youth initiatives and social services. Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti has vowed to pull \$150 million from the LAPD to boost funding for health care, jobs and “peace centers”

So far, police chokeholds have been banned in Minneapolis, Denver, Dallas, Houston, New York, Washington D.C. and the State of California with a growing number of cities discussing similar bans.

In Louisville, the Metro Council has unanimously passed a bill called Breonna’s Law to ban no-knock warrants. The bill is named after Breonna Taylor, the 26-year-old African American emergency room technician who was shot to death by Louisville police inside her own apartment in March.

#### **Standing Rock Tribe wins in court after years of**

**perseverance.** On March 25, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe gained a significant victory after a federal court struck down a permit to route the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) under the Missouri River, finding that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers failed to consider the health and environmental impacts to the Tribe in the event of an oil spill. The court ordered the Corps to complete a full environmental review, and it also asked each side to weigh in on whether the pipeline should be shut down in the meantime.

The massive 2016 gathering of Tribes and allies defending Standing Rock Sioux territory from the DAPL captured the world’s attention and attracted international media coverage. It helped give rise to a global movement of indigenous resistance to fossil-fuel infrastructure projects.

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

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

*Printed on recycled paper*

# Meeting Notes

**Victory for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe.** On June 5, 2020, U.S. District Judge Paul Friedman in Washington, D.C stopped the federal government from rescinding its reservation designation for the Wampanoag Tribe's land in Massachusetts.

The Cape Cod-based tribe, which traces its ancestry to the Native Americans that shared a fall harvest meal with the Pilgrims in 1621, gained federal recognition in 2007. It has more than 300 acres in the town of Mashpee and in Taunton near the Rhode Island state line

In March 2020, the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs told the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe that the tribe's reservation will be "disestablished" and its land taken out of trust, per an order from Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt.

In his summary judgment on behalf of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, Judge Paul Friedman concluded that the Interior Department's actions were "arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, and contrary to law."

On June 11, Massachusetts Rep. Joe Kennedy III filed legislation that would protect the trust status of tribal lands, preventing the federal government from revoking prior decisions granting the special status for any federally recognized tribe.

**Charges dropped against Wet'suwet'en land defenders in Canada.** Charges were dropped in the first days of June against 22 Wet'suwet'en land defenders and their allies, who were arrested this past February in northern British Columbia after a days-long raid in Indigenous territories where hereditary chiefs have been in a protracted battle to protect their land from the construction of TransCanada's 400-mile, \$4.7 billion Coastal GasLink pipeline.

**Elizabeth McAlister is not going back to jail.** Eighty-year-old peace activist Elizabeth McAlister has been sentenced to time served (she was incarcerated for 17 months!) for breaking into the Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base on April 4, 2018, to protest U.S. nuclear weapons programs. The Georgia base is home to at least six nuclear ballistic missile submarines, each of which carries 20 Trident thermonuclear weapons. Her six co-defendants in the Kings Bay Plowshares 7 will be sentenced later this month. During the sentencing hearing Monday, McAlister said, "I don't apologize for it. I think the weapons are completely destructive of life."

## July 23

We discussed fund raising ideas.

Phil considered testifying with Mass Peace Action at a state hearing about gun control. Mary Kate was exploring having a walk from Canada to Mexico to highlight immigration issues.

We planned for summer outreach at the Lowell Folk Festival and Hiroshima vigil.

We remembered the life of Rev. Michael Shirley

## August 27

We planned for manning our table at the Bread and Roses Festival and Andover Days.

We cheered for Greta Thunberg's sailing to the UN to raise concern about global warming.

We remembered 100 year old peace activist, Frances Crow.

## September 24

We discussed moving the MVPP archives to Lawrence or North Andover archives.

We planned a vigil at Raytheon with Veterans for Peace, Phil's Church in Lowell, and Mass Peace Action

The annual Keep Space for Peace vigil at Raytheon will be October 12.

We discussed fundraising ideas, but decided to not have a fundraiser this year.

We decided to invite a Chelsea, MA group to present to a future meeting, their ideas about counter recruitment.

Andover Days was a good day and we plan to do it again next year.

Brian submitted forms, and is waiting for a response, to show the movie "National Bird" at the Andover Library.

## October 22

We planned for our November Stone Soup Supper, having speakers from Chelsea discuss counter recruitment. Bonnie J. Caracciolo from CUAW (Chelsea Uniting Against the War) will be our speaker. She is active in Chelsea's **counter recruitment efforts** and this past September 9,

members and supporters of CUAW greeted students on their way to school to inform them about their right to opt out from having their personal information given to military recruiters. Formed in 2003, CUA originally opposed the US government war of terror on the people of the world, and especially against the people of Iraq and Afghanistan, but the organization is also opposed to the government's attacks here "at home," in the USA, especially attacks on immigrant workers and their families. Of real importance, CUAW opposes the militarization of youth, finding that there continues to be a push to attract youth, especially in hard-hit communities to join the military

MVPP will have a tree at the **Methuen Festival of Trees** again this year. Our tree will be the "Evergreen New Deal" and will focus on what can be done to protect the planet from catastrophic climate change. The Methuen Festival of Trees will have roughly 250 artificial decorated trees that will be donated from various groups and individuals for auction.

### **November Stone Soup Supper**

Members of the CUAW joined MVPP members in a simple meal of soup and bread and a spirited meeting. They came to discuss their student involvement in counter recruitment at Chelsea High School. Because of the school's student population it is an obvious attraction for recruitment by the government; or was until CUAW started to be actively involved with students, providing them with written information showing that there are many alternatives to joining our military once they graduate from high school. Chelsea has an abundance of immigrant students, especially from central America. Two of Bonnie's group, Joel and Angel, both adult immigrants (Honduras and El Salvador) spoke candidly about their experiences and their determination to aid students from Chelsea High School. CUAW was proud to announce that just a few students joined the army this year. Bravo! They had found alternatives to enlisting in the military.

No meeting in December

### **January 28, 2020**

The archives may go to the North Andover Historical Society (They later thought the archives would fit better at the Lawrence History Center).

We learned of a fundraiser to promote a book about Francis Crow.

### ~~February 25~~ **March 3, 2020**

We postponed our meeting so we could watch the Democratic debates, the last with many contenders.

We decided the archives will go to The Lawrence History Center (formerly the Immigrant City Archives). There are other social action groups' collections there, as well as papers from business, civic and religious groups.

Board members gave individually to funds to promote the book about Francis Crow. If you want to contribute, you can send a check to P.O. Box 573, North Andover, MA 01845

We approved changing our web hosting. Ed Meagher Jr, will move the site from Bluehost to his own server.

### **April 28 2020**

Brian watched the documentary "The Occupation of the American Mind" which Phil Noyce had recommended. He recommends it and thinks it's informative for people who think as we do.

The Walk for the New Spring has been cancelled. The Peace Pagoda has sent out an appeal for daily prayers in support of the Mashpee Wampanoags whose 321 acres of land has been ordered taken out of federal trust, and its reservation status revoked by the Administration, a court decision is pending. We will circulate the appeal among MVPP members.

Brian, Kathie, Masood and Boryana have kept the Sunday vigil in Shawsheen Square going.

Brian also did two solo Raytheon vigils and attended the monthly vigil in Reading.

Bobbie informed us about activism in Maine.

Part of the meeting was informal conversation, sharing daily life problems, updating each other about common friends, having some fun, and giving each other courage.

# Events 2019 - 20

## July 2019

Some attended protests about immigrant's rights

Our table at the Lowell Folk Festival was an interesting exercise in peace and justice. Other groups crowded the free speech space, and some passersby felt generous to us for putting up with one person's loud "preaching." A Palestinian calligrapher gave away art at our table.

## August

Our Hiroshima vigil was solemn.

Barbara attended the immigrants' rights, "Pilgrimage of Resistance," at Strafford County Department of Corrections, Dover, NH.

## September 2019

At the Bread and Roses Festival our table was busy and we enjoyed the Bread and Puppet Theater again.

Many attended a vigil in Newburyport commemorating Niki Rosen.

Some joined global climate protests

Bonnie Caracciolo and others, from a counter recruitment program in Chelsea, spoke at our Stone Soup Supper.

## October 2019

We dedicated our Oct 11 Raytheon vigil to Keeping Space for Peace.

## November 2019

Brian attended the VFP Armistice Day march, where Andrew Bacevich spoke.

## December 2019

Kathy and Boryana represented us at Methuen's Festival of Trees.

Phil and Allan joined about 35 people at a demonstration against Elbit, a large construction fabricator of drones, at its headquarters in Merrimack, New Hampshire. There were many young people, mainly from Jewish Voice for Peace.

## January 2020

1/4/2020 Vigil at Shawsheen Square to say no war with Iran or Iraq. Code Pink called for a vigil after protests in Iraq and US military buildup. After this was organized, the US blew up general Soleimani. Already schedule the next day, 21 people braved the rain (which held off till 11:50).

## March 2020

At the Raytheon vigil, people had signs saying to manufacture for public health, not war.

**June 2020** Members attended Black Lives Matters rallies.

## Coming Events

Due to the COVID-19 disruptions, we can't predict coming events.

We know the Walk for a New Spring was cancelled.

Our website posts events.

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

Mass Peace Action Events:

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

### **Annual Meeting online Friday, June 19, 8pm**

Our program will be a zoom conference with professor of Peace Studies from Japan, Donna McInnis leading discussion on "Self Compassion," taking care of ourselves as we promote peace.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86720491779?pwd=OEFjVEJvc0lQdTkzY2FLUnkxQ0phZz09>

Meeting ID: **867 2049 1779**

Password: **328056**

Mobile phone: 1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Or email to get invited: [brian@quirk.ws](mailto:brian@quirk.ws)

# Membership

**To continue to receive this newsletter...We Invite You to Join /Rejoin Us  
(Unless 2018 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

\$100.00 Peacemaker

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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](http://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; Larry Piper, [vigils@ReadingPeace.org](mailto:vigils@ReadingPeace.org)

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

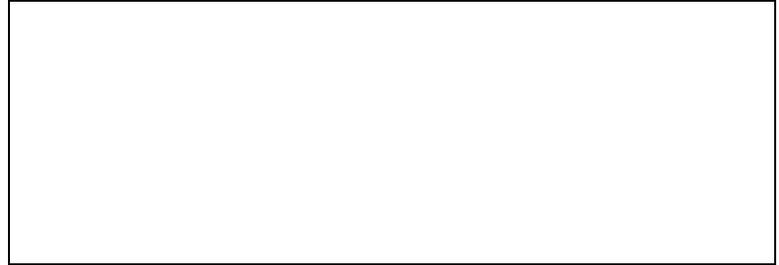
**Salem, MA:** Saturday, 11-noon; Riley Plaza (by the Post Office).

Merrimack Valley People For Peace  
P.O. Box 573  
North Andover, MA 01845-0573

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

**Annual Meeting June 19 see inside**

PEACE IS  
PATRIOTIC



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MVPP President: Brian Quirk. Vice President: Masood Sheikh

Newsletter contributors: Arthur and Margaret Brien, Barbara Haack, Dee Halzack, 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/](http://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](http://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](http://www.markey.senate.gov/contact)

**Representative Seth Moulton (District 6)**  
1408 Longworth  
House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515 21 Front Street  
(202) 225-8020 Salem, MA 01970  
fax (202) 225-5915 (978) 531-1669 fax (978) 224-2270  
Form: <https://moulton.house.gov/contact/>

**Representative Lori Trahan (District 3)**  
1616 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515  
202-225-3411  
15 Union St, Suite 401, Lawrence, MA 01840  
978 459-0101  
11 Kearney Square, 3rd floor  
Lowell, MA 01852 978 459-0101 fax: 978-459-1907  
Haverhill Citizens Center 10 Welcome Street  
492 Main Street Acton, MA 01720 (978) 263-1951  
Contact: <https://trahan.house.gov/contact/>

**A link to all in US legislature:**  
[thomas.loc.gov/home/legbranch/legbranch.html](http://thomas.loc.gov/home/legbranch/legbranch.html)

**How Senators and Representatives voted:**  
US Senate: [www.senate.gov/reference/common/faq/how\\_to\\_votes.htm](http://www.senate.gov/reference/common/faq/how_to_votes.htm)  
US House: [clerk.house.gov/evs/2004/index.asp](http://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>