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.

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.”

Meeting Notes

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.

We planned for a meeting.

We remembered the life of Rev. Michael Shirley.

October 22
We planned for our November Stone Soup Supper, having speakers from Chelsea discuss counter recruitment. Bonnie J. Caracciolo from CUAW (Chelsea Uniteding 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, CUAW 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
**Membership**

To continue to receive this newsletter... We invite you to join/rejoin us.

(Until 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 __________________________________________________________________________

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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, 6:30-7:19 pm 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; Larry Piper, 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).
The MVPP Newsletter is printed periodically and has a current distribution of 70. We are grateful for suggestions, comments, and help with publication.

M VPP 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/

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  
House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515
(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

How Senators and Representatives voted:

State Voting Information: Find your representatives at:
http://wheredovotema.com/bal/MvElectionInfo.aspx

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