



Issue 14

*"Peace*Justice*Sustainability*Peace*Justice*Sustainability*Peace*Justice*Sustainability*Peace*Justice*Sustainability"*

January 2018

*"Peace*Justice*Sustainability*Peace*Justice*Sustainability"*

Upcoming APC Events in 2018

Fri, Jan 26 - APC/UCPC joint potluck, 6pm, & movie "Syrian White Helmets", 7pm, and discussion.
info@alaskapeace.org - University Community Presbyterian Church, 3510 College Rd, Fairbanks

Thurs, Feb 1 - APC meeting, 5pm

Fri, Feb 23 - potluck & Fairbanks Youth Court presentation, with emphasis on Restorative Justice;
location To Be Announced

Thurs, Mar 1 - APC meeting

Fri, Mar 30 - potluck & movie "An Act of Conscience"
about war tax resistance

Thurs, April 5 - APC meeting, with election of new board members - Come join the Alaska Peace Center board and help advance peace, justice, & sustainability in ourselves, our community, state, and world!

Thurs, May 4 - APC meeting

June 2-6 - Annual Peace Feast, featuring folks who have been working for peace, justice, and sustainability, as well as great food and camaraderie! Suggestions for guest speakers are welcome.

August 3-10 - APC at Tanana Valley Fair, 13th year!

Ongoing - Scholarships for Alternatives to Violence Project workshops

Ongoing, weekly - Community News and Opportunities for Action on KWRK-LP 90.9FM, APC e-list, web site

...AND MORE, YET TO BE DECIDED...

LET US KNOW WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE THE ALASKA PEACE CENTER TO WORK ON!

Alaskans Lobby to Protect the ANWR Coastal Plain from Drilling

In December, six Alaskans traveled to Washington D.C. to lobby for the protection of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil and gas drilling; urging this tax bill rider be removed.

Bernadette Demientieff, Executive Director of the Gwich'in Steering Committee led many lobbying trips to DC this fall to protect ANWR. On this trip I was grateful to travel with her, Princess Daazhralli Johnson, Helium Edwardsen, Chief of the Village of Tanana, Skye Malemute and Ritchie Musick. Collectively, we had a wide range of experiences and talking points to speak to this concern.

I saw my role as elevating the Gwich'in and other Alaska Native voices. Also, Alaskan Friends Conference (Quakers) had recently affirmed a letter naming the moral and spiritual imperatives for protection of this area and standing in solidarity with the Gwich'in. I shared this message and letter in each office we visited.

Friends Committee on National Legislation proved a valuable connection. With their support Ritchie and I met directly with Senator Sullivan, thanking him for his work protecting women from sexual violence, and urging him to consider the moral and spiritual reasons for protecting the Refuge. On this topic he spoke of the need to respectfully disagree.

Ritchie and I also visited Senator Murkowski's office and met with one of her staffers. While not in the week's plans, it felt important to visit our Senators to express our views and affirm that many Alaskans do not support opening ANWR to oil and gas drilling!

Cathy Walling

Fairbanks Peace Choir **A Culture of Peace**

As the Fairbanks Peace Choir begins its 13th year we are grateful to the Peace Center and friends for all the support that's been given us through the years to keep us going.

We are proud to say that we have sung at 40 different Fairbanks community events over the 26 semesters of choral outreach. Last Fall the choir grew to 40 members and sang to a standing room only crowd at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

Singing can be a powerful force to enhance the peaceful awakening that is so needed in today's world. We welcome new singers to the next semester starting February 6 to April 28. Rehearsals are on Tuesdays, 6:45 pm to 8:30 pm. Flynn Ludington directs and Dr Paul Krejci is pianist. A suggested donation of \$75 is asked to cover our expenses. For information call 457-8086.

Come join us "Helping to Create a culture of Peace Through Song."

Suzanne Rich Osborn



KWRK-LP 90.9FM update



This February will mark two years of KWRK-LP broadcasting! Several long-time local shows continue: Soulful Sunday Mix, on Sundays 7-11pm; Investigations, Wednesdays 3pm; Stage Left, Saturdays 3pm; Raise Your Fist, Thursdays 10pm-midnight (except during a brief vacation); and APC News and Opportunities for Action, Sundays 8-9am & 6-7pm. A new local program, 40 Below 420, airs live on Fridays 4-5pm.

"Encounters," an exceptional wildlife show by Richard Nelson, was one of the shows whose cut by KUAC inspired the start of both KRFF 89.1 and KWRK; It plays Tuesdays at 10:30am. Another, Counterspin, airs Fridays at 6:30pm.

The short music and readings which play between programs include local recordings.

KWRK-LP includes much and varied programming dealing with peace, justice, and sustainability (the APC mission!), and a few children's programs. Check out the radio schedule at www.kwrk.org. Also please contribute to help sustain the all-volunteer efforts, and let the volunteers know what shows you particularly like!

Heather Koponen

Modernizing Destruction

Recently a draft of a Pentagon plan to "modernize" US nuclear weapons was leaked. The draft shows an utter disregard for the horrific destruction such "limited" nuclear weapons would do to civilians and to the environment. (https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/trump-nuclear-posture-review-2018_us_5a4d4773e4b06d1621bce4c5?q4)

What can we do to prevent such idiotic planning? Nothing really, but what we can do is raise the question, that if such weapons are used, should those responsible for both the use of such weapons and the corporate entities that produce the weapons be held responsible for the aftermath and damage such weapons create?

Our nation committed war crimes during the Vietnam War. No one was ever held responsible. Well over 2 million Vietnamese civilians were killed, Agent Orange was used, our country invaded neutral countries, and on and on.

No one was held liable for these crimes against humanity. It is time for America to be held responsible for what it does in the world.

Dick Farris



Alternatives to Violence Project-Alaska (AVP-AK)

AVP is a personal peace-making tool. It is another way to promote peace, different from the bigger, worldwide peacemaking that the Alaska Peace Center often focuses on. The Alaska Peace Center supports the AVP effort locally.

AVP is an international organization that started in the prisons in upstate New York in the 1970s and has spread to most states and many countries around the world. While AVP started in prisons, the workshops were found to be very helpful for people in communities. There are three levels of AVP workshops: basic, advanced, and training for facilitators.

This past year, AVP-AK conducted a number of workshops around Alaska, including in the Wildwood Prison in Kenai. Over the past few years there have been AVP workshops in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Kenai, Nome and Homer, and youth workshops in Nenana and Talkeetna. At present, the Department of Corrections and AVP-AK are working to bring more workshops to the correctional system in the near future.

Many participants have found that the workshops have had a positive impact in their workplaces, in relationships with family and friends, and in their own confidence and self-growth. Some have even said the workshops are life changing. Our culture teaches a lot about how to “beat” and “win” and have “power over” others, but very little about how to work with others to solve conflicts, be good to ourselves, and really listen to each other. AVP helps with all of these, one workshop at a time.

For more information, please contact Carrie Farr at 750-1049.

Carrie Farr, Interior AVP Coordinator

Get up! Get up, relatives!

“Get up! Get up relatives”, the fatherly voice cajoled, first in the Lakota tongue then in English. “Sunrise is approaching. Come; greet the sun with Prayer. There is much to be done today: tipis to build and insulate, wood to split and stack. Help make our camp safe and warm for winter.” The cajoling worked its magic. I shed my down cocoon and breaking out of my orange eggshell, *Arctic Oven* tent, I stepped into the chill of the windy, dark North Dakota Plains morning, to track the alluring, “Get up, get up relatives”, from whence it wafted, the central fire of the Oceti Sakowin Camp at Standing Rock.

The water ceremony, the sharing of the peace pipe, and the tongues of indigenous folks sharing oral history and prayer affirmed my kinship to the four legged, the ones who swim in the water, the ones who fly through the sky, the green things that grow from the soil, the creepy-crawly things, the two-legged things, as well as the sun’s silken blue dance partner in whose bosom all our relatives dwell, our collective mother, earth.

We shared the warm glow of a loving disobedience with the black snake’s owners, their hired guns, police, and spies; asked the creator to give them the vision to see its frightfully destructive destiny.

Oceti Sakowin was situated on the Wakháagapi Othí (Sacred Stones), named for the large spherical stones carved by its fluid choreography with the Missouri river at their confluence. The river, renamed the Cannonball by colonial powers, stopped producing Sacred Stones when the Army Corps dredged it in the 1950’s.

May we, the sons and daughters of settlers, pay closer attention to Earth’s metaphors and see the frightfully destructive destiny of our colonial project?

Rob Mulford

Rob joined the water protectors at Standing Rock for ten days in November 2016.



Recent APC Action

Thanks to all Advocates of Peace, Justice, and Sustainability! With your support, the Alaska Peace Center has been able to carry out the following efforts to educate & advocate in 2017:

Feb 2017: Inauguration of weekly broadcast on KWRK 90.9 FM, “Alaska Community News and Opportunities for Action,” also emailed to the APC e-list. A report on events and issues of peace, justice, and sustainability affecting us and future generations in Alaska, and information on how, when and where to take action on those issues. Also featuring music that educates about peace, justice, and/or sustainability.

Ongoing - Monitoring military expansion in Alaska, (and the world): ‘JLUS’/military Accident Potential Zone threatened local impacts. APC facilitated public input to municipal, state, and national elected officials and agencies.

June 2-3- Emma’s Revolution Concert, sponsored by APC. Preceded by a preview on KUAC-FM Alaska Live, which was later broadcast on KUAC-TV.

June 3-5 - Annual Peace Feast. Wonderful barbecue and plentiful food! Folks learned about local peace, justice, and sustainability, with presentations about:

- APC broadcast on KWRK 90.9 FM
- updated APC website
- military encroachment update
- Alternatives to Violence Project workshops
- Emma’s Revolution concert preview
- Memorial for Chris White, APC & KWRK board member, Wobbly, and labor activist, by his daughter Rosalie

- G. I. Rights Hotline and student Opt-Out choices, by National Lawyers Guild member Alison Carter
- Boys & Girls Read program, by Greg Hill
- Safe City issues and efforts, by Enei Begaye, Stephen, and Marcy
- Citizens for Clean Air update, by Patrice Lee
- Fairbanks Activists Forum, by Brenna Carlson
- Friends of Fox Spring efforts, by Nana Paldi
- Kids for Environmental Action, by Susan Grace
- North Star Community Foundation, by Pete Pinney
- Peace Stones, presented by Dick Farris

July 1 - Ban the Bomb Rally

Aug 4-13 - Alaska Peace Center booth at the Tanana Valley State Fair

Nov 11- Armistice Day Ringing In Peace

Dec. 1-31- Drones Quilt Project exhibit, at Noel Wien Public Library.

Alaska Peace Center potlucks & movies:

“Dr. Strangelove” risk of nuclear war with a nut
“A Force More Powerful” nonviolent successes, disc 2

“Divest from the War Machine Summit”

“As We Forgive” co-sponsored by & held at UCPC
“Pete Seeger: The Power of Song”

Dear Friends of Peace, Justice, & Sustainability, we hope you find APC activities worthy of your continued support. Please consider sending a donation and/or indicating how you would like to volunteer. APC meetings are open to all.

The Alaska Peace Center is committed to nonviolent conflict resolution and to working for peace within ourselves, our communities and our world. APC opened in 2005. It is a nonprofit organization with 501(c)(3) status.

Board members and officers:

Heather Koponen, Alan Batten, Carrie Farr,

Maia Genaux, Karl Franke, Rob Mulford

Newsletter published by the Alaska Peace Center, 3535 College Rd., Suite 203.

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The Veterans For Peace Viet Nam Full Disclosure Campaign

In 2012 the Obama Administration granted the Department of Defense (DoD) \$65 million for a 13-year-long commemoration of the 50th anniversaries of the events of Viet Nam War. As Pulitzer Prize-winning author Viet Thanh Nguyen noted, "All wars are fought twice, the first time on the battlefield, the second time in memory." The commemoration (<http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/>) seems designed primarily to sanitize and mythologize the war, casting it as a noble undertaking. Indeed, the emphasis seems to be less on remembering the events of 50 years ago, and still less on providing an analysis of underlying objectives, strategy, tactics and resultant consequences. Instead, the main thrust is to initiate events all over the country honoring Viet Nam war veterans, as if Viet Nam veterans have a reputation for being grouchy because they haven't been thanked enough.

Veterans For Peace (VFP) initiated the Full Disclosure Campaign (<http://vietnamfulldisclosure.org/>) to speak truth to power and keep alive the antiwar perspective on the American War in Viet Nam. It represents a clear alternative to the DoD's current efforts. The website includes a well-documented chronology of the war and the events of the 19th and early 20th centuries that set the stage for it. It also provides valuable commentary on the Burns and Novick PBS documentary on the war. Essays, analysis and

personal anecdotes from historians, journalists, veterans and activists are also included.

An issue of the VFP quarterly newspaper "Peace in Our Times" is devoted to the Full Disclosure Campaign (<https://alaskapeace.files.wordpress.com/2018/01/veterans-for-peace-vfd-2017-revised-reprint-low-res.pdf>). Doug Rawlings and Tarak Kauff write in the introduction: "As veterans, we refuse to shrink from the truth that this American War in Viet Nam was based on deception and war crimes by the highest levels of our government. We know we may rekindle deep emotions and even grief with these words and pictures, but we feel that the acceptance of truth in all its dimensions is necessary if the human race is to survive. It is a hard walk, but we invite you to take it with us, this walk of truth. And perhaps, just perhaps, one day it may lead to a walk of peace."

It's not so much that the DoD Commemoration website is wrong, in spite of some outright untruths. Rather, deception is inherent in what is emphasized and what is glossed over. The obscene institution of the body count, the wanton killing of civilians, destruction of villages, the ecocide of forests and croplands are all glossed over. The American peace movement, in both civilian and military populations, is also glossed over, as are postwar reconciliation activities of many antiwar veterans. (cont. "Disclosure" pg. 6)

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) 2-5 Nov 2017

Five Quakers from Chena Ridge Friends Meeting, Fairbanks, attended the annual gathering of FCNL, the Quaker lobby group in Washington D.C. About 450 Quakers visited 223 legislators' offices and met in person with 55 legislators.

Fairbanks Quakers met in person with Alaska's US legislators Don Young, Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan. Our primary request was that the new budget reduce military spending. In previous years we have advocated for: the Sentencing Reform Act, working to end mass incarceration; the Iran Nuclear Deal; and the Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Board, to grant it permanent authorization

With Don Young we also addressed the need for more funding for resident care of drug and alcohol affected young people. He replied that this is an

opportunity for fiscal responsibility, where we should hold the mothers responsible for care of their children.

Visits to Young's office are often challenging. We've heard things like, the only thing for the US to do with ISIS is kill them all (from a staffer who now works for Sullivan), and the more one spends on education, the dumber the kids get. These are opportunities to explore values.

We thanked Lisa Murkowski for protecting health care for Alaskans (which she has since reversed) and for writing a strong rebuttal to Trump's statement about the violence in Charlottesville, VA. But then her chief of staff quickly reminded us of the many issues on which we do not agree. He may not want liberals praising her when her party loyalty sometimes seems stretched.

(cont. "Lobbying" pg. 6)

Nonetheless, the commemoration website is worth visiting. The "Primary Sources" page, which provides links to a trove of historical documents, includes some of Franklin Roosevelt's correspondence on what was then called Indochina, the Vietnamese Declaration of Independence from 1945 (starting off with a quote from the American Declaration of Independence), and much more. Unfortunately this page only covers 1940 to 1960. Compilation of material from more recent years is ongoing.

The propaganda campaign that started in the Reagan years to realign popular opinion on the Viet Nam War resulted in marginalizing the peace movement, mythologizing soldiers and the military, and painting the war effort as being hamstrung by governmental dithering and sabotage by the press. Popular acceptance of this view led directly to our government entering, less than 30 years later, several quagmires in the Middle East, in a repeat of the lies, deceptions and crimes at the heart of the Viet Nam War. We again pay the price of psychological and physical damage to our young soldiers; heartbreak and frustration domestically; chaos, murder and massive civilian casualties overwhelming the countries where our troops are deployed; and loss of respect from the world community.

More information on the VFP Viet Nam Full Disclosure Campaign can be found by signing up with Google Groups for the Full Disclosure Listserv (<http://groups.google.com/group/vnfd>) where among other things there is fascinating commentary on the Burns and Novick Documentary.

Alan Batten

We also told her that looking to petroleum and military to revitalize Alaska's economy is only a retro, timid reaction to current economic stress. Petroleum and military are not the best future for Alaska. Many legislators and their staff want to know: what is the best possible future? What are workable options, a healthier vision, a new economic base?

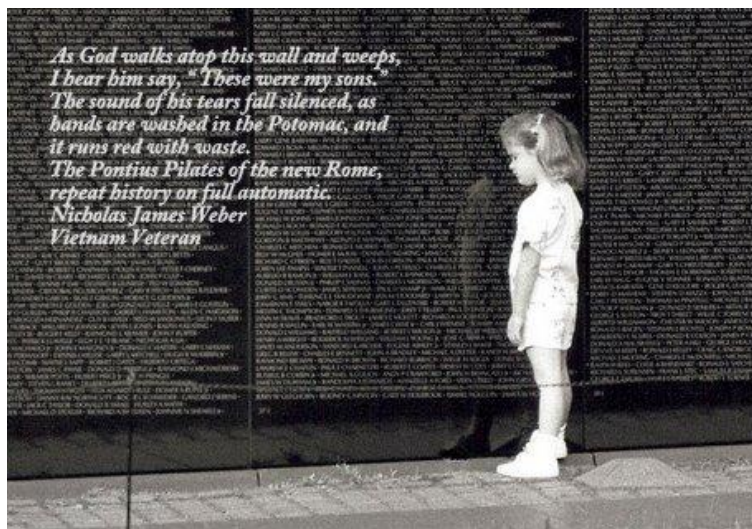
While Dan Sullivan supports increased military funding, he also wants Defense spending to be audited. When asked what we mean by "peace," we answered, "As Quakers, we give a lot of attention to finding nonviolent alternatives to armed conflict." He appreciated that.

FCNL's staff focuses on many issues, including: Sustainable Energy and Environment, Nuclear Disarmament, Human Rights, Immigration, Native American Advocacy, and Middle East Policy. They work year-round, monitoring legislation, providing support to legislators, and facilitating bipartisan conversation. See www.fcnl.org

Legislators have told us that they rarely receive visits from constituents; most visits are with industry and defense contractor lobbyists. We are grateful to have been present.

Maia Genaux

*We seek
a world free of war and the threat of war,
a society with equity and justice for all,
a community where every person's potential may
be fulfilled,
an earth restored.* FCNL



"The Wall" – 1986, Mike Hastie, Army Medic Vietnam
courtesy of <http://vietnamfulldisclosure.org/>



Young People Seeking Climate Recovery

Adapted from Inside Climate News, "In Kids' Climate Lawsuit, Judges Question Government Effort to Get Case Dismissed" by Nicholas Kusnetz, Dec. 11, 2017

The lawsuit, *Juliana v. United States*, was filed in 2015 on behalf of 21 youths, aged 8 to 19, accusing the government of violating their constitutional rights by failing to address climate change and continuing to subsidize fossil fuels. The plaintiffs are seeking to establish a constitutional right to a stable climate, and they're asking the courts to order the federal government to rapidly cut the nation's greenhouse gas emissions.

In 2016, a federal district judge denied the government's motion to dismiss the case and set a trial date for February 2017. But in July 2017, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals paused the case after the Justice Department invoked an unusual legal maneuver to try to block the lawsuit. The Department of Justice contended in its petition that the district court had "rendered unprecedented and clearly erroneous rulings" by failing to dismiss the case and had demonstrated "a remarkable disregard for essential separation-of-powers limitations."

At a December 2017 hearing in San Francisco, Chief Judge Sidney R. Thomas, who was appointed by President Bill Clinton, said there was no precedent for

issuing such a writ under these conditions and that if the judges did issue it, there would be "no logical boundary to it."

Another judge, Alex Kozinski, who was appointed by President Ronald Reagan, pressed Julia Olson, the lawyer for the children and executive director of the advocacy group Our Children's Trust, on the merits of the case.

After these oral arguments, the judges will now have to decide whether to intervene. If they send the case back to the district court, Gerrard expects the Justice Department would look for other ways to prevent the case from going to trial, where the government could be forced to produce documents and depositions that could reveal deliberations on decades of federal climate policies.

When asked whether the plaintiffs have a shot, Gerrard said, "they have a better shot today than they did yesterday."

Fairbanksan Nathan Baring is one of the young plaintiffs to this suit. MG



Twenty-one children and young adults are suing the government over climate change. Several of them joined the People's Climate March in Washington, D.C., in April. Credit: Zahra Hirji/InsideClimate News

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#BlackLivesMatter Until All Lives Matter

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