



Issue 19

*We respectfully acknowledge that we are on the
unceded ancestral and current homelands of the first peoples of Alaska*

April 2026

Dear Friends of Peace, Justice, & Sustainability

Thank you to all who have supported our efforts with energy, time, funds, and/or encouragement!

We hope you find these activities worthy of your continued interest, participation, sharing, & support.

Peace Be With You! Alaska Peace Center board of directors

To see this newsletter in color, go to alaskapeace.org

Upcoming Events

May 30th Peace Feast/Dick Farris Celebration of Life,
Pioneer Park Square Dance Pavilion (p.7)

July 31-Aug 9 Tanana Valley State Fair, APC Booth in
Borealis Pavilion next to the big door closest to the
Blue Gate; Volunteer, visit, give volunteers a break

Aug 16 Renewable Energy Fair, APC Table, at Chena
Hot Springs

Sept 1-30 APC will be the Lend a Hand recipient at
Co-op Market, see story, page 3

Sept 21 International Day of Peace

Sept 27 Resume monthly APC Potluck, Presentation, and
Conversation at APC office or announced location

Nov 11 **Armistice Day** Veterans Memorial Park, 11am Ring in
Peace with bells & song, reclaiming the original meaning
of the holiday

TBD - *What activities and events would You like to see Alaska
Peace Center sponsor?*

Write to info@alaskapeace.org

Events we have organized or collaborated on since our last newsletter

Potlucks, Presentations, and Discussion:

- Harvesting Olives in Palestine- Jacqueline D'Auria
- From the Bison to the Olive Tree- Rob Mulford (p 2)
- Report Back: Subsistence as Resistance
- Subsistence as Resistance, Alaska to Palestine
Solidarity Gathering
- Alan Batten, Trip to Viet Nam
- Alaska in the Crosshairs: "Project Chariot" and
the Tikiagmiut perspective

Collaborations: Veterans For Peace ch.146 & 100,
KWRK (p.3), Peace Choir, Native Movement,
Fbks4Palestine

Contributed:-- Veterans For Peace Rapid Response Team
Peaceful Protective Presence travel to Minneapolis. p.2

Sponsored: -- Fairbanks Protective Witness to Palestine
-- Tree & Plaque in Veterans Memorial Park - see p.8
-- Peace Bus Ad – see pg 2

Training: Abolitionist Training for #NoWar2025

Rallies/Protests: --Global Day of Solidarity in Opposition to
Imperial Wars
--International Day of Peace

Vigils: Alaskans Mourning with Palestine -
--Commemoration: Armistice Day

Petitions:--War Powers Resolution
--Stop the War on Venezuela

Tabling: Renewable Energy Fair at Chena Hot Springs
Earth Day Fairs

Annual Tanana Valley State Fair Booth

Interactive Educational Activity:

-- Bean Poll Outreach at many events, see page 6

Recognition: Point Hope and Steve Oomittuk, p. 7

And Much more!

Alternatives to Violence Project Community Workshop Fall, 2026

The Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) is a project that introduces ways to improve communication and connection with each other and help transform conflict between people. AVP got its start in a Northern New York prison when some of the older inmates asked the Quakers in the community, known for their pacifism, for ideas for solving conflicts non-violently.

AVP spread to many prisons around the country and is now found in most of the US and in many countries in the world, both in community settings and in prisons. AVP has evolved into offering three workshop levels: basic, advanced, and training for facilitators. To become a facilitator, a person goes through at least three workshops to become a facilitator trainee, then a full facilitator. Inmates can become facilitators too and lead prison workshops with outside facilitators .

In Alaska, AVP was operating in the 1990s and after a break, was revived in 2014. Since then, the workshops have been offered in various communities and in Wildwood, Hiland, and Spring Creek Prisons. The reaction of both guards and inmates at these prisons has been extremely positive and life-changing for some inmates! We have had very dedicated and skilled facilitator inmates which really helps the atmosphere in the workshops and in prison in general.

The prisons and communities would like us to do more workshops and in order to do this, we need more people willing to become facilitators. We have a Basic AVP workshop planned for May 8-10 in Fairbanks, at Dena' Movement Commons, 526 Gaffney Rd, ste 204. This is an 18-hour experiential workshop that will be full of learning, growth, and fun. Please consider this weekend workshop and spread the word!

For more information, contact Carrie Farr, 907-750-1049 or carolynfarr8@gmail.com.

Financial Support Opportunity

If you already shop at Fred Meyer, please consider their Community Rewards Program. 1% of your purchase cost can be donated to the Alaska Peace Center without increasing your cost or reducing your rewards. To participate, go to fredmeyer.com, log on to your account, click on "Fred Meyer Community Rewards Program" and search for "Alaska Peace Center" or enter our code YD172.

Fairbanks Peace-Message Bus Goes International! ..&.. We always do outreach at the Tanana Valley State Fair

This recognition was published internationally by World BEYOND War, December 30, 2025:

For seven years, the [Alaska Peace Center](http://AlaskaPeaceCenter.org) has kept an ad on Fairbanks North Star Borough bus #75, traveling a 60 square mile area. The ad reads "3% of U.S. military spending could end starvation on earth... alaskapeace.org... Number explained: worldbeyondwar.org/explained ..."



From the Bison to the Olive Tree potluck & presentation

Veterans For Peace Rapid Response Team Minnesota. Fairbanks's Rob Mulford spent 5 weeks in Minneapolis providing Peaceful Protective Presence as requested by Minneapolis citizens and Indigenous gatherings. Rob reported back on experiences and made the connection between the violent oppression currently brought by ICE, and the violent oppression rendered against Indigenous peoples and against Palestinians.





Lend a Hand

Co-op Market & Deli, owned co-operatively by almost 5000 local folks who value local control and healthy foods, has a special program to help local non-profit organizations with compatible missions. Shoppers can choose to round up their check-out totals to the nearest dollar. Each month the cents, nickels, dimes, and quarters we have pitched in get donated to one of the non-profits voted for by members in late fall.

***** Alaska Peace Center got chosen to be the Lend a Hand recipient for September, 2026! *****

Be sure to do your September grocery shopping at Co-op Market & Deli and round up. We will spend some time at the Market letting shoppers get to know about Alaska Peace Center, and spend some Round Up funds on International Day of Peace, September 21, advocating for Peace, Justice, and Sustainability.

Check out Co-operative Values, history, and more at <https://www.coopmarket.org/about>
The market is at 526 Gaffney Rd, Fairbanks. Open to all shoppers.

Fairbanks Open Radio (KWRK-LP 101.7fm/kwrk.org) update

KWRK volunteers are more grateful than ever for our enduring partnership in providing alternative ideas and information for Fairbanks and our greater community. Indeed, these are the times we were built for – thank you! [Fairbanks Open Radio](#) continues to broadcast independent, investigative journalism that is rare in these times of media consolidation and complicity – primarily from the [Pacifica Network](#). Our listener-funded budget is about \$5,000 a year, and we are still the only station in the state that has no obligation to monied interests. We need all the support folks can give us.

February 2026 marked ten years of KWRK-LP's FM broadcast in Fairbanks and eight years live streaming from KWRK-LP.mixlr.com & kwrk.org. Programmers Anna Godduhn, Tom Green, and Heather Koponen keep us on the air 24 hours per day. Birch Pavelsky continues to wrangle our finances and work the phones, and Chris Friar provides vital technical, secretarial, and generalist functions.

In the summer of 2024, we shifted our broadcast frequency to 101.7 because of a new station that overwhelmed our old frequency signal. In the meantime, we discovered many progressives who either lost track of us in the switch or never knew we existed. **Please tell your friends about us!**

On the air..

- Investigations w/ Birch Pavelsky amplifies overlooked news and perspectives from the Middle Tanana Valley to Wuhan. (Tu 7a, W 3p, Th3:30a, Su 2p)
- Electric Avenue w/ DJ Kelly Green (F 6p) and Complete Concepts w/ Scott (F 10p) make for musically dissident and eclectic Friday nights.
- Radiodrome w/ Alex Oblivion (Sa 12p) and QuantaRadio w/ NASA Space Ambassador Hannah (Sa 2p) comprise our spacey Saturday rock block, usually live.
- While All Things Local and Fairbanks Protective Witness ceased production last year, we sometimes rebroadcast encore episodes of Protective Witness and anticipate occasional new contributions.
- Fairbanks Public Affairs is now Fairbanks Open Mic, and we enthusiastically invite you Alaskans to share your voice. Whether it's a single, short poem or a weekly, hour-long broadcast – or something in between – we'd be honored to have you on the air.
- PSAs are easy – just call +1.907.374.0577 and make the announcement!

Fairbanks Open Radio needs community love, labor, and financial support. To join the cause or leave us feedback, call us at +1.907.374.0577 or email admin@kwrk.org. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit, we gratefully accept tax-free contributions. You can avoid fees with cash, check, the [PayPal Giving Fund](#), and the Donor Advised Fund through Givebutter.com. Thank you!

"Peace cannot be kept by force it can only be achieved by understanding." Albert Einstein

Below, Armistice Day Commemoration in Fbks, 2024 Below right, “Kids Peace Parade” in Nenana, November 1918 at the close of World War I. The original photo hangs in the Nenana Railroad Museum.



Return to Việt Nam, 2025

by Alan Batten

Last spring I joined a Veterans For Peace contingent invited to Ho Chi Minh City to participate in the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the reunification of Việt Nam on April 30.



Veterans For Peace contingent waiting for the parade to start

The VFP contingent met at a hotel in Ho Chi Minh City a few blocks from the Sài Gòn River several days ahead of the celebration. People were already arriving from the countryside and there were anticipatory fireworks displays in the evenings.



Our assigned section was two or three blocks in to the massive array of bleachers, which continued on for as far as we could see. After we got settled we entertained ourselves by trying to guess the nationalities of guests arriving after us. In a sense, we got to see the parade twice. Once as all the components were moving in front of us from right to left in the pre-dawn light, to be assembled into a parade somewhere in the distance. Then again as the parade itself came back through from left to right.

The evening before the big celebratory parade, the streets started filling up even more than before with people camping out on the sidewalks for the night. We had to board our bus at 5:00 in the morning to get to our assigned spot in the bleachers. The bus had to move very slowly and carefully to avoid running over sleeping people.



Reunification Day parade in Ho Chi Minh City

We were a little disappointed in the heavy military emphasis, but given Việt Nam's long history of fighting off invaders (most recently the Chinese in 1979) we could see the need for a strong military. We did feel sorry for the rows of troops across the street from us, standing at attention for hours in the hot sun. But aside from the long columns of marching troops there were many components celebrating the peace and industry that Việt Nam enjoys today.



Reunification Day parade in Ho Chi Minh City

The floats, the music, the huge drums(!), the dancers, the choreography, the dragons, and the “muppets” (for lack of a better term) provided a thrilling spectacle. We felt very privileged to be invited to attend this event.

We visited the War Remnants Museum, the American Embassy, and the Từ Dũ Hospital where many of the children with handicaps attributed to Agent Orange dioxin poisoning are treated. The staff told us that the incidence of such cases is slowly decreasing now that we are in the 4th or 5th generation after the original exposure to Agent Orange.

The country still struggles with two major legacies from the war: unexploded ordnance and multi-generational health problems from dioxin poisoning related to the widespread use of Agent Orange and other herbicides during the war. For more information on efforts to mitigate these legacies see the Agent Orange Reconciliation Campaign (<https://vn-agentorange.org/>) and the Friends of Project RENEW (<https://renewvn.org/>). But Việt Nam is also a beautiful country with a strong emerging economy and vibrant communities inhabited by warm and friendly people.

That was at least a little piece of good news. We also had a number of productive meetings with Vietnamese government entities and NGO's.

We spent an afternoon at the famous (or infamous) Củ Chi tunnels west of town. This immense network of tunnels, with its carefully hidden



entrances and ventilation openings, enabled the Việt Cộng to pop up almost anywhere and then to just as quickly disappear. Some of the tunnel entrances were even within American military bases.

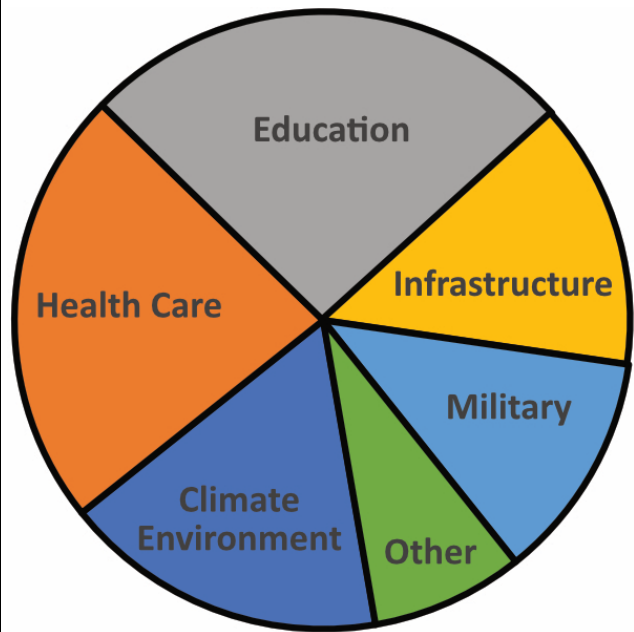
Bean Poll - You Choose
How Taxes Ought to be Spent

Since 2019, Alaska Peace Center has been inviting folks at tabling events to distribute 20 beans each, among 6 categories according to how they think the federal government ought to be using the funds. We also offer a comparison of the actual federal budget. This informal poll seeks public participation, thought, and conversation.

The results for	2019	2021	2023	2025
# of beans	3,260	5,260	14,680	12,240
Participants	163	263	734	612
Environment	23%	23%	21%	17%
Health Care	24%	21%	21%	23%
Education	27%	20%	21%	26%
Infrastructure	15%	17%	15%	14%
Military	6%	9%	12%	12%
Other	5%	10%	10%	8%

Food for thought: Compare these local preferences with "Where your income tax money really goes" as analyzed at warresisters.org or other sources. (> 50% military)

Chart of local wishes for how our taxes are spent.



“Diplomatic Dialogue”: An Ironic Misnomer, by C.B.

Last November, an APC member and I attended “Diplomatic Dialogue: A Conversation on Ukraine”, a live, public event at Davis Concert Hall featuring the former Ambassador to Ukraine, Bill Taylor, on stage with interim UAF chancellor and former Ambassador-at-Large for Arctic Affairs Mike Sfraga [1].

During the hour-long discussion, Ambassador Taylor portrayed the ongoing war as a struggle for “democracy” against Putin’s “imperialist” ambitions. He criticized the Trump-Putin Anchorage summit as “appeasement”, calling instead for increased military escalation. However, conspicuously absent during the event was any semblance of actual “diplomacy”, or any mention by either speaker of US interference in Ukraine’s politics in the years leading up to the 2014 “Maidan Revolution” - the same year Russia seized control of Crimea.

Although the western mainstream press has yet to admit that the 2014 “revolution” was in fact a US-orchestrated coup, what has been admitted is that as early as 2004, Ukraine was among several European targets of US-funded and engineered “color revolutions” carried out to “topple unsavory regimes” [2]. Contrary to the Ambassador’s claims, Ukraine is not a US “partner”, but rather a politically-captured proxy - an imperial battering ram used against Russia at the expense of hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian casualties, as tacitly admitted in the NYT [3, 4].

Trump, far from genuinely seeking a negotiated peace,

instead serves to maintain illusions of partisan divisions. Meanwhile, European leaders feign dissidence with Trump, after compliantly increasing NATO spending last year at the behest of American demands for “division of labor” as the US seeks to fully pivot to China [5]. Apparent amidst all of this is a persistent public ignorance of the continuity in US foreign policy agenda across presidential administrations and regardless of political parties; we ought to prioritize confronting this important blind spot.

1. UAF Sun Star (11/17/2025) “Diplomatic Dialogue: A Conversation about the Ukrainian War”. <https://www.uafsunstar.com/news/diplomatic-dialogue-a-conversation-the-ukrainian-war>
2. The Guardian (11/25/2004) "US campaign behind the turmoil in Kiev". <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2004/nov/26/ukraine.usa>
3. The New York Times (3/29/2025) "The Partnership: The Secret History of the War in Ukraine". <https://archive.ph/dGbEt>
4. The New York Times (12/30/2025) "The Separation: Inside the Unraveling U.S.-Ukraine Partnership". <https://archive.ph/PL0ES>
5. US Department of War (2/13/2025) “Hegseth tells NATO Hard Power Provides Deterrence, Defense”. <https://www.war.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/4066810/hegseth-tells-nato-hard-power-provides-deterrence-defense/>



Our dear friend Dick Farris died January 11, 2026, at age 84. From Rob Mulford: "If you look up 'community spirit' in an encyclopedia, you're likely to see Dick Farris. I never met anyone less self-aggrandizing. He was the most humanistic person I ever met."

Dick believed in people and devoted his life to helping individuals and serving the community. He volunteered with numerous organizations and helped start many humanitarian groups and non-profits based in Fairbanks, including Alaska Peace Center in 2005, and Fairbanks Open Radio (KWRK-LP 101.7FM/kwrk.org) in 2016.

In addition to advising organizational meetings, Dick served on the Alaska Peace Center board for several years and inspired outreach activities that continue today:

Knowing the importance of sharing food, he implemented monthly potlucks accompanied by presentations and discussion;

Dick instigated our annual Peace Feasts, with APC & KWRK updates and featuring local folks introducing their work that enhances peace, justice, and sustainability.

He will be greatly missed.

At the suggestion of his sister, this year the Peace Feast will also be Dick Farris' Celebration of Life, gathering the many people whose lives he touched. Join us Saturday, May 30th, noon-2pm at the Pioneer Park Square Dance Pavilion, between the Civic Center and Folk School.

"It's more important to ask the right questions than to have the right answers." Dick Farris

REMEMBERING STEVE OOMITTUK AND THE POWER OF

Belatedly but sincerely, the Alaska Peace Center recognizes the passing of Alzred Steve Sitchaqraug Oomittuk, 8 May 1962 – 15 Dec 2024, of Point Hope/ Tikigaaq, Alaska. He was a beloved teacher of Iñupiaq knowledge, wisdom, history and traditional stories. Peace and environmental activists are deeply indebted to all who have worked for a sane and healthy planet. Historically important in this, is the courage, wisdom and leadership of the people of Point Hope/ Tikigaaq, including Steve Oomittuk. Those of us today have powerful predecessors to follow, and, if possible, live up to.

POINT HOPE

"They say the native people were nomadic, following the animals. That's not true about the Tikigaaq people. The animals came to us. We knew they were coming to give themselves to us. And the animals go with the ice. If the ice goes away, the animals go away."



SUBSISTENCE AS RESISTANCE
from Alaska to Palestine

SOLIDARITY GATHERING

Community potluck and fundraiser with food sovereignty discussion from Alaska Native and Palestinian activists



FRIDAY | 6:30PM
OCT 24 | AKST

HYBRID: FAIRBANKS OR ZOOM

Dena' Movement Commons
 526 Gaffney Road, Suite 204
 Fairbanks, AK



bit.ly/3W3REM

Green Olive Collective  

The flyer for a fall 2025 APC event



Alaska Peace Center office ste 203, 3535 College Rd, Fbks

Donate by mail to
 Alaska Peace Center
 3535 College Road, Suite 203
 Fairbanks, AK 99709-3722
 or [alaskapeace.org donate](https://alaskapeace.org/donate)



Sign up for our email [listservers](https://alaskapeace.org/listservers) via our website: alaskapeace.org, 3rd box on the right side

APC Sponsors Tree & Plaque in Veterans Memorial Park The Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Department is in the process of renovating the Veterans Park at 7th and Cushman Streets. The memorial at the east end of the park remains mostly unchanged, but the rest of the park gets a new plaza and a new pavilion along with extensive landscaping renovations. To help with funding and to provide an opportunity for community involvement the Borough has set up a system of sponsorships. We have used the Veterans Park as the site for our Armistice Day commemoration for many years now. In view of this and the fact that veterans have a vested interest in securing world peace, we have teamed up with North Star Veterans For Peace Chapter 146 to sponsor a birch tree as part of the new landscaping. The Borough will provide a plaque at the site of the tree acknowledging our two organizations

Will You Help Support Alaska Peace Center Activities?*

Though we are an all-volunteer educational organization, the activities on these pages total \$thousands: <https://alaskapeace.org/appeal-for-support/>.

*The Alaska Peace Center is a non-profit charitable and human rights organization incorporated in Alaska under IRS 501(c)3.



2026 Board of Directors: [Carrie Farr](#), Secretary [Alan Batten](#), Treasurer Heather Koponen, Chair
 Maia Genaux, vice chair Karl Franke, at large Ajaya & Heather Toney (Violet)– on leave