

# Peace Economy News



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## The Winter of Our Discontent

Remember John Steinbeck's last novel, which he said he wrote to address "the moral degeneration of American culture during the 1950s and 1960s?" The summer of 2016 has that same feel. Sure there is some good news – jobs are still being created, more people have health coverage, Iran has apparently followed the terms of its nuclear deal. But you don't have to be a pessimist to realize the extent of our problems: ever increasing inequality in America, climate challenges, one, maybe two, flawed candidates for president, and much more.

Consider the world closer to the traditional focus of Peace Economy Project.

Tension is high in so many parts of the world – between Russia and the West, China and its neighbors along with the U.S., the Middle East, African countries, North Korea. A major

arms race is accelerating, with ever more money being spent on the development of conventional and nuclear weapons and missiles. New technology is now enabling "autonomous" weapons where machines, rather than humans, make decisions.

Extravagant sums of money are being given to local, state and federal level politicians. Missouri has no limitations on individual donations. The military-industrial-congressional complex remains alive and well.

Racial distrust and fear within the United States seems ever higher, most recently with police killings of African Americans in Louisiana and Minnesota, and the assassination of police officers in Dallas and Baton Rouge.

So this newsletter doesn't contain a lot of good news; but as always it strives to identify perceived problems and to argue

for their resolution. Members of the Peace Economy Project recognize that there are powerful, complex forces that disrupt peace in the world. We believe that these forces can be curtailed if ordinary people will preach truth to power. That is our purpose. We hope you agree.



The peace pole at Saint Louis University. Its sides read, "May peace prevail on Earth" in several languages.

## The Party Platforms: Where The Parties Stand on Peace

**By Allison Reilly**  
**Executive Director**

Although both party conventions received a ton of media attention and created their fair share of memes, the party platforms haven't received nearly as much press. The platforms are ratified at their respective conventions, so knowing what's in the platforms (and what officials

ultimately approved) is critical to understanding how each party will shape policy and solve today's biggest problems.

The Peace Economy Project reviewed both the Democratic and the Republican platforms, comparing and contrasting them for what they say regarding the

U.S. military and the pursuit of peace. Overall, the two parties present different philosophies on how to achieve peace, but neither discusses concrete ways to cut military spending or to reduce U.S. military presence around the world. Let's take a look at each issue one by one:

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**An example of an AH-64 Apache, which the U.S. sells to Israel. The helicopter is produced by Boeing.**

***“Despite being in violation of international law... the U.S. continues to give Israel \$3.1 billion annually.”***



**A road block to one of the entrances of Beit Umar village in the Occupied West Bank.**

## U.S. Military Aid to Israel: An Overview

**By Madeline Buthod  
PEP Member**

The Palestinian/Israeli conflict is a fairly recent phenomenon that has its roots in the Zionist movement of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. For generations, Jews, Muslims and Christians lived as neighbors and friends in the same villages. Those close community ties were severed in 1948 when, after massacring villagers, eradicating cities and forcing hundreds of thousands of Palestinians into squalid refugee camps, Israel declared its independence. To this day, Israel denies the right of return to Palestinian refugees and continues to expand settlements in the Occupied West Bank.

Recent strife in the area is caused primarily by brutal land acquisition, a militarized occupation, unequal access to resources and discrimination based on a person's ethnicity. From Sept. 29, 2000 to Dec. 31, 2009, the Israeli military killed over 2,900 Palestinian civilians in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem. This number does not include the 2,100 Gazans who were killed in the summer of 2014, after air strikes demolished schools, hospitals and apartment buildings. It also does not include the over 1,000 Lebanese deaths from Israeli bombings in 2006. From 2000 to 2009, the United States provided Israel with \$24.1 billion in foreign military financing. Despite being in violation of international law and implementing excessive use of force, Israel continues to receive \$3.1 billion annually in military aid from the U.S.

The billions of tax dollars the U.S. provides is funneled through three different aid programs: Foreign Military Sales (FMS), Direct Commer-

cial Sales (DCS) and Excess Defense Articles (EDA). From 2000 to 2009, through the FMS program, the Defense Department contracted, financed and delivered to Israel more than 9,500 weapons, valued at more than \$10 billion. During the same period, through the DCS program, the State Department approved the licensing, financing and delivery to Israel of more than 670 million weapons, valued at more than \$8.5 billion. Through the EDA program, the Defense Department delivered more than 5,200 used weapons to Israel, valued at more than \$42 million.

The types of major offensive weapons the U.S. provides to Israel include F-16 fighter planes, AH-64 Apache and AH-1 Cobra attack helicopters, AGM-114 Hellfire missiles, AGM-62B Walleye missiles, JDAM GBU-31 and AGM-176 Griffin precision guided munitions. Israel uses these weapons for collective punishment and war crimes in Gaza while Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Bell and Raytheon profit from the deaths of children and civilians.

In addition to missiles and fighter planes, Israel has been given over \$20 million worth of tear gas canisters, which are manufactured by Combined Systems Inc. (CSI) in Jamestown, PA. Tear gas is used routinely to break up nonviolent demonstrations and has been deployed into the homes of unsuspecting families in the middle of the night. Fired at close range, the canisters have killed and maimed nonviolent protesters. CSI is the manufacturer of the same tear gas that was deployed in the streets of Ferguson following the death of Michael Brown two years ago.

In order to maintain a decades-

long military occupation, Israel uses millions of dollars' worth of rubber coated bullets and live ammunition. The West Bank is dotted with road blocks, military check points and surveillance towers, which restrict freedom of movement and act as an extreme form of intimidation for Palestinians trying to go to school, work, the hospital or visit family.

The human rights violations do not end with airstrikes, tear gas and bullets. Using U.S. made Caterpillar bulldozers, the Israeli military has bulldozed tens of thousands of houses in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip. Often the demolitions are carried out as collective punishment for a suspected criminal or because the homeowners lack required building permits that are nearly impossible for Palestinians to acquire and/or to make room for new settlements. In many instances, families are only given a few minutes' notice before their homes are demolished, and there have been cases of people being buried alive in the process. Caterpillar bulldozers are also used by the Israeli military to destroy olive tree orchards as another form of collective punishment and to damage the Palestinian economy.

Language in the Foreign Assistance Act explicitly states U.S. foreign aid cannot be used to perpetuate human rights abuses. In countries around the world, including in Central America and in Southeast Asia, former U.S. presidents have suspended military aid when evidence surfaced of international law violations.

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## Party Platforms Comparison Cont.

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#### The Pursuit of Peace

The Republican Party asserts it's "the party of peace through strength," while the Democrats believe that "when America leads, it should be as a principled force for peace and prosperity." The Republicans emphasize American exceptionalism and our country's "unique place of moral leadership in the world." The Democratic platform shares the Republican commitment to having the strongest military in the world.

The Democrats don't offer a specific way to achieve peace, but their philosophy can best be described as 'peace through diplomacy.' Their platform emphasized the importance of working with our allies and empowering "women and other minorities." The Democratic platform says, "war must always be the last resort, never the first choice," while the

Republicans don't specify when war is or isn't appropriate. However, they do state, "The first order of business for the Republican president and Congress will be to restore our nation's military might."

#### Nuclear Weapons

The two platforms outline completely opposite approaches to nuclear proliferation and disarmament. The Republican platform wants the U.S. to have an arsenal and modernize its stockpile.

*"We must fund, develop, and deploy a multi-layered missile defense system. We must modernize nuclear weapons and their delivery platforms, end the policy of Mutually Assured Destruction, and rebuild relationships with our allies, who understand that as long as the U.S. nuclear arsenal is their shield, they do not need to engage in nuclear proliferations."*

The Republicans also men-

tioned the importance of Pakistan's stockpile, noting that "Pakistanis, Afghans and Americans have a common interest in... securing Pakistan's nuclear arsenal."

The Democrats do not want an expansion of our nuclear arsenal, asserting "America will be safer in a world with fewer weapons of mass destruction." They also say they want to reduce the number of weapons around the world and work toward "eliminating them entirely as President Obama laid out in his speech in Prague in 2009."

#### Iran

Speaking of nuclear weapons, the two platforms also take opposing stances on the nuclear agreement with Iran. The Democratic platform supports the deal while the Republican platform considers it "non-binding on the next president." The Republicans don't directly say they want to repeal it, but their phrasing suggests they'd like the next president to do so and has the power to do so. The Democrats support the deal because it prevents Iran from getting a nuclear weapon "without resorting to war."

#### Defense Budget

Both platforms discuss the military budget, but different aspects of the military budget. The Republicans call for an end to sequestration and "reject the efforts of Democrats to hold the military's budget hostage for their domestic agenda." The only reforms to the budget their platform suggests are modernizing the military procurement system and increasing competition among suppliers.

The Democrats also mention sequestration, but argue for a

predictable military budget versus the "arbitrary cuts that the Republican Congress enacted as part of sequestration." They also call for an end to waste in the military budget, for the Pentagon to undergo an audit and for a commission to review the role of defense contractors in our military spending.

#### Israel

Both platforms pledge to support Israel, especially Israel's need to have a "qualitative military edge" over its adversaries. Both parties oppose the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement, with the Republican platform specifically calling BDS "anti-Semitic in nature." The Democrats refer to BDS as an "effort to delegitimize Israel."

Where the two platforms differ regarding Israel is on the Palestinians. The Republican platform doesn't even mention Palestine or the Palestinian people, and rejects "the false notion that Israel is an occupier." The Democratic platform doesn't call Israel an occupier, but at least acknowledges that "Palestinians should be free to govern themselves in their own viable state, in peace and dignity" and the importance of a two-state solution. In conclusion, there isn't a lot of common ground between the two party platforms on war- and peace-related issues. The platforms may not have much impact on voters as they head to the ballot box, but they do provide insight into what each party stands for and what each party would like to see policy-wise on state and federal levels.



**When Israel uses the weapons they buy with U.S. taxpayer money to kill Palestinian civilians, then we have tell Congress to fund human needs instead!**





Two F-22s in formation. The NDAA includes funding for a new study into the value of resuming production of the Lockheed Martin aircraft.

## The Defense Budget Process

**By Charlie Kindleberger  
PEP Board Member**

It's the summer of 2016, and once again the nation is engaged in resolving how much should be spent on the military and for what purpose. The process involves passage of a National Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 4904 and S. 2943) passage of a Defense Appropriations Act, and then approval by the President.

Differences between a bill passed by the House of Representatives and a bill passed by

the Senate get resolved in a conference committee. This year, 19 national nonprofits came together in order to recommend desirable modifications to the authorization bill for 2017. What was impressive is that some of these groups are primarily conservative in nature, worried about the size of the Federal Budget; others are primarily concerned about the danger, as well as waste, of excessive weapons and an overly aggressive American foreign policy. Ultimately, the 19 groups opposed:

- Shifting \$18 billion from the Overseas Contingency Operation (OCO) fund, that many believe is a "slush fund," into the Base Defense Budget. Many view such a shift as an attempt to increase the defense budget that was set for two years by the 2015 Bi-Partisan Budget (\$551.1 billion for the Base and \$58.8 billion for the OCO).

- An artificial deadline (April 30, 2017) by which OCO funds would have to be spent.

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***"This is all money that could go to infrastructure, anti-poverty, research, health, and so much more."***

## U.S. Military Aid to Israel Cont.

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Despite there being plenty of evidence showing Israel has used U.S. weapons to terrorize and kill civilians, Israel is still given over \$3 billion in aid annually. Americans need to pressure their elected officials to prohibit U.S. tax dollars from funding gross human rights abuses. Because of the billions of dollars given to Israel in military aid every year, tax-paying Americans have become complicit in war crimes.

In an attempt to pressure Israel to end the illegal occupation, allow the right of return of refugees as stipulated in UN resolution 194 and for full equality to be given to Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel, the Palestinian Civil Society has made a call for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS). In the 11 years since this call, pressure has been applied to private companies that profit from the occupation as well as academic and cultural events that legitimize the human rights abuses perpetrated by Israel yet are funded by the United States.

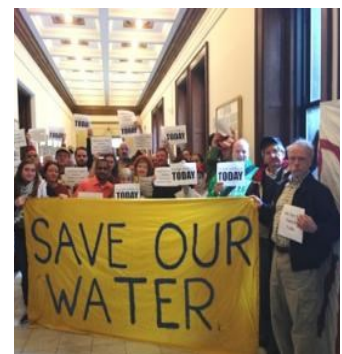
since sold off their shares in a light rail company that provides transportation from West Jerusalem to illegal settlements.

Companies that continue to profit off the illegal occupation remain BDS targets. If enough profit is lost and a spotlight is shown on the human rights abuses being committed, perhaps Israel and the U.S. will be forced into complying with international law and work for a just peace.



An example of one of the blimps in the Joint Land Attack Cruise Missile Defense Elevated Netted Sensor System. The one pictured is similar to one that drifted away in 2015.

St. Louis had one of the first and most profound BDS victories in the United States when a dedicated coalition of human rights, environmental and social justice advocates successfully prevented Veolia, a multinational corporation on the BDS list at the time, from winning a contract with the City of St. Louis Water Division. Veolia lost many contracts worldwide because of their involvement in the West Bank. They have



St. Louis residents protest against Veolia in 2013 for the company's involvement in the West Bank. Veolia wanted a contract with the City of St. Louis Water Division.

## Defense Budget Process Cont.

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This “use it or lose it” policy would not lead to sensible expenditures.

- Expansion of the National Sea-Based Deterrence Fund by transferring \$773 million in advance funding for replacing the Ohio class submarine. Some fear this would simply allow the Navy to build more ships because its approximately \$27 billion annual shipbuilding budget would no longer have to cover the hugely expensive Ohio class submarine project.

- A new study into the value of resuming production of the F-22, an option that was studied a few years back, and that the Air Force Secretary does not want.

**The organizations also supported certain changes that should be made during the NDAA conference process:**

- Establishing clear guidelines for the use of OCO funds so they are used for “contingency operations” as originally contemplated, not as a slush fund.

- Requiring that cost estimates for research, production and maintenance of the new B-21 bomber be regularly made to Congress and the public. Sen. John McCain and others have been very upset with the lack of details for this project.

- Continuing to fund progress on auditing the Department of Defense, a never-ending process.

- Supporting the Senate version (\$9.235 Billion) for the warhead in the proposed new nuclear armed cruise missile, which is less than the House or

President’s requested.

- Less funding for the Joint Land Attack Cruise Missile Defense Elevated Netted Sensor System (JLENS). That is the blimp that broke free and drifted last summer. It is not clear that it works.

### Defense Appropriation Act

This process has stalled. The House of Representatives has passed a bill, as has the Senate Subcommittee on Defense Appropriations. However, in July, several Democratic filibusters prevented a full vote by the Senate. Reportedly, the Democrats believe that a new bi-partisan agreement, comparable to the Senator Patty Murray-Representative Paul Ryan agreement in 2013, is necessary. They argue that this is the only way to fairly raise the sequester caps so they preserve the basic parity between defense spending and discretionary domestic spending (which is everything else after mandatory entitlement costs). In the meantime, as evident in the chart maintained on the Friends Committee on National Legislation website, many of the proposed amendments that most PEP members would typically support have failed. For example, the House Appropriation committee prohibited:

- Any funds to be spent on President Obama’s Executive Order (13658) which would limit the donation of excess property to State and Local Law Enforcement agencies. For those who remember the excessive military equipment used in Ferguson, this is discouraging.

- Funds to be spent by the DOD to carry out its “green

fuel” mandate. Republicans claim that there are currently almost 700 such projects, which collectively cost a lot more than would basic oil and gas.

- Funds to be spent on planning or executing of Defense Base Closure and Realignment (BRAC), despite the Military’s recognition they have at least 20 percent excess base capacity.

- Funds to be spent on the closing of the Guantanamo prison and/or transfer of prisoners to this country.

- Any attempts to limit the way in which OCO are spent.

- Any attempts to deny the transfer of cluster bombs to Saudi Arabia, who has reportedly used them in Yemen.

- Any attempts to implement DOD Directive 4715.2, which requires consideration of Climate Change implications. The current directive on Climate Change Adaption and Resilience is aimed at getting the Defense Department to consider Climate Change as part of all military planning activity.

The House of Representatives and the Senate see the world somewhat differently. The House Appropriations Bill would move some \$18 billion out of the OCO fund into the Base Defense Budget where it could be spent on House priorities. Instead, the Senate would save \$15 billion by making about 450 specific cuts to the President’s budget. There is also disagreement over the size of the active duty force (1,281,900 in the Senate version versus 1,310,615 in the House version) and disagreement over the size of the pay

increase (1.6 percent in the Senate version versus 2.1 percent in the House version).

Whether these matters get resolved in the coming weeks or as part of an omnibus bill in the fall or winter, there can be little debate that \$645 billion is a huge amount of money - \$587 billion for the Base, and \$58.6 billion for the OCO. Not to mention another \$12.9 billion for the National Nuclear Security Administration in the Department of Energy. This is all money that could go to infrastructure, anti-poverty, research, health and so much more. Moreover, this annual level of military spending will not be enough to meet the long range wish list demanded by today’s military, industrial and congressional leaders.

Some of these expenditures may deter Russia, China and others who have exhibited assertive foreign policy. However, we worry the size and scope of the current and future budgets will be perceived as provocative and aggressive.

## Drone Free STL Continues Focus Toward City-Wide Surveillance and Privacy



Surveillance cameras like this one are located all over St. Louis. What we don't know is how many cameras the SLMPD has access to in the area.

***“We also don’t know for what government purposes the private cameras will be used.”***

**By Allison Reilly  
Executive Director**

Drone Free STL was a coalition the Peace Economy Project formed in 2014 to stop police drones in the St. Louis region. St. Louis Chief of Police Sam Dotson is still awaiting approval from the Federal Aviation Administration to purchase a drone for the city. Early on, Drone Free broadened its focus toward other surveillance issues, such as body cameras and the Real Time Intelligence Center (RTIC), as the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department looks for ways to put citizens under surveillance besides unmanned drones.

Regarding body camera policy, the coalition finished drafting a city ordinance earlier this year that outlines policy and privacy restrictions on the police use of body cameras. The ordinance sets the rules on data retention, data access, privacy exceptions and use pro-

ocols. Body cameras may be one way to improve police accountability, and the coalition itself is neutral on body cameras. But, Drone Free also doesn’t want video to be used against citizens acting lawfully i.e., peaceful protesters. We also want to ensure the police don’t have too much power over how the video is used in investigations of police misconduct, when they can turn off cameras or when they can delete videos off of their cameras or computers.

The Real Time Intelligence Center, also known as the Real Time Crime Center or the Real Time Transportation Center, is a 24/7 monitoring hub for the streets of St. Louis that opened in May 2015. Cameras connect their feeds to the RTCC, and staff can watch those streams for crimes and suspicious activity. They can also turn to a selected camera to gather information once a crime has occurred and relay that information to officers in the field.

The RTIC sounds like it would be a great asset to the St. Louis area, but it’s really not. Drone Free is concerned about who has access to the cameras and what processes are in place, if any, to let the public know when cameras will be installed or connected to the center’s network. According to KTVI in June 2016, there are thousands of cameras in the city, but about 600 are

connected to the RTIC. Of those 600 cameras, only 50 are actually owned by SLMPD. The other 550 are owned by businesses and property owners. Regarding the cameras owned by businesses and property owners, there’s no way for the public to know who can watch those cameras and what control those individuals have over the footage. We also don’t know for what government purposes the private cameras will be used now that the government has access to them.

Currently, Drone Free is working with a coalition of local leaders and activists called Privacy Watch to promote public awareness around city-wide surveillance. First, we’re filing Sunshine Requests and in order to research where the cameras that are part of the network are located, how much it cost to build and to maintain the network and how effective the cameras are in reducing crime rates. Then, we’ll put together a survey so we can canvass neighborhoods and assess the public’s knowledge and stance regarding the city’s surveillance capabilities. These two steps alone will likely take several months to complete.

Of course, Drone Free won’t forget about drones. If Dotson does get his FAA approval, then we’ll be on top of what he’s purchasing, why he’s purchasing it and what we can do to stop it.



Chief of Police Sam Dotson presents the RTCC to the St. Louis community. Photo courtesy of Twitter.



## More Examples of Prevarication, Waste and Inefficiency

By Charles Kindleberger  
PEP Board Member

### Missile Defense – What is the Truth?

The Ground-Based Midcourse Defense System (GMS) exists to protect against a limited missile attack from a country like North Korea. Following a strong push from President George W. Bush, the system was declared operational in 2004. Thirty interceptors are in place, four at Vandenberg Base in California, and 26 in Ft. Greely, Alaska. Fourteen more are to be installed by the end of next year.

The problem is that it is not clear whether the system works. Readers of mostlymissiledefense.com can see 35 claims, mostly by Admirals and Generals over the last 13 years about the capabilities of the system. In September 2000, President Clinton declined to implement the system, arguing that it had not been sufficiently tested. But since then, the claims have mostly been upbeat news, most recently from Vice Admiral James D Syring, Director of the Missile Defense Agency, and contractors Aerojet Rocketdyne and Raytheon. Their praise came after a January 28, 2016 test that cost \$250 million.

More recently, David Willman of the Los Angeles Times interviewed some of the scientists involved with the test. Speaking on conditions of confidentiality, one said that the closest the interceptor got to the target was 20 times what was expected. A second scientist suggested that the claims made by the Missile Defense Agency and contractors were “hyperbole, unsupported by any test data.”

### Electromagnetic Pulses (EMP)

Have you read the 2016 Republican Platform? Most of it was predictable to those who follow national politics. However, some of us were surprised to see at the end of the “America Resurgence” section (page 54) a paragraph entitled “Protection Against an Electromagnetic Pulse.” This concerns the idea an EMP could fry the electric grid, stop traveling cars and otherwise wreak havoc. It turns out this is old concern – Frank Gaffney (Center for Security Policy and adviser to Senator Ted Cruz) has predicted that 90 percent of Americans would die in an EMP attack. Newt Gingrich is reported to have said that “this could be the kind of catastrophe that could end civilization.” Others have noted that a large Electromagnetic Pulse would have to be caused by detonation of a large (say 100 or more kiloton) nuclear bomb. In order to create a damaging EMP, the aggressor nation would have to initiate nuclear war. We would argue the first priority is to prevent nuclear war.

### U.S. Military Band expenditures to be reduced. Maybe.

The New York Times reported on July 3, 2016 that the Department of Defense spent \$437 million last year on about 6500 musicians and some very expensive instruments (\$12,000 for a tuba?). In 2011 Congresswoman Betty McCollum (D-Minnesota) proposed a cap of \$200 million on what was then a \$325 million program. The amendment failed. The next year her amendment failed again, even as the band expenditures were reported to have risen to \$388

million.

But perhaps there is progress. This year, the pending National Defense Authorization Act, currently in Conference Committee, has language to the extent that the House Armed Services Committee “believes that the services may be able to conserve end strength by reducing the size of the military bands.” Anyone want to bet?

### The Chilcot Report

Retired Civil Servant Sir John Chilcot has produced a 12 volume report, four times the size of War and Peace, into the facts surrounding Great Britain’s entry into the 2003 Iraq war. Here, in a very condensed version, are the findings: 1. Prime Minister Tony Blair indicated, eight months before the invasion, that England would back President Bush. 2. When Blair went to war, not all alternatives had been flawed because there was no evidence that Iraq was in violation of a UN resolution to get rid of Weapons of Mass Destruction. 4. Any preparations for activity in Iraq after the invasion were “wholly inadequate.”

### CIA weapons being sold on the Black Market in Jordan.

This sounds like a movie we have seen before. The U.S. wants to get weapons to Syrian Rebels so the Central Intelligence Agency works with Saudi Arabia and other “friends” to procure and move the weapons. However, in late June the New York Times reported that “millions of dollars of weapons” are showing up on the black market. Kalashnikov assault weapons, mortars and rocket propelled grenades are for sale, even as “Jordanian intelligence operatives” are

“sporting new SUVs, iPhones and other luxury items” derived from these illegal transactions. The article notes the decades long relationship between the CIA and Jordan’s General Intelligence Directorate, but fails to conclude how high up the scandal goes. So irritating and so sad.

### But there is good news for vegetarians.

The Natick Soldier Research Development and Engineering Center outside of Boston is testing the feasibility of lettuce, onions, tomatoes and an array of additional produce that could grow hydroponically (vertically) in submarines. Currently, after a week or so the salad bar on a submarine is largely depleted, replaced with thawed frozen fruit, bean or pasta salad, etc. The challenge of course is that submarines don’t contain much space.



**A U.S. Marine military band. The NDAA has language to reduce the Department of Defense’s budget for military bands.**

## Do Not Lose Sight of the Nuclear War Threat: Tools of Resistance

**By Mary Ann McGivern**  
**PEP Board Member**

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Robert Frost wrote "Fire and Ice" about ways the world might end, but I find myself thinking more in terms of slow and fast: the slow warming of the planet or the speed of nuclear doom.

Even a "small" war between India and Pakistan, say a dozen or so hydrogen bombs, would create stratospheric ash, blocking the sun and resulting in worldwide famine and chaos; slower than immolation, but faster than climate change.

Shaky baby steps are being taken to mitigate our human impact on the climate, but we lose sight of the nuclear threat.

Congress and the president and the Pentagon, however, haven't lost the taste for nuclear arms. Every hour in 2016 we're spending \$2.19 million. The Department of Energy budget for Fiscal Year 2017 includes over \$23 billion a year on the research, development and maintenance of our nuclear weapons, which does not count hundreds of billions spent on the delivery systems (missiles, bombers, strike fighters and submarines). To put this in perspective, the National Priorities Project provides interesting comparisons for what the money spent on nuclear weapons could have paid for instead.

While President Barack Obama began his service as president

with a strong commitment to nuclear disarmament, under his watch the nuclear laboratories are making the possible use of nuclear arms imaginable.

We didn't used to be able to imagine actually deploying them. Back in the 1980s, when the headquarters of General Dynamics was in St. Louis, our chapter of Clergy and Laity Concerned held vigils there weekly. One of our signs read, "It's a sin to possess a nuclear weapon." And sometimes hecklers drove past and shouted "Nuke the whales!" We worried about war caused by computer error or a flock of geese, but nobody saw a tactical benefit to dropping a nuclear bomb.

Now we learn that the Lawrence Livermore and Sandia Laboratories will replace the nuclear bombs we supply to our NATO partners with the nuclear B61-12 that uses radar evasion to make it invisible, navigation controls to make it "smart," and an explosion dial to regulate the size of the nuclear impact. These enhancements erase the distinction between tactical and strategic nuclear weapons.

The fear of many experts, including retired officers who served in the Pentagon during President Obama's administration, is that it will be easier to give the order to use these small, invisible, precise nukes. In the past we built annihilation into the bombs as a protection against ever using them; now, if we build precision nukes, it's more likely we will use them.

Military author and professor Colonel (ret.) Andrew Bacevich identifies this issue of nuclear escalation as a significant unasked question of the 2016

presidential primary race, though there has been a back-and-forth recently between the president and candidate Donald Trump.

The Department of Energy, in conjunction with Congress and the Pentagon plan, is planning a "life extension" of our nuclear weapons, an expensive addition to the budget. It is difficult to determine how much all this will cost. The Congressional Budget Office estimate for our nuclear forces is \$348 billion over the next 10 years, not including costs for clean-up, non-proliferation and other activities. The costs are not expected to peak, however, until after this 10-year period, pushing the total to more than \$1 trillion over the next 30 years. These costs exclude congressional wish lists for new construction at Los Alamos and at the Savannah River former uranium enrichment plant in South Carolina. In addition, the new F-35 bomber which is already moving toward deployment despite many problems is said to be capable of delivering both conventional and those so-called "smart" B61-12 nuclear bombs and alone will cost over \$1.5 trillion over its lifetime.

These weapon enhancements are referred to as "life extension," not "modernization," and would place the United States in violation of Article VI of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to disarm "at an early date."

### How do we respond?

We the people have been saying "no" for a long time. In *The Long Loneliness* Dorothy Day describes her arrest in New York for refusing to go to an air raid shelter during drills in

the 1950s. In 1978, our St. Louis Catholic Worker community drove to New York for the United Nations Special Session on Disarmament, attending special events and marching with thousands. Shortly after our return home, the Clergy and Laity Concerned protests began at General Dynamics over Trident submarine and cruise missile production. We had many arrests over 10 years, a couple of 30-day jail sentences, and once, a judge ordered a group of protestors to see a psychiatrist. That order was later rescinded.

Actions against nuclear weapons have generally been local, based around key sites:

- Los Alamos National Laboratory (New Mexico)

The pit of the bomb, known as the primary, is manufactured at Los Alamos, using plutonium with a tritium reservoir. It is fissile fuel that explodes, acting as a trigger for the massive thermonuclear implosion.

Several resistance communities surround the Los Alamos laboratory, perhaps because the lab manages the site where nuclear tests were carried out until 1992. New Mexico peace groups have banded together as the Los Alamos Study Group, but the annual August actions commemorating the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki have been led in recent years by Pace e Bene in conjunction with Nuclear Watch New Mexico, which takes leadership in conducting research about the laboratory and taking action in opposition to its work.

**Cont. on Page 9**



## Tools of Resistance Cont.

### Cont. from Page 8

I was arrested there once and once at the White Sands Proving Grounds with Dom Helder Camera and Martin Sheen. The charges were dropped or perhaps never brought.

- The Kansas City National Security Campus (Missouri)

The non-nuclear parts are made at the Kansas City Plant, newly built at a cost of about \$700 million. The plant was privately built, but Kansas City invested at least \$40 million in land and infrastructure. The operations budget in 2014 was about \$550 million.

PeaceWorks Kansas City sponsors the Kansas City Plant Accountability Project that sponsors research, trespass actions, conferences and marches. Peace activists protested the construction of the new plant as well as Kansas City's financial partnership, building strong opposition in the community to nuclear arms manufacture.

- Y-12 National Security Complex (Oak Ridge, Tennessee)

The sparkplug or secondary, made of highly enriched uranium, lithium deuteride, depleted uranium and other materials is manufactured and stored here.

Storage security is a problem, as we saw when three protesters, Plowshares members Sr. Megan Rice, Greg Boertje-Obed and Michael Walli, gained entrance and sang songs and painted calls for peace on a wall of the storage facility while they waited for the guards to learn that security had been

breached.

The Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance (OREPA) holds a vigil every Sunday at the Y-12 plant. Their banner reads: "The bomb started in Oak Ridge. It should stop here. Now." Their website offers taxpayer fact sheets and talking points about nuclear weapons, monthly Reflections for Nonviolent Community and a newsletter.

Congress has proposed a new plant at Y-12, the Uranium Processing Facility (UPF). By the end of next year, more than \$2 billion will have been spent designing the UPF. Stopping the UPF is a priority goal of OREPA and the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability (a national network addressing nuclear weapons production and waste cleanup).

- Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (near Berkeley, California)

Engineering research and testing to extend the life of nuclear warheads and make them smaller and smarter is done here.

Western States Legal Foundation (WSLF) analyzes U.S. nuclear weapons programs and policies, reviews issues of war and the law and serves as a center for nuclear abolition activities. It sponsors Fiat Pax, a University of California organization that addresses the University's management of the Livermore and Los Alamos laboratories. WSLF has taken the lead in linking the threats of nuclear weapons and climate change with racism, poverty and conventional wars and threats of wars.

- Pantex Plant (Amarillo, Texas)

Pantex assembles all the parts and also stores thousands of plutonium pits from retired warheads. This plutonium has leaked into groundwater and in 1994 the Pantex Plant was listed as a Superfund site along with Rocky Flats, north of Denver, which used to manufacture the plutonium pits.

In 1981 Bishop L.P. Mathieson of Amarillo, Archbishop Raymond G. Hunthausen of Seattle and Archbishop John R. Quinn of San Francisco all urged Catholics to oppose the manufacture of nuclear weapons. In Amarillo a strong resistance movement flourished for a time, then waned. These bishops, along with Bishop Thomas Gumbleton who continues to stand with resisters, however ragtag, enheartened the movement to abolish nuclear weapons. But many, especially in Texas, were unprepared for the forceful rejection by communities where the nuclear plants were located.

### National resistance

Many national organizations have also taken up the call for the abolition of nuclear weapons, joining an international call to outlaw possession of them.

Physicians for Social Responsibility organizes doctors, supports research and has taken leadership with the International Committee of the Red Cross in raising the moral and humanitarian issues raised by nuclear weapons.

Veterans for Peace exposes the true costs of militarism.

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom hosts Reaching Critical Will, the title of which is a word play on the critical mass needed for nuclear detonation versus the critical mass of public support needed to abolish nuclear weapons.

War Resisters League, the Plowshares movement, United for Peace and Justice, Pax Christi, Fellowship of Reconciliation and a dozen more groups take bites of the apple in the effort to resist nuclear weapons.

Catholics have been a strong presence in this resistance, as well as having been a strong presence in the research, development and deployment of nuclear weapons these past almost 75 years since the origin of the Manhattan Project. I've been to shareholder meetings at Honeywell, Monsanto, McDonnell Douglas, Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Rockwell — the list goes on and on — and Catholics at these meetings have told me they object to the resolutions I have presented on behalf of communities of women religious.

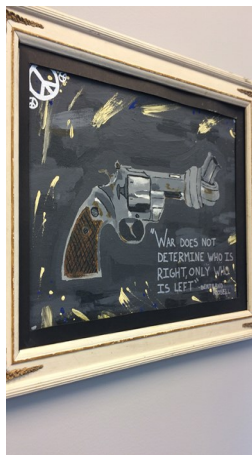
But I have found that standing outside of one of the nuclear plants or sitting (or once kneeling) during corporate shareholders' meetings gives a person time to pray. Pray and protest this spending of our treasure on armaments lest we use these weapons and go up in a flash of fire.

To view the original article and a full list of sources, please visit: <http://www.globalsistersreport.org/node/39296>



**Executive Director Allison Reilly wants to #EliminateNukes at the Hiroshima/Nagasaki Memorial event held this past August.**

***“Peace is much more than the absence of war and violence.”***



**A painting in Rep. Lacy Clay's office. The text reads, “War does not determine who is right, only who is left.”**

## Doing Something Toward Peace

**By Allison Reilly  
Executive Director**

I was going to write about how I got to the Peace Economy Project and became interested in activism, but after recent current events I've decided that I need to use this page to share a different message.

At the time of this writing I've been the Executive Director of PEP for four months. Also at the time of this writing, I've been a human rights activist with Amnesty International for nearly 10 years.

In my 10 years of advocating for the abolition of the death penalty, for the closing Guantanamo Bay, for the release of prisoners of conscience around the world and much much more, I have never cried.

In my three months at PEP, I've cried no fewer than four times.

The first was at the end of Frontline's “Yemen Under Siege,” a documentary reporting on the human costs of the war in Yemen. A fighter, shot in the chest by a sniper, is rushed to a hospital and emergency surgery is performed. It's not going well. He's lost a lot of blood. His heart stops. “Done. He's had his chance. May God help us,” the lead surgeon says.

The fighter didn't make it. The men leave and pray to Allah. The women prepare the body, clean up the room and get it ready for the next surgery. They finish their prayers and duties and move on.

Hospital workers have no choice but to pray and to change the table lining, because fleeing isn't an option. Someone has to stay and be the

doctor or the nurse. Someone has to stay and hope the fighting will end, instead of abandoning our home.

The plight of a U.S.-sponsored war in a failed state.

The second is in the aftermath of the Orlando shooting, and Lin-Manuel Miranda declares, “love is love is love is love is love is love is love.” I don't know how many times he says the word, “love.” Maybe we just don't say it enough. Maybe we say it too much and don't demonstrate it enough to know what love looks like. Maybe we've just been at war for so long that we've forgotten how love can and should exist in a society where too many are too willing to fight.

We should at least know love isn't showing up to a nightclub and shooting more than 100 people with an AR-15. But, somehow, some folks had a hard time calling it hate.

Now, it's Alton Sterling and Philando Castile. Sterling's 15-year-old son Cameron sobs on live television as his mother makes a statement to the press. He weeps uncontrollably as he says, “Daddy!”

It's easy to say things and to take certain positions when it's not you or your kid.

People are going to justify Sterling's death, saying he had a criminal record, or that he should've had a real job instead of selling CDs outside a convenience store.

Tell Cameron that. Tell him why he doesn't get to have a dad. Tell him that because his dad had a criminal record, he doesn't deserve him, if your heart doesn't happen to break

as Cameron's is breaking before you.

Because if it was you or your kid, then your dad was a great guy and you wouldn't say those things.

And speaking of great guys, even the best of them who do everything right aren't immune. Philando Castile worked at a Montessori school. He legally had a conceal carry license. He followed the officer's directions. He told the officer, as he was taught during his conceal carry license classes, about his firearm and his license.

But, Castile was shot and left to die anyway.

“It's okay, Mommy. I'm right here with you.”

That's what Diamond Lavish Reynolds' four-year-old daughter says as she attempts to console her mother in the back of the police car, after starting a Facebook livestream to record the moments following Castile's shooting. The little girl was also in the back seat when the officer shot Castile for reaching for his wallet.

Consolation isn't peace, just like how a consolation prize isn't victory.

When police officers shoot unarmed civilians as they follow instructions, sell CDs, run from the scene or just sit playing as the police arrive on the scene, then that is not peace.

When mass shootings happen on a daily basis and are part of the news cast as often as the weather, then that is not peace.

**Cont. on Page 6**

## Autonomous Weapons: A New and Dangerous Trend

**By Charles Kindleberger**  
PEP Board Member

Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter, with his PhD in physics from Oxford, is a strong advocate for weapons that incorporate artificial intelligence. He advocates a “third offset” strategy; similar to the U.S. strategy in the 1950s and again the 1970s and 80s, the idea is to offset the potential of adversaries with larger armies, by building smarter high tech weapons.

Carter has begun to establish Defense Innovation Unit Experimental facilities (DIUx), first in Silicon Valley, and second in the Boston area; the organizations will report directly to him. He boasts that the Department of Defense “R and D” budget is twice the size of Apple, Google and Intel combined.

### The LRASM

The problem with designing ever more sophisticated weapons is that some engineers are motivated to make them “autonomous.” Consider the Long Range Anti-Ship Missile (LRASM), initially supported by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), and now recommended to be manufactured by Lockheed Martin. The missile is designed to be fired at a target, presumably by a human, but then to fly to the target without human intervention and attack it. But, what if it turns out that there was a mistake? What if it turns out to be one of our ships or an adversary’s ship attempting to surrender?

Semi-autonomous weapons may incorporate a lot of automation, but a human operator

is always “left in the loop.” Not so with autonomous weapons. In April, a large number of countries at the United Nations agreed to examine Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (LAWS) and the extent to which they should be banned under the Convention on Conventional Weapons or some other international regulation or treaty.

For more information see: “Autonomous Weapons and Operational Risk” by Paul Scharre at the Center for a New American Security, February 2016. Also “Killer Robots and Concept of Meaningful Human Control” by Human Rights Watch and Harvard Law School Human Rights Clinic, April 2016. Finally, learn about the International Committee for Robot Arms Control.



An example of a long-range anti-ship missile, or LRASM, that can fly at a target without human intervention after it's launched.

## Toward Peace Cont.

Cont. from Page 7

When we sponsor the wars of our allies and leave civilians we can't see in the wake of death and destruction, then that is not peace.

Peace is much more than the absence of war and violence. It doesn't matter how to I got to PEP or what I did to get to PEP. What matters is what I'm going to do, and what you're going to do, to achieve peace.



## PEP Annual Report

### 2015 Income

Members/Donations: \$12,954.11  
JPS: \$8525  
Events/Initiatives: \$6789.60  
Bank Interest: \$1.32  
Other: \$570

**Total Income: \$28,840.03**

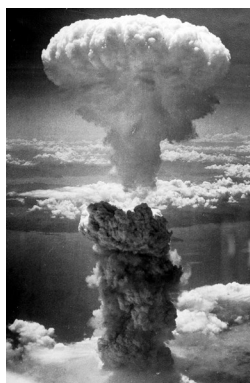
### 2015 Expenses

Wages: \$20,493.36  
Outreach: \$1215  
Office/Supplies: \$2339.86  
Healthcare: \$614.40  
Taxes: \$6996.10  
Dues and Subscriptions: \$50.00  
Miscellaneous: \$90.00

**Total Expenses: \$31,798.72**

**“But what if it turns out to be a mistake? What if it turns out to be one of our ships?”**





The nuclear explosion in Nagasaki in 1945. PEP held a memorial for the event in August 2016.

***“I was honestly shocked to discover how little I knew about nuclear weapons.”***



A mock-up of China's first nuclear weapon.

## No More Nukes

**By Rachel Kent**  
**Former PEP Executive Director**

Growing up, I gave no thought to nuclear weapons. In history class, we were told that the use of atomic bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki ended World War II, saving thousands--if not millions--of lives. We were shown videos of Cold War era schoolchildren practicing what they should do in the event of a nuclear attack, but were assured that the danger of nuclear weapons being used again was well past us, and that we need not worry.

So I didn't worry or think about nuclear weapons or ever imagine that I would end up working to eliminate nuclear weapons.

That all changed in August 2010 when I spent two weeks participating in a Peace Ambassador Cultural Exchange Program. This program was run by the World Friendship Center, which is located in Hiroshima. Founded in 1965, it was designed to be a space where people could come together, reflect and work towards peace. Every two years, the World Friendship Center would sponsor four Americans to travel to Japan to be Peace Ambassadors. As such, we experienced the culture of Japan and also learned about the atomic bombings and the effects on the cities and people who suffered their devastation.

I was honestly shocked to discover how little I knew about nuclear weapons and just what the U.S. had done to the residents of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by using these weapons.

We visited the Peace Memorial

Museums in both cities, toured the Radiation Effects Research Foundation (which is seeing patients who are still suffering from radiation disease today), spoke with *hibakusha* (survivors of the atomic bombs) and went to the Peace Memorial Ceremonies on August 6 and 9.

The ceremonies were incredibly powerful. Each featured a moment of silence at the time when the bombs were dropped. Each featured a release of doves as a symbol for peace. Each featured overwhelming grief and sadness as survivors remembered all those who had been lost. Each featured a tinge of regret at what might have been. But each also featured tremendous pride over how the cities recovered. Three days after being hit by the first atomic bomb, Hiroshima's streetcars were running again. And today, both Hiroshima and Nagasaki are world leaders in the call for peace and the abolition of nuclear weapons.

2010 was also a special year to attend the ceremonies. It was an exciting time for the disarmament movement. For the first time ever, the United States sent an ambassador to attend the ceremonies. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon was also in attendance for the first time. And a year prior, President Obama had stood in Prague and declared his commitment to seeking a world free of nuclear weapons. The people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were so hopeful that the world would finally come together to abolish nuclear weapons from our world.

And here are some reasons why they feel so strongly about this cause:

A majority of people immediately killed by the atomic bombs were children. At that point in the war, the need for adult bodies on the frontlines was so extreme, that children were often conscripted into helping with the war effort. As a result, thousands of children were out and about during the mornings of August 6 and 9. It is estimated that at least 30,000 children died.

Hiroshima, which was a major industrial point, had 90% of its buildings completely demolished within a matter of minutes. 140,000 people died. Nagasaki, which has the virtue of being in a valley, lost at least 70,000 people. And those numbers don't include all those who suffered and eventually died from radiation sickness, various cancers, etc.

In the evening of August 6, there is a lantern ceremony held on the Motoyasu River. Attendees write messages of peace on lanterns, light them and then set them on the River. There are two main reasons for this evening ceremony: the first is to send off the spirits of those who died; the second is to remember and honor all those who died in the Motoyasu River. After the atomic bomb was dropped, temperatures reached up to at least 7,200 degrees. People were desperate to escape the heat, so they jumped into the water. What they didn't know, however, was that it was so hot; the Motoyasu River was literally boiling.

It is impossible to estimate the number of people killed, as many were burned to ashes within seconds of the bombs being dropped.

**Cont. on Page 13**

## No More Nukes Cont.

### Cont. from Page 12

The U.S., curious to see exactly how these weapons would work, intentionally chose targets with large populations. And the U.S. officials intentionally dropped the bombs in the mornings when, they reasoned, the largest number of people would be outside walking.

These stories should be good enough reasons to eliminate nuclear weapons, which are indiscriminate killing machines. They destroy military bases, civilian populations, hospitals, entire cities. There is no scenario imaginable in which the use of nuclear weapons would be justified. In a nutshell, they are immoral.

Not only are nuclear weapons immoral, they are expensive. And their cost, for those who are fiscally-minded, is yet another reason why they need to be eliminated.

The United States is set to spend \$1 trillion over the next 30 years on the maintenance and modernization of the nuclear arsenal.

One example of the exorbitant costs of nuclear weapons is the B-61 bomb, which is the most expensive nuclear weapon ever made. A guided bomb, it has a yield of anywhere from 300-50,000 tons of TNT. When the planned 400 B-61 bombs are completed in 2020, these will have cost U.S. taxpayers at least \$11 billion.

There's also the *Ohio*-class replacement program, which is a plan to modernize the U.S. nuclear submarines. The current fleet is set to start to be retired in 2029. The Department of Defense wants to

maintain a sea-based nuclear leg and is therefore working to replace the current *Ohio*-class fleet. Each new submarine, set to be seaworthy in 2030 or 2031, is going to cost anywhere from \$4-8 billion. Per submarine.

And these are just some examples of the modernization programs. There is also the cost of maintaining the existing fleet, which amounts to about \$20 billion a year.

The scary part: these cost estimates are likely to only go up over the next few decades.

Remember when I told you that, as a child, I was taught not to worry about nuclear weapons being used?

Did you know that there are still around 16,000 nuclear weapons in the world?

And did you know that the U.S. and Russia each have hundreds of warheads on high-level alert at all times?

Which means either country could launch a nuclear weapon within ten minutes.

And China, which has an estimated 250 nuclear weapons, is considering putting some of its arsenal on high-level alert as well.

There have been several documented incidents of miscommunication that could have ended in a nuclear weapon accidentally being used. These high-level alert weapons only increase the chances of an accidental use occurring.

The world is an ever-changing and ever-evolving place. There

are valid security concerns and threats of which our government must be concerned. The government does play a role in providing for the safety and security of its citizens.

However, nuclear weapons do not provide the safety and security we need. They make the world more dangerous, as their continued existence makes nuclear war a very real and scary possibility.

Nuclear weapons should just not exist. They are inhumane and indiscriminate and immoral. They are expensive and put many of the nation's best minds to creating killing machines rather than working to cure cancer or to make our economy more sustainable.

Abolishing nuclear weapons will take a long time. It will not be an easy path to walk and there are bound to be setbacks in the struggle. But it is definitely a fight worth fighting.

I hope we all one day can see a world free of nuclear weapons.

**“Nuclear weapons do not provide the safety and security we need.”**



**Of the 16,000 nuclear weapons in existence, the U.S. and Russia have the most at about 7,000**



Allison Reilly (left) and Rachel Kent at the Fight for \$15 rally in April 2016.

**Thank you to everyone who supported, and continues to support, the Peace Economy Project!**



Susan "Spit-Fire" Lively performs at the Women for Peace event in June 2016.

## Peace Economy Project Annual Report 2015-2016

The past year has been a year of transition for the Peace Economy Project. Jasmin Mauer stepped down as Executive Director in August 2015 after three years of service. Her replacement, Rachel Kent, left in April 2016 to go back home to Cleveland, Ohio. Also in April, the board hired Allison Reilly as the new Executive Director.

### Trip to DC

Kent and board members Abbe Sudvar and Charles Kindler went to Washington D.C. last summer to meet with our Congressional representatives and to deliver the Congressional Appeal. The appeal and their signatures were dropped off at the offices of 44 Senators and 43 Representatives. Kent, Sudvar and Kindler also met with the offices of Reps. Ann Wagner and Lacy Clay and Sens. Roy Blunt and Claire McCaskill.

### Peace and Justice Movie Series

PEP, Veterans for Peace and Instead of War launched and hosted the Peace and Justice Movie Series, a monthly film showing dedicated to films about peace, war and activism. Movies we've featured include "Dirty Wars," "Iraq for Sale," "Immigrants for Sale," and "War on Whistleblowers." Started at the beginning of the year, the series was originally planned for the first six months of 2016 but will continue through November and will restart in January 2017. The goal of the series is to re-ignite the peace movement here in St. Louis.

### Charlie King Concert

Charlie King came back to St. Louis in April 2016 to join PEP

for our annual Charlie King Concert and Silent Auction. This year, King was joined by folk singer Martha Leader in Tegeler Hall at Saint Louis University for a night of great music with friends and fellow activists. More than 120 people attended and we raised more than \$1000 to help us continue our work toward a peace economy. Thank you to everyone who attended and to all of our supporters!

### 2016 Strategic Plan

In December 2015, PEP and its board went on a retreat to draft a 2016 Strategic Plan for the organization. The retreat was facilitated by Anna Sandidge, an experienced facilitator who was previously the Justice Coordinator with Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. Finalized in April, the Strategic Plan outlines several goals, including creating a fundraising plan, maintaining and strengthening research, increasing the number of published op-eds and letters to the editor and recruiting a new board member. PEP will review the Strategic Plan quarterly to ensure we are meeting and progressing toward our goals.

### Tax Day Action

Every Tax Day, members from the St. Louis chapter of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom hand out fliers illustrating where our income tax dollars go. Kent and Reilly joined WILPF in Clayton to hand out the fliers.

### Fight for \$15 Rally

Kent, Reilly and PEP board member Mary Ann McGivern participated in the Fight for \$15 Rally in St. Louis with Show Me 15. The event was part of a nationwide push for a \$15 min-

imum wage and union rights for fast-food workers in the city and around the country.

### Berta Caceres, Presente!

PEP collaborated with the Inter-Faith Committee on Latin America, Latinos en Axion and Solidarity Economy STL to commemorate the life of Berta Caceres. Caceres was an environmental activist in Honduras who was murdered in March for her work to stop the Agua Zarca dam. Reilly presented at the event, discussing U.S. military aid to Honduras, where the money comes from and the impact the aid has on the violence happening in the country.

### Women for Peace

Women for Peace held its 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary performance in June 2016 at Melt on Cherokee Street. Susan Spit-Fire Lively, a local spoken word artist, produced the show and generously donated half the proceeds to PEP. About a dozen spoken word artists performed. The event, originally formed in 2013 by Spit-Fire and PEP intern Katerina Canyon, is dedicated to promoting gender violence awareness.

## Peace Economy News

You can receive either an e-mail or a print version of our publication by calling 314-726-6406 or emailing PEP at [peaceeconomyproject@gmail.com](mailto:peaceeconomyproject@gmail.com). We will be glad to make sure the Peace Economy News reaches you.

Visit us on the web at: [peaceeconomyproject.org](http://peaceeconomyproject.org)



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PEP is a proud member of St. Louis Justice and Peace Shares, a collaboration of three local groups, all committed to non-violent social change and justice for the poor.

JPS Shares (\$25/month) save these organizations valuable time and energy otherwise spent fundraising so that they can focus on their important work for peace and justice.

JPS Shareholders are eligible for membership in any or all of the JPS groups but do not receive direct appeals for further contributions from these organizations. They also receive discounts for JPS-member events.

For more information on how to become a shareholder or on how to support member organizations, please contact JPS:

St. Louis Justice and Peace Shares

438 N. Skinker Blvd

St. Louis, MO 63130

314-974-7432

[justiceandpeaceshares@gmail.com](mailto:justiceandpeaceshares@gmail.com)

**To our readers:** If you are not currently a member, then please consider joining the Peace Economy Project. Membership supports PEP's research and work to build a peace economy and end wasteful military spending. Clip and mail the form below. Don't forget your email address—it is the quickest way to reach you.

### **Yes, I want to join PEP.**

Contributions are tax-deductible.

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