



Sacramento Area Peace Action December 2017 Newsletter

Working to end U.S. militarism since 1983.

909 12th St, Suite 118, Sacramento, CA 95814 916-448-7157 sacpeace@dcn.org www.sacpeace.org

Annual Vigil to Support Rights to Emigrate

The 35th annual Candlelight Vigil to commemorate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights will be Dec. 12. It will highlight Article 14 of the Declaration: “Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.” The Declaration was adopted on Dec 10, 1948, by the newly-formed United Nations, with leadership of the US.

The vigil, from 4:30 to 6pm at 16th and J Streets in Sacramento, will urge the US to honor this commitment by protecting persons fleeing violence in Central America, the Middle East, Asia, and elsewhere, often instigated or aided by US weapons and dollars).

Please bring signs and candles or other lights that can withstand wind and possible rain.

A gathering afterward at Luna’s Café, nearby at 1414 16th St., will include a discussion of local activism and a sing-along of progressive parodies, led by The Raging Grannies.

Offering Students Alternatives to Military Service

The Student Career Options Committee (SCOC) is SacPeace’s effort to counter military recruitment in local high schools. The committee is seeking invitations from classroom teachers in order to educate students about opportunities for higher education and job training other than through the military.

Enlisting by youth to escape limited finances or unhealthy family situations or because they think they can’t afford to go to college is often referred to as the “poverty draft.” The goal of SCOC is to show them that they *do* have other options. We use a combination of Peace Action volunteers, military veterans, and college students in our presentations, which expose the harsh realities of military life, and show the many other paths open to them.

SCOC would appreciate any leads with teachers or students and volunteers. Please call 707- 676-0266 or 916-448-7157 or email SacPeace@dcn.org

Help Peace Action “Pay the Rent”

Your SAPA board members are searching for creative ways to “pay the rent,” which currently is \$450 per month. A year ago we moved into smaller quarters, and we are currently looking at ways to decrease our mailing costs. We have no paid staff – all work is done by volunteers. Two possibilities for helping us were discussed recently by board members:

- Specify our organization for “donations in lieu of flowers” after the death of a loved one. We sincerely thank the Bacher Family for this recent approach and donations.
- Donating after a “windfall,” be it selling a house, receiving an inheritance, tapping an annuity, investment, or even...winning the lottery! Most recently, an anonymous donor sold a house in Midtown, and is paying for two months’ rent. Thank you!

Many people donate during the holidays to deserving causes. Fostering peace and social justice is needed now more than ever. Thank you for considering us.

Africa – U.S. Warfare Under the Radar

Since taking office, Donald Trump is intensifying drone strikes in Somalia. Although this tactic means few US fighters are killed, the high proportion of civilians who are killed and maimed enrages those victims’ friends and relatives; it also enrages entire populations. Begun under the Bush administration and stepped-up under the Obama administration, drone strikes boomerang in further anti-US rage. It’s effectively a terrorism recruitment tactic. Not smart!

In 2007, when the US created AfriCom, it was marketed as a kind of “Peace Corps in camo” (i.e., camouflage garb). This tactic keeps it below the radar of mainstream media. What’s really going on is “Low Intensity Irregular Warfare” performed by the CIA, Special Ops, Green Berets, military contractors, etc.

The only “official” U.S. military base in Africa is in Djibouti, a kind of a two-fer, which also provides strategic access to the Arabian Peninsula. But US persons are stationed throughout Africa in lots of “non-bases,” e.g., Forward Operating Sites, Co-operative Security Locations, and Contingency Locations. Plus the US has lots of drone launching sites. But so far only Niger is the only country that permits U.S. deployment of *weaponized* drones, i.e., the kind that kill people.

Our media only made mention of Niger (a country in Africa) because five Green Berets were killed there, devoting hours of precious airtime to deconstructing the tone and content of Donald Trump’s condolence call to La David Johnson’s widow, Myeshia.

For centuries, the West has ravaged the continent of Africa: slave trade, colonization, pillaged natural resources, propped up dictators, sold weapons to both armies and the militants fighting those armies, etc. And the ravaging continues.

The Nation We’ve Not Yet Been

On Nov. 3, Rev. Dr. William Barber, II, introduced a capacity-crowd audience in Sacramento to the Poor People’s Campaign. Already on board are groups such as Code Pink, Unitarian ministers, Vets for Peace/Vets Against the Iraq War, labor folks, Why Hunger, Arise for Social Justice, Keys not Handcuffs, Kairos, etc. The goal is to move the United States toward “the nation we’ve not yet been.”

According to the website, the Poor People’s Campaign has emerged from more than a decade of work by grassroots community and religious leaders, organizations and movements fighting to end systemic racism, poverty, militarism, environmental destruction & related injustices and to build a just, sustainable and participatory society. Info: poorpeoplescampaign.org

Stop the War on Yemen

The Pentagon continues to transfer massive amounts of military equipment to Saudi Arabia to maintain a bombing and occupation of Yemen despite warnings of a humanitarian disaster and atrocities.

Americans whose tax dollars are funding the bombs and jets used by the Saudis in Yemen, have a responsibility to oppose this military aggression. Call Congress 202-224-3121 and demand that they oppose US aid and weapon sales to Saudi Arabia.

December 2017 Sacramento Area Events for Peace, Justice & the Environment

Check www.sacpeace.org for more events – Subscribe to weekly updates: sacpeace@dcn.org

Tuesday, Dec 5, 4:30 - 6pm, Stop U.S. militarism and wars now! Weekly Vigil. 16th & J, Sacramento. FMI: 916-448-7157; sacpeace@dcn.org

Wednesday, Dec 6, 4 - 6pm, No New Wars, No Killer Drones. Sac Veterans for Peace weekly vigil, 15th & L, Sacramento. All welcome. FMI: 916-456-4595

Saturday, Dec 9, 9:45am - 12noon, Citizen's Climate Lobby Monthly Meeting. National Speaker/National Actions. Discussion. Refreshments. Local Action. Free. 1824 Tribute Road, Sacramento. FMI: 707-845-1216; joinccclsac@gmail.com.

Tuesday, Dec 12, 4:30 - 6pm, 35th annual Candlelight Vigil Commemorating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. 16th and J Sts. Sacramento Rain or shine. bring candles or other windproof lighting. Followed by gathering at Luna's Cafe, 1414 16th St, Sacramento. FMI: 916-448-7157. See article.

Wednesday, Dec 13, 4 - 5pm, No New Wars, No Killer Drones. Sac Veterans for Peace weekly vigil, 15th & L, Sacramento. All welcome. FMI: 916-456-4595

Wednesday, Dec 13, 7:15pm, Film: Symbols of Resistance: A Tribute To The Martyrs Of The Chicano Movement. Looks at the history of the Movement as it emerges in the 1970s in Colorado and New Mexico focusing on the struggle for land, against police repression, community and student movements. With current political update. 1640 9th Ave. Sacramento. FMI:joan.kelly@att.net

Thursday, Dec 14, 6:30pm, SacPeace Board of Directors meets, 909 12th St, Sac. Members welcome. FMI: 916-448-7157.

Tuesday, Dec 19, 4 - 5:30pm, Monthly Vigil for Palestinian rights. End U.S. aid to Israel. & Boycott companies aiding Israel's abuses. Sign petitions for Palestinian rights. 16th & J, Sacramento. 916-448-7157. (Note the anti-war vigil will continue until 6pm.)

Wednesday, Dec 20, 4 - 5pm, No New Wars, No Killer Drones. Sac Veterans for Peace weekly vigil, 15th & L, Sacramento. All welcome. FMI: 916-456-4595

Tuesday, Dec 26, 4:30 - 6pm, Stop U.S. militarism and wars now! Weekly Vigil. 16th & J, Sacramento. FMI: 916-448-7157; sacpeace@dcn.org

Wednesday, Dec 27, 4 - 5pm, No New Wars, No Killer Drones. Sac Veterans for Peace weekly vigil, 15th & L, Sacramento. All welcome. FMI: 916-456-4595

Please deliver by Dec 1

Return Service Requested

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