2017 at the Peace Resource Center -- A year of introspection and challenge

The Peace Resource Center (PRC) is committed to providing a consistent peace presence in our San Diego community, speaking out against violence in all its forms and co-building local support for peaceful, just ways to solve interpersonal, community, and global problems and build a better world. Peace with justice is a process - of struggle for self-determination for all, affirmation and collaboration. At the PRC, we begin with a foundation of nonviolence and dialogue, providing resources that hold community engagement and community-building as essential. Consensus-building is promoted to ensure all voices are heard and included.

Like many other advocacy groups across our country and abroad, the PRC Board of Directors is engaging with the challenges of PRISMSS and identity politics as we work to broaden and diversify our organization to a “a cross-section of younger/older cultures and ethnicities working to coordinate harmony, peace & prosperity, doing a multitude of outreach and networking” (from our 2016 Priorities). We have been called to account and must meet that challenge.

The national “campaign” of fear, racist rhetoric and war-mongering is effectively countered by persistence – the persistence of communities and peoples oppressed and marginalized by the white supremist power structure and the persistence of committed peace & justice allies. The increasing violence at home is the outcome of our nation’s strategy of endless war brought back to our schools, our public safety institutions, our borders, and our streets.

The PRC uses the PRISMSS approach to address how all the oppressive systems are connected in an intricate web to keep the status quo in power: Poverty, Racism, Immigration, Sex & Gender, Militarism, Sustainability & Spirituality. Professor Loretta Ross of Hampshire College talked about the depth of these connections at the 2017 gathering of war resisters: “Focusing on just one ‘ism’ in our culture is like trying to figure out from its trunk the shape and size of the whole elephant…we need to look at the whole, and understand the movement as a Human Rights for all movement.”

Professor Starla Lewis reminds us that love empowers all of us to build an empathic diverse commUnity.

The Peace Resource Center reaffirms its commitment to equity, self-determination and shared community in 2018 in ongoing workshops, dialogues, introspections and evaluation – to examine how we individually and collectively may be complicit with or resist the call of sexism, racism, class, queerphobia, patriotism and militarism, and other-ism perpetrated by the hetero-masculine 1%. We look to call our partners, friends and allies in for these essential conversations that tend to put us at odds- as perhaps the explicit intention of the status quo.

The strength of the peace and justice community in San Diego remains a constant as allies and groups collaborate to examine ourselves, our relations with one another, and the struggle to overcome the status quo. We look to co-create common ground that defines peace, justice and non-violence collectively. One resource we return to over and over is the War Resisters International Handbook on Nonviolent Campaigns, a text co-created by activists.

Together, we are up to the challenge!

**Our Values (Code of Ethics)**

The Members of the Peace Resource Center (PRC) of San Diego are committed to powerful peacemaking as a process for living revolution and alliance building. Our primary work is presenting education aimed at creating a sustainable environment and culture of peace while acting as a catalyst for change in the San Diego community. We focus on practicing and promoting active nonviolence as a strategy for achieving social justice, equity, and an end to physical and structural violence. Working in an ethical, truthful, principled manner is the highest value for our organization. We are guided by the principles of nonviolence, tolerance, compassion, and respect for diversity and invite all who are committed to these shared values to join us. This code describes standards and behaviors that representatives of this organization strive to meet or exceed. By holding these values as the principles of action, the PRC and our members pledge to be a reliable, accountable resource for the social justice community of San Diego County and beyond.

**Our Common Ground Guidelines**

Speaking from one’s personal experience ~ Respecting each other and each perspective ~ Active Listening – clarifying & paraphrasing ~ Participating rather than dominating ~ Seeking to understand, suspending judgement ~ Soft heart, tough skin ~ Presuming good intentions ~ Say "ouch" & share your feelings briefly ~ Building on what is being said, rather than criticize ~ Staying on topic Supporting Facilitator moderation ~ Self-moderation

**HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR WORK IN 2017…**

This past year saw, in addition to our annual May Work-A-Thon at the Mount Hope Community Garden with our partner, Project YANO:

- The hiring of Program Director Darwin Fishman, Ph.D. We congratulate Darwin on his San Diego Human Relations Commission commendation for his work to “foster mutual respect and understanding and protect basic human and civil rights for ALL residents”. In 2015, another board member, Sara Haldeman Scarr, was commended by the Commission for her interfaith work.
- Participation in the racial justice King Coalition actions in January.
- Continued participation in the anti-drone actions at Creech Air Force Base.
- Collaborated with San Diego Puppet Insurgency and People’s Over Profit San Diego to create the award-winning “Earth Mother” puppetry entry in this year’s Pride Parade, and in the counter-protest for Trans Rights at the Parade’s finish.
- Summer Happy Hours at the Peace Campus, as we tore down the wall, danced to the music of resistance, and told stories of restorative justice.
- Co-sponsored the San Diego Tax Day 2017 March with amazing dedicated activists Will Johnson, Jean-Huy Tran & Shay Kawanomiller. War resister Anne Barron redirected her federal taxes from war and the 1% to local groups, including People Over Profits San Diego.
- Celebrated 2017 Earth Day at the World Beat Center.
- Hosted the All Okinawa Peace visit to San Diego in August as Okinawans fill the streets to protest the destructive growth of US Marine bases on their island.
- Co-sponsored Peace Week San Diego with the Franciscan Peace Connection, San Diego Veterans For Peace, Women Occupy San Diego and People Over Profits San Diego in our annual Campaign NonViolence Week. This year, we celebrated the UN Banning the Bomb, the arrival of the Golden Rule Peace Boat in San Diego, gathered for an interfaith International Day of Peace, banded outside the Miramar Air Show with SDVFP, and co-sponsored WOSD Movie Night “I Am Not Your Negro”.
You can keep up with the PRC activities on FB, at www.prc.org, or sign up for our peace listserv. Regrettfully, the PRC is not able to support the Annual Peace Bazaar in 2017 as in previous years. We hope to continue this wonderful progressive tradition in the years to come.

While there is so much more to be done for peace, we are among the people who will do it – the members, partners, and allies of the PRC! It takes concerted effort by all peaceable people working in partnership to achieve our shared goals. Thank you for being part of our peace community!

**OUR HOME:** The Peace Campus, 3850 Westgate Pl., (619)263-9301, prcsd.org

The PRC operates inside the Friends Center building, which is a collaborative enduring visual statement to advancing peace, social justice, sustainability, and spiritual growth. The four partners of its construction and ongoing operation are the: First Church of the Brethren, American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) US-Mexico Border Program, San Diego Friends Meeting (Quakers), and Peace Resource Center (PRC).

Good news! The solar installation project is now completed, and the Peace Campus began generating sunny electricity on October 22.

**OUR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS:** Teaching Peace

There are as many ways to learn as there are people. We offer workshops, guest speakers, film nights, discussions, support for direct action, creating and distributing informative handouts, and provide free consultations. Please consider supporting these amazing programs.

**Peacemaking Partners: The PRC, Church of the Brethren, and Rowan Elementary by Pastor Sara Haldeman Scar**

“It is about 10:30 am on Friday, October 13, 2017 as I walk into the Peace Resource Center’s main room. As Justin Domingos works to set up the computer for the video portion of our class session, I begin to clean the room, set up tables and chairs, set out our Art Boxes and review my parts of today’s lessons. I am responsible for the water walk which includes an explanation of the water reclamation system we have on the Peace Campus. Bonnie Loews, our lead teacher, enters the room arms full of snacks, and the biggest smile on her face. I think this is going to be so much fun. Ms. B. and her combo class of first and second graders arrive for lunch at 11:30 am. The smiles on the children’s faces add to the positive energy that is flowing around the room. Their question, “Do you remember me from last year?” brings a warmth to my heart that reaches the dormant elementary education teacher deep within my being. At 12:10 Bonnie greets the rambunctious 1st and 2nd grade combo class and we begin our time together with a quick game of People to People. The two-hour session goes quickly as we talk about being friends, how to help someone being bullied, and move into helping our friend the earth. The energy is high for the entire two hours. You can tell the students are drinking in the ideas we are sharing.

Peacemaking Partners was reborn in 2014 by BVSer Denise DeGeorge, M.A. and volunteer Rebecca Margolis, M.A. Denise and Rebecca envisioned classes from Rowan Elementary School taking a field trip to the Peace Resource Center for an opportunity to develop peacemaking skills. The First Church of the Brethren, a partner with the PRC on The Peace Campus, had an educational partnership with Rowan Elementary School and Pastor Sara introduced Mariah Gayler, the ED at the time, and BVSer Denise, to Principal Kim Kossyta. The 2014 Peacemaking Partners Pilot Program was born. The next year, BVSer Emily Landes picked up the program providing strong leadership for the second year. Emily wrote another set of lessons for the Peacemaking Partners curriculum expanding student opportunities to provide two visits a year. Emily recruited more volunteers to help with the program; one of those volunteers was Bonnie Clayton Loews. Emily encouraged Bonnie to take on the coordinating leadership/teaching role for the Peacemaking Partners program. Bonnie brings so much expertise and passion to Peacemaking Partners. You can almost touch her enthusiasm and love for what she does. She loves children; has taught Montessori learning, is a trained mediator, does peace circles, and is a parent of two daughters. She has dreams to broaden the program to other elementary schools in the SDUSD as well as beyond.

As with any adventure, we continue to look for funding for this amazing program. We need money for our curriculum aids, for our snacks, and for our lead teacher. Bonnie has engaged Roy as a website developer who is donating his time and
energy to create a webpage and interpretation materials to use when Bonnie and Pastor Sara seek funding beyond the PRC. The PRC is proud of its Peacemaking Partners and is looking for donors to help fund the necessary cost of this vital program. If you are interested in being a donor, please make your donation to the PRC and put PP in the memo line. This will ensure that it becomes a part of the PP budget for the coming year.”

**Education Partnership with the Council on American-Islamic Relations by Anne Barron**
The PRC continues to work with the education committee convened by CAIR to provide educational resources to the San Diego Unified School District on Islam and anti-bullying curricula. The committee updated the Council “Know Your Rights at School” pamphlet to include new resources on why bullying occurs and how to counter bullying while at school. 


Check out our on-site lending library, now at about 2000 books and 100 DVD videos. You can read this great parental resource by Denise DeGeorge, *Introduction to Practicing Nonviolence with Children: A Resource for Families and Teachers* under our Resources page. Or browse through our online catalog: [LibraryThing.com/catalog/prcsd](http://LibraryThing.com/catalog/prcsd) Our sincere thanks to member Peggy Budd for her contribution of *Alice Barnes, American Activist*.

**Peace Camp Dreams Become Reality by Sara Haldeman Scarr**
Board member Pastor Sara Haldeman-Scarr had a dream to provide a Peace Camp for children of the community. Her dream brought the Church of the Brethren and the PRC together for the first Peace Camp in the history of both organizations in June 2017. So much fun, laughter, and peace work went into this amazing week. This week-long camp offered in the evenings at the PRC encouraged building a “Toolbox for Peace.” Community members, PRC members, Church members all came together to provide a learning opportunity for 24 registered children. The camp time included peace songs accompanied by Rowan School Children and students from Linda K William’s free guitar lesson classes; Local leaders including Godwin Higa retired principal from Rowan School, and Lallia Allali from the San Diego Islamic Center, LaVern Olberding from the Franciscan Peace Connection, Sofy Sotres from AFSC, and Emily Landes from the Brethren Volunteer Service all brought tools with them to help the children encourage peaceful lifestyles. Each child had the opportunity to participate in a Cooking (organized by Judy Stout), Gardening (taught by Anne Barron), instrument creation (taught by Arnie Schaamburg), service project led by Linda K. Williams, and a Global Craft village (Organized by Antonia Davis and Patti Lizon). The cost of the five-day camp was only 25.00 and scholarships were available. If you would like to help with the 2018 Peace Camp mark your calendars now for June 25-29! Let us know so we can include you in this amazing week of peace education.

**Bail Ambassador Project with ACLU**
As part of our social justice work, the PRC has partnered with the San Diego & Imperial Counties ACLU Bail Reform Project. Board members have been trained in bail court monitoring and joined the ACLU Bail Ambassadors to promote the need for bail reform in California. The PRC has submitted comments to local media and legislators in support of the much-needed SB10 Bail Reform bill that is moving through the state Legislature. We look forward to continuing this essential justice work in 2018 and invite members to support this essential justice work.

*DYK? Seventy percent of people in jail haven’t been convicted of crime. They just can’t afford bail. -- Bryce Covert*

**Rapid Response Team Project by Anne Barron**
Dr. Jeoffry Gordon brought his vision of community self-defense to the Peace Resource Center soon after the 2016 Trump selection. The PRC realized that time was of the essence as the bigotry and hate speech of the Trump Administration escalated, and worked closely with Jeoffry to create the Rapid Response Team (RRT) Project. RRT workshops help bystanders become “upstanders” who work to de-escalate conflict, tension, fear and hate in our neighborhoods. We are deeply appreciative of the 110+ community defenders who have volunteered to be Responders. Participants receive intensive Know Your Rights instruction, and role-play different de-escalation approaches. Board members have trained peace
monitors for large rallies and small encounters on our streets. You can request more information or trainings at info@prcsd.org.

**OUR COLLABORATIONS: New Partners and outstanding allies**
The PRC supports various local, national, and international coalitions and collaborative networks by joining meetings, endorsing efforts, sharing action alerts, and mobilizing our membership. We build relationships, networks with other peace-oriented people, and continue to provide resources and serve in various assistance roles for community and grassroots groups. We are the local affiliate of the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee, working with local resisters and providing war tax counseling locally. 2017 saw stronger collaboration with community groups south of the 8 on racial justice programming - due in large part to the ongoing work of the new Program Director Darwin Fishman. PRC cosponsored and supported racial justice programming around the criminal injustice system, gang documentation, intersectionality and PRISMSS with People Over Profits San Diego, C.A.S.T., Reclaim the Community, Showing Up For Racial Justice, and Women Occupy San Diego.

**350.org and San Diego Climate Mobilization Coalition**
Recent reliable scientific study indicates that the rate of impacts from climate change is faster than earlier projected; bringing on the stark possibility of horrendous environmental, economic, social and political disaster. Worldwide and locally, the communities to be first and worst impacted by climate change upheaval will be the most politically and economically disenfranchised; and no one ultimately will be spared. It is vital upon us all to force change in policies and politics around climate change, to avoid such disaster. In 2017, the Peace Resource Center entered into and renewed partnerships with other San Diego regional organizations to increase our collective voice and pressure for better climate change solutions. San Diego350.org and the PRC hosted two public meetings - to educate about the need for better environmental policies and to promote local cities’ adoption of Community Choice Aggregation, which allows for consumer choice in energy utilities that utilize renewable/sustainable energy production. The PRC also endorsed consideration of the Quickway Proposal - an alternative design for San Diego’s regional public transportation plan that uses an integrated public transit system to: reduce traffic and pollution, provides a practical alternative to automobile use, and helps us achieve our climate change gas reduction goals. The PRC is now a partner with the San Diego Climate Mobilization Coalition to improve public awareness and action for change. Find out more at facebook/SDClimateMobilization.

Our efforts to address climate change will need to be redoubled in 2018, and the Peace Resource Center is committed to helping achieve real change in policies around climate change and environmental degradation. Your support of the PRC will help us! Contact Craig Jones at info@prcsd.org to support this work.

**Franciscan Peace Connection**
The PRC welcomes our new peace partner. The FPC is based in La Mesa and has been active in promoting peace education, especially through its shepherding of Peace Week as part of its involvement with the international Campaign Nonviolence. Its members have been a mainstay of the Interfaith Council of La Mesa and strong supporters of the La Mesa’s celebration of International Day of Peace.

**San Diego Veterans For Peace**
SDVFP have been a strong presence in the anti-militarism movement in San Diego. At our Annual Meeting this year, the PRC honors their work to educate the public about the true costs of war through its NoMAS Project. This effort to teach how the Miramar Air Show promotes war has made media headlines here and attracted attention from across the country. The chapter has also been recognized for its Compassion Campaign and its Arlington West displays in front of the Mid-way.

**CONTINUING OUR PEACE WORK…**
Our income is primarily from YOU, the community, through membership dues and generous contributions. So please keep an eye out for the PRC’s year-end donations campaign. The PRC must increase revenue so we can increase our programming. Your continued partnership is vital to your Peace Resource Center.

We are also committed to improving service and programming. We exist to serve you, our members, and the greater good of the community. Your input and involvement is essential to the health of the PRC. Ideas and suggestions for the PRC are gratefully accepted – through phone, email or in-person
visits.

**PRC Grant & Fundraising Work.** War tax resisters continue to redirect their taxes to peacemakers. In 2017, war tax resisters redirected $20,000 to communities under attack as part of a national Divest from War tax day action. The Southern California Alternative Tax Fund again awarded the PRC a $1000 grant to support our criminal justice programing. The National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee provided another $500 to support our 2018 Tax Day Actions.

*Have a grant-writing talent? A desire to volunteer? We would love to work with you!*

**Contact us at info@prcsd.org**

**THE PRC TEAM: Meet the 2017 Board of Directors**

The Peace Resource Center has two categories of board members: Members At-Large for two-year terms and Organization Representatives appointed by member organizations. At-Large board members are consensed upon by the PRC membership at the Annual Meeting.

**Anne Barron, Ph.D** (2016-2017)
**Carroll Boone** (2017-2018)
**Bree Davis** (interim)
**Buki Domingo, RN** (interim)
**Darwin Fishman, Ph.D** (interim)
**Craig Jones** (2016-2017)
**Gary Lynn** (2016-2017)
**Jeffrey Gordon, MD** (interim)
**Amelia Roche** (2017-2018)

**Betsy Bekken, Esq** (for La Jolla Friends)
**Pastor Sara Haldeman Scarr** (for Church of the Brethren)
**Sr. LaVern Olverding** (for Franciscan Peace Connection)

Thank you!

We are deeply appreciative of the service by **James Bartoli**, **Jeff Gordon & Gary Lynn** on the PRC Board of Directors and wish them continued success in their service to the larger community.

**STAFF**

The Board looked to a team approach of members, volunteers, and staff to further the goals, activities and purpose of the PRC. In March, the PRC Board hired board member Darwin Fishman, Ph.D, to the new position of Program Director. As Program Director, Darwin is responsible for deepening and broadening racial and criminal justice advocacy at the PRC in addition to our ongoing peace programming. Darwin Fishman has a strong background in criminal justice and is an untiring community organizer while also serving on the city’s Community Review Board on Police Practices. He introduced a lively series of monthly Happy Hours to the campus, collaborated with many community partners on racial justice workshops from civil disobedience to criminal injustice to ending mass incarceration while increasing the PRC presence at numerous community meetings, events, and celebrations.

The PRC welcomed Justin Domingos to the PRC/COB family in August as the BVS intern. Justin is a computer whiz and loves helping people and working with children. He supports the peace education program with Rowan as part of his service. The Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS) is most simply described as “a way for people to give their time and skills to help a world in need.”

**VOLUNTEERS:** The peace work of the PRC persists because of the dedication of its members, staff, interns and volunteers.

We are grateful that Emily Landes chose the PRC as her Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS) and thank her for her dedication over the past year. She is continuing her peace education in Costa Rica.

We are grateful to Andrea Juarez who choose to intern with us for her commitment and service to PRC programs. Thank you, Emily & Andrea, and warm wishes for your continued success as strong advocates for our communities.

**In memoriam: Amelia Roche**

*The PRC extends its condolences to the family and friends of Board member Amelia Roche, who died suddenly this past summer. Amelia brought a strong voice for sustainability and restorative practices to the Center and is greatly missed here and in Ocean Beach, her community.*