



PEACE RESOURCE CENTER
OF SAN DIEGO

2018 Program & Service Review

“Everybody’s got the right to live.”

- The Poor People’s Campaign

2018 at the Peace Resource Center - Resiliency and Resources

Peace is the process to challenge injustice. 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.

Two years ago, on the evening following the 2016 General Elections, several groups had gathered to report back on the 2016 Encuentro at the Border (School of the Americas Watch). Reacting to the previous night’s election results and the tsunami of protests, the report-back became a group reflection on what it would mean to “being a good ally in the time of Trump”. We came up with these general “rules for white allies” -

** Be thoughtful allies of African, Latino, Indigenous peoples - support rallies/protests/sit-ins held by black & brown. Be visible, be present, step back behind leadership within these vulnerable communities. *Mobilize where people are being targeted...be ready for rapid response. * Build bridges over gaps – dialogue, listening on both sides, building empathy- make those US values we are taught real.*

This “action plan” holds true today in the wake of the 2018 mid-term elections. The Trump Administration’s masterful propagation of a “campaign” of fear, racist rhetoric and war-mongering keeps the progressive movement in a reactive rather than creative state. This is by design, meant to tear at community resilience. In her book, *Shock Doctrine*, Naomi Klein describes how a constant background of anxiety serves the business interests of the oligarchy. Disruption and disaster serves to increase Wall Street profits at the expense of human and ecological health.

In 2018, the Peace Resource Center strengthened our commitment to “being a good ally” and our youth peace maker projects. Our Rapid Response Team was wrapped into the San Diego Rapid Response Network, to increase capacity to respond to and document aggressive ICE raids. The PRC hosted a youth group coming from Arizona to participate in Mijente’s #AbolishIce actions, and assisted in peacekeeping for the downtown actions on July 2. The PRC participated in public meetings in El Cajon, National City, San Diego, and Vista in support of community demands for justice in the face of police brutality, unchecked Islamophobia and growing fascism. PRC members collaborated in direct action, deescalation and peacekeeper team training.

The 2018 also saw the rebirth of the Poor People’s Campaign (PPC) - a response to the continuing state war on poor people. PRC members participated in direct actions and peacekeeping outside the state capital in actions led by the PPC-CA. Direct action is rapidly becoming the form of resistance for the next generation. The ability of these freedom fighters to hold these spaces non-violently in the face of blatant hostility, racism and police brutality has been inspiring. Peace is not easy and too often exacts a toll on the peacemakers. This is why the 2018 Souper Supper is dedicated to the peace and justice defenders of San Diego, celebrating their courage in the face of violence.

Peace is a process that begins early, starting with our children. Specifically, peace as a process needs to be explicitly present in our schools and organizations that provide youth services. The Restorative Justice movement is

rapidly growing in San Diego through the efforts of advocates and organizations like the Peace Promotion Momentum Team of Mid-city CAN. Board members dedicated their passion and time to increase our youth peace education programs, expanding Peace Camp, Rowan Elementary Peace Makers, and our participation in collaborative school anti-bullying curricula.

Looking forward to our peace work in 2019, we remain steadfast in our support for communities under attack, and encourage our members to stand up in this time of the Trump's Administration "cholera". Community-led and grown support efforts will evolve and strengthen in the face of escalating state-corporate control. The PRC will continue to support the San Diego Rapid Response Network, migrants fleeing Central America violence, all communities suffering excessive policing and violence in all its forms. The Center has connected with other Southern California peace and justice groups in bi-border dialogues. The first bi-border exchange in Tijuana, organized by groups that met at the PPC actions in Sacramento, was deep and exciting. PRC member Anne Barron has committed to join the 2019 Exchange Planning Team.

The PRC Programming Committee looks forward to growing our Youth Peace Programs, expanding our restorative resources and our outreach to local school districts with the empathy and anti-bullying curricula.

We have also been at work expanding our Peace Economy Project as a road map to a regional sustainable sharing economy as a direct counter to our increasingly militarized economy. The Peace Economy work was highlighted in 2018 Peace Week San Diego and the League of Women Voters' February panel on the Impact of the Military on the San Diego Economy.

Interested? Everyone is invited to join the peace projects happening at the PRC. Consider joining a PRC committee or a PRC work task force!

El pueblo unido jamas sera vencido.

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



Water Color By James Hubbell—Hubbell and Hubbell Architects

Our Values (Code of Ethics) – Members 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 & rephrasing ~ 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 2018 WORK – Collaboration & Support

The PRC supports various local, national, and international coalitions and collaborative networks through participation in meetings and planning, endorsements, sharing action alerts and mobilizing our members. We build relationships, networking with peace-oriented groups and people, and continue to provide resources and assist community and grassroots groups as needed. We are the local affiliate of the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee, working with local resisters.

- **San Diego Rapid Response Network (SDRRN)**

The PRC’s Rapid Response Team has been wrapped into the San Diego Rapid Response Network. This hard-working Network provides a 24-HOUR HOTLINE **619-536-0823** to report ICE presence. PRC members have been trained by SDRRN and assist materially in responding to potential problems.



- **#AbolishIce**

The coalition Mijente has been tracking ICE’s “Operation Streamline” at border towns. The “streamline” referred to holding multiple hearings together, ignoring due process and human rights in the name of efficiency. When this inhuman system came to San Diego, Mijente mobilized hundreds to turn out to challenge ICE on July 2 in a wonderful series of actions. The PRC offered housing for out-of-town groups and participated in peacekeeping during the March and direct actions.



- **An Evening With David Swanson, Peace Activist**

This well-attended discussion by the author of *War is A Lie* and *Curing American Exceptionalism* uncovered the myths and lies we are taught from childhood about war and US foreign policies. His books are available at the PRC Library. Thank you, David and Barbara, for bringing this presentation to the Peace Campus!

- **Tax Day 2018 – an annual PRC action.** This year, we held a bake sale for the Air Force outside IRS on Tax Day, passing out information on the US military budget and resistance to war taxes. People played the Penny Poll, which invited them to redirect their war taxes as they would wish to see.

- **Women Occupy San Diego’s Project for a Commission on Police Practices**

The PRC is an ally of the WOSD effort to create independent community oversight of police to the San Diego Police Department. Members attended public meetings, press conferences and community events; wrote letters in support of a Commission on Police Practices; and explained the direct links between police violence and the military.

**PRC joins the Poor Peoples Campaign
40 Days of Moral Action in Sacramento!
Week 3 Core Demands: War Economy and Militarism**

We demand an end to military aggression and war-mongering.

We demand a stop to the privatization of the military budget and a reallocation of resources from the military budget to education, health care, jobs and green infrastructure needs, and strengthening a VA system that remains public.

We demand a ban on the proliferation of guns in our communities, including semi-automatic weapons.

We demand the demilitarization of our communities on the border and the interior. This includes ending federal programs that send military equipment into local and state communities and bringing down the wall at the U.S.-Mexico border.

We demand an immigration system that, instead of criminalizing people for trying to raise their families, keeps families together and allows us all to build thriving communities in the country we call home.

www.poorpeoplescampaign.org



Poor Peoples Campaign’s Update.

The Orange County PPC (with Military Families Speak Out, Deported Veterans For Peace, and the Orange County Peace and Justice Center) initiated a cross-border dialogue to examine border issues and strengthen ties between advocates for human rights on both sides of the wall/border. PRC volunteer Anne Barron has stepped up to help organize the 2019 forums

- **Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)** has been a consistent voice for muslim people’s rights in the county, challenging racism and islamophobia at all levels. CAIR has tasked El Cajon Valley School District to update its bullying policies to protect muslim students from ongoing racist attacks. The PRC attended district meetings to request restorative practices and community input be part of the process. CAIR was also the target of a conservative legal attack on its contract with SDUSD to provide culturally appropriate anti-bullying curricula. Religious freedom won when the courts dismissed the lawsuit this fall.
- **Peace Promotion Momentum Team/Mid-City CAN (PPMT)** is expanding the success of its Restorative Justice Program from City Heights to the larger San Diego county juvenile court system! PPMT works with the Restorative Community Conferencing restorative justice process for youth caught up in the criminal justice system. This process has a >50% improvement in recidivism over those that don’t participate in the RCC, successfully moving youth out of the school-prison pipeline. The PRC is actively working with PPMT to promote RJ and restorative practices in City Heights, with a successful community event during peace week and sharing their work through our network.



- **Peace Week San Diego** is our annual Campaign NonViolence Week of Actions with other San Diego peace & justice groups (the Franciscan Peace Connection, Overpass Light Brigade, San Diego Veterans For Peace, Peace Momentum Team/City Heights, Our Revolution, People Over Profits San Diego, Stand For Peace, and Women Occupy San Diego). The 2018 theme: A Peace Economy NOW! With over a dozen events, workshops, circles and discussions.

- **Restorative Circles** is an important tool to bridge conflict and enable empathy among those who take part. The PRC is grateful to the National Conflict Resolution Center (NCRC) for their generous contribution of community circles to San Diego communities in 2018. The NCRC provided circle practioners to the Peace Campus as we offered a circle for women during the #MeToo moment.

PRC offers the Practice of Circles – by LaVern Olberding

On September 16, as Campaign Nonviolence Week of Action was gearing up, 35 curious participants gathered in La Mesa to pilot a new Listening and Learning Circles format. Diversity was evident at each of the six table: ages ranged from 12 - 78, members of the Baha'i, Muslim, Christian and Sikh religions, and even a visitor from away Canada!

The pilot format included: a "How To Really Listen" practice, a youth panel on human rights (12-year-old Sikh, 16-year-old Baha'i and 23-year-old LDS member) , & a series of listening circles that expanded on the previous discussion.

Feedback: attendees were quick to respond that they learned just how seldom they really listen and they suggested that we gather quarterly to continue these Circles.

YOUTH PEACE EDUCATION PROGRAM

*“Peace is what every human being is craving for and it can be brought about by humanity through the child”
-Maria Montessori*

Peacemaking Partners: The PRC, Church of the Brethren, and Rowan Elementary

This is the third year of Peacemaking Partners with Rowan Elementary School! Students visit the Center and the Peace Garden, studying their place in the natural world, engaging in empathy and conflict resolution, and creating art to express their thoughts. You can read the peace curricula at our online Resources page.

Peace Camp: A PRC and Church of the Brethren Collaboration

This youth program directed at young people from 5 to 12 years of age expands each year as its popularity grows. The Camp is nestled within the Peace Campus over a late June week in the early evening. Participants explore different themes through a peace lens, using the arts to express their ideas. This year, the curricula explored the work and perspective of women peacemakers young and old. Everyone was encouraged to appreciate one another

– celebrating acts of kindness and empathy. In response to the success of Peace Camp, the Church of the Brethren inaugurated a Peace Club to continue the camaraderie and peace exploration during the year.

Coalition for Religious & Cultural Freedom In Our Schools

This educational coalition convened initially to assist San Diego Unified School District in countering bullying of Muslim students. Now housed at the Islamic Center of San Diego, the Coalition meets periodically to assess the district’s anti-bullying policies and curricula, and create supplemental curricula as needed. The PRC is an active participant in this coalition work, working on a comprehensive anti-bullying guide that incorporates restorative practices and empathy for all students and staff.

PRC Partners

350.org and San Diego Climate Mobilization Coalition

The Peace Resource Center supported the September 8 March & Rally **Rise For Climate**, part of a national challenge to the refusal of the status quo to address climate change in real ways. Over 1000 people came out, connected with other activists and groups, and shared their own personal responses to the climate crisis.



Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) looks to be implemented in San Diego, thanks to the incredible work of the coalition San Diego Community Choice Alliance. The city moving into energy purchase and distribution will improve consumer choice in renewable/sustainable energy production. The **San Diego Climate Mobilization Coalition** continues to educate and agitate for change. Interested in this work at the PRC? Contact Craig Jones at info@prcsd.org .

Franciscan Peace Connection

The FPC was a lead planner of Peace Week 2018 San Diego, part of the international Campaign Nonviolence. The PRC and FPC also collaborate on holding restoring circles for the community. The FPC plans to hold “listening circles” quarterly – building on its pilot project during Peace Week.

San Diego Veterans For Peace

SDVFP hosted My Lai +50 in March of this year, to educate the public on the real costs of the Vietnam War. The VFP traveling exhibit was showcased during a week of emotional discussions and presentations by service members and families impacted by this unjust war. The PRC was a proud supporter of this memorial and its lessons learned. VFP’s “**NoMAS**” Campaign is in its third year to educate the people about the costs of the Miramar Air Show. This year, VFP invested in a truck carrying its message around the streets of San Diego, from Vista to Point Loma during Peace Week. As in previous years, the PRC came out to banner with VFP.

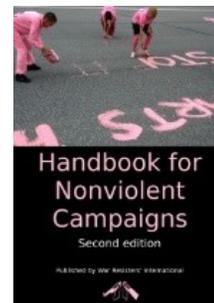
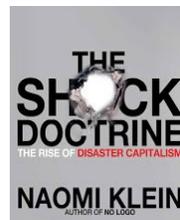


While there is so much more to be done for peace, we are among the people who will do it – the members, partners, and allies of the PRC! It takes concerted effort by all peaceable people working in partnership to achieve our shared goals. Thank you for being part of our peace community!

PRC Resources

We offer workshops, guest speakers, film nights, discussions, support for direct action, creating and distributing informative handouts, and provide free consultations.

- Lending library - now at about 2000 books and 100 DVD videos. Browse through our catalog [online](#) or visit our Resources page.



- Space Availability – flexible spaces for your next meeting or gathering. Accommodations also possible. Contact us at info@prcsd.org
- Community Calendar - hosted on our website. Contact us at info@prcsd.org to add your event!
- Rapid Response & Deescalation Training/Workshops - These workshops help bystanders become “upstanders” trained to de-escalate conflict, tension, fear and hate in our neighborhoods. 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.
- Teach-ins and workshops on current issues and peaceful alternatives.

You can keep up with PRC activities, collaborations, programs and events at our FB page, at www.prc.org, or sign up for direct e-delivery of our peace emails.

THE PRC TEAM: Meet the 2018 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 approved by consensus at the PRC Members Annual Meeting. On behalf of the membership, we thank Chuck Orr and Gary Butterfield for their services as treasurer and all-around facilities support team in 2018.

Organizational appointed Directors

Betsy Bekken, President (La Jolla Friends)

Sara Haldeman Scarr, Vice President (Church of the Brethren)

LaVern Olverding, Secretary (Franciscan Peace Connection)

V.R. Partida (Veterans For Peace, San Diego)

At-large Directors

Gary Lynne, Treasurer (appointed to replace Chuck Orr)

Carroll Boone (2017-2018)

Michael Brackney (2018-2019)

John Falchi (2018-2019)

Staff & Volunteers

The Board looked to a team approach of members, volunteers, and staff to further the goals, activities and purpose of the PRC. In 2018, board members and volunteers managed PRC programs and administration needs. Consultants Bonnie Lowey and Anne Barron were paid to support as needed the peace education programming and communications. Volunteers donate hours of time on fundraising, finance, events planning and outreach. Our deep gratitude to Anne Barron, Zoe Castilla, Craig Jones, Gary Lynne, and Cathryn Rathsam.

We are committed to expanding our services and programming. We look to our members for community needs and programming areas. 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. Thank you! Our income is primarily from YOU, the community, through membership dues and generous contributions. And we invite you to think of the Peace Resource Center as you consider your year-end donations. Your partnership and support is vital to your Peace Resource Center. The National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee continues to fund PRC Peace Week 2018 and Tax Day Actions. Thank you, NWTRCC!

Have a grant-writing talent? A desire to volunteer?

We would love to work with you! Contact us at info@prcsd.org

PRC Collaborating with the Safe Harbors

“Vulnerable communities have asked for help and we have answered, YES! The Friends Center has become a safe harbor for a family who has left their home and come to the US seeking a new beginning. Our first family arrived in September and is expected to be with us until November. The PRC joined with the other campus partners, The Church of the Brethren, American Friends Service Committee and The San Diego Quaker Meeting to provide housing on the Peace Campus. This opportunity invites us to provide, as needed, housing, transportation, food and other support for a refugee/asylum seeking family. It is important to us to be able to reach out and love in this way when our society is invited to hate. We will continue to work together for justice and safe haven for all people seeking a place in the States.

- Pastor Sara Haldeman Scarr