

KC AFSC Peace and Justice Alert – May 9, 2014

Educate Yourself. Share your knowledge. Take Action!
For information about the American Friends Service Committee,
contact us at 816931-5256 or afsckc@afsc.org

[Donate Now](#)

Click this link above to make a donation to support the work
of the Kansas City Program of American Friends Service Committee

*“Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness,
and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts.
Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men
and things cannot be acquired
by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime.”*
~ Mark Twain,

[Send this link to others so they can subscribe to this weekly Peace & Justice E-newsletter.](#)



AFSC supported “Stand up To ALEC” on May 2nd. Several hundred community and union members and faith leaders demonstrated against the anti-democratic activities of the American Legislative Exchange Council. The council is a collaboration between state legislators and corporations to pass conservative corporate friendly legislation in areas such as privatizing education, suppressing voting, attacking immigrants’ rights, and rolling back protections for women and people of color against employer discrimination...

Dear Peacemakers,

Thanks to all who helped with AFSC work while I was away on vacation - including the 4/15 Tax Day demonstration, 4/26 Spoken Word youth performances at Troost Fest, tabling at David Cobb talk....

I had a fascinating, insightful and stimulating time in Turkey, traveled with a small group led by a friend. The quote above by Mark Twain is ever so true, at least for those whose hearts are not completely closed. Check out some [photos from my trip at this link](#).

And since I've been back, we've been busy supporting, through MO Jobs with Justice, the Stand Up To ALEC demonstration and support for early voting and Medicaid Expansion.

And we are excited about the response to our **summer Social Change Institute for high school-aged youth**, June 9-13 and June 16-20, weekdays from 1:00 to 5:00pm. So far we have 15 applicants for the 14 slots. Applications will be accepted until May 30. Sam and Erin, AFSC Peace Interns, and I are working to provide an interactive hands-on experience. We are reviewing creative training activities and beginning to invite guest speakers to talk about their issues and organizing strategies. Throughout the Institute we will work to apply what youth learn from understanding the theories, mechanisms and tactics of social change to organizing a social change action. Let us know if you have suggestions to make the youth's experience empowering and meaningful. [See below for more info](#). You can find more information at: <http://afsc.org/story/summer-youth-social-change-institute>

And plans are coming together for the June 6th Visions of Peace At The Crossroads Festival. The Festival is again at the First Friday Art Walk from 6:00 to 9:00pm, at 18th and Baltimore, KCMO. Performers will include:

- **Royalphonic** –“The music we play is funky, jazzy and worldly. Each member brings their own style to the stage and together we play with our hearts to form Royalphonic!"
- **Nicolette Paige**, who uniquely combines multiple genres of music from folk, reggae and R & B to soul; and
- **Damon Lee Patterson**

We will have lots going on, including poets and youth spoken word performances, the “Lend Us Your Hands For Peace” Art / Video Action, tabling social change groups, peace parade and more. Let us know if you would like to participate!

We can use your help with the Visions Of Peace Festival!

Can you volunteer on Friday, June 6

- 1-3pm - loading truck;
- 4-6:00pm -unloading and Festival set up;
- 6-9pm -staffing tables;
- 9-10pm -clean up / loading truck;

and on

Saturday June 7, 10 – 11:30AM -unloading truck (tables and chairs)

Email us if you can volunteer to help!

Thanks for all of your work for our community.

Sincerely,



Ira Harritt
KC Program Coordinator
American Friends Service Committee
816 931-5256, iharritt@afsc.org

Check out these events below:

May 14, Wednesday, 5:30-7:00pm, Move The Money Planning Meeting. Join us in planning and conducting a community listening project on the unmet needs in our community and the impact of budget cutting. Following hearing from community leaders we will hold forums, meeting with media and elected officials and mobilize community members in calling for budgets that meet community needs. At AFSC office, 4405 Gillham Rd., KCMO

May 17, 2014• 2:00 PM, HANDS ACROSS THE LAND: End Big Oil's Democracy Pollution, Say #NOKXL! . JC Nichols Fountain, Mill Creek Park• 4700 JC Nichols Parkway, KCMO, Sponsored by 350KC

May 30-June 1, Trifecta Resista, A weekend of resistance: to the imprisonment of whistle-blower Chelsea (formerly Bradley) Manning at Fort Leavenworth in Kansas; to nuclear weapons at Bannister Federal Complex in KC, where parts for nuclear weapons were made from 1949 to this year, and where contaminants linger; and to drone warfare at Whiteman Air Force Base, near Knob Noster, Mo., where predator drones are guided to places including Afghanistan by remote control. Attend a part or all events. Special guests to include: Kathy Kelly, Brian Terrell, Medea Benjamin, Col. Ann Wright. (<http://www.trifectaresista.org/>)

June 6, First Friday, 6:00 to 9:00pm, Visions of Peace At The Crossroads Festival. Join us for music, art, poetry, spoken word and information about peace and justice activities by dozens of area groups. At 1811 Baltimore, KCMO. More info to come.

June 9-20, 1:00- 5:00pm (weekdays), Summer Social Change Institute, This experiential training for high school-aged youth will introduce and deepen knowledge and skills of social change, analyzing and understanding social and

political issues, dynamics of power, issues, strategic planning, and practical skills for holding meetings and planning campaigns and events.

Articles and Alerts

- **Learn how to Move the Money from the Pentagon to our Communities *webinar on May 21***
- **Rein in Pentagon spending:** Letter to members of Congress opposing Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) Funding- Signed by over 100 diverse organizations

See full alert for complete calendar of events

American Friends Service Committee

Social Change Institute

Helping YOUTH Make a Difference

June 9-13 & 16-20

1:00 to 5:00pm

JOIN US....

As we explore issues of economic injustice and violence and what we can do.

The Institute, developed for high school-aged youth, will provide training and hands on experience in the practice of nonviolent social change and organizing and advocating for economic justice, peace and equality. The two weeks of activities in will include afternoon workshops, organizing meetings, visits with local activists and conducting of a social change action.

**A Stipend Of
\$165 / Week will be
Provided**

Most Institute activities will take place at the AFSC office at 4405 Gillham Rd., KCMO.

**YOU CAN MAKE
A DIFFERENCE.**



**American Friends
Service Committee**



As a participant you will:

- Meet other local youth who are passionate about positively impacting the world.
- Attend interactive sessions to gain skills for social change and deeper knowledge of issues important to you.
- Hear from prominent local activists.
- Help organize an action for economic justice, peace and /or equality.
- And much more....

**Application deadline:
May 30, 2014**

**Apply now for a place in the
Social Change Institute, at**

<http://afsc.org/story/summer-youth-social-change-institute>

or contact AFSC at 816 931-5256 or

afscck@afsc.org

The Institute is organized by the American Friends Service Committee and co-sponsored by Synergy Services.

Upcoming Peace and Justice Activities

Click on link or scroll down for more information about the peace and justice activity

May 14, Wednesday, 5:30-7:00pm, Move The Money Planning Meeting. Join us in planning and conducting a community listening project on the unmet needs in our community and the impact of budget cutting. Following hearing from community leaders we will hold forums, meeting with media and elected officials and mobilize community members in calling for budgets that meet community needs. At AFSC office, 4405 Gillham Rd., KCMO

May 17, 2014• 2:00 PM, HANDS ACROSS THE LAND: End Big Oil's Democracy Pollution, Say #NOKXL! Join communities around the country to ask President Obama and local officials to reject the Keystone XL pipeline, offshore drilling, and other dirty fuel projects that threaten our communities and destabilize our climate. JC Nichols Fountain, Mill Creek Park• 4700 JC Nichols Parkway, KCMO, Sponsored by 350KC [RSVP here for the Event](#)

May 30-June 1, Trifecta Resista, A weekend of resistance: to the imprisonment of whistle-blower Chelsea (formerly Bradley) Manning at Fort Leavenworth in Kansas; to nuclear weapons at Bannister Federal Complex in KC, where parts for nuclear weapons were made from 1949 to this year, and where contaminants linger; and to drone warfare at Whiteman Air Force Base, near Knob Noster, Mo., where predator drones are guided to places including Afghanistan by remote control. Attend a part or all events. Special guests to include: Kathy Kelly, Brian Terrell, Medea Benjamin, Col. Ann Wright. (<http://www.trifectaresista.org/>)

June 6, First Friday, 6:00 to 9:00pm, Visions of Peace At The Crossroads Festival. Join us for music, art, poetry, spoken word and information about peace and justice activities by dozens of area groups. At 1811 Baltimore, KCMO. More info to come.

June 9-20, 1:00- 5:00pm (weekdays), Summer Social Change Institute, This experiential training for high school-aged youth will introduce and deepen knowledge and skills of social change, analyzing and understanding social and political issues, dynamics of power, issues, strategic planning, and practical skills for holding meetings and planning campaigns and events.

EVERY Tuesday, JOIN THIS Peace Demonstration between 5PM - 6 PM in the median strip on the south corner of the intersection at 63rd & Ward Parkway, Kansas City, Mo. For more information email '63rd Street Patriots' at schwartzkatz@sbcglobal.net

Weekly Wednesday, Noon, Jericho Walk for Immigrant Rights gather outside **KansasCity Immigration Court**, 2345 Grand Blvd., KCMO Info at <http://www.ijamkc.org/>

Every Sundays, 3:00pm, Weekly Letters to Prisoners Kansas City, Every Sunday from 3pm until we're tired (we promise to stay at least until 4pm)! Informal gathering to write letters to prisoners... Writing assistance, supplies and stamps provided. We can provide you with a pen pal, you can write one-time notes of solidarity, letters to complain to prison officials are always appreciated, or write to people you already know. Pancho's Mexican Food, 3540 Main St., fKCMO. Organized by Greater Kansas City IWW General Defense Committee Local 15

What is your Vision of Peace?



Lend Us Your Hands for Peace and Justice

Visions of Peace
at the Crossroads
2014 Festival

First Friday, June 6, 6:00 to 9:00pm

In the Crossroads Art District –
At the parking lot south of 1811 Baltimore, KCMO

**Performances will include: Nicolette Paige,
Damon Lee Patterson and Royalphonic, and Spoken
Word Poetry, Storytelling, Art and more**

**A special feature will be performances by youth participating in
AFSC's "If I Could Change the World" Spoken Word Project.**

Join us in the "Lend Us Your Hands for Peace" art activity, Visions of Peace video project, enjoy the performances, and learn what you can do from dozens of social change groups!

For information: Contact the American Friends Service Committee at 816 931-5256 or afsckc@afsc.org or go to www.afsc.org/kansascity



**American Friends
Service Committee**

TRIFECTA RESISTA 2014

Creating a Climate of Peace - Resisting a Climate of Fear



MAY 30 - JUNE 1

3 Days + 3 Sites + 3 Actions

KC's NNSA Plant **Whiteman AFB** **Ft. Leavenworth**
Nuclear Weapons Production Drone Warfare/Surveillance Pardon Pvt. Chelsea Manning

Peaceful Resistance Training & Special Guest Speakers

Free to Participate - Food & Sleep Space Provided - Everyone Is Welcome

(Speaking Events, Trainings, & Meals at DeLaSalle Education Center - 3737 Troost KCMO 64109)

facebook.com/TrifectaResista www.PeaceWorksKC.ORG

News and Alerts

Learn how to Move the Money from the Pentagon to our Communities

[Join us for a free Move the Money webinar on May 21](#)

REGISTER NOW

Space is limited.

Reserve your Webinar seat now at:

<https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/921863590>

Do you want to learn how to Move the Money from the Pentagon to our Communities?

We invite former training participants and those who want to learn how to do a Move the Money (MtM) training to join Peace Action, National Priorities Project, and WAND in a fast-paced, engaging, interactive training of trainers.

This training of trainers focuses on building the capacity of participants to offer Move the Money trainings in your local communities.

What is Move the Money?

Move the Money is a fun, popular education training geared toward ensuring that people in local communities have all the materials and know-how necessary to be effective players in the current debate around Pentagon spending -- from facts which pop myths to solid information about defense industry transition. The training is module-based, allowing facilitators to mix and match the pieces that make the most sense you!

What to expect from the webinar?

The MtM training webinar will be an exciting two hours. Participants will be able to determine the ways in which Move the Money trainings can support your local organizing. For example, how can this training bolster your work to protect good paying jobs in your community?

Join Judith LeBlanc, Jasmine Tucker, Adzi Vokhiwa, and Jo Comerford as they walk participants through the curriculum, review the trainings tools and fact sheets, and offer savvy training tips.

Space is limited. Sign up today for this free training, open to all.
Note, preference will be given to previous MtM training participants.

Title: *Learn How to Use the Move the Money Training!*

Date: Wednesday, May 21, 2014

Time: 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM EDT

Rein in Pentagon spending
Letter to members of Congress opposing
Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) Funding
Signed by over 100 diverse organizations

Dear Members of Congress,

We are writing you today as organizations with a wide variety of priorities to express our shared disappointment at the continued use of the Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) account as a way to circumvent the very spending limitations Congress itself imposed on Pentagon spending.

Since 2002, the Pentagon has separated funding relating to the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and counterterrorism activities from other military programs not associated with U.S.

contingency operations. With the United States drawing down its military presence in Iraq and Afghanistan, it is time to end use of the OCO account.

According to the Pentagon, from FY 2013 to FY 2014, approximately 39 percent fewer personnel will be deployed to Afghanistan (with none in Iraq). Yet, in the FY 2014 omnibus spending bill, Defense Subcommittee funding in the OCO account will actually increase from FY 2013 to FY 2014. This only highlights the reality that the OCO is being used as a kind of slush fund to get around Congressionally approved caps on Department of Defense spending. We believe that the sum of the OCO account should be folded into Defense appropriations, with the total reduced to reflect post-war needs. That will mean that the current Defense cap will have to be increased. We believe that is a more realistic, transparent approach, just as we believe that the current cap for domestic expenditures is too low to respond to the nation's needs.

Just last year, the House of Representatives voted to cut the OCO account—reversing House appropriators' decision to include billions of dollars above the Pentagon's request in the Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2014. Similarly, the Senate Appropriations Committee reported its Fiscal Year 2014 defense appropriations bill with significantly less appropriated in the OCO account than the omnibus ultimately provided.

Although the Ryan-Murray deal kept parity between defense and non-defense spending caps, one of the ways that Congress met the new cap was by shifting spending from the Pentagon's base accounts into the OCO account. Domestic spending priorities cannot make such an end-run around the new spending caps Congress implemented just last month.

Since 2010, regular (non-OCO) Pentagon spending will decline less than the 17.8 percent cut to domestic and international appropriations. But the presence of non-war spending in the OCO account means that the Pentagon has had to cut less than it appears. On the other hand, preschool programs for young children, scientific research, affordable housing and other community rebuilding, home energy assistance, aid for college students, job training, and nutrition programs for seniors are just some of the programs that are not keeping pace with need.

Continuing to budget through the OCO account not only ignores Congress' prior actions to rein in the Pentagon budget but also the desire of the American public to see our war spending come down as our troops come home. It is time to shift the nation's budget priorities to encourage investment in jobs, education and infrastructure here at home.

As you begin the appropriations process for Fiscal Year 2015, you have an opportunity to end the use of budget gimmicks and realize genuine savings at the Pentagon. We urge you to end the use of the OCO, and instead methodically address wasteful, ineffective, or low-priority expenditures.

Sincerely,

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

**Advocacy for Justice and Peace Committee of the
Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia
Alliance for a Just Society
American Friends Service Committee
Americans for Democratic Action (ADA)**

**NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
On Earth Peace
our developing world
Peace Action
Peace Action West**

**Augustinian Defenders of the Rights of the Poor
(A.D.R.O.P.)**
Campaign for America's Future
Catholic Charities
Center for Arms Control and Nonproliferation
Center for International Policy
Coalition on Human Needs
Community Action Partnership
Conference of Major Superiors of Men
Courage Campaign
CREDO Action
Fellowship of Reconciliation
Foreign Policy in Focus
Franciscan Action Network
Friends of the Earth
Global Justice Institute
God's Will In Action
Historians Against War
Institute for Peace and Justice
Just Foreign Policy
Labor Fightback Network
National Employment Law Project
National Low Income Housing Coalition
National Priorities Project

Progressive Democrats of America
Promise the Children
Provincial Council of the Clerics of St. Viator
RootsAction.org
Share The Wealth Productions
Sisters of Charity Federation
Sisters of the Most Precious Blood
Sisters of the Presentation
Taxpayers Protection Alliance
**The Center and Library for the Bible and Social
Justice**
The Center on Conscience & War
The Young Democrats of America
U.S. Labor Against the War (USLAW)
United Methodist Church
USAction
USAction Education Fund
Veterans For Peace
WarIsACrime.org
Win Without War
Women Legislators' Lobby
Women's Action for New Directions
**Women's International League for Peace and
Freedom (WILPF)**

STATE AND LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

A. Thompson & Co.
American Friends Service Committee Northeast
Regional Office
ARISE Inc.
Arlington United for Justice with Peace
Bryn Mawr Peace Coalition
Citizen Action of New York
Citizen Action of Wisconsin
Cleveland Nonviolence Network
Cleveland Peace Action
Coalition for Peace Action
Coalition of Peace Action of Monroe Township
Columbus Campaign for Arms Control
Community Action Development Commission
(CADCOM)
Community of St. Francis
Dorchester People for Peace
East Bay Citizens for Peace
Education Equals Making Community Connections
Fairmont, MN Peace Group
Family Therapy Institute of Suffolk
Florida Consumer Action Network
Fund Our Communities
Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC)

Mansfield Housing Authority
MASS Senior Action Council, North Shore Chapter
Massachusetts Peace Action
Michigan Citizen Action
Minnesota Arms Spending Alternative Project
Missouri Progressive Vote Coalition
National Association of Social Workers, CT Chapter
Occupy Ft Lauderdale Labor Outreach
Oregon Action
Patriots for Change
NY State Council of Churches
Oakland County Welfare Rights
Pax Christi Northwest Minnesota
Peace Action Montgomery County
Peace Action New York State
Peace Action of Michigan
Peace Committee First Unitarian Denver
Peace Economy Project
Peaceworks Kansas City
Pennsylvania Coalition for Peace Action
PeterCares House
Physicians for Social Responsibility - Kansas City
Pipe Organs/Golden Ponds Farm's CEO
Progressive Maryland

Genesee Valley Citizens for Peace
Georgia Rural Urban Summit
Granite State Priorities
Greensboro Housing Coalition
Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart
Housing Authority of the County of DeKalb
Intercommunity Justice & Peace Center (IJPC)
Iowa Citizen Action Network
Justice Committee of the alban Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet
Keystone Progress
Kickapoo Peace Circle
Lawrence Pax Christi
Long Island Alliance for Peaceful Alternatives
Maine People's Alliance
Neighbors for Peace & Justice
New Hampshire Citizens Alliance for Action
New Jersey Citizen Action
New Jersey Peace Action
New Jersey Tenants Organization
Newman United Methodist Women
NH Housing Finance Authority NHHFA
NJ State Industrial Union Council

ProgressOhio
Protecting Arizona's Family Coalition
Puget Sound Nuclear Weapon Free Zone
Schenectady Inner City Ministry
Sisters of I.H.M.
Sisters of Mercy WMW Cedar Rapids, IA
Sisters of Social Service
Somerville Homeless Coalition
SS Peter & Paul Church
Teens, Training and Taxes
Tennessee Citizen Action
United Action for Idaho
USCCC
VES
Veterans For Peace, #92
Veterans For Peace, local chapter 39 NEOH
Virginia Organizing
War vs Human Needs South Florida
Washington Community Action Network
Watertown Citizens for Peace, Justice and the Environment
West Virginia Citizen Action Group, Wilson dist co
WNC Physicians for Social Responsibility

We need your support to keep our life affirming peacemaking work alive.

Contribute. Volunteer. Spread the word!

Contact us and mail your tax deductible contribution to:

American Friends Service Committee

4405 Gillham Rd., KCMO 64110

(816) 931-5256

The information and events described in AFSC Peace and Justice Alerts are intended to educate and assist members of our community in becoming active in working for a more just and peaceful world. Inclusion of a listing does not necessarily imply that AFSC KC agrees with all points of view that will be represented at the event.

The American Friends Service Committee is a Quaker organization that includes people of various faiths who are committed to social justice, peace, and humanitarian service. Its work is based on the Quaker belief in the worth of every person and faith in the power of love to overcome violence and injustice

Ira Harritt
KC Program Coordinator
American Friends Service Committee
816 931-5256
iharritt@afsc.org
<http://afsc.org/office/kansas-city-mo>