

KC AFSC Peace and Justice Alert – November1, 2013



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For information about the American Friends Service Committee,
contact us at 816931-5256 or afsckc@afsc.org

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*Everyone neath their vine and fig tree
shall live in peace and unafraid.
And into ploughshares beat their swords
Nations shall learn war no more.
And into ploughshares beat their swords
Nations shall learn war no more.
~ The Vine and Fig Tree song*

Final Display of
MO / KS Eyes Wide Open
Cost of War Exhibit

and

Turning Combat Boots
into Ploughshares: Boot Distribution



Sunday, November 10, 2013

Exhibit: 2:00 to 3:30pm / Boot Distribution: 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm

Mill Creek Park, 47th Street and Main, KCMO

The Kansas City Program of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) announces, on the eve of Veterans' Day, the retirement of the Missouri and Kansas Eyes Wide Open (EWO) Exhibits, the widely-acclaimed exhibition on the human cost of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The memorial exhibit includes over 200 combat boots tagged with the names of Missouri and Kansas troops and shoes tagged with the names of civilians killed in the Iraq and Afghan wars. Between the fall of 2006 and 2012 the Missouri and Kansas EWO Exhibits were displayed in dozens of colleges and universities, houses of worship, parks, conferences and other venues, viewed by an estimated 10,000 people.



"We call upon our elected officials to follow our example. Just as we are turning our symbols of war--combat boots--into resources that will keep homeless Kansas Citizens' feet dry and warm this winter, we call upon our leaders to turn our wasteful Pentagon budget into the investments we desperately need to improve the lives of our citizens and our hope for the future—job development, healthcare, education, neighborhood development, housing, and safety net programs."

The human and economic costs of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have been tremendous. 6,775 U.S. troops and hundreds of thousands of Iraqis and Afghans have been killed. Close to 50,000 U.S. troops have been wounded and hundreds of thousands are suffering PTSD and Traumatic Brain Injury. A recent Harvard study estimates the eventual cost of these wars including taking care of the wounded will total four to six trillion dollars, all of this for what a majority of Americans think were wars not worth fighting.

In case of rain or snow the exhibit and boot distribution will be at Community Christian Church, 4601 Main St, KCMO

The event is organized by the American Friend Service Committee and co-sponsored by Veterans for Peace-KC Chapter, Iraq Veterans Against the War-Kansas City and Artists Helping the Homeless. For more information contact the American Friends Service Committee at 816 931-5256, afsckc@afsc.org or go to www.afsc.org/kansascity

Check out Facebook Event

Dear Peacemakers,

The testimony at the Job With Justice hearing on the “*Public Cost Of Low-Wages In Our Community*” was powerful and moving. It helped support fast-food workers and to rewrite the storyline about who is abusing government safety net programs. It is not the front-line fast-food workers, working multiple jobs 40+ hours a week, but still unable to care for themselves and their families. It is corporations like McDonalds, Burger King and Pizza Hut, which by underpaying workers are abusing government assistance.

The hearing took place Wednesday morning and focused on a [report](#) produced by UC Berkley and the National Employment Law Project that reveals:

- Full-time-fast-food jobs do not pay enough for workers to get by causing more than ½ of front-line workers to rely on public assistance to cover basic needs.
- Low wages paid by fast-food companies costs Americans nearly \$7 billion annually

Three workers testified, each sharing their story of hard working individuals trying to provide for their families but not being able to make ends meet without government assistance. I was impressed by the strength and courage of the workers and their resolve to organize and get a fair wage. I was also struck by how their stories are stark examples of the untruth of the common narrative driving federal budget austerity actions in Washington.

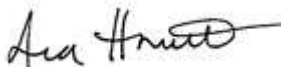
AFSC, as a member of MO Jobs with Justice, is supporting the Low Wage Workers Campaign. We are also working to change the narrative around austerity and the cutting crucial of programs, like SNAP (food stamps), Medicare and Medicaid, Social Security, etc. We invite you to the next **Move the Money Campaign meeting** and help plan and implement listening sessions with area leaders to learn about how they see the impact of the sequester and other austerity measures, and hear their stories and their vision of what we should be doing. Join us on November 25, **Monday, 5:30pm at the AFSC office, 4405 Gillham Rd., KCMO.**

We are also finishing plans to retire the **Missouri and Kansas Eyes Wide Open Cost of War Exhibit**. The exhibit includes 200 pairs of combat boots which represent Kansas and Missouri troops killed in the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars. We have scheduled the **“Turning Combat Boots into Ploughshares: Boot Distribution”** to homeless vets and others for Sunday, November 10, 4:30 to 5:30pm at Mill Creek Park, 47th Street and Main, KCMO. The distribution of boots will be preceded by a final exhibition of the Missouri and Kansas Eyes Wide Open Exhibits also at Mill Creek Park between 2:00 and 3:30pm. The events are cosponsored by Veterans for Peace-KC Chapter, Iraq Veterans Against the War-KC, and Artists Helping the Homeless. Please join us at the exhibit. Volunteer to help with the set up and boot distribution by contacting us at 816 931-5256 or iharritt@afsc.org.

See below for these activities, other calendar events, and articles, alerts and more.

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 and articles below:

- **November 6, 7:00 pm**, (All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 4501 Walnut, KCMO) and **November 7, 7:00 pm**, (Walnut Gardens Community of Christ, 19201 RD Mize Rd., Independence, MO) "**KC: Linchpin in Nuclear Weapons Production or 50 Ways to Leave Your Nukes!**
- **November 10, 2:00 to 3:30pm**, **Final MO & KS Eyes Wide Open Exhibit**, Mill Creek Park, 47th and Main, KCMO (contact us to volunteer)
- **November 10, 4:30 to 5:30pm**, **Turning Combat Boots into Ploughshares: Boot Distribution**, Distribution of combat boots to area homeless, Mill Creek Park, 47th and Main, KCMO
- **November 19, Monday, 5:30 to 7:00pm**, **Strategies for Social Change: Nonviolence Action Brainstorm**, We will use a "critical path analysis" process and brainstorm and evaluate tactics for social change. Imagine a public policy goal where a corporate player resists change that you want to explore. Bring your ideas and help innovate. At Pizza 51, 51st and Oak. KCMO.

And Articles:

- **Budget Deal Must Be Morally and Economically Sound**, By Sen. Bernie Sanders
- **Racial inequality threatens Kansas City economy**
- **Dems could break with Obama on Iran**
- **White House lobbying Senate against further sanctions on Iran in super-secret meeting**
- **Unveiling Corporate Campaign Cash is Good for Everyone (Including Businesses)**

Upcoming Peace and Justice Activities

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

November 2, Saturday 9am-12pm, Immigrant Justice Advocacy Movement Training, Some say immigration is dead in D.C.- even so 3 Republicans have

signed onto the House Bill! THE TIME IS NOW-our neighbors, brothers, sisters, and community are suffering in the shadows everyday, with or without policy reform. I have seen the presentation that Pastor Javier Rios and Karen Bardales have put together and will be facilitating with us on Saturday and it is truly Challenging, Engaging and Informative. At St. Mark's UMC in Overland Park!

November 6, 7:00 pm, (All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 4501 Walnut, KCMO) and **November 7, 7:00 pm**, (Walnut Gardens Community of Christ, 19201 RD Mize Rd., Independence, MO) "[KC: Linchpin in Nuclear Weapons Production or 50 Ways to Leave Your Nukes!](#)" Talk/discussions with Jay Coghlan, executive director, Nuclear Watch New Mexico. *Free, open to the public, sponsored by PeaceWorks, KC—same talk, 2 dates/places.* Jay's topics: the old Kansas City Plant (ripe with contaminants), the new KC Plant (where, by 2014, 85 percent of the parts for U.S. nuclear weapons will be made or procured), and life extension programs or LEPs—these keep \$ rolling into the nuclear weapons arsenal. Come hear how to shut down nukes! [More info below](#)

November 7, Thursday, 7:00pm until 9:00pm, Metro Organization for Racial and Economic Equity (MORE2) Annual Meeting: Yes, We Can Move Mountains! This year's public meeting will feature a celebration of Ban the Box, work on decreasing violence in KC, and issues related to Food Stamps, Public Education and Immigration. Grand Avenue Temple United Methodist Church, 205 E. 9th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64106

November 10, Sunday, 2:00 to 3:30pm, Final MO & KS Eyes Wide Open Exhibit, Mill Creek Park, 47th and Main, KCMO (contact us to volunteer) 816 931-5256, iharritt@afsc.org

November 10, Sunday, 4:30 to 5:30pm, Turning Combat Boots into Ploughshares: Boot Distribution, Distribution of combat boots to area homeless, Mill Creek Park, 47th and Main, KCMO

November 17, Sunday, 2:30 pm, Oppose drone warfare by remote control from Whiteman AFB Rally to oppose drone operations at Spirit Gate, Whiteman Air Force Base. Carpool at 12:30 pm from stagecoach at SW Trafficway & Westport Rd.

November 19, Monday, 5:30 to 7:00pm, Strategies for Social Change: Nonviolence Action Brainstorm, We will use a "critical path analysis" process and brainstorm and evaluate tactics for social change. Imagine a public policy goal where a corporate player resists change that you want to explore. Bring your ideas and help innovate. At Pizza 51, 51st and Oak, KCMO

1st and 3rd Saturdays, 1:00pm, Chelsea Manning Support Rally, Join us outside the gates of Ft. Leavenworth, in support of Bradley Manning through his court martial trial in February.

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/>

**"KC: Linchpin in Nuclear Weapons Production
or 50 Ways to Leave Your Nukes!"**

Talks/discussions with Jay Coghlan,
head of Nuclear Watch New Mexico
*Free, open to the public, sponsored by
PeaceWorks—same talk, 2 times/places*

Wed., 11/6, 7 pm
All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church,
4501 Walnut, KCMO

Thurs., 11/7, 7 pm
Walnut Gardens Community of Christ,
19201 RD Mize Rd., Independence, MO
(go east of Hwy 291 on Hidden Valley Rd.,
continue east on RD Mize Rd.)



Jay Coghlan

Jay's topics: the old Kansas City Plant (ripe with contaminants), the new KC Plant (where, by 2014, 85 percent of the parts for U.S. nuclear weapons will be made or procured), and life extension programs or LEPs—these keep \$ rolling into the nuclear weapons arsenal. Come hear how to shut down nukes!

Go to Facebook, PeaceWorksKC, event:
<https://www.facebook.com/events/221400961368822>

Oppose drone warfare
by remote control from Whiteman AFB

Rally to oppose drone operations at Spirit Gate, Whiteman Air Force Base
Sun., 11/17, 2:30 pm
KC carpool at 12:30 pm from stagecoach at SW Trafficway & Westport Rd.

Do court support vs. nuclear weapons
before & during trial

Rally to oppose nuclear weapons production in KC
Fri., 12/13, noon, with light lunch at 11th & Locust, KCMO

Attend trial, gathering at 1 pm, Municipal Court, 11th & Locust
On trial: "Bix" Bichsel, Cele Breen, Carl Kabat, Betsy Keenan, Lauren Logan,
Jessica Reznicek, Janice Sevre-Duszynska, Jane Stoever, Georgia Walker,
Jerry Zawada

PeaceWorks-KC

For info, contact Jane Stoever, 913-206-4088, janepstoever@yahoo.com

News and Alerts

Budget Deal Must Be Morally and Economically Sound

By Sen. Bernie Sanders, Reader Supported News

31 October 13

As a member of the U.S. Senate Budget Committee, I am more than aware that a \$17 trillion dollar national debt and a \$700 billion deficit are serious problems that must be addressed.

But I am also aware that real unemployment is close to 14 percent, that tens of millions of Americans are working for horrendously low wages, that more Americans are now living in poverty than ever before and that wealth and income inequality in the United States is now greater than in any other major country -- with the gap between the very rich and everyone else growing wider and wider.

Further, when we talk about the national budget, it is vitally important that we remember how we got into this fiscal crisis in the first place and who was responsible for it. Let us never forget that when Bill Clinton left office in January of 2001, the U.S. had a budget surplus of \$236 billion with projected budget surpluses as far as the eye could see. During that time, the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office projected a 10-year budget surplus of \$5.6 trillion, enough to erase the entire national debt by the end of 2011.

What happened? How did we, in a few short years, go from a large budget surplus into horrendous debt? The answer is not that complicated. Under President Bush we went to wars in Afghanistan and Iraq -- and didn't pay for them. We just put them on the credit card. The cost of those wars is estimated to be between \$4 trillion to \$6 trillion. Further, Bush and Congress passed an expensive prescription drug program that was unpaid for. They also reduced revenue by giving huge tax breaks to the wealthy and large corporations. On top of all that, the Wall Street collapse and ensuing recession significantly reduced tax receipts and increased spending for unemployment compensation and food stamps, further exacerbating the deficit situation.

Interestingly, the so-called congressional "deficit hawks" -- Congressman Paul Ryan, Senator Jeff Sessions and other conservative Republicans -- all voted for those measures that increased the deficit. These are the same folks who now want to dismantle virtually every social program designed to protect working families, the elderly, the children, the sick and the poor. In other words, it's okay to spend trillions on a war we should never have waged and large defense budgets, and provide huge tax breaks for billionaires and multi-national corporations. It's just not okay when, in very difficult economic times, we try to protect the most vulnerable people in our country.

Where do we go from here? How do we now draft a federal budget which creates jobs, makes our country more productive, protects working families and lowers the deficit?

For a start, we have to understand that, from both a moral and economic perspective, we cannot impose more austerity on the people of our country who are already suffering. The time is now for the wealthy and multi-national corporations who are doing phenomenally well to help us rebuild America and lower our deficit.

More: <http://readersupportednews.org/opinion2/279-82/20166-budget-deal-must-be-morally-and-economically-sound>

Racial inequality threatens Kansas City economy

October 28, The Kansas City Star

By **DIANE STAFFORD**

Kansas City's overall economic resilience — historically and since the last recession — has tended to mask the severe education and unemployment problems for the area's blacks, Latinos and Native Americans.

It's time to take the mask off.

"If there's a hole in the boat, it doesn't matter if you're in first class or steerage," said Anita Maltbia, director of Kansas City's Green Impact Zone. "You're all going down."

In a report to be shared today with area civic leaders, the Mid-America Regional Council and the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce hope to focus the attention of well-educated, well-off whites on a problem that threatens the area's overall economic health.

Widening racial gaps in income, health, and work opportunities are putting the entire Kansas City area's economic future at risk, according to a new study.

The trend will turn around only if the nine-country metropolitan area improves its "equity profile," researchers are due to tell civic leaders at a Tuesday luncheon. That means expanding programs and policies to help people of color live in safer neighborhoods, get better educations and obtain decent-paying jobs.

The new study, "An Equity Profile of the Kansas City Region," was commissioned by MARC and some local organizations that have formed the "Regional Equity Network." It's a first-ever look by PolicyLink and the Program for Environmental and Regional Equity at the University of Southern California to assess inclusion — and barriers to inclusion — that are affecting the metro area's minority youth.

Improving the economic lot of the area's racial minorities is essential, the report said. By 2040, 42 percent of the area's population is likely to be composed of minorities. In 2010, Census data put that share at 27 percent.

More: <http://www.kansascity.com/2013/10/28/4582799/racial-inequality-threatens-kansas.html#storylink=cpy>

Dems could break with Obama on Iran

Apparently desperate to maintain Iran as an enemy and to sabotage negotiations to keep Iran a non-nuclear weapons state, senior Democrats in the Senate are moving to impose a new set of sanctions against Iran to derail the hopeful diplomacy of the last several weeks.

PLEASE phone your senators in Washington, D.C. to urge them not to vote for such dangerous and self-destructive sanctions that will only serve the short term interests of the right-wing in Israel and the Saudi Monarchy.

Capitol Hill Switchboard: (202) 224-3121

Please spread the word and share this appeal with others.

White House lobbying Senate against further sanctions on Iran in super-secret meeting

posted at 1:21 pm on October 31, 2013 by Erika Johnsen

Since their big meeting with Iranian officials earlier this month apparently showed some promise, the White House has [continued to insist](#) that they would much rather that Congress hold off on passing any further economic sanctions on Iran for the time being — but a bipartisan group of Congressmen have been equally insistent that now is the precisely the right time to demonstrate the United States’ resolve on the issue by continuing to lay even more sanctions on the line. The Obama administration is meeting with the Iranian officials again in Geneva next week, and they’re asking the Senate not to move forward on a new bill (even less harsh than the one passed by the House last summer that would roughly halve Iran’s already curtailed oil exports) so that they can massage what they see as a “diplomatic opening,” via [Reuters](#):

Fresh U.S. sanctions over Iran’s disputed nuclear program being debated behind closed doors in the Senate aim to slash the country’s oil sales in half within a year of the plan being signed into law, an influential senator said this week.

Robert Menendez, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, told a meeting of the American [Israel](#) Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) in New York on Monday that a package of sanctions ready to move in his chamber has a goal of cutting Iran’s current oil exports to no more than 500,000 barrels per day. ...

Since the beginning of 2012, U.S. and European sanctions have already cut Iran’s oil exports to about 1 million bpd from about 2.5 million bpd, costing the Islamic Republic crude sales worth billions of dollars a month, and helping to spike inflation and unemployment.

More: <http://hotair.com/archives/2013/10/31/white-house-lobbying-senate-against-further-sanctions-on-iran-in-super-secret-meeting/>

Unveiling Corporate Campaign Cash is Good for Everyone (Including Businesses)

October 31, 2013
by Ian Vandewalker

This post first appeared on the [Brennan Center for Justice blog](#).

Investors are hungry for more information about the companies they invest in. Shareholders — the owners of the company — deserve to know where their money is going. Currently, it’s too easy for one person in corporate management to secretly spend company money on pet political projects. Disclosure would empower shareholders to engage in oversight and ensure that political

expenditures are in the firm's interest. And transparency helps investors avoid companies where corporate management consistently engages in risky political behavior.

Top corporate leaders increasingly recognize the value of transparency. For example, Microsoft has made its political activity public since 2007. As Microsoft executive Dan Bross explained, "By not being transparent and open, we'd be increasing the risk to the corporation." Bross has pushed transparency as a way for corporate America to regain the public's trust. Now the software giant has made its reports even more detailed, in response to shareholder requests.

Microsoft isn't an outlier — a growing number of America's largest publicly traded corporations are now willing to share information about their political spending. The Center for Political Accountability (CPA), which scores companies based on their political activity's transparency and accountability, found that 78 percent of companies studied improved their score this year. New companies receiving high marks include United Parcel Service, Noble Energy, CSX and JPMorgan Chase; they join the likes of Merck, Microsoft and Time Warner at the top of the ranking. And the CPA ranking isn't the only sign of a trend toward greater disclosure; 90 percent of business leaders support disclosing all individual, corporate and labor contributions to political committees and organizations that spend money in elections.

Shareholder resolutions concerning political spending become more common every year. This year, disclosure resolutions on campaign spending averaged a vote of almost 32 percent. Shareholder resolutions have resulted in 118 companies agreeing to adopt better policies concerning disclosure and accountability.

Despite the trend, there are some in the business community who oppose disclosure, arguing it might harm companies' interests. But even setting aside the mounting evidence that political spending actually correlates to lower shareholder value, companies that use political spending to benefit their bottom lines shouldn't oppose disclosure of that spending. If the activity is beneficial to corporate value, publicizing it should attract investors who agree with the strategy. Plus, disclosure can help companies avoid situations like the one Target found itself in three years ago, when the retailer faced boycotts after donating money that benefited a gubernatorial candidate opposing same-sex marriage — unbeknownst to unpleasantly surprised shareholders.

More: <http://billmoyers.com/2013/10/31/unveiling-corporate-campaign-cash-is-good-for-everyone-including-businesses/>

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*

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