

Seeds of Peace

Winter 2019

A Newsletter of the West Suburban Faith-Based Peace Coalition

Still time to enter Peace Essay Contest

If you've never heard of the Kellogg-Briand Pact, you're not alone. Heralded by some, derided by others since its inception, and all but forgotten today, the Kellogg-Briand Peace Pact remains a visionary document promoting peace for the world's citizens.

Who were Frank Kellogg, Aristide Briand?

The 1928 Kellogg-Briand Pact was initiated by U.S. Secretary of State Frank B. Kellogg and French Foreign Minister Aristide Briand. Kellogg was awarded the 1929 Nobel Peace Prize for his work in creating it. Originally signed by 15 countries, there are now over 60 signatories to the Pact, who declare their intention to "condemn recourse to war for the solution of international controversies, and renounce it, as an instrument of national policy."



Ke11logg



Briand

So, why does war continue to be a commonplace occurrence? Why is the Pact so little known? Why does peace remain so elusive?

The West Suburban Faith-Based Peace Coalition, under the leadership of Frank Goetz, decided to try to change that. In 2011, the Coalition initiated the Annual Peace Essay Contest, challenging contestants to write an essay addressing the question "How can we obey the law against war?" With first, second and third prizes of \$1000, \$300 and \$100 respectively, the contest has attracted applicants from all over the world.

'Peace through nonviolence is the only path.'

Goetz later wrote, "Everyone who yearns for peace knows how difficult it is to turn from a culture of violence and dominance to a path of mutual respect and nonviolent conflict resolution. But if human civilization has a future, peace through nonviolence is the only path. We have to start somewhere. We already have taken Step 1. Let's celebrate it!"

If you are interested in submitting an entry for our 2019 contest, please see the WSFPC website at <https://faithpeace.org/campaigns/peace-essay-contest/2019-2/> for instructions on how to do so.



Inside this issue:

2019 Peace Essay Contest 1

Jan Educational Forum 2

Feb Educational Forum 2

Interfaith Prayer Service 2

March Annual Gathering 3

Frank Goetz Comments 3

In Memoriam 4



January program to suggest 10 ways to stop hate in its tracks

Ways to stem the tide of hate crimes too common these days will be addressed during our first Educational Forum of the new year when Mary Frances H. (Mitzi) Beno will discuss how to help “Stop the Hate” from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 15, at Lombard Mennonite Church, 528 E. Madison St., Lombard.

Beno developed the program, based on “Ten Ways to Fight Hate,” a community resource guide published by the Southern Poverty Law Center, in cooperation with the Law Center. Beno is a retired licensed clinical social worker who now combines her professional skills, education and avocational interest in social justice to work with others to bridge interfaith, racial, ethnic and other differences.

Beno’s program also relies on different faith traditions’ articulations about the Golden Rule interwoven with the Law Center’s valuable advice on how to respond to hate. Participants attending the program will receive their own copies of the “Ten Ways to Fight Hate” booklet.

‘Journey of the Monarch Butterfly’ presentation helps explain Liberation Theology

The monarch butterfly, in its beauty and creativity, suggests how things might be, symbolizing the “Great Shalom.” In its flight each year, it crosses three political borders. In God’s kingdom, there are no borders. The monarch’s migration is a fitting metaphor for Liberation Theology, showing how nature and the world should be. Cristobal Cavazos of Immigrant Solidarity DuPage says, “It is a reminder that God is still working in history – through you and me.”

At our February Educational Forum, Cavazos will show us the link between the monarch butterfly’s annual migration and Liberation Theology’s call to heightened awareness of the “sinful” socioeconomic structures that cause social inequities, and to active participation in changing those structures.



Join us from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 19, at Lombard Mennonite Church, 528 E. Madison Street in Lombard, for this enlightening presentation.

WSFPC cosponsors interfaith prayer service

WSFPC was privileged to join some two dozen sponsors of this year’s World Peace Day Interfaith Prayer Service in Naperville, held Jan. 6 on the North Central College campus. Through our participation and attendance, we met a variety of people who share our desire for world peace, thereby widening and strengthening everyone’s circle of friendship.

At the conclusion of the service, lighting was dimmed as activated Glow Sticks demonstrated how simply peace can be depicted: People representing a broad spectrum of faith traditions and ethnic heritages united their Glow Sticks with those of their neighbors to create a rainbow of color. The various hues, while retaining their singular glow, joined in uninterrupted unity to reflect the beautiful oneness of all creation.

Annual Gathering features social justice advocate Bob Bossie to speak on the issue of war and the environment

Noam Chomsky says that the two unparalleled crises facing the human community today are climate change and nuclear war.

Considered from a faith perspective, the Rev. Bob Bossie, SCJ, believes these threats are more clearly the spiritual conflict between “dominion,” God’s call for us to be His/Her partner in the story of creation, and “domination,” the total corruption of that initial call. Bossie will explore these connections and offer concrete steps churches can take to confront this threat to the survival of all life as we know it.



Having served in the US Air Force at a young age, he subsequently travelled throughout the US, working for the military-industrial complex. During this time, a life-changing experience of “the God of my life” made him realize everyone and everything is holy. He decided to join a community (Priests of the Sacred Heart) committed to union with this God.

Bossie’s commitment to social justice arises from his desire to “ensure the integrity of my relationship with God.” He was part of the Gulf Peace Team, which positioned itself between the opposing forces during the first Gulf war. He co-founded Voices in the

Wilderness, which challenged US/UN economic sanctions against Iraq. Bossie is now retired.

Bossie has been a voice for peace for over 30 years, working at 8th Day Center for Justice, where he focused on military, economic and environmental issues.

Please join us March 23 . Watch our website for details.

Attaining peace requires prayer, action, sacrifice

“I understand that wars and militarism make us less safe rather than protect us, that they kill, injure and traumatize adults, children and infants, severely damage the natural environment, erode civil liberties, and drain our economies, siphoning resources from life-affirming activities. I commit to engage in and support nonviolent efforts to end all war and preparations for war and to create a sustainable and just peace.”

This is the pledge I signed from World BEYOND War as an individual and as a servant leader of the West Suburban Faith-Based Peace Coalition (WSFPC). In so doing I’m fully aware that many of my family, friends and neighbors consider me to be anti-patriotic or anti-American. This, I believe, is the real cost of WSPFC membership. I consider the cost steep but necessary.

Authentic living requires making decisions. Joining an anti-war movement is one of them. Because we Americans enjoy living in an economy larger than that of any country in history and dedicate most of our discretion-

ary budget on “defense” we are, in the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, “losing our soul.”

As I write this, we are approaching Christmas which for many is the season of Peace. It can be a time for decision. Only God knows how many – trillions? – of **thoughts and prayers for peace** have been and will continue to be received from almost every home, church, village, state or country throughout planet earth. But specific, organized public nonviolent activities to promote **Peace and Justice** are extremely rare. WSPFC exists for this purpose. This New Year, please consider joining WSPFC and dedicating a few hours a month to this noble cause.



Peace, Frank

WSFPC lost 2 faithful friends during the last year

During 2018, WSPFC and the peace cause lost valuable members when Phil Matejczyk died June 23 and John Bagley died October 17. We will continue to miss their friendship and extend our sympathy and hopes for gentle healing to their family members and friends.

When **Phil Matejczyk** was 12 years old, his father took him to visit Niagara Falls. Phil was so awed by the power of the Falls, and the hydroelectric plants he and his father toured while there, that he decided right then to study electrical engineering.

Later, while at Penn State, he committed to following a career in the distribution of electrical power, rather than work at a job in which his expertise would be applied in manufacturing armed missiles. His commitment to peace continued throughout his life.



He and his wife, Jo Ann, learned about Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) in the late 60's from the bishop who confirmed them in the Episcopal Church. Later, after moving to the Chicago area, they became involved with WSPFC. Although Jo Ann was the more active member, Phil's support was significant, and his level of knowledge extensive. "He was a walking encyclopedia," Jo Ann says.

This commitment to seeking knowledge lives on in the Matejczyk's children, Lon Philip, Katie, and John Lloyd, who

all developed the enquiring minds that led Phil to study and commit to the cause of peace.

John Bagley was a quiet, self-effacing man whose hallmarks were his intelligence, energy, and humanitarianism. Above all, he was a man who loved his wife and family, the world and peace.



John held a Ph.D. and his doctoral dissertation was a significant work in the budding field of artificial intelligence of the late 60's. He also held several patents and earned many awards but would probably wish to be best remembered for his dedicated and passionate humanitarianism, a man who advocated for many social justice causes.

WSPFC recalls John, along with his wife Rose, as ardent supporters, a couple who attended meetings, participated in demonstrations, and were staunch WSPFC friends. We also appreciate John's valuable help in operating our listserv. He was both a public figure and a behind-the-scenes kind of friend on whom we could rely. And he was that way until his health problems arose, curtailing his activities.

A favorite family anecdote concerns John and Rose's arrests for protesting nuclear weapons, war, the School of the Americas, and "those things we thought were terribly wrong," according to Rose. But a daughter-in-law always kept bail money available ... just in case it was needed.

West Suburban Faith-Based Peace Coalition

213 S. Wheaton Ave.
Wheaton, IL 60187
630-510-8500 ext.104
wsfpc.peace@gmail.com

faithpeace.org

Legislative Workgroup

First Wednesday each month at 11:00 AM
First United Methodist Church
1032 West Maple Avenue, Downers Grove

WSFPC MISSION STATEMENT

We are many peoples of many faiths:

- *Called to non-violent peacemaking*
- *Committed to personal and societal transformation from ways of violence to ways of compassion, reconciliation and mutual respect*
- *Engaging ourselves, faith communities, and society in prayerful discernment, education and public witness*
- *Working to build a society that affirms the sacredness of all people and all creation.*

WSFPC Educational Forum

Third Tuesday each month at 7 PM
Lombard Mennonite Church
528 East Madison, Lombard