

Seeds of Peace

Spring 2019

A Newsletter of the West Suburban Faith-Based Peace Coalition

Frank Goetz: 'Farewell'



After much deliberation I have decided to step down as servant leader of the West Suburban Faith-Based Peace Coalition. I intend to continue active participation in WSFPC until August 27 of this year. I'm hoping that in this interval one or more people, preferably younger, will step-up and assume my current responsibilities. Otherwise, our leadership team will bring WSFPC to a close.

WSFPC has been an extremely important part of my life for almost two decades. My wife, Kay, was an active member from its start back in 2001, when David Meade and David Martin co-founded this peace coalition in response to the war in Afghanistan. During those early years Kay participated in many WSFPC activities and dragged me along for some of them. I was a full-time volunteer for People's



Resource Center until 2008. Only after that did I get seriously involved in the peace movement.

I don't remember exactly when Dave Martin announced he was leaving WSFPC but I do remember him saying he was prepared to shutter the organization unless someone offered to assume a servant leadership role. I raised my hand and, as they say, the rest is history.

Dave Martin had two important skills that I lack—he could sing and play the guitar. These were extremely valuable tools when we would have protests, especially at Peter Roskam's office. But I was able to follow his lead in the area of attracting local and national peacemakers to our monthly educational forums and annual gatherings.

Looking back, we had some amazing people inspiring us along the journey. Kathy Kelly, 3-time nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize, would share her experiences with Afghan youth and peace makers who survived wars in Iraq, Pakistan, Yemen and so many more African and Asian countries. Endless war has become the norm.

We had David Swanson, author of many books on abolishing war, and recipient of Nobel Peace Prize nominations, educate us on the Outlawry movement spearheaded by a Chicagoan, S. O. Levinson, whose grave we visited in Chicago. Because of Swanson's research we helped take a peek at what I consider to be the world's best-kept secret. Think about it. How many Americans know that after 2 weeks of intense debate by the U.S. Senate in January of 1929, by a vote of 85 to 1, and the signature of President Calvin Coolidge, war became and is a crime? According to

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Frank celebrated for ‘... kindly witness for peace and unswerving resistance to war’

When I learned that Frank Goetz will be seeking to replace himself as president of the West Suburban Faith-Based Peace Coalition, I wrote him to say:

This morning I awoke thinking of you with a soft smile. “President and prophet,” I thought, — “and irreplaceable.”

Thank you, Frank, for your kindly witness for peace and your unswerving resistance to war.

Thank you for educating innumerable people about the Kellogg-Briand Pact and determination to ban all war.

Thank you for gathering people together, through the essay contest, to read and hear one another's thoughts about war and peace.

And thank you for your warm welcomes in your home and at gatherings you've hosted. You wrote that you will step aside, but I feel sure your step will be more of a twirl and a dance as you continue being one of the finest peacemakers I've ever known.

Please give my love to Kay.

Gratefully,
Kathy

Later, I enjoyed a “Frank Goetz” day of sorts. I found an online video interview with Frank filmed in Washington, D.C., in 2009 when he and Kay had participated in a gathering designed to promote formation of a U.S. “Department of Peace.” Frank identified himself as a retired engineer. After years of struggling to earn an income, raise a family and make ends meet, he discovered that retirement allowed time to work on projects he deeply cared about, focusing his energies in a particular direction. “I chose peace,” Frank told the interviewer. He objected to the U.S. government focusing on destruction and war. He wanted his 19

grandchildren to learn about peacemaking and he felt a Department of Peace could help enable education about the tools of peacemaking.

Frank’s daughter, Carla, has posted more recent you tube films featuring Frank and a fine array of companions at the annual Peace Essay Contest. Always, Frank celebrates August 27, 1928, when 15 countries signed the Kellogg-Briand Pact stating their intent to renounce wars and agreeing never to even threaten war as a means to resolve conflicts. Frank eloquently enumerates the tools peacemakers could use as alternatives to wars, and notes that in January 1929 the U.S. Senate, having received 30,000 hand-written letters, ratified the Kellogg-Briand Pact. As a treaty, it has become the “law of the land.”

Living as we now do in a permanent warfare state, we greatly need Frank’s guidance and clarity. It will be a gift to work alongside him in days to come, fortified by his determination to put an end to war.

*- Kathy Kelly, peace activist
and three-time Nobel Peace Prize nominee*



Kathy Kelly and Frank Goetz celebrated the Peace Essay Awards Luncheon in 2014 when Kathy, a three-time Nobel Peace Prize nominee, was the WSFPC guest speaker. Kathy also was guest speaker at the 2017 Peace Essay Awards Luncheon. What better basis for a friendship than working for world peace?

WSFPC performs its peace work informed by faith in God

The first meeting of the West Suburban Faith-Based Peace Coalition was Wednesday, October 1, 2003. It was held over lunch in the basement of Lombard Mennonite Church. Since 2001 many of us had worked within the DuPage Peace Through Justice Coalition. While we did important work there, it became clear that a number of us desired to work more expressly from our faith perspectives than we were able to do within DPTJC. We wanted to do peace work informed by our faith in God, and a desire to see God's compassion shaping the peace movement, and events in our world. We would form a coalition that affirmed God's role in peace and justice, that welcomed broad interfaith participation, that partnered together with faithful and secular alike in work to end the wars (in Iraq and Afghanistan), to educate for peace and practice active nonviolence.

Our first meetings welcomed people from the Catholic, Presbyterian, Methodist, United Church of Christ, Mennonite, Church of the Brethren, Quaker, Unitarian, Muslim and Jewish traditions. By November of 2003 we established regular lunch meetings, held the first Wednesday of each month. We wrote a mission statement, published a brochure and a website. We quickly established Workgroups for structure & leadership, education, legislative work, spirituality of nonviolence and public action. These became the basis of activity within the coalition. Each workgroup met monthly and pursued its own objectives.

2004 was a big year for WSPFC. In May, working with students from the College of DuPage, we hosted AFSC's Eyes Wide Open anti-war exhibit for a week, culminating in a 2 day Peace Fair at COD. We welcomed Walter Wink as the keynote speaker at WSPFC's first Annual Gathering in the Fall of 2004. These were held annually each year thereafter. In October we organized a peace march, where participants carried shrouded (cardboard) coffins from Wheaton's 2nd Baptist Church to the Kane County Courthouse in Geneva. We organized a Clergy Peace Statement, where members enlisted clergy signatures on a power-

ful antiwar statement (reaching from Oak Park to the Fox River Valley). That was published in the "Chicago Tribune."

The following years saw a continuation of steady, engaged peacemaking activity. These included monthly meetings and prayers among WSPFC's many workgroups, our first newsletters, legislative visits to congressional representatives, peace retreats, bus trips from Elmhurst to national peace marches in Washington DC, a myriad of peace educational events, public protests and local prayer vigils. We encouraged our faith leaders, challenged our political leaders, and through it all, we were peace community to one another. I cannot imagine the peace movement in Chicago's west suburbs without the well-grounded, persisting wisdom of WSPFC. Long may you run!



We named our leadership group the Servant Leadership Team. While we've been blessed with too many dedicated servants to mention by name, some warrant mentioning here.

David Meade: co-founder, gentle, wise, persisting. Gene Birmingham: UCC pastor & WSPFC treasurer for a decade, Carol Schludecker: former nun, gentle heart, fierce advocate for peace, midwife of justice, Nadia Kanhai Zamora: quiet, smiling, dedicated. Rev. Sam Smith: youth pastor, creative soul, dedicated, tireless worker for peace, Rev. Bob Sandman: UCC Pastor, servant leader, elder statesman for peace, Sally Sommers: heart of nonviolence, mother and grandmother spirit to many. Betty Clegg: Quaker heart of peace, Buddha smile, Gloria Hannas: a lawyer's keen mind, no-nonsense, get-to-it spirit, Carol Urban: steady, persisting, committed, long-haul advocate for peace, Frank Goetz: next man to the helm, God-Bless Him!!, Amira Boctor, Gail Clark, Siobhan Kolar, Denise Griebler, Laurie Rippe, Jim Danbury, Sr. Pat Bergen, John & Rose Bagley and so many more. We couldn't have done what we did, or been who we are - without you.... May God bless you all!

- Dave Martin
Cofounder, WSPFC

Thanks for everything ... especially the memories!

The Legislative Workgroup of the West Suburban Faith-based Peace Coalition wishes to thank Frank Goetz for his unwavering support of our work and for the many years that he and his wife, Kay, were active members who contributed greatly to our mission.

Carol Urban

What a great person! Best wishes Frank!

Cathy Truesdale



Frank emits a sense of holiness – loving everyone around him so much and desiring so much better for the world. I have always seen him raising the poor and oppressed up

and as for the rich and powerful – shaking things up. Frank is responsible for Immigrant Solidarity DuPage having our space at the 213 Building and connecting us with Dick and Florence Nogaj. Frank Goetz, Presente!

Cristobal Cavazos

I remember when Frank's wife, Kay, was the Goetz family's active member in the coalition. When Kay had to step back, Frank stepped forward. And like the Energizer Bunny, he never stopped. Frank has been a true *servant* leader. His persistent efforts in coming up with ideas and taking on the responsibility for them, plus his genuine friendship, have been my inspiration for many years. Thank you, Frank. May God bless you and Kay now in your real retirement together.

Earl Fisher

It has been an honor and an inspiration to know you, not only for your leadership, but your joy and perseverance.

Jill and Dean Paulus

I have always admired Frank for his dedication and care of his wife Kay as her health has declined. I am in awe of his singleness of purpose around the Kellogg-Briand Pact. God bless Frank in his retirement.

Karen Jackson

With gratitude for all you have done to promote peace, justice and the common good, I wish you all the best.

Lanlan Hoo

Frank, I sincerely appreciate that you had the fortitude to persist in an admirable effort toward peace-making here in our DuPage County area. I always admired you for this. Long after I did mine in paintings, and slide programs on several oppressed countries, you were still working and bringing issues to everyone's attention. This to the extent that it continues on after you! Thank you.

Marilyn Peretti

Dear Frank,

Your leadership over these many years has been inspiring. You are dedicated to your ideals no matter what the challenge has been. I hope and pray that you will experience results of your efforts to promote peace and end war before too long.

Love, Rosemary Lynch

I've known Frank ever since his DuPage Coffee-house days, having first met him and Kay at a Theo-



sophical festival in 2012. Frank is an idealist who's able to walk his talk, and he's hung in there far longer than most people would. He's always been an inspiration to me, and knowing him helped me during my activist years. Furthermore, I truly hope

my mind and body will work as well when (and if) I'm his age. Perhaps having a worthy goal helps keep one well. I will miss seeing him.

Sally Milow

Frank Goetz has been a consistent and powerful witness to the power of nonviolence in the struggle for social justice and peace. He is a man of deep faith and it is that faith that allows him to embrace people of all faiths or no faith at all. When it becomes necessary to speak truth to power, we can always count on Frank to be at our side and on the side of those who defend human dignity. Thanks for all you do and all you are Frank.

Peace, Tom Cordaro

Congratulations Frank! Over the years you and other members of the leadership team at WSFPC (and the staff this past year) recruited volunteers to give high-quality, inspiring presentations on a wide range of peace and justice issues. We commend you for the forums and essay contests and for enthusiastically and creatively pursuing peace for nearly two decades. It's been fun participating in your programs and exchanging ideas with you over the years.

Hugs, Carol Tritschler and Stephanie Hughes

After Dave Meade moved to Oregon and Dave Martin resigned in order to give more time to his art, Frank Goetz moved in to organize and support, guide and lead the coalition. We are grateful to Frank, as we were to our two Davids, for their dedicated work to keep the WSFBPC going.



Frank's passion has been to pass on the knowledge that war was outlawed by the Kellogg-Briand

Pact. Under Frank's leadership, the coalition has sponsored for eight years the annual challenge to write an essay on that law and the meaning of it.

Frank also used his own inheritance to hire two people, Joey and Cheryl, to staff a peace desk in Wheaton. We are grateful to Frank for stepping in when we needed him and we wish him God's blessings as he continues on his life's journey.

Jo Ann Meadows-Matejczyk

Words are so powerful. They are seeds and even more. So how can I put into words what Frank and his ideas and dreams and projects and actions and accomplishments (WSFPC) mean to me - and for our future? I can't - so I have been procrastinating on this email. But now I think I have that word - and that word is simply "Frank." Frank, your phone call in 2017 reenergized me to "all possibilities." Then when I met you and was a guest in your home with you and Kay and family, it was simply beautiful being in a place of Peace and Love. Thank you for your gentleness, your energy to work for peace and for sharing all your ideas and building roots for peace. Mahalo. "Frank" will be my new Go - To word (replacing Shazam) when I need some strength. Thank You.

Aloha, Melinda Clarke

Peace, love, and all good to you, Frank, as you turn over the leadership of WSFPC to others. You have

served us magnificently in the cause of peace all these years, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Ann Freiburg, OSF

"Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God." Thank you, Frank, for being a peacemaker extraordinaire. By the way you live your life, you have become an example, a mentor and a friend to so many. You have indeed left a legacy of peace for all to emulate. My heart is filled with appreciation for you and for Kay and all that you have brought to my life.

Peace, Carol Urban

Frank is a man totally dedicated to peace. God bless you, Frank.

Dick & Florence Nogaj

Dear Frank,

Your smile, knowledge and wit endeared you to us. May you enjoy another of life's adventures.

Peace to you,

Laurie Coughlan

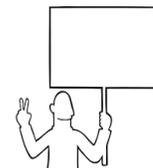
Thanks for all you have done and are still doing to promote peace and to educate the public about alternatives to war. It's been wonderful working with you as part of the Servant Leadership Team these past three and a half years. Blessings to you, Kay and your family.

Lee Bannon

WANTED!
SERVANT LEADER(S)

If You're Looking for a Sign ...

THIS IS IT !



CALL THE PEACE DESK
630.510.8500 ext. 104

Frank Goetz announces retirement

(Continued from p. 1.)

our constitution, upon ratification any such treaty becomes the “supreme law of the land.” Talk about an inconvenient truth!

Although our government (Republicans and Democrats) frequently boasts that “we are a nation of laws,” it obviously prefers to ignore this one, the Kellogg-Briand Pact. Hence we decided to educate the public about its existence by sponsoring an essay/response contest for the past eight years. Participants were asked to write an essay on “How Can We Obey the Law Against War?” and then to direct it to someone in authority. Winners would be chosen by a panel of judges based on the quality of the essay and the responses it generated.

One of our Peace Essay Contest winners, Poonam Kumari, continues to maintain relationships with us from her home in the United Kingdom. Poonam introduced us to an amazing international celebrity, His Holiness of India Dr. Vasanth Vijayji Maharaj, who would later honor us with his presence.

Among our many inspiring speakers two have a special place in my heart. Cristobal Cavazos kept us mesmerized for over an hour in demanding justice for those seeking refuge from Central and Latin America. And Rev. John Dear who enlightened us by his spartan lifestyle and his plea to save the planet by not eating meat, noting that as much as one third of greenhouse gasses are created by cows.

In recent years our servant leadership team devolved to a small legislative workgroup led by Carol Urban in Downers Grove and a small team meeting in Lombard with volunteers (Amira Boctor, Lee Bannon and myself) and paid part-time assistants (Cheryl Marshall and Joey Rose). I will always treasure the many memories of this small team working together in prayerful service for peace and justice.

My last servant leader action will be to present awards to essay winners at a luncheon on August 27, 2019. It will be a joyous event because this contest, like those in previous years, engaged a significant number of people in giving serious thought to the possibility of peace.

Peace, Frank

West Suburban Faith-Based Peace Coalition
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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 7:00 PM
Lombard Mennonite Church
528 East Madison, Lombard