

PeaceWorks

KANSAS CITY

Affiliated with
Peace Action

4509 Walnut, Kansas City, MO 64111 • 816-561-1181 • peaceworksKC.org • peaceworkskc@gmail.com • February 2012

Attend the Annual Meeting March 25

Come one, come all—to our annual gathering for folks who tend to think like you! What could be better? Bring finger food for the first half-hour, visiting time.

We've invited Mary Jean Eisenhower (Dwight Eisenhower's granddaughter) of People to People International to talk with us. The organization, with its office in KC, Mo., sends folks abroad in fulfillment of Dwight's vision that Americans should travel to other lands, build relationships, and thereby create peace. People to People has won praise for supporting the removal of landmines. Come for a taste of People to People and bring questions for Mary Jean.

Next in the spotlight is you. How so? Trying a new format, we'll share stories in small groups about

Please bring a friend and come to the



**Sunday, March 25th, 2012
2 pm to 4 pm
4509 Walnut St., Simpson House
Kansas City, Missouri 64111**

Urban Ranger Corps and our scholarships for university students in peace courses. You'll also elect candidates (see box, p. 4). Come have fun!

why nukes come across our radar screen (too much reality for some folks, but not us!) and why we work for peace.

Celebrate the winner of PeaceWorks' major award, the Charles E. Bebb Peace Merit Award. Congratulate the recipient of the new-last-year award, the Cheatum award for a peaceable organization—an accolade named in honor of former PeaceWorks leaders Lynn Cheatum, of Overland Park, and Kris Cheatum, who died in 2010.

You'll hear a brief update on PeaceWorks' partnership with the

Stand for peace at City Hall Feb. 22 and March 1

Two peace petitions have come to the City Council for consideration, and Feb. 22, at 1:30 pm, is when a committee will hold hearings on them. March 1 is when the full Council is slated to vote on the petitions at its 3 p.m. meeting.

Come hear Council members' comments, hold cloth signs for peace, and share your views Feb. 22.

Among speakers at the Feb. 22 hearing will be Marcus Iszard, Ph.D., toxicology specialist at UMKC School of Pharmacy; Steven Starr, expert on nuclear darkness; and Bill Wickersham, Ph.D., the head of peace studies at the University of Missouri in Columbia. Encouraging e-mails from across the

country prove that national peace groups are watching our KC civic effort to oppose the new nuclear weapons parts plant.

The first petition asks the city to avoid further financial involvement in the new plant and, as far as legally feasible, discontinue current fiscal ties. The second measure demands plans for alternative jobs for the workers.

PeaceWorks members went the extra mile to obtain signatures on the petitions—bravo! Now it's time to stand for peace at the hearing and full City Council meeting. Save both Feb. 22 and March 1, OK?

Do what you gotta do

by Jim Hannah

"Few will have the greatness to bend history itself, but each of us can work to change a small portion of events. It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a man (or woman) stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he (or she) sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."
—Robert F. Kennedy

I've always been a sucker for New Year's resolutions, as you might expect of someone whose enneagram personality type is "reformer." Even though year upon year my resolves soon lose their luster, I cherish them still—like faded daguerreotypes from years gone by.

This year's resolve emerged out of the desire to "do something" in resistance to Kansas City's new nuclear weapons parts plant. But do what? Eventually I decided on a simple "Monday Morning Wake-Up Call"—to go to the plant on the first work day of each week in 2012, just to hold up a sign questioning the assumptions of the nuclear establishment.

The first day's sign asked, "Is it good for the grandkids?" The second, "A million dollars a day for what?" The third, "Our 10,000 nukes aren't enough?"

In this new year I've been reading Paul Tillich's thoughts on "ultimate concern." He, too, probes with questions: What commands our full attention? Our unconditional devotion? Our ultimate passion?

I struggle to answer such questions, but some-



times others unwittingly provide the words. Most recently it was a guard at the KC Plant. I'd gone to check in with him before my first Monday morning witness. He pointed out the property lines, asked where I'd be standing, then simply said, "Do what you gotta do." We shook hands, I went to get my sign, and as I was standing along the roadside, the impact of his words struck me. I was "doing what I gotta do."

It was cold that morning, but as I faced into the rising sun and held up my little sign, I was "strangely warmed," as John Wesley put it.

I don't think I have illusions about how "effective" any of this may be. A one-person witness to hundreds of vehicles passing by is not going to disrupt business-as-usual. But others have pointed out that the goal of activism often is not so much "for me to change things," but rather to "keep things from changing me." It would be so easy to slip into complacency, or despair.

Once again I try to find that delicate balance: ever hopeful, never expectant. For me, this weekly action is a personal spiritual discipline—to show up, to persevere, to focus. But mostly it's an effort to begin each week in response to the urgings of Life—a call to what is life-affirming, in resistance to that which is death-dealing. The KC Plant is as good a place as any to take a stand.

My hope for each peacemaker in the new year is that each of us will "do what we gotta do," whatever that may be and wherever it may lead, in affirmation of Life.

—Columnist Jim Hannah is a member of the PeaceWorks KC Board and has been twice arrested for peace witnesses at the new KC Plant at Botts Road and Highway 150, where he issues a 7:30 a.m. "Wake-Up Call" each Monday morning.

It's a bird! It's a plane! It's a peace billboard!!

by Jane Stoever

Yes, a billboard, an ever-lovin' peace billboard. But wait! It's *two* billboards!

On Jan. 29, two identical billboards went up for peace for a month in KC. See one billboard downtown when you go *north* on Main Street approaching Truman. See the other in midtown when you go *south* on Broadway between 39th and 40th streets.

Billboards—why now?

Because
City
Council

members are deciding this month how to vote March 1 on our two peace petitions, and we're trying to raise awareness about the city's financial dabbling in the nuke business.

PeaceWorks member Amrita Burdick led an impromptu drive to raise \$1,100 for the two billboards combined. To keep the billboards aloft, renew your PeaceWorks membership (use the coupon on

this page). Or send bucks for billboards and other peace promo to PeaceWorks.

Note: the "financing" on the billboard refers not to KC money but to KC's sale of municipal bonds (worth about \$673 million) to private investors to fund the new KC Plant. Using KC bonds, not U.S. Treasury bonds, keeps the cost out of the federal budget, where budget watchdogs could

spot it and object.



Contact City Hall, White House, Congress

- Mayor Sly James: 816-513-3500
- City Council: 816-513-1368
- President Barack Obama: 202-456-1111 comments; 202-456-1414 switchboard
- Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.): 202-224-6154
- Sen. Roy Blunt (R-Mo.): 202-224-5721
- Rep. Emanuel Cleaver (D-5th district, Mo.): 202-225-4535
- Rep. Sam Graves (R-6th district, Mo.): 202-225-7041
- Rep. Vicky Hartzler (R-4th district, Mo.): 202-225-2876
- Sen. Pat Roberts (R-Kan.): 202-224-4774
- Sen. Jerry Moran (R-Kan.): 202-224-6521
- Rep. Kevin Yoder (R-3rd district, Kan.): 202-225-2865

✂

Here is my annual membership for PeaceWorks

- Membership.....\$40
- Donor.....\$50+
- Major Donor..... \$100+
- Group Membership.... \$75
- Newsletter Only..... \$10
- Student..... \$5

mail to:
PeaceWorks
4509 Walnut St.
Kansas City, MO 64111

Send newsletter electronically

Email address.....

Name.....

Address.....

City, State, ZIP.....

Daytime phone () Evening phone ()

✂

War tax resisters' account

PeaceWorks has a tradition of encouraging people to resist war taxes. For those who choose that option, placing some funds in a specially designed escrow account can redirect that money to developing communities and groups working for justice and peace. This Q&A

is based on info from the account's administrators.

What is the Conscience and Military Tax Campaign (CMTC) Escrow Account?

This account for refused military and war taxes is a fund that, since 1980, has allowed war tax resisters to set aside refused military taxes. It contains hundreds of thousands of dollars from hundreds of depositors.

Can I get my money back?

Depositors can retrieve their money at any time (for example, to replace assets seized by the IRS). In the interim, the money is

invested in community projects, and interest is used to support peace and justice work.

How much do I withhold and deposit?

That's your decision. Some withhold a symbolic amount, such as \$1, \$10, or \$100. Regardless of the amount, each new depositor becomes one more voice for an end to militarism and

a change in government priorities.

Will the IRS know about my deposit?

Only if you tell them. All deposits to the escrow account are confidential; the pooled funds are held in CMTC's name, not that of depositors.

Where is the account located, and how do I contact its managers?

The account is administered by the St. Louis Covenant Community of War Tax Resisters. For more info, contact 314-374-7446, e-mail cmtcea@gmail.com, or visit www.nwtrcc.org.



Candidates

for PeaceWorks Board

PeaceWorks' election will be held during the PeaceWorks Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 25.

Renew your membership (see box, page 3), and come vote!

Officers, 1 year

Chairperson: Henry Stoever

Vice Chair: Patti Nelson

Treasurer: Dave Pack

Secretary: Scarlett Swall

Board Incumbents, 2 years

Jim Hannah

Ann Suellentrop

New Nominees, 2 years

Lu Mountenay

Tamara Severns

Nominating Committee, 2 years

Ann Suellentrop

Resister: 'Not guilty by reason of sanity'

PeaceWorks member Charles Carney, one of five Nov. 6 civil resisters to KC's new nuclear weapons parts plant, told a judge Jan. 17 that he would not simply plead *guilty* of trespass and request community service. "I would like to plead *not guilty* by reason of sanity," Carney told Municipal Court Judge Elena Franco at the hearing. He asked for two minutes to explain his plea. Franco said no but arranged for a trial at 1:30 p.m. Feb. 21—Carney's day in court.

Three other defendants submitted pleas of guilty and received sentences of 25 hours of community service in their local areas. They are Jim Hannah of Independence, Mo., a PeaceWorks Board member; Erica Weiland of Seattle; and Kima Garrison of Portland, Ore. A fifth trespasser, Jason Rawn of Union, Maine, spent the night of Nov. 6 in jail, and was released on time served.

After the hearing, Carney said that as a psychiatric social worker,

he assists people with mental illnesses, helping them secure housing and work. "While I see drastic cuts in funding for those who struggle with mental illness, the state has no problems with funding the real insanity—that of the escalation of nuclear weapons," he said. "I personally don't feel I did anything wrong" in trespassing at the new plant site Nov. 6.

PeaceWorks members and KC Peace Planters can offer Carney "court support" Feb. 21.

Study projects more jobs for non-nuke products

By Jane Stoever

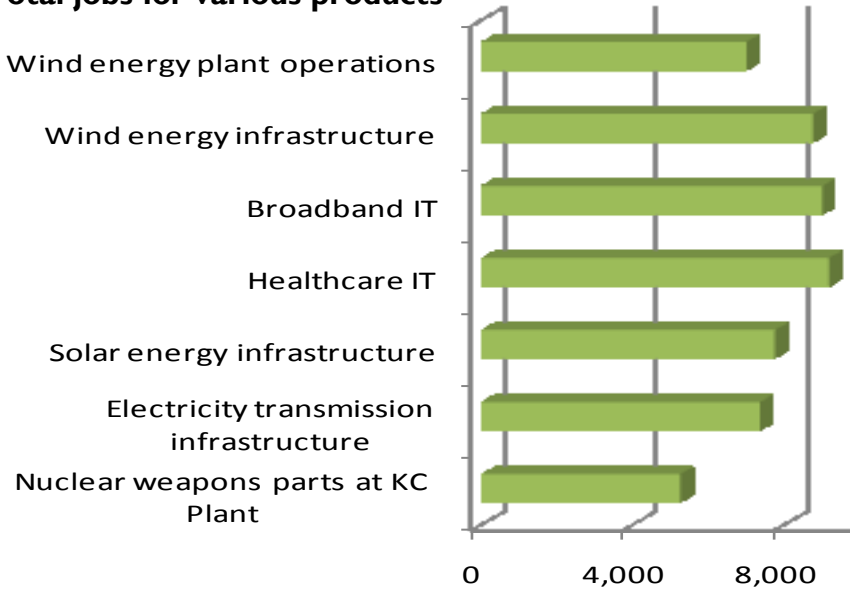
Two economists have projected numbers of jobs generated by producing parts for nuclear weapons and by making other products. Guess what? Creating other products yields more jobs.

The economists' study, written last year, takes a base of 2,500 direct jobs at the new Kansas City Plant, where nuclear weapons parts are expected to be produced beginning next year. The actual number of jobs at the KC Plant is likely to be closer to 2,000, but for comparison purposes, the economists used that baseline for various products.

Each projection adds direct jobs plus indirect jobs (jobs of those who produce goods or services used at the company and purchased or leased by the company) plus induced jobs (such as dry cleaners and grocery store clerks—those hired by the employees in daily life).

For the paper by Dr. Teresa Nelson, a researcher, and Dr.

Total jobs for various products



Lloyd Jeff Dumas, a professor at the University of Dallas at Texas, visit "Resources" at <http://kcnukeswatch.wordpress.com>. The authors note, "It is possible that an alternative to nuclear weapons production could utilize nearly the same facility (the new KC Plant), perhaps with retrofitting or some

additional construction, but it is not possible to judge this without a technical and architectural assessment."

Retrofitting isn't new here. The current KC Plant was retrofitted in the late 1940s from producing jet engines to making nuclear weapons parts.



To hide federal debt, a new nuclear weapons plant uses Kansas City's bonds.
foolish-investment.com

Bumper sticker blitz!

Here a bumper sticker, there a bumper sticker, everywhere a bumper sticker.

Display your "no" to future funding deals between the city and the nuclear weapons production industry. Request any of three *free* bumper stickers from Rachel MacNair at 816-753-2057 or rachel_macnair@yahoo.com.

Israeli officers to reissue 1978 letter

Last November, *Houston Peace News* carried the following short item quoting a 1978 Israeli officer's letter and noting its revival:

"A government that prefers the existence of settlements beyond the Green Line to the resolution of our historic conflict and the creation of

normal relationships in our region will make us question the justice of our cause. We are aware of Israel's security needs and the difficulties it faces on the road to peace. But we know that true security will only be reached with the arrival of peace."

This is from the 1978 "Officer's Letter" that gave birth to Israel's Peace Now movement. The letter is to be reissued to PM (Prime Minister Benjamin) Netanyahu with hundreds of signatures of reserve Israeli Defense Force officers.



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PEACEWORKS FEBRUARY 2012

Calendar

Col. Ann Wright, 2/20 talk at All Souls, 7:30 pm, on drones and the risks of U.S. foreign policy.

Civil resister's trial, 2/21, 1:30 pm (see story, p. 4).

City Hall hearing on peace petitions, 2/22, 1:30 pm.

Nonviolence training with Occupy KC, 4-6 pm, 2/25, St. Mark Hope & Peace, 38th & Troost.

Alliance for Nuclear Accountability DC Days, 25th anniversary, 3/18-21, training/lobbying re nuclear weapons & energy; register by 2/29 for early-bird fee (\$150, but only \$50 for students, plus low-cost housing + \$10 for pizza party); contact Ann Suellentrop, 913-271-7925, annsuellen@gmail.com.

PeaceWorks Annual Meeting, Sunday, 3/25, 2-4 pm, Simpson House, 4509 Walnut.

Pace e Bene workshop 3/30-31, Fri. night (6-10 pm) & Sat. (9 am-5 pm), at Breaking the

Silence, Reardon Civic Center, 520 Minnesota Ave., KC, KS; nonviolence training with a leader of Pace e Bene, which teaches and engages in nonviolent resistance.

From War Economy to Meeting People's Needs: Resistance Retreat, led by Pace e Bene's Veronica Pelicarić (+ a Chicago Catholic Worker) 4/13-15, Fri. night (5 pm-9 pm) & Sat. (9-9) & Sun. (9-noon or so), at Cristo Rey-KC, 211 W. Linwood; resistance at nuke-parts plant entry, 11 am Sunday, 4/16; resisters overnight in jail (?); *resisters + supporters needed*; contact Jane Stoever, 913-206-4088, janepstoever@yahoo.com.

Likely: Ray McGovern, columnist/former CIA analyst, at All Souls Forum, 10-11 am 5/6.

NATO/G8 Summit, Chicago, 5/19-21, contact Jane.

UNplaza Art Fair, 9/22-23, on the grounds of All Souls; PeaceWorks' one annual fundraiser; contact Patti Nelson, 816-591-5834, peacefulpatti@gmail.com.



**Get Kansas City out of the
nuclear weapons business**
foolish-investment.com

Get a free bumper sticker! See story, page 5.