



Go to www.wichitapeace.org for our updated website and latest calendar!

Contact us to receive the weekly email calendar or this newsletter at 316.263.5886 or email admin@wichitapeace.org to join our list
Like us on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/WichitaPeace>

August 2016

25% of US residents are immigrants or the children of immigrants

JENI's Voter Registration Drive Targets Ex-felons and Immigrant Citizens



(Photo-C. Eckels, KMWU)

The Peace Center's action group, JENI (Jobs & Education-Not Incarceration) is actively registering voters, especially at mass gatherings and events and in coalitions with The League of Women Voters and Amigas de Wichita.

Every time we are out fliering and registering we still find so many people who do not know ex-felons can vote. Almost half of our new registrations have been with ex-felons, eligible when they have completed probation and parole.

JENI activists have also partnered with Amigas de Wichita for the "Adopt a Citizen" campaign to register Latino voters. We are taking the registration forms and instructions (in Spanish) into Latino businesses to give people the tools so that any US Citizens among their families and friends can get registered. These are among the first US voters in their families and the official Election Office is only open from 8 am – 5 pm.

We are expanding the campaign to get the English version of forms, instructions and envelopes to local businesses as well.

The recent victory in court of the American Civil Liberties Union and the League of Women Voters against Secretary of State Kobach's voter suppression means that new voter registrants at the DMV are NOT required to submit "proof of citizenship" for full voting rights. We encourage new registrants to get registered at the DMV when they have DL or ID business there.

School of the Americas Convergence Shifts to US/Mexico Border

SOA Watch is heading to Nogales, Arizona - Sonora for its first bi-national convergence, Oct. 7-10. The three day gathering will focus on demanding a fundamental shift in U.S. foreign policy, including vigils at the Eloy Detention Center and at the border wall, marches in Nogales and Sonora, and educational workshops in Rio Rico and Nogales. The program of events can be found at <http://www.soaw.org/border/weekend-program/>.

One of the goals of this convergence is to highlight the connections between militarized U.S. foreign policy, trade agreements that exacerbate poverty, and the failed 'war on drugs' that have caused social injustice and a refugee crisis. Instead of welcoming refugees as required under international humanitarian standards, they are treated as criminals and imprisoned for profit in the U.S. Moreover, the U.S. "solution" to the so-called child migrant crisis has been to further

militarize the borders of Mexico and Central America. Mexico now deports more Central Americans than the U.S. does.

The Peace & Social Justice Center's Latin America Action Group is excited to be a part of this first SOA Watch Border Mobilization. We will leave early morning on Thursday, October 6 and return by Monday noon, October 10. We need to recruit 40 people to make a bus trip affordable, so let's fill a busload to the border convergence!



Wichita Coalition Against Gun Violence Calls for Repeal of "Campus Carry"

In 2015 a bill allowing concealed carry loaded guns on college campuses without a permit was passed in the Kansas Legislature 65 to 57, even though student governments in Kansas public universities passed resolutions opposing guns on campus. This is particularly scary in Kansas where anyone can carry guns or assault weapons with no licensing, mental health or background checks.

Kansas Coalition for a Gun Free Campus Co-President Meagen Youngdahl believes "The mere presence of firearms or perceived presence of

firearms creates an environment of fear and intimidation that makes it impossible to have real open discourse." In a Board of Regents survey, 82% of university employees object to guns on campus and opposition continues to grow. "Campus Carry" will go into effect in Kansas colleges and universities in July 2017, unless the next legislature takes action to repeal.

Repeal of "Campus Carry" is the top priority for the Wichita Coalition Against Gun Violence and Mom's Demand Action for Gun Sense in America.

Censorship Can't Stop Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement

The Palestine Study Group watched "The Occupation of the American Mind" last month. This recent film shows how pressure from the Israel Lobby has succeeded in recent decades in keeping the media mostly quiet about the true outrages of Israeli policy, mostly quiet about what Palestinians under occupation face daily.

This worked well for decades, but recently much more information is getting out about Israeli actions. Through social media the horrors Israel inflicted on Gaza last year were reported, and that in turn forced the mainstream media to notice. The BDS movement is succeeding in educating the public about the conflict because it gets some attention. As soon as attention is paid, the defenders of Israel policy find themselves defending an apartheid system. This is why there are attempts to censor this discussion by penalizing and demonizing BDS (Boycott, Disinvestment and Sanctions) activism, threatening organizations that pass resolutions supporting anything like BDS. But this just calls more attention to the situation.

And recently Black Lives Matter (BLM) activists in Ferguson made connections with Palestinians. Activists from West Bank villages Nabi Saleh and Bil'in, who have years of experience nonviolently protesting the occupation, sent the Ferguson activists advice on how to deal with teargas. This has opened up further sharing of experiences, including a recent visit by Ferguson activists to Palestine. This has increased awareness of the Palestinian struggle for justice.

Representatives of Dream Defenders, Black Lives Matter and activists from Ferguson visit Palestine in January



As part of the continuing call to **Ground the Drones, End the Wars**, two former military drone operators will be coming to Wichita in late October to speak about their experiences. We will announce the dates as the plans become available. More than 10,000 people worldwide have been killed by US drone strikes. Four Air Force veterans who piloted drones sent a letter last November to President Obama: "The innocent civilians we were killing only fueled the feelings of hatred that ignited terrorism and groups like ISIS, while also serving as a fundamental recruitment tool," and "The administration and its predecessors have built a drone program that is one of the most devastating driving forces for terrorism and destabilization around the world."

**Peace & Social Justice
Education Fund
1407 N. Topeka Street
Wichita, Kansas 67214**

Address Service Requested

Education Fund Board:

Dorlan Bales, Treasurer	Hannah Johns
Janice Bradley	James Lynch, Secretary
Pat Cameron, Chair	Patrick Miller
Beverly Danley	Steve Otto
Kayla Whitley	Russ Pataky

Peace Center Board:

Michael Aumack, Treasurer	Terry Tedman
Janice Bradley, Co-chair	Rannfrid Thelle
Pat Cameron	Laura Tillem, Co-chair
Leah Danner-Garcia	

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
WICHITA KANSAS
PERMIT NO 281

Upcoming Events

- **Palestine Study Group**
Thursday, September 15, 7:00 pm
- **JENI Meeting**
Wednesday, August 31, 5:30 pm
- **Latin America Action Group**
Monday, September 12, 5:30 pm

All above meet at the Peace Center

- **People of Faith for Peace**
Thursday, August 25th, 8:00 am
R Coffee House, 11th & Bitting
- **Mobilization to the US/Mexico Border**
October 6–10, Thursday-Monday
Nogales, Arizona/Sonora
- **Volunteer for Voter Registration with JENI**
Upcoming events through Oct 18, 2016
- **Wichita Common Humanity Preview of "Building Bridges" The Looking Glass**
August 1 - 26, M – F, 10:00 - 5:00 pm,
Cadmen Gallery, Rhatigan Student Center,
WSU