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November 2016

"We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope."
Martin Luther King, Jr.

People will resist bigotry, greed and tyranny



Love trumps Hate rally at Oldtown, photo by Julian Kinkaid

The election results have emboldened some to act on hatred toward people different from themselves. This is frightening but throughout the US people are gathering together in large and small groups in public squares and living rooms to show solidarity with the targets of hate. Students at over 100 campuses have declared their schools as sanctuary campuses to protect immigrants from deportation.

In Wichita hundreds of people rallied in Oldtown on Nov 11 under the banner of "Love Trumps Hate". Monday people showed up to the WSU Plaza of Heroines for a similar statement. The WSU event was so big, the organizers had to move the gathering to a larger area at Rhatigan Student Center. 500 Topeka High students marched Nov 16 to the state Capitol supporting unity in their diversity.

Solidarity with Native Americans and their struggle against exploitation and for human rights

The Peace Center was honored to be a collection site for supplies recently taken by truck to the water protectors in Standing Rock, ND. Locals donated food, hygienic supplies, super warm gear and a small gas heat stove. The Native Americans' fight against the Dakota Access Pipe Line (DAPL) has led to historic unity between over one hundred tribal groups in the US and world. The pipeline construction has disturbed and destroyed sacred sites and is routed to go under the Missouri River, the source for drinking water for millions of people in several states. Peaceful water protectors have been met with violent attacks by security and police forces hired by the pipeline company Energy Transfer Partners. The water protectors vow to continue their resistance and they are building their camp to withstand the brutal North Dakota winter. Join us for **"Wichita Stands with Standing Rock," Sat, Nov 19, 11am-2pm**, University Congregational Church, 9209 E 29th St N. See the needed supply list here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/691519727678151/>



What to do if you have earthquake damage

The fracking industry and its wastewater injection process are causing the bigger earthquakes we are feeling regularly in Kansas. The biggest earthquakes originate in Oklahoma where regulation is almost non-existent. Earthquake damage to homes, buildings, underground and aboveground infrastructure is serious. People can report to the US Geological Survey when they feel the quake. If you have damage, our local Sierra Club chapter asks that you photograph and summarize the damage and send your report to stopthequakes.com.



For a fundamental shift in U.S. foreign policy

In October, Peace Center members traveled to Nogales for the School of the Americas (Watch) Border Convergence which included hundreds demonstrating at the Eloy Immigrant Detention Center, a private prison run by CoreCivic formerly Corrections Corp. of America. The convergence highlighted 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.

Corporate jailers stocks spike in the new Trump Department of Justice

Two months ago the Justice Department decided to end the use of the private facilities for its inmates. Justice Department officials concluded that private prisons are not as safe or effective at providing correctional services as those run by the government. Nor do they save any money. Corrections company stocks nosedived, but have rebounded due to Donald Trump's election. Investors now believe that, in Trump's administration, private facilities will be essential in a large-scale deportation plan.

They also say that Trump could push to reverse the Justice Department plan. Trump's new attorney general could do this by continuing and extending contracts with the prison operators rather than letting them expire as now planned. This will be a cash bonanza for the private prison operators. After Trump's victory, the U.S.'s two largest private prison companies, CoreCivic and the Geo Group, saw the value of their stocks make a comeback. Shares of CoreCivic, (formerly Corrections Corporation of America) rose 43 percent, GEO's shares increased 21 percent. The private prison industry profits greatly from mass incarceration of citizens and immigrants, pays its employees poorly and has no place in a country that calls itself free.

November 18, 2016

Dear Friend,

The 2016 elections are finally over. No matter which of the Presidential candidates had been elected, the Peace and Social Justice Center would be facing many opportunities to speak out for justice and peace.

But the election of Donald Trump represents an unprecedented assault on the values that we stand for. From immigration to equality, racial justice, women's rights, health care, prison reform, climate change, the anti-war movement and Palestinian human rights, so many of the people and issues we've fought so hard for are in jeopardy with the Trump administration.

More than ever before, we need each other. Together, we can bring that alternative voice that stands for core values of justice, equality, freedom, and peace. We ask you to stand with us in these difficult times.

We also ask for your financial support to sustain the crucial work that lies before us. Your year-end gift of \$1,000, \$500, \$100, \$30, or whatever you can afford will provide the resources we need to face the challenging year ahead.

Finally, we ask you to remain hopeful. The Annual Dinner, Friday, December 2, at Lorraine Ave. Mennonite Church provides an opportunity to hear Maxine Phillips, former executive editor of *Dissent Magazine* and a vice chair of Democratic Socialists of America. (see announcement below). Maxine will speak about strategies for supporting undocumented immigrants and changing U.S. policy. We will also host a workshop for activists on Saturday with Maxine to process the work ahead of us. We hope to see you at both events.

In Solidarity,

Pat Cameron

Laura Tillem

Janice Bradley

**Peace & Social Justice
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MAXINE PHILLIPS SPEAKS ON
"NO SAFE HAVEN: FORCED MIGRATIONS
AND U.S. IMMIGRATION POLICY"

Peace Center Annual Dinner

No Safe Haven:

Forced Migrations and US Immigration Policy

Maxine Phillips, daughter of an Italian immigrant, was raised on stories of both opportunity for and opposition to immigrants. Her church, Judson Memorial in New York, works with the New Sanctuary Movement to protect and advocate for immigrants facing deportation. She is former executive editor of *Dissent Magazine* and a vice chair of Democratic Socialists of America. For many years, she was co-editor of the magazine *Religious Socialism* and currently serves as a volunteer co-editor of the blog religioussocialism.org/ and the print newsletter *Democratic Left*. Maxine will speak about strategies for supporting undocumented immigrants and changing U.S. policy. Dinner is \$25. Please RSVP at **316 263-5886**. Seating is limited. On December 3, at noon, we will host an activist workshop with Maxine at SEIU, 3340 W Douglas.