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Nov/Dec 2018

**Kansas is Coming Back**

## Claudia Amaro to Speak at the Peace Center Annual Dinner Friday, December 7 "A Community Raising its Voice"

Claudia Amaro is a leading activist and organizer in the Latino community of Wichita. Part of her story is featured in three books including *Dreamers: An Immigrant Generation's Fight for Their American Dream*. Claudia has a weekly community radio show on La Raza 99.7 FM, called *Planeta Venus*. Every Monday night she invites members of the community to come on the show to share their stories. *Planeta Venus* is one of the few media that inform the Latino community about local events and news.



Claudia developed the Adopt-a-Citizen campaign which organized Latinos to register new voters in their families whether or not they were able to vote themselves.

In addition, Peace Center board member Dr. Rannfrid Thelle will help us celebrate last year's Nobel Prize award to The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). ICAN is a coalition of non-governmental organizations in one hundred countries. By harnessing the power of the people, they have worked to bring an end to the most destructive weapon ever created – the only weapon that poses an existential threat to all humanity. Dinner is \$25. Seating is limited. Please RSVP at 316 263-5886.

## Voting Rights Advocates Tackle Kobach's Voter Suppression

The Peace and Social Justice Education fund is wrapping up work on an Impact Grant from the Kansas Health Foundation for civic engagement—



*Vote to Protect Your Right to Vote.* Activists worked to register new voters--youth, Latinos, ex-felons and others who

generally do not vote and implemented a voter education project with get out the vote actions with Latino and other first time voters.

The requirement for proof of citizenship for voter registration was struck down by Federal Judge Robinson in mid June ending a huge hurdle

which resulted in voter suspension of up to 30,000 Kansans. We are grateful for the ACLU, League of Women Voters and the Brennan Center for Justice for their efforts in the court case against Kris Kobach's voter suppression.



Claudia Amaro training leaders in voter education

The Peace and Social Justice Education Fund supports this work and congratulates people all over Kansas for electing officials who will hopefully now enable the expansion of Medicaid in Kansas and other reforms that will benefit other safety net programs as well as our schools, justice system, and environment.

[Photo Credits: Carla Eckels, KMUM]

## Self-Determination for Koreans

We in the US are in a difficult situation for understanding current relations with North Korea. South Korea's people have repeatedly and emphatically expressed their choice to end the state of war with North Korea. They want to normalize economic and cultural relations, enable family reunions, take advantage of the economic opportunities normalization would bring for both parts of Korea. They want to determine for themselves how to relate to North Korea. They most definitely do not fear being invaded and taken over by North Korea. They see that the poverty and terrible repression in North Korea cannot be remedied by isolating North Korea further.

The South Korean people realize that the only path to security for both Koreas is to step back from the war footing that has been maintained since

1953, and end the sanctions which have isolated and punished the North.

While leaders of both Koreas are in substantial agreement on how to secure peace through normalization and mutual respect, several obstacles stand in the way. The hawkish Trump cabinet, the military funded think tanks, and the weapons industry assume the US can always dictate solutions by showing off military force. Our gullible media is parroting those voices, as happened in the run-up to the Iraq War.

In addition, many Democrats are so eager to attack Trump that they are actually demanding continued sanctions and military pressure against North Korea. This disrespect for the South Korean desire for peace is irresponsible and ignorant.

## Film Series on the Israel Lobby's Attempts to Undermine Support for Palestinian Rights

Recent attempts to silence the voices in support of Palestinians are self-defeating because they call attention to the injustices that our politicians and media fail to address.

There is particular emphasis on preventing student organizations from taking up the issue. At UCLA the administration sent a "cease and desist" letter the SJP, Students for Justice in Palestine, to stop an upcoming conference. But they had to back off when nearly 200 UCLA students and faculty signed a letter calling on the university "to refrain from interfering against the planned NSJP conference." Palestine Legal and the ACLU warned administrators against racist mischaracterizations of

SJP's conference and violating SJP students' first amendment rights.

In 2017 Al Jazeera produced a four-part documentary about the efforts of the Israel government and the US Israel lobby to undermine this movement, by spying on, smearing, and disrupting American students and other activists. The movie has not been broadcast because of pressure from the government of Qatar, which funds Al Jazeera. But it is now available at The Electronic Intifada and on YouTube. We will show each 48 minute part every two weeks at the Peace Center, starting Monday January 28 at 7 pm. (See event below)

## SOAW Activists Defend Those Fleeing US Supported State Violence

For 28 years, the School of the Americas Watch (SOAW) has exposed and protested the illegal and violent interventions by the US in Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and Latin Americas. On November 16-18 SOAW converged on the US/Mexico border in Nogales, Arizona/Sonora for their *3rd Border Encuentro, Dismantle Border Imperialism: Fight, Create, Power to the People*.

At this moment, the Central American Migrant Exodus for Life of over 13,000 asylum seekers, including 2,500 children, is fleeing political violence. In a draconian response, US Empire is deploying up to 6,000 soldiers to the US/Mexico border. In addition, Trump has signed a proclamation that violates international human rights laws by denying the right to seek asylum to anyone that does not

use an official port of entry. The traumatic experience of migration is not new, and continues to be a direct result of US political, military and economic interventions.

The United States is not interested in preserving borders for safety, but instead is criminalizing migration and immigration in order to scapegoat those fleeing from US-supported state violence. The real motivations for the Asylum Ban are similar to the Muslim Ban: xenophobia and white supremacy.



Women and children seeking asylum at the US/Mexico border

**Peace & Social Justice  
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## Upcoming Events

### Peace and Social Justice Center Annual Dinner

Friday, December 7, 6:00 pm

Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church, 655 S Lorraine Ave

RSVP at 316 263-5886 or [director@wichitapeace.org](mailto:director@wichitapeace.org)

### Censored Film Series on the Israel Lobby– 4 parts

Mondays, January 28

February 11

February 25

March 11

7:00 pm at the Peace Center, 1407 N Topeka



We are thankful for your generous support. Please remember the Peace and Social Justice Education Fund for your tax deductible end-of-year donation.

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