



Veterans For Peace - Chapter 93

January 2020 Newsletter

... The Utah Phillips – J. David Singer Chapter

Serving Washtenaw, Livingston, Hillsdale, Lenawee and Jackson Counties

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www.vfp93.org or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/VFP93

1. VFP Chapter 93 Giving Presentation At Eastern Michigan University, University of Michigan & The Main Ann Arbor Public Library To Commemorate Martin Luther King Day On January 20th

Our VFP Chapter will be giving a set of workshop talks at Martin Luther King Day celebrations on Monday, January 20th. The theme of the VFP presentations will be “What They Didn’t Want Martin To Talk About: War & Militarism.” The presentations will be at the following locations and times on January 20th, 2020...

- Eastern Michigan University – January 20th at 8:30am -. [Student Center](https://www.emich.edu/mlk/schedule/academic-programs.php) Room 320 – January 20 - Further details at www.emich.edu/mlk/schedule/academic-programs.php.
- University of Michigan - Ann Arbor – January 20th at 2:00pm - Wolverine Room - Michigan League - 911 North University Drive, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109 (map at <https://goo.gl/maps/QiqUMSE1KoC2>). Further details at <http://oami.umich.edu/um-mlk-symposium/events/> (scroll down to 1/20/2020 events that start at 2pm and look for “What They Didn’t Want Martin...”)
- Ann Arbor Public Library – January 20 at 7:00pm - Main Library - 343 South Fifth Avenue (map at <https://goo.gl/maps/q8CAyErdfbJovPLf8>) – Fourth Floor Meeting Room. Details at <https://aadl.org/node/393654>.

Before Dr. King’s tragic death in 1968, he was speaking out more and more against war even though many criticized him for doing so. Even today, on Martin Luther King Day, it is quite uncommon for any mention of his thoughts on war as such teachings still make people uncomfortable.

In some respects, the legacy of Martin Luther King Day has become that of “safe” and non-controversial events and speeches. Rarely these days is anything ever said about Dr. King’s thoughts on how “the giant triplets” threatening the human race include not only racism and poverty, but also war, and how these triplets are all interrelated. As often seen in wars, the “other side” is labeled “not like us” (racism) and countries boost military spending yet cut social programs (poverty).

In 1967, when Dr. King gave his famous speech, “Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence,” he observed how unpopular speaking against militarism was. He said that people asked him, “Why are you speaking about the war, Dr. King? Why are you joining the voices of dissent? Peace and civil rights don’t mix....” How true his observation remains today, in that to speak out against military solutions is once again called unpatriotic.

With that said, the Veterans For Peace talk “What They Did Not Want Martin Talking About” concentrates on his speeches and teachings relating to war and militarism, showing them as relevant today as they were over 50 years ago. All events are open to the public. For more on Martin Luther King, war and militarism, [click here](#)

2. Veterans For Peace Chapter 93 Meeting – Saturday, January 18, 2020

The next VFP Chapter 93 meeting is scheduled for Saturday, January 18th at 10am. Meetings are at the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation building, 4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Road, just south of Ann Arbor and not far from I-94. The meeting site offers free parking. For directions to the meeting location, go to <http://www.uuaa.org/directions-and-transportation>. Everyone welcome, veteran or not! The meeting agenda is as follows...

1. Introductions and welcome
2. General Business
 - a. Previous meeting minutes
 - b. Treasury report
 - c. Membership
 - d. VFP 93 Calendar
 - e. Other

3. Old & continuing business
 - a. Honorary Chapter member program
 - b. Counter-recruiting/Opt-out
 - c. VFP 93 & countering Trump actions locally
 - d. VFP Dingell meeting
 - e. VFP at Washtenaw Council of Veterans meetings
 - f. Other
4. New Business
 - a. Mother's Day – ICPJ & VFP
 - b. Other
5. Projects
 - a. Peace Studies Scholarship
 - b. MLK Day
 - c. Peace Pole – WSU in 2020
 - d. Ann Arbor Art Fair
 - e. John Lennon Concert
 - f. John Lennon Concert CD
 - g. Arlington Michigan
 - h. Other
6. Upcoming events – Next meeting – February 16
7. Announcements/Adjournment

3. VFP Chapter 93 Meeting Minutes – December 21, 2019

The meeting took up at 10:01 and ended at 11: 13. Present were Bob Krzewinski, Bill Shea, Mike Muha, Lynn Gilbert, J. T. Ramelis, Ken Parks, Charles Pekarek, and visitor Diane Zahn, who spoke about the proposed music CD project.

General Business:

- A. The previous minutes had been corrected to name the local VA Hospital hospitality house; Diane's last name was also erroneous.
- B. The treasury holds \$9,282 including the City refund for the use of Vets Park and a donation. Mike reported that the Chapter has awarded \$22,750 total in Peace Scholarships since the program began. MIKE will send Bob a list of the scholars' names.
- C. Bob reported that the membership remains at 26 less 4 lapsed members.
- D. Looking at the Chapter calendar, Bob called attention to the anniversary of the Christmas truce during World War I, and to the MLK talks and issuance of the IRS-990 forms in January.

Old and Continuing Business:

- A. Bob checked with National about making the U.-U. Church of Ann Arbor, where the Chapter meets, an honorary member. National's instinct was to run the question past the board. Bob and those present agreed simply to go ahead and do it.
- B. No one present got downtown to the impeachment rally held in Ann Arbor on December 17.
- C. Political activism: National is lobbying for the repeal of the Authorization for the Use of Force that was issued at the start of the war in Afghanistan. Bob reminded those present that the local U.S. Rep. Debbie Dingell had co-sponsored the Agent Orange bill and voted against the National Defense Authorization Act. We were reminded also that the Defense Department has never been audited, contrary to Federal law. The Department does not know where its money goes. BOB will try to catch Dingell on a visit to her district, to thank her and ask for further anti-militarism action.
- D. BILL will follow up with the Washtenaw Council of Veterans, with a view to attending some of their meetings to publicize VFP.
- E. MIKE is keeping in touch with vets in Lansing and will advise them as they form a chapter.
- F. BOB will get the contact info for former Chapter President Arnie, now in Chicago, to Charlie Pekarek, who is moving there in March.
- G. Chapter Contacts calls: anyone may join in. Bob gets notices of the calls, but LYNN should continue to forward the e-mail notices of them.
- H. LYNN will resume contacts with school districts for Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti in January, to ask to table at their College/Career Fairs in Spring, assuming they hold fairs.

New Business:

- A. In the absence of any volunteers for office, the present officers agreed to serve another year.

- B. Chapter CD of music culled from several years' John Lennon benefit concerts at The Ark: Diane Zahn has the details well in hand, but will review her notes on costs and update her figures in time for the next Chapter meeting. There is a volunteer to do graphics, and Diane will donate \$250 toward production. She suggested tapping the Chapter mailing lists for further donations; we could, e.g., ask for a \$30 donation and furnish a CD to each donor. There are companies which see to royalties, for a small fee. Mike noted that the National merchandise store carries CDs and might carry the Chapter's. Costs will be about \$1200; if CDs sell for \$15 each and the initial run is 200, the net profit would amount to about \$1800 for the scholarship fund.
- C. The Chapter agreed to go ahead with the project, pending firmer cost figures; Bob noted that we want to be clear with Yoko Ono before proceeding with her late husband's songs on CD.

Projects:

- A. A. Bill reported that there are no new scholarship applications; he will contact Fred Pearson at Wayne State about aps after Christmas. BILL and BOB will probably visit the peace studies programs at WSU in February and MSU in March.
- B. Everything is on track for MLK Day talks next month, including one at Swords into Plowshares in Detroit on January 12 at 2:00 p.m. The Chapter was given the early-morning time slot again at Eastern Michigan University. BOB and BILL will get together January 7 to prepare their presentation on King's anti-militarism at the time of the Viet Nam War.
- C. A Peace Pole will be installed at WSU to celebrate the 55th anniversary of their peace studies program, but a date has not yet been set. MIKE will follow up with Fred Pearson and also ask him what languages would be most appropriate to add to the pole, in view of the WSU student body ethnicities.
- D. Ann Arbor Art Fairs: Bill, who serves on their board, reported that they are working toward 501(c)(3) status with the IRS.
- E. A letter reporting the success of the 2019 John Lennon Concert was sent to Yoko Ono via her attorney. MIKE will send out via Google drive a list of suggested possible improvements to next year's concert.
- F. BILL will follow up with the Ark about a date for 2020 and with Chris Buhalis about continuing to MC the show and whether the artists might be invited to perform peace songs of their own composition.
- G. Arlington Michigan: BOB will contact other chapters about their experience with the plastic headstones under consideration to replace crosses in the annual Vets Day display.

Upcoming Events:

- A. BOB will try to find out if the film "Peace Pox" will be shown locally. Mike remarked on the current interest in World War I with the films "1917" and "They Will Not Grow Old," the latter made from old black and white stills and footage, colorized and given voice-overs and available through the Ann Arbor public library. Ken Parks recommended "Jojo Rabbit" as a strong anti-war film.
- B. Mike is going to Viet Nam and Laos; he will send pictures and copy to add to the website.
- C. The next Chapter meeting will be January 18 at 10:00 a.m. at the U.-U. Church of Ann Arbor.

4. Chapter Officer Elections

At its December meeting VFP Chapter 93 members elected its officers for the 2020 calendar year with Lynn Gilbert elected as Secretary, Mike Muha as Treasurer, Bill Shea as Vice-Chair and Bob Krzewinski as Chair.

5. Scholarship Awards History

The VFP Chapter 93 Peace Scholarship program has now been in existence since September 2006 and has awarded nearly \$23,000 in educational grants. The Scholarships, out of an endowment provided by Yoko Ono to Veterans For Peace, are awarded to college students enrolled in a peace studies or conflict resolution related program. Awards are given to either Michigan residents, or students enrolled at a Michigan college, with a preference given to military veterans. For a list of scholarship awards, visit <https://tinyurl.com/VFP93-2019ScholarshipAwards>.

6. Our VFP Chapter Can Use Your Help

Currently our VFP Chapter has only a few people doing all the work and projects and to say we could use help is an understatement. Most of these jobs don't take up that much time at all, and would help out the Chapter immensely. One thing we are trying to promote is for people to sign up for a "volunteer email list". We always need extra people to help staff events like the Arlington Michigan display on Memorial/Veterans Day or the VFP booth at Earth Day or the Ann Arbor Art Fair. Just tell us you want to be on the volunteer e-mail list and when an event date starts rolling around, we will email you to see if you can help out. If you can, great. If not, we understand. Even if you are not a veteran, we could still use your help. To be placed on the "volunteer email list", just send an email to Bob Krzewinski at wolverbob@gmail.com and he will get back in touch with you. Thanks in advance for your consideration of this request!!!

7. Announcement, Anniversaries & Reminders

January 18 (Saturday) - National Women's March (Washington DC) and Michigan Sister Marches

For more information, go to <https://womensmarch.com/home2020>

Support Those Who Supported Us For Our John Lennon Concert!

We again thank our musical artists who are contributing their talent to make our 2019 John Lennon benefit concert a success and urge you to support them throughout the year by attending their performances and purchasing their recordings. Visit <https://www.vfp93.org/john-lennon-concert> for a listing of concert musicians.

Area Peace Events Calendar

The Ann Arbor based Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice – www.icpj.org - has their own peace event calendar at <http://tinyurl.com/cose9d>

VFP 93 On Facebook

Veterans For Peace Chapter 93 now has a Facebook page. To sign up, just visit <https://www.facebook.com/VFP93>

Swords Into Plowshares Gallery

Open Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 1pm to 4pm at [33 East Adams](#) (near Woodward) and next to Comerica Park in downtown Detroit. Free parking is available in the Central United Methodist Church parking lot on the west side of the Center. If parking lot attendants are present, please tell them you are going to the Gallery. For more information, including a map to the Gallery in downtown Detroit, and exhibit updates, visit www.swordsintoplowsharesdetroit.org.

Michigan Peace Network - <http://michiganpeacenetwork.org/>

A Simple Way To Promote VFP - Wear Your VFP T-Shirt!

Help spread the word about Veterans For Peace by wearing a VFP t-shirt, sweatshirt or button around your town or in your travels. Not only does this introduce the public to the fact that there are veterans who stand for peace, but can help bring additional veterans into the organization. Don't have a VFP t-shirt or button? Order them by visiting <http://veterans-for-peace-online-store.myshopify.com/> (secure, online sales available).

Car Donations To Help The Chapter

If anyone has a car to donate, the Chapter would appreciate it be given to Charity Motors 888-908-2277. They pick it up anywhere and will give 70% of the sell price to our Chapter. The car can be in any condition.

GI Rights Hotline

If you know someone in the military who is seeking a discharge due to a hardship, conscientious objection, homosexual conduct, medical, or psychological problems, or is in the delayed entry program, has not reported for boot camp, and wants out of the military, contact the GI Rights Hotline at <http://girightshotline.org/en/> or calling them at 877-447-4487.