



Veterans For Peace - Chapter 93

November 2019 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. Veterans For Peace Chapter 93 Meeting – Saturday, November 16th

The next VFP Chapter 93 meeting is scheduled for Saturday, November 16th 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
 - March For Housing 11/17 in Ann Arbor
 - d. VFP/ICPJ/Dingell meeting
 - e. VFP at Washtenaw Council of Veterans meetings
 - f. [Rotary Peace In The Streets](#) – Detroit (Report)
 - g. Other
4. New Business
 - a. 2020 goal-setting
 - b. Lansing – Veterans And The Cost Of War event
 - c. December 2020 Chapter Officer elections
 - d. Other
5. Projects
 - a. Peace Studies Scholarship
 - b. MLK Day
 - c. Peace Pole – WSU in 2020 – Delivery and installation
 - d. Ann Arbor Art Fair
 - e. John Lennon Concert
 - f. Arlington Michigan
 - g. Other
6. Upcoming events – Next meeting – December 21
7. Announcements/Adjournment

2. VFP Chapter 93 Meeting Minutes – Saturday, August 17, 2019

Present were Bob Krzewinski, Bill Shea, Mike Muha, Lynn Gilbert, Steve Morehouse, Ken Parks, and Dave Gilbert from Rotary Club. The meeting commenced at 10:02 and ended at 11:09. Present were Bob Krzewinski, Bill Shea, Mike Muha, Lynn Gilbert, Steve Morehouse, Ken Parks, and Dave Gilbert from Rotary Club. The meeting commenced at 10:02 and ended at 11:09.

General Business:

- a) The previous meeting's minutes were accepted.
- b) Mike reported that the net profit of the John Lennon Concert were \$4,220.59, after fees at the Ark venue and an honorarium to Chris Buhalis and other expenses. The Chapter received the refund of fees from the Art Fairs. It was suggested that next year, the Ark be asked to ad the event to their ads and have

change available for our sale of merchandise at the event. BOB will send Mike and e-mail about getting our reimbursement from Wix. There is no fee for taking part in Peace in the Streets.

- c) BOB will ask VFP National for an updated membership report. National sends out renewal requests to unpaid-up members.
- d) Mike reported that the UU-AA Church, where the Chapter holds most of its meetings, will be delighted to make our Chapter one of its official church group under auspices of the Social Justice committee, which will enable the Chapter to have a meeting space free of charge as well as access to other spaces at the Church. They also asked what financial support we might need; the consensus was to mention fees we must pay, such as for the Art Fairs and Earth Day tabling, and ask what the committee would like to fund, if any.

Old and Continuing Business:

- a) Those present discussed nominating the UU Church for honorary Chapter membership. The consensus of discussion was that this would be different in nature from honoring ICPJ and BOB said he would ask Shelly at National for policy guidance.
- b) LYNN needs to start calling the Ypsi and Ann Arbor schools people responsible for College Nights to find out their dates, usually in the spring.
- c) Members attended the Climate Strike on Friday, Sept. 20, with the VFP flag.
- d) BOB will work on a list of legislation to promote with Debbie Dingell, U.S. Rep., in a personal visit and will contact her office about a date when she is home from Washington. She should be invited to visit the Veterans Day exhibit honoring Michigan dead in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- e) No one from the Chapter attended the National Day of Action against Domestic Violence, but we did make a cash donation.
- f) Mike announced that the film Endless War would be shown on Tuesday, Oct. 22, at the Friends Meeting House in Ann Arbor, at no charge.

New Business:

- a) Bob brought up the question of goals for 2020. No one had new projects to suggest.
- b) Dave Gilbert explained the upcoming Rotary event Peace in the Streets Oct. 25-26 at Wayne State University and the University of Windsor, Ontario. Members can register for one or both days. Fred Pearson at Wayne State said not to worry about registration fees, just come and explain that we're part of the program. BOB will go early on the Friday and set up, but must leave before the program ends. Bill, Steve, and Mike will also be there; the venue is the Ballroom of the Student Union on Gullen at WSU. There are parking costs. Lots of college kids are expected on Friday. On Sunday, as an additional event, there will be Peacemaker Awards to three women at the Arab-American Museum in Dearborn.
- c) Bill noted that some local VFP Chapter are signed up with Amazon Smile such that .5% of whatever they spend is remitted to their designated charity. BILL will find out how we can get on this. Lynn noted that Kroger's has a similar program.

Projects:

- a) BOB will call EMU again about a date for an MLK Day presentation there. BILL will coordinate with Phil Larsen at U. of M. about the presentation there. BOB will ask Swords into Plowshares in Detroit if they would like the same presentation about a week before the other three.
- b) MIKE will coordinate with Fred Pearson about installation of the Peace Pole at Wayne State, transport it there, and instruct WSU's works department on installing it so that it does not tilt. A formal dedication will take place later.
- c) Some people associated with the Lennon Concert want to assemble a CD from the music played at it. The consensus was that if the Chapter name will be on it, we need to maintain some control over it and especially to avoid problems of copyright and plagiarism. BILL will explore this possibility further. It was suggested that a concert might be composed of songs of Utah Phillips, for whom the Chapter is named, in part. In the meantime, the proponents should be notified by letter that the Chapter is not giving its permission at this stage to use the VFP name.
- d) BOB will send a thank-you letter to Yoko Ono, who gave the initial funding and authorization for the annual benefit concert, to include a paragraph from one of our scholars explaining how she is making use of the funds.
- e) The ship The Golden Rule: Those involved want next to go to Cuba in observance of the 60th anniversary of the Bay of Pigs invasion. Ken Parks is backing this project and would like a scholarship from the Chapter to help him take part in it.
- f) Dave Gilbert, who lives in Chelsea, noted that Chelsea High School might like to put up a Peace Pole as one of their projects; MIKE will coordinate with him.

- g) For the Lennon Concert, there were publicity problems with Current magazine; also, the Chapter needs to coordinate about publicity with Chris Buhalis before the next concert.
- h) Veterans Day exhibit, Arlington Michigan: We should bring VFP merchandise to the site.

The meeting adjourned at 11:09. The next meeting will take place November 16 at the U-U. Church of Ann Arbor at 10:00 a.m.

3. VFP Chapter 93 Veterans/Armistice Day Arlington Michigan Display - Ann Arbor – November 11

Annual event on Monday, November 11th 11am until dusk, Veterans Park, Maple and Jackson Roads, Ann Arbor.



Veterans/Armistice Day memorial display of one marker for every Michigan soldier lost in the Iraq and Afghan wars (230). The purpose of this display is to honor those who have fallen, to provide a place to grieve, and to educate the public about the costs of war, as well as the needs of those returning from conflicts. Peace ceremony at 11am. Details at www.vfp93.org and also visit the national VFP Armistice Day web page at <https://www.veteransforpeace.org/take-action/armistice-day>. Also, if you can volunteer a few hours at the display, please contact Bob at wolverbob@gmail.com. Note: The Arlington display is at the southwest corner of Veterans Park with parking at the Veterans Memorial Ice

Arena parking lot (2312 Jackson Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI) with a map at <https://goo.gl/maps/FvfgKTujWio>.

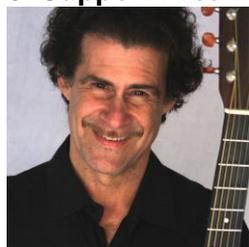
4. VFP Chapter 93 Endorses March For Housing – November 17th



Rent in Ann Arbor shot upward by 15% last year, but many don't need a statistic to prove what they have experienced for years - it's increasingly impossible for those who work in Ann Arbor to live there, too. Meanwhile, those displaced from Ann Arbor are pushing out residents of other cities, including Ypsilanti, where last year, 13% of students experienced houselessness. Altogether, almost 80,000 workers commute to Ann Arbor by car every day, which not only contributes to the fracturing of our communities, but also to the destruction of our environment. The City of Ann Arbor, and, to a large extent, the U of M, has a responsibility to provide for those who are being displaced, and must make good on their promises for affordable housing

VFP Chapter 93 will join other groups as they take to the streets and march for social housing - not housing for profit. Meet at Liberty Plaza Park, [corner of Liberty and Division](#), Ann Arbor at 1pm. Hosted by the Washtenaw General Defense Committee, Washtenaw Poor People's Campaign, Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice, Journey of Faith Church, and Huron Valley Democratic Socialists of America. For more information visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/503565396893389>.

5. Support Area Musicians Who Support Veterans For Peace – Dick Siegel At The Ark, November 9th



We again would like to thank the musical artists who performed at this year's John Lennon Birthday Benefit Concert to support our Chapter's Peace Scholarship Program. We also urge you to support these artists throughout the year by attending their performances and purchasing their recordings. A full listing of performers at the October 2019 John Lennon Concert is at www.vfp93.org/john-lennon-concert.

Along those lines, please consider attending an area musician that has appeared at the John Lennon Concerts for years, and years, Dick Siegel. Dick will be appearing at The Ark in Ann Arbor (316 S Main Street), Saturday, November 9th at 8pm. For more information, and tickets, visit <https://theark.org/shows-events/2019/nov/09/dick-siegel>. Please consider attending!

6. Veterans Week At The University Of Michigan – November 5th to the 15th

A number of great programs, most open to the public, including Student Veteran Storytelling (11/8), USS Liberty Incident Lecture and Discussion (11/11), Vietnam Panel Discussion (11/13) and Women In The Military (11/15).

Also, the keynote presentation of the week will be on 11/11 with a conversation with LTG James Clapper (USAF, retired and former Director of National Intelligence), LTG Michael Nagata (USA, retired), and Representative Elissa Slotkin (D-MI) on national security, service, and policy. This wide-ranging discussion in honor of Veterans Day will cover current national security issues, as well as the importance of public service.

For more details of Veterans Week, visit <https://vets.umich.edu/vetsweek>.

7. 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!!!

8. Announcement, Anniversaries & Reminders

November 12 (Tuesday) ICPJ Harvest Dinner

5pm to 8:30pm at Cobblestone Farm in Ann Arbor's Buhr Park. Join the Interfaith Council For Peace & Justice as they celebrate the work of social justice activists in Washtenaw County and raise some funds to make ICPJ impactful and sustainable. More details at www.icpj.org.

November 15-17 - School of The Americas Commemorative Gathering at Fort Benning, Georgia

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the [Central American University \(UCA\) massacre](#) -- one of the many atrocities that occurred in Central America as the United States funded civil wars, trained military at the SOAWHINSEC, and ensured that right-wing governments remain in power regardless of their human rights violations.

The conditions people are fleeing in Central America are a result of the training, support, and funding that the U.S. has funneled into state violence for decades. Over the last few weeks, news broke that Fort Benning -- home of the School of the Americas / WHINSEC -- is now being considered as a [detention center facility for children](#). Simultaneously, the US has deployed troops and border patrol agents to Guatemala in order to "halt migration", justifying it as "humanitarian aid". Join with members of Veterans For Peace at the School of the America's Watch for three days of activism and education at Fort Benning, in the Columbus, Georgia area and a two-day drive from southeast Michigan. For more details visit www.soaw.org. Also, a contingent from the Interfaith Council For Peace & Justice will be traveling to Fort Benning from Ann Arbor and if interested in going with the ICPJ group, please contact Info@ICPJ.org.

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 5pm 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.

Resistance Calendar

Nationwide listing of actions, protests, marches, etc. with the capability to search for events by city, state or keywords - <http://resistancecalendar.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).