

Handful of Salt

Volume XXXVI, Number 4

September-October 2012



*From the
Director's
Chair
By Liz Moore*

As much as it pains me to acknowledge this particular reality, fall is pretty much

here. This fall will see the first anniversary of the Occupy movement, on September 15. PJALS will march with Occupy Spokane at noon on that day and I hope you'll join our delegation.

The approach of fall means the Vernal Equinox is coming soon, of course. The equinoxes always make me think of that of that perhaps-Platonic ideal, balance. It seems like such a nice concept, doesn't it? It evokes order and a sense of calm and serenity, like what I imagine it must feel like to successfully perform the yoga asana called Tree Pose, standing with one foot against the opposite inner thigh, arms gracefully raised above the head. I don't actually *know* what it's like to feel Tree Pose, because I wiggle and wobble like a wanna-be toddler trying simply to stand up. But I imagine it's serene and calm, the embodiment of balance.

But I think I should be thinking of balance as a verb, not a noun. That's less

rarified and serene, but much more feasible. It's how an ecosystem stays functional, not through stasis but through moving and developing parts that dynamically act, react, and interact.

As an organization with its metaphorical thumbs in lots of pies, PJALS is in active balance mode every day. Lately I've been thinking about how to balance helping legislators in Olympia to "see the light or feel the heat" on ending the death penalty in our state or closing those wasteful tax loopholes that unfairly benefit large corporations and the 1%, with the work of helping to grow and cultivate coalitions for issues that are key to creating racial equity in our community such as police accountability and alternatives to incarceration. It's exciting and satisfying when we can see impact from our work together, right here in our community.

And I'm also thinking about how to balance the importance of work that flows from recognizing the role of the US in the world, partly because it is so deeply wrong and arrogant for the US oligarchs to try to control the world, its people and its ecosystems and minerals and of course oil; that kind of domination is an intense example of the myriad forms of violence. It's also been on my mind partly because I remember with almost a physical sensation how powerfully transformative it was for me when, as a farm

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Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane

Affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation

35 W. Main, Ste 120M, Spokane, WA 99201 • 509-838-7870 • www.pjals.org

The Handful of Salt

is published six times a year by the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane. Its name comes from Mohandas Gandhi's salt tax protest in India, a successful, nonviolent, grassroots action that created significant social change against overwhelming resource advantages.

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Contact PJALS: 509-838-7870, www.pjals.org, pjals@pjals.org

Volunteers Make It Happen

Contact Shar at 838-7870 to share your time and talents.

Meetings that Don't Suck a facilitation skills workshop

Thursday Sept 20, 5:30-7:00

Open to All

We've all experienced or led great meetings that helped people take action and create change together. And, we've all experienced the other kind: where people invent family emergencies to escape, or just never come back. Come to this workshop to learn how to:

- Plan effective meetings
- Use facilitation techniques to create good process
- Deal with tough discussions and difficult personalities
- Create shared expectations and norms for PJALS meetings
- Lead meetings from within

Wish List

- Donate your gently used (and not too old) monitor or desktop computer for use by our fantastic interns and volunteers.
- Desk chairs and a desk for interns.
- Copy paper for fliers etc: case for \$48
- Printer ink: \$45
- Office Angel to help keep our supplies organized and tidy: Priceless!
- Young Activist Leaders program materials (binders, training materials, etc) for 2012-2013: \$460
- Young Activist Leaders bus passes at \$22.50/month for 7 months: \$157.50 each

Become a Handful Contributor.

We welcome your articles, subject to editing for space and appropriateness of content.

Contact slichty@pjals.org



Earning Stripes and PSE

Rusty Nelson on Peace and War

How's your patriotic self esteem, (PSE)? I usually do pretty well with that, considering that some observers long ago decided I deserved an especially warm spot in their version of Dante's Inferno for being (choose one, according to political trends in the Inland Northwest) a traitor, an America-hater, a liberal, a socialist, a godless communist.

One thing I've retained as I lost more and more enthusiasm for nationalistic murder and mayhem is a great fondness for the Olympic Games, and now that is interfering with my PSE. Nancy and I watched lots of track and field, gymnastics and swimming, tolerated parts of the infinite matches and promotions of beach volleyball while catching glimpses of other sports. We often root for American teams and individuals, but we have a problem with some announcers and athletes who seem to feel that silver or bronze is for losers. Years ago, we almost hoped the U.S. would do no better than silver in order to escape the oppressive strains of The Star Spangled Banner, but now we're more likely to use the mute button, check in with real life, and ponder having TIVO for the next Olympics.

TIVO might have spared us some missed events and some unmissed and PSE-damaging promotions. I was particularly annoyed that Tom Brokaw was given an hour of Olympics prime time to re-hash the British perspective of World War II. As I waited impatiently for some of the long-awaited track finals, Brokaw showed how appropriate it is that he's a retired news anchor

with his tribute to the hosts of London 2012. Showing footage we've all seen on PBS, he praised Winston Churchill for badgering Hitler into bombing Great Britain and killing thousands of British civilians in order to get the U.S. into the war. Nothing groundbreaking. No cautionary notes about how war takes over families and lives and entire countries so that relief becomes more precious than victory. I'll be very upset if he gets the Emmy that NBC seemed to be fishing for as I longed to get back to an international competition which does not rule out health and healthy relationships.

Commercials are an occupational hazard for those of us who won't stay away from television and wouldn't know how to use TIVO if we had it, but we still bristled at some of the fare. Cathy McMorris Rodgers has improved her delivery, but her writers use their imaginations only to think we might want to hear the same insulting generalities every hour. I'm a little more interested in what President Obama has to say, but his theme was just as repetitive. No other candidates could afford spots during the Olympics, I expect, not that they would have perked up my PSE. But NBC used some of those high-priced slots to push its latest glorification of war, "Stars Earn Stripes."

That sponsors could be found for such deranged entertainment is hardly surprising but it is still a blow to my PSE, and then they have Gen. Wesley Clark as the interlocutor, dashing my last hope that a few senior officers might have recently come out of the military a little wiser than they were before Desert Storm. I can hardly blame the civilians who play warriors on tv. Each of them has peaked as a B-level celebrity and is desperate for more limelight. I'm not qualified to say if sagging PSE might be a factor, but seeing

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Witnesses in Palestine

By Myrta Ladich



You hear a noise at your front door at five A.M. Clad in your night clothes, you head for the door as an explosion rips it open and armed men burst in, ordering your family out of your house NOW. Your children, sleepy and in their pajamas, are grabbed bodily and flung into the street, as your household goods are

thrown into a truck and driven off, never to be seen again. In a half hour you watch, powerless, as a Jewish family is moved into your house, a house you own.

This was the experience of Miriam al-Rawi in the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah. For months Miriam and her children lived on the street across from their former home. Her eviction is part of a policy of the state of Israel to replace all Palestinians in this neighborhood with Jewish families.

She, like the other Palestinians who lose their
(Continued on page 6)

MAIA Water Project joins *Thirsting for Justice* Summer Campaign

What would it be like to live on 6.3 gallons of water a day during these summer months? Many Palestinians know. Wash and drink in solidarity with them and record your experience by joining on to the campaign for a day. <http://www.mecaforpeace.org/projects/maia-project/thirsting-justice-campaign>

It takes 2.5 gallons of water just to flush the toilet once. A 3-minute shower takes 13 gallons. Health advocates recommend 1.5 gallons a day for drinking and cooking.



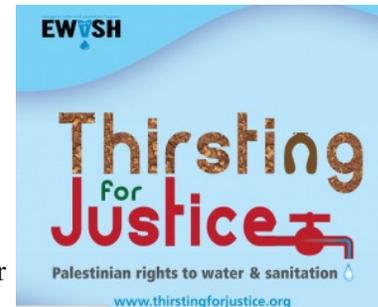
During the summer, many Palestinians who live in the West Bank and Gaza have their water rationed even more by Mekorot, Israel's national water company. A coalition of 30 leading humanitarian organizations including PJALS's MAIA

project partner Middle East Children's Alliance created EWASH, Emergency Water Sanitation and Hygiene in the Occupied Territories.

The Thirsting for Justice Campaign demands respect for Palestinian rights to water and sanitation

and seeks accountability to Israeli violations under international law. Join the campaign, **receive a t-shirt** and write about or video your experience. Take action by visiting www.mecaforpeace.org/projects/maia-project/thirsting-justice-campaign

Or register and check out the videos at www.thirstingforjustice.org



How Will You Feel If We Fail Marriage Equality?

By Shar Lichty, Organizer

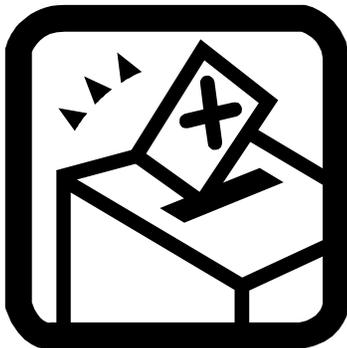


Last month I attended a brown bag lunch discussion with a staff member from Washington United for Marriage and leaders from the local group working to secure marriage equality at the ballot in November. During introductions we were asked to answer the question, ***"How will you feel on Nov. 7th if marriage equality fails at the ballot?"*** This question threw me for a bit of a loop because I honestly had not thought about it. In my mind it was not an option. **This question became a dose of reality for me, a wake-up call: We can fail.**

How would I feel? I would have a period of anger, depression, and hopelessness. I would feel like we failed every single citizen of Washington State. I would feel like I did not do enough to secure access to civil marriage for my LGBTQ family.

I do not want to feel like this on Nov. 7th. I do not want any of you to feel like this on Nov. 7th.

So, what do we do? We talk about it now. We talk to everyone we know: family, friends, acquaintances, co-workers, facebook "friends" and so on about why marriage equality matters



to us.

Polls show that folks who don't have a strong opinion on this issue are more likely to vote in support of it when they know someone who is affected by it. Let us not assume folks know how we feel about marriage equality, let's tell them.



What can we do together? Talk to voters. **We need volunteers** to phone bank. There are phone banks every Mon, Tues & Wed at Mountain Gear Headquarters at 5:30pm (training and food

provided). Every Thursday, the LGBT Center is hosting another phone bank opportunity at 5:30pm.

The campaign is currently calling voters and asking them ***"How do you feel about marriage equality?"*** This model provides for a more open and willing discussion with voters. I enjoy this model and have had some wonderful conversations with voters. Please contact CJ at cj@washingtonunited.org to sign-up for a shift.

Let us not fail marriage equality by assuming we will win, that others are doing enough to educate voters, or thinking "this doesn't affect me." This affects all of us, to quote MLK: "An injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Talk, talk, talk to everyone, help us achieve justice in the form of marriage for all, and let's work for that feeling of victory on Nov. 7th!

(Witnesses in Palestine, cont. from page 4)

homes either to eviction or demolition, will never be compensated for her loss. If a home



Marianne Torres and Myrta Ladich standing with Women in Black in Jerusalem.

is demolished, homeowners usually must pay the state for the cost of the demolition.

Marianne Torres and I heard variations of Miriam al-Rawi's story many times during our two week trip in May to Israel and Palestine. As members of a delegation of Interfaith Peace Builders. We visited towns, villages, organizations, and individuals in many parts of Israel and the Occupied West Bank.

We heard directly from Israeli and Palestinian nonviolent peace and human rights activists, spent time in Palestinian and Israeli homes and experienced the situation of Palestinians living under military occupation. Very few Americans ever see or hear what we did.

Our "on the ground" experience

convinced us that the heart of this conflict lies in conflict over land: who can live on it, where they can live, and how people move on it.

The Separation Wall, higher and longer than the Berlin Wall, stands as a clear symbol of Israel's intention to absorb as much of the Occupied West Bank as is possible into itself. Instead of being built along the border between Israel and the West Bank, it snakes, often deeply into Palestinian land, appropriating that land and its resources for Israel.

We spent an evening and overnight in the village of Bil'in**, where the Wall separates villagers from much of

their land. On this confiscated land three large, illegal settlements, in which only Jews may live, have been built. Everywhere we



traveled in the West Bank we saw construction of new settlements.

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(Witnesses in Palestine, cont from page 6)

How does this affect Spokane? Not only are we affected by the continual wars in the region, our tax money makes this inequitable situation possible. Our share of the 30 billion dollars given to Israel in military aid between 2009 and 2018 would provide nearly 35,000 people per year in our county with primary health care, or 517 households per year with affordable housing grants.

Our May trip convinced Marianne and me that as long as Israel continues its appropriation of Palestinian land and resources, a just and fair resolution of this conflict will not be possible.

***Since 2005, the villagers of Bil'in have held weekly Friday non-violent demonstrations in front of the Wall that separates them from their land. The film Five Broken Cameras, an award winner at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival, chronicles five years of Bil'in's story through photos taken by Bil'in farmer Emad Burnat. His cameras, one camera after another, were smashed, but each camera tells a part of his story. The Magic Lantern Theater will show Five Broken Cameras on September 20th.*

Myrta Ladich and Marianne Torres will be showing photographs taken during their recent trip and sharing more stories and reflections in the Community Building, September 6 at 7 P.M.

An Interfaith Peace Builders delegation will travel to Israel and Palestine May 25-June 7, 2013. Look for information about this trip at ifpb.org/delegations/upcoming

(Director's Chair, continued from page 1)

girl from Deer Park, I became conscious of how my own nation was funding and training death squads in El Salvador; how interconnected I was with folks I'd never met, whose misery I did not want to make me more secure even if it could. Later I got a scholarship to go to a summer program with young people from every continent, where Americans were a minority, and I felt even more how small our little planet is and how alike we are. Those early transformations have shaped my consciousness permanently. It's like the feeling of looking up at the stars at night and feeling small and big at the same time... only with a much greater sense of responsibility because of the power dynamics at work. I have felt a real lack of that kind of internationalist grounding in the organizations I've worked in since then.

I've been thinking that we need to balance work likely to produce concrete results, like changing laws and policies around tax loopholes or police abuse, with work which primarily yields consciousness, like having a deeper understanding of how we are connected in basic common interests and creative nonviolent resistance with folks re-creating sustainable farming methods in Mexico, with folks resisting militarization of their lands and culture in Colombia, with young people trying hard to bring peace to Afghanistan, with the Women in Black and other peace groups in Israel and Palestine, and so many others.

I'm going to keep thinking about this, because I don't feel like I'm yet totally able to articulate what I want to say. I hope you'll share your thoughts and feelings with me too.

**THINK GLOBALLY...ACT LOCALLY...THINK LOCALLY...ACT GLOBALLY...
THINK...ACT...THINK...ACT...THINK...ACT...THINK...ACT...THINK...ACT...**

Honor Life: Abolish the Death Penalty

By Victoria Thorpe, co-chair of PJALS Inland Northwest Death Penalty Abolition Group



Honor Life: Abolish the Death Penalty was a very successful event presented to the Spokane community July 21st, 2012. Our special guest speaker was Jason Baldwin, of the West

Memphis Three, who echoed our goals beautifully in his own words, ***“There are those of us who will not give up until the death penalty has ended, until this country is about saving lives and not killing people and throwing them away for making mistakes.”*** The audience of nearly 150 people were drawn in by Mr. Baldwin’s personal experience and genuine compassion for those on Death Rows. After sharing his story, Jason was joined by Holly Ballard and together they took on the tough questions the assembly was invited to put to them. Our listeners were overwhelmingly newcomers to the subject and showed great respect in their queries along

with paying close attention to the answers.

This event was preceded by a free showing of *Paradise Lost I*, open to the public and posted in the local papers. Forty-five viewers took time to watch the 2 ½ hr documentary chronicling the trials of Jason Baldwin, Jessie Misskelley, and Damien Echols, in 1993.

Half way through a year of abolition campaigning, we felt some new angles to attract the public’s attention were in order. Putting a casual atmosphere together as a backdrop for this grim life-and-death subject was nearly as important as the presentation: after all, if no one showed up what ground did we gain? Summer particularly is a tough time to attract folks to make time for serious contemplation; out of doors was a must and the Rooftop garden was perfect. The live music performed by The Terrible Buttons was a wonderful touch; they played acoustic folk music as the guests were filing onto the patio. The personal invitations, outreach to organizations, churches, and politicians, and posters displayed throughout town, along with the event announcement in the local press of our rooftop garden party, produced amazing

results. KYRS’s *Praxis* aired a live hour long telephone interview with Jason the Monday before the event, and their daily news played back an excerpt later in the week.

Our group includes three members with relatives on Death Rows, in 3 different states. We decided to put faces on The Row by displaying framed collages of these families, identifying their loved ones and the prisons they are living in. I am one of those

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(Honor Life, continued from page 8)

members; my sister has been surviving on Death Row in CCWF for 17 years. I had the privilege of introducing Jason Baldwin and sharing some of my story and my sister's case. I also introduced my newly published book covering the trial and life of my sister, titled CAGES. The spectators were visibly touched by the humanity all of us brought to the Death Row dilemma.

**SAFE
AND JUST
ALTERNATIVES**

Two tables were covered with information to take, sign up sheets for getting involved, the S&JA postcards, and resource flyers were available. We learned a few things for the next event, but overall planning ahead and having many hands to delegate the necessary tasks brought together fabulous results.

**The Smart Justice Campaign Presents
"A Criminal Justice System
for Spokane That Works"**

with
Douglas B. Marlowe, J.D., Ph.D.

**Thursday · September 13, 2012 · 6:30 pm ·
FREE
The Bing Crosby Theater · 901 W. Sprague Ave.**

Dr. Marlowe will describe what alternatives to incarceration and other programming have been proven to be more effective than incarceration in reducing crime, and how these Smart Justice programs could benefit Spokane County.

**For more information
Anne Martin · anne@spokaneprogess.org**

Pathways to Peace

September 11-21, 2012

Join One Peace Many Paths for this weeklong series of events dedicated to creating peace for a unified future.

Wed 9/12: **Peace Conversation Café:**

Exploring Interfaith Perspectives,
Chairs Coffee, 6pm – 8:30pm

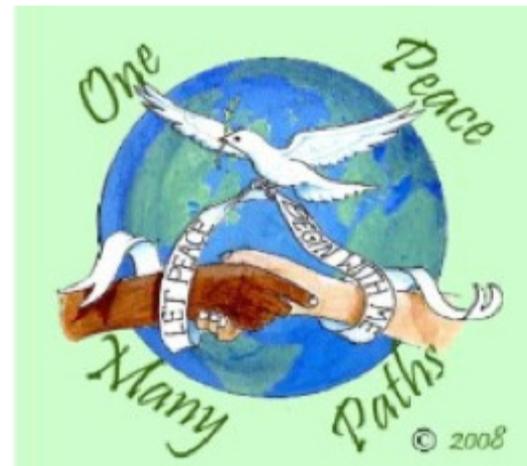
Sat 9/15: **Sounds of Peace,** Live Concert,
Unity Church South, 7pm

Sun 9/16: **Peace Pole Pilgrimage,** Meet at
Center for Spiritual Living, 3:30pm

Wed 9/19: **"My Recipe for Peace",**
**Presenters from Various Local
Organizations (including PJALS),**
Unity Church South, Dinner at 5:45pm,
Program at 7pm

Fri 9/21: **Honoring the Nations Ceremony,**
Center for Spiritual Living, 6pm

www.Onepeacemanypaths.org



Police Accountability: a critical window opening now

By Liz Moore

Though the Zehm case has been settled, now is not the time for activists with our eyes on police accountability to settle in and get comfortable. The next year and a half is going to be critical. The landscape is shifting quickly as Mayor Condon brings in Frank Straub as new chief of police, among other changes current and on the horizon.

The Zehm settlement requires all patrol officers to complete Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) to better meet the needs of people with mental illness. Community watchdogs will be key as it begins to be implemented.

The Police Guild and the city are negotiating their next contract. Mayor Condon is likely to propose a new Ordinance which will give the Ombudsman investigatory powers and create a community board to direct the Ombudsman's work. In addition, it is absolutely necessary to change the Ombudsman selection process so that the police guild does not influence who makes the final cut from among Ombudsman candidates.

The Use of Force Commission is meeting to take expert and public testimony and will be giving its recommendations this fall. Community activists from PJALS, Center for Justice, and other groups have been both sharing information and listening to testimony as it's given. We're looking forward to seeing what the Commission addresses, and then supporting meaningful change to end brutal and unnecessary force.

It's very clear that the only way our community will secure meaningful oversight is through a united and organized community, working from the grassroots in communication with elected officials. There

is broad agreement among city officials that police reform is necessary, but that only sets the stage for regular folks to speak out, share their own experiences and expertise, and push for specific changes. We believe a broad and active coalition is the best way to get the kind of changes we need. More than twenty groups have agitated and mobilized for police accountability in the last three years in our community, and if we make an organized push together in the next eighteen months, I believe we will see significant steps forward.

Here are some ways that groups can get involved--tell me what sounds like a **good fit** for you:

- **On Wednesday Oct 10 we're planning a community meeting to talk about priorities for change.** Will you invite and recruit members from your group to come? (Location TBA)
- Have a representative (or many) from your group come to the monthly general membership meetings, on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 5:30, who can keep your membership up to date and get folks involved
- host one of the monthly meetings so we can meet in a variety of spaces and be more accessible (and invite your members to come)
- at your meeting, host a brief presentation and discussion, including ways to get involved
- at your meeting, ask your members for stories and experiences with the police that illustrate why we need change--stories are powerful!
- come to the Use of Force Commission meetings to listen or speak
- come to the City Council Public Safety meetings on the 2nd Monday of every month at 1:30 in City Hall

(Earning Stripes and PSE, cont from page 3)

them on the program promotions was an unkind cut to my PSE.

Fortunately, I'm not alone in being appalled that this show is on network tv, and I don't have to watch it to express my outrage. The Colbert Report, for one, did a nice job of lampooning "Stars Earn Stripes," proving, for my money, Comedy Central has a more astute news team than NBC.

Veterans for Peace, Military Families Speak Out, and Peace Action were among organizations protesting at NBC headquarters at the show's debut on August 13, delivering a petition signed by thousands who feel embarrassed or angry about this kind of War-O-Tainment.

Veterans For Peace President Leah Bolger said, "Retired General Wesley Clark should be ashamed of himself for his role in promoting this 'reality' show. He knows better than most that war is not a game played by contestants. In a promotion for the show, he tries to impress us with its realism '...live ammo, real explosions and real danger....' How ironic that PFC Bradley Manning has been in jail for more than two years for letting the public see the real truth of war, while NBC makes a profit out of making it into entertainment."

I'm proud of Leah for bringing up Manning in a meaningful way. While these wannabe warriors are getting the attention they crave and making war look like an Olympic sport, Bradley Manning has been ignored by the media, pronounced guilty by the commander-in-chief. The things I've been called over the years pale in comparison to

epithets aimed at him in the past 24 months. It's a shameful situation, nothing like settling for a silver medal, and nothing like what we claim to want for whistle-blowers who have the temerity to challenge the glorification of war by revealing that war is, as it always has been, a manifestation of evil and a corruption of humanity and civilization. Bradley will finally get his trial October 1, after another pretrial hearing the end of August, when the army may have to explain the role of a lieutenant general in having Manning held under inhumane conditions.

(bradleymanning.org)

My physical education teacher in 7th grade was a retired army officer. One day he called a boy who was being disruptive, and told him he was being promoted to corporal. Coach took the braided lanyard from around his neck and told the boy to hold out his arm. After one quick flick of the loop, the boy wore two bright red marks. He'd earned his stripes.

As an intelligence analyst in Afghanistan, Bradley Manning earned his promotion to specialist, but that was taken away when he was accused of passing classified information to Wikileaks, information that was documentation of a U.S. massacre of unarmed civilians. No one involved in the massacre has been punished. Some of them may be helping produce "Stars Earn Stripes" to entertain you and your children while other military personnel are trying to prove Manning is guilty as charged, after he's already been punished in abusive detention. What does that do to your PSE?



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Day of Global Protest: March for Peace
Saturday September 15
12 noon, at the Carousel

Join the PJALS delegation to march with Occupy Spokane for
the one-year anniversary of the Occupy Movement.

Please support PJALS!

The Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane depends upon gifts and dues from members to continue to work for peace and justice, locally and globally. We welcome anyone who favors free exchange of ideas and nonviolent action to war or to inaction and ignorance. PJALS, 35 W Main, Suite 120M, Spokane, WA 99201.

You determine your own level of support and participation. Members also determine issues and projects that get the most attention and effort. PJALS is a 501©3 nonprofit corporation.

Call 838-7870 to discuss the by-the-month options, or visit www.pjals.org and click "Contribute" in upper right corner.

Other membership options:

Name(s) _____

Essential/Vintage members \$60/year

Address _____

Living Lightly (low income) \$20/year

Phone/email _____