

# Handful of Salt

Volume XXXIV, Number 4

December 2015 - January - February 2016

## Fellowship Of Reconciliation (FOR) honors PJALS with their "Local Hero" Peace Award at their Centennial celebration on November 7, 2015 in New York City

by Mark Hamlin

We were so honored to receive the news that the national Fellowship of Reconciliation would recognize PJALS for our work as part of their 100 year anniversary celebration events in New York City! I was excited to have our efforts publicly acknowledged and honored in this way by this very highly respected organization, of which PJALS is one of many world-wide affiliates.

I was asked to go to New York to represent PJALS to receive the award. I was excited to be going to New York, for my first time, but hesitated when I was told that I would need to give an acceptance speech. After my initial anxiety about that, I realized how important it was to share the work that we do at PJALS.

It was more than worth it as I enjoyed every bit of my time at all of the events. It started with the Centennial exhibit on Thursday evening for the opening reception at the Union Theological Seminary James Chapel. The exhibit of the history of FOR at the chapel was an amazing presentation of the events of the past 100 years of the FOR's

*(Continued on page 11)*

## Responding to Manufactured Fear

by Whitman Neruda

*This is in response to the Aug. 13 Inlander article, "Manufacturing Fear."*

First, our view as progressives is this: we don't want big, intrusive government; we want an effective, responsive government and a human-scaled, people-first economy. We want to mid-wife a transformed America adept at non-violent communication and the skills that negotiate our differences, much in the way of a good marriage, out of love and respect.

We believe everyone has the right to talk about injustice, perceived or experienced.

The problem is too many people on both sides agitate and exaggerate, fear mongering and slandering their way through cyber space. They appear psychologically addicted to the adrenalin of hate.

To find the true balance of justice, we must first measure our words. This demonstrates a sincerity of intention towards

*(Continued on page 10)*

<u>In This Issue</u>	<u>Page</u>
Our priorities for 2016-2017	2
Rusty Nelson: A Time for Nostalgia	3
Peace & Justice Center as Stepping Stone	4
A Fall Full of Activity!	10

## Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane

Affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation and Showing Up for Racial Justice

35 W. Main, Ste 120M, Spokane, WA 99201 • 509-838-7870 • [www.pjals.org](http://www.pjals.org)

**The Handful of Salt** is published quarterly 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.

**Steering Committee:**

Louise Chadez (Vice Chair), Cly Evans (Chair), Dom Felix, Jessica Jahn, Adrian Murillo, Taylor Weech, Deb Svoboda, Ray Thorne (Secretary)

**Staff:**

Teresa Kinder, Office Manager; Andrew Lack, AARP SCSEP Administrative Assistant; Shar Lichty, Organizer; Liz Moore, Director

**Interns & Practicum Students:**

Daniel Geiter, Cassandra Guerrero, Monce Rodriguez, Jessica Silva

**Volunteers:**

Anne Martin, Chris Nerison, Dale Raugust, Daphne Soto, Eileen Maiocco, Golie Jansen, Inga Laurant, James Robenstein, Jennifer Calvert, Lynn Sexton, Mark Hamlin, Maurina Ladich, Nancy Nelson, Obaid Abdul-Salam, Pauline Druffel, Phil Svoboda, Rowena Pineda, Rusty Nelson, Tim Connor, Valerie Waley, Ziggy Seigfried

**Contact PJALS:** 509-838-7870, [www.pjals.org](http://www.pjals.org), [pjals@pjals.org](mailto:pjals@pjals.org)

**Volunteers Make It Happen**

Contact Shar at 838-7870 or [slichty@pjals.org](mailto:slichty@pjals.org) to share your time and talents.

**WANTED: Bookkeeping Assistant, Bookkeeper, Treasurer, or CPA**

We're seeking new members of our financial team! We need volunteers to work with and eventually replace our current interim Treasurer and bookkeeper, Mike Nuess. Duties include tracking income and expenses in Quickbooks, issuing checks to vendors, semi-monthly payroll, reconciling bank statements, filing various reports and information with the state, completing annual IRS reporting, and reporting monthly to the PJALS Steering Committee.

Become a Handful Contributor.  
We welcome your articles, subject to editing for space and appropriateness of content.  
Contact [slichty@pjals.org](mailto:slichty@pjals.org)

**Our priority areas for 2016-17**

*As determined by our member priority survey responses and our Steering Committee!*

1. **A Just Society:** Smart Justice and Police Accountability
2. **Peace:** Truth in Recruitment, Consciousness-Raising about Militarism, and Mobilizing against War!
3. **Human Rights Community Organizing:** Building collective power with targeted communities.
4. **Ending the Death Penalty in Washington** as our top legislative priority.

*Exposing & transforming systems of violence & oppression to create beloved community.*



## Rusty Nelson on Peace and War

### A Time for Nostalgia

There was never time for nostalgia, here, even when I wrote this column every month. Just as PJALS was so often derailed from local projects by global violence and the siren call of war, my plans for a 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary recollection have been curbed by horrible attacks in Paris. Curbed, but not cancelled.

Here's what must be said in November, 2015: The established powers of the earth continue to prepare for the same war, thinking we've learned from every tragic human sacrifice offered in the names of peace, panic and greed. Now, we stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our outraged allies to prove we have not yet learned the lesson of the Trojan Horse, never mind Vietnam or Iraq.

I don't know if Islamic extremists studied Homer, but I'm betting the so-called leaders of the free world never thought of 9-11 as a lure to further disaster. France has already opened its gates to roll in the latest gift horse, and they do know Homer, even if the story of the tar baby and Bre'r Rabbit is Greek to them. As a consolation prize, they should have Donald Rumsfeld encourage their folly in deploying the military they have instead of one they wish they had, perhaps backed by Zeus, instead of Obama.

Only a few peacemakers are left to say beware of Greeks bearing gifts or mice roaring or the enticing traps that smell only vaguely of quagmire. The Joint Chiefs are not going to ask you and me what we should do. Even our elected leaders and the media will resist the idea that diplomacy and peace should have a role, because our corporate masters are telling us that these huge, wooden

road apples smell like military opportunity. Our world continues to shorten the cycle for its pursuit of self-destruction.

Consider 40 years ago when visionaries like Fr. Frank Costello imagineered the Peace and Justice Center to nurture social justice in Spokane. Or, 34 years ago when Nancy and I arrived in Spokane and met Nick Kassebaum who introduced us to the Spokane Mennonite Fellowship and the PJC. The big issue was nuclear weapons, and satellite topics were led by attitudes about war, militarism, and the sacredness of Fairchild Air Force Base. I'm grateful to Dale Raugust for recounting the earliest days and researching many of the subsequent years to give us historical context. If I had been just a bit of a historian during my stewardship of the Handful of Salt, you would have a comprehensive history of PJALS.

Having promised to someday write about how Nancy and I found PJALS, here's a brief version. We arrived from Minneapolis at the Kassebaum home on Lincoln Place, in May of 1981, exactly one year after the eruption of Mt. St. Helens. Their home was listed in a directory called, "Mennonite Your Way," and we had been presumptuous enough to ask if we might stay there five days with our two-year-old son, although they would be the first Mennonites we knew.

Besides being Pastor of the Spokane Mennonite Fellowship, which met in his home, Nick worked for the Peace and Justice Center as coordinator for the Fellowship of Reconciliation, which, at the time, was a mere 66 years old. We lived in his house closer to five weeks before house-sitting for Joe and Mary Ellen Gaffney-Brown, then co-directors of the PJC. They were able to visit family for about a month because not much happened over the summer. Talk about nostalgia. By

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Peace & Justice Center as Stepping Stone

by Pauline Druffel

The 40th anniversary celebration of PJALS has special significance for me because I was a part of the early staff of PJC, the Spokane Peace and Justice Center (PJALS's predecessor). PJC, started in 1975; I came on board in 1978 and stayed until 1982. The other day, Liz Moore asked me to write a piece for the Handful of Salt Newsletter about how my time at PJC has influenced my life since then. I recently had an experience of looking back over my life and identifying stepping stones that brought me to where I am today. I'm going to use that idea in what follows because I can see in hindsight that my experiences at PJC proved to be a major influence on my subsequent worldview.

PJC seemed to be an option for me, not because I knew so much about peace or justice issues, but because I was looking for an opportunity to share what I had just learned about environmental and world hunger issues. My education was in biology which I then taught, but a class in ecology enticed me to go further in the study of environmental concerns. During that year of study, I felt stirred to speak out on how our disregard for the natural environment and for indigenous peoples had led to major world hunger issues. I thought that was something to offer PJC. Joe Albert, who had been involved with Bread for the World, a national citizens lobby group, had left the center, and they assigned me to that role. My environmental focus also fit into PJC work on lifestyle. I met with church



*(Continued on page 7)*

## The Telling

*Inspired by the wisdom of Indigenous elders of the Southwest*

Now is the time we circle for stories with just intention.  
A winter spirit dance of dialogue and reflection  
To remember who we are: Many voices, One Heart.  
Earthmind.

Moonlight on the water reminds us  
There is no mistake so tragic it divides us,  
No hardship we cannot endure.  
Everything happening,  
Has happened before.

Snow falls like voices of a choir  
Singing hymns of a great turning inward,  
The creation of space that matters  
Where we can safely gather,  
Share our dreams and memories,  
Talk of journeys just begun  
Or nearing an end.

Our bodies glow like candles in a circle.  
Pour cold mountain water over your burning stones  
And dream together.  
Marvel at your pain.  
Laugh about the surprise of love.  
Our prayers are in the telling.

Whitman Neruda

### **Smart Justice Spokane updates**

We had more news than would fit to print! So please see [pjals.org/t/smart-justice](https://pjals.org/t/smart-justice) for news about community member representatives appointed to the Spokane Regional Law & Justice Council, Smart Justice Spokane's letter about deaths in jail and in custody, and businesses supporting Smart Hiring!

## The Person Who Takes Care of the Little Things: Introducing Andrew Lack

by Daniel Geiter

Andrew Lack works with PJALS as an administrative assistant through the AARP Senior Community Service Employment Program.



Andrew is most passionate about three social justice issues. Discrimination has been a passion of his since he was very young. He has had strong anti-war feelings going back as far as Vietnam where he refused to sign up for the draft, and his passion has continued since. Smart justice has been a more recent passion for him. In part he discovered it through his experience being homeless and seeing the way that society marginalizes those members of our society.

Andrew is originally from the San Francisco Bay Area and put himself through college as a civil engineer at Berkley. He became a junior partner in a firm and then worked for himself for about ten years. He began teaching at Laney Community College in San Francisco and became the chair for the Architect and Engineering department.

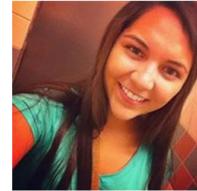
As community colleges lost public funding and the politics of the program became too much, he decided to get back into engineering and consulting, but found that the majority of his clientele had either died or moved away. He was also struggling with health concerns.

He decided to move to Spokane, as he had family in the area. He took about five years to recover from his health issues. Andrew struggled to find employment and for several years was homeless and lived in shelters. He has now been working with the AARP Senior Community Service Employment program.

## Welcome Cassandra!

by Jessica Silva

Cassandra Guerrero joined PJALS this fall as part of an internship through EWU's Social Work program. She is from Moses Lake and moved to Cheney to pursue a higher education where she can make a difference. Cassandra has volunteered at Betz Elementary School where she mentored children at risk. She chose to do her internship at PJALS because she wanted to make a difference at the community level and not just on individualized problem and because she is tired of not acting upon issues that are important to her.



At PJALS Cassandra is excited to be working on the Spokane for All campaign, racial disparities and on ending the death penalty; she is also excited to learn about other issues that are affecting the communities.

Her favorite thing about PJALS is hearing stories from all its members, listening to their insights and other issues they are passionate about. She has never been around so many people who want to make a difference and have the mentality to do so; she loves PJALS very much!

Cassandra feels that after this internship she will be more educated on topics that people don't feel comfortable speaking about and therefore she will be able to openly talk to people and educate them. She will have more skills and knowledge on how to run and organize events and bring people together to make a difference in the community.

Cassandra will be graduating this June with her Bachelors in Social Work and is hoping to get her masters in the near future. After graduating she is excited to work with the youth and learn from their experience to expand her knowledge and help children at risk.

## Welcome Jessica!

by Cassandra Guerrero

Jessica Silva joined PJALS through the EWU Social Work program for an internship with a community organizing perspective. Jessica chose a Social Work Degree because for five years of her life she lived in Mexico and saw all the hardships that people had to endure on a day-to-day basis and wondered how those people got there in the first place, then when she moved to the United States she was given the opportunity to gain an education. That's when she knew she wanted to understand how to help people when they are most vulnerable.



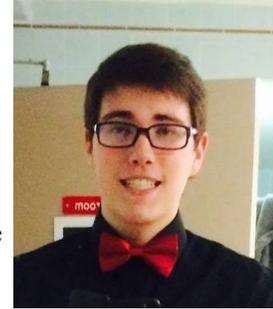
Jessica chose to do her internship here because she believes "in order to make a difference in this world we must work as a group and in peace." Jessica loves "listening to the different stories and ideas people bring to the organization as well as learning about different eras and cultures" and the unity that the organization has among its own members. Jessica is involved with Smart Justice Spokane, militarism, Young Activist Leaders Program (YALP), and is currently working on the Transgender Day of Remembrance with Spokane TALL. She is not limited to just those issues alone because she wants to learn about the other social, human, and economic problems PJALS works on and has been doing her own research on such topics.

Throughout Jessica's four years at EWU she has been part of Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano/a de Aztlan (M.E.Ch.A) and Kappa Delta Chi Sorority. She even has gained experience and knowledge from other organizations in planning events, lobbying, petition signing, and peacekeeping. She has

## Welcome Daniel!

by Moncerat Rodriguez

Daniel Geiter is a student from Whitworth University. His passion is fighting issues of societal inequity. Until the time he started high school, Daniel's family was low-income. Daniel, who is white, says "I did not realize how much I benefited, solely due to my skin color. I started to hear about others' experiences and how they have been treated when I got to college." He felt a responsibility to try to secure equal treatment for individuals and believed he was capable of helping, which brings him to PJALS.



One of the issues that Daniel is bothered by is the death penalty in the United States. He states "There is almost an insurmountable amount of data pointing to the fact that it does not lead to closure for the families affected, it is not fiscally efficient and drains public resources, it does not serve as a deterrent, and in many cases the individual is proven to be not guilty, often after the penalty has been served."

He loves that he is able to be on the frontlines affecting change within the community and be able to directly be involved in changing issues of policy rather than just treating symptoms. Being involved with PJALS, he said, "is training me in how to do community organizing."

---

participated in many different issues such as co-planning the May 1<sup>st</sup> march for immigration rights, petition signing, and lobbying in Olympia.

**Peace & Justice Center as Stepping Stone,**  
**continued from page 4**

groups who were trying to alleviate world hunger, and I organized at least one major event for teachers about including environmental ethics into their classroom curriculum.

But I was very timid in those days, and felt fearful as I stood downtown passing out flyers about war related activity. I was petrified to think someone might suggest I go to demonstrate along with a group of Fellowship of Reconciliation members. I was terribly afraid of getting arrested or of getting identified as working against governmental policy.

None the less I learned a lot by interacting with others who were committed to pacifism, and who understood the relationships between poverty and militarism. I had a sister working in Central America as a missionary at that time, and she confirmed for me what PJC staff were saying about the US involvement in the overthrow of governments in that area. So I could even more appreciate the work of PJC staff addressing those issues including U.S. support of the School of the Americas and their training of the military who went on to oppress their own people. I learned about Gandhi's commitment to non-violent resistance, and also about the value of community organizing. It was like I was putting on a new pair of glasses that helped me see networks of interactions and modes of oppression that I had no idea existed.

Ultimately, though, I wasn't ready to be an activist yet. This had been an important stepping stone, but I needed to first look at my inner self and to face injustice in my own situation. I had been in the convent when I came to PJC. The convent was a family expectation for me, and I carried that out. But finally, at middle age, my inner being would

not let me just do "what was expected". I left my position at PJC, eventually left the convent, and went on to follow another yearning that had lived in me: to be a counselor. I got a degree in Counseling Psychology from a San Francisco Bay Area school of Transpersonal Psychology where we studied psychology in the context of spirituality; spirituality in general, not as related to any particular religion. This was a broadening and very powerful growth experience of following a true inner calling. I found out that when my activity comes from that place in my being, the hesitancy and timidity loses its power. I act because I want to act, because there is a passion in me to act. Having faced inner fears, I am able to stand up for what I believe.

As a psychotherapist I worked mostly doing play therapy with kids, some of whom had been mistreated through physical or sexual abuse or caught in the middle of high conflict divorce. I was called on to advocate for a number of these children through the family court system. Sometimes things went the way I thought they should, sometimes not. I came to see how important it is to be compassionately present to a person in their pain even when I can't fix everything for them. It was another very valuable learning experience, another stepping stone.

I loved my work as a therapist and stayed with it as long as I felt my mental acuity was strong enough for it. Then, in the fall of 2011, I came back to Spokane to retire. I was delighted to find that peace and justice were still being addressed by a committed group of people--now working together as the Peace and Justice Action League. I got involved and soon took part in an action handing out flyers downtown at River Front Park. I don't remember the specific action, but

*(Continued on page 8)*



*Young Activist Leaders class of 2016*

**Peace & Justice Center as Stepping Stone,  
continued from page 7**

it was urging President Obama to not intensify war in the Middle East. I was surprised when I realized I was handing out these flyers without any timidity. Since then I've also taken part in other actions and am impressed by the energy with which I get involved.

As I look back, I can see that issues I brought with me to PJC and insights that I learned while there, remained active in me in the intervening years while I was away from Spokane. I joined marches in San Francisco and San Jose when we saw that the U.S. was leading up to war in Iraq. I made phone calls to the President and to legislators about justice issues that had special importance to me. I even went with a group to Lawrence Livermore Lab where we protested nuclear weapons production and some stood in the entrance way knowing they would be arrested. And now that I'm back in Spokane, I'm very involved in working for environmental issues such as Global Warming. In California I advocated for abused children; now I am advocating for an abused earth and the health of us who live on it. I see that my early time at the Peace and Justice Center sensitized me so that I carried away a new context in which to view the world. I'm very grateful for the experience and to be reconnected.

**A Time for Nostalgia cont from page 3**

then, I was full-time at KXLY radio, and we bought a house. Becoming Mennonites, we cleared the way for immersion into the culture of nonviolence.

Even as fledgling pacifists, we considered programs of the PJC a little radical, but we were interested in the Amnesty International adoption group started by Ron Frase and a Simplicity discussion led by Mary Ellen. Human rights and simple lifestyle seem like bread and water, now, but in 1981 these were life-changing elements that gave hands and feet to our refreshed faith. Our daughter joined our family, and we moved to Chattaroy in 1983. An intentional neighbor arrangement allowed Nancy to volunteer in Spokane as PJALS evolved into a membership organization and Nick became director before he moved to the west side. Nancy was part-time PJALS staff in 1985 when she, Nick, Gary Jewell and Kevin Baxter were arrested for blocking the train carrying nuclear warheads to the submarine base at Bangor, the first civil resistance action in Spokane since the Wobblies. She had moved to the Central America Solidarity Association before Kathleen Donahoe and Diane Jhueck took the helm of PJALS in 1987. After a year, Diane left, and I went half-time at KXLY so I could assist Kathleen and edit the newsletter.

Although the cancer that killed her forced Kathleen's resignation in 1989, it was her work that made it possible for the little organization to thrive when Nancy and I became co-directors. Another important element was a particularly effective steering committee, led by Judy Lacerte.

A quarter century on, thrive may seem a presumptuous term. We were often asked how we persevered when PJALS never won. There are several answers: Peacemaking is

*(Continued on page 9)*

**Welcome to Social Work Practicum  
Student  
Moncerat  
Rodriguez**

by Andrew Lack

Monce is a senior at EWU, doing her social work practicum at PJALS. Monce is drawn to working within the juvenile justice system. She also has always felt a



close connection to Child Protective Services.

Monce is a graduate of the Toppenish School District in Yakima County. She originally came to know of PJALS through a friend who had once worked with us as an intern. She also credits her involvement with M.E.Ch.A. at EWU and participated in a PJALS peacekeeper training with them.

Her current focus with us is with the Young Activist Leaders Program and with the police accountability efforts. She finds PJALS to be so engaging because of all the

*(Continued on page 11)*

**A Time for Nostalgia , cont from page 8**

about conversion, not winning; we were called to be faithful, not successful, and; we counted and celebrated small victories.

It's important to remember Spokane has actually changed. On the PJALS staff, Diane Jhueck put the Handful of Salt into an appealing and attractive package of dissent and advocacy that my later, cost cutting measures could not diminish, but being openly lesbian in Spokane was a grind in 1987, and she moved to Seattle. Kathleen's determination to put GLBT rights on the agenda made me nervous, and sparked a rash of non-renewals among PJALS members. It was one of the biggest risks PJALS ever took, but how long could we have been relevant, not to mention prophetic, if we had failed to confront homophobia? Today, there is no important struggle that has made more significant progress over the last 20 or 30 years. And we would lose substantial support if we failed to acknowledge that the work is not done.

PJALS hasn't ended our community's reliance upon violence, but good things happen when we resist responsibly. Today: we're fully engaged in holding the police accountable for arrogant and aggressive acts

that have oppressed our community; we helped lead Washington to a pace-setting minimum wage; we state clearly that the droppings of a ruling class are not acceptable remuneration for workers or for those excluded from what the establishment calls The Economy.

It's our legacy to declare that war and violence are our enemies, not people. We must condemn every act of violence from throwing rocks to executing tyrants, destroying families through deportation, transporting deadly fuels to enrich the rich and afflict the environment, increasing killer drones, continuing to build weapons that are expensive and obsolete, punishing innocent relations of suicide bombers, killing thousands to show how angry we are about the deaths of dozens.

There is always an alternative to violence, as obscure and unattractive as it might be. Ft. Sumter, Sarajevo, Pearl Harbor, 9-11, Paris 2015. Once again, those in charge will choose military solutions, leaving the earth with more and bigger problems.

Someday, one of us will have a voice that reaches beyond the mouth of the cannon. Because little organizations like PJALS are still here, not for nostalgia, but for teaching peace, caring who suffers, making ripples.

**Responding to Manufactured Fear,**  
**continued from page 1**

solutions based upon mutual respect.

We believe the vast majority of humanity simply wants to live in peace and be productive, loved by family and friends in an environmentally clean and safe world.

We want law enforcement to be responsive not reactive, to increase their cultural competency, not stockpile the latest weapons. We need them to recognize crime is not the problem, crime is a reaction to the problem--the problem of institutionalized racism, poverty in a corporate state, an absence of political freedom for workaday people. We need them to understand (and recognize) acting out behaviors and bear witness to the suffering of the people, not gun them down for acting it out. Life brings pain, no one escapes that, but suffering is political.

The rancorous divisions among conservatives illustrates the limits of an exhausted ideology built on militarism and threat of violence, the idea of martyrdom (something all religious extremists share).

It is a failure of our society that for many white, working-class youth the only form of empowerment available to them is weapons, an idea promoted by Christian extremists online, a tactic mirroring the ISIS playbook.

Some conservatives have a valid point when they voice concern that the Holiday and Heroes event on Wal-Mart property desensitizes youth to the presence of military equipment in everyday life. We hope for this reason they also oppose the idea of posting armed police in our local high schools.

However, the roaring silence and indifference from conservatives whenever police gun down unarmed black and brown people robs their political viewpoints and Christian identification of any moral

## **A Fall Full of Activity!**

*Made possible by members!*

Gratitude Potluck & Membership Meeting,  
Sept 10

Hosted "Race: The Power of an Illusion"  
training, Sept 26

Welcoming 3 new Social Work practicum  
students!

Young Activist Leaders Open House,  
orientation, fall retreat, and workshop!

PJALS 40th Anniversary Kick-off , Oct 15

Murder Victims' Families for Reconciliation  
speaker Becky O'Neil McBrayer, Oct 20.

*Listen at [pjals.org/t/death-penalty/](http://pjals.org/t/death-penalty/)*

Action: Support Refugees & Civilians. No  
US Escalation in Syria & Iraq, Nov 5

Leadership Workshop: How to Effectively  
Communicate with Lawmakers, Nov 19

Action: Humanity is Indivisible, Nov 20

credibility. Jesus, after all, walked his talk.

We agree with former state Sen. John Smith that the violent rhetoric spewed by raging conservatives can't be dismissed as harmless hyperbole; someone will always act out the call to arms and violence.

Bullies on the playground or on the street are acting out their own sense of impotence. The only anti-dote to that is a renewal of human spirit; the flip side of the paranoid, conspiracy theory viewpoint is the recognition of humanity's interrelatedness and interdependence. No one survives alone. So why not work together to solve our problems?

Too many right-wingers promoted a narcissistic view of America using words like exceptionalism. But the only greatness is spiritual and we hope Americans will soon begin to aspire to behavior which is a conscious articulation of the values within that understanding: non-violence, respect, cooperation.

***PJALS honored by national FOR, continued from page 1***

involvement in peace and justice efforts. I was inspired and very impressed with the work that went into the displays that covered the walls of the chapel.

On Friday evening at the FOR main offices at the Shadowcliff mansion in Nyack, they put on a moving memorial of the contributions of so many past members and supporters of FOR, from the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to Pete Seeger. After the memorial in the yard, we all went inside for snacks, conversation and to watch the centennial short film about FOR's history. I was impressed at how professional it was and found it to be very informative. I hope we will get a copy for all here to see.

The main event was on Saturday evening at the Riverside Church, where King gave his "Beyond Vietnam" speech, almost a year before he was assassinated. The event started at 3:00 with a multi-faith service, including beautiful music, singing and an address by Dr. Arun Gandhi, who I had the good fortune of spending considerable time with. This was followed by the reception and silent auction, which had some amazing donated items. After that we all sat down for dinner, some inspiring speeches, a live auction, the presentation of the three awards and mini-musical concert.

Ours was the first of the three awards presented and PJALS was given a glowing introduction by Laurie Childers, the FOR USA National Council President and a member of Western Washington FOR, who attended one of our Action Conferences here in Spokane. She said so many nice things about us that I was almost afraid to speak after that.

The next award, the "Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace Award", was given to two

women from The Spirit House Project in Atlanta, GA, particularly for their excellent work on racial justice and building multicultural coalitions.

The last of the awards, the "Pfeffer International Peace Award," was given to two young men, who I developed a close affinity to, as I spent a lot of time with them over the three days. One was Palestinian and the other a former Israeli soldier. Their organization is appropriately named, "Combatants for Peace." They work at the "street level" to encourage people to take non-violent action against the occupation and violence in their lands.

I felt so honored to participate in this celebration and humbled to do so with so many people doing so much great work that I believe is so important to advancing peace and justice. I was able to learn from and connect with a number of people that can help me to further my understanding of work that I am so interested in. I really enjoyed making many new and close friends and felt like I belonged among them. I am grateful to have been given the opportunity to represent PJALS, even though I was wishing so many other deserving people could have been there as well.

***Monce Rodriguez, continued from page 9***

many subjects we work with here. She is so pleased to work with an organization that holds to all of the same values so dear to her and the macro-level approach to concerns.

Monce has already been tremendously active in her work here as demonstrated by a positive attitude and efforts beyond that required as a minimum. She notes how pleased she is to exchange ideas with the other staff and members on our broad spectrum of issues.

**Peace & Justice Action League of Spokane**  
35 W Main, Suite 120M  
Spokane, WA 99201  
(509) 838-7870



Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Spokane, WA  
Permit No. 263

Address Service Requested

## **You are invited: PJALS Holiday Party!**

Thursday, December 17, 5:30—8:00

Community Building Lobby, 35 W. Main

Join us for a celebration of our 40 years of work for peace & justice, with poetry, exhibits highlighting our work for economic justice and peace, and a brief program!

Bring food to share if you wish, or just come join the party!

### **PJALS needs you!**

**The Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane is everyday people building a just and nonviolent world. We depend 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, community-building, and nonviolent action to war, inaction, or 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(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Essential members \$60/year  
Living Lightly \$20/year

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Visit [www.pjals.org/contribute](http://www.pjals.org/contribute) to become a monthly donor or give at any level!**

Email: \_\_\_\_\_











