



MEDEA BENJAMIN VISITS PEACE ACTION OF WI

By Pam Richard



October 20, 2022: Peace Action of WI hosts Medea Benjamin (center) at the Milwaukee Friends Meeting House.

Peace Action of WI invited CODEPINK co-founder Medea Benjamin to Milwaukee as part of her national tour for her new book, *War in Ukraine: Making Sense of a Senseless Conflict*, co-authored by Nicholas J. Davies.

An informal dinner and discussion on Oct. 20 at the Peace Center preceded her presentation at the Milwaukee Friends Meeting House. Benjamin showed a new 20-minute book video, spoke about the situation in Ukraine and answered questions. The video can be shared and is available on the Code Pink website: <https://www.codepink.org/hostbooktalk>

“The United States continues to send billions of dollars of military weapons to Ukraine, and any talk of actual peace solutions are ignored by the mainstream media...continuing to arm Ukraine can only prolong a conflict that needs to be resolved by diplomatic means. Without such a solution the number of Ukrainian and Russian casualties will continue to mount and the risk of serious escalation, including the possibility of nuclear conflict, will intensify.

“Russia’s aggression was reckless and, ultimately, indefensible. But the West’s renegeing on promises to halt eastward expansion of NATO in the wake of the collapse

of the Soviet Union played a major part in prompting Putin to act. So did the US involvement in the 2014 Ukraine coup and Ukraine’s failure to implement the Minsk peace agreements. The result is a conflict that is increasingly difficult to resolve,” proclaimed Benjamin.

The next day, Oct. 21, Medea gave another book talk at the Milwaukee Public Library. At the invitation of Veterans for Peace Milwaukee member, Clyde Winter, Medea attended the Annual Freedom Fund Dinner for the Milwaukee NAACP. There she lobbied Sen. Tammy Baldwin, Rep. Gwen Moore and U.S. candidate hopeful, Mandella Barnes, to use peaceful approaches to solve the Ukraine conflict.

At each event, Medea encouraged attendees to call Congress, write letters and come to the Stands for Peace and the Peace in Ukraine rallies that Peace Action of WI and the End the Wars Coalition hold.

Everyone is invited to join the Peace in Ukraine Coalition that supports ceasefire, negotiations and peace talks instead of weapons shipments. Join at www.peaceinUkraine.org

Democrats Must Again Use Diplomacy - this Time to End the Ukraine War

In the past, Democrats have successfully used diplomacy. They need to do so again to end the Ukraine War.

Jim Carpenter

Putin's invasion of Ukraine is mass murder, as are all wars of aggression, including our own invasion of Iraq. Tens of thousands of civilians and soldiers are being killed, injured and displaced. Global famine and high food prices are occurring as the supply of food and fertilizer is diminished. President Biden has warned we are closer to a nuclear Armageddon now than we have been since the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962.

We desperately need a ceasefire and peace negotiations NOW to end this madness. That doesn't mean appeasing Putin and harming Ukraine. Everyone wins when a war ends.

As described in the adjacent article, President Zelensky understands the benefits of negotiation. In May he stated that war "will only definitively end through diplomacy."

Democratic Presidents have successfully used diplomacy to reduce threats and improve international relations.

The Obama administration negotiated with other countries, including Iran and Russia, to achieve the Iran Nuclear Deal. Then President Trump withdrew from the deal and increased the risk of nuclear proliferation.

The Obama administration negotiated with Cuba to improve economic, political and cultural relations between our two countries. Then President Trump reversed those gains.

President Carter used diplomacy to achieve the Camp David Accords in 1978. This was the first peace treaty between Israel and any of its Arab neighbors.

We need the same diplomatic approach now.

*Excerpt from James Marc Leas "Nuclear War Edges Closer"
"The public says no to escalating war"*

"The near-unanimous congressional support for war with Russia contrasts sharply with recent polling showing that the war is deeply unpopular:¹ 57% of likely voters strongly or somewhat support the US pursuing diplomatic negotiations as soon as possible to end the war, even if it requires Ukraine to make compromises with Russia. The same poll shows 58% are opposed to continued US aid to Ukraine if the war is driving higher gas prices and higher cost of goods. It also shows 64% oppose the US continuing with current levels of aid if it would result in the US sending American troops to fight in Ukraine."²

1 Haltiwanger, John, Business Insider, Sept. 27, 2022 <https://www.businessinsider.com/new-poll-signals-americans-are-growing-tired-of-supporting-ukraine-2022-9>

2 Leas, James Marc, November 1, 2022, from <https://cancel35.substack.com/p/nuclear-war-edges-closer>

Senator Baldwin Refuses to Call for Diplomacy to End Ukraine War

Jim Carpenter

Since the start of the Ukraine War, the peace movement and countries that contain the majority of the earth's population have been calling for a ceasefire and negotiations to end the war. Thirty members of the House including Representatives Gwen Moore and Mark Pocan wrote a letter to President Biden including these paragraphs:

In May, President Zelensky, despite deadlocked negotiations, reiterated that the war "will only definitively end through diplomacy," and had previously explained that "any mentally healthy person always chooses the diplomatic path, because he or she knows: even if it is difficult, it can prevent the loss of thousands, tens of thousands....and maybe even millions of lives."

... In conclusion, we urge you to make vigorous diplomatic efforts in support of a negotiated settlement and ceasefire, engage in direct talks with Russia, explore prospects for a new European security arrangement acceptable to all parties that will allow for a sovereign and independent Ukraine, and, in coordination with our Ukrainian partners, seek a rapid end to the conflict and reiterate this goal as America's chief priority.

Peace Action of WI wrote a letter to Senator Baldwin, signed by dozens of Milwaukee residents including elected officials, asking if she would support a similar letter in the Senate.

Her reply failed to even mention the concept of a ceasefire and negotiations and instead said "the end to this conflict in Ukraine must be driven by the desires of Ukrainians themselves."

Senator Baldwin's response is an insult to the cause of peace. Call her office: 202-224-3121

Milwaukee Rallies in Anticipation of UN Vote Condemning Cuba Blockade



October 30, 2022 - Milwaukee joins nationwide rallies in support of the anticipated UN vote to condemn the Cuba Blockade. The November 3rd vote was supported by 185 nations (including all of our NATO allies), with only 2 member states (US and Israel) opposed.

COSTS OF WAR ¹

By William D. Hartung

Pentagon spending has totaled over \$14 trillion since the start of the war in Afghanistan, with one-third to one-half of the total going to military contractors.

“A large portion of these contracts -- one-quarter to one-third of all Pentagon contracts in recent years -- have gone to just five major corporations: Lockheed Martin, Boeing, General Dynamics, Raytheon, and Northrop Grumman. The \$75 billion in Pentagon contracts received by Lockheed Martin in fiscal year 2020 is well over one and one-half times the entire budget for the State Department and Agency for International Development for that year, which totaled \$44 billion.

“Weapons makers have spent \$2.5 billion on lobbying over the past two decades, employing, on average, over 700 lobbyists per year over the past five years. That is more than one for every member of Congress.

“Numerous companies took advantage of wartime conditions—which require speed of delivery and often involve less rigorous oversight—to overcharge the government or engage in outright fraud. In 2011, the Commission on Wartime Contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan estimated that waste, fraud and abuse had totaled between \$31 billion and \$60 billion.

“As the U.S. reduces the size of its military footprint in Iraq and Afghanistan, exaggerated estimates of the military challenges posed by China have become the new rationale of choice in arguments for keeping the Pentagon budget at historically high levels. Military contractors will continue to profit from this inflated spending.”

¹ Excerpted from: Hartung, William, Watson Institute at Brown University, Costs of War, <https://watson.brown.edu/costsofwar/papers/2021/ProfitsOfWar>

A New Cold War with China

By Harry Targ

The Biden Administration issued its National Security Strategy Document recently, articulating short and long-term priorities of United States foreign policy. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Biden-Harris-Administrations-National-Security-Strategy-10.2022.pdf>

David Sanger, in *The New York Times*, October 12, 2022, describes the centrality of the “Chinese threat” to United States global dominance reflected in the document, which he characterized as having a “a relentless focus on China.”

“Much of the military planning described in the administration’s document is meant to counter China in space, cyberspace and at sea. Each of those arenas requires very different arms, software and strategies than the push to contain Russia on the ground in

Europe. The document describes a more aggressive U.S. effort to enhance cybersecurity and urges work with allies and the private sector to ‘withstand attempts to degrade our shared technology advances’ by limiting Chinese and other investment in the United States and controlling exports of key technologies to China.”

Alfred McCoy, author of *In the Shadows of the American Century: The Rise and Decline of US Global Power*, Haymarket Books, 2017, wrote also on how the United States, a declining empire, sees the rise of China. The most critical challenge to the American empire, McCoy suggests, is the rise of China, particularly as an economic successor to US control of the global political economy. He reviewed data concerning Chinese domestic development indicating that the country has emerged as the second largest world economy. In addition, the Chinese have developed trade with every continent, invested broadly everywhere, and established an Asian financial and trading system that challenges the historic US presence in the region. Finally, China has expanded transportation, trade, investment, and corporate ties with Europe. In sum, the author makes a compelling case for the economic rise of China and the relative decline of the United States in the global economy. In economic terms the global system is changing from unipolarity to multipolarity.

In reference to the United States, McCoy draws a portrait of an empire in decline, particularly in terms of relative economic competitiveness. In response to this decline McCoy provides detailed information to suggest that the United States has embarked on a program to expand militarily programs around the globe and in outer space. This latest phase of militarism includes preparing for cyber space war, occupying space (in ways parallel to how the United States occupied land in the twentieth century), developing biometrics to identify potential enemies, and increasing drone warfare capabilities. These projects involve the creation of a whole panoply of weapons that exceed the imagination of science fiction. Therefore, the new militarism is designed to forestall and overcome declining empire.

In the light of rising global tensions, the increased threat of nuclear war, the growing climate catastrophe, and sky-rocketing military spending, the peace movement must challenge the US move towards a “New Cold War” against China.

NOTES FROM LONDON



Amnesty International forms part of the human chain around Parliament for Assange.

Human Chain around Parliament for Assange

By Ann Batiza

When I got on the plane for London, I had no idea how successful the planned October 8 “Human Chain for Julian” would be. Success required enough supporters from around the world to completely encircle Parliament by crossing the Thames on either side of Parliament - via the Westminster and Lambeth Bridges - and then continuing to join hands along the South Bank until the circle was complete. Complicating matters was a railroad strike that would essentially prevent all train travel to and from London that day.

My host, Dr. Deepa Driver, whom I had previously only interacted with virtually, arranged for several of us to meet at an October 7 dinner where I similarly met in-person for the first time my Assange Defense colleague, Vincent (Vinnie) De Stefano (who hails from Los Angeles.)

October 8th was an uncharacteristically, gloriously sunny day, and even though we arrived an hour and a half early to gather across from Parliament, the area was swarming with Assange supporters bedecked with yellow ribbons.

As Vinnie and I crossed Lambeth Bridge to enter the chain on the opposite side of the Thames, speeches were delivered in front of Parliament by high profile Assange supporters such as the former British Labor Leader, Jeremy Corbyn. It was wonderful to see people from Amnesty International in the chain and to talk with journalists and distinguished supporters I had previously seen only online.

At a dinner for 50 that Vinnie and I attended that evening, again hosted by Dr. Driver, Julian’s Oxford-educated wife Stella gave an impassioned, impromptu speech after ducking out briefly to take a call from Julian. Craig Murray, the former UK ambassador to Uzbekistan, also waxed eloquently as did Fidel Narvaez, the former Ecuadorian consul at the embassy whose tour overlapped Julian’s by six years and who had earlier appeared at a First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee Forum.

Vinnie and I had been commissioned by Assange Defense to talk with her; I was able to convey your greetings from Peace Action of Wisconsin and give her a t-shirt and brochures from the

Roger Waters tour before becoming somewhat tongue-tied and deferring to Vinnie.

As is true of any positive report about Assange, the *New York Times* appears not to have covered it. Reuters minimized the demonstration by saying hundreds gathered. Video evidence showed the chain was complete. My calculation says that if each person were centered three feet from those on either side, about 2600 people would have been needed to cover the 1.5 mile expanse. Given how closely packed many sections were and with all the other people milling about, my estimate is that at least 4000 people from around the world were gathered there.

Both Vinnie and I were quoted by *Consortium News* in Mohammed Elmaazi’s report on the event. You can access that coverage here:

<https://consortiumnews.com/2022/10/09/world-wide-backing-as-parliament-encircled-for-assange/>

My video of part of Stella’s speech at dinner can be accessed here: <https://twitter.com/AnnBatiza/status/1578895806417207297>

There Stella said Julian was buoyed by her report of the event as were so many of us gathered from around the world. We will keep fighting for Julian’s freedom and for our right to know what our governments are doing in our names.

My Visit to Belmarsh Prison

By Ann Batiza

When I visited Belmarsh Prison near London where Julian Assange has been held for 3 ½ years, the trees lining the countryside driveway were covered in yellow ribbons. It was two days after the Human Chain event. On the island in the middle of the road across from those ribbons loomed a billboard that said, “Free Julian Assange.”

I merely wanted to demonstrate my solidarity by showing up, the same reason I had stood in front of the Ecuadorian Embassy four years earlier. As I walked unimpeded up the drive, I was struck by how placid the prison appeared compared with my perceptions of US prisons. But as my friend, Ray McGovern, later said, “The British are expert at putting a pretty face on cruelty.”

The area in front of the prison houses a separate “Visitors’ Center” and “Spanky’s Gym.” Either there or in an adjacent building, officers having a meal directed me to the imposing front doors. When I entered the prison, the relatively benign exterior became all business with solid steel doors in front of me and a bar-covered window on my right, where I asked an officer if I might leave a letter for Julian. With a warm smile, he instructed me to post it in the mail. I then asked if he saw Julian and he replied, again with a smile, that he could not tell me that. Finally, I asked if he would give Julian my regards, perhaps a futile gesture, but given that the prison guards had applauded Julian on his marriage, perhaps not entirely so. I don’t recall that he responded except with that smile.

I later mailed that letter.

Report From Unitarian Forum On Lawsuit Against The CIA

By Ann Batiza

At the November 13 MKE Unitarian Forum co-sponsored by Peace Action of Wisconsin, plaintiff Deborah Hrbek said, "From that day forward ... every conversation, every document that was going into and out of the embassy, whether it was attorney-client privilege, whether it was a psychiatrist report, no matter what it was...was transmitted to the CIA."

Hrbek appeared with former President of the National Lawyers Guild, Marjorie Cohn, to discuss her lawsuit (with another U.S. attorney and two U.S. journalists) against the CIA, Mike Pompeo, and others for stealing their documents and spying on privileged conversations with their client, Julian Assange at the Ecuadorian Embassy - in violation of their 4th Amendment rights.

The host, Ann Batiza, noted that while U.S. officials have uniformly claimed that the law should be allowed to take its course in the case of Julian Assange, the U.S. has repeatedly operated outside the law. The guests had already discussed the U.S. plot to assassinate Assange as reported by *Yahoo News* and the FBI's suborning perjury from their witness, Siggi Thordarson, who recanted his lies as reported by *Stundin*.

Hrbek responded, "We have to stop being naïve ... If it's in the [U.S.] government's interest they will abuse the process time and time again and this is absolutely demonstrated in this case."

View the entire Forum at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3JqWfR61Yk&t=15s>.

Art Heitzer Wins WNPJ Lifetime Activist Award



Art Heitzer was honored by the Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice with a Lifetime Activist Award at the annual WNPJ gathering on Nov. 13,

2022. His biographical introduction by Julie Enslow was based on their lifelong, shared history of activism. Art's activism began at Marquette University where he was a leader in opposing the Vietnam War and helped organized the Black Students Union on campus. He has never stopped his work for peace and justice, is a longtime active member of Peace Action Wisconsin, and is well-known for his passionate commitment to ending the US blockade of Cuba and his support of the Cuban people. He is the leader of the Wisconsin Coalition to Normalize Relations with Cuba.

Congratulations Art for this well-deserved honor!

(Art had been nominated for the award by former Lifetime Award recipient George Martin with the backing of Peace Action of Wisconsin.)

Webinar with Massachusetts Peace Action "What's War Got to Do With It? Fund Human Need Not Pentagon Greed" Monday November 28 @ 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm EST

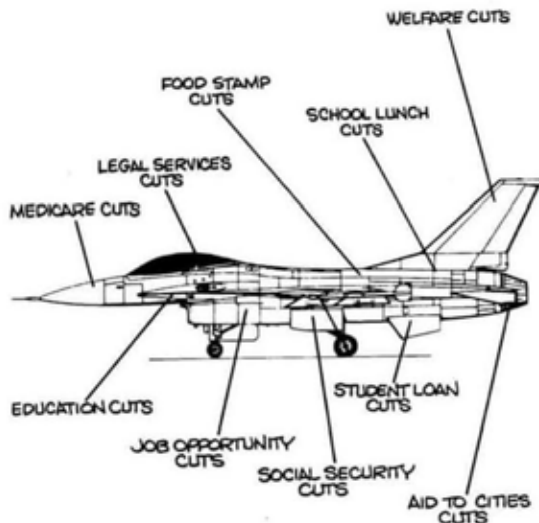
Webinar sponsored by: the Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism (CCDS) Peace and Solidarity Committee Move the Money Task Force. Co-sponsors: CCDS Socialist Education Project, Massachusetts Peace Action, Peace Action of Wisconsin, and the Online University of the Left.

This webinar will address the widening "guns v. butter" trade-off. Considered will be the ways in which military and national security state spending undercuts domestic social program funding and detracts from meeting already underserved human needs. As then-President Eisenhower famously expressed it in 1953: "Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies...a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed...". Emphasis will be placed on the significance of these expenditures with regard to contemporary poverty, inequity, and deprivation in the United States.

Presentation speakers will be Sandy Eaton of CCDS and the Massachusetts Care Single-Payer Network and Deborah Weinstein, Executive Director for the Coalition of Funding Human Needs.

Register: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZ0odO-hpzgiGNDSQSU0sxllgchGu0MGvLdZ>

Just in case you didn't know what different parts of fighter jet are called.





PEACE CALENDAR December 2022 - January 2023

Tuesday, November 28

7 PM CT: Webinar: "What's War Got to Do with It? Fund Human Need, Not Pentagon Greed"

Speakers will be Sandy Eaton of CCDS and the Massachusetts Care Single-Payer Network and Deborah Weinstein, Executive Director for the Coalition of Funding Human Needs. Sponsored by the Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism, Massachusetts Peace Action, Peace Action of Wisconsin, and the Online University of the Left.

Saturday, December 3,

10 AM-11:45 AM, "Should Milwaukee Replace WE Energies?" Milwaukee DSA

Washington Park Senior Center, 4420 W. Vliet St.

Saturday, December 10

International UN Human Rights Day

United Nations Association of Milw, City of Milw Equal Rights Commission, Milwaukee County Human Rights Commission PM in-person at Turner Hall Palm Garden 1034 N Vel Phillips Ave. Also on zoom, registration required, and on Facebook live

Monday, January 16

Martin Luther King, Jr Day-

22nd Annual MLK Justice Program 2:30 PM

Outdoor Gathering at Dr. King's Statue - 1700 block of Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive (just north of Walnut St.) Civil rights songs, words of Dr. King performed by actor Andre Lee Ellis, and an open mic for the community to reflect on Dr. King's impact on our lives today. Sponsored by the Martin Luther King Justice Coalition. More details to be announced.

Monday, January 23

Third Anniversary of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons 7 PM at the Peace Center, 1001 E Keefe Ave, Milwaukee

Potluck Dinner and Zoom presentation by Anahket Reiter of the Menominee Nation on the "Rights of Nature" and videos by indigenous people on surviving nuclear testing



EVERY SATURDAY, NOON - 1PM

DECEMBER

Dec 3: Port Washington/Silver Spring

Dec 10: HW 100/North

Dec 17: 76th/Layton

Dec 24: Port Washington/Silver Spring

Dec 31: King/North

JANUARY

Jan 7: 27th/Oklahoma

Jan 14: King/Locust

Jan 21: North/76th

Jan 28: St. Paul/Water

The Mobilizer Newsletter of

Peace Action 
of Wisconsin

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Babette Grunow, Pam Richard, and Harry Targ

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**End Military Intervention, Transfer Military Spending to Human Needs, Abolish Nuclear Weapons & Power.
Oppose Racism & Sexism, Protect the Environment.**

Contact the White House and Members of Congress

To reach your representative and senators:
Call the Congressional Switchboard at

202-224-3121.

Access www.congress.gov/members

Send letters to First St SE, Washington, DC 20004

How to Call the White House:

The Biden White House has very limited phone line hours. Call 1-202-456-1111 to be connected to the White House public comment line. Please note, you must call between the hours of 10am - 2pm CT, Tuesdays - Thursdays while the phone line is open. Send letters to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20500

Report on Peace Action of WI Annual Meeting

By Pam Richard

Tom Seery emceed a memorable evening meeting at Kingo Church in Milwaukee with about 50 members present. The Raging Grannies entertained with rousing songs about peace and women's rights, and solos by Julie Anne Lovely Thompson with guitar were enjoyed by all.

After brief reports by office manager, Pam Richard, and new organizer, Jacob Robinson, Jim Carpenter received the Peacemaker of the Year Award. He asked the audience if they disagreed with the US strategy of sending military aid rather than getting Ukraine and Russia to negotiate for peace. When he asked, "Who opposes sending military aid to Ukraine?" the majority raised their hands; only a few of those present supported sending military aid as a response to Russia's criminal invasion. (Note: Jim is a pacifist and believes that all war is inherently evil, and that war will be abolished when people refuse to participate in it.)

The second Peacemaker of the Year Award went to Stand for Peace. Laura Kukor-Shea & Steve Shea accepted for the group.

The new 2023 Steering Committee was elected- Tom Seery, Chris Breihan, Bruce Ware, Mary Laan, Laura Kukor Shea, Bruce Brown, Babette Grunow, Harry Targ, and Ann Batiza.

Art Heitzer spoke about the recent approval vote in the United Nations to end the blockade and sanctions on Cuba.

Ann Batiza asked the audience to contact their members of Congress and the Justice Department to drop the charges against Julian Assange and cancel the extradition request.

Roger Hansen gave a report on the Friends Committee on Legislation's focus on ending US support for the Saudi-led war on Yemen and the famine there.

The evening was enjoyed by all.

JOIN US / RENEW

_____ New Member _____ Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

_____ \$30 individual _____ \$10 limited income

_____ \$50 household _____ \$100 supporter

_____ \$1000 lifetime membership

Additional donation of support \$ _____

Make checks out to Peace Action of Wisconsin
1001 E. Keefe Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53212

Call office for information on monthly sustainers.

If you are not receiving our *Peace Action Email Alerts* please email us your email address so you can keep in touch with current activities.

Thank You to our Peace Action Volunteers

Mail Crew - Mary Alice Martines, Marsha Vila,

Mary Laan, Eldeen Carpenter, Babette Grunow,

Sue Cottrell, David Lindberg, Tom Neibler,

Trish Beausang, Joyce Ellwanger,

Barbara Markoff, Roger Hansen, John Payton,

Jill Ferguson, Mary Lou Stebbins, Jan Watson,

Don Timmerman, Roberta Thurston, Julie Enslow

Tom Rodman - for many hours of computer tech advice.

George Martin - for bringing your sound amplification system to our rallies.

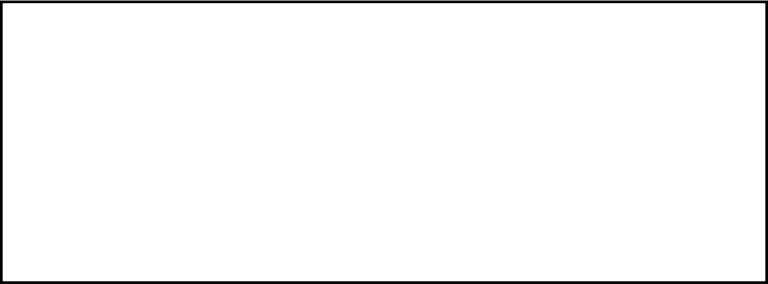
Samir Moukaddam - for keeping the Peace Center on Keefe Avenue going over the past years.

**Thank you for your work for
Peace Action of Wisconsin**

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Milwaukee, WI 53212

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DATED MATERIAL



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**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY
22ND ANNUAL MLK JUSTICE PROGRAM
MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 2023**

"Wisdom born of experience
should tell us that war is obsolete."
- Martin Luther King, Jr. -



WAR IS OBSOLETE. ALL LIFE IS INTER-RELATED

2:30 pm - Outdoor Gathering at Dr. King's Statue - 1700 block of Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive (just north of Walnut St.)

- Civil rights songs
- Words of Dr. King performed by actor Andre Lee Ellis
- Open mic for the community to reflect on Dr. King's impact on our lives today

Program details to be announced
Sponsored by the Martin Luther King Justice Coalition