



## KEEANGA-YAMAHTTA TAYLOR TO RECEIVE 2019 THOMAS MERTON AWARD

BY GABRIEL MCMORLAND

On November 22nd, we will celebrate scholar, activist, and author Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor as she receives the 2019 Thomas Merton Award for her visionary work towards peace and justice. With brilliant clarity, Keeanga burns away the fog of history and calls for rebuilding our world around racial, economic, and gender justice. She recently released the book *Race for Profit: How Banks and the Real Estate Industry Undermined Black Homeownership*, following her acclaimed previous books *From #BlackLivesMatter to Black Liberation* and *How We Get Free: Black Feminism and the Combahee River Collective*.

Since 1972, the Thomas Merton Award has honored people transforming not only our world, but our imagination of what is possible and our understanding of ourselves. Keeanga joins the list of past awardees whose interrelated work transforms our world, including Angela Davis, Dick Gregory, Vandana Shiva, Howard Zinn, Amy Goodman, Malik Rahim, and Daniel Berrigan. TMC welcomes nominations throughout the year and awardees are selected annually by the Board of Directors.



SCHOLAR, ACTIVIST, AND AUTHOR KEEANGA-YAMAHTTA TAYLOR IS AN ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDIES AT PRINCETON UNIVERSITY.

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## ONGOING WOUNDS AND SHARED HEALING: ONE YEAR AFTER THE TREE OF LIFE MASSACRE

BY SYMONE SAUL

EDITORS NOTE: THIS ARTICLE REFERENCES GUN VIOLENCE

How uplifting it is to see young love. Especially in a couple exactly twice your age, after 21 years of marriage. The way Miri and Jerry would coyly gawk at each other, like they were sharing intimate secrets while personally analyzing their connection to Judaism.

That was the prompt we were given during our Yom Kippur discussion in September 2018: "Connection, Disconnection & Jewish Identity." Though I had been dubious about sitting in this group circle with a dozen people I've been distantly familiar with since childhood, in the 'Pavilion' which was our chapel space at Tree of Life synagogue, I felt more connected to Congregation Dor Hadash and Miri and Jerry Rabinowitz than ever before.

The next time I'd walk into that space, it would be to carry our Torah scrolls past the blood-soaked prayer books and carpets rolled up in a corner, surrounded by yellow crime scene tape from the Saturday October 27 massacre. But I don't think about that day as much as I remember our Yom Kippur discussion the month before the shooting. It was the first time I saw the genuine humanity and love in Miri and Jerry, and it would be the last time I saw Jerry, before he was killed by someone who'd never seen him

before, during the Saturday morning Torah study he and Dan Leger had created.

Dan Leger is an inspiring person who led services at Dor Hadash many times, blew the shofar on Rosh Hashanah and moved others to join the Chevra Kadisha, a group of volunteers including Miri, Jerry, and himself, who perform burial rituals for the dead. Since nearly losing his life last October 27th, Dan has expressed nothing but gratitude to the incredible scope of communities who've reached out.

The vigil that harsh Saturday evening following the mass shooting was horrifying. As an organizer and activist, former Dor Hadash member, and Squirrel Hill Jew, I was besieged by people I knew every 3 feet in the intersection of Forbes and Murray, while I frantically tried to plow my way to the center where my fellow mourning congregants stood. The Pittsburgh community came out in droves for us, I thought, doing their due diligence of genuine shock and performative outrage. Is this how my Black brothers and sisters felt when I screamed and cried with them at Antwon Rose II demonstrations: that feeling of being suffocated by a swarm of well-intentioned white folks co-opting their pain?

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## EYE WITNESS REPORT FROM THE TEXAS BORDER

BY CAROL MCCracken

It was my honor to travel to Texas in August to work at the Humanitarian Respite Center in McAllen. I worked closely with Sister Patti Rossi, who is with the Sisters of St. Joseph here in Pittsburgh, and appreciated her experience as well as her kindness and humor.

ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) busses families seeking asylum legally from the nearby detention center to the Humanitarian Center where they are given 3 meals a day, clean clothes, a place to sleep and help with obtaining their bus tickets to travel to their sponsoring families or friends in this country.

My experience serving these very brave and courageous people was life-changing for me. The stories they told of their need to escape their homes included violence and gang threats of death if they did not comply with gang orders. Traveling to the border to seek asylum, frequently with young children, was full of risk, sacrifice, and courage.

Their gratitude for food, clothing, shoelaces and belts taken away in detention, was openly expressed in so many ways. Men, women, and children readily jumped to help us with the work at the center, putting up chairs and tables to make room for mats, sweeping floors or cleaning. The children, however, were very quiet. After a few days had passed, I heard a child cry. Suddenly I realized these children were not laughing or crying as one would expect. They were likely traumatized by what they have experienced in their young lives.

During my visit, the borders of Texas and New Mexico were closed by the Trump Administration. Small numbers of refugees were released from detention and brought to the Humanitarian Center but many were deported. Our guests expressed they had no idea why they were allowed to continue while others they knew were sent back across the border.

Now, hundreds of people seeking asylum wait on the Mexican side of the border in a hot plaza, with no shelter, food, water

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# THE NEW PEOPLE

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## THRIFTY

The East End Community Thrift (Thrifty) is an all volunteer-run thrift shop which provides quality, low-cost, used clothing and household goods to the surrounding community. Thrifty needs volunteers and shoppers! Please contact us at (412) 361-6010 and ask for Shirley or Shawna, or stop in at 5123 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15224. Email ShawnaPGH@aol.com.

We are mission driven volunteers who look to build love and community by serving others in times of need.  
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The NewPeople distributes over 2,200 copies each month to diverse people, organizations, businesses, and groups.

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Partners are independent organizations who support the nonviolent peace and justice mission of TMC. Articles may not necessarily represent the views of Partners

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AbolitionistLawCenter.org

Amnesty International  
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Sr. Barbara Finch 412-716-9750  
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Battle of Homestead Foundation  
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The Big Idea Bookstore  
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TheBigIdeaPGH.org

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Religion and Labor Coalition  
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SW PA Bread for the World  
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Pennsylvanians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty  
Martha Conley 412-361-7872,  
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TMC supports these organizations' missions.

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## KEEANGA-YAMAHTTA TAYLOR TO RECEIVE 2019 THOMAS MERTON AWARD

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At the Thomas Merton Center, we know we cannot wrap our hands around political issues as though they are disconnected lab samples existing in their own petri dishes of intellectual analysis and catchy modern branding. Solutions to nuclear war, the climate crisis, and wealth inequality all flow from the wellspring of racial and gender justice. Keeanga's words bring this vividly to light over and over again.

"Today, above all, we are learning from our black feminist sisters about the oppressive and exploitative vice of capitalism. We are learning that when black women are freed from this vice, our society will be fully transformed. Their liberation will require – their liberation demands – a complete unraveling of society as we know it."

"There is a movement afoot for justice. I believe its revelations will compel all ordinary Americans that what is necessary is a radical reconstruction of this country on the basis of solidarity, justice, and genuine freedom."

"150 years after emancipation the country still requires a movement that makes the most basic of claims, that black lives matter. The question must be asked then, whether or not the United States is actually capable of transforming the platitudes of freedom into actual rights for whom access is not determined by race or class status. On at least some level we have to consider

that if our government were actually interested in freedom for the vast majority of black people, it would exist. But the promise of freedom assumes that it actually existed in the United States in the first place. In fact, black people were not freed into a just society; black people were not freed into an American dream; we were freed into what Malcolm X described as an American Nightmare."

The Thomas Merton Award celebration will take place at the August Wilson African American Cultural Center on Friday, November 22nd, with a reception

starting at 5 PM during open gallery hours, followed by a speaker program and performances. To become a sponsor, purchase ads, buy tickets, or donate towards scholarship tickets, visit <https://www.thomasmertoncenter.org/tma2019> or call our office at 412.361.3022.

*Gabriel serves as director of the Thomas Merton Center and welcomes all readers to contact him anytime at [Gabriel@thomasmertoncenter.org](mailto:Gabriel@thomasmertoncenter.org)*



## KEEANGA-YAMAHTTA TAYLOR

WITH THE  
2019 THOMAS MERTON AWARD  
ON  
NOVEMBER 22, 2019

SCHOLAR. ACTIVIST. AUTHOR  
OF RACE FOR PROFIT: HOW  
BANKS AND THE REAL ESTATE  
INDUSTRY UNDERMINED BLACK  
HOMEOWNERSHIP

## WE REMEMBER ANNE KUHN: 1946 – 2019

A board member of the Thomas Merton Center, serving as a liaison with the East End Community Thrift Store, Anne Kuhn will be remembered by many for her convictions that found a variety of expressions throughout her life of generosity, of time, talents and treasure. Anne passed away on August 31.

Anne and her husband Jim were long time members and supporters of the Thomas Merton Center. She enthusiastically participated in many peace and social justice efforts, from the Pittsburgh Peace Institute to Abolition 2000, to her leadership as president of Pennsylvania Peace Links.

For years, Anne used her artistic talent in stained glass to create the annual Thomas Merton Awards that were presented to national and international persons and organizations recognized for their outstanding contributions to peace and social justice.

Anne was a caring mother and grandmother, with a warmth and sympathy for everyone. Recognizing Anne's commitment to peace and social justice, her family is directing donations in Anne's name to the Thomas Merton Center, 5129 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15224. As noted in Anne's obituary in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (9-8-19), "Anne's creative legacy lives on in the artistic expressions of her children and grandchildren." And we hope her commitment to peace and social justice will live on in the daily work of the Thomas Merton Center.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, October 19 from 3:30 - 5:30 PM at Winchester Thurston, 565 Morewood Avenue in Shadyside.

Several of our members and Anne's friends have shared their reflections of Anne's life:

I know Anne through Pittsburgh Friends Meeting and slightly beyond that. In life's tough times, she's met difficulties with courage and grace. I think of Anne as unfailingly steady, sane, friendly, welcoming and kind. I'm sorry she won't be a continuing presence in the lives of her family and many friends, Quaker friends and otherwise. --- Liane Norman

Anne was a good friend, active member of Peace Links, a Merton Center board member and a person of grace and love of family. --- Molly Rush

Anne was a faithful supporter of East End Community Thrift. For years she volunteered her time by chauffeuring our guests from the women's shelters around Pittsburgh so they could attend our Open House, and provided food and financial help for our fundraiser, Affordable Chic. Anne was always a part of our celebrations like the Holiday Party and to pick up the Eat 'n Park Lemon Meringue pies to celebrate my birthday at Thrifty. --- Shawna Hammond

Anne and I met early on at Thrifty and we discovered right away our common interest in peace and justice. We met again at a gathering for Abolition 2000 and our friendship of over 25 began. While the best friend I

ever had, Anne and I didn't always agree. Neither of us were "yes" people; we challenged each other! --- Shirley Gleditsch

The loss of Anne affects so many beyond her family and friends, because she seemed to be available to the community at large. Wherever there was a need, Anne was willing to respond, whether it was for one person or a group. She gave her time, her advice, her energy, her finances, her creativity. Through the years many organizational awards were the result of her artistry, and many homes have been enriched by her stained-glass additions. But in each case, she gave of herself, and will be sorely missed. --- Lois Goldstein

Anne and I first met in the mid-90s when I began to work with Peace Links as the board secretary. When I became executive director and Anne president of Peace Links, we had to work closely and communicate on nearly a daily basis. I appreciated her commitment to the organization, her knowledge and experience and her willingness to cooperate with me and our 12-member board.

In 1997, Peace Links was invited to send a delegation to China as guests of the Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament (CPAPD). Anne headed that delegation and was an eloquent and ardent spokesperson for Chinese-American cooperation to further the cause of peace.

After the China trip, the focus of Peace Links shifted more toward local issues. We published "Starting Young," a workbook of activities for parents of children birth to age 3, following the words of Gandhi, who famously said that if want peace in the world, we have to "begin with the children."

Anne was central to the work of Peace Links and when I think back on those days, I think of her. Maybe we didn't create the ideal world, but we were sincere, passionate and determined to contribute something positive to a desperate world. I feel certain that if she can, Anne is still doing that. ---Janice Auth



ANNE KUHN: 1946 – 2019

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTIVISTS

## COMMEMORATIVE GATHERING OF THE SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS WATCH AT FORT BENNING, GEORGIA

BY JOYCE ROTHERMEL

EDITOR'S NOTE: THE SOA WATCH CONTINUES TO SEEK LEGISLATION TO CLOSE THE SOA/WHINSEC. SUPPORT FOR THE SOAW CAN BE SENT TO 225 E. 26TH STREET, SUITE 7, TUCSON, AZ 85713. FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS, THE ANNUAL SOA WATCH WITNESS HAS BEEN HELD IN NOGALES, AZ. FOR 2019, THE GATHERING HAS RETURNED TO FORT BENNING.

On November 15-17, hundreds of people will gather at the home of the School of the Americas (SOA)/WHINSEC (Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation – a Department of Defense Institute) in Ft. Benning, Georgia to witness against the institute's continuing role as a training ground for military personnel from many Latin American countries, and its proposed use as a detention facility for children.

This year's gathering will mark the 30th anniversary of the Central American University massacre in El Salvador. On Nov. 16, 1989, an elite battalion of

the Salvadoran Army, trained at the SOA, entered the grounds of the Jesuit University of Central America, with orders to kill Fr. Father Ignacio Ellacuria, an outspoken critic of the Salvadoran military dictatorship, and leave no witnesses. When it was over, the soldiers had killed six Jesuit priests, a housekeeper and her daughter in cold blood. The Jesuits Massacre was one of the most notorious crimes of El Salvador's 12-year-civil war, which left over 75,000 people dead.

The current U.S. administration is now enacting deplorable policies that have caused several Central American migrant children to die in detention. Since the administration proposes to lock up more children at Ft. Benning -one of the locations that created the conditions of violence from which they are fleeing - SOA Watch will once again be present at Ft. Benning Nov. 15-17, bridging the past and present, resisting and challenging state violence.

Over the course of years that the SOA Watch has convened thousands at Ft. Benning, Pittsburghers have often traveled to be a part of this annual witness. This year is no different. Organized this year by Casa San Jose, people in the Pittsburgh area are invited to travel together to Columbus, Georgia (location of Ft. Benning) or assist financially to make their journey possible. To find out more about the details of the trip and/or to register for it, contact Jose Ochoa at 412-224-3489 or jose@casasanjose.org. Checks can be made payable to Casa San Jose with SOA Watch Trip put on the memo line of the check, and mailed to Casa San Jose, 2116 Broadway Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15216.

*Joyce Rothermel is a supporter of the School of the Americas Watch and has often participated in their annual gatherings at Ft. Benning.*

## THOMAS MERTON CENTER SEEKS BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINEES

A 47-year-old radical nonprofit seeks creative, cooperative board members who enjoy good company, protesting on weekdays, and nonviolently tearing down walls of oppression. You bring the expertise of your own life experience and a hunger for justice; we'll bring the community vibes and a space to thrive in your organizing efforts! You will not be excluded on the basis of your zodiac sign.

Board members are at the center of everything we do and we hope you'll consider running in the upcoming election this November, or maybe you'll want to nominate someone who may not see themselves as a leader but brings wisdom, care and inspiration to every space they're in.

The Board of Directors is a space where people of many backgrounds, identities and perspectives come together to make significant decisions about TMC's political positions, the culture of the organization and the priorities for our work and mission.

The strength of the Thomas Merton Center is the flexibility to adapt and respond to the needs of the community. The organization's willingness to take principled stances relies on having a thoughtful and engaged Board of Directors who can provide insightful guidance.

TMC's Board of Directors constantly works to make connections with people and connect people with resources.

If you or someone you know is ready to bring your valuable leadership skills to our humble organization, we'd be happy to meet with you to answer any questions. Contact [info@thomasmertoncenter.org](mailto:info@thomasmertoncenter.org) to nominate yourself or someone else in this year's board election! Deadline for nominees is October 25. Please note: to run or vote in the TMC Board elections, the board candidate must join or renew their annual membership in the Thomas Merton Center by October 31, 2019.

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

## THOMAS MERTON CENTER

OCTOBER 20, 2019  
3:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH  
FELLOWSHIP HALL

5401 CENTRE AVE,  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15232.

QUESTIONS AND RSVP:  
[MARKEDIXON@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MARKEDIXON@GMAIL.COM)  
412-204-6098.

PUNCH AND PIE



## A NEW ARMS RACE?

Twenty-five years of struggle to gain major agreements on arms control and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons are being systematically dismantled or attacked by the Trump Administration.

The arms race expanded between the Soviet Union and the U.S. with the move toward development of First Strike capability under President Reagan and counter-measures by our adversary. The threat of all-out nuclear war that would destroy life on the planet produced widespread opposition on both sides of the Cold War and led to the creation of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW).

An affiliate, the Pittsburgh chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) chaired by Dr. Daniel Fine, who also formed a local coalition that met monthly at Friends Meeting House. The group educated, lobbied and held regular protests. The global anti-nuclear

movement grew in size and effectiveness. In 1982 two million people protested the threat of nuclear war at the United Nations in New York City. This was the lead up to two major treaties. The landmark Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty was passed in 1987 and helped to end the Cold War arms race.

On August 2, the Trump administration officially withdrew from the treaty and is now seeking to deploy INF-range missiles in Europe and Asia. Russia and China are likely to deploy more missiles in response. The House of Representatives has voted to block funding for the new INF missiles. Now pressure must build for the Senate to act and Congress to support a “no first use” agreement.

The Trump administration is also poised to abandon the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START). The result: no legally-binding limits on the world’s two largest nuclear arsenals for the

first time since 1972. The Arms Control Association (ACA) Board Chair Tom Countryman testified before Congress that abandoning the treaty without a new deal in place is “national security malpractice.”

The ACA is leading the effort to secure U.S. and Russian support to extend START. The House voted to extend the treaty. Now it requires a major campaign to build strong support for a new bipartisan bill in the Senate that would do the same.

Trump now threatens to walk away from the 1996 Comprehensive Test Ban (CTB) Treaty. Nuclear bomb tests are not only provocative but would be an environmental nightmare and a disaster as radiation spreads. CTB established a global taboo against nuclear testing. Now some Senators are pushing the White House to formally “un-sign” the treaty. This would also mean the United

BY MOLLY RUSH

States would no longer have access to valuable test monitoring data. The ACA is pressing for confidence-building measures to resolve compliance concerns and strongly enforce this vital treaty.

Last year, the Trump administration walked away from the successful 2015 Iran nuclear deal by imposing punishing sanctions on Iran, prompting Iran to respond by exceeding some nuclear limits. The future of the agreement is now in doubt and the threat of war is far too great.

Further Information:  
Arms Control Association  
1200 Eighteenth Street NW  
Suite 1175  
Washington, DC 20036

*Molly Rush is the co-founder of the Thomas Merton Center and a member of the Editorial Collective.*

## TRUMP APPOINTEES FURTHER HURT AMERICAN WORKERS

BY NEIL COSGROVE

Finally, after a decade-long economic expansion, wages are increasing modestly. But the hole our government and thriving capitalists have ardently dug for American workers over the past 40 years still exists. And the Trump administration, despite the faux populism that helped The Donald get elected, seems determined to dig that hole still deeper.

Take, as one local example, a National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) panel’s recent 3-0 decision to reverse the regional NLRB office’s and an administrative judge’s determination that the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* must pay 2018 health insurance premium increases for employees represented by six unions. A contract that expired March 31, 2017 would have required the paper to pay those increases, but the *Post-Gazette* has chosen not to seriously negotiate a new contract in the past 2 ½ years. All three panel members were Trump appointees.

“The Trump Administration’s anti-union posture gave us no realistic hope of winning at that level,” Newspaper Guild of Pittsburgh President Michael Fuoco e-mailed members following the decision.

Just as Pittsburghers benefit every day from the efforts of the *Post-Gazette*’s editorial, printing, and distribution employees, so do many who use Super Shuttle vans to wend their way through often heavy traffic to the airport. Well, back in January another NLRB panel

voted not to allow Super Shuttle drivers to be treated like actual employees, rather than “independent contractors,” consequently also denying them the right to form a union. The vote for the decision was 3-1, with the one dissenter the lone Democratic appointee to the panel, as reported by *Slate*.

Back in 2005 Super Shuttle decided to change “from a model of using employees to using so-called independent contractors,” writes *Slate*’s Terri Gerstein. “Drivers were required to buy a specified model of van (costing about \$30,000) or lease it from the company. They had to buy insurance from a designated insurer, pay all driving expenses, and pay fees for using the company’s IT system.” Super Shuttle has complete control over a driver’s work, and the driver is essential to conduct of the company’s core business. So how are those drivers not employees?

Perhaps recognizing what unions are up against in Trump’s NLRB, Tom Conway, new president of the United Steel Workers, has urged Google to “encourage” HCL, “a contracting firm that helps staff Google’s offices,” to recognize the Pittsburgh Association of Technical Professionals. HCL workers just recently voted to have that association represent them in collective bargaining. This vote will, no doubt, cost money-bloated Google some extra coin, since “misclassifying workers as independent contractors saves 30 percent on payroll and other expenses,” Gerstein estimates.

Meanwhile, the Steelworkers keep

seeking growth through organization of workers in quite different enterprises than their “core industries.” Here in Pittsburgh USW has successfully organized adjunct college faculty and, most recently, Carnegie Library employees. After a close but failed vote to organize University of Pittsburgh’s graduate student employees in April, the union has successfully argued before the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board that Pitt illegally influenced the results. A new vote has been ordered by the PLRB.

Pitt’s overall strategy bears some similarity to that of other local companies and institutions resisting unionization. The idea is to delay engaging in serious collective bargaining until such time as union organizers finally give up, or sufficiently anti-union agency members or judges have been put in place. Last year’s Supreme Court Janus decision, enacted by the court’s 5-4 conservative majority, has resulted in public service unions losing revenue, although not membership. The *Post-Gazette*’s lawyers kept appealing adverse NLRB rulings until they finally got a panel in the national office that agreed with them.

Pittsburgh’s Duquesne University may be the most egregious example of this approach. Its adjunct faculty voted to organize as a union in 2012. In response, the university kept appealing the NLRB’s insistence that Duquesne bargain in good faith with their adjuncts. Finally, in March, 2018, the agency’s national office ruled that the bargaining needed to

begin. At that point Duquesne decided to challenge the NLRB’s ruling in the federal District of Columbia appeals court.

Oral arguments took place in that case in early 2019, but the court has still not issued a judgment. When it does, it could very well go against Duquesne, as the court still has seven judges appointed by Democratic presidents, and only four appointed by Republicans. If the university does lose, will it be a surprise if they appeal to the Supreme Court, especially after the Janus decision? (The DC court’s Chief Judge, incidentally, is Merrick Garland, famously blocked by Mitch McConnell from appointment to that same Supreme Court. The fifth vote in favor of eliminating fair-share dues for non-union members was Neil Gorsuch, the judge who finally took Antonin Scalia’s seat after Trump was elected.)

At least until January, 2021, Duquesne’s approach, while unfair and abhorrent, could be effective. According to Ballotpedia, Trump has been able, by far, to appoint more federal appeals court judges (43) than any other modern American president at this point in a first term. Does anyone believe these appointees have a soft spot in their collective hearts for union organizing?

*Neil Cosgrove is a member of the NewPeople editorial collective and the Merton Center board.*



# INFORMATION EXCHANGE

CARTOON BY RUSS FEDORKA

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# LESSONS FROM RECENT HISTORY

## LEARN FROM THE PAST; MOVE INTO THE FUTURE

BY SUSAN SMITH

What are you doing on Armistice Day? This year Wali Jamal will do a dramatic reading of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s hallmark speech connecting war to racism and poverty. Then, participants will plan together for ways we will create a safer and more equitable future.

November 11 is Armistice Day, but most people today know it as Veterans Day. It was first called Armistice Day when it was created in 1918 to commemorate the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month when the armistice between the Allies of World War I and Germany took effect, ending the "war to end all wars."

On June 4, 1926, Congress passed a resolution that the "recurring anniversary of [November 11, 1918] should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer and exercises designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations," and that the president should issue an annual proclamation calling for the observance of Armistice Day. (<https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/history-of-veterans-day>.)

In 1954, the name of the holiday was changed to Veterans' Day, but the initial focus of November 11 was not to honor US veterans of all wars but to support peace and understanding among nations. Few people know of the origin of the holiday.

The Women's International League for Peace & Freedom (WILPF) honors and commemorates those who work for peace – in the past and today. In Martin Luther King, Jr.'s breakthrough speech, "Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence," he clearly speaks

of the effects of war and the need for peace. This is something else that few people are aware of today.

This important speech was made exactly one year before King was assassinated. It came at a time when peace activists were protesting the war in Vietnam, resisting the draft and working toward fundamental change. King forcefully draws connections between wars abroad and racism and poverty at home. Maybe

one reason we don't hear about this speech more often is because it generated much controversy.

Unfortunately, much of what King presented in "Beyond Vietnam" still applies today. Wars still impact people of color more than others; they are closely tied to racism and poverty; and these ideas are still controversial.

We must learn from the past as we move into the future. In order to promote discussion, WILPF Pittsburgh is partnering with Black Political Empowerment Project (B-PEP); Greater Pittsburgh Coalition Against Violence (CAV); Peace & Social Concerns Pittsburgh Friends Meeting; and Izaak Walton League to organize an educational evening. Wali Jamal, local actor and activist, will present "Beyond Vietnam." Discussion after the reading will include the effects of war, comparison of 1960s and now, impact of war on people of color, and actions we can take.

The event will be Monday, November 11 at 7 p.m. at Warren United Methodist Church, 2604 Centre Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15219. For more information, contact [wilpf.pgh@gmail.com](mailto:wilpf.pgh@gmail.com).

We encourage you to read MLK's speech now, found at [http://www.aavw.org/special\\_features/speeches\\_speech\\_king01.html](http://www.aavw.org/special_features/speeches_speech_king01.html). Then, join us to Learn from the Past and Move into the Future. Bring a friend.

*Susan Smith is a WILPF Pittsburgh member and activist. She is a long-time educator, who is also a Merton Center member.*

Presenting  
**Martin Luther King's speech,**  
"Beyond Vietnam:  
A Time  
to Break Silence"

Read by  
Wali Jamal

**Nov. 11, 2019**  
**Armistice Day**  
**7 p.m.**  
**Warren United Methodist Church**  
**2604 Centre Ave. 15219**

Learn from the Past; Move into the Future

Donations Welcome

Discussion after the reading will include: the effects of war, comparison of 1960s and now, impact of war on people of color, and actions we can take.

Sponsored by: Women's International League of Peace & Freedom (WILPF) Pgh; Black Political Empowerment Project (B-PEP); Greater Pittsburgh Coalition Against Violence (CAV); Peace & Social Concerns Pittsburgh Friends Meeting; Izaak Walton League; Hill District Consensus Group; Warren United Methodist Church; Wrestling with Racism

More information: [Wilpf.pgh@gmail.com](mailto:Wilpf.pgh@gmail.com) or 412-298-7589

## THE END OF AN ERA – THE DEATH OF ROBERT GABRIEL MUGABE

BY SISTER JANICE MCLAUGHLIN, MM

I first met Robert Mugabe in 1978 in Maputo, Mozambique. I had been deported from then Rhodesia the previous year after spending three weeks in detention for my work with the Catholic

Commission for Justice and Peace. Mugabe spoke to me about the type of society he envisioned for a liberated Zimbabwe, comparing the socialism that ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union) espoused to the life of the early Christian community described in the Acts of the Apostles. He also promised that a ZANU government would not seize the property and institutions of the Catholic Church, as FRELIMO (Mozambique Liberation Front, a political party) had done in Mozambique. He assured me that the Church had nothing to fear in a liberated Zimbabwe and was grateful for the support that the guerrillas were receiving from rural Catholic missions.

I was charmed by his words as well as by his scholarly and dapper appearance. I had heard from priests in then Rhodesia that he had attended a Marist Brothers school next to his home in Kutama, about an hour outside of Harare, and had then taught in Catholic schools in Gweru Diocese before he left to teach in Ghana.

He returned to Rhodesia in the early 1960s with his wife Sally Hayfron, who was from a prominent Ghanaian family and who converted to marry him. She became a very devout Catholic and an active supporter of Zimbabwe's struggle for liberation. Many feel that she was a moderating influence on her husband, giving him sound and helpful guidance and advice.

Mugabe was arrested in 1964 and spent the next ten years in prison. I learned that while there he

adopted a routine of daily exercise, meditation and study that he maintained throughout his long life. He gained several degrees while in prison and gave lessons to others. I was told that he neither smoked nor drank alcohol and I saw that he was well read and interested in world issues. He also had a keen interest in theology and scripture, assisting the priests who said Mass in the prison each day.

Mugabe's speeches to the ZANU staff in Maputo on the anniversary of various liberation heroes who had died were full of moral imperatives and references to scripture. He could have been a priest giving a homily to an attentive congregation. His conciliatory speech to the country after winning the elections in 1980 was in the same mold and convinced people, both within and without Zimbabwe, that he was a man who could be trusted.

I interviewed Robert Mugabe for various publications for several years before and after Independence. He always received me graciously and gave very thoughtful and thought-provoking replies. After the first decade of Independence, however, I never met him again and I found it difficult to reconcile the person whom I had known in Mozambique and shortly after Independence with the angry and vindictive person that I saw on the news and read about in the press. I wondered how a person who was so intelligent, who had promoted reconciliation between the races and championed education and

Continued on page 11

**VOTE** Information provided by VoteAllegheny

**2019 Elections Calendar**

**September:** Wednesday 9/4/19—Recommended time to register to vote: <http://register.votesPA.com>

Wednesday 9/18/19—Verify your registration  
<https://www.paVoterServices.state.pa.us/Pages/VoterRegistrationStatus.aspx>

Tuesday 9/24/19—National Voter Registration Day

**October:** Monday 10/7/19—Last day to postmark registration for general election.

Tuesday 10/22/19—Board of Elections meeting before election

Wednesday 10/23/19—League of Women Voters publishes Voters Guide in New Pittsburgh Courier

Tuesday 10/29/19—Last day to apply for civilian absentee ballot

**November:** Friday 11/1/19—Last day for county to receive civilian absentee ballots

Tuesday 11/5/19—General election for some judges, Allegheny County Executive, County Council (districts 2, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 13 and at-large seats), County District Attorney, County Controller, County Treasurer, Pgh City Council (odd # districts), City of Pgh Controller, Pgh School Board (even # districts).

Polls open 7am–8pm. [www.VotesPA.com](http://www.VotesPA.com) for your polling place

Monday 11/25/19—Board of Elections meeting to certify election

**VoteAllegheny is a group of volunteers committed to ensuring that citizens of Allegheny County have safe, reliable, accessible, recountable, voter-verifiable elections. Join us at our weekly meetings on Sundays at 4pm, or visit us online at [VoteAllegheny.org](http://VoteAllegheny.org)**



# UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

## OPEN LETTER TO MOBILITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE DIRECTOR RICKS

BY JUNCTION COALITION

EDITOR'S NOTE: FOR THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS, PITTSBURGH'S DEPARTMENT OF MOBILITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE (DOMI) HAS FLOATED A PROPOSAL TO BUILD A ROADWAY THROUGH SCHENLEY PARK, ALONG JUNCTION HOLLOW TRAIL. THIS PROJECT, DUBBED THE "MON-OAKLAND CONNECTOR," HAS BEEN PLANNED IN TANDEM WITH AN IMPORTANT STORM-WATER REMEDIATION PROJECT IN LOWER GREENFIELD AND THE FOUR MILE RUN COMMUNITY, WHICH WOULD ADDRESS THOSE NEIGHBORHOODS' URGENT FLOODING ISSUES. OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS, THE CITY HAS PROPOSED A VARIETY OF TYPES OF PRIVATELY-OWNED, PUBLICLY-ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION MODES TO OPERATE ON THE MON-OAKLAND CONNECTOR ROADWAY, INCLUDING SELF-DRIVING MICRO-BUSES, E-SCOOTERS AND "PODS." THIS PROPOSAL HAS GENERATED WIDESPREAD OPPOSITION BY RESIDENTS OF PANTHER HOLLOW, FOUR MILE RUN, AND HAZELWOOD. RESIDENTS IN THAT CORRIDOR HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE IMPACTS OF A ROADWAY ON THE STORMWATER REMEDIATION, AS WELL AS ON THE SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF THEIR ROADS AND SCHENLEY PARK, AND HAVE CALLED INTO QUESTION ITS UTILITY AS A PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SOLUTION FOR HAZELWOOD GREEN AND EXISTING NEIGHBORHOOD TRANSPORTATION DEFICITS.

Dear Ms. Ricks,

At the June 20 public meeting about the 4-Mile Run Stormwater Improvement Project and Mon-Oakland Mobility Project, residents had many open or unanswered questions. We compiled a list from several neighbors in The Run in advance of the meeting. You received a copy of these questions at the meeting, and they are included below.

The URA (Urban Redevelopment Authority ) document referenced in question #8 was acquired through a Right to Know request submitted on December 5, 2018. It clearly shows that the URA's vision for the stormwater project provides that "major transportation options under discussion" should take precedence. This contradicts repeated public statements from you and other officials, and raises serious concerns for us because of our neighborhood's flooding problem.

Residents have been pleading for many years with city officials to address the stormwater and sewage flooding their streets and homes.

Multiple experts in the fields of infrastructure and stormwater management have told us that forcing a roadway into the stormwater plan is likely to harm flood control. As Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA) Chief of Program Management Alex Sciulli stated in your joint presentation at the June 20 meeting, development—which replaces green space with hard surfaces such as asphalt that don't absorb rainwater—is a major cause of the flooding we've experienced.

If you read the April 22 *Post-Gazette* article "City officials, residents disagree on transportation service from Hazelwood to Oakland," you'll see that unnamed city officials admit there was no funding or plan for flood control until after residents learned of the proposed roadway in the August 29, 2015 and strongly objected.

As you have had our questions since June 20, we expect and would appreciate full and complete responses to each one.

Sincerely,  
Residents of The Run and Supporters  
\*\*\*\*

Questions:

We've been told that the watershed project and the roadway project are separate, yet being done "in tandem." That level of coordination requires detailed plans. When will you share full details so that resident-approved independent experts can evaluate them before construction begins?

At the January 2018 public meeting, Michael Baker Corporation presented six possible routes (including five offered by residents). DOMI director Karina Ricks expressed a preference for the Swinburne route but said it was not viable because of the landslides on Swinburne. Why is Swinburne unviable for smaller lighter AVs, yet currently open to at-times bumper-to-bumper traffic including cars, trucks, UPMC shuttles, emergency vehicles, and school buses?

The newest map shows the proposed roadway



PHOTOS ARE FROM VARIOUS YEARS OF FLOODING IN THE RUN.

running right along the bottom of Swinburne, which has experienced landslides in the past and present, and which DOMI designated "unviable" as a route. What is the true reason you are so attached to the route through Schenley Park? Why do the private partners want this land so badly?

According to sources, there is a discussion happening behind the scenes about trying to buy out residents who live along Four Mile Run/Boundary streets—whose basements always flood when there is heavy rain. Is it true that you are going to attempt to buy or force those folks out through those or other means? In 2015, public officials stated to the press that the city would go to court to overturn Mary Schenley's deed in order to seize the publicly owned and protected property of Schenley Park. Are you still planning on going to court to force that outcome?

At the September 2018 meeting, PWSA head Robert Weimar stated, "We only have one chance to get this right" regarding the storm-water plan's success. We agree, and expect access to detailed plans so that an independent, resident-approved expert can evaluate them before construction begins. When will you provide those plans?

Will you provide a list of all "project partners" with their contact information—email addresses and phone numbers?

Multiple experts have told residents that forcing the roadway onto the watershed plan will compromise flood control. A URA document titled "Project Narrative for Heinz Endowment" states, "Measure of success: We will produce several construction alternatives ... and couple them with the potential design options that will not preclude any major transportation options under discussion." In plainer language, this paragraph says that a successful flood control plan won't interfere with the proposed roadway—in other words, the road takes precedence. This directly contradicts repeated public statements made by you [K Ricks], PWSA, and other officials. Given the true priorities behind both projects, what guarantees can residents expect regarding the success of the watershed improvement plan? When will a community benefits agreement with those guarantees be enacted?

How was it determined that the route through two neighborhoods and Schenley Park is the only viable route? Swinburne would have to be stabilized to prevent it from collapsing onto the proposed roadway. So why spend an additional tens of millions of dollars to build a new road instead of using Swinburne as the route?

On April 18, some residents of The Run, along with Pittsburghers for Public Transit and the Penn Plaza Support and Action Coalition, sent Mayor Peduto an open letter. We made specific, actionable demands to actually include the public in this so-called public process concerning the Mon-Oakland Connector—things like announcing the meetings at least 14 days in advance, revealing the total amount of public funds spent so far, and formatting the meetings so that all attendees can hear all the questions and

Continued on page 10



# REMEMBERING OCTOBER 27TH

## ONGOING WOUNDS AND SHARED HEALING: ONE YEAR AFTER THE TREE OF LIFE MASSACRE

FROM PAGE 1

I was grateful to everyone who mourned with us, but I felt something else, too.

Resentment - that the masses of people and politicians proclaiming to be "Stronger Than Hate" weren't also there for Antwon. Despair - that anti-semitism was being centered over the gunman's White Nationalist agenda against immigrants, a tool that has since been weaponized to divide both Jews and non-Jews over issues like immigrant concentration camps and the occupation of Palestine. Frustration - that this massacre would instantly carve a deeper trench in the anti-gun lobby than the constant gun violence being suffered every day in our low-income neighborhoods.

For Jews, the response to these discordant realities is gemilut hasadim (acts of loving kindness) and Dor Hadash members have always been thoroughly committed to the mission of social justice, especially for our immigrant and refugee neighbors. The congregation's Immigrant and Refugee Committee has most recently been involved with Defund Hate, Casa San Jose projects and the Jewish Family and Children's Services, which provides much needed transitional support to local immigrant communities. On September 15, the Committee hosted a Congolese refugee and other speakers for an informative public event. Members have also taken the lead in creating Squirrel Hill Stands Against Gun Violence, and held a month of daily actions this past September. Instead of being intimidated by the massacre, survivors have driven

harder for justice, not for Jews alone but for everyone.

Non-Jews, as well, have been spreading gemilut hasadim. As Ron Glick, also a member of the Chevra Kadisha, recalled, "After the funeral for Jerry, I was ordering at Chipotle, still wearing my kippah (head covering). Behind me in line was a 1st responder. The woman in front of us told the cashier, 'I'm paying for both of their orders.' Performance of good deeds is a core component of Judeo-Christian values and this random act of kindness is a small illustration of the way Pittsburghers came together in the aftermath of the tragedy."

One year later, many of us still can't quite access our grief. But my feelings of resentment, despair and frustration have been slowly transforming through everyone's rededication to Tikkun Olam (repairing the world) and the vulnerability and humanity in sharing both love and pain.

*Dor Hadash (DorHadash.net) is a mixed-belief, religiously disorganized, Reconstructionist congregation where anyone is encouraged to attend and participate, no matter your identity. This article was written by Symone Saul and does not necessarily represent their views.*

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY HEALING, ONE YEAR AFTER THE OCTOBER 27TH TREE OF LIFE MASSACRE

A public memorial service culminating a commemorative day of study, service, and community honoring of the lives lost in the attack on October 27, 2018, will be held at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial. Sunday, October 27, 2019 @ 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

The JCC Katz Performing Arts Center will host a Yom Kippur conversation moderated by Rev. Tim Smith, Community Advocate, CEO, Center of Life, Pastor, The Keystone Church of Hazelwood, and Chair, Greater Hazelwood Community Collaborative. Speakers include Dan Leger and Ivy Shamis, both survivors of mass shootings. RSVP with the JCC Center for Loving Kindness at [jccpgh.org](http://jccpgh.org) Wednesday, October 9 • 3-4:30 PM

Classrooms Without Borders is organizing a conference titled "Anti Semitism, Hate and Social Responsibility," inspired by the Tree of Life Massacre. It will be held at Rodef Shalom Synagogue, 4905 Fifth Avenue, Oakland. Sunday, November 10, 2019 @ 12:00 pm - Monday, November 11, 2019 @ 5:00 pm

## BULLETS OF LEAD. CITY OF STEEL.

BY CAROLYN PALLOF

Growing up only twenty minutes from the center of the city of Pittsburgh, I was always immersed in the steel town culture. Sundays were reserved for Steeler games; hot summer days were celebrated with trips to Kennywood Park, and perogies always had a place on my dinner plate.

Even though we may live different lives, we share these niche memories and experiences. It's things like this that bring us together. Last fall, our lives changed when something happened that no Pittsburgher will ever forget. The world watched and cried along with us as our brothers' and sisters' lives were taken by the hands of hatred. We took care of their families and provided for their synagogues; we dealt with our losses by demanding change. This community of family took a stand against the highest powers to fight for our rights; for their rights. Whether we were of a different race, a different creed, or a different orientation, they were family and we mourned for them as a family.

On the morning of Saturday, October 27th, I remember lying comfortably on a firm hotel bed in Athens, Ohio. Suzie was in the bathroom doing her morning ablutions and David was trying to get Dillon and me up and moving. While in the bathroom, Suzie received a phone call from a friend back in Pittsburgh. I can now only imagine the panic and confusion evident in the voice on the other end. Suzie was screaming for us behind a closed door to turn on the television

The sound of Suzie's tears and the commiserating voices of television reporters seemed to grow louder and louder. I could feel the rapid pace of my heartbeat in my fingertips; my eardrums pounded louder than hail on a tin roof. I watched in horror as the television displayed the same footage over and over again, images I'll never forget. Videos of police

officers in riot gear running up Wilkins Avenue, as horrified citizens stood on the tree-lined sidewalks in their pajamas.

I was too shocked to even cry, refreshing my social media feeds, desperate for any information. Anything other than the videos of sheer terror unfolding back home. I was the only Catholic in the room, but I was not the only Pittsburgher. My pain ran deep for my city, but as Jews who lived and worshipped in Squirrel Hill, my companions' pain ran deeper.

That night, after visiting friends in Athens, we were going to stay at the family cabin closer to Pittsburgh, but we never made it. The long drive didn't seem so bad, but for one drunk and miserable Dillon, it would only take a few miles for him to become undone.

I remember taking a hot shower before going to bed. As I stood there, I stared at the empty, colorless void of the Best Western bathtub. I was so far away from home, but I wasn't really sure what home was anymore. What would it be like when I got back? What would I feel when we drove through the Fort Pitt Tunnel and saw the city expanse? I have more memories of Squirrel Hill than I can even begin to remember, but it felt like all of that was from another time that I will never get back.

The only memory that really stuck with me that day was that of Dillon in the car on our way out of Athens. He had put on some music to drown out his thoughts. With his head on the back of the seat in front of him, as he cried, he also sang. It was quiet and under his breath, but loud enough for me to hear. I often struggle with remembering all of the events of that weekend, but this moment is one I'll never forget. Dillon's voice, soft and broken, yet full of raw emotion as he sang.

"Sh'ma Yisrael, Adonai Eloheinu, Adonai Echad..."

Hear oh Israel, the Lord is God, the Lord is One.

*Carolyn Pallof is a junior at the University of Pittsburgh studying Humanities and Creative Writing. A Pittsburgh native, she grew up in and around the Squirrel Hill area.*

## EYE WITNESS REPORT FROM THE TEXAS BORDER

FROM PAGE 1

or protection. Decisions must be made: do they journey home to danger and uncertainty or do they wait for the small chance that perhaps they will make it through the asylum process and be permitted to enter the United States? They are attempting to follow our rules for seeking asylum but are being blocked in many cruel ways by this administration. It was difficult to return home to my life here, having seen the faces of the children and adults and knowing their difficult journey continues.

A group of volunteers in Brownsville, Texas called Team Brownsville currently crosses the border twice a day, wheeling wagons of food and water to those who wait in hope for a chance for a better life. To learn more about their work, go to <http://www.teambrownsville.org/>

*Carol McCracken is a retired teacher who lives in Pittsburgh. The only thing that makes sense to her now is working for peace and justice.*



## OPEN LETTER TO MOBILITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE DIRECTOR RICKS

FROM PAGE 8

answers. When will we receive a formal response, and why are you continuing to take up most of these meetings with presentations and breakout sessions? By choosing automonius vehicles (AV), you are eliminating jobs, thus reducing the tax base. How will the City make up for this loss of revenue and pay for basic services like roads, bridges, infrastructure, etc.? Will robots pay taxes?

The Planning Commission approved a last-minute tripling of residential density in the Hazelwood Green plan over objections by the Greenfield Community Association and the Run Resident Action Team. Karina Ricks admitted in 2017 that if Amazon accepted Pittsburgh's bid, the Mon-Oakland Connector would be inadequate for the increased number of users. Why are you investing public money into a roadway that is already obsolete before it's even built?

Isn't it a conflict of interest that some of the people involved in decision making about the roadway and storm-water projects stand to profit from developing Hazelwood Green?

We have the agenda from a 2000 "community outreach project" meeting titled "The New Junction Hollow Vision." The agenda advocates for a short, intense "charette" process—that means a meeting of all stakeholders where conflicts are worked out. But the meeting involved only residents of Oakland

and the Oakland Community Council. Hazelwood Initiative is mentioned but not Panther Hollow or The Run—the neighborhoods that are actually located in Junction Hollow, the communities that would be affected most. Do the Oakland organizers of this meeting still think Junction Hollow belongs to them, and that they can decide its future? Why would they not include the communities of Panther Hollow and The Run?

A URA document titled "Exhibit 1" states, "The implementation of the Oakland Transit Connector model can address a majority of these barriers and will open the opportunities for continued economic growth across Oakland and into adjoining communities." The barriers: People already live here. There's a public park here. Development can only address these "barriers" by eliminating them. No one consulted those "adjoining communities" about the Mon-Oakland Connector before deciding to proceed with it. And during the series of public meetings last year, DOMI filed another grant application connected to the roadway without telling residents. City officials have lamented the continuing distrust around this project, but how can they be surprised? Some people would like to attend these meetings but can't because they are taking care of kids. Will you use part of the Knight Foundation grant to facilitate their participation by providing kids' activities and supervision for future meetings?

DOMI's presentation for the February 2018 meeting included a chart that gave "Autonomous Microtransit" a higher positive ranking than conventional shuttle buses and improved Port Authority bus service. This despite the fact that no data supports the assertion that AVs have a greater ability to "deliver in the near term" or "promote sustainable mobility and development"—in fact, the proposed Mon-Oakland Connector requires completely new infrastructure and a new fleet of vehicles. Why is AV being so aggressively put forward as the solution and whose interests does this serve?

Will people be able to use the Mon-Oakland Connector if they don't have a smartphone or don't want to provide personal information? What happens to the personal information a Mon-Oakland Connector app would collect?

What will happen to the Mon-Oakland Connector fare system after the fares are no longer subsidized (after 2 years)?

*Junction Coalition believes that Pittsburgh needs to solve its affordable housing, corruption, and injustice problems instead of inflaming them with inequitable development.*

## STOP BANKING THE BOMB: WHAT CAN I DO?

BY SUSAN M SMITH

I hope you have been hearing about Stop Banking the Bomb's (SBTB's) efforts to get PNC to stop supporting the creation of nuclear weapons. I have. I have even attended some of the protests and talked to people about the situation. Still, I felt that I was supporting PNC since I have had checking and savings accounts there for many years.

According to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, PNC has loaned about \$1.2 billion to eight nuclear-arms manufacturers since 2013. The bank is using customers' money (including my money) to fund what Dwight Eisenhower correctly called, the Military Industrial Complex. In addition, several of the companies in which PNC has invested not only manufacture nuclear weapons, but also sell them to other countries, fueling global war and destruction. General Dynamics, Northrop Grumman, Orbital ATK, and Textron are just a few so-called "defense contractors" who sell these insidious weapons of war and create an unsafe world for all of us.

SBTB has two goals. First, that PNC divest of their financial commitments to those corporations involved in the manufacture of nuclear weapons. Second, that PNC adopt a corporate policy never to loan money to or in any way financially support corporations involved in the manufacture of or sale of nuclear weapons.

Since I don't want to support the creation, sale, or use of nuclear weapons, I decided to pull my money out of PNC. I decided that it would not be effective without informing William S. Demchak, PNC Chairman, President & Chief Executive Officer and Michael P. Lyons, PNC Head of Corporate & Institutional Banking and Asset Management Group.

So, I recently closed my PNC accounts and sent two letters. Yes, it was a hassle, as I had to change/stop direct deposits, direct payments, etc. It took time, but I decided that the statement was worth it. No, I didn't really have that much money in the accounts. But I remembered one of my favorite quotes from Margaret Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

I can't do this alone, but I can be a small part of the pressure on PNC to change its investment policies. I am not the first person to make this decision and I hope I won't be the last. Will you join with Stop Banking the Bomb? Many small amounts add up to a lot of pressure. I want to live in a world of peace without nuclear weapons. Don't you? Let's each take our own small steps toward that goal.

Upcoming Stop Banking the Bomb Pickets are:

- Friday, October 4, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM at PNC Headquarters, Fifth and Wood, Downtown
- Saturday, October 19, 11 AM - Noon at PNC, Fifth and Craig, Oakland
- Friday, November 1, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM at PNC Headquarters

All are invited to participate in building the campaign through your presence at a picket, telling others about the campaign, making your support for our demands known to PNC, or like I did, to close your PNC account(s).

*Susan Smith is a Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) Pittsburgh member and activist. She is a long-time educator, who is also a Merton Center member.*

## THE RACIST NEXT DOOR: HOW TO HAVE ANTI-RACIST CONVERSATIONS

BY JOYCE ROTHERMEL

Mark your calendars now for Monday, Nov. 4 at 7 PM to hear Rev. Carolyn Helsel, Ph.D., who will speak on "The Racist Next Door: How to Have Anti-racist Conversations in Your Community." She follows an earlier speaker on Oct. 2, Beverly Tatum, whose topic was "A Conversation with Beverly Tatum – Can We Talk About Race?" Rev. Liddy Barlow, executive minister at Christian Associates, participated. It was also hosted by the Association of Pittsburgh Priests at the Kearns Spirituality Center, 9000 Babcock Blvd. in Allison Park.

Helsel is a professor of homiletics at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary and has been working on the seemingly impossible task of helping future preachers speak about racism and the Gospel of Jesus Christ in their homilies.

She describes herself humbly as "a white woman who wants to help other white people talk about race." Her passion to do so is such that she wrote a book to guide their journeys: *Anxious to Talk About It: Helping White Christians Talk Faithfully about Racism*. It won the Academy of Parish Clergy's 2018 Book of the Year Award.

In an article Helsel wrote for *Christian Century* she identifies common myths many white people believe about racism: "Racism is not our problem," "Racism is about hateful actions and words," "Only KKK members and white supremacists perpetuate racism." among others.

Those who attend are invited to bring their experiences, questions, and hopes to unite our divided country, churches, neighborhoods, and families.

Continued on page 11



# FOURM ON SUDAN

## PDEC FORUM TO HONOR SUDAN ACTIVISTS AND RECALL HISTORY

BY MARY DAWN EDWARDS

The Pittsburgh Darfur Emergency Coalition (PDEC) will hold its Seventh Annual Forum on the problems of Sudan and South Sudan, underwritten by the International Partnership of the Pittsburgh Presbytery, on Sunday, October 13, 1:30-4:30 p.m., at East Liberty Presbyterian Church, starting with a luncheon prepared by members of the Pittsburgh area's Sudanese and South Sudanese community. The group will honor Congressman Mike Doyle, Sudan Unlimited founder Esther Sprague, and the ENOUGH Project for their activism on behalf of the Sudanese and South Sudanese people. Speakers will include Ms. Sprague; Abd Alla Bakhit, President, Darfuri Congress Council of Canada; Ian Schwab, Director of Advocacy and Impact Strategy, ENOUGH Project; and a representative of the Office of the Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan, US State Department.

We will also mark the entry of our records into the PDEC Collection at the University of Pittsburgh Archives Service Center. PDEC was founded in 2004 as news reached the outside world that the government response to a rebellion in the western Sudanese region of Darfur was to commit atrocities against civilians, with 300,000 people killed and over 2,000,000 displaced from their homes. One of the founders, Dr. David Rosenberg, has been the coordinator of the group since then.

We have continued our advocacy, bringing public attention to the ongoing human rights violations against the citizens of Sudan (and South Sudan) by their government, and petitioning US, UN, and other world leaders to intervene. We have organized local marches and rallies, organized delegations to national rallies in Washington and New York City, and collected signatures for numerous petitions. Signs with the names of over 600 destroyed villages in Darfur (and later in South Sudan) have been displayed as part of our activities since 2008. Pittsburgh City Council has issued six proclamations honoring our efforts.

We organized the Pittsburgh Conference on the Way Forward in Darfur and South Sudan, held at Carnegie Mellon University in March, 2010, with speakers from the US State Department, Save Darfur, and the government of the autonomous region South Sudan (which gained independence in 2011 under the provisions of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement of 2005). Since 2013, we have held an annual forum on the problems in Sudan and South Sudan,

featuring speakers from the Sudanese and South Sudanese diaspora communities, representatives of human rights organizations and other activists, and representatives of the US government.

Congressman Doyle has long supported our efforts and those of the Congressional Sudan Caucus, which has conducted investigations into the conflicts and humanitarian crises in the region and made recommendations and introduced legislation to mitigate these problems. Esther Sprague, through her leadership of Sudan Unlimited and her work as a co-founder of Act for Sudan, has steadfastly petitioned for the rights of the Sudanese and South Sudanese people to live in peace and security, free from abuse by their corrupt governments. The ENOUGH Project, with the resources of policy experts and prominent activists, has conducted extensive investigations into the abuses by the kleptocratic Sudanese and South Sudanese governments, exposing their looting of the resources of their countries as well as their murderous repression of their people, and made policy recommendations to US government bodies and international organizations on ways to counter these abuses.

We have persisted in our efforts for fifteen years, while conflicts and humanitarian crises have simmered and flared, international efforts to negotiate peaceful and just solutions have met with little success, and crises in other parts of the world have demanded attention. We were disappointed to see the hopes for a new, independent South Sudan disintegrate, as the leaders of rival factions in the

new government set up a kleptocratic system and plunged their people into near famine conditions in their conflicts over control; a fragile cease-fire is in danger of collapsing.

There have been recent hopeful developments in Sudan, where massive peaceful demonstrations by a united opposition since December, 2018, despite brutal government suppression, led to the ouster of the long term president, Omar Bashir, and some of his deputies. Unfortunately, members of the military who had long supported Bashir set up a Transitional Military Council to rule the country while negotiating with opposition leaders to form an elected civilian government; they staged a brutal crackdown on demonstrators in June, 2019, when negotiations faltered. Subsequently, the military council members have ceded a greater role in the transition to opposition leaders, but international pressure is needed to insure that a transparent and representative government is formed.

Please join us; everyone is welcome. There is no charge to attend the forum; donations and advance registration are appreciated. For further information and to pre-register, please go to our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/pittsburghdarfur> or contact Dr. David Rosenberg at [jumphook@gmail.com](mailto:jumphook@gmail.com).

*Mary Dawn Edwards has been a member of PDEC for 14 years.*



YOUNG WOMAN SPEAKS TO CROWD OF PROTESTERS IN KHARTOUM, SUDAN./ COPIED FROM NEWS FOOTAGE BY LYDIA ROSENBERG.

## ANTI-RACIST CONVERSATIONS

FROM PAGE 10

A donation of \$20 is requested at the door. For more information and questions, contact Fr. John Oesterle at 412-232-7512 or [johnoesterle2@gmail.com](mailto:johnoesterle2@gmail.com). You are also invited to visit [www.associationofpittsburghpriests.com](http://www.associationofpittsburghpriests.com). Pre-registrations can be made to the Association of Pittsburgh Priests, P.O. Box 2106, Pittsburgh, PA 15230.

The Association of Pittsburgh Priests is a diocesan-wide organization of ordained and non-ordained women and men who act on a baptismal call to be priests and prophets. Its mission, rooted in the Gospel and the Spirit of Vatican II, is to carry out a ministry of justice and renewal in ourselves, the Church and the world. They are a member of the Thomas Merton Center.

*Joyce Rothermel serves as Chair of the Church Renewal Committee of the Association of Pittsburgh Priests.*

## THE END OF AN ERA – THE DEATH OF ROBERT GABRIEL MUGABE

FROM PAGE 7

health care for all, could allow corruption to flourish and could sanction the violence and destruction that characterized much of his long reign in power

I used to think that he was not aware of the violence that was unleashed in Matabeleland in the few years after Independence, and had not given the orders to deploy the Fifth Brigade. Subsequent accounts, however, clearly indicate that he knew and approved of the brutal tactics that were used and that would be used again in 2008 after a bruising election campaign in which the opposition won enough votes to necessitate a run-off. I chaired a human rights group at the time that provided treatment to the victims of violence and saw for myself the horrific brutality that was meted out to men and women who were suspected of having voted for the opposition.

While Robert Mugabe is being declared a hero by his successor and by many regional leaders, I doubt if his own people will be so forgiving - nor will I. A man who had raised such high hopes for peace, reconciliation and development in 1980 has instead left a legacy of violence, poverty, corruption, hunger and hopelessness.

*Sr. Janice McLaughlin is a Maryknoll Sister from Pittsburgh.*



# EVENTS CALENDAR

4 OCT, FRI. 11:30am – 12:30pm. People Power At PNC Tower: Stop Banking the Bomb. 300 5th Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15222-2401

5 OCT, SAT. 11am – 1pm. March for Peace. Schenley Plaza, Oakland

6 OCT, SUN. 2 – 3:30pm. Jewell Parker Rhodes, Award-Winning Author Presented by Pittsburgh Arts & Lectures. Carnegie Library Lecture Hall

10 OCT, THU. 9 – 10am. Creating Confluence - Inclusive Leadership + Equity Education. Community Forge

10 OCT, THU. 7 – 9pm. Film and discussion: Fahrenheit 11/9. Rivers of Steel: Pump House & Water Tower, site of the 1892 Battle of Homestead

12 OCT, SAT. 6 – 10pm. 9th Annual Taste of Africa. Teamsters Local Union 249 4701 Butler St, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15201

12 OCT, SAT. 7 – 10pm. ¡Que Viva Clemente!. Brookline Teen Outreach

13 OCT, SUN. 1:30 – 4:30pm. 7th Annual Forum on Sudan and South Sudan. East Liberty Presbyterian Church

14 OCT, MON 7:30 – 9pm. Ibram X. Kendi, a Ten Evenings Author Presented by Pittsburgh Arts & Lectures. Carnegie Music Hall (Oakland). 4400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

15. OCT, TUE. 7 – 9pm. Join us for a screening of Power Struggle presented by Remembering Hiroshima. 40 W. North Ave Pittsburgh, PA, 15212

19 OCT, SAT. 9am. 4 K Walk for Gaza Children. Schenley Plaza, Oakland

19 OCT, SAT. 2:30 – 4:30pm. Scarred Lands, Wounded Lives Movie. Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - Homewood

19 OCT, SAT. 11 AM - Noon. Stop Banking the Bomb. PNC Bank, Fifth and Craig, Oakland

19 OCT, SAT. Anne Kuhn Memorial Service. 3:30 - 5:30 PM at Winchester Thurston, 565 Morewood Avenue. Shadyside.

20 OCT, SUN. 2 – 4pm. Build Solidarity to Fight Anti-Semitism and Racism. The Historic Pump House, 880 E. Waterfront Dr., Munhall, PA 15120

24 OCT, THUR 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM. There Are Black People in the Future Artist Presentations . Carnegie Library Homewood. 7101 Hamilton Ave, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15208

1 NOV. FRI. 11:30 – 12:30. Stop Banking the Bomb. PNC Headquarters, Fifth and Wood, Downtown

4 NOV 7pm. Association of Pittsburgh Priests w/ Rev Carolyn Helsel. at the Kearns Spirituality Center, 9000 Babcock Blvd. in Allison Park

## REGULAR MEETINGS

**Sundays:**  
Book’Em: Books to Prisoners Project  
First three Sundays of the month at TMC, 4-6pm  
Contact: bookempgh@gmail.com

**Mondays:**  
SW Healthcare 4 All PA /PUSH Meeting  
3rd Monday, 6:30 —8 pm  
Squirrel Hill Library  
Contact: bMason@gmail.com

Green Party of Allegheny County  
1st Monday, 6-8pm  
Panera, 3401 Blvd of the Allies, Oakland  
412-532-9194 alleghenycountygreens@gmail.com

Association of Pittsburgh Priests  
2nd Monday, 7—9 pm,  
Prince of Peace Center, 81 South 13th St.,  
Southside, Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Women’s International League for Peace & Freedom (WILP)  
2nd Monday, 7:00 PM  
Thomas Merton Center, 5129 Penn Ave

Amnesty International #39  
2nd Wednesday, 7—9 pm  
First Unitarian Church, Morewood Ave. 15213

**Tuesdays:**  
Black Political Empowerment Project  
Second Tuesday of the Month, Hill House Association,  
2nd Floor, 1835 Centre Ave. 6pm.

**Wednesdays:**  
Darfur Coalition Meeting  
1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 5:30 – 7:00 pm,  
Meeting Room C Carnegie Library, Squirrel Hill  
412-784-0256

Pennsylvanians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (PADP)  
1st Wednesdays, 7-8pm, First Unitarian Church, Ells-  
worth & Morewood Avenues, Shadyside

Pittsburghers for Public Transit  
2nd Wednesday, 7pm, 1 Smithfield St., lower level

**Thursdays:**  
Global Pittsburgh Happy Hour  
1st Thursday, 5:30 to 8 pm, Roland’s Seafood Grill, 1904  
Penn Ave, Strip District

Black Political Empowerment Project  
2nd Thursday, 6 pm: Planning Council Meeting, Hill  
House, Conference Room B

**Fridays:**  
Unblurred Gallery Crawl  
1st Friday after 6 pm, Penn Avenue Arts District, 4800-  
5500 Penn Ave., Friendship and Garfield 15224

Hill District Consensus Group  
2nd Thursday, 6pm - 8pm, Hill House Conference Room  
2

People of Prisoners in Need of Support  
3rd Friday, 7:00pm New Hope Methodist Church, 114 W.  
North Ave, Pittsburgh 15212

**Saturdays:**  
Project to End Human Trafficking  
2nd Sat., Carlow University, Antonian Room #502

Fight for Lifers West  
1st & 3rd Saturday, 1 pm, TMC Annex

“Peace demands the most heroic labor and the most difficult sacrifice. It demands greater heroism than war. It demands greater fidelity to the truth and a much more perfect purity of conscience.”

-Thomas Merton

The Thomas Merton Center works to build a consciousness of values and to raise the moral questions involved in the issues of war, poverty, racism, classism, economic justice, oppression and environmental justice.

TMC engages people of diverse philosophies and faiths who find common ground in the nonviolent struggle to bring about a more peaceful and just world.

The NewPeople is invested in fostering conversation around topics that affect communities and vulnerable groups both locally and globally. We encourage contributions for each issue from the public that will generate conversation and we invite perspectives that are not widely considered. Opinions expressed in the published articles do not necessarily represent those of the Thomas Merton Center or its Editorial Collective.

## BECOME A MEMBER

Subscribe to The NewPeople by becoming a member of the Thomas Merton Center today!

As a member, The NewPeople newspaper will be mailed to your home or sent to your email account. You will also receive weekly e-blasts focusing on peace and justice events in Pittsburgh, and special invitations to membership activities. Now is the time to stand for peace and justice!

Join online at [ThomasMertonCenter.org/membership-and-donationor](https://thomasmertoncenter.org/membership-and-donationor) or fill out this form, cut out, and mail in.

Select your membership level:

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\_\_\_\_ Monthly Donation– Become a TMC Peacemaker  
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Or Become an Organizational Member:

\_\_\_\_\$75 Organization (below 25 members)  
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\_\_\_\_ I would like to receive the weekly activist Eblast  
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Please complete and return to TMC. Thank you!

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