

# THE NEWPEOPLE

PITTSBURGH'S PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWSPAPER OF THE THOMAS MERTON CENTER



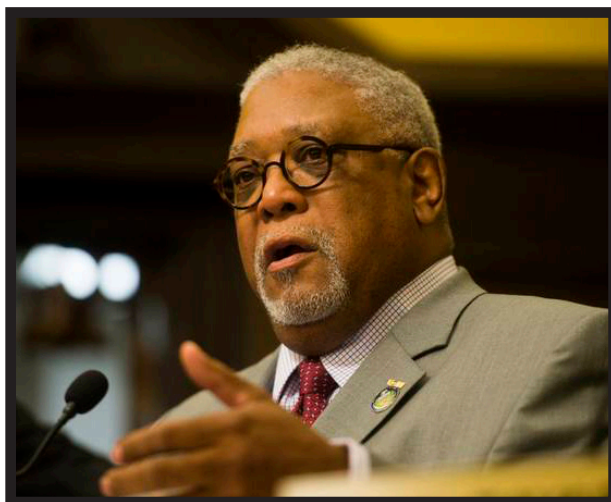
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## A NEW COUNTY COUNCIL RENEWS THE FIGHT FOR POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

BY CHERYL BAUER  
PHOTO BY NATE SMALLWOOD/  
TRIBUNE-REVIEW

In January 2020, a new legislative session began for the Allegheny County Council, including new members Bethany Hallam (D, Council-at-Large), Liv Bennett (D, District 13), and Tom Duerr (D, District 5), all of whom have made passage of a bill to establish a county-wide Civilian Police Review Board (CPRB) a priority, after the council failed to pass the bill proposed by council members DeWitt Walton and Paul Klein in 2019. Despite overwhelming public support for the bill, nine of fourteen council members voted in opposition, citing shortcomings in the bill, as well as concerns with budget feasibility and interest of municipal police departments within the county.

Councilmember Liv Bennett and Pennsylvania Interfaith Impact Network held a public comment session in Duquesne Township on February 19, the first in a series of comment sessions around the county to hear from the public what they can do to address the shortcomings of the original



Council member DeWitt Walton speaks during a meeting of the Allegheny County Council prior to their vote on the creation of an independent police review Board inside Allegheny County Courthouse on 8-27-2019.

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## FIFTY YEARS OF NUCLEAR ACTIVISM: PROTESTING THE B-1

BY MOLLY RUSH

Protesting the B-1 Bomber at Rockwell International Headquarters, US Steel Building, Rockwell was prime contractor of the B-1 Bomber, an advanced, super-sonic bomber

built to deliver nuclear weapons in an attack. TMC members regularly leafeted and protested against the development of the B-1 outside Rockwell Headquarters in the mid-1970's.



Rockwell International B-1A during B-1B flight testing program. (U.S. Air Force photo)

One day at office closing time, 14 of us entered the reception area. We stayed there all night. TMC Member Joe Hughes phoned the media to inform them of our presence.

We spent the night discussing the Campaign with two Benedictine sisters from Erie who had joined the protest. We prayed that Rock-

well might hear our demand that they end their contract with the Pentagon. The fear that the US would go to war with the Soviet Union propelled us. By morning we were arrested and walked down Grant St. to the police lockup. The media was out in force.

Another day, protesters dressed in whiteface as victims of a nuclear bombing, moaned and

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## BE A PART OF THE MERTON CENTER'S FUTURE

BY NEIL COSGROVE

BUILDING  
PEACE  
THROUGH  
JUSTICE  
SINCE 1972

THOMAS  
MERTON  
CENTER

As the Thomas Merton Center (TMC) prepares to celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2022, the Center's Board of Directors and Project leaders have begun a close and careful examination of what TMC's next 50 years might look like.

"We recognize the importance of the Thomas Merton Center, as we look to its future," says TMC Board President Shernell Smith. "We're at a critical juncture in that we need to develop a strategic plan. We've thought strategically in the past, but not really long-term."

The Board hopes to complete that strategic plan by this summer, a necessary first step in creating the information and guidance required to put the Center on a firm financial footing. "We need to ask what our membership will look like, our future donors, our new Cornerstone Sustainers, who have been the fundamental pillars of the Center, along with the general membership," Smith added. "Who will be the next generation of members, of our Board of Directors, of staff?"

A strategic plan will also guide Board decisions as it seeks to resolve pressing facility issues.

The Merton Center currently owns one building, 5123 Penn Avenue, which houses the East End Community Thrift Store, a TMC project commonly known as "Thrifty." This building is in need of significant renovation. In fact, a

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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.  
Follow @getthriftypg on Instagram

## PUBLISH IN THE NEW PEOPLE

The *NewPeople* is distributed each month to 2,200 people who belong to diverse organizations, businesses and groups.  
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To Submit an Event to the TMC Calendar: Email  
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TMC supports these organizations' missions.

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# MERTON CENTER NEWS

## BE A PART OF THE MERTON CENTER'S FUTURE

FROM PAGE 1

study by the Hayes Design Group that was completed last summer estimated possible contractual work in repairs could cost up to \$400,000.

A couple of doors down the street, 5129 Penn has been the Merton Center's home since 2011, with a meeting room, offices, and another TMC project, Book 'Em, occupying the building's basement. The Center rents this space from the building's owner, Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, and a recently signed lease ensures we can stay at this location until December, 2021. It is important to note that BGC has allowed us to remain in our space at rents much below market value, and that generosity is apparent in our most recent lease as well.

However, Bloomfield-Garfield is seeking to divest itself of all its commercial buildings over the next two years, according to Rick Swartz, its Executive Director, who has also informed the Merton Center it hopes to sell our location (5129 Penn) by the summer of 2021. Consequently, over the next 12 to 18 months TMC will be seeking a new home for the Center itself, and for either some or all the projects it currently houses (Thrifty, Book 'Em, and

Pittsburghers for Public Transit). "We anticipate our future space will be much more costly," Executive Director Gabriel McMorland observed.

Since its founding in 1972 the Thomas Merton Center has evolved into a vital and far-reaching presence within Pittsburgh's activist community. The Center moved from the South Side into the Garfield neighborhood in 1984. Thrifty has occupied its current location since 1994. Throughout that time, TMC has owed much of its existence to the volunteer labor and generous financial support of its membership.

As in the past, the Center's Board and staff will be relying, in the coming months, on the broad network of expertise and contacts that has developed around TMC over the years. "We need some more time and more minds to address our facility needs," said McMorland. "We'd love to hear from people about what would make the TMC space a useful community resource to them."

"We could use a lot more help in researching a new space. It could be a new building, either bought,

rented, or donated, or a shared space in a larger complex. The building we own requires a lot of repairs. Does anyone own or know of a contracting company that might be in a position to donate labor?"

Board President Smith placed the Director's call for help in the larger context of strategic planning: "The search for a new home allows us to expand the conversations that have been happening in silos. We want the voices of the full membership to be heard."

"We can't continue to be a welcoming, sharing impactful community resource without everyone's participation," McMorland added. "This moment calls upon all of our imaginative spirits and practical talents, and we welcome you with complete gratitude."

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

## FIFTY YEARS OF NUCLEAR ACTIVISM: PROTESTING THE B-1

FROM PAGE 1

crawled on their stomachs across the Steel Building's plaza, up the steps, and through the revolving doors.

By the time the police came, security chief Mr. Angel was upset that the protesters had gotten inside. They were put in the freight elevator. The police arrived and arrested them.

We actually enjoyed ourselves during such an action. Such protests give strength and often build

lasting friendships.

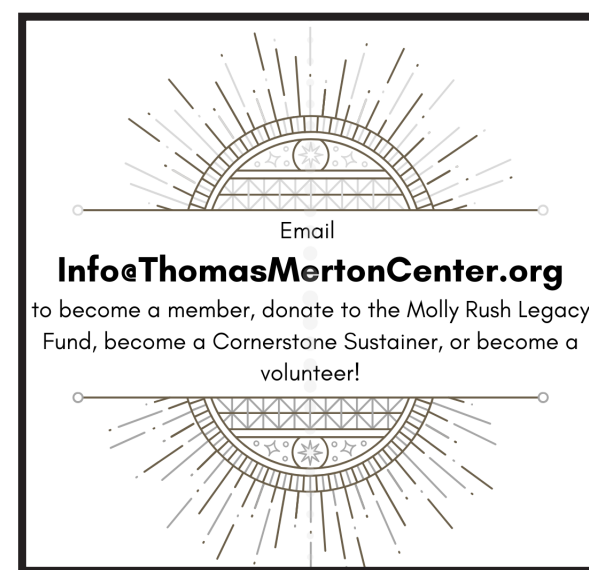
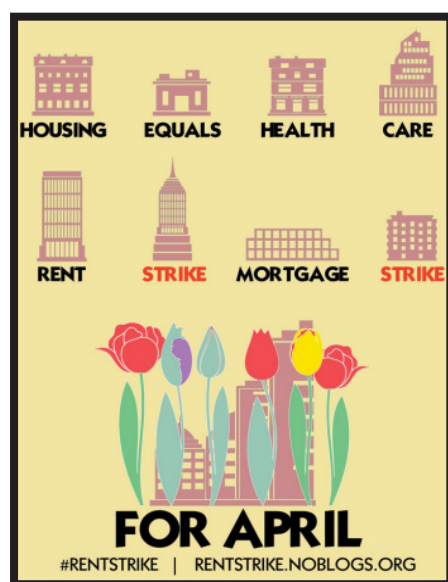
Eventually we had a meeting with CEO Willard Rockwell. He showed us a film on the B-1. He commented, "Isn't that a beautiful plane?" I replied, "If only it didn't kill people."

In 1988, Rockwell moved its Headquarters from Pittsburgh to four different sites. Eventually parts of the company were sold. The corporation, once the largest U.S. military and NASA contrac-

tor, with a workforce of 115,000, was defunct by 2001.

At the time we couldn't have imagined such an outcome.

*Molly Rush is a Co-founder of the Thomas Merton Center, and member of the New People Collective.*



## NOTE FROM THE STAFF OF THE THOMAS MERTON CENTER:

Our Offices (TMC main, PPT in the Annex, and Thrifty) are all closed out of love for the hundreds of people who come to rely on and use our spaces day in and day out as community resource centers.

It's more important than ever that we stay connected and compassionate in this time of public health concerns about COVID-19. We see the value of mutual aid and community care among the glaring shortcomings of capitalism, governments, and technology. Please contact TMC if you know about any grassroots response to support vulnerable people in the Pittsburgh region, if you have needs yourself, or if you can offer time or resources. We will do our best to connect people with each other and do-it-yourself responses as we learn more. Our office is currently closed but you can contact Gabriel@ThomasMertonCenter.org or 412.719.3424.

Stay Safe,  
TMC Staff



## NEW ANTI-WAR BOOK DECRIES “HUMANITARIAN” HYPOCRISY

BY DAN KOVALIK

The politics of our two-party system increasingly defy traditional descriptions and categories, such as liberal and conservative, though both of these tendencies converge in one clear trajectory – the support of the United States’ perpetual war effort.

Take for example, the impeachment battle between the Democrats and Donald Trump. The liberal hero of this saga is Rep. Adam Schiff, who has pushed not only the impeachment campaign, but also the Russiagate narrative which under-girds it. Recently, Adam Schiff, to the adoration of liberal media outlets such as National Public Radio, proclaimed that Trump’s greatest crime was to withhold \$400 million in military aid to Ukraine which, Schiff claims, is critical to American national security. As Schiff claimed, “The United States aids Ukraine and her people so that we can fight Russia over there so we don’t have to fight Russia over here.” This statement appears to be a truism of U.S. liberals, though it is as dangerous as it is false.

First, this statement ignores the ugly fact that the Ukraine government and military include many neo-Nazi elements, such as the Azov Battalion. Indeed, former Uruguayan President Jose Mujica stated it well when he said that it is unfair to call these elements “neo-Nazi” because they are in fact straight-up Nazis who

trace their roots directly back to the 1920s and to leaders, such as Stephen Bandera, who aided and abetted Nazi Germany in the Holocaust. Nazis such as Bandera are now being lauded and memorialized as great leaders by the current Ukrainian government – a government which another liberal icon, Barack Obama, helped put into office through a coup in 2014. And, the Ukrainian military is not in fact fighting Russia, but is fighting and killing ethnic Russians in eastern Ukraine, the military believing that Russians, along with Jews, should be purged from Ukraine.

Incredibly, we are being led to believe by liberal leaders and pundits that our national security depends upon funding such ultra-right wing forces and that Trump must keep that funding going without pause, or else. That is, liberals are in fact outflanking Trump from the right (indeed the very far right) on this issue, just as they do on Syria where, they argue, the U.S. military must remain indefinitely to allegedly protect human rights. In short, as hawkish as Trump is, the establishment Democrats may indeed be more hawkish. And, in any case, many congressional Democrats, even in the midst of trying to impeach Trump, voted to give him the largest military budget in U.S. history last fall, just two weeks after the *Washington Post* revealed newly-declassified documents showing that

we’ve been lied to for 18 years about the war in Afghanistan. The war must go on after all, or at least that is what we are being told.

In my new book, I attempt to undermine one of the key tenets – bordering on a religious one – propping up the American faith (and in particular the liberal American faith) in the use of military force. That tenet is “humanitarian” interventionism -- the belief that the West must militarily intervene around the world in order to protect human rights against the governments of the Global South and East. This doctrine, of course, depends itself upon the belief that the West, and the U.S. in particular, is morally superior to the rest of the world, and therefore, can and should exercise military power to uphold the values all of us hold dear.

The problem with this doctrine, like the problem with many religious beliefs, is that it is grounded in myths and utter falsehoods which few even bother to question. While I cannot go into all these falsehoods here (you will have to read my book for that), the following is but a sampling: (1) the belief that the West won the war against Nazi Germany (another Western country), when it was, in fact, the USSR which truly won this war; (2) the belief that liberal darling Bill Clinton led the 78-day bombing of Serbia to protect human rights,

while this bombing not only violated international humanitarian law in numerous ways, but also accelerated the very human rights abuses which Clinton and NATO purported to stop; (3) the belief that President Obama, with encouragement from the troika of Hillary Clinton, Samantha Power and Susan Rice, went to war in Libya to protect human rights, when in fact that war has undermined human rights and has directly led to the creation of modern-day slave markets in Libya; and (4) the belief that NATO must stay in Afghanistan to protect women’s rights, when in fact it continues to undermine those very rights in Afghanistan, which currently ranks at the very bottom of all nations for women’s rights.

If you wish to purchase the book *No More War: How the West Violates International Law by Using ‘Humanitarian’ Intervention to Advance Economic and Strategic Interests*, as I hope you will, it is available now for pre-order at [Indiebound.org](http://Indiebound.org) and major book retailers.

*Dan Kovalik teaches International Human Rights at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. He served as in-house counsel for the United Steel Workers for over 25 years.*

## PNC SHAREHOLDERS TO CALL FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS DIVESTMENT

BY JOYCE ROTHERMEL

This month when the shareholders of PNC gather for their annual meeting on Tuesday, April 28, members of the Stop Banking the Bomb campaign will be present and make our demands known: change PNC policy and stop making loans to companies that are a part of the nuclear weapons industry.

In a recent release, PNC announced, “As a precautionary measure related to coronavirus or COVID-19, it is possible PNC may hold the annual meeting solely by means of remote communication. If PNC determines to do so, the decision will be announced in advance, and details on how to participate in the annual meeting will be available at [www.pnc.com/annualmeeting](http://www.pnc.com/annualmeeting).”

Either way, the SBTB campaign members will participate. Efforts must go on to deter the continuation and proliferation of nuclear weapons on the planet.

We have hope. More and more financial institutions are saying no to nuclear weapons. The Don’t Bank on the Bomb report conducted by the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), “Beyond the Bomb,” profiles 77 banks, pension funds, insurance companies and other financial institutions throughout the world that now have policies to not invest in nuclear weapons. This number is a 14% increase since its

report in 2018.

More financial institutions than ever are refusing to finance the nuclear weapons industry. They are not alone: the movement rejecting the legitimacy of nuclear weapons continues to grow. In 2017, states from around the world voted to adopt the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons; a comprehensive prohibition on the most destructive weapons ever created. As more and more states sign and ratify this Treaty moving it closer to entry into force, it becomes increasingly clear that nuclear weapons are not a part of the security system of the future.

Financial institutions can use their position in the global economy to contribute to nuclear disarmament. Enacting comprehensive policies on nuclear weapons provides an incentive to companies to end production of materials designed to commit mass murder. This contributes to the stigma on nuclear weapons. Refusing to invest in companies that produce nuclear weapons is also an accurate reflection of public opinion, as most recent polls show a clear rejection of nuclear weapons.

Excluding companies involved in the production of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons but also other inhumane and illegal weapons such as cluster

munitions, landmines and chemical weapons, is the new normal. The number of financial institutions with (comprehensive) policies listed in Don’t Bank on the Bomb has grown from 35 in 2014 to 77 in the 2019 report. And this is only the tip of the iceberg.

Thirty-six institutions have comprehensive policies in place. Their policies are best-practice and an example to the rest of the financial sector. The report also profiles 41 financial institutions whose policies are not yet comprehensive enough and may still have investments in nuclear weapons producers. By adopting a policy restricting investments in nuclear weapons, they demonstrate a shared understanding that nuclear weapons are controversial.

To view the full report, go to [dontbankonthebomb.com](http://dontbankonthebomb.com). (Information about the report is drawn from an article by Maaïke Beenes, who works for the humanitarian disarmament program for PAX in the Netherlands.)

*Joyce Rothermel serves on the Coordinating Committee of the PNC: Stop Banking the Bomb Campaign.*

For more information on how to get involved in the age of COVID-19, call Joyce at 412-780-5118.

### Missing Person TONEE TURNER



Age: 22  
Height: 5'2"  
Weight: 132 lbs  
Hair: Black, curly, chin-length

Ms. Turner was last seen around 6 p.m. at Dobra Tea in Squirrel Hill December 30 around 6:00 p.m.

Anyone with information regarding her whereabouts or sees her is asked to call Pittsburgh Police Missing Persons detectives at 412-232-7141.

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## DEBATE MISREPRESENTS US-CUBAN HISTORY

BY MICHAEL DROHAN

It is difficult to describe the level of analysis of the US's role in the history of the world in the Democratic Presidential debates as anything other than pathetic. To begin with, the amount of time in the debates devoted to foreign policy of the US barely registers. And then, when questions of foreign policy arose, red-baiting seemed to dominate the discussions.

A good place perhaps to begin the analysis of the debates on foreign policy might be with Charleston, South Carolina on February 25. In that debate, Margaret Brennan of CBS News set the tone of the discussion with a frontal attack on Bernie Sanders. Addressing Sanders, she said, "You've praised the Chinese Communist Party for lifting more people out of extreme poverty than any other country. You also have a track record of expressing sympathy for socialist governments in Cuba and Nicaragua. Can Americans trust that a democratic socialist president will not give authoritarians a free pass?" The implication of Brennan's question is that no politician should dare say a word of praise for any regime that describes itself as socialist or communist for lifting people out of poverty and misery. She also seemed to imply that recognizing the incredible achievements of China and Cuba in reducing poverty and misery was tantamount to praising dictatorial regimes. With the US involved in at least half a dozen wars around the globe, one can hardly imagine a more bizarre way to prime the discussion on US foreign policy.

In response to Brennan, Bernie Sanders had to run for cover to Obama's statement "that Cuba made progress in education." But instead of that quelling the red baiting, it seemed to only open

the flood gates. Buttigieg entered the fray, proclaiming there was no comparison between the position of Obama and Sanders on Cuba. He even accused Sanders of making excuses for the authoritarian aspects of the Cuban government. Biden then joined the attack, invoking his intimate knowledge of Obama's thoughts and policies on Cuba. Sanders in reply seemed not to have been knocked off his feet and made the most meaningful comment in the debate, saying "occasionally, it might be a good idea to be honest about American foreign policy, and that includes the fact that America has overthrown governments all over the world, in Chile, Guatemala, in Iran...". Not a single candidate rose to support Sanders.

In this context, it may be a good time to revisit what one might call the real history of Cuba in modern times. On January 1, 1959 Fidel Castro and his guerrilla band rode into Havana victorious over the dictator, Fulgencio Battista. Battista had ruled as a kind of puppet of the United States, which had dominated Cuba's economy and government since the U.S. Congress-approved Platt Amendment of 1900. Havana was a romping ground for the mob and the Hollywood elite. US corporations dominated the economy and it could be said that Cuba was little more than a brothel for the rich and famous. But the majority of the people lived in abject poverty, with disease and illiteracy ubiquitous.

Castro tried to put an end to the poverty and degradation of the Cuban people. He tried to work with the US government of the time and thought it was possible. The US, however, was having none of it and tried to do what they had done to Guate-

mala in 1954 and Iran in 1953, namely overthrow a nascent democracy. They put together a band of invaders in 1961 which Castro, against all odds, beat off at the Bay of Pigs. Threats of invasion continued and attempts mounted on Castro's life are almost innumerable. In this struggle for survival, it could be said that Castro was thrown into the arms of the then Soviet Union. It was a marriage of convenience and for survival. Prior to 1959, there is little evidence that Castro was a fervent Communist or a devotee of the Soviet system. However, after the embrace of the Soviet Union, Cuba did, alas, adopt many of the more repressive aspects of the Soviet system.

By any standards, Cuba achieved extraordinary social goals by drastically reducing poverty, illiteracy and disease. It built a health care system that most countries can only dream of still. But the threats of invasion and attack continued unabated. Cuba, in order to preserve the revolution, instituted many draconian repressive measures.

But we have to ask ourselves how much the US is responsible for these draconian measures. Would they have been instituted without the danger of an invasion?

This is the history that none of the Democratic candidates for President in Charleston, apart from Bernie Sanders, knew anything about or were too afraid to admit. What a shameful performance.

*Michael Drohan is member of the Merton Center and of the Editorial Collective*

## THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY, THE MEDIA AND THE POLITICAL ESTABLISHMENT

BY MICHAEL DROHAN

It has become a cliché to say that democracy is under attack on multiple fronts. It is hard to know where to begin, as the topic is vast. A good place might be with what is denominated as "fake news". This term was introduced to our lexicon largely by Donald Trump and his trumpeters in the media and the political establishment. In essence, it was introduced as a label for dismissing what was unfavorable to team Trump, or for press and media organs that the same team disliked intensely. The *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* in particular became the butt of Trumpian anger and wrath.

The most profound upshot of this development has been to sow doubt and distrust of even the most committed sections of the investigative media. Furthermore, it has seeded the idea that truth is unattainable, fungible, or maybe a fiction. In particular, it has called into question the very concept of science and scientific investigation. When the honest and sincere findings of scientists are dismissed as fakery we are in deep trouble. The question of challenging the climate crisis that we are experiencing is perhaps the clearest example of the consequences of truth denial.

It would be a great mistake to declare that Trump invented the concept of fake news and that it will go by the wayside with the demise of Trump. It is often said that Trump gets all his opinions and convictions from Fox News and Rush Limbaugh and the multiple organs of a similar nature. So in a sense, Trump policies and tweets are a creation of Fox News and its multiple clones. Fox News

preceded Trump and after him it will create more clones if society does not wake up to the reality of mind manipulation by mass media owned and engineered by the billionaire Rupert Murdochs of the world.

While it may seem easy to identify the dangers that media outlets like Fox News, Breitbart News, Rush Limbaugh and Info-Wars present to democracy, the danger is that one might assume that the liberal media such as the *New York Times*, CNN and MSNBC present us with the unadulterated truth.

A good example of this danger would be the reportage on the relationship between the United States and the Russian Federation, and the allegations of Russian interference in US elections and politics that these sources pedal. All the liberal organs mentioned above give a daily drumbeat of how nefarious Russia is and how it is undermining US democracy. They seem to be still caught in the cold war mentality, when Russia was a communist country devoted to the destruction of capitalism. It has not dawned on them that Russia is now an uber-capitalist state and scarcely registers as a world economic or political power. If they paused for a moment they might realize that Israel and Israeli interference in US elections and democracy presents a far greater threat. Just imagine that under the presidency of Obama, the Prime Minister of Israel was invited by the united US Congress to address them, against the will of the then President of the US.

The present Democratic Presidential debates and electioneering illustrate yet another severe danger to democracy from the liberal media. Take the example of Chris Matthews from Hardball on MSNBC. After Sanders' victory in the Nevada primary on February 21, Matthews compared the victory of Sanders to the Fall of France to the Nazis in 1940 and likened Sanders to Adolf Hitler. Although he apologized later for this extraordinary outburst of anger at Sanders' recognizing the good outcomes of Cuba's revolution, it was clear where his heart and politics were. Although Matthews represents the most extreme reaction to a truly progressive agenda, he has many like-minded companions in the liberal media. It looks as if they will collude with the Democratic Party machine to assure that Sanders will not be the general election candidate, as they instill fear of "socialism" in the population.

On March 6, the *New York Times* entered the Sanders bashing stakes with an article entitled "Soviet Papers Recount Ties with Sanders." The page-and-a-half article recounts Bernie Sanders' work as Mayor of Burlington, VT, to establish a sister city agreement between Yaroslavl, Russia and Burlington in 1988.

Sanders was no doubt trying to tap down the hostility between the then Soviet Union and the US during the glasnost program introduced by Mikhail Gorbachev. The Times went to great

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## BREAD FOR THE WORLD NAMES NEW LEADER: REV. EUGENE CHO

BY JOYCE ROTHERMEL

Bread for the World, a Christian anti-hunger and poverty group, announced on March 9th that Rev. Eugene Cho will be the organization's next president. Cho will succeed Rev. David Beckmann, who has served as president since 1991. Bread was founded in 1974 by Art Simon with the mission of influencing U.S. policies that address the causes of hunger.

"Eugene is the leader who can help Bread for the World end hunger and bring our mission to the next generation," said John Carr, chair of Bread's board of directors. "He is a committed Christian, clear thinker, compelling speaker, and dynamic pastor. Eugene is a passionate advocate for justice who can build on Bread's strengths and will powerfully connect faith and action to help bring the end of hunger."

Cho, an Evangelical Christian, is the founder and visionary of One Day's Wages – a grassroots movement of people, stories, and actions to alleviate extreme global poverty. He is also the founder and former Senior Pastor of Quest Church in Seattle, Washington. Cho is an ordained minister of the Word and Sacrament in the Evangelical Covenant Church. He received his Masters of Divinity ('97) from Princeton Theological Seminary and was the recipient of the 2017 Distinguished Alumni Award. Cho was honored as one of 50 Everyday American Heroes and the Frederick Douglass 200.

Recently, Cho released his second book, *Thou Shalt Not Be a Jerk:*

*A Christian's Guide to Engaging Politics.* The book urges readers to stop vilifying those they disagree with, especially the vulnerable, and asks Christians to follow Jesus and reflect His teachings. Cho's first

book, *Overrated: Are We More in Love with the Idea of Changing the World Than Actually Changing the World?*, challenges Christians to put their faith to work in action for justice.



Rev. Eugene Cho, President of Bread for the World.

"It was clear that Eugene would be an excellent fit at Bread for the World," said Sandra Joireman, chair of Bread's leadership committee. "His work with One Day's Wages demonstrates his concern about poverty and commitment to the dignity of all people. His experience and background are a great fit for Bread. He has built a vibrant and diverse community of faith and comes to us with broad ecumenical and interfaith connections. We look forward to the passion and energy he will bring." Cho was the unanimous choice of the committee and was elected president by the full board on March 9.

Cho began his transition to Bread last month and will become president July 1. "I take on this calling with enormous respect and gratitude," said Cho. "God commands us to care for our sisters and brothers – especially the 'least among us.' Though it will be arduous, ending hunger is possible within our lifetime. I am eager to begin this new journey and I urge Christians everywhere to join us."

The April 19 Annual Advocacy Workshop of the SW PA Bread for the World Team has been canceled and rescheduled for Sunday, June 28. Details will be included in upcoming issues of *The NewPeople*. For more information, call 412-780-5118.

*Joyce Rothermel is a board member of Bread for the World and serves as co-chair of the SW PA Bread for the World Team.*

## PLATFORM TO END HUNGER

For the past two issues of *The NewPeople* we have heard from many of our members and friends about the qualities they are looking for in candidates for the U.S. presidency this year. Thanks to all who participated. With no additional submissions to offer, I would like to share with you a platform for getting on track to end hunger by 2030 that I would like to ask the candidates and their supporters to embrace.

Like many of you, I have spent most of my adult life advocating for human rights and for me, the primary focus has been on the right to food. This past fall I was elected to serve on the national board of Bread for the World, a collective Christian voice urging our nation's leaders to end hunger at home and abroad. Bread, its members, and partners are working to make hunger, poverty, and opportunity a priority for candidates.

While the social safety-net programs that began in the 1960's have reduced poverty by about 50 percent, we can do better. To end hunger in the U.S., we need policies that enable all people to provide for themselves and their families. We must disrupt structural discrimination and injustice.

Government can't end hunger by itself, but our government needs to provide a framework in which states, local communities, congregations, businesses, and families can work together to end hunger.

Therefore, I am joining Bread for the World in identifying candidates who will embrace a platform to end hunger in the U.S. and around the world.

To end hunger in the U.S.:

1) Create jobs that pay by growing the economy and reducing income inequality, raising the minimum wage, increasing training opportunities, expanding access to work supports (sick leave, parental leave, and child care), and improving tax credits for working families.

2) Invest in people by ensuring that everyone, regardless of race, gender and class, has access to nutrition, health care, education and housing; establishing procedures that limit the influence of money in elections and make voting accessible and easier, especially for people of color and low-income people; encouraging public-private partnerships with community groups and coalitions that work against hunger and poverty; and

targeting assistance to communities of concentrated poverty.

3) Remove obstacles to earning a decent living by enforcing laws against racial, gender, and other forms of discrimination, and end discriminatory practices; reforming the immigration system to protect undocumented people and allow a path to citizenship; and reforming our criminal justice system, including measures to help people who have been incarcerated return to society and get jobs.

4) Strengthen the safety net by making our national nutrition programs stronger; maintaining other social safety-net programs like Medicaid; making federal assistance programs more efficient and accountable; and adopting government budgets that give priority to people in poverty.

To end hunger around the world:

1) Provide U.S. leadership for international systems that reduce hunger and poverty, by leading the world in implementing global goals to end hunger, reduce poverty, and combat climate change; deepening efforts to promote peace and security and address the root causes of forced

BY JOYCE ROTHERMEL

migration; helping low-income countries affected by climate change cope with its impacts and do our part to slow climate change; and making the end of hunger and the reduction of poverty in our country and worldwide a purpose of U.S. agreements on international trade and investment.

2) Expand and improve development assistance focused on poverty, by making U.S. aid more efficient, accountable and locally-owned; increasing funding for health, development and humanitarian assistance; and using U.S. assistance and diplomacy to promote equality for women.

3) Invest in global food security and nutrition, by investing in sustainable agriculture among smallholder farmers and increasing funding to improve the nutrition of mothers and children.

Bread for the World has reached out to the presidential candidates and asked them to respond to these questions via videos:

"If elected, what will you do to end hunger, alleviate poverty, and create

Continued on page 7



# CHANGES IN VOTING

## MAIL-IN VOTING FOR ALL, POSTPONEMENT, HIGHLIGHT CHANGES IN PRIMARY ELECTION

BY NEIL COSGROVE

By now, given the Allegheny County Board of Elections' announced intention to conduct a \$400,000 media blitz, readers have been made quite aware that voting in the Pennsylvania Primary, now set for June 2nd, will look quite different than in the recent past.

When the state enacted a new election law last October, much of the discussion centered on the elimination of straight-party voting, where citizens could just press a button to select all candidates from a single party. But actual changes in who can vote and how will probably prove more significant in the long run.

First of all, a voter may register 15 days before an election and still be able to vote. Previously the requirement was registration at least 30 days prior.

Of even greater import is the introduction of mail-in voting, a first for Pennsylvania. In the past, absentee ballots required some submitted evidence that voters couldn't be physically present at their precinct on election day. But now a citizen can simply request a mail-in ballot, just so long as that voter is registered, and submits the request by 5 p.m. seven days prior to election. Both traditional absentee ballots and mail-in ballots will be counted if in the hands of the Board of Elections when the polls close at 8 p.m. on Primary Day.

The new law's insistence on a paper trail for each vote will also significantly

change how voting is done at Allegheny County's voting precincts on election day. Back in September the county agreed to a \$20 million contract with Election Systems & Software that provides 1,650 new voting machines, software, updates and training.

Under the new system, voters will receive a paper ballot upon checking into their precinct. "Fill in the oval to the left of the name of your choice," reads the Board of Elections' on-line instructions. "You must darken the oval completely, and do not make any marks outside of the oval." Voters should ask for a new ballot if they "make a mistake or a stray mark."

Once a ballot is completed, the voter will then insert it into a tabulating scanner. A "thank you for voting" message will indicate the ballot has been tabulated and the voter can leave.

The COVID-19 outbreak, apart from pushing the state legislature to move the primary from April 28 to June 2, has created worries about the extent of on-site voting. County Executive Rich Fitzgerald told the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette that because so many poll workers are elderly, he will consider consolidating polling places. An election security expert at the University of Pittsburgh, Christopher Deluzio, told the Post-Gazette that the legislature's decision to allow such consolidations, does create the dangers of "partisan game-playing"

and voter suppression.

The bill that pushed back the primary date also eased county election officials' concerns about tabulating mail-in ballots in a timely manner. Prior to the legislature's most recent action, the counting of those ballots could not begin until polls closed at 8 p.m. on election day. Now the county can begin the tabulation of mail-ins at 7 a.m. on June 2nd.

Jon Delano of KDKA reports "that the county has purchased machines that can open 700 ballots a minute and scan 300 ballots a minute." Those are maximums, of course, and with election day pressures in play no one can definitely say just how quickly votes will be tabulated.

The coronavirus epidemic appears to guarantee that there will be significantly more mail-in and absentee ballots than originally anticipated. As of this moment (the end

of March), legislators are considering the allocation of funds that would allow every Pennsylvania county to send mail-in ballot applications to every voter.

Given so much uncertainty created by both the virus and new voting guidelines, the instant gratification of election night race-calling just may not happen, now and in the near future. Still, shouldn't we be most concerned that everybody who wants to vote gets to vote, that participation in primary voting increases, and that paper trails increase Pennsylvanians' trust in the electoral process? Given those potential benefits of our state's new election law, should it really matter if results aren't certain until June 3rd, or even June 4th?

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

## UPDATE: APRIL ASSOCIATION OF PITTSBURGH PRIESTS SPEAKER EVENT

In the March issue of The *NewPeople* it was announced that John Carr would be speaking at the Kearns Spirituality Center at 7 PM on Monday, April 20. Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, this event sponsored by the Association of Pittsburgh Priests will now be held through a Zoom event on Monday, April 20 at 7 PM. To find out how to participate, call 412-780-5118.

## PLATFORM TO END HUNGER

FROM PAGE 6

opportunity in the U.S. and worldwide? And will you publicize your position on hunger, poverty and opportunity on your website and social media?" Hear their statements at [www.circleofprotection.us](http://www.circleofprotection.us)

Together with Bread for the World, I urge all of us to use our gift of citizenship to elect a president and other officials who will put us on track to end hunger and poverty.


*Joyce Rothermel is a newly elected board member of Bread for the World and retired CEO of the Gr. Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.*

## THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY, THE MEDIA AND THE POLITICAL ESTABLISHMENT

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lengths to investigate this story, examining "89 pages of letters, telegrams and internal Soviet government documents." But one has to ask the question of why this article now. The answer is clear: make sure democracy does not run amuck and let Bernie Sanders become President.

*Michael Drohan is a member of the Merton Center and of the Editorial Collective.*



COVID-19 UPDATE: NEW PRIMARY ELECTION DATE IS JUNE 2


**VOTE**

Visit [VotesPa.com](https://www.votepa.com) for more information, to check your registration, request a ballot, or find your polling place.

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## FIRST REVISION TO PA ELECTION CODE SINCE 1937

BY RON BANDES

The PA General Assembly and Governor Wolf passed the first major revision to the election code since 1937. There are changes for voters, candidates, and election administrators. For voters, there are three highly visible changes.

First, Pennsylvania will now offer mail-in voting. The new mail-in ballot requires no reason for those who choose not to appear in person at their polling place on Election Day. Any voters who do not qualify for an absentee ballot (out of the municipality, ill, have a disability, religious observance, or official Election Day duties) may apply for a Mail-In Ballot. Both absentee and mail-in voters may now submit applications for permanent status to receive ballots for all elections for the year, and to receive renewal applications automatically each subsequent year.

Second, citizens have more time to register to become voters (and for voters to change their registration). The old law said you had to postmark your mail-in registration application or hand in your application by 30 days before the next election (it was really 29 days since 30 days before a Tuesday is always a Sunday). The revised law

gives a voter until 15 days before an election to get an application into the hands of the Elections Division, no longer considering the postmarked date.

The deadline to apply for these two types of ballots is the same as it was for absentee ballots: one week before the election—but don't wait that long! If using mail, you'll need more time for three mailings (application, blank ballot, voted ballot). The deadline for the Elections Division to receive your ballot has been extended to 8:00 PM on Election Day. But don't bring your ballot to the polling place! The ballot must be received at the Elections Division office (or a satellite location, if any, which can only be located outside the City of Pittsburgh); poll workers will not deliver it for you.

The Pennsylvania General Assembly seems to have given little consideration to either the details of implementing no-excuse mail-in ballots or to the security considerations of such a ballot. Mail-in ballots mean unsupervised voting. We have allowed unsupervised voting for people with an acceptable excuse (absentee) so they wouldn't be otherwise disenfranchised. But unsupervised voting for everyone

increases the risk of bribery and coercion for voters who don't need to take that risk. Coercion doesn't have to come from a thug; it could be a domineering spouse, employer, or circle of friends who could "help" you fill out your ballot.

Besides bribery and coercion, there are other concerns with mail-in ballots. Most election fraud in the United States involves vote-at-home and postal voting. You may recall the scandal in North Carolina just this past November, with a candidate paying a person to illegally pick up ballots from voters' homes and alter them.

Mail-in ballots put the voter at risk of not having their ballot counted in a couple of ways. First, there is the possibility of the ballot getting lost in the mail, or lost just long enough to miss the deadline. Second, if the voter's signature on the return envelope doesn't match the registered signature, there is the possibility of the ballot being challenged, and no possibility of the voter providing additional identification or correcting the signature.

The third change for voters is the

disappearance of the straight-party shortcut on ballots for November or special elections. You can still vote a straight-party ticket. You just have no shortcut to do it; you must mark all the candidates of the party to do so going forward. Straight-party shortcuts didn't allow for choices for ballot questions such as new taxes (e.g., library or parks), new laws (like Marsy's Law), or retention of judges upon completion of a ten-year term. Maybe these questions will get more attention now.

Candidates now have a little easier time circulating and filing nomination petitions and nomination papers. Some restrictions on who could be a circulator have been eased, and notarization is no longer required.

The county must keep records of the dates that absentee/mail-in ballots are applied for, approved, delivered, and received completed.

*Ron Bandes is the President, VoteAllegheny*

## A SPARK OF HOPE FOR RURAL HAITI

BY PARTNERS IN PROGRESS

**Editor's Note: "Konbit vanyan kapab" is kreyol (creole) for "strong konbits can." Konbit refers to a traditional work group where people work together for a common purpose. Agroecology is an integrated approach to agriculture that is primarily concerned with access to healthy food, social and economic equity, biodiversity conservation, and ecosystem balance. Agroecology is a major focus of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO's) work to achieve un-sustainable development goals. Fao sees agroecology as a unique approach to meeting the needs of future generations while striving to leave no one behind.**

Partners in Progress, which supports rural sustainable and community development in Haiti, is a non-profit organization that was formed by the Pittsburgh Haiti Solidarity Committee, a former project of the Thomas Merton Center. The following is a report that Partners in Progress wanted to share with our *NewPeople* readers to encourage us to continue our support for TMC projects which foster and act on the mission of the Merton Center to create a more just and peaceful world:

There is cause for hope in Haiti - despite the dysfunction and corruption of the current Haitian government. As the Haitian people's struggle for social and economic justice continues, farmers of the Konbit Vanyan Kapab

Agroecology Program are laying the groundwork for a brighter future. By sharing agroecology knowledge and resources with other farmers, they believe they can and will improve health, resilience, and economic opportunities in their rural communities.

This past year, 52 farmers and 3 agronomists participated in the agroecology program's Farmer-to-Farmer Initiative. Initial reports from participants are very positive. New agroecology farming techniques have enabled them to grow a wider diversity of crops, increase yield, and, in some cases, nearly double production. More importantly, farmers believe that agroecology can be a pathway for regenerating farm ecosystems and revitalizing traditions of working together.

Ronald Cassagnol, a Farmer-to-Farmer participant, sees agroecology as a way for communities to regain control of their food system and to improve health and well-being. "People in Haiti used to live much longer than they do now," says Cassagnol. His concern is that dependence on imported food has increased consumption of high carb foods and exposed people to more chemicals. "Many people have diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, and cancer," Cassagnol continued, "and these diseases were not common many years ago. We can grow more healthy fruits, vegetables, and medicines and help the environment at the same time."

"We are so grateful to the agroecology project—it is about construction, not destruction." Cassagnol has become a leader and his passion for the program is evident. He believes that Agroecology can help communities mitigate impacts from climate change and conflict. "Our environment," he added, "used to be a paradise, and it can be a paradise again." The Farmer-to-Farmer Initiative provides resources to establish tree nurseries

trouble finding food."

Iraméne Leveiller, a farmer new to the initiative, says that "the new economic activities that agroecology brings will get more young farmers interested in farming." She believes that economic opportunities are critical to giving young people a reason to stay in their communities. As farmers increase production, diversify and develop value added products, they will be



in each village. Trees are an integral part of agroecology systems and are also distributed to community members. One community member says: "Trees keep us cool when we farm. They make us feel happy. Our animals are happier, too." Farmers know that trees also reduce the loss of crops and damage to homes during storms.

Another farmer, Odette Joseph, says that she was able to increase production of peanuts through agroecology practices. This made it possible for her to help others during this time of political unrest. Joseph says proudly: "I have been sharing peanuts with members of the local women's group when they are having

better positioned to compete in the market place and reduce dependence on food imports.

Agroecology has the potential to improve child nutrition and school sustainability as well through farm-to-school initiatives like the successful program managed by the Sisters of St. Antoine in Fondwa, Haiti. St. Yves School in another part of rural Haiti recently launched a similar farm-to-school child nutrition program using agroecology farming practices.

*To find out more about the efforts of Partners in Progress, visit [www.piphaiti.org](http://www.piphaiti.org).*



## ALL OUT FOR EARTH DAY!

BY AL HART

Wednesday, April 22, 2020 will be the 50th annual Earth Day. With the world already in a climate crisis, and facing the imminent threat of climate catastrophe, this will be the most important Earth Day yet.

Pittsburgh's Earth Day 2020 will focus on those corporate and political institutions whose actions are worsening the crisis.

The first Earth Day marked the birth of the modern environmental movement, in response to the growing environmental crisis of the late 1960s, including air and water pollution and oil spills – conditions epitomized in 1969 when the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland caught fire. More than 20 million people participated in peaceful actions on campuses and in communities across the U.S., demanding action to reverse the poisoning of the planet.

Earth Day 1970 brought results, including the passage of landmark environmental laws in the United States. The Clean Air, Clean Water and Endangered Species Acts were created in response to the first Earth Day in 1970, as was the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Participants in the first Earth Day were not aware that in just a few decades, the human race and all life-forms on earth would face an existential threat from global warming resulting from emissions of greenhouse gases by human activity, primarily the extraction and burning of fossil fuels.

Our awareness of the climate crisis has grown rapidly in recent decades, as the crisis has accelerated. In October 2018 we received a stark warning when the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued a report. Avoiding the most cataclysmic outcomes, it said, requires that we hold the increase

in global temperatures to less than 1.5°Celsius (2.7°Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels. We have already increased the global temperature by 1°C over what it was before the advent of fossil fuel-based industry, and we are on course for a 3 to 5°C increase by the end of this century. The IPCC said we had 12 years to radically change the course of our economy. (Two of those years have already passed.) Society has very little time to radically change the way we produce energy, grow food, transport goods and people, and con-

the source of energy and alarm that have made April's Earth Day 50 so important.

Earth Day Pittsburgh is especially important because we sit on a major battle line. Corporate and political powers here are acting not to address the crisis, but to hasten destruction of the planet. The gas, oil and petrochemical industries want to accelerate the poisoning of our air, groundwater and streams, and with campaign donations they have bought the cooperation of many of

to subsidize the Shell petrochemical plant in Beaver County and similar plants planned in our region. This "petrochemical build-out" will worsen air pollution, accelerate global warming, and add to the global glut of plastics (the cracker plants' end product) that is choking our land and waterways, filling our oceans, and killing wildlife.

These conditions call for immediate action. We must fight to reverse current policies, and for a Green New Deal that can uplift our communities with millions of green jobs, transforming our energy, transportation and other industries to sustain rather than destroy life.

Organizations sponsoring Pittsburgh Earth Day 2020 include Fridays for Future, Extinction Rebellion, Sunrise Movement Pittsburgh, Earth Week Coalition, Izaak Walton League – Allegheny County Chapter, Center for Coalfield Justice, United Electrical Workers (UE), Green Party of Allegheny County, Food and Water Watch, Breathe Project, Healthcare for All Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh 350.org, Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) Pittsburgh Branch.

Visit [facebook.com/PGHEarthDay](https://facebook.com/PGHEarthDay) for more information, including updates potential event adaptations due to COVID-19.

*Al Hart is the retired former managing editor of the UE News, publication of the United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers of America (UE).*



December 6, 2019 climate strike rally at the City-County Building.

struct our buildings.

Young people around the world have taken the lead because failure to act condemns them to a horrific future. Greta Thunberg, the courageous Swedish teenager, has become a global symbol of the youth climate movement, which includes millions of young people. They have organized countless mass protests and strikes, including the Global Climate Strike last Sept. 20 and again on Dec. 6. Young people have been

our region's and state's politicians. Fully aware that they are poisoning our water with fracking waste, and despite the shocking emergence of "cancer clusters" – unusually high incidence of rare cancers among children and adults in communities in close proximity to fracking wells in Washington County and elsewhere in southwest Pennsylvania – they frack on. Recently the state legislature, with broad bipartisan support, passed HB 1100, a shameful giveaway of millions of our tax dollars

## A NEW COUNTY COUNCIL RENEWS THE FIGHT FOR POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

FROM PAGE 1

bill within the scope of the PA Home Rule Charter, and to garner more support within the law enforcement community.

People from all parts of the county attended in support, with overflow into the hall and adjacent rooms and a wish list topped with subpoena power to compel officers to appear before the review board and assurance that complaints filed will be addressed with appropriate corrective actions. Councilmember Bennett, considering how participation could be incentivized to local police departments, proposed offering assistance to local bureaus to obtain accreditation through programs such as the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Program, and offering review of department policies and procedures.

Proponents of the CPRB for Allegheny County have been fighting for greater police accountability and believe that it is the key to better community-police relationships. Municipal police departments stand to save money spent dealing with lawsuits and lost time. The public cannot accept continued loss of life as the cost of police protection and service to our communities.

Follow Bethany Hallam and Liv Bennett on Facebook for updates on their plans to hold additional conversations in communities across the county, and consider attending to show your support. You can also call your county council-member at 412-350-6490 to ask them to support the bill and share any thoughts you have about how the CPRB can best serve

our county.

*Cheryl Bauer is a member of the TMC and the NewPeople Editorial Collective.*



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# OPENING REMARKS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL’S APPEAL FOR GLOBAL CEASEFIRE

BY ANTÓNIO GUTERRES

Our world faces a common enemy: COVID-19.

The virus does not care about nationality or ethnicity, faction or faith. It attacks all, relentlessly.

Meanwhile, armed conflict rages on around the world.

The most vulnerable — women and children, people with disabilities, the marginalized and the displaced — pay the highest price.

They are also at the highest risk of suffering devastating losses from COVID-19.

Let’s not forget that in war-ravaged countries, health systems have collapsed.

Health professionals, already few in number, have often been targeted.

Refugees and others displaced by violent conflict are doubly vulnerable.

The fury of the virus illustrates the folly of war.

That is why today, I am calling for an immediate global ceasefire in all corners of the world.

It is time to put armed conflict on lockdown and focus together on the true fight of our lives.

To warring parties, I say:

Pull back from hostilities.

Put aside mistrust and animosity.

Silence the guns; stop the artillery; end the airstrikes.

This is crucial...

To help create corridors for life-saving aid.

To open precious windows for diplomacy.

To bring hope to places among the most vulnerable to COVID-19.

Let us take inspiration from coalitions and dialogue slowly taking shape among rival parties in some parts to enable joint approaches to COVID-19. But we need much more.

End the sickness of war and fight the disease that is ravaging our world.

It starts by stopping the fighting everywhere. Now.

That is what our human family needs, now more than ever.

*His Excellency António Manuel de Oliveira Guterres is a Portuguese politician and diplomat who is serving as the ninth Secretary-General of the United Nations. Previously, he was the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees between 2005 and 2015.*

# PEACEMAKERS BEATITUDES

BY PAUL MILANOWSKI

Blessed are you peacemakers,

- Who say no to war as a means to peace.

- Who are committed to disarm weapons of mass destruction.

- Who wage peace at heroic personal cost.

- Challenge and confront judges, courts and prisons.

- Who help those who are hurting.

- Who befriend perfect strangers.

- Who open doors for acting justly, loving tenderly and walking humbly with God and all people of good will.

- Who welcome, encourage and inspire.

- Who offer hope and healing.

- Who care and comfort.

- Who help find answers.

- Who provide stability not insanity.

- Who help restore faith and love.

- Who delight in creation, art and creativity.

- Who see the good in others.

- Who never give up

- Who give and give and give.

Blessed are you peacemakers, who suffer injustice and imprisonment for your direct, nonviolent acts of civil disobedience.

[Beatitudes of respect and admiration for the Plowshares peaceful witness and protest of the Grand Rapids Marywood Dominicans: Sr. Carol Gilbert, OP, Sr. Jackie Hudson, OP, and Sr. Ardith Platte, OP.]

*Paul Milanowski is a member of the Association of U.S. Catholic Priests.*

# COVID-19 RESOURCES

This is an excerpt of known available resources. Subscribe to our weekly activist newsletter for more up-to-date listings by following this link: <https://bit.ly/2RefPFfe>

- **Lawrenceville COVID-19 “Buddy” System Sign-Up for Older Adults** – <https://bit.ly/2UOnax7>
- **Pittsburgh COVID-19 Emergency Fund** – <https://bit.ly/34kNPVq>
- **Immigrant Workers Relief Fund** – <https://bit.ly/3aNmE87>
- **Fund for LGBTQI+ BIPOC Folks** – <https://bit.ly/2JlyWCU>
- **Donate Pittsburgh COVID-19 LGBTQIA Emergency Relief Fund** – <https://bit.ly/2xO2ITU>
- **Greater PGH Restaurant Workers Emergency Fund** – <https://bit.ly/2UZFQJ2>
- **Restaurant Workers Aid Registration Form** – <https://bit.ly/2JE1zRA>
- **Emergency Fund for Artists** – <https://bit.ly/2xPiHB6>
- **LGBTQIA Financial Relief** – <https://bit.ly/2UK9y5J>
- **Request Help Though The Wellness Collective** – <https://bit.ly/34oNZLz>
- **Navajo & Hopi COVID-19 Relief Fund** – <https://bit.ly/2wgpnrw>
- **COVID-19 Resources for Undocumented Communities** – <https://rb.gy/sszau4>
- **Steel Smiling Free Virtual Mental Health Program** – <https://rb.gy/jbtdds>
- **Gr. Pittsburgh Community Food Bank Information and Resources** – <https://rb.gy/2giu9n>
- **Resources in Vietnamese** – <https://rb.gy/jlfkz7>
- **Urban Redevelopment Authority Housing Resources** – <https://rb.gy/gfcrop>

**GARFIELD NEIGHBORS IN NEED FUND** – A fund to help individuals and families facing a hardship. Typical grants average \$0-\$500. To apply contact by phone 412-426-5329 or email [nina@bloomfield-garfield.org](mailto:nina@bloomfield-garfield.org)





NEWPEOPLE READERSHIP SURVEY

New People Newspaper Reader Survey

\* Required

1. Name \*

2. Phone

3. Email

4. How often do you read the NewPeople? \*

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Every issue
- ☐ More than five times a year
- ☐ Less than five times a year
- ☐ Almost never

5. When you read the NewPeople, how much of the paper do you read? \*

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ The entire newspaper
- ☐ More than half the articles
- ☐ Less than half the articles
- ☐ Other:

6. The NewPeople could have more in depth content if it was published less often, but would be less timely with current events. How often should we publish? \*

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Monthly
- ☐ Every other month
- ☐ Quarterly

7. Would you like to volunteer with the NewPeople? \*

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes, writing
- ☐ Yes, editing
- ☐ Yes, photography
- ☐ Yes, art/drawing
- ☐ Yes, website updates/technology
- ☐ Yes, distributing the newspaper to locations around town
- ☐ No, thanks

8. What has been the most valuable to you about the NewPeople? (Choose one) \*

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Info on Upcoming events
- ☐ Reporting on recent events in local Pittsburgh campaigns and justice issues
- ☐ Reporting on recent events in places outside of the Pittsburgh region
- ☐ Analysis of global issues
- ☐ Amplifying the work that you're personally involved in
- ☐ Other:

9. What do you most want to see more of in the NewPeople? (Choose one) \*

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Info on Upcoming events
- ☐ Reporting on recent events in local Pittsburgh campaigns and justice issues
- ☐ Reporting on recent events in places outside of the Pittsburgh region
- ☐ Analysis of global issues
- ☐ Amplifying the work that you're personally involved in
- ☐ Other:

10. What topics/issues would you like to see included more in the NewPeople?

11. In addition to articles, what kinds of content would you like to see more of? (check all that apply)

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Poetry
- ☐ Photography
- ☐ Crosswords, word search other puzzles
- ☐ Art, comics, cartoons
- ☐ DIY instructions (DO-IT-YOURSELF INSTRUCTABLES)

Other: ☐

Dear Readers,

Thank you for reading the NewPeople Newspaper! Tell us how we're doing! Complete the survey and let us know. Electronic surveys are available online at <https://bit.ly/2wdntb4> or you can detach, print out, and mail your completed paper survey to:

NewPeople Newspaper  
C/O Thomas Merton Center  
5129 Penn Ave  
Pittsburgh, Pa 15224

We'd love to hear from you.

Sincerely,  
The Editorial Collective of the NewPeople Newspaper at the Thomas Merton Center



REGULAR MEETINGS MAY BE CANCELED OR MOVED ONLINE. PLEASE CONTACT THE ORGANIZERS FOR MORE INFORMATION.



If you need to stay at home,

**Maintain a healthy lifestyle. Including proper diet, sleep and exercise.**

Thomas Merton Center logo

“You do not need to know precisely what is happening, or exactly where it is all going. What you need is to recognize the possibilities and challenges offered by the present moment, and to embrace them with courage, faith and hope.”

— Thomas Merton

REGULAR MEETINGS

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

**Vote Allegheny**  
Every Sunday 4 PM. Mineo’s Pizza 2128 Murray Ave, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15217. Contact RBandes@c9n.com

**Mondays:**  
**SW Healthcare 4 All PA**  
First Mondays, 7:00. Crazy Mocha, 2100 Murray Ave, Squirrel Hill 15217. Contact bmason@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, 7:00–9:00 PM. Thomas Merton Center, 5129 Penn Ave., Garfield 15224

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

**Tuesdays:**  
**Green Party**  
1st Tuesdays, 6 pm. Panera Bread, 3401 Blvd of the Allies, Oakland 15213. Contact: info@alleghenygreens.org; 412-532-9194

**Coalition Against Violence/BPEP**  
Third Tuesdays, Noon. BPEP Office, Freedom Unlimited. 2201 Wylie Ave, Hill District 15219 412-212-8775; cav.pgh@gmail.com

**Weekly Positive Initiative to Reinforce Change (PIRC) Support Group**  
For re-entrants and their supporters. All are welcome, no need to RSVP. Tuesdays, 7:00–8:00 pm. New Hope/ UM Church, 112 W North Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15212

**Wednesdays:**  
**Amnesty International #39**  
2nd Wednesdays, 7—9 pm  
First Unitarian Church, 605 Morewood Ave, Shadyside, 15212.

**Pennsylvanians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty**  
1st Wednesdays, 7-8 pm. First Unitarian church, Ellsworth & Morewood Avenues, Shadyside

**Pittsburghers for Public Transit**  
Second Wednesday. Social hour 6 pm to 7 pm, meeting 7 pm to 8:30 pm. 1 Smithfield St Pittsburgh PA 15222

**Thursdays:**  
**International Socialist Organization**  
Every Wednesday, 7:30-9:30 pm. Contact isopgh@gmail.com for location.

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

**Black Political Empowerment Project**  
Planning Council Meeting. 2nd Thursdays, 6 pm B-PEP Office, Freedom Unlimited. 2201 Wylie Ave, Hill District 15219. 412-212-8775; bpepweb@gmail.com

**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. 5119 Penn Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15224.

WANTED:

Virtual volunteers for digital administrative support. Email Info@ThomasMertonCenter.org

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 a conversation around topics that affect communities and vulnerable groups both locally and globally. We encourage contributions from the public that will generate conversation and we invite perspectives that are not widely considered. Opinions that are expressed 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 [www.thomasmertoncenter.org/join-donate](http://www.thomasmertoncenter.org/join-donate) or fill out this form, cut out, and mail in. Select your membership level:  
\_\_\_\_\$15 Low Income Membership  
\_\_\_\_\$15 Youth / Student Membership

\_\_\_\_\$50 Individual Membership  
\_\_\_\_\$100 Family Membership  
\_\_\_\_\$500+ Cornerstone Sustainer Membership  
\_\_\_\_Donation \$\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_Monthly Donation– Become a TMC Peacemaker \$\_\_\_\_\_  
Or Become an Organizational Member:  
\_\_\_\_\$75 Organization (below 25 members)  
\_\_\_\_\$125 Organization (above 25 members)

\_\_\_\_ I would like to receive the weekly activist Eblast  
\_\_\_\_ I would like to receive The NewPeople newspaper mailed to my house  
\_\_\_\_ I would like to receive The NewPeople newspaper via email

Please complete and return to TMC. Thank you!  
Name(s):  
Organization (if any):  
Address:  
City:\_\_\_\_\_State:\_\_\_\_\_Zip Code:\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone:\_\_\_\_\_  
Mobile Phone:\_\_\_\_\_  
Email:\_\_\_\_\_

Mail to TMC, 5129 Penn Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15224  
Call 412-361-3022 for more information, or visit:  
[www.ThomasMertonCenter.org](http://www.ThomasMertonCenter.org)