IN THIS ISSUE:

Children suffer from the privatization of services; while formerly incarcerated people get back on their feet by baking and selling bread in an innovative training program. WNPJ’s Film Festival finalists gather and receive their awards; two visit U.S. Representative office. The movement to bring our war dollars home is helping worker justice, and WNPJ’s strategic plan is moving towards approval and implementation. And we celebrate recognition of activists and peace workers in the state and ask your help in identifying this year’s WNPJ awardees.

WELFARE PRIVATIZATION LEADS TO ABUSES

By Mikel Komba, Casa Maria Catholic Worker

Despite the best efforts of activists and concerned citizens, Wisconsin continues to be an experiment in the privatization of public services. In 1996 Tommy Thompson privatized welfare benefits by creating the W-2 system, which allows private companies to get state funds while the poor are given shoddy services. Governor Walker’s efforts led to many public schools being closed while private choice schools get more funding even though many have lower standards for education. Milwaukee County is now considering privatizing public mental health care.

Sadly, privatization of the child welfare system in Wisconsin has received little press or outrage from the public. Since the increased privatization of the child welfare system in Milwaukee County, more children are taken from their homes for reasons that do not meet state law definitions of abuse and neglect. Children have been taken from their parents for reasons such as homelessness, a messy house, or because of unfounded allegations that hold no bearing of truth. While children are taken from their homes for unjust reasons, others, who actually face abuse or neglect, are left without help or support. Last year, the head of the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare quit in protest at what she called unmet safety standards, excessive workloads for caseworkers and almost 3,000 backlogged cases.

Meanwhile, private agencies take large amounts of funds from the Bureau to provide lower quality care for children who may be in crisis.

One agency, La Causa used to have an $11 million contract with the Bureau. After one baby died in their care and another was found to have faced prolonged physical abuse, La Causa quickly gave up their contract, only to resurface as Integrated Family Services with the same workers, same supervisors but a different director. IFS regained their child welfare contract, then merged with another agency and became SaintA. They are now the second largest agency that contracts with the Bureau.

Statistically, children from families of color are more likely to be taken from their families than white children. Poor parents are much more likely to have their children taken from their homes and can’t afford to hire experienced, hard-working lawyers to defend their families in Children’s Court. Because of this injustice, federal Congresswoman Gwen Moore, who has been active in trying to reform the child welfare system as well as the W-2 system for many years, has introduced a bill to provide high quality lawyers in child welfare cases.

State Senator Nikiya Harris Dodd sits on the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council, which was created to provide oversight of the Bureau. Senator Harris Dodd has called for an audit to investigate the Bureau, including how agencies are spending their funds, and has been joined by 12 other State Senators and Representatives. Senator Harris Dodd called for this audit after learning of unjust child removals from mothers like Natisha.

Natisha’s son was taken from her home after a teacher made one complaint against her to the Bureau. She was not allowed to see or even talk to her son for six months until a jury trial found that he faced no abuse or neglect and had been wrongfully removed from his home. The Bureau and private subcontracting agencies involved never had to prove that there was any abuse or neglect in order to keep a grieving mother from her distressed son for six months. Natisha is now $12,000 in debt due to lawyer fees and is planning on suing the Bureau for unjustly separating her family.

Another mother, Lashai, had her three children taken from her by Milwaukee County’s largest child welfare subcontracting agency, Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin Community Services. She has met all court conditions given to her, yet Children’s Hospital workers still refuse to give back her children. Lashai will soon be having a jury trial. Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin makes...
Privatization from front page

money in every aspect of the child welfare system, from home visits to child removals to foster care placement to court appearances. The longer they keep children in the system, the more funds they get from the state. This is a huge conflict of interest.

Nativa’s and Lashai’s cases are only two examples of many where families are harmed by Wisconsin’s child welfare system. All the resources, funds and time focused on their families could have been used instead to help families who really were in crisis. The increased privatization of our child welfare system is only making the situation worse for so many children and families. Our state is under attack on many fronts, but let’s not forget to fight for children and families who are suffering because of privatized agencies that receive our tax dollars. For more information on what you can do to help stop the unjust actions of privatized child welfare agencies, contact the Wisconsin Network or Peace and Justice’s newest group, Welfare Warriors at facebook.com/welfarewarriors.

Mikel Komba has worked at Casa Maria Catholic Worker, which takes in homeless women, families and refugees, for over 15 years. Casa Maria Catholic Worker Community, P.O. Box 05206, Milwaukee, WI 53205. Mikel can be reached at ceramical@hotmail.com or 414-344-5745.

AN ORCHID

Community Shares of Wisconsin 2015 Community Awards winners Melanie Ramey of League of Women Voters of Wisconsin; Cora White of the Center for Resilient Cities ; and M Adams of Freedom Inc. WNPJ is a proud member of Community Shares of Wisconsin.

And a second orchid to M Adams, who is also recognized by the University of Wisconsin-Madison as one of Seven Outstanding Women of Color for

Film Festival from page 4

amazed when I get to interact with their group and offer them trainings or participate in the same spaces as them.

When we think of cutting the military budget and putting the money into schools, into employment, into housing, into the arts, into economic development, into green energy, and into urban agriculture, we should think of these youth who are leading the way into a new generation. One thing in particular that they bring is the ability to see the violence of racism, sexism, and heterosexism tied to economic oppression and imperialist war. In the face of ongoing police brutality, which is tied to the military industrial complex and the imperialist reach of the U.S., there are some visions, some ideas, and some actions taking place that are moving us closer to a world free from violence where all living things are respected. The Growing a Peaceful Future film festival was one of those places where we celebrated these possibilities and potential of our future.

Peyton and Skylar and Z! later went to meet with Representative Mark Pocan to tell him what Peyton and Skylar see as priorities for the Federal Budget. Representative Pocan is on the Education and Workplace Committee, the Budget Committee and is the first Vice Chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus. They focused on the importance for youth of color and queer people, especially queer youth of color, to have access to adequate education from pre-K through college. Particularly with a focus on arts, hip hop, break dancing, and alternative classes such as foundations of leadership - all of these help keep youth of color validated and engaged. To stop the school to prison pipeline, education must meet the soul and economic needs of youth of color and families of color and queer people.

The Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice facilitates activities, cooperation and communication among Wisconsin organizations and individuals working toward the creation of a sustainable world, free from violence and war.

2014-15 WNPJ BOARD

OFFICERS

• Liz Bruno, Co-chair, Madison 608-515-0280 elizabeth.bruno@gmail.com
• Barbara E. Munson, Co-Chair, Mosinee 715-571-9296 Barb@munion.net
• Carl Sack, Secretary, Madison 608-712-8335 northlandigiana@gmail.com
• Jessie Read, Treasurer, Sussex 262-844-2321 jessiereidread@gmail.com

MEMBERS AT LARGE

• Omar Barberena, Milwaukee 414-793-1134 professor00@yahoo.com
• Rob Danielson, LaFarge 608-625-4949 type@mwt.net
• Dena Eakles, Ontario 608-337-4871 denaeakles@earthlink.net
• Frank Koehn, Ashland 218-341-8822 savethewateresedge@gmail.com
• Cynthia Lin, Madison 608-695-3757 cynthia.s.lin@gmail.com
• Carlos Miranda, Madison 608-255-0376 ricoidininer@gmail.com
• Daren Olson, Milwaukee 414-243-7764 cpt_olson@yahoo.com
• Janet Parker, Madison 608-257-2748 janetparker8@gmail.com
• John L. Quinlan, Madison 608-625-4949  type@mwt.net

Copyright © 2015 Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice

Contact WNPJ using the emails above,
calling 608-250-9240, or mailing to
122 State Street, #405A
Madison, WI 53703

STAFF

• Dace Zeps, Office Coordinator office@wnpj.org
• Steve Books, Vets for Peace books24u@aol.com

Please contact WNPJ using the emails above,
Madison-area Urban Ministry breaks new ground once again – by baking bread. Since 1971 MUM, an interfaith social justice organization and WNPJ member, has spurred social change in and around Dane County, true to its mission to be “a prophetic voice for justice, neighbors working together for social change.”

The opening of Just Bakery, a three-month vocational and employment-training program, represents a move into entrepreneurialism for this faith group, which extends its work with a very special segment of the community. Just Bakery has been designed to meet the needs of men and women returning to the community after incarceration, and provides vocational training for those interested in food services careers.

Each year approximately 1,700 men and women return to Dane County from jail or prison, 400-500 of whom come to Madison-area Urban Ministry for support in rebuilding their lives. Eighty percent of these men and women are homeless and unemployed when they walk through the MUM doors, but a number of existing job training programs either do not serve, or limit the number of homeless individuals they accept into their programs.

Research in the criminal justice field identifies housing and employment as critical to successful reintegration. Without employment, the barriers to housing are exacerbated. MUM currently works with formerly incarcerated individuals to assist them in addressing the barriers to successful reintegration; with area employers to create job opportunities; and with landlords to open doors to housing.

Just Bakery’s program includes job readiness and life skills training; baking products and methods; sales and marketing; job internship, placement and mentoring; and ongoing case management to ensure the individual’s other needs are being addressed. Hands on training takes place in kitchens at the Food Business Incubator Project (FEED Kitchen) and at Lakeview Lutheran Church. Other program partners include the Madison College’s Pastry and Baking program and Martee Mikalson with Kessinich’s Restaurant Supply Ltd.

This is a collaborative effort in which students are creating a line of breads for sale, and also assist in its marketing and sales in the community, with proceeds used to support the program. MUM staff member John Miller, himself formerly incarcerated and holding a degree in Food Services, is the lead program instructor. Currently there are six bakery staff, four of whom are program graduates.

Participants who complete the program are eligible to take an exam with the Wisconsin Baker’s Association for special training certification. Just Bakery will also, as far as possible, hire successful program participants to work in the program. 34 students have participated in the program so far. Seven have passed the Wisconsin Bakers Association exam and seventeen have found jobs.

Just Bakery’s baked goods – such as brownies, cinnamon rolls, garlic pesto bread, cinnamon pull-apart bread, multi-grain bread, blueberry vanilla bread and cookies – are on sale at area churches, farmers’ markets and from the MUM office. Check out the group’s Facebook page (Madison area Urban Ministry/Just Bakery Program) for precise sales information. Madison-area Urban Ministry can be reached at emum.org.

HEALTH SERVICES NOT JAIL FOR DANE COUNTY

Over the past 6 months Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice Board, staff, and volunteers have participated in the effort to oppose the building of a new jail in Dane County, and instead create alternatives that address racial disparities and mental health needs. Recently the Dane County Board passed a resolution to move in this direction. WNPJ staff has given multiple testimonies at hearings, shown up in the streets for Young Gifted and Black actions, provided support for YGB by recruiting food supplies, volunteers, and putting their bodies on the lines for justice. We have written a few statements related to the killing of Tony Robinson and our response to the non-indictment. If we are going to be working for peace, we must be working for justice. The struggle for Black Lives is central to any fight for justice in this moment. You can find out more from the following Twitter sites.

#blacklivesmatter #ygb #nonewjail #nojusticenopeace

1000 gather for Black Out Wednesday action put on by YGB following the non-indictment of Matt Kenny the police officer who killed Tony Robinson. (Z! Haukeness)
GROWING A PEACEFUL FUTURE FILM FESTIVAL

By Z! Haukeness, WNPJ

We had a wonderful second annual film festival on May 3rd in Madison at the UW South Side partnership. Youth from around WI were asked to create short three-minute videos about what they would do for their community with $1 trillion rather than it all being spent on the Military budget. A crowd of 50 people gathered in a nicely decorated room full of food, camaraderie and the great visuals of 4 finalist films. The event was hosted by Althea René, an artist, activist and educator from South Central Los Angeles, who had brought her gifts of poetry, visual art, and dance to Madison. She warmed up the crowd and performed a few poems throughout the event to bring deep meaning and feeling to the space.

Members of Urban Underground, a Milwaukee youth group, were there to accept their first place prize of $1000. Their video was a collage of voices and faces from Urban Underground highlighting the problems with the federal budget, problems in their community, and their counter ideas on how the budget should be spent. Urban Underground is promoting the next generation of leaders committed to building safe and sustainable communities, through youth-led social justice campaigns in the areas of health, education, public safety, and juvenile justice reform.

Second place winner Skylar Lee, a leader with GSAFE’s Youth Leadership Board, highlighted racial disparities in his school as well as LGBTQ issues. He closed his video by saying that youth are ready for a change and are making moves to create better communities. He asked the viewer “Are you?” calling on us all to do more for racial justice and LGBTQ liberation. Skylar is one of the main leaders in GEST, a group focused on Transgender and gender identity issues, bringing together youth from GSA’s and other high school students in the area. The program is working to start a mentorship opportunity for trans youth to be mentored by trans adults. This has shown to be a great need particularly following the suicide of one of the youth in the Madison area who was a trans woman just graduating from High School and aging out of the foster care system.

Peyton Yang, was a finalist at the event for the second year in a row and was joined by his family and others from Freedom Inc. and Breaking for Justice, a breakdancing crew that roots their practice in political education about the history and culture of hip hop. Peyton pulled on this education in creating his video that showed the need for more money to be spent on community centers and education. He particularly stressed the need for culture and history to be taught to students of color to help them create positive identities and thrive in high school and in post-secondary education. Peyton has been a leader with Freedom Inc. since he was in elementary school. He will be a Junior in High school this coming fall and regularly advocates for justice on many levels. I see him speaking out at rallies and at City Council and County Board meetings. He helps mentor other youth in Freedom Inc., helps drive the work of Breaking for Justice, and has one of the most caring hearts I’ve witnessed.

Last but not least Naomi Makesa, another shining star working with GSAFE, also highlighted the need for funding for community centers and education. She had colorful and creative cinematography that highlighted the denial of access to higher education for people of color and the need to break down this barrier with better scholarship opportunities or universal higher education. Naomi has been a leader with YES, (Youth Empowering Students) which is a youth of color organization on Madison’s West side housed in GSAFE. She has done multiple public speaking engagements including speaking at a Groundwork workshop about the work of YES and speaking to the City Education Committee, who said the presentation from her and other YES students was one of the best they had heard about the Madison Metropolitan School District.

The efforts of each of these talented filmmakers are rooted in working for racial justice, a key component of WNPJ’s focus. They are youth of color who have taken on leadership roles in their organizations and in some cases in their city government. A few of Urban Underground’s members participate on the City Council as youth representatives. They handed out their contact information to others in case they too could try to represent their needs at the local government level. Urban Underground has been a home to cultivating civic engagement and grassroots leadership development with Black youth in Milwaukee for many years. I am always
The federal Office of Economic Assistance (OE) exists for one purpose: to help communities to avoid or recover from economic loss due to defense industry downsizing or shifting of funding. In 2013, as a result of mass layoffs by the Oshkosh Corporation and supply chain manufacturers, the Oshkosh area was seen as a prime example of where to invest such funds. Consequently, in 2013, $2 million was granted to the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (ECWRPC) to support efforts to diversify manufacturing in the region. ECWRPC in collaboration with the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) and other local partners, have recently completed phase 1 of their work.

When they tracked the layoffs of 2,000 workers from Oshkosh Corporation nearly a year and a half ago, they found that the dislocated workers had traveled to work primarily from 5 counties in the area: Winnebago, Fond Du Lac, Calumet, Waupaca, and Outagamie Counties. These counties have been the primary focus of the Planning Commission’s study into new possible markets, effects on smaller supply chain manufacturers who relied on Oshkosh Corp, and overall economic security and possibility in the area. They have finished their initial findings and are now seeking funding for implementation of proposed areas of improvement.

To move away from over reliance on Oshkosh Corporation and the roller coaster of defense spending the Planning Commission proposes to focus in three key areas: Aviation and Aerospace, Information Technology, and Advanced Manufacturing (3D printing). They are currently seeking continuing funding to implement their findings into concrete possibilities. These include increased education opportunities for high school and college students, creating a map and data base of companies that were affected by the downsizing, bringing together area businesses to learn from Madison and Milwaukee about 3D printing, and cultivating business and opportunity to lead into new areas of collaboration between the four airports in the region, to name a few.

Our grassroots coalition, Wisconsin Defense Transition: Sustainable Solutions Coalition, has been meeting regularly to discuss this effort, as well as other ways to address the issues caused by the military spending changes in our state. The coalition brings together various labor, faith, peace, and economic justice groups. Recently representatives from the Coalition - including the United Automobile Workers (UAW), the Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership (WRTP) BIG STEP (a project of the AFL CIO), Wisconsin Assembly Representatives Melissa Sargent (Madison area), and Gordon Hintz (Oshkosh area), and myself - met with ECWRPC and WEDC to push for the more central inclusion of union workers in the discussion and the implementation. Our concerns were met with a promise to include efforts to train, hire, and retain union workers throughout the plan and grant application process.

While they tracked the layoffs of 2,000 workers from Oshkosh Corporation nearly a year and a half ago, they found that the dislocated workers had traveled to work primarily from 5 counties in the area: Winnebago, Fond Du Lac, Calumet, Waupaca, and Outagamie Counties. These counties have been the primary focus of the Planning Commission’s study into new possible markets, effects on smaller supply chain manufacturers who relied on Oshkosh Corp, and overall economic security and possibility in the area. They have finished their initial findings and are now seeking funding for implementation of proposed areas of improvement.

To move away from over reliance on Oshkosh Corporation and the roller coaster of defense spending the Planning Commission proposes to focus in three key areas: Aviation and Aerospace, Information Technology, and Advanced Manufacturing (3D printing). They are currently seeking continuing funding to implement their findings into concrete possibilities. These include increased education opportunities for high school and college students, creating a map and data base of companies that were affected by the downsizing, bringing together area businesses to learn from Madison and Milwaukee about 3D printing, and cultivating business and opportunity to lead into new areas of collaboration between the four airports in the region, to name a few.

Our grassroots coalition, Wisconsin Defense Transition: Sustainable Solutions Coalition, has been meeting regularly to discuss this effort, as well as other ways to address the issues caused by the military spending changes in our state. The coalition brings together various labor, faith, peace, and economic justice groups. Recently representatives from the Coalition - including the United Automobile Workers (UAW), the Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership (WRTP) BIG STEP (a project of the AFL CIO), Wisconsin Assembly Representatives Melissa Sargent (Madison area), and Gordon Hintz (Oshkosh area), and myself - met with ECWRPC and WEDC to push for the more central inclusion of union workers in the discussion and the implementation. Our concerns were met with a promise to include efforts to train, hire, and retain union workers throughout the plan and grant application process.

While there is a sentiment from the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development that many of the workers who were laid off in the Oshkosh Corporation’s downsize have found new jobs, we are concerned that many of these workers have had to accept jobs that are lower paying and not unionized. Some of these workers have had to take lower pay and benefits to do fast food or retail work. This shows the connection between the Fight for $15 campaign and our efforts to maintain union jobs and getting ahead of the loss of defense contracts. We need both to increase wages and unionize more workplaces, as well as maintain good paying union jobs and current union infrastructure.

WRTP BIG STEP and LETC (Labor Education and Training Center) have many resources to offer in this process. WRTP works with both employers and employees to ensure that the best quality working environment is available. They train workers for the needs of a company, and can help train and plan for new product development if there is a threat of layoffs and loss of contracts. LETC works with dislocated workers to get them retrained and rehired. Workers are followed until they have found adequate employment comparable to their previous employment. Our efforts include a push for a statewide plan for any future downsizing of large or small defense contractors. One example is the recently tenuous situation at Marinette Marine, where there have been threats from the federal government of possible cuts to the Littoral Ship building contract.

While WNPJ has a history of opposing war and militarism and working towards peace and justice, we also have a focus on supporting those most impacted. While we would like to see the federal budget reprioritize its spending and shift away from a behemoth military budget, we believe in ensuring workers and all those in our community are cared for.

We want to see a transition away from militarism and towards peace and justice; a transition from over-reliance on defense contracts; a transition towards a living wage and $15 an hour jobs; a transition away from mass Black unemployment in the state; and a transition towards a culture that supports full collective bargaining rights for all employees across the state.

While many of you have been educating yourselves on this issue for many years, we need a resurgence of this ideology with the nuances of its current manifestation. We hope you will join us! Education events will be held around the state in the coming months.

Please contact Z! if you would like to participate in these efforts. zh@wnpj.org.
WNPJ STRATEGIC PLAN MOVING TOWARD ACTION!
By Liz Bruno, Co-Chair, WNPJ Board

As you may be aware, for the past year WNPJ has been deep into strategic planning. With an ever-changing landscape of social change work and expansion of social media tools, WNPJ board and members came together to articulate organizational goals and develop a process of how we get there. Facilitated by Kristen Petroshious (of GSAFE, a WNPJ member group), it has been a long process, of articulating concerns, organizing thoughts, soliciting feedback.

We are now pleased to announce that a draft plan will be brought before the board for approval August 15th. The final draft prioritizes actions in the following areas:

**Outreach to Member Groups:** As a network the depth of relationship we maintain with our member organizations is directly correlated with our ability to be an effective networking tool! We are asking each board member to commit to build and maintain connections with member groups. This includes checking in about ways WNPJ can support them, asking if they have technical assistance needs we can meet, asking ways they would like to support WNPJ or other member groups, working through the racial justice statement, and making matches between groups who might benefit from a closer relationship.

**Racial Justice Committee:** Board member(s), staff or volunteer(s) who will help craft a racial justice statement and ensure that it is being implemented, this committee will be responsible for training board members about the statement and following up with groups that have made commitments to racial justice pro-action.

**Fundraising Team:** Will be responsible for maintaining current fundraising efforts and seeking new sources of funding to grow the organization to meet our goals for the coming three years.

**Directory of Technical Assistance:** This will be created based on skills of the board and member groups and individuals available to members for trainings and skill building.

**Ongoing board development:** Assessing our current skills and needs, recruiting new board member and seeking trainings for current staff and board members to grow our depth of experience and effectiveness as an organization.

**Communications Team:** to assess and remedy current shortfalls in internal and external communications.

We will continue to build strategic relationships with other groups around specific projects and issues that we can coordinate around, and reach out to organizations which are not currently part of our network.

Next steps: Once the plan has been approved by the board it will be disseminated to members in an effort to share information and recruit members to the new committees and teams.

It will be the responsibility of board member and staff to assess progress along the way and adjust the plan according to developing needs.

We extend great gratitude to all who have participated in this process, including, Kristen Petroshious, our facilitator; the Strategic planning small group; Barb Munson, Rob Danielson, Carl Sack, Annie Dutcher, and Liz Bruno as well as the larger group participating over the past year: Dace Zeps, Z! Haukeness, Sheila Spear, Dena Eakles, Janet Parker, Jackson Tiffany, Steve Burns, Mary Beth Schlagehe and all board members, organizations and individuals who have participated and given feedback along the way. This has truly been a network wide effort the efforts of which, we hope, will lead to greater peace and justice in our great state and beyond.

**RECOGNIZE FRIENDS, ALLIES: NOMINATE A PEACEMAKER**

Please help us determine our Awardees for our Fall Assembly!!

WNPJ Peacemaker of the Year Award
The Peacemaker of the Year Award presentations began in 2000. Members from across the region nominate peacemakers from their communities. A WNPJ committee makes the selection for three categories; youth, adult, and senior. The committee will be looking for peace and justice work done this last year. With so many worthy peacemakers, it is often difficult to choose.

WNPJ Dennis Bergren LGBTQ Advocacy Award
In 2011, WNPJ recognized Dennis Bergren for his advocacy on behalf of LGBT prisoners. We’re looking for adults who have made significant contributions to the LGBTQ community in our state, especially over the past year. Nominations by individuals or groups are welcome, as are self-nominations, and may be for work done as a volunteer or as paid staff. Nominations will be reviewed by WNPJ, GSAFE, OutReach LGBT Community Center and the Madison chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG).

WNPJ Lifetime Achievement Award
The Lifetime Achievement award will be presented to someone who has been doing years and years of great work.

Please email Z! at the WNPJ office (zh@wnpj.org) with suggestions or visit the WNPJ website, and click on ‘awards’ to make a nomination. And watch for details coming soon concerning the Fall Assembly.
On Monday, July 20th, the White House recognized twelve people of faith as “Champions of Change” for their efforts in protecting our environment and communities from the effects of climate change. Huda Alkaff, Founder and Director of the Islamic Environmental Group of Wisconsin (Wisconsin Green Muslims), a WNPJ member group, was one of these twelve leaders.

The Champions of Change program was created as an opportunity for the White House to feature individuals doing extraordinary things to empower and inspire members of their communities. “These Champions”, says the press release, “have demonstrated clear leadership across the United States and around the world through their grassroots efforts to green their communities and educate others on the moral and social justice implications of climate change. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy and Senior Advisor to the President Brian Deese both spoke at the recognition ceremony, which was live streamed on the White House website.

Here is the citation from the Press Release:

_Huda Alkaff is an environmentalist with higher education degrees in conservation ecology, sustainable development, and environmental education from the University of Georgia, and has experience teaching environmental studies courses at the University of Wisconsin._

_Huda is a founding member and leader of the Interfaith Earth Network and Wisconsin Interfaith Power and Light. Huda also serves on the national Interfaith Power and Light Campaigns Committee, the national Greening Ramadan Task Force, and the Milwaukee Environmental Consortium Board of Directors._

We congratulate Huda on this recognition of the work she and the IEGW have done since its founding in 2005.
WNPJ ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS
(New Members in bold)

350 Madison
Alliance for Animals - Madison
ACLU - Madison
AFT #212 - Milwaukee
Anathoth Community Farm - Luck
Artha Sustainable Living Center, LLC - Amherst
Autonomous Solidarity Organization - Madison
Beloit Monthly Meeting of Friends
Bread for the World - Appleton
Casa Maria - Milwaukee
Church Women United of Wisconsin & Madison Branch
Citizen Action of Wisconsin - Milwaukee
Citizens Climate Lobby - WI
Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger - Merrimac
Code Pink - Boscobel
Colombia Support Network - Madison
Community for Change - Racine
Congregation of St Agnes, Justice Peace & Ecology Office - Fond du Lac
Coulee Progressives - LaCrosse
Crawford Stewardship Project - Gays Mills
Dale Heights Presbyterian Church Outreach Committee - Madison
DeKalb, IL Interfaith Network for P&J
Democratic Socialists of America - Madison
East Timor Action Network - Madison
Echo Valley Hope, Inc - Ontario
Family Farm Defenders - Madison
Farley Center for Peace, Justice & Sustainability - Verona
Fellowship of Reconciliation - Fox Valley Chapter
First Cong Church, UCC - Menomonee Falls
First United Methodist Church, Church and Society Committee - Madison
Forward Marching Band - Madison
Fox Valley Peace Coalition - Appleton
Friends of Palestine - Germantown
Gay Straight Alliance for Safe Schools - Madison
Friends of Palestine - Germantown
Grassroots Caravan - Madison
Grassroots Citizens for Peace and Justice
Greater Wisconsin Committee - Madison
Groundwork - Madison
Habiba Chaoch Foundation - Janesville
Hill Connections - Chasburg
Holy Wisdom Monastery - Middleton
“Indian” Mascot and Logo Taskforce - Mosinee
Industrial Workers of the World - Madison
Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice - Madison
International Committee for Peace Council - Madison
Iraqi & American Reconciliation Project -IARP - St. Paul, MN
Iraq Veterans Against the War - Madison
Islamic Environmental Group of Wisconsin - Statewide
Juneau County Peace Committee - Mauston
Kickapoo Peace Circle - Viroqua
LaCrosse Interfaith Justice and Peace Network
LGBT Books to Prisoners Project - Madison
LGBTQ Narratives - Madison
Loaves and Fishes Catholic Worker - Duluth
Madison Action for Mining Alternatives
Madison Aracatoa Sister City Project
Madison Area Bus Advocates
Madison Area Peace Coalition
Madison Buddhist Peace Fellowship
Madison Friends Meeting - Peace & Social Concerns Committee
Madison Food Not Bombs
Madison Hours Co-op
Madison Infoshop
Madison Mennonite Church
Madison Pledge of Resistance
Madison/Rafah Sister City Project
Madison-urban Ministry
Many Ways of Peace - Eagle River
Marquette University Center for Peace-making - Milwaukwe
Mary House - Wisconsin Dells
Midwest Coalition Against Lethal Mining - La Crosse, Milwaukee and Madison
Midwest Renewable Energy Association - Custer
Milwaukee Fair Trade Coalition
Mother Fool’s Coffeehouse - Madison
National Lawyers Guild - Madison
No Drones Wisconsin - McFarland
Northland Anti-War Coalition - Duluth
Northwoods Peace and Justice - Hayward
Nukewatch - Luck
Offbeat Press - Oshkosh
Operation Welcome Home - Madison
Oshkosh Monthly Friends Meeting OutReach! - Madison
PAX Christi - Madison
PC Foundation - Madison
Peace Action Wisconsin - Milwaukee
Peace Economics - Madison
Peace, Justice and Sustainability Group of James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation - Madison
Peregrine Forum of WI - Madison
PFLAG - Madison
Physicians for Social Responsibility - WI
PNHP-WI - Linda and Eugene Farley Chapter - Madison
Plowshares Center - Waukesha
Progress Media - Oshkosh
Racine Coalition for Peace and Justice
Racine Dominicans Justice Outreach
Raging Grannies of Madison
Rainbow Bookstore Cooperative - Madison
Rapids Citizens for Peace - Wisconsin Rapids
Red Cedar Peace Initiative - Menomonie
Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Wisconsin - Madison
River Falls Peace and Justice
Rock Ridge Community - Dodgeville
Rock Valley Fellowship of Reconciliation - Janesville
St. Norbert Abbey Justice and Peace Committee - DePere
St. Norbert College, Peace & Justice Center - DePere
School of Americas Watch - Madison
School Sisters of Notre Dame - Elm Grove
SEIU Healthcare WI - Madison
Serve To Unite - Greendale
SHAKA Inc Projects - Plover
Sinsinawa Dominicans - Sinsinawa
Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Cross - Green Bay
Sisters of the Divine Savior - Milwaukee
Socialist Party of Milwaukee
Socialist Party of South Central WI
Solidarity Sing Along - Madison
SOS Senior Citizens Council - Madison
SOUL of Wisconsin - LaFarge
South Central Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO - Madison
SW Grassroots Citizens for Peace - Dodgeville
T.A.M.E. - Madison
The Madison Institute
Union de los Trabajadores Inmigrantes - Madison
United Methodist Federation for Social Action, WI Chapter - LaCrosse
United Nations Association - Dane County Chapter & Wisconsin Division
Uppity Wisconsin - Menominee
UW-Milwaukee Peace Studies Program
Veterans for Peace - Chapters #23-Madison, #102-Milwaukee; #153-Superior & #114-Sheboygan
Voces de la Frontera - Milwaukee
Voices for Creative Nonviolence - Chicago
Waukesha Catholic Worker
WAVE Educational Fund - Milwaukee
Welfare Warriors - Milwaukee
Wild Peace Sangha - Viroqua
Winds of Peace - Projects in Vietnam
Wisconsin Alliance for Tenants’ Rights - Madison
Wisconsin Books to Prisoners Project - Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence
WI Coalition to Ground the Drones and End the Wars - Mt. Horeb
Wisconsin Coalition to Normalize Relations with Cuba - Milwaukee
Wisconsin Community Fund
Wisconsin Council of Churches - Peace & Justice Committee
Wisconsin Democracy Campaign
Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice
WI Impeachment/Bring Our Troops Home - Madison
Wisconsin Resources Protection Council - LaCrosse
Wisconsin Women’s Network
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom - Madison
Workers’ Rights Center - Madison
Yahara Friends Meeting - Monona

If you would rather receive our newsletter online, please email info@wnpj.org.