



Network News

Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice

December 2023

www.wnpj.org



"Our hearts are with all of the victims and their families, and we hope for the safe return of those held captive, and for the safety of the civilians trapped inside Gaza... Together, we must retain our humanity, and value all life as sacred and cherished... The only solution is ending the occupation, uniting Israelis and Palestinians and focusing our collective efforts on achieving peace."

Veterans For Peace is an organization of former soldiers and allies who know too well the costs of war – the obvious, visible wounds; the unseen wounds that curse us and our families for generations and the cost to society of maintaining a military larger than the next ten nations combined. Bitter experience taught us that war is insanity and suffering.

We oppose all targeting of civilians. We denounce Hamas' attacks on Israeli civilians and deplore Israel's crushing response in Gaza. We also recognize this war did not start last week, it has gone on for decades. Over \$150 billion of our tax dollars have provided Israel unlimited weaponry and diplomatic cover has allowed it to expand its occupation such that 16 years ago former President Jimmy Carter clearly labeled it apartheid.

Read more from our members and find ways you can take action at tinyurl.com/wnpj-on-gaza: Peace Action

• Madison Rafah Sister City Project • Veterans for Peace • Quakers • World Beyond War • and others

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## Madison for a World Beyond War

By Anthony Walker

Gaza, over 13,000 – 5,500 children – are dead. 222,000 homes destroyed. Water, food, medicine, and electricity have been cut off. Bombing targets include hospitals, ambulances, universities, schools, shops, communications, journalists, mosques, churches, refugee camps, and evacuation routes. This is Israel's response to the October 7<sup>th</sup> attacks, when 1,500 Hamas militants broke through Israel's security barrier and killed about 1,200, including 845 civilians. Many are describing Israel's assault as "genocide" – yet the U.S. is hardly wavering in its support.

Meanwhile the Ukraine War has caused an estimated 500,000 casualties, despite a territorial stalemate.

What's more, earlier this year the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists moved the Doomsday Clock to 90 seconds from midnight; this is the closest we've been to global catastrophe since its creation in 1947. Their primary reason: the Ukraine war – heightening tensions between earth's top two nuclear powers. Again, the US is fueling this war, having given \$44.2 billion in military aid to Ukraine since the start of the conflict.

Senators Baldwin and Johnson are currently refusing to support ceasefires in both Gaza and Ukraine. They are instead poised to vote for additional military aid in the form of Biden's \$105 billion package – including \$61.4 billion to Ukraine and \$14.3 billion to Israel, as well as

\$13.6 billion on US-Mexico border security, \$7.4 billion on the Indo-Pacific, and a measly \$10 billion on humanitarian aid (likely the ostensible justification for voting “yes”).

For our part, Madison for World BEYOND War is organizing regular vigils for Palestine – in addition to supporting events organized by Madison Rafah Sister Cities Project, Students for Justice in Palestine, Madison for Palestine, and Jewish Voice for Peace. On Ukraine, we recently hosted a vigil, a speak-out, and a panel discussion. We also host regular anti-war film screenings and support other local events to raise general awareness for peace. Finally, two local activists participated in a civil resistance action targeting the weapons manufacturer Raytheon in Arlington, VA to raise awareness for the Merchants of Death War Crimes Tribunal.

Please join our community – we need your help to resist our government’s wars, and to win peace in Palestine,

Ukraine, and around the world! Sign up for our email or text list here - [www.worldbeyondwar.org/madison](http://www.worldbeyondwar.org/madison). We send one message a week with invitations to our Madison antiwar events.



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## WNPJ Moving Forward on Environmental Justice

by WNPJ board member, Dena Eakles

The Wisconsin Network of Peace and Justice began over thirty years ago as a coalition of voices and organizations allied to oppose war, and has grown to include 80 peace and justice organizations throughout the state. Over the past few years we have seen an increased growth, with groups working towards environmental justice, worker justice and more. Recognizing the importance of intersectional activities and thinking allows us



opportunities for more coalition building, as we learn to step away from our silos and increase the presence and voices of indigenous, black and other frontline peoples throughout our state.

The movement towards environmental justice requires awareness that marginalized peoples have been the hardest hit by exploitation of the earth’s resources. It demands that frontline people – those at the epicenters of exploitation and environmental degradation, and often ignored by legislative actions and corporate initiatives - be the driving force behind change.

This alignment with all people is critical to our success and finding our unity. It is equally vital that we recall the sanctity of our relationship to the earth and to one another, which has been passionately held by our BIPOC brothers and sisters, LGBTQ+ and sustainable farmers.

Because the onslaught against the earth is so dire and because more and more of us are finding ourselves as frontline people, there has never been a better time to come together and support one another. *(continued next page)*

**The WNPJ Board is excited to have received a \$25,000 grant from *Building Equity and Alignment for Environmental Justice* (BEA), to build a coalition among those working on environmental issues and particularly environmental justice in the state.** We intend to bring more focused and powerful voices to locations and issues that are becoming critical in a timely way. Over the next month we will develop a steering committee to serve as an advisory board to the task force on critical issues that are facing us: PFAS, CAFOs, Pipelines, Mining, Nuclear and Gas plants... Protecting our water, soil and air will be our directive, with the goal of bringing more focused and timely attention to these issues and above all

to educate one another and the public regarding the need for change.

**If you have questions or are interested in serving on the Environmental Justice Task Force steering committee please submit a request to [EJTF@WNPJ.org](mailto:EJTF@WNPJ.org).** We will also be looking to hire people adept at social media and website maintenance. If this is your skill set and your passion, please contact us at [EJTF@WNPJ.org](mailto:EJTF@WNPJ.org). We need you!

Clean air, water, good clean food and shelter are essential things we can all agree on. Let this be the time we rally for the earth and for one another. We deserve no less, as do those who will come after us.

Thank you for all you do!

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Lance Green, original 32 yr member of WNPJ and first newsletter editor, is an environmentalist and the contact for the Friends of Starkweather Creek in Madison.

Lance values WNPJ because "It's important to join people's power together for the right causes." Shining the light on sad situations can help raise awareness, maybe even foster guilt and action. But we've always known that. Environmental Justice issues always seem to involve situations created by those in power which harm those not in power, so the latter are left to suffer. How can WNPJ organizations advocate for solutions? Can we reach into the houses of power and demand action, and reach out to the public to act? Maybe. We try to keep that hope.

Here are the people who were at the beginnings of WNPJ at the Capitol in 1991:

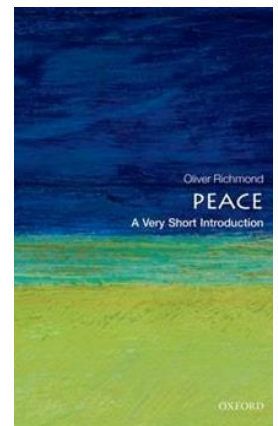
Will Williams, John McGinley, Jackson Tiffany, Mary Beth Schlagheck, David Leeper, Susan Becker, Ben Manski, Lance Green, Robert Kimbrough, Tim Kehl, Allen Ruff, Barb Boehme, Russ Attoe, David Giffey and Joanne Elder.

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## Book Review

*by David Nordstrom Oct 2023*

Are you interested in peace? Curious about its meanings and history? Start with "Peace: A Very Short Introduction" (Oxford University Press, 2014). The author, Oliver Richmond, states that peace has been far more common than war during humanity's existence. This book is a primer on the origin and evolution of the theory and practice of peace over many centuries. The modern concept of peace has broadened from the mere absence of violence. In the 13th century the English Magna Carta bound even the King to the law and introduced the principle of requiring a fair trial before imprisonment of citizens. For a short survey on the meanings and history of peace, take a look at Richmond's volume.





## Every Drop Counts – Coming Together for Water

WNPJ members and partners gathered on Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> in Appleton and online for our 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Fall Assembly.

You'll find videos of the speakers on our website at [wnpj.org/post/2023-fall-assembly](https://wnpj.org/post/2023-fall-assembly)



**Dean Hoegger of Clean Water Action Council** spoke about laws citizens can use to protect the waters of the state and about some current legal challenges that threaten to take away the DNR's authority and the rights of citizens to protect the environment and human health.

Clean Water Action Council of Northeast Wisconsin is a non-profit organization working to protect human health and the environment since 1985 and relies on donations and the annual banquet to fund their work. They have over 500 members who receive the quarterly newsletter about timely topics such as PFAS, biosolids, the state of Green Bay, and climate change, to name a few.

Newsletters are also found at [cleanwateractioncouncil.org](https://cleanwateractioncouncil.org) as well as membership information. CWAC provides an emailed Weekly Update, which provides timely information on actions, events, news, and resources. To receive the **free Weekly Update** or to receive a list of in person or online presentations, send a request by email to [contact@cleanwateractioncouncil.org](mailto:contact@cleanwateractioncouncil.org).



**Lynn and Nancy Utesch**, featured in the film *Sold Down the River*, spoke about the third world water conditions in Wisconsin brought on by factory farms, and affect farms in their region. This issue is being played out across the United States as politicians seem to put the interests of their corporate donors over the health and safety of their constituents.

Watch the the 15-minute film at [vimeo.com/326445998](https://vimeo.com/326445998).



**Rights of Nature Wisconsin Initiative with Terry Dawson and WISDOM representative David Liners.** Today, we face global environmental crises - including soaring extinction rates and accelerating climate change. This has happened despite thousands of environmental laws. What those laws have in common is that they regulate the exploitation of nature - treating nature as

existing for human use. It's time for that to change - for our laws to recognize nature -- the waters, plants, animals and ecosystems we live among -- as a living being with legal rights.



**The WNPJ Peacemaker of the Year Award 2023 was presented to Bill Christofferson** of Milwaukee, lead organizer for The Golden Rule, the ship recovered by Veterans For Peace and sailed over 10,000 miles to teach about abolishing nuclear weapons and war. In addition to his work with Veterans for Peace and Vietnam Veterans Against the War, Bill played a key role in passage of the first statewide nuclear freeze referendum in 1982 and has worked to prevent repeal of a Wisconsin nuclear power moratorium. He is a former board member of the Wisconsin Anti-Violence Effort (WAVE), ex-board president of the Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative and former Board co-chair of WNPJ. He is the author of the book *Man from Clear Lake: Earth Day Founder Senator Gaylord Nelson*. Learn more about Bill and other awardees at [wnpj.org/awards](https://wnpj.org/awards).

*Introducing Bill: Mark Foreman (L) of Milwaukee Veterans for Peace. WNPJ Co-chair Mary Kay Baum presented the award.*



**WNPJ celebrates the life of George Paz Martin** George Paz Martin was born in 1946 in the Philippines, the WWII love child of an island beauty and a black American GI. His father brought them to the United States after the war and George was raised in Milwaukee's black community. George was an organizer, leader and passionate orator for peace and justice. He was committed to nonviolence and the teachings of Dr. M. L. King, Jr. His work and leadership over the years with economic development, civil rights, homeless vets, anti-war, nuclear disarmament and climate action made a powerful impact locally,

nationally, and internationally. He is now with the ancestors. Read more at [wnpj.org/post/george-paz-martin](https://wnpj.org/post/george-paz-martin)

### **Jonathan Ward joins the 2023–24 WNPJ Board**



*Board Chair Tynnetta Jackson welcomes Jonathan Ward as a new Board member.*

Jon was born and raised in Wisconsin. He is a retired diplomat who served in Iraq, Pakistan, India, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, and Papua New Guinea. Jon is an Army Veteran of the first Gulf War and is a member of Veterans for Peace and UNA-Greater Milwaukee.

### **2023-24 WNPJ Board Members**

Tynnetta Jackson, Chair (SOULS)  
 Vicki Berenson, Treasurer (Madison Friends Meeting, Safe Skies Clean Water WI, Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice)  
 Erika Bach, Secretary (Families for Justice)  
 Mary Kay Baum (Madison Arcatao Sister City Project)  
 Judy Miner (UNA Dane County and Vets for Peace #25)  
 John Peck (Family Farm Defender, Madison Infoshop)  
 Dena Eakles (Echo Valley Hope)  
 Debra Gillispie (MAGV: Mothers Against Gun Violence)  
 Jonathan Ward (Veterans for Peace – Milwaukee)

# Sold Down the River – the Struggle for Clean Water, Rural Justice, and a Better Farm Bill

*By: John E. Peck, WNPJ board member and Family Farm Defenders Executive Director*

One of the highlights of the Fall WNPJ Assembly was seeing the film and hearing directly from Lynn and Nancy Utesch, two of the featured activists from the film “Sold Down the River,” about their inspiring organizing (along with many allies) against factory farms that are steadily expanding across the Midwest. The 2019 documentary by Karen Erbach Lawlor that won several film festival awards is now available for free to watch via Vimeo at [vimeo.com/326445998](https://vimeo.com/326445998), and is a good starting point for any community discussion about why confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs) pose such a threat to the integrity of our water, air, soil, as well as rural justice and food sovereignty.



Kewaunee County (where the Uteschs live and farm) is just one of many epicenters in this fight. Driving north along the shore of Lake Michigan, one would be hard put to miss the stench. Wisconsin is now home to over 260 such factory farms – mostly mega dairies – and their cancer-like growth has not been by accident. While the state has largely sat back and watched thousands of small family dairy farms go bankrupt over the last few decades due to the machinations of the “free market,” these CAFOs continue to receive massive taxpayer subsidies, while taking advantage of lackadaisical environmental regulation and a vulnerable immigrant workforce. Given this drive to produce “cheap” milk (with all its hidden costs – fish kills from manure runoff,

wells tainted with pathogens, beaches closed for swimming, animal abuse and worker exploitation) one would think consumers might at least find lower prices at the grocery store. Not so... Just like other sectors of our corporate dominated economy that desperately need federal anti-trust action to break up oligopoly power, the food giants are also keen to reap unfettered profits through greedflation.

Which brings us to the **Farm Bill** – the omnibus legislation that comes before Congress every five years (18 times since the first one was hatched as part of the New Deal in 1933) and directs hundreds of billions of dollars in food/farm spending. The Farm Bill debate is now on hold for the holidays, but it will be back in full force next spring – just in time for a major election campaign year. While the majority (75%) of the Farm Bill budget is devoted to nutrition programs like SNAP (aka food stamps), much of the rest is meant to support farmers themselves. Sadly, this portion of the Farm Bill has been largely coopted by industrial agribusiness who now get the biggest slice of this taxpayer pie.

For example, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) originally designed to encourage farmers to adopt conservation strategies, has since 2002 seen over half of its budget hijacked for factory farms alone, paying for the very manure lagoons and biogas digesters which are revealed to be such a disaster in the Sold Down the River film. Instead, EQIP funds be supporting truly climate friendly small scale rotational grazing operations like that run by Lynn and Nancy Utesch. This is just one of the many environmental justice and food sovereignty demands that need to be heard in the ongoing Farm Bill debate.

For more info on statewide organizing against factory farms, the Farm Bill and progressive proposals to support, visit [sustainruralwisconsin.org](https://sustainruralwisconsin.org) and [familyfarmers.org](https://familyfarmers.org).



# HISTORY: Defeat of Crandon mine in Wisconsin a pivotal victory

By Al Gedicks

*excerpted from The Cap Times, October 5, 2023*

**This month marks the 20th anniversary of the historic victory over the controversial Crandon mine project adjacent to the Mole Lake Sokaogon Ojibwe Reservation.**



*In 1997, about 250 supporters of a mining moratorium bill, including representatives from the state's tribes, gathered outside of the Capitol carrying signs, chanting and beating a drum.  
photo credit: STATE JOURNAL ARCHIVES)*

Veterans of that 28-year (1975-2003) battle against the Crandon metallic sulfide mine gathered on the Mole Lake Reservation on Oct. 28 to commemorate the grassroots environmental, sportfishing and tribal victory over the world's largest energy company (Exxon) and the world's largest mining company (BHP Billiton).

Situated at the headwaters of the Wolf River, the proposed underground mine was 1 mile upstream from the tribe's wild rice lake, five miles from the Forest County Potawatomi Reservation, and 40 miles (via the Wolf River) upstream from the Menominee Nation... The mainstream political consensus at the time was that the mine was inevitable, given the large size of the zinc-copper deposit, promised jobs and taxes, and Exxon's political influence in the state... **The international mining industry was shocked when a broad multiracial, rural-based grassroots alliance defeated the world's largest mining corporation.**

Native and non-Native groups mistrusted the DNR to defend their rights and found that tribal environmental regulations were stronger than state law in protecting the Wolf River's fishery and tourism economy.

In the end, the Mole Lake Ojibwe and the Forest County Potawatomi tribes purchased the 5,000-acre Crandon mine property and mineral rights for \$16.5 million. The land is now managed as a conservation area devoted to sustainable land management practices, tribal cultural values and tourism suitable to this environmentally sensitive area...

In 2011, a similar Indian-environmental alliance formed when the Gogebic Taconite (GTac) company proposed a mountaintop removal operation in the Penoque Hills above Lake Superior to create the largest open pit iron mine in the world. The Bad River Band asserted their sovereignty and GTac pulled the plug on their project in 2015. The assertion of tribal sovereignty, combined with building alliances with the non-Native communities in the watersheds at risk from ecologically destructive mining projects has proven to be an effective strategy.

The success of these struggles has already provided inspiration for ongoing mine battles at the Reef project in Marathon County, the Bend project in Taylor County and the Back Forty project next to the Menominee River on the Michigan-Wisconsin border.

*Al Gedicks is executive secretary of the WNPJ member group Wisconsin Resources Protection Council and emeritus professor of environmental sociology at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.*

Read the full story at [wnpj.org/post/victory-over-crandon-mine](https://wnpj.org/post/victory-over-crandon-mine)

## State of the Network

Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice is an umbrella organization connecting and promoting the work of our 80 member organizations and partners. We are supported by our many individual and family members and donors.

- Please use the enclosed envelope or go to [wnpj.org/membership](http://wnpj.org/membership) to renew or donate.
  - Sign up for our weekly e-bulletin from the link on our website or <https://tinyurl.com/WNPJnews>
- **Members:** Send your events and action alerts to [info@wnpj.org](mailto:info@wnpj.org) and visit our website to see all events: [www.wnpj.org](http://www.wnpj.org) & Facebook page [facebook.com/WisNPJ](https://facebook.com/WisNPJ)
- **Join us the first Thursday of every month at noon for our virtual drop-in hour** to make connections and talk about your concerns!

Connecting the dots...



...since 1991



The all-volunteer Board handles the administrative and programmatic aspects of the Network, with some paid help as needed. We have a small budget and a wide-ranging reach.

*If you'd like to volunteer with WNPJ, please send your interests and skills to [info@wnpj.org](mailto:info@wnpj.org)!*

Over the past year we have continued to highlight and promote our members' activities.

- We sent our e-bulletin with News, Events and Action Alerts nearly every week to more than 1200 subscribers.
- We posted over 1000 spotlights on the WNPJ website at [wnpj.org](http://wnpj.org) and on our Facebook page at [facebook.com/WisNPJ](https://facebook.com/WisNPJ).

On the ground:

- We worked with **Catholic Worker House** members to help with housing, food and coordination of their Midwest Faith & Resistance Gathering opposing militarism and war.
- WNPJ worked closely with **Veterans for Peace in Milwaukee** as they brought their anti-nuke ship "The Golden Rule" to Wisconsin ports, spreading their news and coordinating events with other member groups involved with anti-war issues.
- Honoring our commitment to connecting with groups statewide, we held our **spring steering committee meeting at the Nature Reserve near LaFarge** with a focus on energy issues in the Driftless region of Wisconsin. Videos of the presentations are available at: [wnpj.org/post/driftless-energy-2023](http://wnpj.org/post/driftless-energy-2023)
- We traveled to Custer WI in the middle of the state for the annual **Midwest Renewable Energy Fair** in June, tabling for WNPJ and connecting with our member groups working on sustainability issues.
- Our **Fall Assembly** was held October 28 in Appleton and online, with the theme "**Every Drop Counts; Coming Together for Water.**" (Read the article on page 4)



## WNPJ's Member Organizations

Learn more about each one at [wnpj.org/members](http://wnpj.org/members)

350 Wisconsin  
Anathoth Community Farm  
Building Unity  
Casa Maria Catholic Worker  
Chrysalis  
Church Women United - Madison Branch  
Citizens' Climate Lobby-Madison WI Chapter  
Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger  
Colombia Support Network  
Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes  
Crawford Stewardship Project  
Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa  
Echo Valley Hope  
Family Farm Defenders  
Farley Center  
Fellowship of Reconciliation - Fox Valley  
First Unitarian Society  
First United Methodist Church Madison  
Forward Marching Band - Madison  
Fox Valley Peace Coalition  
Interfaith Peace Working Group  
James Reeb UUC Justice Leadership Team  
Juneau County Peace Committee  
JustDane (formerly MUM)  
Kickapoo Peace Circle  
King Coalition of Madison and Dane County  
Lauren Faith Smith Ministry for Nonviolence  
Madison Arcatao Sister City Project  
Madison Area Bus Advocates  
Madison Area Democratic Socialists of America  
Madison for World BEYOND War  
Madison Friends Meeting; Peace, Social and Earth  
Concerns Committee  
Madison Infoshop  
Madison Mutual Aid Network  
Madison Pledge of Resistance  
Madison Rafah Sister City Project  
Madison Working Group on Peace in Ukraine"  
Marquette University Center for Peacemaking  
Mary House  
Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA)  
Moms Demand Action  
Mothers Against Gun Violence  
Northern Spirit Radio  
Nukewatch  
Palestine Partners  
Pax Christi  
PC Foundation  
Peace Action Wisconsin  
Peregrine Forum  
Physicians for Social Responsibility-Wisconsin  
Racine Coalition for Peace and Justice  
Racine Dominicans Justice  
Raging Grannies of Madison  
Richland Center-Santa Teresa Sister City Project  
Safe Skies Clean Water Wisconsin  
Sisters of the Divine Savior - Milwaukee  
SOUL of Wisconsin  
SOULS - (Solomon's Outreach and Urban Learning  
Sessions)  
UNA USA, Dane Co  
UNA-USA, Greater Milwaukee  
Unity of Appleton  
Veterans for Peace -Madison #25  
Veterans for Peace - Milwaukee #102  
Veterans for Peace-Sheboygan #114  
Wave Educational Fund  
Wisconsin Books to Prisoners  
Wisconsin Coalition to Ground the Drones and End  
the Wars  
WI Coalition to Normalize Relations with Cuba  
Wisconsin Democracy Campaign  
Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice  
Wisconsin Green Muslims  
Wisconsin People's Party  
Wisconsin Physicians for a National Health  
Program - Farley Chapter  
Wisconsin Poor People's Campaign  
Wisconsin Resources Protection Council  
Wisconsin Transit Riders Alliance  
WISDOM Wisconsin  
Wise Women Gathering Place  
Women's International League for Peace and  
Freedom - Madison Branch  
Worker Justice Wisconsin



## LAST MAY

I watched two  
barn swallows swoop  
the field we had planted.  
unlike the two  
National Guard jet  
fighters which had  
roared us again  
and again an hour  
earlier, the swallows  
were not armed with  
four rockets each, and  
did not anger me  
because I knew  
what nation they  
guarded, and I sang  
aloud to honor them  
and their nation.

– Gogisgi-Carroll Arnett,  
French/Cherokee poet

### WNPJ Membership Form

(Suggested dues: \$35 Individual, \$52 Sustaining, \$45 Family, \$10 Fixed Income, \$50 Organization without paid staff, \$75 Organization with paid staff, Benefactor: any amount)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Is this an Organization membership? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

☐ New ☐ Renewal

Join or renew online at **[wnpj.org/membership](http://wnpj.org/membership)**  
or send checks payable to **WNPJ | PO Box 727 | Madison, WI 53701**