



Network News

WISCONSIN NETWORK for PEACE and JUSTICE

WINTER 2026

www.wnpj.org

Shaping Our Future: We are collectively rebuilding our world, one community at a time.

WNPJ member organizations and allies share their thoughts in this issue.

Widening the Circle

From the Board: Welcome to Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice. As we celebrate and reflect on our 35th year of resistance to war and commitment to peace, we recognize the state violence and chaos surrounding us. We continue to focus on the world we know is possible through the efforts of so many amazing human beings like you.

Our member organizations are doing outstanding work, creating community, readying for aggression towards our neighbors, supporting food sovereignty and mutual aid, dispelling the myths of war and militarism and so much more.

In this year, we will continue to uplift your efforts and encourage more inclusion and involvement through-

out our state - promoting the ways that you are making peace possible and ending the reign of terror we are witnessing.

Please remember to share your efforts with us and we will announce it in our weekly e-news, social media, on the monthly "Widening the Circle" zoom calls*. Please welcome new member organizations and individuals who are ready to take a stand. This is our time, however difficult. It is made sweeter in community; it is made stronger with our united voices and actions.

*"Widening the Circle" is WNPJ's monthly, one-hour zoom call that will feature member and non-member groups and timely actions and discussions. Look for it beginning in February.

WNPJ member organization 350 Wisconsin leads the charge for the environment

Get involved!

The new 350 Wisconsin Data Center Campaign will be launching soon. If you are interested in getting involved, please fill out the form at 350wisconsin.org/volunteer/ or contact Britnie Remer, our Organizing Director, at <https://350wisconsin.org/contact-us/> and she will connect with you.

Please join us on Monday, Feb. 9, at 7pm Central, for an online presentation on grassroots organizing around data centers in Wisconsin!

Hear from local leaders across the state who are pushing back against hyperscale data center proposals and learn more about how they have been organizing in their communities. Stick around from 8-8:30 for an optional question and answer session.

Featured speakers will be: Christine Le Jeune (Port Washington), Blaine Halverson (Menomonie), and Jayne Black (Greenleaf).

To register: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEQdOqurjkHdJr8CWNFWlvbE4yH8ahCh94?fbclid=IwY2xjaw-PffPNleHRuA2FlbQlxMABicmlkETZfc1FQcEFYR0pGSVFCUHRZc-3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHoufegcQg-fgeGXsg3sK3CfJY_XU8t8Vuba-mmEoy4FjHZE8KT6Ju2z_his5U_aem_fnJmlrSzNie1ea_mdE8d2A#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/join?from=addon&url=https://us02web.zoom.us/join/join?from=addon&url=https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEQdOqurjkHdJr8CWNFWlvbE4yH8ahCh94?fbclid=IwY2xjaw-PffPNleHRuA2FlbQlxMABicmlkETZfc1FQcEFYR0pGSVFCUHRZc-3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHoufegcQg-fgeGXsg3sK3CfJY_XU8t8Vuba-mmEoy4FjHZE8KT6Ju2z_his5U_aem_fnJmlrSzNie1ea_mdE8d2A#/registration) OR https://www.facebook.com/events/1208002044697607?active_tab=about



WANTED

Human beings with a keen interest in humanity. WNPJ is actively seeking help with social media, e-news and newsletters. We need "citizen reporters" to help us keep up with all the activities of our member groups and allies. Things are moving quickly these days and keeping each other aware of the Good that is happening is something we can all do. If you have any amount of time and a bit of social media savvy, we welcome your help.

You can send a message to
info@wnpj.org or dena.eakles@gmail.com

**love is
an action,
never
simply
a feeling.**

—bell hooks

FREE
January Meeting
**Every Fourth
Saturday
1:00 - 2:30 p.m.**



FREE NE Wisconsin Chapter

Founded in 2016 by directly impacted women, FREE Movement fights for dignity and change in Wisconsin's criminal legal system. We bring awareness to the challenges justice-impacted women face, both behind bars and in the community. Everyone is welcome in this movement, because none of us are free until we ALL are free.

Leader Lunch & Listening Session

Interested in becoming a leader in your community? Have an issue you want us to address in 2026? Come Join us!

**Brown County Library
- Kress Family Branch
333 N. Broadway
DePere, WI 54115
Emil and Gail Fischer
Room B**



julib@freemvmnt.org



Dear Wisconsin,

This moment in time has been heavy. It is a total affront to every value that we hold; values of peace, values of justice, values of a better world. In the first week of January, three individuals were shot by federal agents — a mother in Minneapolis and a married couple in Portland. These shootings are not freak accidents, they are a reminder from our world that the work that ends this reign of terror must be done by our own hearts, sculpted by our own tools, and assembled by our own hands.

The matter regarding ICE, CBP, and other federally sanctioned terror groups is a paramount one. When there is injustice in one location, injustice is everywhere, and it threatens the safety and security of activists, organizers, and common folk, no matter where they are.

I am sure that I sound like a broken record, but there's strong evidence that supports the fact that a broken record gets people's attention. We need to escalate in this movement against the aggressions that our government has levied upon us.

Here's a simple truth: Nonviolence without action isn't impactful, helpful, or morally correct. Nonviolence without action is complacency, it is permission for harmful systems to continue their harm. Words are shallow, they are empty - intentions alone have never saved anyone.

Another truth: When nonviolent action is exhausted, when it is no longer seen as effective or powerful, violent action is proven by history to take its place. As people who believe in nonviolent traditions, we have a mandate to rise to this occasion and provide our leadership, to turn our words into actions and to turn our actions into impact. We have a mandate to avert violent escalations in this struggle by showing the

world
what love,
real love, can do.
These mandates

are why I believe in the
work that the people around
me do. It's why I believe in the
ActWisconsin Statewide Coalition, a
group of people and organizations through-
out the state who are building the plan for when
ICE comes knocking. They're why I believe that every



person in Wisconsin should sign up for rapid response alerts online at [ActWIS.CO](https://actwis.co) — because in a race against a clock, you tend to win if you move faster.

The ActWisconsin Coalition contains a wide variety of groups, including Badger Collective, Voces de la Frontera, Indivisible chapters, peace-focused congregations, and many more from across the state. We're building plans for the occupation, as well as building the trust and relationships that we need to stand firm.

The table
remains
open

to
groups
committed
to protecting
Wisconsinites against
federal agents, as the
moment is now when we must
take our stand. I invite your group to
join the coalition - whether you can help
us on the front lines or simply pledge your
email list, every helper counts.

I hope that recent events encourage everyone to take a pause in their busy lives and ask themselves: How am I personally fighting ICE? What impact am I making?

We say that 'we shall overcome' — overcoming is not a product of destiny; it is a product of individual people choosing to fight for others the way that they fight for themselves.

Have hope. Don't "resist" — persist. The fight of our lives is now. What will you do?

When you decide, you can meet me on the less beaten path — where our convictions give us courage, where our courage inspires action, and where our actions change the world.

With love — Ajak with Badger Collective

Wise Women Gathering Place

This past year revealed the depth of community care that emerges when people choose to show up for one another. Even in times of uncertainty, our belief that responsive community care is powerful, necessary, and transformative holds true. In our community, we are reminded that peace is practiced, respect is embodied, and belonging is shaped moment by moment through care, benevolence, and collective responsibility.

Wise Women Gathering Place works to transform violence through a community grounded in safety, dignity, and solidarity. We understand peace as a way of being. Peace takes form in how we listen, how we respond, and how we stand with one another, especially when harm or uncertainty is present.

Our work is guided by a simple understanding that healing and advocacy grow from connection—to one another, to place, and to the values that orient us toward responsibility and care. Mutual aid reminds us that peacemaking is relational. It asks us to give attention, to respond with compassion, and to act in solidarity.

Whether supporting individuals on their healing paths, creating spaces grounded in safety and dignity, or advocating alongside community members, we remain

committed to care that honors agency and lived experience. The work requires steadiness and trust. It asks us to stay present, to learn from one another, and to move at the pace of relationship. We answer.

As we move into a new year, we carry forward the lessons this past year made clear: community care is transformative, solidarity makes us safer, and peace is built through consistent, collective action. Together, we will continue the work to nurture the conditions which strengthen our shared capacity to respond, to heal, and to shape a more just and peaceful future where everyone belongs.

Onward,

Beverly Scow

Executive Director, Wise Women Gathering Place

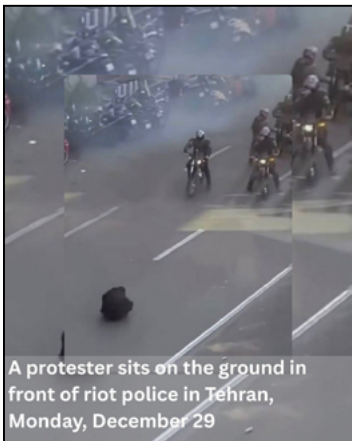
WiseWomenGP.org • info@wisewomengp.org



National Iranian American Council calls for action on Iran

Urgent update: the National Iranian American Council (NIAC) has learned the Trump administration may imminently deport Iranians detained by ICE to Iran, with a flight set to depart as early as Sunday, Jan. 25. For more: niacouncil.org

This would be at least the third deportation flight to Iran, following prior removals in September and December that raised grave concerns about ICE detention practices and due process for individuals at heightened risk. Past flights have included vulnerable people who



are political dissidents, religious converts, and minorities with credible fears of imprisonment, torture, and death if returned to Iran. Some deportees have reported being dragged onto the planes. Others said their passports were confiscated upon arrival in Iran and that they were summoned for questioning by Iranian

intelligence.

This is a time of great tragedy, as new details about the victims are revealed and the threat of more repression and war looms large. We are advising policymakers that the future of Iran must be decided by the Iranian people. For the U.S. to play any helpful role, it must do so responsibly and not co-opt the aspirations of Iranians or add to the bloodshed with more violence.

On Jan. 22, NIAC sent a letter to President Trump, senior administration officials, Members of Congress, and United Nations officials urging key steps in response to the Iranian government's recent, brutal crackdown on protesters. The letter outlines four key recommendations to take in support:

1. Abstain from military intervention and end threats of war;
2. Support a reputable, independent investigation into human rights violations;
3. Halt deportations to Iran and Immediately restart Iranian refugee, asylum, and visa processing;
4. Provide relief for the Iranian people and press Iranian authorities to comply with human rights obligations.

Madison for a World BEYOND War

By Janet Parker

New year, new war: in January the US bombed Venezuela and kidnapped Nicolas Maduro. According to a recent poll, 63% of people in the US oppose military action in Venezuela. Wars are very unpopular. Trump was elected on his promises to end the wars in Ukraine and Gaza, not to start new ones.

How can we organize for power with the bi-partisan majority of Americans who oppose wars?

That's what we have been working on at Madison for a World BEYOND War. In 2025, we did a lot.

September: Stop Arming Israel contingent in the Willy Street Parade, and a war abolition walk around Lake Monona that day also, covered on 2 TV stations and in the UW student paper.

November: Two peace wreath workshops, with 24 participants.

Veterans panel discussion with 4 young antiwar veterans at UW and Madison College, to mark Armistice Day.

Antiwar Film Series — we showed these eight films: *The Good Soldier*, with speaker Will Williams



War Abolition Walk Around Lake Monona, September 2025 • Kent Sweitzer photo

A FEW HIGHLIGHTS:

Weekly antiwar vigils from May to November “For Palestine & Beyond.”

March: A large workshop on war tax resistance.

April: WBW students at Madison College hosted US Congressman Mark Pocan for a large multi-club student and community “Solidarity for Peace” event.

Antiwar Cafés — we held six of these three- to four-hour weekend events with music, spoken word, organizing discussions, food, drink, special guests and sometimes films.

Campus Organizing Interns — At UW-Madison and Madison College, we had three WBW interns in the spring semester and six more in the fall. A couple dozen students are now active with the WBW student organizations on both campuses.

July and September: Flotillas on Lake Mendota and the Yahara River to raise the profile of the flotillas that tried to take aid to Gaza.

Short films — *Sumud Flotilla to Gaza*, *Death & Taxes: War Tax Resistance*, *A Force More Powerful* — Nashville 1960s: *We Were Warriors*

War Made Easy

No Other Land, two showings at Bartell Theater

The Palestine Exception (at UW-Madison), with student speakers Dahlia and Abbie, and professor Samer Alatout

Sarura

The War at Home (at UW-Madison)

Tantura, at Bartell Theater

JOIN US!

World BEYOND War has chapters in Madison and all over the world. Would you like to be active with our chapter in Madison, or start a chapter somewhere else in Wisconsin? Learn more: www.worldbeyondwar.org/madison or www.instagram.com/worldbeyondwar. Join our email or Signal list for weekly updates — drop us a note here: warabolition@gmail.com

Your Legal Rights

When Dealing with ICE Immigration Enforcement

From Family Farm Defenders

Given our current political climate, people are justifiably concerned about what will happen to their friends, neighbors, and colleagues who may be immigrants without documentation. In particular, farmers and other employers are worried about increased activity by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), part of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

There are an estimated 10,000+ undocumented employees in the Wisconsin dairy sector alone, with many more in agricultural processing plants, restaurants, groceries, as well as the construction, sanitation, and healthcare industries. Without the presence of these essential workers, the state's economy would suffer a serious collapse, not to mention the huge loss their disappearance would create in Wisconsin communities where they have been a vibrant presence for decades.

In order to detain and deport those suspected of being in the U.S. without proper papers, federal ICE agents may suddenly appear in your community. They may be assisted in this effort by local police and/or county sheriffs, in particular if they have a standing ICE agreement, known as a 287-G.

Currently in Wisconsin, the following counties have such a 287-G deal with ICE: Brown, Fond du Lac, Kenosha, Keweenaw, Manitowoc, Marquette, Outagamie, Sauk, Sheboygan, Washington, Waukesha, Waupaca, Winnebago, Waushara, and Wood. If you are unsure whether or not your local police and/or sheriff department is willing to cooperate with ICE, it is worth contacting them directly to get their official policy. Being public officials that are either elected or appointed, they are democratically accountable to their local constituents.

Regardless of whether ICE agents are alone or working in conjunction with other officers, you have certain rights (for instance, the Fourth Amendment) that you can exercise to limit their adverse impact on a business and its employees. This factsheet offers an overview, but should not be considered formal legal advice. Readers are urged to consult an attorney for precise answers to questions about how the law applies to their particular situation.

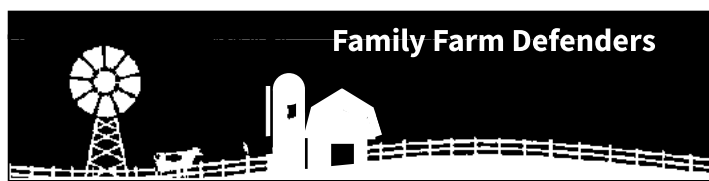
WHAT ICE CAN AND CANNOT DO AT YOUR WORKPLACE AND IN YOUR COMMUNITY

1. Question — Immigration can ask questions of anyone as long as they consent and ICE does not restrain the freedom of the individual to walk away. ICE can not

use verbal threats, coercive tactics, or physical abuse to force a person to waive their rights or to make a statement. But agents can also be quite intimidating and people often consent out of fear.

2. Detain — Immigration can not stop a car, or detain a person in any way, unless they have a “reasonable suspicion, based on specific articulable facts,” that the person is not legally in the United States. ICE can not detain someone because of their perceived race/ethnicity, proficiency with English, or because they happen to work on a farm, at a processor or in a restaurant. A specific tip or police referral, erratic driving, inability to furnish documents or presenting false documents could all serve as valid reasons for ICE detention.

3. Arrest — Immigration can arrest a person if they have an arrest warrant, or if they have probable cause to



believe a person is not lawfully in the United States and is likely to escape before a warrant can be obtained.

4. Search — Immigration can not enter a dwelling, property, or business without the owner's permission. For example, a farmer can refuse to allow ICE on their land. Without the owner's permission, the other option is for ICE agents to present a valid search warrant. A landlord can not give ICE permission to enter a tenant's home; an employer also can not give ICE permission to search an employee's housing. To enter without a search warrant, ICE must knock at the door or appear at the gate, identify themselves, and receive consent. But, as already mentioned, agents can be quite scary and people often feel forced to consent.

HOW TO BE PREPARED IF ICE APPEARS AT YOUR DOOR OR GATE

Being adequately prepared and educated is one of the best ways to deter ICE agents. If you are an employer and/or owner, it is very important that you share proper legal information and discuss how to best defend one's rights with workers and colleagues. Develop a clear policy regarding who can grant access to the property and post signs directing visitors to report to the office and/or provide a cell phone number on the sign that a

PLEASE SEE PAGE 7

Your legal rights when dealing with ICE

FROM PAGE 6

visitor may use to contact the appropriate representative. Sample signs can easily be found online and downloaded.

1. An I-9 audit. If ICE wishes to audit your records, you are usually able to request three days to prepare for the audit. If ICE issues a subpoena, the three day rule is not applicable. The agent may request to take your original documents — for that reason, it is advisable to have pre-made copies of your current employees I-9 forms in a separate folder. Always request a receipt and retain a copy of any records that ICE may take. If this situation occurs, it is best to contact a qualified attorney as soon as possible.

2. Arrest warrant. An agent may appear with a warrant to arrest a person who is not lawfully in the United States and has committed a felony. In this case, discreetly cooperate with the agent with as little fanfare as possible. If ICE believes the person is armed and dangerous, he/she may enter your property without seeking permission or even notifying you.

3. Search warrant. A search warrant can also be issued based upon probable cause of illegal activity. If ICE says it has such a search warrant, ask to see a copy, read the warrant, and allow those specified in the warrant to conduct the actions specified. Be sure to get the business card of every person who enters your property. You are allowed to accompany the agents to monitor and/or photograph their activities as long as you maintain a reasonable distance and do not interfere. It is also good to take notes of any property that may be seized as evidence. In the event of such a search, it is best to contact a qualified attorney as soon as possible.

If the agent does not produce a valid warrant, inform him/her that you have not granted permission to enter, and ask him/her to leave. It is helpful to have multiple witnesses to any such ICE encounter. Also, immediately contact your attorney to report the incident. You should also report any ICE activity in your area to the Voces de la Frontera Wisconsin hotline at 414-465-8078.

DON'T FLEE; DON'T GRANT PERMISSION; GIVE YOUR NAME

Workers should be warned that they must not flee from an ICE agent, that they may not grant permission for any government agent to enter the property, and that the only question they must answer is providing their name. Crew leaders and workers should be prepared to give the name and phone number of the person or persons you have designated to deal with individuals who seek access to a property or business. It is strongly recommended that all immigrant workers possess and

IMMIGRANTS Know your rights!

*From Voces de la Frontera and the
Community Defense Network*

Please report any credible ICE sightings to our hotline: **1-800-427-0213**. Save this number in your phone. We are not able to confirm information via social media or DM's.

We also encourage you to remember your rights and that ICE needs a judicial warrant, signed by a judge. You have the right to not open the door and stay silent. Do not lie, do not run or resist arrest, and do not sign any document.

"It's not just having the sign, but it is knowing your rights. It is knowing the hotline. It's being prepared for that moment." —Christine Neumann-Ortiz, Executive Director of Voces de la Frontera.

NATIONAL IMMIGRANT RIGHTS CENTER

<https://immigrantjustice.org/for-immigrants/know-your-rights/ice-encounter/>



VOCES
de la Frontera

NONVIOLENCE NEWS

<https://nonviolencenews.org/2026/01/17/iran-minneapolis-buddhist-monks/>

Each week, *Nonviolence News* brings 30-50 stories of "nonviolence in action" to readers, illuminating the scale and scope of how nonviolence is actively shaping our world. The weekly newsletter shows the hopeful, courageous, and inspiring ways people are changing the narrative, culture, society, and politics across the globe. We cover stories on environmental, racial, economic, and social justice. We share working models of nonviolent alternatives. We spotlight individual acts of bravery and kindness. We explore how ordinary people are making extraordinary change.

carry a card to help them defend their rights before an ICE agent. Such "Know Your Rights" cards in multiple languages can easily be found online and downloaded.

For a PDF version of this factsheet, visit:

<https://familyfarmers.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/FFDICEFactsheet.pdf>

Lily and me

By Esty Dinur, Jewish Voice for Peace Madison

As I write this, I mourn and rage about the murder of Renee Nicole Good by an ICE agent. I think about the abductions of Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, herself a woman of many accomplishments, known in her country as "First Combatant." More kids killed in Gaza by Israeli soldiers. My heart is heavy.

But I was asked to write a hopeful piece.

Lily, a hijabi woman from South Lebanon, was a mystery to me at first. I saw her talking to members of Jewish Voice for Peace Madison before and after our public events, I saw her hugging one of our members. Eventually she and I started talking. "What kind of name is Esty?" she asked and her eyes grew large when I told her I was from Israel.

"You're Israeli?"

"I am."

"What do you think about Israel?"

And thus started our still continuing conversation, and our friendship.

Lily asks me questions about Israel, how Israelis think, why do they do what they do. And she tells me stories about her life. I listen and explain and agree and we cry together.

HE NEVER CAME BACK

When she was a child, Israeli soldiers came to her village and took her father away. He never came back, his body wasn't returned for burial, to this day they don't know what happened to him. Her smile is gone and her eyes swell with tears. Mine too.

She asks me about some Hebrew words. I need her to repeat and explain the context before I understand what she says. These are words she and other kids heard the soldiers say. She remembers the kids mocking the soldiers "but what did they say?" I explain.

"Why did they go down on their knees and touch their heads to the ground," she asks. I don't know but I guess they are repeating what Holocaust survivors did when they arrived in Palestine—kiss the ground which they considered theirs. Now a younger generation claims the land on which her village stands.

Lily knows that I'm the daughter of a Holocaust survivor and she asks me for his story. She listens and cries. "Why do people hate the Jews?" she asks and I try my best to explain the history. "It's all about the powerful sowing hatred between different people," she says, "but we're all the same. We want the same things. We want peace in our lives."

I hear about the terrible night when Israel bombed her

house. Her mother commanded all four children to lie on the floor in the lowest level, then lied over them all night while the bombs rained.

There was another night when a bomb exploded next to Lily as she was running down the stairs. She was 14 years old and her hair turned white. I listen and cry with her. She shows me photos of her house in Lebanon, destroyed yet again in a recent bombing.

Nothing has changed. Except, to her amazement, she learned that not all Israelis hate Palestinians and Arabs, that some support the rights of Palestinians for their own state and the rights of Lebanese and others to live in



Jewish Voice for Peace demonstration

peace. And she lets her friends know that too. Not all are impressed. "In Lebanon the word for 'jews' means 'the worst people'," she tells me as she shows the "puke" emoji one of her friends responded with after Lily sent her a photo of the two of us sitting together in a coffeshop.

TABULEH, HUMMUS, FALAFEL

We become friends. We talk about our families, husbands and exes, children, music. She invites me to her house and makes delicious Lebanese food while complaining about people thinking that tabuleh, hummus, falafel are Israeli foods. She thinks I should dye my hair blonde, making me laugh. She calls me Uchti—my sister. I call her Achoti, sister in Hebrew.

It takes a while before I realize what we've been doing. Truth and Reconciliation.

Yes, there's hope, even in dark times such as these.

At this link is a presentation on Gaza Health Catastrophe with Dr. Feroze Sidhwa, a presentation supported by many Madison social justice organizations including Jewish Voices for Peace: <https://www.youtube.com/live/we5lP80aJYo>. Prior to Dr. Sidhwa you will hear from Marc Rosenthal on the weaponization of anti-Semitism and how it is suppressing activism; the very real message of peace and how our inter-sectionality organizing is imperative now. Esty Dinur brings her compassionate heart and her personal history on "Never

SEE PAGE 9

Support Ukraine Rally

Friends of Ukraine–Madison, Inc., invites you to a ceremony on the steps of the State Capitol Building, Saturday, Feb. 21, 1–2pm, followed by a fellowship hour at Grace Episcopal Church.

Please join us to honor the resilience and courage of the Ukrainian people and to remember the sacrifices they have made since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine



began four years ago. We encourage you to wear blue and yellow, and bring Ukrainian flags and posters in support of Ukraine to create a display of solidarity.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

During the Capitol gathering, you'll hear from invited speakers including members of the local Ukrainian community.

The fellowship address at the Guild Hall of Grace Episcopal Church, 116 W. Washington Ave., will offer an opportunity to connect with others, reflect, and engage in meaningful conversations over light refreshments.

This event serves as a time to come together as a community to show solidarity, offer support, and reflect on the ongoing impact of this conflict on Ukraine and the global community. We welcome all community members who wish to stand in unity for victorious and just peace for Ukraine.

We hope to see you there. *Slava Ukraini!*

The event is organized and co-sponsored by Friends of Ukraine–Madison, Inc., and CREECA (Center for Russia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia) at UW-Madison.

Screening of Earth's Greatest Enemy Saturday, February 7, 10am West Theatre, 319 N. Central Ave., Duluth Free and Open to the Public

SPONSORED BY

Northland Grandmothers for Peace, Veterans for Peace, Chapter 80, and Twin Ports Democratic Socialists of America



Earth's Greatest Enemy by Abby Martin is a groundbreaking anti-imperialist environmental documentary.

Exempt from international climate agreements and rarely scrutinized in mainstream reporting, the Pentagon is the world's single largest institutional polluter. This is a documentary that will change how you see both the military and environmentalism.

Trailer:

https://youtu.be/rphBWk15_h4?si=E7r6WDAiLjM3bino

Lily and me

FROM PAGE 8

Again, for Anyone Anywhere."

Esty Dinur is a Current Affairs and Music Programmer at WORT-FM in Madison. She was born and raised in Israel to a Holocaust survivor father and a mother who survived the Nazi blitz on London. She became a supporter of Palestinian rights and a Palestinian state in her teens. She is a member of Jewish Voice for Peace, the world's largest Jewish anti-Zionist organization. To learn more about JVP–Madison, follow it on Facebook or Instagram.

Islamic Resource Center serves as a beacon during Ramadan

Posted in the Wisconsin Muslim Journal by Mary Gellerup Bolich, Jan. 20, 2026

In preparation for Ramadan, Wednesday, Feb. 18 until Friday, March 20, the Islamic Resource Center and Muslim Women's Coalition have thoughtfully planned multiple activities for community engagement and increased their inventory of Ramadan-related books and gifts.

The Islamic Resource Center (IRC) is a rich community asset and vibrant hub of activity year-round. But during the holy month of Ramadan—like a *fanoos* (traditional Arabic lantern)—it shines a special, welcoming light on unity, learning, reflection and inclusivity.

Operated by the Muslim Women's Coalition, the IRC, located at 5235 S. 27th St. in Greenfield is the largest Islamic lending library in the state. Among its nearly 4,000 items is an exceptional variety of books related to Ramadan.



Photo by Cherrie Hanson

The IRC library collection includes books for children of all ages, from babies to teens, as well as a selection of books for adults, including one or two that may be ideal for people who are new to Islam or those outside the faith who are curious about Islam.

A PLACE WHERE KIDS CAN SEE THEMSELVES

One of the main objectives in establishing the IRC

was to provide “mirrors” for children to see themselves represented, according to Janan Najeeb, founder and executive director of the Muslim Women's Coalition.

“It is important for Muslim children to see their faith and their holidays represented. That's why we're really proud that over the years we have been able to compile thousands of books for children as well as offering experiences like story time, art, programs and activities that make them feel represented; that give children a sense of pride and belonging,” said Najeeb.

The IRC also serves as a bridge for interfaith dialog, welcoming people of all faiths and backgrounds to learn about and participate in activities, have conversations and borrow books. Najeeb notes that area teachers, companies and community members visit the IRC seeking books, materials and information to support Muslim students, to showcase the Muslim faith in exhibits or to simply gain knowledge, understanding and appreciation.

“I'm so happy to see people with the courage and curiosity to learn about other faiths and cultures,” Najeeb said. “And I'm proud that we're the place they come to do that, that we can help provide a wider understanding and broaden the horizons of the world we live in. The community sees us as a valuable resource.”

And according to IRC Librarian Jenny Wegener, the library fills an especially important niche during Ramadan.

“Ramadan is such an important time to be reading, so if people in the community are looking for books that reflect their faith and books to read to their children, this is a good place to find them,” Wegener said.

BOOKS ARE MIRRORS

“As Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop said, ‘Books are mirrors, windows and sliding doors.’ We're proud to offer a wealth of resources that are the ‘mirrors’ that reflect and celebrate Muslim children's identities,” Wegener continued.

The IRC has shelves full of carefully curated books that may be checked out, and several of the popular ones are available for purchase in the shop along with puzzles, games and other items that make ideal Eid gifts. An IRC library card, available by providing proof of identity and a small donation, is required to check out books and materials.

The Muslim Women's Coalition is a member of WNPJ.

Urban Triage launches Seen & Unseen

By Brandi Grayson, CEO Urban Triage

As we step into 2026, I want to speak honestly—with clarity, courage, and care—about where we've been, what we've learned, and what we are choosing next.

This year, Urban Triage is launching Seen & Unseen, as our overarching theme and a four-stop outdoor installation on the Capitol Square on March 3, 2026, that will illustrate the journey of a person experiencing homelessness as they navigate the long, complicated path toward stable housing. Each stop reveals what is often hidden: trauma, systemic barriers, and the intensive, behind-the-scenes work required to move someone from crisis to safety.



BUT SEEN & UNSEEN IS NOT JUST AN EVENT. IT IS A TRUTH.

Every day, we work alongside people—most often Black people—whose humanity is routinely questioned, flattened, or ignored. People whose lives are discussed in reports and headlines without context, compassion, or care. People who are visible only in their suffering, and invisible in their resilience, their effort, and their worth. That reality does not stop with the people we serve. It extends to the people who lead this work.

Just as Seen & Unseen challenges us to look beyond stereotypes of homelessness, I invite our community to resist shallow narratives about Black leadership—to remember that beneath every story is a human being doing their best to survive, grow, and lead with integrity.

Despite the challenges, 2025 was also a year of real progress. Together, we moved over 113 individuals and families from homeless to housed, expanded mobility support, increased access to nutritious food, supported over 150 communities through supporting healthy families workgroups, case-managed over 300 families, and supported 1,967 community members through our office drop-in hours and organized free events and spaces of community joy, attracting

over 3000 people. Behind every number is unseen labor, trust-building, and care.

As part of our Community Shares of Wisconsin partnership, we invite you to stand with us during The Big Share on March 3, 2026—at our Seen and Unseen demonstration starting in front of Graze restaurant at Noon. Your support fuels the work that often goes unseen, but changes lives every day.

In 2026, we are also moving forward with bold, transformative initiatives: the launch of our new website, updated branding, a new curriculum grounded in lived experience, a Youth Employment Program in partnership with Dane County, and a Recovery Program supporting those who are transitioning from treatment facilities to permanent housing, in collaboration with DEHCR. These efforts are about sustainability, dignity, and long-term impact—not optics.

GREEN BAY PACKERS FOUNDATION GRANT

We are also honored to share that Urban Triage has been awarded a Green Bay Packers Foundation Grant, affirming the importance of community-rooted solutions and strengthening our ability to meet urgent needs.

The time is now.

We believe in community.

We believe in we got us.

And with your partnership, we will continue to be the safety net our community needs—by choosing to see the full humanity of those most vulnerable, and of those committed to serving them.

Our Way Out

Our neighbors to the west are under attack. Minnesotans are facing fascism head on. For some, like Ojibwe Elder Great Grandmother Mary Lyons, this is not new. Take time to listen to the wisdom and kindness she shares in this interview:

<https://www.wdrt.org/2026/01/23/our-way-out/>



Mary Kay Baum

Recipient of WNPJ's Lifetime Achievement Award

Mary Kay grew up on a family dairy farm just North of Appleton WI. Her first political act was a letter to the local paper about the way property taxes were taxing farms for their prospective commercial value for development, forcing farmers to sell their farm. She served



on the Dane County Board while in college and Madison Metropolitan School Board while in law school. She practiced public interest law in prisons, and volunteered during the Menominee Reservation during the Takeover of the Alexian Brothers Abbey. She led what is now Just Dane, a nonprofit primarily with formerly incarcerated persons. She has organized showings/

discussions of the documentary *Bad River*. Her own cognitive changes led her to retire early but continue to be active in environmental advocacy. This is just a short list of Mary Kay's work for peace, justice and democracy!

For more information, visit
<https://www.wnpj.org/post/dec-3-2025-award-and-elections>

**Encourage your friends, allies
and allied organizations to
join WNPJ!**

Look for an upcoming video

celebrating WNPJ's 35th anniversary and next steps towards peace and justice by UW-M film studies graduate Nadja Nordstrom.

hope.njn8@gmail.com

It will be a 25-minute documentary capturing the social justice work of our member groups and shown in Wisconsin film fests this spring and available to our member groups to share. Watch for it!

If you're wondering how a film director frames a production, here are a few notes from Nadja.

VISUAL STYLE:

- Steady, calm, slow movement (unless filming something energetic like concert/protest/etc.);
- Well-exposed, warm, and soft lighting;
- Highlight light sources like candles/lanterns/etc. if present;
- High definition and flattering angles of interview subjects;
- B-roll of the subject interacting with others and their environment;
- Graphics are hand-drawn and colorful, without being distracting.

Join Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice!

Suggested annual 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's name, if an organizational membership _____

Address _____

I am ☐ renewing, or ☐ a new member • Phone _____ • Email _____

Join or renew online at wnpj.org/membership, or send checks payable to **WNPJ, PO Box 727, Madison, WI 53701. Thanks!**