



Veterans For Peace - Chapter 93

November 2023 Newsletter

... *The Utah Phillips – J. David Singer Chapter*

Serving Washtenaw, Livingston, Hillsdale, Lenawee, and Jackson Counties.

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www.vfp93.org or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/VFP93

1. Next Veterans For Peace Chapter 93 Meeting – Thursday, November 16th, 7:00pm

The next VFP Chapter 93 meeting will be held online only, Thursday, November 16th at 7pm. If you would like to participate in the meeting online and your computer has a microphone and video, go to the Zoom meeting link of <https://zoom.us/j/95022299743> No computer access or computer problems? Dial 312-626-6799 and enter the Meeting ID of 950 2229 9743 if prompted, Anyone can participate in this meeting, or any other VFP Chapter 93 event, be they veteran or not. The meeting agenda is as follows...

- 1) Introductions and welcome
- 2) General Business
 - a) Previous meeting minutes
 - b) Treasury report
 - c) Membership
 - d) VFP 93 [Calendar](#) – December 7 - J. David Singer (Chapter namesake) birthday December 10 – International Human Rights Day (celebrates the Universal Declaration of Human Rights) www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights - WW1 Christmas Truce
 - e) Other
- 3) Old & continuing business
 - a) Honorary Chapter member program
 - b) Full Disclosure Recruiting
 - c) Michigan Peace Alliance
 - d) Washtenaw County Council of Veterans
 - e) Other
- 4) New Business
 - a) Other
- 5) Projects
 - a) Peace Studies Scholarship
 - b) MLK Day - January
 - c) Peace Pole
 - d) Arlington Michigan – May & November
 - e) Ann Arbor Art Fair – July
 - f) Concert For Peace – October
 - g) Other
- 6) Upcoming events/announcements
- 7) Next meeting
- 8) Adjournment

2. Veterans For Peace Chapter 93 Meeting Minutes – Thursday, October 19, 2023

Note: Capitalized names indicate that person will doing follow up tasks

- 1) Introductions and welcome - welcome - Meeting began at 7pm online over Zoom. Present were Mike Muha, Bill Shea, Bob Krzewinski and Steve Morehouse.
- 2) General Business
 - a) Previous meeting minutes - Accepted.
 - b) Treasury report – Mike reported \$9,355.46 in the Bank of Ann Arbor with another \$50 in the Chapter PayPal account. Concert For Peace: 211 tickets sold, total income \$3605.59, total expenses \$348.12, net income to Peace Scholarship Fund from Concert - \$3257.47.
 - c) Membership – 15 on the latest membership roster. BOB is sending out emails out to lapsed 2023 members encouraging them to rejoin VFP and will follow up with letters in 60 days.

- d) VFP 93 [Calendar](#)
- 3) Old & continuing business
 - a) Honorary Chapter member program – No new news. BOB will add Phil Larson to the Honorary member list at <https://www.vfp93.org/vfp-93-honorary-members>.
 - b) Full Disclosure Recruiting – BILL and STEVE continue to meet on a regular basis to review documents and handouts.
 - c) Michigan Peace Alliance – Alliance published a statement on the Gaza/Hamas/Israel situation at <https://www.mipeacealliance.org/post/mpa-statement-palestine-israel-crisis>.
 - d) Washtenaw County Council of Veterans – BILL plans to attend future meetings.
- 4) New Business
 - a) VFP peace studies/conflict resolution class talks at Wayne State University and Michigan State University – BILL, MIKE and STEVE will work together on these presentations. BOB will find contacts for the Michigan State peace studies program and forward this to BILL.
 - b) Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice will hold their annual Harvest Dinner on November 6th in Ypsilanti and BOB will attend.
 - c) Vietnam Veterans Program – BILL has been in contact with Phil Larson, Program Director of the University of Michigan Veterans and Military Services Program, and Vietnam veterans are urged to participate in an online program at 10am on November 6th.
- 5) Projects
 - a) Peace Studies Scholarship – BILL received a new application for Emily Aiken and will forward it to Mike, Bob and Steve. Ms. Aiken had previously received \$1000 in 2021 and 2022.
 - b) MLK Day – January – BILL will be checking on VFP presentations at the Ann Arbor Public Library and the University of Michigan and BOB will check on a presentation at the Ypsilanti District Library.
 - c) Peace Pole – Fred Pearson informed VFP Chapter 93 that a Peace Pole was finally installed at Wayne State University and BILL is talking with Fred about a small dedication ceremony.
 - d) Arlington Michigan – May & November – All prepared for November Arlington Midwest display at Ann Arbor's Veterans Park with publicity already out for listings on the Ann Arbor Observer and Current.
 - e) Ann Arbor Art Fair – 2024 dates would be July 18,19, 20.
 - f) Concert For Peace – October 12, 2023 – A great success.
- 6) Upcoming events/announcements – BILL stated there were a number of reactions from various groups (VFP, Michigan Peace Alliance, Interfaith Council For Peace and Justice, Code Pink, etc.) to the Gaza/Hamas/Israel situation. BOB will gather the feedback and send out a special VFP 93 newsletter focusing on Gaza/Hamas/Israel by the end of October.
- 7) Next meeting – Online meeting on Thursday, November 16, at 7pm.
- 8) Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

3. Arlington Michigan Display For Veterans/Armistice Day, November 11th, In Ann Arbor

11am until dusk, Veterans Park, Maple and Jackson Roads, Ann Arbor. Veterans/Armistice Day memorial display of one marker for every Michigan soldier lost in the Iraq and Afghan wars (230 markers). The purpose of this display is to honor those who have fallen, to provide a place to grieve, and to educate the public about the costs of war, as well as the needs of those returning from conflicts. Peace ceremony at 11am.



The display is at the far southwest corner of Veterans Park with parking at the Veterans Memorial Ice Arena parking lot ([2150 Jackson Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48103](https://www.vfp93.org)). Sponsored by Veterans For Peace Chapter 93. . Details: www.vfp93.org, or call (734) 487-9058. If you would like to help set up the display, please show at Veterans Park at 10am. For more on Veterans/Armistice Day visit www.veteransforpeace.org/take-action/armistice-day. For the history of Veterans/Armistice Day visit www.va.gov/opa/vetsday/vetdayhistory.asp.

4. Veterans For Peace Statement on Gaza

On October 12, Veterans For Peace issued [this statement](#) about the conflict between Hamas and Israel, in which we condemned the horrific violence on both sides, particularly the killing of civilians. We added our voice to the many calls for a ceasefire and negotiations toward a political solution because there is no military one.

Since then, conditions have worsened – terribly. If a ceasefire isn't declared, the killing and wounding in Gaza will increase dramatically, given announced plans to intensify bombing and conduct what is likely to be a months-long ground invasion.

VFP urges our members and supporters as emphatically as we can: Take action NOW – no matter how large or small – but do it now. We must do everything we can to prevent even greater disaster!

Join in a local protest or organize one yourself. Certainly picket, and think seriously about occupying local offices of Members of Congress who do not support [HR 786](#) for an immediate ceasefire and humanitarian aid. Tell your friends what's happening. Write a letter to the editor. But do it now!

[Full Veterans For Peace Statement On Gaza \(October 24, 2023\)](#)

5. What Other Michigan Peace And Justice Groups Are Saying...

- Interfaith Council For Peace & Justice – “ICPJ CALL TO ACTION:CEASEFIRE NOW!” – Full statement at <https://www.icpj.org/blog/icpj-call-to-action-ceasefire-now/>
- Michigan Peace Alliance - MPA Statement: Palestine-Israel Crisis
The Michigan Peace Alliance calls for an immediate ceasefire and negotiations to release all prisoners, to restore vital services for Palestinians in Gaza, and to provide a cooling off period before more substantive negotiations. Full statement at <https://www.mipeacealliance.org/post/mpa-statement-palestine-israel-crisis>.
- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom - WILPF US calls for an immediate ceasefire and talks that address root causes & include all parties. Please act quickly: Send and share with others the messages we link to and contact elected officials and the media. We offer talking points to convey your passion for peace. Advocate for nonviolent means to end Israeli apartheid. More information at <https://wilpfus.org/news/take-action-stop-bloodshed-gaza-and-israel>.

6. University of Michigan - Ann Arbor - 2023 Veterans Week

This annual event features a week of programming that educates and celebrates the experiences and sacrifice of those who have served our country. All events are free and are open to the entire university community and to the general public unless otherwise noted. For more information about individual events, visit

<https://vets.umich.edu/events/veterans-week-2023>. You can also download a Vets Week Calendar (PDF) at <https://tinyurl.com/2023UofM-VetsWeek>. If you have any questions about this year's events, please email Philip Larson, program director for U-M Veteran and Military Services, at pnlarson@umich.edu.

Monday, November 6

- Vietnam Veterans Panel - (online Zoom)
- Veteran Status as a DEI Identity: A Townhall Discussion (online Zoom)

Tuesday, November 7

- Iraq and Afghanistan War Panel - (online Zoom)
- Student Military and Veteran Panel - (online Zoom)

Wednesday, November 8

- In Harm's Way: Author Doug Stanton Presentation on the Sinking of the USS Indianapolis - (online Zoom)

Thursday, November 9

- LGBTQ+ and Military Service Panel - (online Zoom)
- Women of the Military Panel - (online Zoom)
- U.S. Marine Corps Birthday – RSVP

Friday, November 10

- 15th Annual Faculty/Staff/Student Veteran and Military Appreciation Lunch – Note: All faculty, staff, and students at the University who are currently serving in the U.S. military, or who have served, are invited to this annual lunch to honor their service. For questions about the invite, please email Philip Larson, program director of Veteran and Military Services, at pnlarson@umich.edu.
- Ceremonial Flag Lowering - 5:00 pm -Flagpole, Central Campus Diag

Saturday, November 11

- Ceremonial Flag Raising - 8:00 am - Flagpole, Central Campus Diag

7. 2023 Veterans For Peace 2023 Concert For Peace At The Ark Report

As in past years the Concert For Peace (*formerly known as the John Lennon Birthday Concert*) was held at The Ark in Ann Arbor on October 12th and is a major fundraiser for the VFP Chapter 93 Peace Scholarship Fund. This year's concert resulted in raising \$3257.47 for the Fund.

This 16th annual concert was emceed by Chris Buhalis and features musical artists Laith Al Saadi, Annie Bacon, Dave Boutette & Kristi Davis, Mark "Mr. B" Braun, Judy Bunker, Annie and Rod Capps, Rochelle Clark, Shari Kane & Dave Steele, Sophia Hanifi & Dave Keeney, Billy King, The Pontiac Trailblazers, Dick Seigel, Emily & San Slomovits and Rollie Tussing performing peace and justice related songs, including those of John Lennon. A poster/flyer of the Concert is available for downloading at

<https://tinyurl.com/2023ConcertForPeaceFlyer>

The Peace Scholarship Fund was started in 2007 with a generous donation from John Lennon's widow, Yoko Ono, and as of October 1st, 2023 has awarded over \$31,000 in scholarships. The Peace Scholarships are made to college students enrolled in peace studies and conflict resolution programs (such as [Wayne State University](#) and [Michigan State University](#)). For more information on the Veterans For Peace Chapter 93 Peace Scholarships, visit <https://www.vfp93.org/peace-scholarship>. For current, and past, concert information visit <https://www.vfp93.org/concert-for-peace>.

8. Combatants for Peace

With all the horrible news out of the Middle East, one long established veteran organization is working to bring peace to the region is Combatants For Peace - <https://cfpeace.org>. Combatants For Peace is a grassroots movement of Palestinian and Israelis, working together, to end the occupation and bring sustainable peace, equality, and freedom to our homeland. CFP envisions a just future where the inherent equality and dignity of all are fully realized. Committed to joint nonviolence since their inception, this group uses civil resistance, education, human rights campaigns and other creative means of activism to transform systems of oppression and build a democratic and equitable society. Launched in 2005, CFP is the only movement worldwide that was founded by former fighters on both sides in an active conflict. As a result, they were nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017 and 2018.

Combatants for Peace envisions a future of freedom and peace, with equal rights and self-determination for all. Combatants for Peace works in bi-national groups, localized in different areas in the Palestinian west-bank. The realities of the occupation and military regime create different needs and each group is initiating different projects. We work to strengthen the joint activist community, build coalitions and add to the Palestinian culture of nonviolence.

Please take a little time to review what another "veterans for peace" is doing, and if you can make a donation at <https://cfpeace.org/donate/>

9. Civilian Support for GI Resistance...GIs for Peace and the Antiwar Movement

Join us for two programs that explore the support of the wider antiwar movement for active-duty service members who opposed the Vietnam War.

Thank You for Your Service (for Peace)

Thursday, November 9, 6pm EST - Thursday, November 9, 6pm EST - Register for this Zoom conference by clicking [here](#) or using this link...

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_P0qSWPKURQebqaMBHQrGOW

This program offers a different twist to Armistice Day commemorations by recalling the tens of thousands of service members who opposed war and militarism during the Vietnam War and the civilians who helped them.

- David Cortright, Moderator Vietnam era GI activist, scholar, author of *Soldiers in Revolt* and co-editor of *Waging Peace in Vietnam: U.S. Soldiers and Veterans Who Opposed the War*.

- J.J. Johnson, a member of the Ft. Hood Three who refused orders for Vietnam in 1966 in one of the earliest acts of collective GI resistance to the war
- Susan Schnall, Navy nurse who was court-martialed for helping to organize an antiwar march of soldiers and civilians in San Francisco in 1968, currently President of Veterans For Peace
- John Kent, a former Navy fighter pilot who turned in his wings rather than fly combat missions in Vietnam and helped to organize the Concerned Officers Movement
- Kathy Gilberd, executive director of the National Lawyers Guild Military Law Task Force, a specialist on GI rights who was active in the antiwar movement and helped to provide legal aid for GI organizing
- Paul Lauter, former Chicago Region Peace Education Secretary of the American Friends Service Committee and executive director of the U.S. Servicemen's Fund, which provided support for GI coffeehouses, underground newspapers, and organizing projects.

Films of the GI Antiwar Resistance

Wednesday, November 29, 8 p.m., EST – Register for this Zoom conference by clicking [here](#) or by using this link...

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_tnW0ygLaTtC6ut5klUcBjg

A panel of filmmakers discussing their role in producing films on the scale and impact of the GI movement, the role of artists in supporting antiwar soldiers, and honoring helicopter pilot Hugh Thompson who tried to halt the killing and rescue civilians in the midst of the My Lai massacre.

- Paul Lauter, moderator, former President American Studies Association
- Jane Fonda, producer/performer of FTA (1972)
- Holly Near, musical artist and performer for FTA
- David Zeiger, director of Sir! No Sir! (2005)
- Connie Field, director of The Whistleblower of My Lai (2018)

Please watch the following films before the November 29 program. [FTA](#) - [Sir! No Sir!](#) - [The Whistleblower](#) (of My Lai). All can be rented online (for \$4.99 using the links above).

10. Peace Quote Of The Month...

“Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding. You cannot subjugate a nation forcibly unless you wipe out every man, woman, and child. Unless you wish to use such drastic measures, you must find a way of settling your disputes without resort to arms.” — Albert Einstein

11. Announcement, Anniversaries & Reminders

Wednesday, November 8th - Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice (ICPJ) Harvest Dinner

Ypsilanti Freighthouse, 100 Market Place, Ypsilanti. Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice is committed to healing as a diverse community by dismantling systems of violence and building our collective capacity to live our shared values of peace, justice, and ecological sustainability. We believe that relationships that individuals and communities build through learning, mobilizing, organizing, and growing together create the foundation for co-liberation, abundance, and dignity of all life and our planet. For more information and to register for the Harvest Dinner Here:

<https://givebutter.com/ICPJ2023HarvestDinner>.

The Ann Arbor Committee Against War (AACAW) has been gathering for small anti-war rallies every Friday at 5:30 pm, and we always welcome everyone to join them at the Federal Building. For more information about the AACAW visit <https://www.annarborcoalitionagainstawar.org>

VFP John Lennon Birthday Benefit Concert CD

Our VFP Chapter has a compact disc (CD) recording of the musical artists performing at our October John Lennon Birthday Benefit Concerts over the years for our Chapter's Peace Scholarship program. And like the Concert, a purchase of the CD also goes to benefit the Peace Scholarship program. The John Lennon Birthday Benefit Concert CD can be purchased for \$15, plus \$3 for shipping, by PayPal by visiting www.vfp93.org/john-lennon-concert-cd.

Metro Detroit VFP Chapter

The Metro Detroit Chapter of Veterans For Peace covers Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, and Monroe Counties and also has regular meetings. For more information visit <https://www.vfp74.org>.

Our VFP Chapter Can Use Your Help

Currently our VFP Chapter has only a few people doing all the work and projects and to say we could use help is an understatement. Most of these jobs don't take up that much time at all, and would help out the Chapter immensely. One thing we are trying to promote is for people to sign up for a "volunteer email list." We always need extra people to help staff events like the Arlington Michigan display on Memorial/Veterans Day or the VFP booth at Earth Day or the Ann Arbor Art Fair. Just tell us you want to be on the volunteer e-mail list and when an event date starts rolling around, we will email you to see if you can help out. If you can, great. If not, we understand. Even if you are not a veteran, we could still use your help. To be placed on the "volunteer email list," just send an email to Bob Krzewinski at wolverbob@gmail.com and he will get back in touch with you. Thanks in advance for your consideration of this request!!!

Thinking About Joining The Military? Already In The Military Seeking Conscientious Objector Status, Delayed Enlistment Problems, Or Release From Service?

Visit our "Thinking About Joining The Military? - Please Read This First" web page at www.vfp93.org/military-recruiting. The page includes before enlisting, how you should be able to honestly answer some basic questions, and have realistic expectations, about military life, a link to the 24-hour GI Rights Hotline for people already in the military, and a link to Project YANO (Youth And Non-Military Opportunities) with information about military enlistments, the delayed entry program, and resources for alternatives to the military. Also, you will find a link to the Center On Conscience And War which has information on Selective Service registration, the draft, and conscientious objector status.