



Peace Talk

Spring 2017 Newsletter for NC Peace Action

*Issue In Memoriam for John Heuer
December 11, 1946 - November 16, 2016*

Resolution of Respect for John Heuer

We, the members of North Carolina Peace Action, want the family of John Heuer to know, we are saddened by the loss of our friend and colleague John.

- ◆ *Whereas*, John was a giant within the Peace Community and left footsteps that will never be refilled.
- ◆ *Whereas*, John was a great advocate whom we are honored to have worked with and from whom we learned much about resolving conflicts and advancing social justice and human rights.
- ◆ *Whereas*, John was an active member of each organization he was affiliated with and left a very positive influence on everyone he met.
- ◆ *Whereas*, John was a very dependable person who considered no task too large or small to take on and always knew of a sympathetic colleague or speaker to encourage us.
- ◆ *Whereas*, John was unburdened by ego and negativity and often showed the way to move past contention and pretentious attitudes to seek peace and justice,
- ◆ *Whereas*, John's passion for justice and humanity made him a highly effective and beloved organizer and networker,

Therefore be it resolved, that we will strive to forward the example that he set of making decisions guided not by animosity, but by love; of never discounting the difference that one person can make; and of working for a future worthy of our humanity.

Therefore be it further resolved that we embrace the family with whom we will have a common bond that will connect us for the rest of our lives. We know your loss is deep and your sorrow is great, but we want you to know that we share in your sorrow, but more importantly, we recognize that this loss is Heaven's Gain.

We would like you to remember: if there's a time when you just need some cheering, if there's a problem you would like us to hear, if there's a favor you would like us to do ...



We're here if you need us to help see you through.

And now, let us pause and give thanks that John Heuer lived—a man who shared his moral compass with so many, struggled to empower compassion and goodness, and blessed us with an example of a rare human being.

— *David Harris, Chair, on behalf of the officers and members of North Carolina Peace Action*

In this Issue

For John Heuer	1
A Reflection on Armistice Day	2
Young Peacemaker Fund	3
A Visit from Reiner Braun	4
Assistant Director Job Posting	5
Nominations for Awards	5

A Reflection on Armistice Day

This year's Armistice Day has left me wondering if we ever will regain the original meaning of the day, a day that Congress proclaimed in 1924 to be a day to celebrate the outbreak of peace following WWI.

Thirty years later, Congress renamed November 11 "Veterans Day," and the concept of celebrating peace seemingly has been assigned to the trash heap of history. This year, we heard endless tributes to our military service members and veterans, but not a word about ending our wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Syria, Libya, Yemen and Somalia, or ending our sale and shipment of weapons around the world. How far we have come from the original intent of Armistice Day! We now are the world's major weapons supplier, our government is engaged in multiple endless wars, and we are the largest operator, by far, of military bases throughout the world.

A recent story in *Sports Illustrated* magazine brought home to me how we manage to maintain endless wars while imagining that we are living in peace. Football star Eric Reid was asked why he was supporting Colin Kaepernick's protest during the opening of the NFL games this year. Reid replied that he supported Kaepernick's effort to draw attention to injustice in this country. Howls of protest ensued, with claims that anything less than total respect for our flag and anthem was an insult to our veterans and service members. Reid then pointed out the hypocrisy in idolizing our men and women in uniform and then ignoring homeless vets when they return because we don't care enough about them to provide for reasonable adjustment to civilian life.

We make any criticism of the US, or of US policies or shortcomings, to be synonymous with disrespect for our troops. In this way, we blind ourselves to the fact that all our platitudes about defending our freedoms are simply excuses for engaging in endless war. We always have money for war, but never have enough money to properly care for our veterans.

And why is it that we couldn't have a peace candidate in our recent election?

In 1935, retired Marine General Smedley Butler published "War Is a Racket." He described a racket as a system that operates without most people's understanding of how or why that system operates. Gen. Butler described war as fitting the definition of a racket because "the few profit while the many

pay," and few understand the real reasons for any particular war.

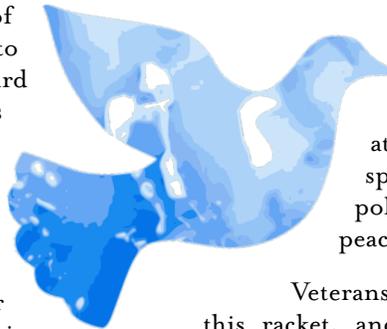
The 2003 invasion of Iraq fits this description perfectly. George W. Bush should be tried for war crimes for this totally unnecessary war, yet, thirteen years later, the war goes on, others are blamed, Congress allows waging war to be a sole prerogative of the president, and successive presidents attack other countries seemingly for sport. With all this, neither major political party saw fit to make room for a peace candidate.

Veterans For Peace have been working to expose this racket, and the true costs of war, since their organization was founded in 1985. Obviously, they have a long way to go to overcome the constant drumbeat of war propaganda offered by our mass media. It should come as no surprise that our mainstream media are owned by the same corporations that manufacture the weapons of war. This is all part of the racket.

One of the great costs of war is the fact that all soldiers also are victims. This recognition is why Veterans For Peace have expanded to include new chapters not just in the US, but in England, Ireland, Japan, Korea, Vietnam and Mexico, and welcome new members from Israel, Palestine, Germany, Australia, Canada and Russia, among other nations struggling with global militarism.

Imagine a world in which soldiers and veterans realize mutually that their enmity for each other has been manufactured for the benefit of a few profiteers. Only then can we begin to understand the true spirit of Armistice Day. Perhaps, on the centennial of the original Armistice Day – November 11, 1918 – we will have managed to recruit peace candidates to lead all our political parties, and the day will again be a day dedicated to the celebration of peace rather than the glorification of war.

— *contributed by John Heuer. John was a regular contributor to our newsletter and an active op-ed author for local newspapers. His insight shall be sorely missed.*



“Peace is a daily, a weekly, a monthly process, gradually changing opinions, slowly eroding old barriers, quietly building new structures.”

- John F. Kennedy

Announcing the John Heuer Young Peacemaker Award:

Invitation to all Youth and Young Adults to Highlight Peace Building Efforts

We ask that you reflect on the following quote from Martin Luther King Jr. and make a video (YouTube), write a song, create a painting or poster, or write an article that is a comment on the ways that the giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism, and militarism are affecting efforts to bring about peace in your local and/or global communities.

"When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism and militarism are incapable of being conquered."

For examples and ideas, you can visit websites such as:

- ◆ WorldBeyondWar.org
- ◆ peacealliance.org
- ◆ ncpeaceaction.org
- ◆ studentpeacealliance.org
- ◆ mettacentr.org

North Carolina Peace Action hosts the annual Peacemaker Dinner - an event to highlight peaceful efforts in our local and global communities. **We invite youth and young adults (up to age 25) to enter this contest. An award of \$250 will be given to the one felt most helpful in furthering peace in our community.** This can be an individual or group effort. The award will to be presented at the Peacemaker Dinner.

Post your visual/musical entry online (e.g., YouTube) and send link to **David Harris at harrisdl2003@yahoo.com** by **September 1st, 2017**. Please submit articles or other written entries to the same email.

When submitting, be sure to provide your name, mailing address, phone number, and email address (name, phone, and email are required with the submission).

Memorial Donations for John Heuer & The John Heuer Young Peacemaker Award

To honor our beloved colleague John Heuer, we have given his name to the Young Peacemaker Award. It is a fitting memorial for a man who held on to his youthful energy his whole life and gave it unceasingly for peace and justice. John was a gifted net-worker and mentor to the young and old. He had a passion for peace and for bringing young people to the cause of peace and a world without war and violence.

Years ago, when John received some inheritance money, he quickly donated it to NC Peace Action's Young Peacemaker account. This is where his hope lay. John worked on peace issues with his last ounces of energy—he never quit. We can best carry on John's memory through the efforts of young people--teaching the words of Jeannette Rankin that "we have to get it into our heads once and for all that we cannot settle disputes by eliminating human beings."

We hope that you will also be generous in supporting the fostering of Young Peacemakers so they may carry on the work of our affable and inspiring John Heuer.

Please cut out and return the Donation Card below to provide a memorial donation to support our Young Peacemaker fund.



Donation to the John Heuer Young Peacemaker Award Memorial Fund

If you would like to financially support the flourishing of the next generation of Young Peacemakers in North Carolina and beyond, please cut out this donation box and mail it back to us with your check. **North Carolina Peace Action Education Fund, P.O. Box 10384, Raleigh, NC 27605.**

Name: _____

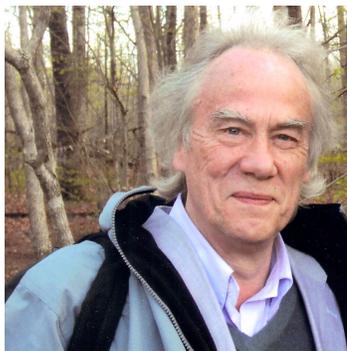
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Donation Amount: _____

What A Visit from Reiner Braun Leaves Behind

First, who is Reiner Braun? For those of you who did not get to hear him speak, Braun is co-President of the International Peace Bureau in Berlin which coordinates worldwide peace actions. Braun has been in the peace and justice movement since he completed university, editing books on the peace initiatives of Einstein and Joseph Rotblat, organizing protests against the U.S. airbase in Ramstein [the relay point for signals to drones sent from the U.S.] and running groups like the International Network of Engineers & Scientists for Global Responsibility. The list goes on.



He was in New York for a U.N. Conference of 126 nations working on a treaty to ban nuclear weapons. Peace Action and AFSC sponsored his travels to the Northeast, Northwest and very fortunately Greensboro, Burlington and Chapel Hill where the turn-out was very good and people lingered with questions.

And what did Reiner Braun leave behind? Most importantly was how connecting to the International Peace Bureau can strengthen the international movement and grassroots groups like NC Peace Action at the same time.

Connecting helps us because their initiatives can give us useful and fresh focus; this is important when progress is slow. There's strength in numbers and motivation, too! Feeling connected to a larger whole keeps us going. Think back to our Bring the War Dollars Home Resolution Campaign where we could follow and cite progress in getting local governments to sign on all over the country. A final benefit is the insights we get on world events which do look different from across the water. It is certainly a perspective neglected in the news which we need to be communicating to others.

What does the international peace movement get from our grassroots efforts? Braun stressed that nuclear disarmament cannot move forward without multitudes rallying in the streets and a vibrant peace movement. Braun cherishes a quote from the 2003 *New York Times* editorial on worldwide protests against a war in Iraq, "there may still be two superpowers on the planet: the United States and world public opinion."

Specifically, he urged people to:

- ◆ **Get in the streets** as we did in 2003 in a valiant attempt to stop the Iraq War.
- ◆ **Publicize the negotiations on the Treaty to Ban Nuclear Weapons** that start on **June 16, 2017** at the United Nation.
- ◆ **Protest locally on June 17th or if possible join the Women's March against the Bomb in New York City** supporting the Treaty to Ban Nuclear Weapons.
- ◆ **Connect the dots for people** —Disarmament and anti-militarization are the unifying factor in social movements whether the focus is on poverty, inequity, racism, police brutality, the environment or global warming.

And as someone who has followed peace and war since the 1980s, Braun left us with plenty of insights...that we don't hear on TV.

On U.S. revival of Russia as the evil enemy. Braun put the focus on Russia's legitimate security needs; know your enemy for Braun means understanding their perspective not scrutinizing them for weaknesses. We sometimes forget the 1943-45 invasion of Russia left powerful fears;

27 million died in a nation of 150 million.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, 500,000 Soviet forces withdrew from Europe and the Warsaw Pact ended with the understanding that NATO would not move eastward. However, NATO has marched east with new members now surrounding Russia and assuming the function of protecting resources like oil.

On interference in elections. Asked about Russian interference in our elections, Braun replied with a smile, "Does the U.S. interfere in others elections? Shall we make a list?" He noted that ambassadors talking with candidates is part of their job and not a crime. He did add he awaits the evidence.

We're in a pattern of demonizing countries: Braun noted U.S. officials have pronounced five heads of state to be Hitlers in the last two decades.

On North Korea. Braun recalled that Clinton and Albright dealt with North Korea through negotiations and compromise. The U.S. currently has 50 military bases around Korea and the lesson left by the Iraq War is that having nuclear weapons will lessen the risk of being attacked.

On the U.S. military budget. Braun may not have used the word ridiculous, but he found it remarkable that some say the U.S. military needs strengthening. Our Pentagon budget exceeds that of the seven next largest military budgets in the world. The \$54 billion increase proposed by President Trump is greater than the whole of the Russian military budget.

On the politics of common security. Throughout his talks, a sanity and humanity emerged that is so different from what we hear and have heard from those handling U.S. foreign policy. Braun always urges diplomacy—recognizing the security needs of all parties and finding areas of common interest to act upon and continuing to do more as trust is strengthened.

— contributed by Anne Cassebaum

NC Peace Action Job Announcement

Job Description for Assistant to the Director

Position would entail the following:

1. Assist with networking and promoting NC Peace Action programs.
2. Assist Board of Directors in tasks as needed, including public relations, fundraising, promotion of events (newsletter, website, Facebook, email, media), mailings and more.
3. Keep track of members and their donations; manage the databases and keep them up-dated. (SALSA and Excel). Send thank you and donation receipts for tax purposes.
4. Remain informed on the issues important to the work of NC Peace Action.

Salary: \$600/month for 10 hours/week. Car allowance for mileage traveled in connection with work at the NC State rate.

Requirements:

- ◆ Working knowledge of social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter), Excel, Wordpress, & website management.
- ◆ Enjoy working with the public, but also able to work alone and be self-directed.
- ◆ Strong interest in the mission and purpose of NC Peace Action.
- ◆ Some organizing experience with social justice and/or peace issues.
- ◆ A computer with office.
- ◆ Ability to relate well with college and high school students.
- ◆ Prefer someone who lives in the Triangle.
- ◆ Can work out of home.

Applications should consist of a resume and cover letter submitted to David Harris at harrisdl2003@yahoo.com by **June 25th 2017.**

Call for Cy King Peacemaker Award Nominations

We welcome your nomination for the 2017 NC Peace Action Cy King Peacemaker Award.

Please provide us with the name and contact information for your nominee. Provide as much supporting evidence as possible for why and how your nominee meets is a peacemaker (see right column for nominee criteria). **Letters of endorsement are helpful.**

As with the Young Peacemaker Award, our priority is efforts that reduce the damage of war and violence in our world. How do you solve problems non-violently—through negotiations without weapons?

Please send your nomination to our Chair, David Harris at harrisdl2003@yahoo.com by July 15, 2017.

- ◆ **Is over 21 years of age & resides / works in North Carolina**
- ◆ **Has done significant work to advance the cause of peace and justice by:**
 - Countering the forces driving war and violence
 - Helping to create a culture of peace
 - Educating about the causes of international and local
 - Showing the effects of U.S. militarism [in immigration, poverty, lack of resources, environmental damage
 - Informing others about the many different costs of war
 - Encouraging a new generation of peacemakers

“Nonviolence is the answer to the crucial political and moral questions of our time; the need for mankind to overcome oppression and violence without resorting to oppression and violence. Mankind must evolve for all human conflict a method which rejects revenge, aggression, and retaliation. The foundation of such a method is love.”

- Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

North Carolina Peace Action Education Fund

P.O. Box 10384, Raleigh, NC 27605

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