



Ecumenical Peace Institute

the Northern California Chapter of
Clergy & Laity Concerned

P.O. Box 9334 • Berkeley, CA 94709
(510) 990-0374 • www.epicalc.org

December, 2017

Board of Directors

Janet Cordes Gibson, *president*
United Church of Christ
Nancy Taylor, *vice president*
United Church of Christ
Carolyn Scarr, *secretary*
& *program coordinator*
United Methodist
Marilyn Madsen, *treasurer*
United Methodist
Marilyn Jackson,
office coordinator
Lutheran
Silvia Brandon Pérez
Unitarian-Universalist
Mark Coplan
Presbyterian
Nelly Coplan
Presbyterian
Gloria Escalona
Roman Catholic
Cynthia Johnson
Unitarian-Universalist
Steve Kelly, s.j.
Roman Catholic
Pierre Labossiere
United Church of Christ
Vivian Zelaya
Roman Catholic
Daniel Zwickel
Unitarian-Universalist

Advisory Board

Diana Bohn
Berkeley Peace &
Justice Commission
Rev. Daniel Buford
Baptist
Rev. Nobuaki Hanaoka
United Methodist
Annette Herskovits
Jewish, Buddhist
Alexandra Hunter
Buddhist
Bonita Roxie Aleja Sizemore
United Church of Christ
Rev. Ron Stief
United Church of Christ
Father Louis Vitale
Roman Catholic
Lonnie Voth
Mennonite

Dear Friends and Supporters:

We thank you for your support of Ecumenical Peace Institute (EPI) over the years. We continue to strive, in the great tradition of nonviolence, to end U.S. imperialism and to oppose militarism and attacks on civil liberties wherever they occur. We seek to make the connections between a range of justice issues and the foundational problems Dr. King spoke of: "racism, materialism and militarism."

If you are new to EPI, possibly having come to our recent Autumn Gathering or the Good Friday Witness, we would like to welcome you to a community of nonviolent struggle for justice and peace.

**Please consider making a tax deductible contribution to
Ecumenical Peace Institute this holiday season
and throughout the year so that our vital work can continue.**

With your support, the Ecumenical Peace Institute:

• Continues to organize against the development of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction. EPI is a principal planner of the Good Friday Service of Worship and Witness at the Livermore Lab. Our 2017 event commemorated the fiftieth anniversary of Dr. King's "Beyond Vietnam" speech by asking us to consider what Dr. King would be doing today. Our speakers, Christina & Francisco Herrera, challenged us to help stop wars and suffering by breaking the grip of racism and white supremacy in much the same way that the ongoing action of the Mothers of the Disappeared was so essential to the end of Argentina's dictatorship.

• Held our Autumn Gathering. This fall we heard from Colonel Ann Wright (Ret.) who spoke on **Diplomacy: Its Uses and Misuses**. Addressing both ongoing and threatened wars in Africa, the Middle East and Asia, Ann noted that "every president feels like the whole world is our region. . . and we will do whatever we want, wherever we want." She concludes that nuclear concerns regarding Iran and North Korea should be a stimulus for the U.S. to negotiate peace treaties and to end our military exercises on North Korea's borders. These countries have the right to be influential in their own regions without the fear that we will attack. She holds that North Korea's nuclear development



program is not for attacking us, but rather a way of keeping "America at bay." Ann lamented tragedies in Yemen where U.S. support of Saudi Arabia's bombing and ongoing blockade has led to famine and a massive cholera epidemic. Lastly, she spoke of Palestine and the expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and the siege of Gaza. Check the EPI website www.epicalc.org for the recording of Ann's talk.

- Has witnessed, since 1998, for world peace at the Oakland Federal Building, calling first for an end to the Iraq sanctions and then to an end of the occupations of Iraq & Afghanistan. We now hold the monthly Living Graveyard, a "street theater" event at which we mourn the deaths from these wars as well as the death and massive destruction suffered in Palestine and the deaths of people of color at the hands of police in our own country.
- Works with Haiti Action Committee for justice and democracy in Haiti. In June we sponsored with Haiti Action Committee a benefit fund raiser at which we enjoyed two hours of great poetry and raised over \$500 for Haiti Emergency Relief Fund.
- Works with Syria Solidarity Movement to provide insight regarding the ongoing struggle in Syria.
- Is joining a coalition of local peace activists to oppose the rising tide of war being fomented against North Korea. If your congregation or other group wants information about this get in touch with us.
- Mails our quarterly newsletter, Planted by the Waters, to more than a thousand readers, offering information and in depth analysis of current peace and justice issues.
- Alerts our supporters to upcoming events and urgent issues requiring action. Please write us at epicalc@gmail.net if you wish to be added to this action list.

**WE URGE YOU TO BE GENEROUS IN YOUR SUPPORT OF EPI
AS WE SEEK TO CONTINUE IN THE PATH ILLUMINATED BY THE WORDS
OF OUR LATE BELOVED ESTHER HO:**

*"Let us mend the broken circle / End all wars and heal the earth.
Our Creator wills earth's wholeness / Calls us to assist rebirth.
We are called to end oppression / Practice love and help to heal."*

This is our challenge and our call.

On behalf of the entire EPI board, I wish you Peace and Joy this holiday season.



Janet Cordes Gibson, Ecumenical Peace Institute Board President

I/We want to be part of the peace and justice work of Ecumenical Peace Institute by:

- ___ volunteering (mailings, vigils, publicity, calling)
- ___ connecting EPI with my religious group
- ___ making a tax-deductible contribution:
 - ___ \$35 annual membership (\$10 low-income subscription)
 - ___ \$10.00 ___ \$25.00 ___ \$35.00 ___ \$50.00 ___ \$100.00 ___ (other)

I will pledge \$_____ monthly, \$_____ quarterly

Name _____

Address _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please make checks payable to EPI