

Peace Action of Michigan's 22nd PeaceBuilder Celebration!



Sunday, November 15 • 3:45 pm

Pleasant Ridge Community Center
4 Ridge Road, Pleasant Ridge

Reserve your space —
Mail enclosed envelope by Nov. 6

Featuring Musicians
Bill Meyer & Michelle Jahra McKinney
PeaceBuilders

*Huntington Woods Peace, Citizenship, and Education
Project; Jim Rine, Ph.D.; Prasad Venugopal, Ph.D.*

Light Refreshments & Beverages 3:45 pm
PeaceBuilder Awards at 4:45 pm • Concert at 5:15 pm

PAMI invites you to honor our 2026
PeaceBuilders: Huntington Woods Peace,
Citizenship, and Education Project; Jim
Rine, Ph.D.; and Prasad
Venugopal, Ph.D.

To help celebrate the
event, Peace Action is
proud to present musi-
cians Bill Meyer (left) and
Michelle Jahra McKinney
(below, left) in concert. Bill Meyer,
keyboardist extraordinaire, is a two-
time PeaceBuilder honoree, peace and jus-
tice activist, leader of Michigan Peace
Council, and well-known performer.

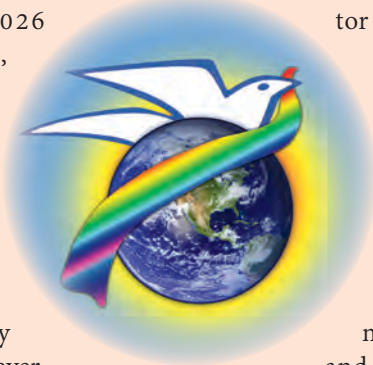
Michelle Jahra McKinney is the Direc-

tor of Detroit Sound Conservancy and on the
staff of the Charles H. Wright Museum of
African American History. She is an out-
standing vocalist and storyteller.

Huntington Woods Peace, Citizenship & Education Project

The Huntington Woods Peace, Citizen-
ship, and Education Project (HWPCE) holds
monthly meetings on timely issues such as war
and peace, the Green New Deal, immigration,
Pentagon spending, tyranny in the U.S., and climate
action. HWPCE has hosted candidate forums and marches
with its large Peace Dove in the Huntington Woods 4th of
July Parade. See their story beginning on page 5 of this issue.

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FLASH!

The Newsletter of
Peace Action of Michigan

peaceactionmich.org



The views and opinions in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the position of Peace Action of Michigan

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OUR MISSION

Peace Action of Michigan is a democratic, grassroots movement organizing locally to achieve a new foreign policy leading to a just World Without Violence

We seek:

- A demilitarized, sustainable economy
- The abolition of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction
- Diplomatic resolutions to global conflict

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Trump's Disastrous Forever War

President Trump started an unnecessary, illegal war on Iran that is costing lives, increasing inflation, and causing shortages of valuable commodities such as fertilizer and gasoline. The Memorandum of Understanding expired August 17 and failed to open up shipping. Trump's attempt to strangle Iran's economy is likely to be thwarted by China supplying what Iran needs. Trump has the U.S. stuck in a quagmire.

Trump's threats have been outrageous and immoral. He posted, "a whole civilization will die tonight, never to be brought back again." That was threatening nuclear bombardment. He has claimed a deal to end the war was just around the corner dozens of times, but the war is becoming endless.

Trump has failed to change Iran's hard-line regime, exposed the Gulf states and U.S. military bases to bombing, alienated U.S. allies, and left the program of uranium enrichment unresolved. He has proposed one of the worst economic deals in history. He would waive oil sanctions, open access for Iran to billions in frozen assets, and commit to fund reconstruction with \$300 billion.

Trump's most visible geopolitical outcome is enabling Iran to control the Strait of Hormuz with mines, drones, and other small-scale weapons the U.S. can't entirely stop. Iran may charge fees for shipping through the Strait for the first time as it uses its strategic victory to try to prevent future aggression.

"The eventual total bill for this war—including bombs, repair of bases, replacement of munitions, and years of benefits to injured veterans—is very likely to be



Photo by Barbara Barefield

\$1 trillion," according to Linda Bilmes, a Harvard expert on war financing. Moody's Chief Economist Mark Zandy estimates that American households have spent an additional \$1,200 on the Iran war over the last six months.

Trump's failure to rein in Israel's military attacks and occupation in Lebanon has resulted in Israel becoming a spoiler to stand in the way to a lasting peace. When Trump said he is open to Iran having some conventional ballistic missiles, he betrayed the security of Israel.

"Checkmate in chess is a loan from the Persian, 'Shah-mat,' which means the king is confused and helpless. Tehran is going for a checkmate." (Juan Cole, 8-18-26)

Peace Action and other forces have made Trump's war on Iran very unpopular. But our demonstrations against Trump's aggression have been smaller than against wars such as Vietnam and the genocide in Gaza. "No Kings" protests have not highlighted resistance to Trump's war. Republicans have thwarted efforts by Democrats in Congress to hold Trump accountable. PAMI has produced signs: "No Kings, No Nukes" and held weekly rallies in Royal Oak: "Stop War on Iran." —Rich Peacock



Photo by Barbara Barefield

Left to right: Michigan State Rep. Donavan McKinney, U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Dr. Abdul El-Sayed, Senator Bernie Sanders, UAW President Shawn Fain and U.S. Rep. Rashida Tlaib.

Vote Nov. 3 for El-Sayed, Lawrence, McKinney, Tlaib

Peace Action has endorsed four pro-peace candidates and encourages you to campaign and vote for them. Peace Action of Michigan is an affiliate of Peace Action, the nation's largest grassroots peace and disarmament network with over 200,000 supporters. You can support them at peaceaction.org/endorsements.

ABDUL EL-SAYED, Democrat for Senate. Abdul has consistently called for a ceasefire in Gaza and peace for the Palestinian people. He is an outspoken critic of outsized defense spending and believes that we should spend less on building weapons of war. Instead, congress should invest our taxpayers' dollars in health care, education, and infrastructure at home.

WILLIAM LAWRENCE, Democrat for Congressional District 7. William wants U.S. priorities to be Social Security, childcare, and education instead of the illegal and expensive war on Iran. He opposes arms sales to Israel and other human rights violators. He is a founder of the Sunrise Movement advocating for clean air and water,

cupboards full of food, affordable housing, and a Green New Deal to mitigate the climate crisis.

RASHIDA TLAIB, Democrat for CD 12, Incumbent.

Congresswoman Tlaib is a fierce defender of her constituents' need for distributive justice. She supports the long-overdue dismantling of our country's military industrial complex so we can finally put a stop to forever wars and reinvest to provide our communities with the resources they need and deserve. She has introduced legislation to stop Israel's war on Gaza as she constantly stands up for the human rights of Palestinians.

DONAVAN MCKINNEY, Democrat for CD 13. As a lifelong Detroit resident, Donovan has first-hand experience with the problems faced by his community, so that has made him push for progressive economic policies. In response to the U.S. war on Iran, Donovan has said, "We don't want another endless war abroad that costs human lives and our tax dollars. That doesn't make us safer. Congress must put an end to this escalation. Fund Medicaid, not war."



We Honor the 2026 PeaceBuilders

PeaceBuilders

Continued from 1

We will honor HWPCE and its Steering Committee, including Faith Allen, Ron Aronson, Phyllis Aronson, Shirley Chalmers, Suhair Ghannam, Don Greenspon, Steve Gold, Joanne Kristal, Mary Murphy, Rich Peacock, Fran Shor, Susan Warrow, and in Memoriam—Linda Ashley.

Jim Rine

Jim Rine, Ph.D., is a retired research geologist and adjunct professor in the Department of Environmental Science and Geology at Wayne State University. For over three decades he has published on the connections of the U.S. petroleum industry to climate change.

Jim joined Veterans For Peace (VFP) in Houston in 2005 to protest the U.S. war in Iraq. He returned to his hometown of Detroit in 2016 and joined VFP 074. He has been researching the connection between the dangers of militarism, nuclear war, and climate catastrophes.

Jim was a cofounding member of the VFP Climate Crisis and Militarism Group, which focuses on how U.S. militarism, the single largest institutional source of greenhouse gasses on the planet, fuels the climate crisis. As a leader of the VFP Climate Crisis and Militarism Project, Jim has shown a documentary, “Earth’s Greatest Enemy,” on the destruction of the environment due to militarism, many times.

Jim has been involved in Michigan Move the Money to shift our taxes away from the Pentagon to spending on human needs. He has been arrested three times in “Stop War, Save Climate” protests.

Jim traveled 7,000 miles last summer to protest ten military air shows because they pollute, waste money, and promote war. The theme was, “Say No to Blue Angels.” His motivation includes the feeling that he has dues to pay as his generation emitted more CO2 than all humans previously.

Prasad Venugopal

Prasad Venugopal, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor of Physics and Affiliate Faculty in African American Studies at the University of Detroit Mercy. His research in physics education explores ways to integrate issues of race, gender, and ethnicity with physics

curricula in order to encourage students to engage with physics in a broader social context.

Prasad (right) was a National Steering Committee member of Unite for Peace and Justice after the 2003 Iraq War. He has been a leader in the Detroit Area Peace with Justice Network and on the Board of Peace Action of Michigan.

He is also active in other local peace, labor, and anti-racism organizations, including the Ferndale Inclusion Network, the Michigan Coalition for Human Rights, and Conversations on Race. Prasad served as President of the University of Detroit Mercy Professors’ Union for several years.

Prasad held the 2026 PAMI Hiroshima Commemoration audience spellbound with his deeply researched presentation: “How Will A.I. Affect the Struggle for Nuclear Abolition? Challenges and Opportunities”

Prasad immigrated from India, and lives in Ferndale with his wife and two children.

Left: Jim Rine; below and right: Huntington Peace Group activists; inset: Linga Ashley



PeaceBuilder Reminder:

Mail the enclosed envelope by Nov. 6. Or, reserve your spot by visiting peaceactionmich.org — click on *Donate*, then click on *One Time Donation*; in the Comment box, write the number of number of people attending.



Huntington Wood Peace, Citizenship, and Education Project Working for Peace for 23 years

By Phyllis Aronson and Mary Murphy;
Rev. Rich Peacock, Editor

We would like to dedicate this award to the memory of our longtime chair Linda Ashley, who died in the summer of 2026. Linda was committed above all to our being a community group. She kept us thinking and acting together as we negotiated our own inevitable differences of opinion.

HWPCE was founded in March of 2003 by 15-20 Huntington Woods residents who gathered in the Huntington Woods library to hear Al Fishman, a co-chair of Peace Action of Michigan, present, “Prospects for Peace.” In his usual clear and lucid style, Al suggested that the upcoming 2004 election offered a chance to topple the war agenda by defeating President Bush. Al’s comments were received with enthusiasm, and our back-of-the-room discussion ended up with the idea of starting a peace group.

Paul and Marilyn Lessem offered their home for a gathering the following Sunday. Someone offered to bring bagels. That was it! In the months and years to come, the same dynamic occurred: someone would come up with a creative idea, others would volunteer to assist, and then we were off and running! This was a peace group that thrived on action.

In our earliest activities, we utilized the talents of our local public figures, scholars and activists including Rudy Simons,

Fran Shor, Ronald Aronson, David Bonior, and Andy Meisner. They helped clarify the implications of the Iraq war economically, morally, and from the point of view of world opinion. We organized to stop the war on Iraq.

In the summer of 2004, we embarked on an ambitious project. We resolved to knock on every door in Huntington Woods to make our presence known as a peace group, gain new members, and raise money by selling peace signs. Most residents were friendly, took our literature, and bought our signs.

Emboldened by our success and remembering the success of Tom Hayden leading the movement to end the Vietnam War, we decided to invite him to speak about the war on Iraq. The result was beyond our wildest dreams. The crowd that showed up at the Episcopal Church at Woodward and 11 Mile was estimated to be around 500. We gained many new group members from the tri-county area as a result of Tom’s presence.

In our 23 years, we have continued with guest speakers—Phyllis Bennis, Juan Cole, Scott Ritter, and, more recently, Andy Levin, Mallory McMorrow, and Barbara McQuade. We made the educational programs a monthly event to address the most urgent national and international issues of the day such as the defense budget, overseas wars, gun violence, reproductive rights, healthcare for all, and voting rights.

Continued on page back cover

Peace Action of MICHIGAN

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ABDUL EL-SAYED FOR U.S. SENATE



- Abdul El-Sayed wants to invest our taxes in healthcare, housing, education, and infrastructure instead of overspending on the Pentagon.
- Abdul believes the U.S. should prioritize diplomacy and negotiation instead of turning first to military force.
- Abdul has called for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza and protecting human rights.
- Abdul has called for ending U.S. military aid to Israel and other countries that violate human rights.
- Peace Action has endorsed Abdul and asks you to talk to your friends and urge them to vote for him.
- You can financially support Abdul at peaceaction.org/endorsements or [secure.actblue.com/donate/peace action ael-sayed](https://secure.actblue.com/donate/peace_action_abel-sayed)

Photo by Barbara Barefield

Huntington Woods Peace Group

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After the death of George Floyd, we demonstrated weekly at Woodward and 11 Mile with the message "Black Lives Matter" for many months. Now we demonstrate on the same corner to denounce the Trump/Netanyahu war on Iran and support the Senate candidate Abdul El-Sayed.

We have marched in the Huntington Woods 4th of July parade with our tall Peace Dove and anti-war signs. Unfortunately, a group in 2026 did not like our signs condemning the

Gaza genocide and tried to get the city to stop us. But we obtained legal counsel and went ahead.

We will end with a cherished memory. During the pandemic, we were fortunate to welcome Daniel Ellsberg as a speaker on the Internet. We recall the pleasure Linda Ashley took interacting with him. So, we end where we began, with warm memories of a leader who contributed her even temperament and sane judgment to navigating in both fair and foul waters. We miss her friendship, dedication, and leadership. And we will carry on!