



## John Dear highlights a force more powerful: active nonviolence

By Jim Hannah

“Today I’m your coach for nonviolence.”

With these words, renowned peace activist Rev. John Dear launched a weekend of nonviolent awareness and education, March 7-8, in Kansas City, Mo., and Independence.

Nonviolence today, he stressed, requires three essential components—total nonviolence to self; total nonviolence to others, all creatures, and Mother Earth; and joining the global grassroots movement for transformation of the world into a new culture of justice and peace.

It’s not enough to just pursue one of these components, he insisted. Peace-builders need to engage in all three concurrently to grow in their

capacity to practice and promote nonviolence. He particularly emphasized the need to *organize*, and to *act*, on behalf of nonviolence, urging:

“We are called not just to *be good*, but to *organize goodness*.”

“Unless we are *training* in nonviolence, we will never *be* nonviolent.”

“You cannot say you are for peace and justice unless you are actively opposing systemic violence.”

Throughout the weekend, Dear stressed that “you and I live and breathe violence,” infected by a “pandemic of violence.” This culture of death, he said, “wants us to fear, to feel helpless.” But, he insisted, “Nonviolence is much more contagious than a viral infection. ...



*“Nonviolence is much more contagious than a viral infection,” says Rev. John Dear. “When we go deep into it, nonviolence has tremendous power for positive change”—much more than violence.*  
—Photo by Sam Rose

**John Dear** — *continued on page 2*

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Grassroots civil action, Dear stressed, is the way social change happens. Citing the abolitionist and the suffragette movements, he encouraged “people power” and initiatives “from the bottom up” as the way to a more just and peaceful world. In all these efforts, he said, the mandate is to become a people of total nonviolence. This is daunting, he said, noting that “for the last 40 years, every day I’ve been challenged to be violent.” His nonviolent resistance has resulted in 88 arrests and a year of imprisonment.

For the last four decades, Dear has been an outspoken advocate for nonviolence, as an activist, global speaker, and author of more than 30 books. One of those titles, *The Nonviolent Life*, formed his workshop topic. Dear’s talks were sponsored by the Community of Christ’s Justice and Peace Action Team (see [www.jpatkc.org](http://www.jpatkc.org)) and the Buchanan Initiative for Peace and Nonviolence, at Avila University. Nearly 100 persons attended his workshop at Avila, and some 200 persons attended the service and dialogue with Dear at Community of Christ Temple in Independence. ♣

—*Jim Hannah is a member of the PeaceWorks-KC Board of Directors.*

## Bette Tate-Beaver receives Bebb Peace Merit Award



*“If we come to care about people who are like us in different spaces, it’s kind of hard to hate,” says Bette Tate-Beaver as Sunny Hamrick, cochair of PeaceWorks, heeds her words.*

—*Photo by Jim Hannah*

Bette Tate-Beaver, executive director of the National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME), won the Charles E. Bebb Peace Merit Award from PeaceWorks-KC during its Annual Meeting March 1. Mary Hladky, the cochair of PeaceWorks, presented the Bebb Award, named for a founder of the 1982 committee that became PeaceWorks. Hladky surprised Bette Tate-Beaver with the award for her work with NAME, saying, “NAME is a powerhouse, promoting social justice and education equity from pre-kindergarten through college.” The group focuses on educational equity, social justice, and the accomplishments and challenges of all races, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations, religions, and disabilities. In other words, “the beloved community” envisioned by Martin Luther King Jr.

Fostering the beloved community has been expected of her family for five generations, Tate-Beaver pointed out. “This is the charge of my family. My great-great-grandfather was born and raised in Charlotte, NC, at the turn of the last century. It was a tough life for him, an African-American. He was a barber, and because he was fair-skinned, white folks came to him as well as folks in the black community. He made it his life’s work to make sure that people talked to one another and that blacks had access to similar opportunities as whites.”

**Bebb Peace Merit Award** — *continued on page 3*

### Here is my annual membership for PeaceWorks

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Missouri Peace Foundation

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Daytime phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Evening phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

## Rashid Junaid accepts Cheatum Award for Aim4Peace

Aim4Peace received the Kris and Lynn Cheatum Community Peace Award at the PeaceWorks-KC Annual Meeting March 1. The award recognizes a community group working for peace and justice. It honors Kris and Lynn Cheatum, the heart and soul of PeaceWorks and its predecessors from 1982 until Kris's untimely passing in 2010.

Dave Pack, the PeaceWorks treasurer, presented the award for Aim4Peace, represented at the meeting by Rashid Junaid. Aim4Peace has operated since 2008 within the KC MO Health Department, striving to reduce the violence epidemic. "The program particularly attempts to reduce retaliatory violence," said Pack, noting Aim4Peace strategies such as using street intervention workers and violence interrupters, and using hospital responders where injuries are treated and further violence might occur.

"Last year 150 people died from violence in Kansas City," said Junaid. "One-third of those deaths were people under 35. That's our future going out the door." Thanking PeaceWorks for the award, Junaid

explained that Aim4Peace seeks to change behavior and educate people on how to resolve their conflicts without violence.

Junaid asked the PeaceWorks members and friends, "You know how you have a spill at your house, and the faucet is on, right? So you first turn the faucet off, right?" Those at the meeting agreed. "You've got to turn the guns off, turn the violence off," Junaid insisted. "You don't just go clean it up. You clean it up *after* you turn off the faucet."

Junaid added, "We need more behavior change in our city. We have to educate our young people about how to solve these problems. We have to be able to remove the guns that are flowing into our city—a gun show every week—and talk about how we're *feeding* the violence, not turning off the violence. We

don't need more police. We need more peace!"

Junaid gave homework to his listeners: "Make sure you let your City Council know you want these programs refunded! I want things that turn off the faucet. I don't want a clean-up crew." ♡

—By Jane Stoever of PeaceWorks



*Dave Pack, left, presents the award to Rashid Junaid.  
—Photo by Jim Hannah*

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## Bebb Peace Merit Award — continued from p. 2

Tate-Beaver, on behalf of NAME, takes groups to countries including Cuba to converse there with educators, students, and people living in the community. Why? So persons from the US can understand what life is like in other places and the things they are able to do with minimal resources. "I have a belief that if we come to care about people who are like us in different spaces, it's kind of hard to hate," she explained.

The night before the award, Tate-Beaver and her life partner, Lewis Diuguid, attended the wedding in Florida of their friend Henry. He is an educator they met and befriended in Cuba, and he was marrying a man from Florida. Wedding guests from Cuba, from around the US, from Central and South America, from Europe, folks of different races, backgrounds,

and from different gender orientations, Tate-Beaver said, were dancing and celebrating together. She added, "I said to Lewis, 'If we could have this in the US, if we could achieve this kind of peace in the US, we'd be OK.'"

Then Tate-Beaver scanned the PeaceWorks members and friends at the meeting, reflecting, "I come home and I see this room and I'm reminded, oh yeah, we're working on this, but sometimes it feels like we're not or that we're losing this exchange—I don't like to use the word *battle*. You all remind me we are in fact still moving forward and that, without a doubt, I can promise you, peace works!" ♡

—By Jane Stoever of PeaceWorks

## Glimpses of PeaceWorks' Annual Meeting

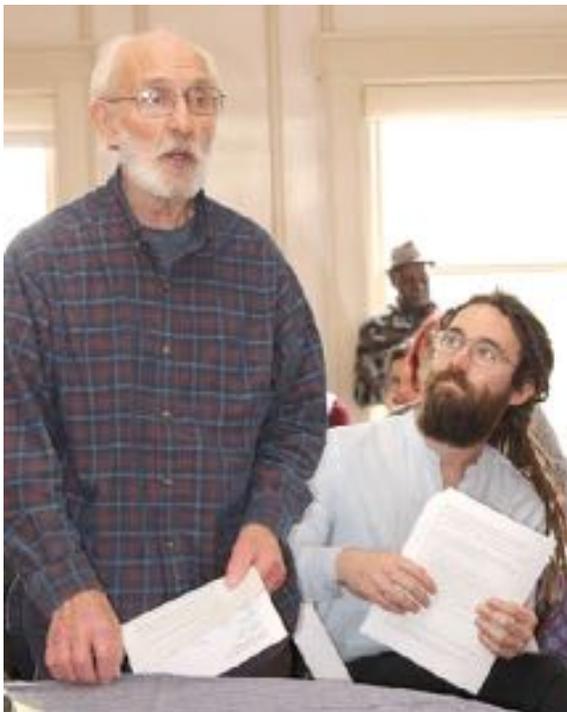
The PeaceWorks-KC Annual Meeting was rich with meaning and memories. Enjoy the videos, slide show, and photos at [PeaceWorksKC.org](https://kkfi.org/program-episodes/nukes-on-trial-in-kansas-city) and go to <https://kkfi.org/program-episodes/nukes-on-trial-in-kansas-city> for a podcast of the play, "Putting Nukes on Trial in KC."

During the meeting, Treasurer Dave Pack said PeaceWorks' 2019 annual fundraiser, the UNplaza Art Fair, was hit by storms and brought in far less than usual income. Co-chair Henry Stoever accented the unity in the peace movement, quoting "One" by U2—"One love, one life, with each other, sisters and brothers, one life, but they're not the same. We've got to carry each other, carry each other home." Stoever recalled PeaceWorks members who had died in the last 15 months—Pat Kenoyer, Lu Mountenay, and Marj Palmer.

Board member Ann Suellentrop called the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons "the voice of the world's people," acknowledging that the military-industrial complex "is NOT for the treaty" and saying the treaty will delegitimize nuclear weapons. Suellentrop asked people to contact her at 913-271-7925 or [annsuellen@gmail.com](mailto:annsuellen@gmail.com) if they wish to attend all or part of the Aug. 6-9 observance in New Mexico of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings. Also, please contact Suellentrop or Stoever at 913-375-0045 or [henrystoever@sbcglobal.net](mailto:henrystoever@sbcglobal.net) if you wish to help us plan KC's Hiroshima/Nagasaki observance this year. ♀

### "Putting Nukes on Trial in KC"

Seventeen persons—including one from Germany, one from the Netherlands—crossed the property line on Memorial Day, May 27, 2019, in southern KC MO at the new plant where 85 percent of the non-nuclear parts for US nuclear weapons are made or procured. At the line-crossers' trial Nov. 1, lacking the two Europeans, 15 defendants testified. Their words became the play "Putting Nukes on Trial in KC," which turned the PeaceWorks Annual Meeting March 1 into a readers' theater.



◀ *The hand of scientists' Doomsday Clock is now closer to midnight than it's ever been—90 seconds. Christian Brother Louis Rodemann, left, with Sunny Hamrick on watch, says, "In reality, for multiple millions around the world, the clock has already struck midnight. Their poverty is degrading, inhumane. Even before nuclear weapons are used, they are devastating to the poor. Imagine what could be done to alleviate the social needs of the world if the equivalent amount of money were diverted away from nuclear weapons."*

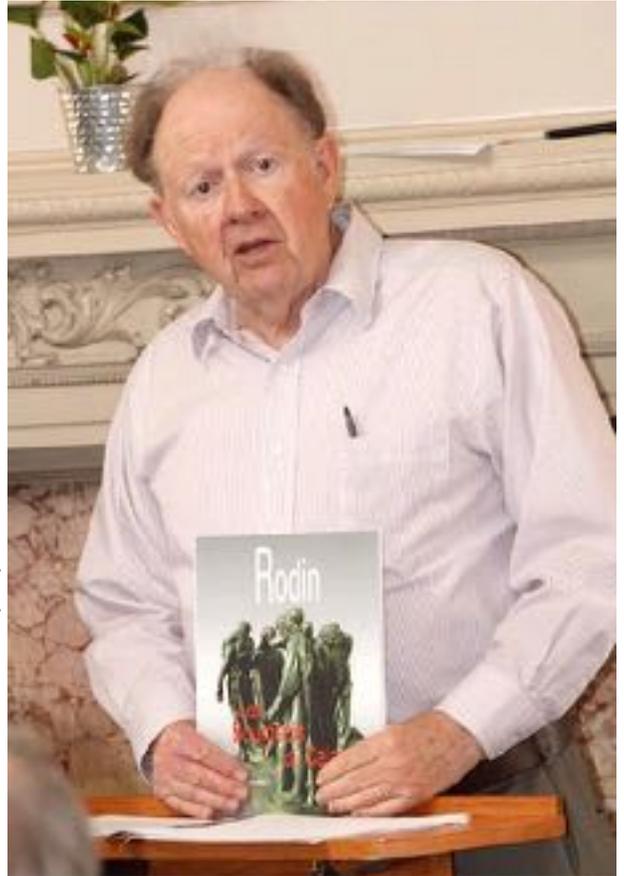
—Photos by Jim Hannah

*Bennette Dibben, in her dandelion hat, reflects, "A fellow activist whom we don't have anymore, her spirit gave me the courage to cross the line. Lu Mountenay said she was like a dandelion, considered by some an irritating weed. 'It's a dandy lion,' Lu said. 'Hear me roar! No more nukes!' I hope more of us will become like an irritating weed." ▶*





◀ *“I had two aunts who worked at the IRS. Honeywell rented the IRS a building at Bannister Federal Complex, where the old nuclear weapons plant was. My aunts died due to toxins at the site,” says Georgia Walker. About Honeywell, manager of the old and new plants, Walker charges, “not only are they producing something that could destroy the planet, but it destroys the workers. I pray for those working at the new plant now.”*



*Talking about “The Burghers of Calais,” Rodin’s sculpture, defense lawyer Henry Stoeber says, “Calais’ city leaders, with ropes around their necks and bodies, went out to the advancing King John and made an offer: Take our very lives, but spare our city and its inhabitants. That is precisely what is happening here—17 line-crossers placed their bodies in jeopardy. They sounded the alarm, they confronted the evil, they acted for a higher good than merely a trespass according to a city ordinance. They hope to touch our minds, hearts, souls, morals, ethics, so that we save ourselves from ourselves.” ▶*



*“I applaud you,” says Tammy Brown, right, as Judge Martina Peterson.*

*“But I can’t allow one group to trespass and another not to. I’m going to assign guilt for the trespass.” During the trial,*

*Prosecutor Brianna Zavakil, played by Sahj Kaya, left, repeatedly sang out, “Objection!” to be met with “I accept the testimony” by the judge. ▶*

## Group circulates petition to save Walter Barton's life

By Lauren Sobchak

Missourians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty is a state-wide nonprofit organization working to abolish the death penalty in Missouri. We have chapters in Kansas City, St. Louis, Columbia, and Springfield. MADP is focused on several bills at the state capital that would reform death penalty sentencing related to severe mental illness, judicial override, and total abolition. More information about our legislative priorities can be found at [www.madpmo.org](http://www.madpmo.org).

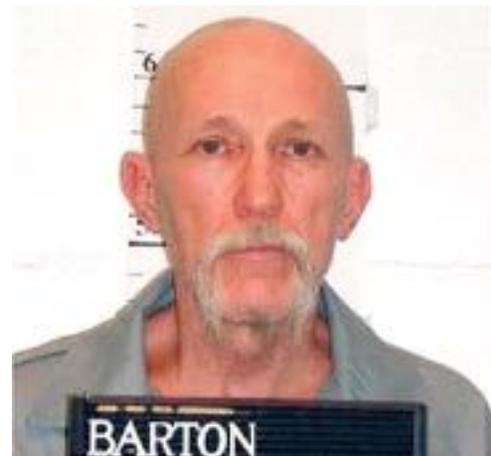
In addition to working on legislation, MADP works on individual clemency campaigns for those sentenced to death in Missouri. Recently, the state of Missouri issued an execution warrant for Walter "Arkie" Barton. He was sentenced to death for killing a mobile home park operator, Gladys Kuehler, in the town of Ozark in 1991. His attorney is basing the clemency appeal on two grounds: an innocence claim, and lack of competence to be executed. His execution is set for May 19.

You can help by asking Governor Parson to grant clemency.

To sign the petition and learn more about Barton's case, please visit <http://chnng.it/FPmbkGVPdk>. The MADP background information includes recognition that Barton was at the scene of the crime but there is likelihood he did not commit the crime; three of four witnesses testifying against him have withdrawn their statements.

State governments are not perfect, and because of this, innocent people are convicted and some even executed by the state. A statement from Barton's attorney says, "The state of Missouri is about to prove why the death penalty should not be used because they are about to execute an innocent man." Many Missourians do not support the death penalty, especially under the circumstances of innocence. ♡

—Lauren Sobchak is an organizer for Missourians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty.



Walter 'Arkie' Barton, up for execution May 19

## PeaceWorks elects leaders... welcome some new folks!

During the March 1 PeaceWorks-Kansas City Annual Meeting, members held elections, and the Board of Directors now includes the following officers and members.

Co-Chairpersons Sunny Hamrick, Cris Mann, Henry Stoeber  
Vice Chair Mary Hladky

Treasurer Dave Pack

Secretary Spencer Graves

Continuing Board Members Jim Hannah, Jenny Semet, Mark Semet, Ann Suellentrop, Leigh Woody

And (drum roll!) here's an introduction to some newly elected Board members.

**Charles Carney** has been a life-long peace activist and war tax resister. For the last 13 years, he has worked in the KC area as a front-lines, direct-service social worker, mostly in homeless outreach and homelessness prevention. Carney has served as a staff member at the Eighth Day Center for Justice in Chicago, a

### Contact elected officials

**Mayor Quinton Lucas:** 816-513-3500

**City Council:** 816-513-1368

**President Donald Trump**

202-456-1111 *comments*

202-456-1414 *switchboard*

**Sen. Josh Hawley (R-Mo.):** 202-224-6154

**Sen. Roy Blunt (R-Mo.):** 202-224-5721

**Rep. Emanuel Cleaver (D-5<sup>th</sup> dist, Mo.):**  
202-225-4535

**Rep. Sam Graves (R-6<sup>th</sup> district, Mo.):**  
202-225-7041

**Rep. Vicky Hartzler (R-4<sup>th</sup> district, Mo.):**  
202-225-2876

**Sen. Pat Roberts (R-Kan.):** 202-224-4774

**Sen. Jerry Moran (R-Kan.):** 202-224-6521

**Rep. Sharice Davids (D-3<sup>rd</sup> district, Kan.):**  
913-621-0832

**New PeaceWorks leaders** — *continued on page 7*

## Detention of immigrant youth in KC MO?

The Kansas City, Mo., City Council and the Waldo Community are considering a proposal to open a detention center for migrant children separated from their families. The center would be in the vacant hospital building at 79<sup>th</sup> Street and Holmes Road.

The proposal comes from VisionQuest National, LTD, a for-profit company that has been refused permission to operate in several other cities. Two local organizations — Advocacy for Immigrant Rights and Reconciliation, and Metro Organization for Racial and Economic Equity or MORE<sup>2</sup>—sponsor the petition to deny special zoning that would allow this property to be used as a detention center. The petition is at <https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/no-child-detention-in-kc> and it states, “We call on the City Planning Commission to reject any plans involving the detention (of) migrant youth. Our city and region must continue striving against the demonization of immigrants and resist participating in the separation of families.”

An e-mail from All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church says, “Should this center be allowed to open, we will organize ongoing protest and surveillance of its operations.” ♡



## New PeaceWorks leaders — *continued from p. 6*



coalition of Catholic congregations working for peace and human rights. He also worked for the Peace and Social Justice Center in Wichita and the Chicago Emergency Shelter Organization. He has served on the Board of Directors for the Illinois Coalition for Alternatives to the Death

Penalty. Carney and his spouse, Donna Constantineau, have taken in homeless persons for the last 15 years at their home, the St. Lawrence Catholic Worker House, in KC, KS. He is currently active in the Kansas Poor People’s campaign, especially the movement to expand Kansas Medicaid.

**Christopher Overfelt** was a mechanic in the U.S. Air Force from 2002 to 2011. He is now a member of Veterans for Peace and is active in the Kansas Poor People’s Campaign. In the summers, he works at Boys Grow, a non-profit vegetable farm that mentors 8<sup>th</sup>- and 9<sup>th</sup>-grade boys through agriculture, and in the school year, he substitute teaches in the KC, MO, school district.



**Kristin Scheer**, an environmental activist, has been interested in social justice issues for a long time. She says, “I am looking for new opportunities to get involved in moving the needle” on environmental and social justice issues. Most recently Scheer has been involved with Extinction Rebellion (XR—trying to save living beings and the Earth from extinction).

She was in an XR action outside the new *Kansas City Star* building to demand real reporting of the climate crisis; participants in a die-in read science-based news headlines and then fell to the ground. She has also worked with Greenpeace, Planned Parenthood, and the Human Rights Campaign. She organized an action at Barney Allis Plaza in downtown KC for Rainforest Alliance, brandishing a huge inflatable chainsaw with Mitsubishi’s name on it since that company was involved in rainforest deforestation.

*Notes:* Mary Hladky and Cris Mann serve on the PeaceWorks Nominating Committee. Bennette Dibben assists with office work and chairs the PeaceWorks Action Committee. And Joseph Wun, a Board member, is leaving the PeaceWorks Board and the Kansas City area for a future in medicine. Farewell, good friend Joseph! ♡





# PeaceWorks

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PEACEWORKS APRIL 2020

## Postponed

April events that PeaceWorks-KC earlier slated for mid-April are now postponed because of the spread of the coronavirus. The events are:

- the April 15-19 meetings with Sisters Carol Gilbert and Ardeth Platte, who were doing a national tour on the new UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (the Ban Treaty), and
- the April 18 Gala for Justice and Peace, a celebration with an auction of artwork donated by artists involved in PeaceWorks' UNplaza Art Fair.

Check your e-mail, the website [PeaceWorksKC.org](http://PeaceWorksKC.org), and our Facebook page for updates about these postponements. Thanks a bunch! And take care, dear ones! ♡

## Stained-glass peace cranes—going, going, gone-to-you?

Where in your house would you hang a stained-glass peace crane? To whom would you give one? PeaceWorks members and their family members have made about 20 of these birds; only four are left, for \$25 apiece. About \$5-10 covers the cost of materials; about \$15 goes to PeaceWorks.

To order a peace crane, call Bennette Dibben at 816-447-7079 or e-mail [seedsofhope63@gmail.com](mailto:seedsofhope63@gmail.com). ♡



## Read *Warheads to Windmills*

The 2019 book *Warheads to Windmills: How to Pay for a Green New Deal* begins with these statements:

“Our survival as a planet depends on drastically curbing greenhouse gas emissions in the very near future.

“Our survival also depends on completely eliminating the danger of nuclear weapons.

“By fortunate coincidence, the resources ... currently being wasted on nuclear weapons can be shifted to

the production of green technologies to address the climate crisis.”

The PeaceWorks Action Committee invites you to participate in reading, as a group, *Warheads to Windmills* and consider taking actions to actually *turn warheads into windmills*. If you are interested, contact Bennette Dibben, chair of the committee, at [seedsofhope63@gmail.com](mailto:seedsofhope63@gmail.com) or 816-447-7079 or Tom Mountenay, co-chair, at 816-377-1550 or [mountenay@att.net](mailto:mountenay@att.net). ♡