



Veterans For Peace Chapter 74 – The Michael Gramlich – Steve Saelzler -

Metro Detroit Chapter Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Monroe Counties

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Also, visit us on Facebook, and “like” us at www.facebook.com/VFP74

May 2022 VFP Chapter 74 News Update

Receiving this Update by email but not yet a Veterans For Peace member? Please consider joining! Non-veterans can join as an Associate Member. The more VFP members there are, the more we can do. For membership information visit <https://www.veteransforpeace.org/donate/join-renew>

1. Next VFP Chapter 74 Chapter Meeting - Monday, May 9th, 2022 - 7:30pm - Zoom Teleconference

The Monday, May 9th, 2022, 7:30pm, Veterans For Peace Chapter 74 meeting will be by Zoom teleconference only. There will be no face-to-face meeting. To participate, five minutes before 7:30pm on Monday, May 9th, click on... <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83726329512?pwd=S0ZGWXZ0WFQ3UG5yVGRLR3U5MW55QT09>

To join the meeting by telephone only, call 312-626-6799 and when prompted, enter a Meeting ID of 837 2632 9512 and a passcode of 289077. Anyone can participate in this meeting, or any other VFP Chapter 74 event, be they veteran or not. The meeting agenda is as follows...

1. Introductions and welcome
 - a. VFP mission statement
 - b. Members and guests present
2. General business
 - a. Treasury report
 - b. Membership report
 - c. Chapter reorganization
 - d. Other
3. Old Business
 - a. Peace Pole WSU & Schools
 - b. Deported Veterans Mural Project
 - c. Arlington Michigan Memorial Day display at Grand Circus Park
 - d. Discussion of Ukraine crisis
 - e. Other
4. New Business
 - a. Blue Angels airshow
 - b. Other
5. Upcoming events
6. Next meeting date
7. Adjournment

2. VFP Arlington Michigan Display In Downtown Detroit On Memorial Day – May 30th



Veterans For Peace Chapters 74 and 93 have again joined forces to set up the Veterans For Peace Arlington Michigan display (one grave marker for every Michigan soldier killed in the Afghan and Iraq wars – 230 total) in downtown Detroit on Memorial Day. 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. The display will be held on Monday, May 30th, 11am to 5pm, in downtown Detroit’s Grand Circus Park (Woodward at East Adams – map link at <https://goo.gl/maps/MjhWcB4ospmmwwFu6>).

3. The Radical Origin Of Mother’s Day

By Laura Kacere - [CodePink](https://www.codepink.org)

There’s a good number of us who question holidays like Mother’s Day in which you spend more time feeding money into a system that exploits our love for our mothers than actually celebrating them. It’s not unlike any other holiday in America in that its complete commercialization has stripped away so much of its genuine meaning, as well its history. Mother’s Day is unique in its completely radical and totally feminist history, as much as it has been forgotten.



Mother's Day began in America in 1870 when Julia Ward Howe wrote the Mother's Day Proclamation. Written in response to the American Civil War and the Franco-Prussian War, her proclamation called on women to use their position as mothers to influence society in fighting for an end to all wars. She called for women to stand up against the unjust violence of war through their roles as wife and mother, to protest the futility of their sons killing other mothers' sons.

Howe wrote: "Arise, then, women of this day! Arise, all women who have hearts, Whether our baptism be of water or of tears! Say firmly: "We will not have great questions decided by irrelevant agencies, Our husbands will not come to us, reeking with carnage, for caresses and applause. Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn All that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy and patience. We, the women of one country, will be too tender of those of another country To allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs."

The holiday caught on years later when a West Virginia women's group led by Anna Reeves Jarvis began promoting it as a way to reunite families after the Civil War. After Jarvis' death, her daughter began a campaign for the creation of an official Mother's Day in honor of peace. Devoting much of her life to the cause, it wasn't until 1914 when Woodrow Wilson signed it into national observance in 1914.

The holiday flourished, along with the flower industry. The business journal, the Florists Review, actually admitted to its desire to exploit the holiday. Jarvis was strongly opposed to every aspect of the holiday's commercialization, arrested for protesting the sale of flowers, and petitioning to stop the creation of a Mother's Day postage stamp.

Today we are in multiple wars that continue to claim the lives of thousands of sons and daughters. We are also experiencing a still-rising commercialization of nearly every aspect of life; the exploitation of every possible human event and emotion at the benefit of corporations.

Let's take this Mother's Day to excuse ourselves from the pressure to consume and remember its radical roots – that mothers, or rather all women, in fact, all people, have a stake in war and a responsibility as American citizens to protest the incredible violence that so many fellow citizens, here and abroad, must suffer through.

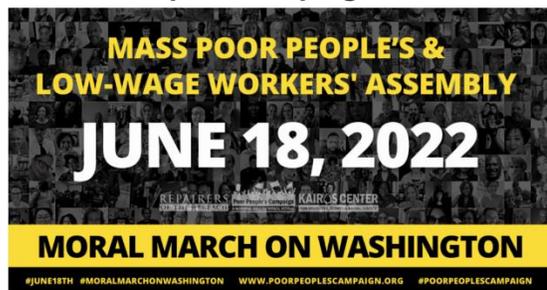
4. Veterans For Peace Webinar - Averting Climate Catastrophe: No New Arms Race!

If you missed the Earth Day webinar, which was hosted by the Veterans For Peace - Climate Crisis & Militarism Project (VFP-CCMP), it can may be accessed anytime at https://www.veteransforpeace.org/take-action/climatecrisis#ws_youtube_27669 . The webinar begins with an introduction by Jim Rine, who is a veteran, retired research geologist, and VFP 074 member. The moderator is Marcy Winograd of [CODEPINK](https://www.codepink.org/). Panelists are:

- **Dr. David Vine**, Professor, Department of Anthropology, American University. Dr. Vine is a widely sought-after speaker, authoritative source on militarism and Empire, and the author of [The United States of War and Base Nation: How U.S. Military Bases Abroad Harm America and the World](#).
- **Col. Ann Wright**, retired U. S. Army Colonel, and former high ranking U.S. State Department official, who resigned her position in protest of the U.S. illegal invasion of Iraq and has continued to be a powerful voice for peace and the environment. She is the co-author of [Dissent: Voices of Conscience](#).
- **Erik Edstrom**, A West Point graduate and infantry platoon leader in Afghanistan and Presidential Escort Platoon Leader during the Obama administration. He studied climate change at Oxford University earning a Master of Science degree. Author of [UN-AMERICAN: A Soldier's Reckoning of Our Longest War](#).

For VFP - CCMP's statement on the Ukraine Crisis and the recent IPCC report see - <https://www.veteransforpeace.org/pressroom/news/2022/03/08/ukraine-crisis-and-recent-ipcc-report>.

5. Poor Peoples Campaign & CODEPINK June 18 March In DC



The June 18th Mass Poor People's and Low-Wage Workers' Assembly and Moral March on Washington and to the Polls is meant to be a generationally transformative and disruptive gathering of poor and low-wealth people, state leaders, faith communities, moral allies, unions and partnering organizations. It is NOT just a day of action. It is a declaration of an ongoing, committed moral movement to 1) Shift the moral narrative; 2) Build power; and 3) Make real policies to fully address poverty and low wealth from the bottom up.

People will be gathering from across the nation to demand this nation do more to live up to its possibilities...

- More to fully address the interlocking injustices of systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation and the denial of health care, militarism and the war economy and the false moral narrative of religious nationalism.
- More to change the narrative and build the power of those most impacted by these injustices.
- More to realize a Third Reconstruction agenda that can build this country from the bottom up and realize the nation we have yet to be.

CODEPINK is a core partner for the Poor People's Campaign which is working to confront the interlocking evils of systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation, militarism and the war economy, and the distorted moral narrative of religious nationalism. More on CODEPINK and the March can be found at

<https://www.codepink.org/06182022>.

Busses from Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti and Detroit are planned to transport marchers to and from DC. Jim Rine plans to participate in the march and teach-in later - https://www.codepink.org/ppc_antimilitarism_20220618. For more information contact Jim Rine at jimrine22@gmail.com.

6. Veterans For Peace And A Presence At Military-Themed Air Shows



Airshows are a good opportunity to protest military waste and glorify war. The San Diego VFP Chapter has for years had a presence at the annual Miramar Naval Air Station air show at times [with banners over a busy highway](#) or a [mobile billboard](#). They even produced a great video "[A Disneyland of War](#)" about airshows from the standpoint of a combat veteran.

There will be a Blue Angels show on July 16th and 17th in Western Wayne County's Willow Run Airport - <https://yankeeairmuseum.org/airshow/>. For more information on making a Veterans For Peace presence at military-based airshows, contact Jim Rine at jimrine22@gmail.com.

7. Vietnam Veterans Against The War Newsletter



Yes, the Vietnam Veterans Against The War (VVAW) is still around, active, and they publish an absolutely great quarterly newsletter with from-the-heart writing from veterans. To view the Spring VVAW newsletter online, visit <http://www.vvaw.org/veteran/issue/?id=158&action=Go>. Better yet, visit the VVAW website at <http://www.vvaw.org>, become a member and support their history, present work, and future. You don't have to been to Vietnam vet to join, or even be a veteran, as long as open to all people who want to build a veterans' movement that fights for peace and justice.

8. Announcement, Anniversaries & Reminders

May 8 (Sunday) - Mother's Day Peace Vigil - Women Walking Woodward for Peace

9am-10am at Grand Circus Park in Detroit (map at <https://goo.gl/maps/EUogddHXtWSH6sSz8>). We demonstrate annually on Mother's Day to declare and affirm that women will not support raising our children to kill other mother's children! This is a pro-peace vigil and celebration of activism, justice seeking and woman-centered visioning. *We are not walking this year* – Instead we are holding a vigil in the park. Bring signs or carry signs already prepared.

We draw our inspiration from Julia Ward Howe's Mother's Day declaration of peaceful conflict resolution at home and abroad. For more information and to get on our e-list contact: Anita at j.anita.809@hotmail.com or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/womenwalkingwoodwardforpeace/>

Supported by: Citizens for Peace, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Meta-Peace Team, UU Detroit, Swords Into Plowshares Peace Center & Gallery, Raging Grannies, and the Wisdom Institute.

Every Friday - Welcoming New Detroit Immigrants

Welcome new refugees to the metro Detroit region Fridays at Detroit's Clark Park on the corner of Verner and Clark (map at <https://tinyurl.com/ClarkPark-Map>) from 3:45pm to 4:45pm. The name of the event is We Stand With Our Neighbors Immigration Vigil. This weekly vigil was started in response to school children in Southwest Detroit whose teachers and counselors are deeply concerned about the trauma students are experiencing as they face the threat and reality of detention and deportations. Our message is: No deportations! No ban! No wall! No harassment and intimidation! Their Facebook page is www.facebook.com/WeStandWithOurNeighbors.

VFP Annual Convention - August 25th-28th

Veterans For Peace will again hold its annual convention online with a theme this year of "War Making to Peace Seeking". The Convention Committee envisions three tracks within the theme: Individual transformation from war-making to peace-seeking, the experience of many members of VFP; Community transformation: the "Peace at Home" part of our "Peace at Home, Peace Abroad" lens; and Global transformation: redirecting material, emotional, and spiritual resources from attempts to achieve global domination to cooperation to achieve global healing. More details about the 2022 Convention will be announced shortly.

VFP National Online Social Hours – NEW TIME! Every Tuesday At 7pm EDT

VFP has experimented with VFP Social Hours and members enjoyed the chance to chat and catch up (or meet) with other Veterans For Peace members. VFP will continue these every Friday at 6pm. (EST). To join the Social Hour, go to <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/324812650> or go to Zoom <https://zoom.us/Signin> and click join meeting and enter in Meeting ID: 324 812 650

Veterans For Peace National Weekly E-News List

Get updates on upcoming VFP national actions, ongoing campaigns, and news from chapters across the country. Additionally, the e-news provides resources and helpful tips for engaging your own actions. To sign up visit <https://veteransforpeace.salsalabs.org/eblast0/index.html>

Metro Detroit Peace Events Calendar

For a complete update of Metro Detroit area, visit the Gray Panthers of Metro Detroit website at www.graypanthersmetrodetroit.org/events-calendar

Michigan Peace Alliance Formed

Over the past few months, peace, and justice advocates (including Veterans For Peace Chapters in Michigan) have been working to form a new organization, the Michigan Peace Alliance, that "connects Michigan based organizations dedicated to peace, to share knowledge, resources, actions, and calendars to build a more peaceful, just and nonviolent society." A web page for the Michigan Peace Alliance is in development but the group does have a Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Michigan-Peace-Alliance-100512129175722.

VFP Michigan Peace Scholarships

Applications are being taken now for the Veterans For Peace Michigan Peace Scholarships, sponsored by VFP Chapter 93. The Scholarships, out of an endowment provided by Yoko Ono to Veterans For Peace, are awarded to college students enrolled in a peace studies or conflict resolution related program. Awards are given to either Michigan residents, or students enrolled at a Michigan college, with a preference given to military veterans. For more information, visit <https://www.vfp93.org/peace-scholarship>.

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

Visit our new "Thinking About Joining The Military? - Please Read This First" web page by [clicking here](#). 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.

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 do not 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. 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 Chapter Contact Jim Rine -- 281-414-1386 (cell/text) -- jimrine22@gmail.com and he will get back in touch with you. Thanks in advance for your consideration of this request!!!