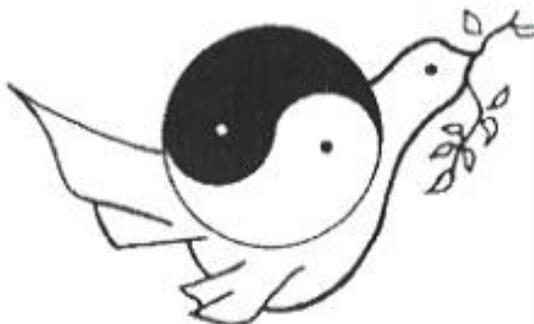


PHS News

July 2018

Newsletter of the Peace History Society
www.peacehistorysociety.org



President's Column



Deborah Buffton

Dear PHS members,

I hope you are all well and (perhaps?) enjoying a slightly more relaxed schedule. I am writing to update you on some of the activities of the Peace History Society.

First, as you may know, we are pleased to welcome Mitch Hall as the new editor of the PHS newsletter. He will be taking over from Robert Shaffer, who has done an outstanding job for the last five years. We thank them both for their work. Mitch would appreciate any suggestions for inclusion in the next issue, including conference information, new books or websites, awards, member activities, recent deaths, etc. You may forward suggestions to him at hall1mk@cmich.edu.

Second, our collaboration with the *Journal of American History* is off and running. You may recall that six members of the PHS will be writing an introduction and four articles that will appear in the "Textbooks and Teaching Section" of the March 2019 issue of the *JAH*. The writers participating in this project are: Chuck Howlett, Renee Bricker, Michael Proulx, Andy Barbero, Robbie Lieberman, and Heather Fryer.

Third, another outstanding issue of *Peace & Change* came out in April. Heather Fryer, Andrew Wilson, Michael Goode, and Michael Clinton do such a great job of smoothly putting out issue after issue that it is easy to overlook the excellent work that they do. Thanks to all of them!

Fourth, the organizational work for our Fall 2019 Conference is also on-going. The Conference, a joint effort by the PHS and the International Studies Association, will be held at Kent State University, October 24-26, 2019 so please mark your calendars! Landon Hancock at Kent State is the main organizer for this conference. Erika Kuhlman and Patrick Coy will be representing the PHS in the planning of the event. We thank them for their work.

Table of Contents – see page 2

Last but not least, we will be holding elections this fall for a new slate of officers and six members of the Board to replace those rotating off. Keep your eyes open for the ballot sometime in October.

In the meantime, it is helpful for us to remember that the vitality of any organization is determined by the actions of its individual members. If you have ideas about things you would like to see the PHS engage in to further spread the important work of Peace History, please do not hesitate to contact me at dbuffton@uwlax.edu or 608-785-8359. I would love to discuss your ideas!

“We don’t have to engage in grand, heroic actions to participate in the process of change. Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world.” — Howard Zinn

Peace and all good,
Deborah Buffton

Peace History Society Officers and Board Members, 2018

President: Deborah Buffton
University of Wisconsin-Lacrosse

Vice-President: Andrew Barbero
Pensacola State University

Secretary: Shelley E. Rose
Cleveland State University

Treasurer: Michael Clinton
Gwynedd Mercy University

Board of Directors:

Elizabeth Agnew, *Ball State University*

Scott Bennett, *Georgian Court University*

Leilah Danielson, *Northern Arizona University*

Erika Kuhlman, *Idaho State University*

Chuck Howlett, *Molloy College*, emeritus

Seth Kershner, *Northwestern Connecticut Community College*

Eric Morgan, *University of Wisconsin-Green Bay*

Ben Peters, *University of Saint Joseph, CT*

Gail Presbey, *University of Detroit Mercy*

Doug Rossinow, *Metropolitan State University*

Mona Siegel, *California State University-Sacramento*

R. L. Updegrove, *Duluth East H.S., MN*

Andy Wilson, *University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

Ex-officio members:

Past President: Kevin J. Callahan,
University of Saint Joseph, CT

Editor, *Peace & Change*: Heather Fryer,
Creighton University

Swarthmore College Peace Collection:
Wendy Chmielewski, *Swarthmore College*

Web Editor: Marc Becker, *Truman State University*

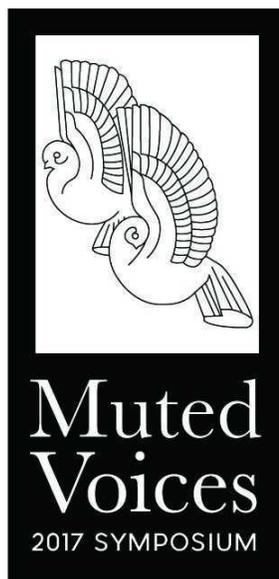
U.N. Representative: Blanche Weisen
Cook, *John Jay College & CUNY Graduate Center*

Newsletter Editor: Mitchell Hall, *Central Michigan University*
hall1mk@cmich.edu

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President’s Column	1
PHS Officers and Board Members	2
2017 PHS Conference Report	3
PHS Awards and Prizes	5
Upcoming Conferences	9
Member Notes	10
Books of Interest	11
Deep Cuts	13
Nuclear Weapons Education Project	14

2017 PHS Conference



Remembering Muted Voices: Conscience, Dissent, Resistance, and Civil Liberties in World War I through Today, October 19-22, 2017

National World War I Museum, Kansas City, Missouri

In John Sayles' 1987 film *Matewan*, a drama about the West Virginia mine wars, United Mine Workers organizer Joe Kenehan (played by Chris Cooper) described his encounter with Hutterite conscientious objectors (COs) he met while imprisoned with them at Fort Leavenworth. Describing the determination with which the religious COs withstood torturous treatment, Kenehan tells his fellow unionists "them fellas never lifted a gun in their lives, you couldn't find any braver in my book."

The true story of Michael and Joseph Hofer, Hutterite COs who died from influenza in 1918 while held at Fort Leavenworth after being weakened by their mistreatment, helped inspire the *Remembering Muted Voices: Conscience, Dissent, Resistance, and Civil Liberties in World War I through*

Today symposium, held at the National World War I Museum and Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri, last October. PHS was a key sponsor of the gathering, which served as PHS's 2017 biennial conference as well as being part of the centennial symposia series conducted by the World War I Museum.

Planning for the event began in October 2013. PHS helped expand the scope and range of the project to encompass war resistance, dissent and activism for civil liberties, along with religious pacifism and conscientious objection. The initial Conference Working Committee delegated development and implementation of the conference to the Program Committee. I represented PHS on that committee, joining with John Roth from Goshen College who represented the Mennonite Historical Society, conference coordinator Andrew Bolton of the Community of Christ/Graceland University, and Museum Curator of Education Lora Vogt. The committee met face-to-face at the Museum for daylong meetings in 2016 and 2017, as well as keeping in regular contact through conference calls and email.



Vaughan Williams' Dona Nobis Pacem

The conference served as the debut appearance for the *Voices of Conscience: Peace Witness in the Great War* exhibit created by the Kaufman Museum of Bethel

College, Kansas. The traveling exhibit remembers the bravery of those who resisted U.S. involvement in the war, military conscription and repression. The exhibit emphasizes the convictions and courage of World War I peace protesters, and makes connections to the problems of war and violence in today's world. Visitors had the unique opportunity to suggest changes, additions, and edits to the explanatory texts of the exhibit. *Voices of Conscience* will be on display at a number of venues in the U.S. in coming years, for more information see: <https://kauffman.bethelks.edu/Traveling%20Exhibits/Voices-of-Conscience/index.html>



Erika Kuhlman, Idaho State University

A stirring performance of Ralph Vaughan Williams' cantata *Dona Nobis Pacem* (Grant Us Peace) by a chorale composed of the Conservatory Singers of the University of Missouri—Kansas City, and the Rainbow Mennonite Church Choir opened the conference Thursday evening. On Friday, Erika Kuhlman represented PHS as one of the keynote speakers. Her talk, "Mustering Support for War: Gender Conformity and the 'Inevitability' of the First World War," along with Michael Kazin's presentation "War Against War: The American Fight for Peace, 1914-1918 and Implications for Today," as well as the plenary sessions, were broadcast on CSPAN and can be viewed via the Museum's website: <https://www.theworldwar.org/learn/>

[remembering-muted-voices](#). Also, British film maker Simon Colbeck screened and discussed his film *Watford's Quiet Heroes: Resisting the Great War*, which can be viewed at:

<http://www.whitefeatherdiaries.org.uk/watfords-quiet-heroes-resisting-great-war>



Michael Kazin, Georgetown University

On Saturday evening Dora Maendal of the Fairholme Hutterite Colony, Manitoba, Canada and Duane Stoltzfus of Goshen College and author of *Pacifists in Chains: The Persecution of Hutterites During the Great War*, gave the final keynote presentation, "On the Frontlines of Conscience: An Account of Four Hutterites." This moving account of suffering and courage grounded the weekend's point and purpose. Along with Dora and Duane's moving, somber account, a choir of Hutterite young people performed songs of hope and peace.



Dora Maendal and Duane Stoltzfus

Sunday morning many participants gathered in the lobby entrance of the museum to honor and remember the 16 objectors who died for conscience sake at Fort Leavenworth. The service at the Museum was followed by a pilgrimage to the Fort, where base historian Kelvin Crow, assisted by Joseph Bailey, provided a bus tour of the base. The group stopped at the site where the Hofer brothers died in fort hospital in 1918, observing a moment of silence in their memory.



Memorial Service (all conference photos by Marc Becker)

Those participants who completed evaluations gave the conference high marks. Lora Vogt told me that no other conference at the museum had received so many requests for more environmentally friendly packaging for the meals, a testament to the conscience and commitment of the attendees! Many thanks to all who participated, served as planners, moderators and panel chairs. Be on the watch for upcoming issues of *Peace & Change* as well as *Mennonite Quarterly Review* where some of the best papers from the conference will be published.

I think working in coalition to organize *Remembering Muted Voices* was very positive for PHS. Holding the event at the National World War I Museum and

Memorial meant that we interacted with a wider range of individuals and organizations than usual. The new alliances and relationships we forged furthered our mission as historians working to share the stories of resilient resistance to war and violence. Of the eight PHS conferences I've attended since 1994, *Remembering Muted Voices* stands out in my mind as the most comprehensive, where PHS helped connect history, faith, culture, commemoration, and activism in a holistic and accessible way. Much like *Matewan's* Joe Kenhan, *Remembering Muted Voices* honored a different kind of courage.

---David L. Hostetter

David L. Hostetter is author of *Movement Matters: American Antiapartheid Activism and the Rise of Multicultural Politics*. He has been a member of PHS since 1991 and has served the organization as a board member, treasurer and conference program co-chair.

PHS AWARDS AND PRIZES

The PHS awarded the following prizes at its October 2017 conference in Kansas City, MO.

Scott Bills Memorial Prize for 2014-2015.

LEILAH DANIELSON. *American Gandhi: A. J. Muste and the History of Radicalism in the Twentieth Century*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2014.

The Scott Bills Memorial Prize Committee consisted of Kevin Callahan (chair, St. Joseph's University), Elizabeth Agnew (Ball State University), and Chuck Howlett (Molloy College, emeritus). They considered seven works ranging from

biographies, one autobiography of an anti-Vietnam War activist, to general histories related to militarism in education, the peace movement in the United States during the nuclear age, and religious pacifism in Great Britain during the Great War. All works were of high quality, scholarly in content and research, and well written. After extensive consultation, the committee unanimously selected Leilah Danielson's *American Gandhi: A. J. Muste and the History of Radicalism in the Twentieth Century* to receive the Scott Bills Memorial Prize for a first book in peace history.

Danielson, a member of the History Department at Northern Arizona University, produced peace history at its best. Her impeccably researched book is the most authoritative study of the famous twentieth century American pacifist A. J. Muste. Her delicately written prose, crafted with precision and objectivity, reveals the potentially fruitful, often fraught,



Chuck Howlett presents the Scott Bills Memorial Prize to Leilah Danielson (photo by Marc Becker)

relationship Muste sought to forge between the peace and labor movements of the interwar period and his subsequent efforts to bring his personal pacifist witness to bear in the civil rights, anti-nuclear, and anti-colonial movements. Her biography advances previous works about Muste in explaining his view of Christian radicalism as part of the reform tradition in twentieth-century America, which emerged strongly in the wake of the First World War.

The committee highlighted a number of reasons for this book's recognition. First, Danielson extended her analysis to incorporate the roles of European socialism, Leninism, and Gandhian nonviolence while demonstrating how these influences played a critical role in shaping twentieth century American radical politics. Second, her account of Muste's religiously evolving (sometimes cynical) steps to find an institutional religious home to take a stand is beautifully juxtaposed against the dominant narrative of Niebuhrian Christian realism in the post-World War II United States. Third, the author presents a balanced account as biography in terms of discussing Muste's courageous acts as well as flawed understandings. She documents, for example, his willingness to experience physical pain as part of his pacifist witness during the tumultuous Lawrence Textile Strike of 1919 as well as his misunderstanding of Trotskyism in the early 1930s, which led eventually to his "return to pacifism" in 1936. Fourth, the committee particularly appreciated how Danielson interjects Gandhian methodology as a religious metaphor for Muste's "third way" when addressing the Cold War realities and eventual American military involvement in Southeast Asia when, prior to his death in 1967, he travelled to South Vietnam as part of his pacifist witness. Lastly, the committee recognizes this work not only for shedding

new light on Muste's understanding of radical politics, but also for providing the most detailed analysis describing the religious component of his commitment to the philosophy of nonresistance as activism.

Charles DeBenedetti Prize for 2015-2016.

RYAN J. KIRKBY for "Dramatic Protests, Creative Communities: VVAW and the Expressive Politics of the Sixties Counterculture," *Peace & Change* 40:1 (January 2015): 33-62.

Since 1987-1988, the PHS has awarded the Charles DeBenedetti Prize biannually (in even years). Journal articles, book chapters, or introductions may focus on the history of peace movements, the response of individuals to peace and war issues, the relationship between peace and other reform movements, gender issues in warfare and peacemaking, comparative analyses, and quantitative studies. This year's DeBenedetti Committee, which consisted of Rachel Waltner Goossen (chair, Washburn University), Erika Kuhlman (Idaho State University), and Andrew Barbero (Pensacola State College), reviewed 51 publications.

For the best article published in 2015 or 2016, the Peace History Society awards this prize to Ryan J. Kirkby for his article: "Dramatic Protests, Creative Communities: VVAW and the Expressive Politics of the Sixties Counterculture," *Peace & Change* 40 (January 2015): 33-62. Kirkby's scholarship on guerilla theater as a form of political protest by the rapidly-growing Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) during the early 1970s is a compelling, deeply-researched study of returning veterans' strategizing for antiwar activism. Rooted in a historiography probing the combination of

political activism and cultural forms (especially theatre arts), Kirkby's work spans diverse regions of the American home front, where recently returned vets performed plays—including mock search-and-destroy missions, as well as war crimes hearings—in public spaces. In this context, John Kerry and others within the VVAW movement turned a grassroots campaign toward a national antiwar spotlight. Kirkby's study effectively couples the VVAW's strategy of dramatic street protests with other experiments in community activism. By demonstrating how the antiwar veterans' social organizing included rap groups, drug rehab referrals, and other communal efforts, his article demonstrates how the VVAW's efforts and successes paralleled women's liberation activism as well as other countercultural movements in the era known as "the long sixties."



Rachel Goossen presents the Charles DeBenedetti Prize to Ryan Kirkby (photo by Marc Becker)

Lifetime Achievement Award, 2017

(Presented every two years to a PHS member who has contributed outstanding scholarship and exemplary service to peace history)

HARRIET HYMAN ALONSO

Harriet, who has been Professor Emerita at The City College of New York since 2015, is a person whose scholarship has wide range and impact. She was a pioneer in the field of women's peace history, a field that in turn has had significant effects on peace scholarship generally.



Robbie Lieberman presents the PHS Lifetime Achievement Award to Harriet Hyman Alonso (photo by Marc Becker)

Her first book was *The Women's Peace Union and the Outlawry of War, 1921-1942*; her second book has been especially influential, *Peace as A Women's Issue: A History of the U.S. Movement for World Peace and Women's Rights*, published by Syracuse University Press in 1993. She has also published books about the children of abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison, playwright Robert Sherwood and the use of theater for peace, and lyricist and activist

Yip Harburg. Her first children's novel, *Martha and the Slavecatchers*, came out late last year. Harriet also served as co-editor of the Syracuse University Press series on peace and conflict resolution, a series in which many PHS members have published.

Over the years, she made a number of contributions to the Peace History Society, serving a term as vice-president in the 1990s, on the PHS board for many years, and on several prize committees. In addition, she guest-edited two issues of *Peace & Change*, one on Jane Addams, one on educating for peace and social justice.

Finally, she has made many other contributions to the broader field of peace history; mentoring a number of colleagues; helping to organize several conferences, including serving as co-chair for an international conference on peace and war issues focusing on gender, race, and ethnicity in historical perspective; and curating a recent exhibit of WILPF documents at the New York Public Library (2015). She continues to serve as honorary advisor to the Swarthmore College Peace collection and on the Board of Editors for the Women and Social Movements in the United States website.

Thanks, Harriet, for all you have given to the profession and to many of us personally.

Committee members: Robbie Lieberman (Kennesaw State University), Scott Bennett (Georgian Court University), Leilah Danielson (Northern Arizona University)

Elise M. Boulding Prize, 2017-2018

The Peace History Society is pleased to announce a new biennial prize, to be awarded to an outstanding book directly

related to the field of peace history. Named for Elise Boulding—the path breaking sociologist, feminist, and peace activist who helped establish the field of Peace Studies—the prize is intended to award excellence among established scholars with a sustained commitment to peace research. As such, first books and dissertations are not eligible for this award. Please encourage nominations by spreading the word among colleagues and publishers. The next submission deadline will be in June 2019 for books published in 2017 or 2018. For up-to-date information, please see <http://www.peacehistorysociety.org/boulding/>.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

2021 PHS Conference Location Invitation

Dear Members of the Peace History Society:

We are already thinking ahead to future PHS conference locations, so we are soliciting invitations and proposals from members of the Peace History Society and their affiliated institution to host the October 2021 PHS national conference. Recent PHS conference locations include:

2019 Kent State University, Kent, Ohio

2017 National World War I Memorial Museum, Kansas City, Missouri

2015 University of Saint Joseph, West Hartford, Connecticut

2013 Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois

2011 Barry University, Miami, Florida

2009 Winthrop University, Rock Hill, South Carolina

2007 Georgian Court University, Lakewood, New Jersey

Hosting a PHS conference is an extraordinary service to PHS and likewise a great opportunity for the host institution to enrich its intellectual climate and stature. We invite all PHS members to consider if their own institution might be able to host the 2021 conference and, if so, to submit an invitation/proposal, which includes the following information:

1. PHS on-site coordinator (must be a member of PHS).
2. Letter of invitation from a high-ranking academic officer (e.g., Chancellor, President, Provost, Dean) to PHS to host the 2021 October conference.
3. Details/Clarification of free or minimal charge for use of college/university facilities.
4. Any other financial or organizational support the host institution might offer to the on-site coordinator and/or PHS (such as covering expenses and honorarium for keynote speaker, etc.).
5. Although it is not important at this point, we welcome ideas and suggestions as well about a possible conference theme. (PHS Board will ultimately set the conference theme and appointment of program chairs at a later date in collaboration with the onsite coordinator.)

If you and your institution are interested in this possibility, please submit your materials to Deborah Buffton (dbuffton@uwlax.edu) by September 15, 2018. Upon receipt of

invitations/proposals, the PHS Board will review what it has received and announce as soon as late Fall 2018 the location of the 2021 conference.

With all good wishes,

Peace History Society Executive Committee
Deborah Buffton, President
Andrew Barbero, Vice President
Michael Clinton, Treasurer
Shelley Rose, Secretary

World Beyond War

The annual global conference of World Beyond War will take place in Toronto, Canada on September 21-22, 2018. The topic is “Designing a World Beyond War: Legalizing Peace.” Information and registration can be found at <https://worldbeyondwar.org/nowar2018/>

Member Notes

Mitchell Hall (Central Michigan University) published *Opposition to War: An Encyclopedia of U.S. Peace and Antiwar Movements* (ABC-CLIO, 2018) and *The Vietnam War*, 3rd edition (Routledge, 2018).

Chuck Howlett, Professor of Education Emeritus, is the 2018 recipient of the Molloy College Alumni Association’s Distinguished Faculty Award. The honor recognizes faculty who have made significant contributions to scholarship.

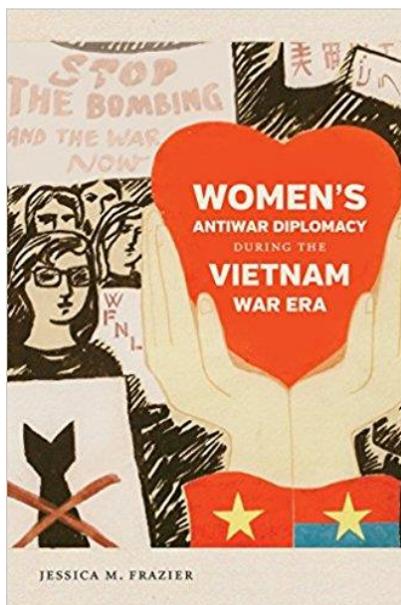
Roger Peace continues working on a peace history website, *The United States Foreign Policy History & Resource Guide*, <http://peacehistory-usfp.org>. If you are interested in contributing to this project, please contact Roger at rcpeace3@embarqmail.com.

Robert Shaffer (Shippensburg University) published “Religion and International Relations: The Christian Century’s Protestant Critique of the U.S. Embrace of Fascist Spain” in the *Journal of Church and State* 59 (Autumn 2017). This essay is an offshoot of one he wrote on that magazine for *Peace & Change* in January 2017. Shaffer has also contributed several blog posts on teaching secondary social studies for the website of the National Council for the Social Studies, at <https://connected.socialstudies.org/home>.

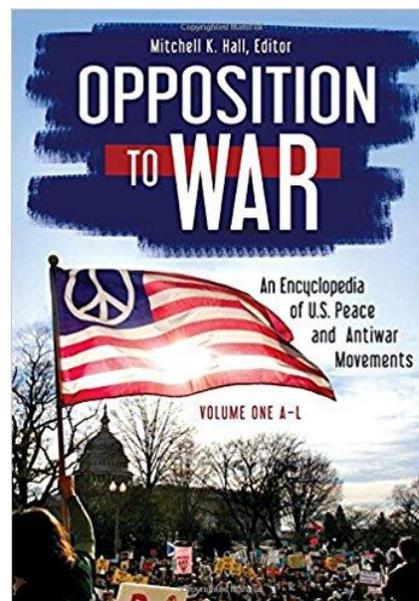
Harvey Strum (Sage Colleges) was the Harder-McClellan Fellow for 2015-17. He also published “Aid to Ireland During the American Civil War,” *New York Irish History* 29 (2015) on American voluntary, not government, aid to the Irish suffering famine from crop failures of the early 1860s; and “Anti-Immigrant Political Movements in New Jersey, 1830-1870,” chapter two in Carl Ganz, Jr. ed., *Essays on New Jersey Catholic History* (New Jersey Catholic Historical Commission, 2016), a study of anti-immigrant, anti-Catholic, anti-Irish organizations and actions in New Jersey. strumh@sage.edu

Peter van den Dungen edits the International Network of Museums for Peace. The current issue features conference reports and museum exhibit reviews. The link is <https://www.inmp.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/INMP-Newsletter-19-06.211.pdf>

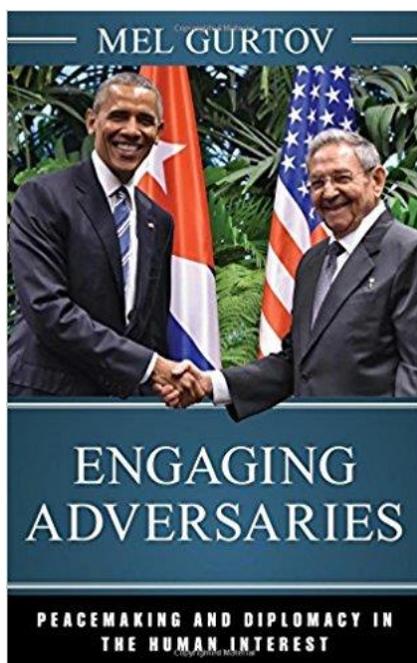
RECENTLY PUBLISHED BOOKS OF INTEREST



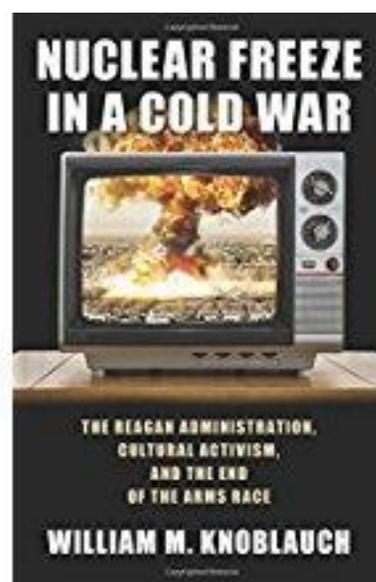
Jessica M. Frazier. *Women's Antiwar Diplomacy during the Vietnam War Era*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2017.



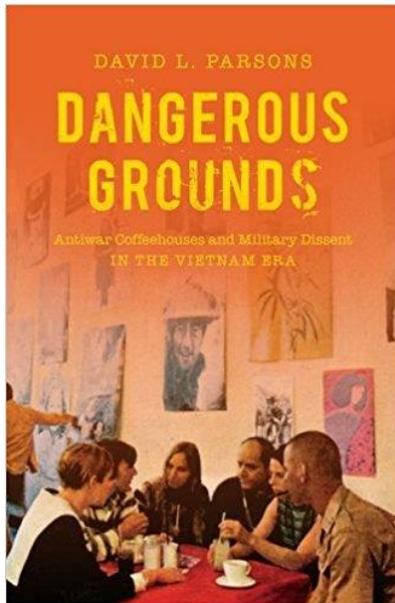
Mitchell K. Hall, editor. *Opposition to War: An Encyclopedia of U.S. Peace and Antiwar Movements*. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2018.



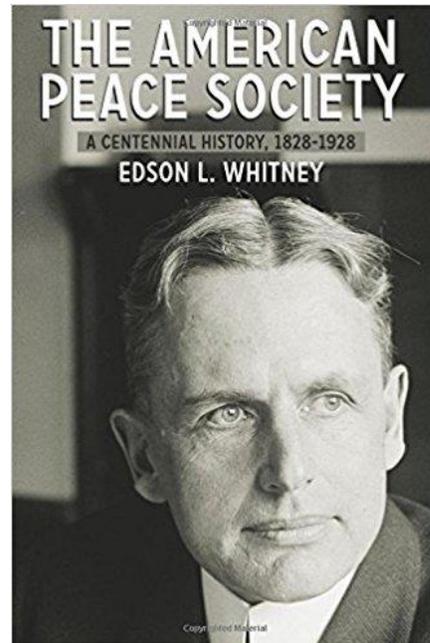
Mel Gurtov. *Engaging Adversaries: Peacemaking and Diplomacy in the Human Interest*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2018.



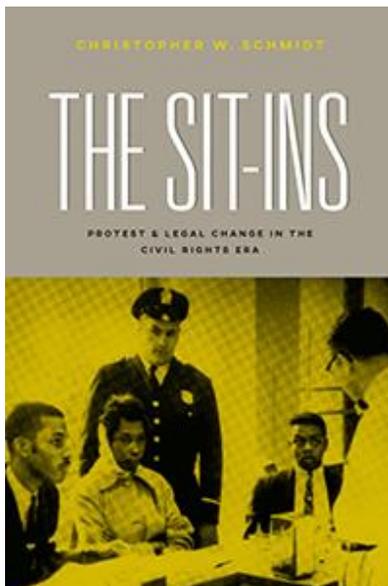
William M. Knoblauch. *Nuclear Freeze in a Cold War: The Reagan Administration, Cultural Activism, and the End of the Arms Race*. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 2017.



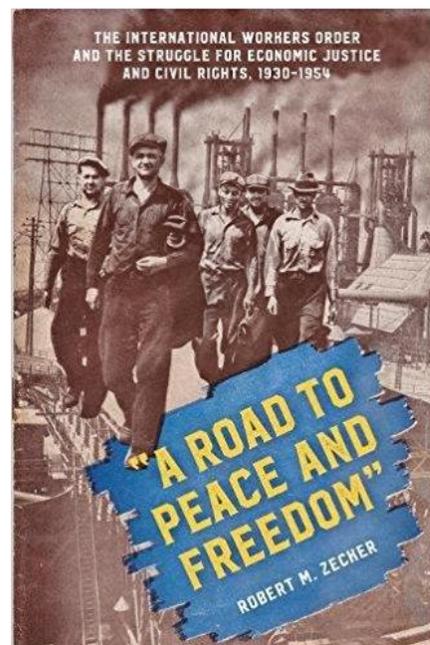
David L. Parsons. *Dangerous Grounds: Antiwar Coffeehouses and Military Dissent in the Vietnam Era*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2017.



Edson L. Whitney. *The American Peace Society: A Centennial History, 1828-1928*, reprint, Washington, DC: Westphalia Press, 2017.



Christopher W. Schmidt. *The Sit-Ins: Protest and Legal Change in the Civil Rights Era*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2018.



Robert M. Zecker. *A Road to Peace and Freedom: The International Workers Order and the Struggle for Economic Justice and Civil Rights, 1930-1954*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2018.

Deep Cuts

Paul Rodell, “International Voluntary Services in Vietnam: War and the Birth of Activism, 1958-1967,” *Peace & Change* 27 (April 2002): 225-244.

It is always a pleasure to see articles from *Peace & Change* cited in the wider historical literature. Such was certainly the case when I saw that David Hollinger, in his magisterial new book, *Protestants Abroad: How Missionaries Tried to Change the World but Changed America* (2017), drew extensively for one important chapter from Paul Rodell’s 2002 essay on how their experiences as aid workers in Vietnam led some participants in the International Voluntary Services program to become critics of the American war in that nation.

Rodell’s essay, which was part of a special issue of the journal on “Non-Governmental Organizations and the Vietnam War,” analyzed the growing dissatisfaction with U.S. policy in Vietnam of IVS workers Don Luce, Gene Stoltzfus, and Willi Meyers, whose on-the-ground perspective from the late 1950s to the mid-1960s led them to see the harmful effects of the American military role and of the U.S. alliance with the succession of corrupt and unrepresentative South Vietnamese governments. This dissatisfaction culminated in an open letter to Lyndon Johnson published in the *New York Times* in September 1967, which in turn generated, in Rodell’s words, “a minor media frenzy” in the U.S.

Hollinger’s argument is that American missionaries, broadly defined, serving overseas often developed through their experiences critical perspectives about the U.S. role in the world which they then tried to pass along to the folks back home. While Luce did not have much of a religious

background, as Rodell informs us, IVS fits Hollinger’s thesis because it began in 1953 “as an initiative of the Mennonite, Brethren, and Quaker churches” (again, Rodell’s words) to coordinate the work of their volunteers abroad with the economic and community development efforts of the U.S. State Department and related government agencies. The IVS experience in Vietnam gave rise to one of many examples of what Hollinger calls the “boomerang” effect, when these “missionaries” resigned and became – certainly in Luce’s case – prominent in the antiwar movement.

Congratulations to Paul Rodell and to *Peace & Change* for this recognition of their work in Hollinger’s important book.

--Robert Shaffer (Shippensburg University)

Thanks to Robert Shaffer



For the past nearly five years, Robert did a remarkable job providing the PHS with a creative and informative newsletter. I am sure that the entire organization joins me in thanking him for his work on our behalf.

Nuclear Weapons Education Project

Today's college students know very little about the threat of nuclear weapons and the issues surrounding those weapons. This subject has been generally thought to be a relic of the cold war and no longer relevant. This project is aimed at tackling this problem, and to educating students to become aware of this potentially existential threat.

Our goal is to change this situation by introducing material about nuclear weapons into undergraduate curricula. Since student disinterest precludes their taking a specialized course or even attending a seminar on the nuclear threat, our idea is that this topic be integrated into existing courses. The subject would be appropriate for many fields; not only the physical and biological sciences, but also engineering, social science, and humanities. The main purpose is to show the relevance of nuclear weapons issues as part of a general education. We do anticipate that a few students will be sufficiently interested to take a specialized course on some aspects of the subject and perhaps do further work.

Depending on the discipline, the subject material could include the basic science and engineering of nuclear weapons, the effects of nuclear explosions including the possibility of nuclear winter, the history of the development and use of fission and fusion weapons, and their delivery systems, non-proliferation efforts, the politics and international relations generated by these issues, as well as the moral and ethical quandaries they raise. One or two lectures, and/or a few instructive problems in an introductory course reaching a large undergraduate audience, could raise the consciousness of students on this topic and

generate interest for more intensive, advanced study on the subject.

We are not advocating any specific content, point of view, or pedagogical method. Our main purpose is to stimulate objective consideration of nuclear weapons issues in curricula.

We are developing links to educational resources to help faculty members new to the topic, and we plan to set up a website. There are several highly successful courses given in various universities and we would appreciate any links to this material.

In addition to teaching, this project could include special reading courses and possibly research projects that would involve students. In today's world the most relevant and productive choice of subjects would very likely be interdisciplinary, and could involve people at different universities.

This project has evolved primarily from discussions among a few faculty members and we want to broaden the group. We invite you to join us in this developing project. We envision an informal network of people who, while working independently, might benefit from interacting with other interested faculty members. Please share your thoughts with us.

Aron M. Bernstein Gary Goldstein

Professor of Physics, Emeritus Professor of Physics

MIT, Cambridge, MA 02138 Tufts University

617-253-2386 Medford, MA 02155
bernstein@mit.edu 617-627-3591
Gary.Goldstein@tufts.edu