

# PHS NEWS

MAY 2023

Newsletter of the Peace History Society  
[www.peacehistorysociety.org](http://www.peacehistorysociety.org)



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### Reminder to Renew Membership

*David Hostetter*

Thanks to all for you continued engagement  
 with the Peace History society. The  
 conditions of the Covid years have pressed  
 us all to find new ways to sustain

scholarship and activism in the face of many challenges.

I hope your connection to PHS has been valuable in these difficult times. If you have not already done so, please renew your membership for 2023, which includes online access to the journal *Peace and Change*. Membership can be renewed online (<https://www.peacehistorysociety.org/membership.php>).

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as president of PHS these last two years. I am confident that Gail, the new officers and board members will continue to expand and improve the work of the Peace History Society.

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**Records Relating to Peace  
Demonstrations at the Seneca, NY  
Army Depot Deposited at  
Swarthmore College Peace  
Collection**

*Larry Wittner*

Arnie Matlin, a long-time activist with Genesee Valley Citizens for Peace, asked me to alert peace historians to the fact that records related to peace demonstrations at the Seneca Army Depot (Romulus, NY) from 1983 to 1985, were recently sent to the Swarthmore College Peace Collection.

The Seneca Army Depot was a storage site for nuclear weapons, and, as such, attracted substantial protest demonstrations. In 1983, the Seneca Depot October Action Coalition staged a major protest near and at the Seneca Army Depot. As the October 23 rally drew 5,000 demonstrators, it was (and still is) the largest peace rally ever held in upstate New York. Genesee Valley Citizens for Peace as a

key player in the rally and related civil disobedience on that day. In August 1984, there was another major rally at the Seneca Army Depot that apparently involved the Finger Lake Alliance-Rochester, Syracuse, Ithaca, and Geneseo. In 1985, another major event occurred there--a walk and rally. The event's significance was highlighted by an earlier attempt of a group of women from the women's Peace Encampment to walk from Romulus to Seneca Falls. When the walkers were forced to halt their march by a group of armed local residents, the women sat down in the middle of the street, whereupon the police arrested them!

The records of these events, measuring about three file feet, are those of the Seneca Depot October Action Coalition, Genesee Valley Citizens for Peace, and the Finger Lakes Peace Alliance. Hopefully, they will soon be open to researchers. Arnie Matlin is also available to researchers who would like to interview him. He can be reached by phone (585-244-6277) or email ([ahmatlingvcp@igc.org](mailto:ahmatlingvcp@igc.org)).

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**Reminder for Fall Conference**

*Gail Presbey & Mike Clinton*

A reminder that our Annual Conference will take place in Gwynedd Mercy University.

Gwynedd Mercy University will host the Peace History Society biennial conference in a hybrid format featuring on-site and virtual presentations, exhibitions, and events from October 26 through October 28, 2023. The Conference theme "Peace & Protest, Past & Present" recognizes peace as an active process often expressed through dissent and protest rather than a passive condition signifying an absence of physical violence.

It refers equally to nonviolent protest across a range of justice movements and to direct actions in support of peace and justice. Opportunities to consider the history of peaceful protest and protest for peace are especially rich during the conference year, as 2023 marks: the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom that culminated in Martin Luther King Jr.'s call to nonviolent action for justice in his "I Have a Dream" speech; the 50th anniversary of the Paris Peace Accords that brought an end to U.S. military operations in Vietnam after several years of organization, mobilization, and protest across American society; and the 20th anniversary of the mass protest marches held around the world in response to the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

Prominent activist George Lakey will serve as the conference speaker, and some of the other plans for the conference include: a session featuring David Cortright discussing his recent book *A Powerful Superpower: Lessons from the World's Largest Antiwar Movement*; tables where attendees can learn more about organizations and new books; exhibits dedicated to the American Friends Service Committee and recognize the centenary of the War Resisters League. Further information about the program, registration, accommodations, and more will be posted to the conference website (<https://peacehistorysociety.org/phs2023/>).

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## Updates on PHS Board Members, Officers, and Editors

### Officers

President: Gail Presbey, University of Detroit Mercy  
Vice President: Christian Peterson, Ferris State University

Secretary: Toshihiro Higuchi, Georgetown University

Treasure: Christy Snider, Berry University

Thank you to David Hostetter, our outgoing President.

Thank you to Ian Fletcher, our outgoing Vice President.

Thank you to Gail Presbey, previous Secretary for her past service.

Thank you to Christy Snider for past service and for continuing to serve as Treasurer.

### Board

The following members will serve four-year terms:

- Scott Bennett, Georgian Court University
- Jacqueline Castledine, University of Massachusetts-Amherst
- Michael Clinton, Gwynedd Mercy University
- Scott Kamen, University of New Mexico
- Tracy Elaine K'Meyer, University of Louisville
- Henry Richard Maar, Cal State-Northridge
- Brian Mueller, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Paul Rubinson, Bridgewater State University, will serve a two-year term, finishing out Christian Peterson's last two years as he was elected to an officer's position.

Thank you to the following Board members who, elected to four-year terms in 2021, will be serving two more years for us:

- Carl Bouchard, University of Montreal
- Deborah Buffton, University of Wisconsin- La Crosse, Emerita
- Leilah Danielson, Northern Arizona University
- Robert Shaffer, Shippensburg State University, Emeritus
- Mona Siegel, Sacramento State University

Thank you to Ex-Officio members who will continue to serve on as the Board:

- David Hostetter, past President
- Renee Bricker and Yi Deng, University of North Georgia, Peace & Change Editors
- Julia Eichenberg, President, German Association for Historical Peace and Conflict Research
- Marc Becker, Truman State University, Web editor

Thank you to outgoing Board members:

- Kevin Callahan
- Toshihiro Higuchi
- Kathleen Kennedy
- Marian Mollin
- Shelley Rose
- Rich Updegrave

Also, thank you to Christian Peterson for his two years of service on the Board, before now joining the Officers.

### ***Editors of Peace & Change***

Welcome to our new editors:

- Renee Bricker, University of North Georgia
- Yi Deng, University of North Georgia

Thank you to our outgoing Editors:

- Heather Fryer, Executive Editor

- Andrew Wilson, Managing Director

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## **A Post-COVID Reunion**

*Mike Clinton &  
Peter van den Dungen*



PHS Lifetime Award recipient Peter van den Dungen and past PHS president Mike Clinton met for a meal and conversation near the British Library in London early in July 2022. Mike was passing through London on his way back from Canterbury, where he delivered a presentation about the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and its support for the Inter Parliamentary Union during the early 20th century at the Transatlantic Studies Association's yearly conference. Peter made the day trip down from his home in Bradford for one of his occasional visits to the BL and meet Mike. The two last met at the PHS conference in 2001 ("2001: A Peace Odyssey") but have maintained a friendly and professional correspondence for several years. They took advantage of loosening restrictions to get reacquainted in the spirit of PHS collegiality.

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## Annual Conference of the Peace and Justice Studies Association

September 15 - 17, 2023 | Iowa State University (Ames, IA)

The Art and Science of Peace: Building Positive Peace in the Twenty-first Century

We invite you to attend the 2023 conference of the Peace and Justice Studies Association, to be held September 15 - 17, 2023 on the campus of Iowa State University in Ames, IA.

Our conference committee has been hard at work making plans, and we are excited to release a number of updates. We have secured a keynote and other featured speakers, located our conference hotel, ironed out a preliminary schedule, and assembled various landing pages.

At this time, we are encouraging folks to secure your hotel room. Discounted hotel rooms are limited quantity. Those arriving without personal vehicles will want to ensure they stay at the conference hotel as we will provide shuttle service to the campus.

Please visit our conference website for the registration and information about the conference hotel, featured and invited speakers, the meeting schedule, and travel information:

<https://www.peacejusticestudies.org/annual-conference/>

The PJSA conference creates a welcoming community designed to facilitate the sharing of work and ideas across disciplines and vocations.

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## What is Peace History? Follow up from AHA Panel

*Roger Peace*

*Distinguishing “peace history” as a coherent framework of studies.*

To a large degree, “peace history” has been defined by many decades of scholarly studies of peace movements, leaders, ideas. I don’t know if one can create a coherent picture of all the elements involved in analyzing war and structural injustices and envisioning a peaceful, just, and ecological future, but peace history can establish a core of studies that define it – as it has already done. The many threads that run from this center are varied and may be seen as tributaries.

*Infusing peace history into other fields—e.g., American Foreign Relations—and general history.*

I have developed a website on U.S. foreign policy over the last seven plus years that has endeavored to establish a peace-oriented perspective in the field of American Foreign Relations. In extending the core values of peace history into any other field, it is necessary to make adaptations to the particulars of that field. In the field of American Foreign Relations, the role of peace movements, leaders, and ideas generally falls into the category of “domestic influences on foreign policymaking.” This category also includes pro-war groups, administration propaganda, the role of the media, public opinion, and Congressional debates. Other disciplines such as political science and sociology will similarly have their unique structures, requiring adaptation.

Beyond focusing on peace movements and leaders, the value-based approach of peace history influences the field of American Foreign Relations as it suggests a more incisive critique. The first question asked of any war is whether it was just and necessary (*jus ad bellum*). This, in turn, leads to many more questions about the geopolitical context, U.S. ideological assumptions, decision-making process and personalities, and realistic options for peace and diplomacy (often not the road taken). Peace and justice values also demand an accurate accounting of the costs of wars, which in many cases, means the harm done to others more than the blowback on American society.

At its broadest range, peace history seeks to enlighten the field of history by defining what is progress – which nationalists have conflated with “the rise of American power.” From the vantage point of peace history, war is an anachronism associated with empire-building and domination. Peace is the future. Lessons gleaned from the past should reflect this direction or orientation. That many Americans believe their nation is pursuing a course of peace and justice indicates a dire need for propaganda analyses to accompany critiques of foreign policies.

*Peace history's relationship to academia*

Peace history is a subset of peace studies. Peace studies has a broader academic range, including the development of conflict resolution skills. Along with human rights and genocide studies, peace studies and peace history have pushed for a clear, humanistic value orientation in academia. This has been welcomed when the values are generally supported—as in anti-racism and anti-sexism—but resisted when the values conflict with the status quo, which is true for peace values. Yet progress has been made in

the nearly six decades of PHS history, with peace and progressive-minded scholars pushing the boundaries of acceptance of critical foreign policy studies and peace alternatives.

One practical suggestion is that PHS apply to be an affiliated society of AHA. The AHA has a Society for Italian Historical Studies, an Alcohol and Drugs History Society, and a Radical History Review affiliate. Why not PHS? Indeed, why not celebrate PHS's 60th anniversary at the next AHA conference?

*Peace history's relationship to activism and the public*

PHS is a scholarly organization, but it is linked to peace and nonviolent movements by its subject focus. More importantly, peace scholars are connected to each other, activists, and the concerned public in the promotion of “consciousness-raising” and “agency.” PHS sponsorship of the U.S. foreign policy website I coordinate is a positive step in terms of reaching out to the public and students.

Peace history scholars have produced excellent studies of past peace movements, but I think more could be done to glean lessons for organizing in the present, providing a kind of Saul Alinsky handbook. Perhaps a concise handbook that draws lessons from different peace movements would aid organizing efforts today as well as stimulate popular interest in peace history. Add an annotated bibliography. To build connections, PHS could invite activists to speak at its bi-annual conferences and allow some activist writers to tell their stories in *Peace & Change*. “Agency” can be encouraged in various ways.

Please also note the change in email to [rcpeace3@gmail.com](mailto:rcpeace3@gmail.com)

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## Thanks and Flyer—U.S. Foreign Policy History & Resource Guide

*Roger Peace*

Thank you for your contributions to the U.S. Foreign Policy History & Resource Guide (see the next page for the flyer). There are now fourteen essays up (of 16 planned). The last, Afghanistan, Iraq, and the “war on terror,” is the subject of an History News Network article published in December and I made a presentation on the subject at a panel at the American History Association meeting in Philadelphia this past January.

The website has about 63,000 users this past year, with 94,000 page views.

A number of the essays come up quickly in Google searches (after ads), including “Yankee imperialism” (1), “Cold War interventionism” (1), “Protest Music of the Vietnam War” (1), “Africa and the War on Terror” (2), “Central America Wars” (3), and “U.S.-Filipino War” (7). The latter (part of 1898 essay) is apparently popular in the Philippines (5% of users).

Please spread the word about this.

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## Toward Unity: A Memory Parlor July 19 - 20, 2023

*Hope Elizabeth May*

The Cora di Brazza Foundation is presenting a “memory parlor” at the Masonic Temple in Philadelphia on July 19 and 20, 2023. A “memory parlor” is a space dedicated to cultivating an understanding of history, with the objective in this event of connecting

fragmented narratives that reveal the intersections of peace, law, women’s equality, abolition, and independence. The title of the event, “Toward Unity,” references a speech by the Korean Quaker Ham Sok Hon (1901-89), an advocate for human rights and nonviolence. The scope of the “memory parlor” will be transnational and multicultural. Those interested in learning more about this event are invited to view the promotional video linked here and to contact Hope Elizabeth May at [ethel01@mac.com](mailto:ethel01@mac.com).

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## The PHS at the AHA Conference 2023: A Roundtable on "Constructing Peace History"

*Mike Clinton*

On January 6, 2023, several peace history scholars discussed a range of issues - from the challenges of defining peace to the relationship between peace history and peace studies to potential directions for scholarship in the field - on a panel co-sponsored by the Peace History Society at the 136th Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, held in Philadelphia. PHS Lifetime Achievement recipient Chuck Howlett chaired and moderated the session, titled "Constructing Peace History: An editor's Roundtable," which featured former PHS president Michael Clinton, previous editor of *Peace & Change* Heather Fryer (who pre-recorded her presentation), current PHS vice president Christian Peterson, and former managing editor of the book series published by the German Association for Historical Peace and Conflict Research (AKHF) Susanne Schregel.

Scheduled during the last session of the conference late on a Sunday morning, the panel drew about fifteen attendees, with a few new faces mixed in among several

## United States Foreign Policy History & Resource Guide

The U.S. Foreign Policy History & Resource Guide is an educational, open resource website that examines U.S. foreign policies and wars over the course of more than two centuries. Written for undergraduate students and the general public, each essay draws on primary documents and the work of expert scholars, addressing geopolitical contexts, decision-making options, policies and their effects, official rationales, domestic debates, and antiwar movements.

Policies are evaluated from a principled perspective, in keeping with international “just war” and human rights norms; asking, for example, whether wars are just and necessary. The website builds on the progressive interpretative tradition of William A. Williams and Marilyn B. Young. Essays may be assigned, all or in part, for student reading, especially for purposes of stimulating critical thinking and evaluation, and class discussion and debate.



<http://peacehistory-usfp.org>

Fourteen essays are currently complete and online:

- Introduction: The Fifth Estate
- The War of 1812
- The U.S.-Mexican War
- The War of 1898 and U.S.-Filipino War
- “Yankee Imperialism,” 1901-1934
- U.S. participation in World War I
- The U.S. and World War II
- Cold War interventionism
- The Korean War
- The Vietnam War
- Central America wars, 1980s
- The post-Cold War era, 1989-2001
- Afghanistan, Iraq, and the “War on Terror,” 2001-2022
- Africa and the War on Terror

The website is sponsored by the Peace History Society and the Historians for Peace and Democracy. Six historians have authored or co-authored essays and 16 scholars have offered contributions.

Contact: Roger Peace (PhD, American Foreign Relations), website initiator and coordinator: [rcpeace3@gmail.com](mailto:rcpeace3@gmail.com). Available for class discussions via Zoom.



longtime PHS members who contributed to a rich conversation that continued past the allotted hour and a half. After the session, David Hostetter, Roger Peace, and Robert Schaffer joined the panelists for lunch at a nearby restaurant. Those interested in learning more about the panel can refer to the abstracts posted on the conference website.




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## Newsletter Editor Dr. Ginger Williams

Ginger Williams is a Professor of History and Director of both the Peace, Justice, and Conflict Resolution Studies and the Individualized Studies Programs at Winthrop University, Rock Hill, South Carolina.

## Newsletter Editor Assistant Jason Heckert

Jason Heckert is a nearly done graduate student of History at Winthrop University, Rock Hill, South Carolina. He is a member of Phi Alpha Theta and a founding member of the 1913 Society.

Additional thanks goes to Toshi Higuchi, Secretary of PHS for help with formatting the newsletter.

**Please send announcements about individual achievements (such as awards or publications), upcoming related events, or ideas for possible inclusion in the PHS Newsletter to:  
Ginger Williams, editor,  
[williamsv@winthrop.edu](mailto:williamsv@winthrop.edu)**