

# Meta Peace Team

Formerly Michigan Peace Team

## Lansing and Detroit Offices

**Meta Peace Team**  
MPT LANSING  
808 W. Barnes  
Lansing, MI 48910  
517 484-3178

**Meta Peace Team**  
MPT DETROIT  
1950 Trumbull  
Detroit, MI 48216  
313 483-7527

## Inside this Issue

Self Reflection and Looking to Gandhi Sam Weisbrod	2-3
International Peace Team Opportunities	3
Communication Can Transform Barbara Beesley	4
The Way to Peace Annette Thomas	5
Education toward Empowerment Best Practices Opportunities	5-6
The Future Is In Good Hands, MPT Interns Mary Hanna	6-8
News and Opportunities MPT International Policy Committee	8
Active Nonviolence and New Consciousness Elizabeth Walters, IHM	9
Centering Yusif Barakat	10
Domestic Peace Team Best Practices	11
Contact Us Celebration and MPT's 20th Anniversary	12

**THEME:** The year 2013 marks MPT's 20th Anniversary. Celebrating the past with gratitude and looking to the future with hope, this newsletter focuses on **best practices of peacemaking**. Lifting up our MPT conviction that the process leads to peace, some writers include the tried and true practices of why we center, check-in, and do self-reflection and co-counseling, while others lift up elements of the MPT vision and mission as the best of practices. May you enjoy these 20th Anniversary reflections!

## Best Practices Are Rooted in Love

By Sheri Wander

With the theme "Best Practices for Peacemaking" in mind, I sat down to write an article about the \*CLARA Method. The practices of respectful listening combined with the seeking of common ground make this my "go-to"

tool both "in the field" and in my daily interactions. Yet, as I put my fingers to the computer keypad I found myself typing "Love." "Hmmm, where did that come from I ask myself?" I laugh and remember something a friend and I often repeat to one another, "When you don't listen, sometimes the Goddess screams louder."

"Okay, dear Goddess, I hear you. I am listening."

CLARA may be my "go-to" tool, but I realize that in terms of "best practices," it is really love that draws me to this work, that motivates me, and that I know must be behind whatever tools and practices I bring to the work of peacemaking.

My very wise housemate at the house of hospitality where I live has noted that loving is ridiculously hard work a great deal of the time. Reflecting on this further,

I realize sometimes it is hard because loving the guest in our home struggling with addiction means loving the parts of myself that struggle with addiction. Loving the minister at the Michigan Gay Pride rally who is yelling hateful and intolerant things means seeing beyond the hatred and intolerance in him to the fear and lack of understanding in myself. Then, I must cultivate the practice forgiving and loving the parts of myself that are filled with fear.

Continued page 2



## Best Practices Are Rooted in Love continued

So often in nonviolence training we find that good-hearted and well-intentioned people can disagree on what is nonviolence and what are the best practices. We learn and relearn time and again that there are rarely absolutes, and so much of our work is found in the many shades of grey. **And yet, I realize that time and again for me the question of best practices is planted in the answer to the simple (and yet not so simple) question "Is it rooted in love?"**

As Che Guevera said so beautifully, "At the risk of seeming ridiculous, let me say that the true revolutionary is guided by a great feeling of love. It is impossible to think of a genuine revolutionary lacking this quality....we must strive every day so that this love of living humanity will be transformed into actual deeds, into acts that serve as examples, as a moving force."

\*The **CLARA Method** - **C**enter, **L**isten, **A**ffirm, **R**espond, **A**dd

## Self Reflection and Looking to Gandhi

By Samuel Weisbrod

*"Always aim at complete harmony of thought and word and deed. Always aim at purifying your thoughts and everything will be well." – Gandhi*

Take a moment to s-l-o-w - d-o -w-n and re-read the words above. Maybe think about what Gandhi meant by *aim*. When I first read the quote, I thought, "How could anyone, ever, have perfect harmony of thought, word, and deed? That's actually really preposterous." What right does Gandhi have to expect so much from me? I will come back to this idea.



Peace Team members with Sam Weisbrod in the center

Last Fall I spent two memorable months in the West Bank doing peacemaking work. EVERYONE who has been on a Peace Team says his or her

time abroad was life-changing/affirming. I will not take up too much space with profligate language, but indeed my time in Palestine really improved my world-view and gave me a profound veneration for Palestinians and Islam.

However, I did struggle. I was often disharmonious in thought, word, and deed. Or even worse, I was harmonious, but for all the wrong reasons. I struggled because I felt solidarity for those who, to me, suffered the most. I felt great affinity for Palestinians, and sadly, antipathy toward Israelis. When I travelled between the West Bank and Israel proper, I felt uneasy. I was on edge, paranoid, and uncomfortable until I returned to our Huwarra home. It was much more than the security checks. I was angry. Angry because I actually knew Palestinians, they were my friends, and they were good people. They were quite the opposite of the portrayals spewed by the mainstream media in the U.S. and Israel. I am ashamed to say that, at times, I led myself astray from the principles of peacemaking.

I thought ignoble thoughts, I spoke ill of people I did not know, and I stood by allowing my anger to guide my thoughts. I justified my disharmony easily, the occupation is unjust, immoral, unfair, evil, wrong, destructive, and composed of physical, emotional, and mental terrorism. In short I took the easy path, I allowed my anger to guide my thoughts.

Continued page 3

## Self Reflection and Gandhi continued



The practice of peacemaking is not about choosing sides in a fight. We will never be able to *fully* discern which actions are actually just or unjust. Justice is, thankfully, dependent upon the ideals and perspectives of each person.

As peacemakers, we must learn to see the pain felt on all sides when violence is normalized. If all we see is the immediacy of despair, we actually help sustain the cycle of violence. Suffering in the present can lead to reciprocal violence in the future, back and forth, and on and on.

Back to Gandhi. The problem with quotes is they make the world seem so very simple. As if all you need to do is follow the pithy advice of an icon and your own life will be great. Unfortunately, that is not the world we live in. But we can try, and that is what Gandhi meant by "aim."

*Sam Weisbrod was a MPT Intern and a member of the Fall 2012 MPT Peace Team to Israel and Palestine. Presently Sam is actively involved as a member of MPT's International Policy Committee.*

# INTERNATIONAL TEAMS

## MPT PEACE TEAMS - HONDURAS AND EL SALVADOR

In response to requests for Peace Teams in Honduras and El Salvador we are working with communities on the ground and established international organizations to determine the feasibility and appropriateness of sending exploratory MPT Peace Teams to each country. Our first teams to each area would likely be part of Election Monitoring.

### MPT is seeking Spanish speaking potential teamers for the following dates:

- Honduras: November 2013 (approximately ten days to two weeks)
- El Salvador: March 2014 (approximately ten days)

### The Step 2 Nonviolence Training "Retreat"

The next Step 2 is scheduled for June 6 -9, 2013; please consider attending to learn more about MPT and Teams! Potential Teamers - sign up for Step 2.

Contact NicoleR.personal or Nicole at [586 419-1070](tel:5864191070) for more information or to register.

## Communication Can Transform

By Barbara Beesley



A major reason for my accepting MPT's invitation to be part of 2003 and 2004 delegations to the West Bank and Israel was to test non-violence in the field. As a peace activist, I value the nonviolent approach to conflict but wasn't sure how effective it would be in a conflict zone.

One encounter clarified this power to me. I was with Kim Redigan and Hassan Newash in the village of Biddu when

we came across a situation we needed to address. A Palestinian had been detained inside a military vehicle, about to be placed under arrest, for some minor infraction or pseudo infraction regarding his license plate. The older Israeli Defense Force (IDF) soldier in charge was a Druze. Hassan began reasoning with him in Arabic. I approached the younger soldier in order to distract him, using empathetic questions as a tactic.

I confess that I do not act consistently out of a belief in the unity of all humanity; sometimes I catch myself thinking in terms of enemies and "others." After a week of observing the callous

behavior of IDF soldiers at checkpoints, this was how I saw the young man in military uniform-as "other." When he said that he had recently come from Hebron, I remembered the Israeli settler-IDF conflicts there. Hundreds of Israeli settlers would frequently wreak violence upon Palestinian lands and farmers. The IDF would interrupt this, garnering the settlers' wrath. I acknowledged the dilemma he must have faced. Then he told me that he was worried about his two young boys at home. He softened as he discussed his sons and said wistfully something about hoping there would be peace in their day.

Well, that was the moment I woke up to seeing this soldier as a warm human being and a father.

My empathy awakened. The irony and wonder of this nonviolent conversation was that I was the one in need of transformation.



I am grateful for MPT's training on nonviolent communication and the need for self-reflection on our experiences.

This is a lesson I carry with me in the Marygrove College's social justice class on organizing for social change, which I co-teach. It is important that all who work for social change are grounded in self-understanding, values, and willingness to be changed even as we attempt to change others.



### MPT's Education toward Empowerment (EtE)

During 2013, MPT's 20th Anniversary Year, Peter Dougherty and Elizabeth Walters, IHM are scheduling presentations and workshops throughout Michigan. Our theme is **active nonviolence-past, present, future:**

#### WORKSHOPS:

- Transforming Power of Active Nonviolence-3 hour
- We Care Deeply - Our Urgent Call Is To Build a Culture of Peace-2 hour
- Stories and Re-enactments of Creative Nonviolence-1.5 hour
- Mini Retreat on Active Nonviolence for Teachers, Nurses, Social Workers,

Moms and Dads and Others -3 hours

Continued page 5

## The Way to Peace

By Annette Thomas

As I sat at the dinner table with my son, he shared with me a story that had stirred a great deal of emotion within him. During the Second World War, a crippled American F- 17 Bomber was struggling to remain airborne over Germany. A German Luftwaffe pilot observing this quickly took advantage of the opportunity to intercept and closed in on them. As he got nearer, he realized that the tail-gunner was dead and saw the soldiers inside the bullet-riddled bomber working frantically to keep their comrades alive. The fighter pilot then brought his plane within feet of their wingtip and made eye-contact with the terrified American pilot, who at that moment believed his life was over. Rather than destroying the bomber, he waved to him to land his plane in Germany. Realizing then, the pilot would attempt to continue on to England, he chose to honor the "Warriors Code" (a humanitarian code to prevent soldiers from becoming monsters) and motioned for the Americans to fly behind him in formation so he could escort them over the North Sea to safety. With that accomplished, he saluted and flew back to Germany. After the war, the American pilot tracked down his German "enemy," and their reunion would form a familial bond that they would carry on until their deaths.

Accounts like this are common. Stories abound of war and peace. A military leader sets the tone and the troops follow his lead. Oftentimes, his conscience guides them. Other times, they have to follow their own lead to do the right thing. Doctors from both sides have worked together to save lives – lives across enemy lines. Commanders have returned to the lands where carnage took

place and made amends with those they negatively affected or who affected them. German and Russian soldiers who fought against each other forged strong and lasting friendships after the war.

We will never learn all of the stories but should try to remember that even in times of war, good can overcome evil, hatred can turn to love, a life of war can be changed to a lifetime of peace. Maybe if we start listening and caring, learning and sharing, we can offer a way to peace for the people of the world. Peace begins with understanding – looking beyond the circumstances into which we are thrown and seeing the humanity in each other and extending a hand in friendship.



A very wise, then 10 year-old, Rachel Corrie once said: "We have got to understand that they dream our dreams and we dream theirs. We have got to understand that they are us and we are them." These are powerful words to live by – the words of a child. May we learn from this

particular child the lessons of peace and understanding.

### EtE Opportunities continued

**Presentations:** 1hour or less and/or any combination

- Active Nonviolence and MPT's Vision and Mission
- New Consciousness-Ecological Consciousness AND Active Nonviolence
- The Spirituality of Nonviolence
- Active Nonviolence and the Benefits of Collective Action

For more information or to schedule a workshop or presentation call or email Elizabeth Walters: 517 484-3178 or elizabethwalters.mpt@gmail.com

The ability  
to be  
**CALM**  
and  
**CENTERED**  
will  
calm others  
around us.

## The Future Is In Good Hands - MPT's Intern Program

By Mary Hanna

**"Create your legacy by fulfilling your potential..."**  
 — Gino Norris

A  
THIRST  
AND  
DRIVE  
FOR  
PEACE  
WITH  
JUSTICE

As MPT moves into its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, we have been reviewing and evaluating what things we want to improve on over the course of the *next* 20 years. We also want to lift up those things we've done really well to ensure that those things continue to have a place in our long-term planning. In the process of doing this, we recognized that one of the more "behind the scenes" programs that has met with a great deal of success is MPT's Internship Program.

Since its beginning, MPT has had the great honor of hosting approximately fifty students through our internship program. Initially, nearly all of our interns came from Michigan State University; but as word of MPT's work and mission spread, we began getting requests for internships from students hailing from other universities...First, from those within the state of Michigan (the University of Michigan, Alma College, Hope College, etc.), and then - especially over the past few years - from students from around the country and around the world. As of this writing, we are able to celebrate interns from all corners of the U.S., plus France, Egypt, Ethiopia, Costa Rica, Ghana, Japan, Botswana, and Poland. Collectively, we've hosted students who were Christian, Jewish, Muslim, agnostic, and atheist; students who've identified themselves as liberal, conservative, as Democrats or Republicans, and some "none of

the above." We have been witness to **all** of these amazing young people, coming from all over the globe and from all different kinds of backgrounds and life experiences - - **ALL** of them coming to MPT with a thirst and drive for peace with justice, and a belief in the power of nonviolence.

Of course, the biggest measure of success is not how many interns we've hosted, or where they've come from, but whether what they've learned here has been an asset to their life and their education. And so we asked them: "What did your internship with MPT mean to you?" Here are a handful of their responses:



**Stephanie Hufford** (Spring 2009) "Not only did I gain experience working for a non-profit organization, but I also learned about passion for your work and compassion for your peers, and realized those are two important goals to incorporate into a future career by being an intern."



**Angelina Mosher** (Fall 2010) " My MPT internship provided a hands-on work experience with passionate people who are all trying to change the world through the actions of nonviolence. The committed staff at MPT gave great insight into the work of a Nonprofit and the handwork of dedicated activists", Kati Garrison (Fall 2008), now an MPT Core member currently working at the United Nations in New York, said "MPT not only provided me with the space to pursue work in a field I am immensely passionate about, but it also challenged me to strengthen my comprehension of nonviolence and what it means to utilize its skills and techniques in my everyday experiences."

## The Future continued



**Katie Garrison** (Fall 2008), now an MPT Core member currently working at the United Nations in New York: "MPT not only provided me with the space to pursue work in a field I am immensely passionate about, but it also challenged me to strengthen my comprehension of nonviolence and what it means to utilize its skills and techniques in my everyday experiences."



**Chelsea Clark** (Summer 2010) "To me this internship meant an opportunity to learn from a diverse group of people about a topic I am passionate about. It meant a chance to delve deeper into civil activism and it pushed me to answer questions about my own beliefs. It was an amazing experience and continues to inform my life decisions."



**William Buddy "Scarborough"** (Summer 2008) "My time at MPT came at a very transformative time in the growth of my world-view. The internship introduced a lens of peace through which to view the world, to see things not on the surface level, but to look deeper into the causes and cycles that cause/perpetuate violence. My time at MPT was only 2 months, but I can say that those two months impacted me tremendously, and set me on a course of life that has continued since the summer of 2008."



**Beth Wichman** (Summer 2006) "MPT showed me what it means to be a caring, inclusive and compassionate leader. I wouldn't trade the experience for anything. I currently work in D.C. and manage many interns, staff and volunteers. As I do so I am constantly trying to model how Mary and the rest of MPT treated me so that I can leave the people I work with feeling the same way that I did when I was at MPT - inspired, empowered and motivated to do great things!"



**Jennifer Bert Scott** (Spring 2006) "MPT gave me courage. Working under such strong and passionate people gave me strength to not fear my convictions. Furthermore, I learned how to positively communicate my beliefs and importance in acting on my beliefs. These lessons have given me so much in both my personal and professional life."

Continued page 8

## The Future continued



**Shannon Riley** (Summer 2012) "The internship program at MPT is very unique in that you have the ability to create whatever experience you want. There is something available for all different interests and skill sets which allows you to grow as a person and as a professional. More importantly though, the staff at MPT takes you in and welcome you with open arms. They are all such amazing and valuable people to work with, allowing you infinite opportunities to learn."



Sebastian Ziem (Fall 2012-Winter 2013), an intern from Ghana who is just finishing his six-month internship with us, was employed as a human rights investigator in Ghana. My learning experiences at MPT have been very transformative. I understand active nonviolence as both a way of personal life and a tactic for violence prevention and reduction. I recognize that one needs to be at peace with one's inner self to be able to make peace with others - peace from the heart, not only the mind or by might. I believe that this personal transformation starts with being truthful and courageous enough to deal with personal violence, and by developing respect for the human rights and dignity of others in order to appreciate and practice active nonviolence. Active nonviolence gives me a sense of hope that another way is always possible."

### How you can help:

*Although many people don't realize it, a small portion of the donations given to MPT help to keep this wonderful international program going. The world is truly blessed to have these young people be a critical part of our collective futures. As MPT celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, these interns have become an important part of our legacy and, we believe, our future.*

*[Mary L. Hanna, Operations Manager and Internship Supervisor at MPT]*

## NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES - MPT INTERNATIONAL PEACE TEAMS

### Are you a returned MPT Peace Team Member?

#### Can you leverage your valuable experience & continue to contribute to this critical work by:

- Being on a Peace Team in 2013/14? We need experienced teamers.
- Joining the International Policy Committee?

### Are you new to MPT or haven't been on a Peace Team?

- We are accepting applications now for all of 2013 and 2014 from NEW TEAMERS!
- The best way to get more information and decide if an MPT International Peace Team is right for you, is to come to one of our regularly scheduled trainings.

**Step 2 nonviolence retreat sessions:** This is the step to take now if you're considering a team, want to learn more, or want to meet potential teamers and build community with others deeply exploring nonviolence.

### 2013 Step 2 Nonviolence Retreat Dates:

*(Each event runs Thursday evening through Sunday afternoon)*

**June 6 – June 9, 2013**

**August 15 – August 18, 2013**

**October 25 – October 27, 2013**

Get more information, register for Step 2, or request an application now: [NicoleR.MPT@gmail.com](mailto:NicoleR.MPT@gmail.com) or Nicole at 586-419-1070 (cell)



## Active Nonviolence and New Consciousness

By Elizabeth Walters, IHM



Experience teaches that PROMOTING, TEACHING, and PRACTICING ACTIVE NONVIOLENCE is one of the most important "best practices" of peacemaking! Significantly the MPT Community, including a tiny staff and a peace army of volunteers, dedicates ALL energy, time, gifts, skills, learnings, and resources to this end!

New consciousness is helping us to understand nonviolence in new and wonderful ways. One of the most basic truths about living on this beautiful, awesome planet is our oneness and interconnectedness with one another and all life. In this new consciousness, supported by the ancient wisdom traditions, the great ones who have gone before us, and by learnings in modern science, nonviolence is the norm for all relationships just as violence was acceptable and all but normalized in the vision of the world as disparate, egocentric, selfish, and devoid of relationships and meaning.

It is the web of life and our relationships with one another and all life that urge us to say, We will bring no harm to people or the earth AND we want to embrace active nonviolence which calls us to be and do compassionate action with all the love in our hearts.

The skills and tools of active nonviolence empower individuals to reduce/end violence in homes, neighborhoods and the workplace. These skills and tools also empower teams to respond to systemic violence, including economic violence, racism, sexism, war, and violence against the Earth. Active nonviolence provides creative and persistent ways to transform these conditions and their underlying attitudes and assumptions.

Yet active nonviolence is not simply a response to violence. It also presents a vision that Another World Is Possible, and suggests a way to fulfill

that vision. As Howard Zinn says, "Active nonviolence maintains that while violence is a fact, earth community also rings with love, courage and grace which are ultimately more powerful than violence and capable of transforming it."<sup>i</sup>

All are welcome and we come as we are to this important work! Active nonviolence is something we practice and grow into. Gandhi says it well: "Nonviolence is a continual (and lifetime) series of 'experiments with truth' through which we gradually learn to become more human."<sup>ii</sup>

The vision of Meta Peace Team (MPT) is to seek a just world grounded in nonviolence and respect for the sacred interconnectedness of all life. We prepare teams of people who are committed to and skilled in active nonviolence. When invited we send peace teams to places of violence. We hope you will join us in being and doing active nonviolence, a best practice of peacemaking!



<sup>i</sup>Zinn, Howard, *The Power of Nonviolence*, Boston Massachusetts: Beacon Press, 2002.

<sup>ii</sup>Gandhi, *My Experiments with Truth*, Ahmedabad: Navajivan Publishing House, 1990.  
[http://www.gandhifoundation.net/by\\_gandhi\\_english\\_books.htm?page=2](http://www.gandhifoundation.net/by_gandhi_english_books.htm?page=2)

# What Does It Mean to be Centered and How Do We Do It?

By Yusif Barakat



Yusif on a MPT Peace Team in Gaza

My name is Yusif and I'm a recovering linear thinker. I don't think out of the box, I got out of the box. Why am I in a box anyway? So I think of things that most people don't think

about—such as: Why are we so stressed and why is it no one has time for anything? Just ask anyone to do a project with you and see how they will have no time for it. No time to relax, no time to play with the children or perform random acts of kindness. There is no time! There is a lot of something else---STRESS! Everyone is stressed out! The system is stressed. Stress is in EVERYTHING and stress is wearing us down and robs us of energy. When you're stressed you're zapped of energy.

Another way to look at it would be to think about a pot of water on the stove. At room temperature the water is stable and will stay in the pot for a long time. But when you turn up the heat the molecules begin to move faster, bang into each other and evaporate as steam-- the water level is then quickly lost. Stress is the heat in our society. It causes us to move faster, have friction with others and much joy and peace is lost. Centering allows us to discharge the stress from your system and helps us keep it from coming back.

Being centered (or grounded, as others may call it) allows us to reduce the level of stress and ground ourselves to the earth. We come from the



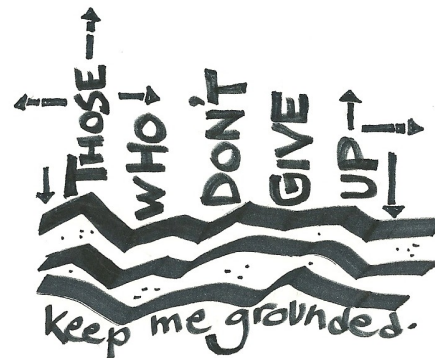
earth and we go back to the earth, yet we show little respect for her. Being

centered is allowing the energy from the universe to enter from the top of your head, radiate

through your body and exit through your feet, back into the earth.

Being centered is feeling/understanding everything around you and your role in it. Feeling grounded is to feel the connection between our bodies and the air we breathe, the food we eat-- that we are all part of the cycle of life. The more you understand that, the more you'll feel in harmony with life and all living beings.

There have been cultures throughout history that practiced grounding/centeredness. The label



"meditation" comes to mind. Yoga, prayer and chanting are also examples of how individuals in societies cope with the stress of their time. Native people/pagans/rituals/rites of passage are all forms of

connecting ourselves with Mother Earth. The earth is matter. The earth is also energy and so is life. The more stress the more cause for dysfunction. Stress debilitates!

I start each day connecting to earth and my environment by doing a Native American ritual, calling in the six directions. I also perform that in a circle at gatherings to show devotion to Mother Earth by calling on the energy of the universe to empower us to complete the day in our lives that will not come again. Being centered is taking the time to slow down. Stop/sit/stand/be still and look within. The longer you do it the more effective it is. And soon you wonder how you did without it. It's taking the time for reflection; it also helps to take time for exercise. There is no magic pill or potion. Make time to be centered, time to improve your health by proper nutrition and exercise and radiate love to all those around you and to our earth.

You can find a copy of the Six Directions and prayer to Mother Earth by going to Recommended Resources on my website: [www.yusif.org](http://www.yusif.org)

# Domestic Peace Team Best Practices

By MPT's Domestic Peace Team Committee: Judy Wenzel, Sheri Wander, Elizabeth Walters

Meta Peace Team understands that violence doesn't just happen in other countries; it happens at home too. **When invited**, MPT provides Domestic Peace Teams to reduce and prevent violence in places where there is a high probability of violence. For example, over the years, we have been invited to help when hate groups have threatened, when violence has been used to disrupt events, during riots at area universities, and when state violence is used.

MPT's Domestic peace teams are made up of unarmed citizen peacemakers, who are MPT members that have been through a minimum of 8 hours of general nonviolence training and an orientation specific to the situation for which the team is deployed.

**Our domestic peace teams** are a nonviolent, multicultural, non-partisan, peaceful presence, using the tools of nonviolence to reduce or eliminate violence. We are nonpartisan groups (although not neutral on the issues that may be a part of the controversy) who have taken on the role of preventing and/or reducing violence from whatever it's source. Our role is to prevent/reduce violence, NOT to prevent/reduce conflict, not to maintain a "negative peace" at the expense of justice, not to stop civil resistance or direct action, and not to ensure laws are followed.

**If you, your group, or your event is threatened and/or if there is a high probability of violence contact MPT's Domestic Peace Team Committee members at 517 484-3178 to explore the possibility of having a MPT Peace Team.**

## Recent MPT Domestic Peace Team

Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense invited MPT to their April 13, 2013 Rally at the Michigan State Capitol after a group called *Michigan Open Carry* began advertising that they would sponsor an armed counter protest at the Moms Rally.



**MPT LANSING**  
**808 W. Barnes Ave**  
**Lansing, MI 48910**  
**517 484-3178**  
**metapeaceteam@gmail.com**



**MPT DETROIT**  
**1950 Trumbull**  
**Detroit, MI 48216**  
**Phone: 313 483-7527**  
**metapeaceteam.detroit@gmail.com**

**Our Vision:**

We seek a just world grounded in nonviolence and respect for the sacred interconnectedness of all life.

**Our Mission:**

MPT pursues peace through active nonviolence in places of conflict..

**Our Goals:**

- Recruiting, training, and placing Peace Teams both domestically and internationally;
- Educating the public to the vision and practice of nonviolence, particularly as it relates to nonviolent conflict intervention;
- Cooperating, supporting, and participating with local peace and justice groups, particularly as it relates to our Mission; and,
- Providing training in active nonviolence designed for the specific needs of the participants.

**Meta Peace Team Web Site:** [metapeaceteam.org](http://metapeaceteam.org)

**International Peace Team Blogs:**

<http://MPTinPalestine.Blogspot.com>  
<http://MPTinJuarez.Blogspot.com>

**MPT Newsletters, 2008-2013, are available online**  
**See [metapeaceteam.org](http://metapeaceteam.org)**

**2013 MPT Newsletter Team**

Nancy Ayotte, IHM  
 Barbara Nolin  
 Kim Redigan  
 Annette Thomas  
 Elizabeth Walters, IHM

**Newsletter Artwork**

Nancy Ayotte creates all the artwork for MPT newsletters. Her creations are a pure gift to MPT and our readers. This gift is yours to freely use in other peace work.

**MPT Core Members**

John Roy Castillo	Mary Ann Ford, IHM	Paul Pratt
Mary Pat Dewey, OP	Jasiu Malinowski	Sheri Wander
Peter Dougherty		

**MPT Staff and Email Addresses**

Mary Hanna	<a href="mailto:maryhanna.mpt@gmail.com">maryhanna.mpt@gmail.com</a>
Nicole Rohrkemper	<a href="mailto:nicoler.mpt@gmail.com">nicoler.mpt@gmail.com</a>
Elizabeth Walters	<a href="mailto:elizabethwalters.mpt@gmail.com">elizabethwalters.mpt@gmail.com</a>

**Weekly MPT Office Volunteers**

Margaret Beahan	Barbara Kinsey	Kim Redigan
Ann Briganti	Anna Malavisi	Mark Zussman
Charlene Jamison	Lourdes Fonseca Nearon	



## Celebration and MPT's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Celebration is a "Best Practice" of peacemaking! By celebrating the completion of steps both small and large, we unleash the energies of gratitude, love, community, and momentum. It is in this spirit that we invite you to join us in celebrating MPT's 20th Anniversary. MPT's 2013 Anniversary Year is an amazing opportunity to stand together in awe, gratitude, and renewed commitment on behalf of active nonviolence and peace teams! During these past twenty years the concept of peace team has grown enormously, both globally and locally.

The MPT community has grown lots too. Some "MPTers" have been with MPT a long time; others are new to MPT's vision and mission. Most important, we are community together! Learning from past mistakes and making necessary adjustments, our MPT community has never diverted from the passion to promote active nonviolence and peace teams, and to create a culture of nonviolence. We hope you will continue to be part of MPT's vision and mission. And, when possible, we hope you will help to support this vision and mission financially.

**CHALLENGE GRANT**

At the beginning of 2013, a dear friend of MPT's vision and mission gave a generous 2013 Challenge Grant. During this MPT Anniversary Year, if you are able to make one or more donations on behalf of upcoming efforts to realize MPT's wonderful vision and mission on this beloved planet, your donation(s) will be multiplied by the Challenge Grant!

**WAYS TO DONATE - Designate your donation "Challenge!" and ...**

1. To give electronically: Go to [metapeaceteam.org](http://metapeaceteam.org) and click Donate Now
2. Donations can also be sent via postal mail to the MPT Lansing Office:  
 Meta Peace Team, 808 W. Barnes, Lansing, MI 48910.

