

Ball State University
Center for Peace and Conflict Studies

THE OLIVE BRANCH

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Spotlight: Peace Learning Center

"Peace Learning Center of Indianapolis educates, inspires and empowers people to live peacefully with the goal of promoting healthy learning, workplace and community environments." - Mission Statement

Over the years, the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies at Ball State has collaborated with the Peace Learning Center on a number of projects including, for instance, the Soccer for Peace and Understanding in Jordan grant.

The Peace Learning Center got its start in 1997. Founded in Eagle Creek Park in Indianapolis, the Center is "Indianapolis' only non-profit solely dedicated to teaching peace education", and has spread to six states and five countries worldwide!

Locally, the Center offers tons of programs serving the greater Indianapolis area. The majority of the programs are geared towards the youth population, ranging from programs in the public school system, to intervention programs, to a peace leadership summer camp. For adults, they offer conferences and activities with the International Interfaith Initiative, as well as professional development programs.

The most recognized event held by the Peace Learning Center is their annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Festival. The event offers performances, hip hop poetry, family yoga, a free lunch, art workshops and more. It is also host to a community volunteer fair. The event is regarded as one of the best events to celebrate the life and work of Martin Luther King, Jr., as well as a wonderful opportunity to get kids and adults alike involved in volunteering.

Getting involved with the Peace Learning Center is simple. They have volunteer positions open helping with community events, landscaping of their location at Eagle Creek Park, a Shout Out Crew for social media, office and clerical work, working with children, and many others. No matter your skillset, you will find a great match with the Peace Learning Center. For more information, check out their website: <http://www.peacelearningcenter.org/> To volunteer, contact them at volunteer@peacelearningcenter.org.

~Ahliah Bratzler

On-Campus Events

Smoke Signals—Wednesday November 28, 7 PM

In honor of Native American Heritage Month, the Multicultural Center will be hosting a viewing of *Smoke Signals*. The film details the lives of three young people on a Native American reservation in Idaho. It has won several awards, including the American Indian Film Festival's Best Film. It will take place at Pruis Hall, with the film starting promptly at 7 PM.

Peacebuilding in a Pluralistic, Interfaith World—Thursday November 29, 12-1 PM

This Brown Bag lunch by Professor George Wolfe focuses on the success we have had locally building good interfaith relations between faith groups within the Muncie community. Bring your lunch, your friends, and an open-minded attitude concerning religion! This event is free and open to the public, and will be held at the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies.

Stress Management Workshops—Thursday November 29 and Tuesday December 4, 4-6 PM

Hosted by the Counseling Center, this is a hands-on learning experience on how to identify and cope with your various sources of stress in healthy and productive ways. The event will be held in the Recreation Center room 201

Music in the Museum—Tuesday December 4, 6:30 PM

Ball State's Musical Arts Quintet will be performing in the David Owsley Museum of Art. The Quintet was established in 1957 and is one of the country's most distinguished chamber ensembles of its kind. The performance is free and open to the public.

Off-Campus Events

Annual Christmas Auction—Saturday, December 1, 6-7 PM

The Montpelier Lions Club will be hosting their annual auction. There will be new merchandise, and the kitchen will be open for the entirety of the auction. The Montpelier Lions Club is located on the corner of High and Jefferson in Montpelier.

Muncie Christmas Sing 2012—Sunday December 2, 2:45-5:45 PM

Join the Muncie community in ringing in some Christmas cheer! This sing-along, A Joyful Christmas, will be held at the Muncie Fieldhouse. At 4, there will be a parade down to Canan Commons for the community Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Blood Drive—Monday December 3, 3:30-7:30 PM

During the 2012 holiday season, the American Red Cross asks everyone to support its mission by giving something meaningful—giving hope to those in need. The Red Cross will be holding this blood drive at YMCA Northwest in Muncie.

Scholarly Journals

Peace Studies

The International Journal of Peace Studies

The Journal promotes discussion about various issues in peace research, including but not limited to, security systems, justice and basic human needs, survival for indigenous people, discourse on peace and war, human security, and nonviolent social change. This journal is dedicated to enhancing discourse on a wide range of theoretical issues in peace research and improving our knowledge in the quest for global peace. For this purpose, we promote the dialogue between peace research and policy making communities.

<http://www.gmu.edu/programs/icar/ijps/mission.htm>

Peace, Conflict & Development

Peace, Conflict and Development is a new open-access journal focusing on contemporary issues in Conflict and Peace Studies. It aims to publish innovative and accessible writing on a wide range of topics – human rights, democracy and democratisation, conflict resolution, environment, security, war, culture, identity and community, and other related areas of interest.

<http://www.peacestudiesjournal.org.uk/aboutus>

Journal for Peace and Justice Studies

The Center, an international leader in interdisciplinary Peace Studies, has produced The Journal for Peace and Justice Studies biannually since 1988. The Journal addresses contemporary issues as well as scholarly debates and tradition. The opinions expressed in articles and reviews are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the publishers, editors, or the Center for Peace and Justice Education, Villanova University.

For suggestions on topics please join the Peace and Justice [listserv](#).

<http://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/artsci/peaceandjustice/journal.html>

Grants and Fellowships

Middle East Regional Cooperation (MERC) - deadline: December 17

USAID's MERC program funds collaborative research projects between Israel and its Arab neighbors. The program funds a wide variety of scientific research, but most projects focus on subjects such as agriculture, water resources, health and the environment. This grant (\$1m) is open to academic institutions. Visit transition.usaid.gov/our_work/merc/program_description.html for more information.

USAID APS for Conflict Mitigation and Reconciliation—deadline: March 9, 2013

The objective of this APS (\$100,000+) is to make significant strides in the overall goal of conflict mitigation, peace, and reconciliation in selected eligible conflict-affected countries. Qualified non-profit organizations may apply for funding under this APS. Visit www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppld=138514 for more information.

Conferences

7th Annual Women's Leadership Conference—January 25, 2013

Organized by the Grace E Harris Leadership Institute, this conference's theme is Destination HIGHER Ground: Your Guide to Excellence in Leadership. The conference will be held in Richmond, Virginia. For more information, visit: <http://www.pubapps.vcu.edu/gehli/AHGWLC.htm>.

.Benjamin V. Cohen Peace Conference: Promoting nonviolence at home and beyond

Muncie, Indiana, April 5 and 6, 2013

www.bsu.edu/cohenpeaceconference

Deadline for submitting proposals: December 31, 2012

Deadline for pre-registration: March 22, 2013

Learn more about the Cohen Peace Conference at www.bsu.edu/cohenpeaceconference



Call for Proposals

To honor the legacy and dedication of Benjamin V. Cohen to resolving worldwide conflicts peacefully, on the 30th anniversary of his death, the Ball State University Center for Peace and Conflict Studies along with the City of Muncie will host this conference on nonviolence.

Scholars, students, and activists from all disciplines are invited to submit proposals to present symposia, papers, and posters on the theme "Promoting Nonviolence at Home and Beyond". Proposals will be blind reviewed. We welcome submissions that focus on strategies, research, and recommendations related to peace-making and peacebuilding, and those that explore what activism and research can offer each other.

Suggested topics include (but are not limited to):

- Community peacemaking/peacebuilding theory and praxis
- Community violence causes, analysis, alternatives, solutions
- School violence causes, analysis, alternatives, solutions
- Structural violence relative to race, gender, sexuality, class, religion
- Justice and reconciliation
- Mediation
- Volunteerism
- Restorative justice
- Community corrections
- Community organizing
- Legislative access
- Internet and social media for peacemaking/peacebuilding
- Post-conflict resolution
- National/international law and local politics
- International peacemaking/peacebuilding across borders
- Ethnic conflict
- Religious conflict
- Meditation and mindfulness

A \$100 award will be given to the best student poster!

To submit proposals, register (early registration ends March 22, 2013). To learn more about this conference, visit www.bsu.edu/cohenpeaceconference.

Questions about the conference can be directed to the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies (765-285-1622; peacecenter@bsu.edu; www.bsu.edu/peacecenter).

Benjamin V. Cohen became a major legal architect of much of the New Deal legislation including the Securities Act and the plan for Lend-Lease and economic stability during World War II. A shy man, Mr. Cohen worked behind the scenes where his brilliance as a legal draftsman was widely recognized. Following WWII, Mr. Cohen turned his talents to the problems of world peace and became one of the architects of the United Nations, serving on the U.S. delegation and on the United Nations Disarmament Commission. His abiding interest in world peace and his outstanding legal ability influenced American Presidents and world leaders until his death on August 15, 1983.

Center for Peace and Conflict Studies

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We're on Twitter! Follow
[@bsu4peace](https://twitter.com/bsu4peace) to get our latest
updates.

The Center for Peace and Conflict Studies is an interdisciplinary knowledge unit devoted to conducting research on various forms of structural and direct violence and conflict, and also dedicated to implementing projects that employ nonviolent strategies to resolve conflict.

Our programs include:

- Mediation training and services
- Meditation classes
- The Brown Bag lunch speaker series
- The Muncie Interfaith Fellowship
- The Social Justice League on-campus organization

If you would like YOUR events to be included in the newsletter, please contact:

Ahlih Bratzler (ajbratzler@bsu.edu) or

Katrina Pieri (kapieri@bsu.edu)

Disclaimer: the events described in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies

Learn more about the Cohen Peace Conference at www.bsu.edu/cohenpeaceconference