Ball State University
Center for Peace and Conflict Studies

Weekly Newsletter

Feb 21 – 27, 2013

The Olive Branch

Inside this issue:

Article	1-2
Blog of the Week	3-4
Activity	5
On-campus events	6-7
Off-campus	8
Grants	9
Conferences	9

Spotlight: Interview with John Peterson, M.D.
Physician, Musician, and Peace Activist

ME: How did you get started as a board member for the Peace Center?

DR. PETERSON: Let's see, I got an email from Larry Gerstein. Gerry Waite was also one of the members organizing it. I think they wanted to expand it to more community, and not just university people. I knew both of them pretty well.

ME: Can you tell me a little bit about your background and how you have been involved with peace-related activities?

DR. PETERSON: I was a musician and was always asked to play for anti-Vietnam war rallies. I was organizer of anti-war movement activities, especially after Kent State in 1970. I'm probably on J. Edgar Hoover's files because of my activities back then. I was playing in a black, rhythm and blues band in Alabama in 1970 before I started medical school, and at that point in Alabama that kind of thing was just outrageous. So this beady-eyed guy with a camera kept taking shots of me, hair down to my waist, making funny faces.

I continued to get involved with those issues and by the late 70s and 80s got involved with meditation programs. One of which, was an advanced technique that was shown in research studies to actually have an effect on the whole population, when practiced in a group. These ancient Vedic techniques were from this ancient tradition of the Himalayas in India. My wife became a teacher of Transcendental Meditation and we both had the opportunity to study with Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, one of the great teachers of that tradition. He started bringing out these world peace techniques where there are certain meditation practices and then something called Yogic flying, that are practiced as a group. They would have this effect on coherent brain-wave activity and that effect then would spread throughout the population. They actually did studies on it.

ME: Is this still being used today?

DR. PETERSON: Yea, in fact it's being used all the time. There's now an attempt to get square root of 1% of the world's population to be doing this, and that will affect the whole world's population. There are groups in India, a university in Iowa, and most recently in December, a group of indigenous Indians, Mexican Indians, who were practicing this technique in the Mayan temples. There's a lot of really interesting techniques and research going on. Vicki and I are planning to present that at this conference coming up (Cohen Peace Conference). We're presenting all of that group meditation affect: meditation, yogic flying, and world peace research.

ME: What got you interested in the Center? What kind of involvement do you have with the Center as a board member?

Want to be Featured in the Olive Branch?

If you are interested in being interviewed for an upcoming issue of the Olive Branch, or if you would like to write a short article, please contact e-mail us at peace-center@bsu.edu. We would absolutely love to share your message with our readers!

Spotlight cont...

DR. PETERSON: I've only been a board member for a short period, maybe less than a year. I was one of the original members of the Muncie Peace Network, back in the early to mid-80s. And that was when the point of interest was the Nuclear Freeze Movement because the Soviets and the West were arming up with these huge arsenals of nuclear weapons. There was a pediatrician from Australia named Helen Caldercot, who organized a group of doctors throughout the world to bring this up, to put some attention on it so that we could affect political process. It was called the Nuclear Freeze Movement. I got very involved with that. Physicians for Social Responsibility and Muncie Peace Network were a part of that.

I went to the Watergate hearings. That's a fun story there. I was in medical school and had a month off in the summer, so I decided to hitchhike, which I did every summer if I had the chance. I hitchhiked out to visit my sister in Washington, D.C. She was living out there and she reminded me that the Watergate hearings were going on. They were having these Senate hearings, but then they had this small area where the public could go in. When it was packed, they would shut the doors, and then whenever someone would leave you could get in. So I headed out to the mall and I got in line to hear the Watergate hearings, because I thought it would be pretty historic. At the time we didn't know, we didn't know anything about it because it was just starting. None of this information was coming out yet, but I thought it would still be interesting to go. It turned out that all of the people waiting in line were very politically savvy. There were people from all over the world, and it was a party. It was amazing! I was waiting in line, having fun, and this lady came up with a microphone and suit. She had these young guys wearing suits with her, and she came up to me and said, "Where are you from?" and I said, "Iowa." She's says, "What do you do?" and I said "I'm a medical student." And she says, "What do you think?" and I said "We knew Nixon was corrupt!" and went on and on, on this big political rant. Then she left. I got into the Watergate hearings and there wasn't any place to sit, so I found this ledge behind that had this bust of Washington. I set the bust down, and sat up there, so I could see everything. I could see everything, the lights, the cameras, the questioning. I took in the whole day, and at the end everybody left. I was just bedazzled by it thinking, 'How are these people interviewed in this manner, with such scrutiny, and still pull it off?' Anyway, I went back home, real impressed by the whole thing. In the Washington Star, there was this interview of me waiting to get into the Watergate hearings. I ended up hitchhiking back to Iowa and at the end of the summer I called my mother to let her know I was still alive and kicking. She said, "You know, we were out in Portland, Oregon visiting relatives and we were watching the Watergate hearings and there's this guy sitting up there on this ledge that looked just like you!" It was a fun story.

ME: How do you think peace-related efforts have changed over time? How are they different now than they used to be?

DR. PETERSON: I think in general, there really isn't the political interest that there was in the 60s. I mean, it goes in waves, but I really got pretty excited about the occupy movement. I thought it was great to see that kind of interest young people have, but it was mainly kind of an economic movement. You know, the 1% movement. I think it is really important, and really critical. But I think in terms of political projects and peace projects and stuff, there doesn't seem to be as much fire.

ME: Do you have hope that that will grow in the future?

DR: PETERSON: I think for people right now, the real fire comes from young people who see the honest truth in things. Right now there's so much concern with surviving economically. I've talked to some college kids who don't even know where Afghanistan is. I kind of understand it. I mean it's a real tricky economic world we live in so I can see why people don't want to get involved.

The occupy movement. I was involved with that, and provided free healthcare to those who wanted to be involved with that. My hope is that movement, which is still underground right now, still simmering, will come out. Delaware County is a tough place economically and there are a lot of poor people who aren't getting adequate support for food, healthcare, all sorts of things. I'm hoping the occupy movement continues at some level. They're doing more silent projects. It wasn't really a movement where they were looking for publicity, it was just a movement.

ME: With relation to the Peace Center, do you have any suggestions for us? How we can get the word out and boost the awareness?

DR. PETERSON: Well, I think this conference is really pretty neat. That's going to be a nice exposure. It's so interesting with Cohen's history. I think where the Center could really show itself is maybe adopting maybe one or two, major specific projects. Dealing with hatred issues locally. There is the hatred and there is the prejudice. It's not just blacks and Asians... it is gays, and that's a project there. That is a project that could really hit home.

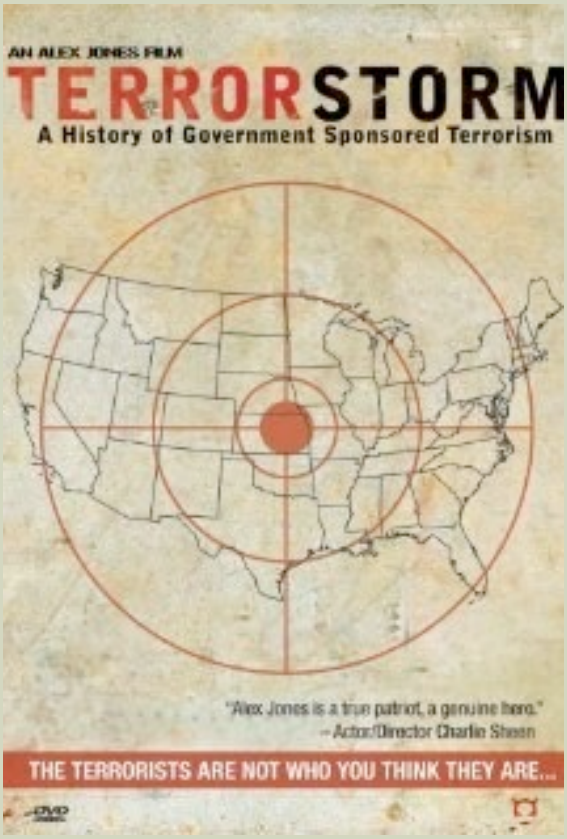
Continued on page 4...

Blog of the Week:

Media

Wesley Patrick

So far, Addicted to War has provided a very different view of the United States and its subsequent foreign policy measures that are more accurate than what is portrayed to/known to be true by the general population. This week's reading was no different. Learning about the extensive reach of corporate power into the milieu of public media was not shocking, but rather just another eye-rolling moment in which any number of solutions could be produced to remove such power and influence on the general public. Granted, I've never been a fan of overreaching corporations moving to protect their profit-led interests while ignoring public good, but maybe these corporations are onto something. If the average American citizen is so easily duped and would rather be a sponge for corporate propaganda that they are constantly bombarded with rather than turning a critical ear to said propaganda, perhaps, in order to bring about change, one simply must turn this propaganda around to fit an agenda that explores the virtues of equality, diversity and positive peace. Maybe this is cynical of me, but maybe it is time to find practical solutions to the growing warmongering epidemic rather than accepting the status quo. One may question the integrity of such a thought, however, is this idea not the same thing that Addicted to War employs? The presentation style, even though facts are produced (and presented in an undeniably skewed way), is created to make a passionate response to these injustices cited throughout the comic, and indeed it has. My question is, how much do we value unaltered truth (if such a thing exists)? While truth is presented in Addicted to War, it is, as mentioned before, skewed. So, to the writers of Addicted to War, objective truth is not as important as educating the public on the warmongering policies of the United States just like the corporations value their profit over providing American citizens with objective truth in news reporting.



"Media", continued...

Much like Addicted to War and the corporations that run public media in America, the short documentary TerrorStorm explored the art of fusing truth with a skewed perspective. However, TerrorStorm did this in a way that actually was more akin to the corporations than to Addicted to War. Blatant lies, invalid survey data, and half-truths were presented in order to create a response that favored the agenda of Alex Jones and his conspiracy theories. Yet, the person who did not think critically about the documentary and did not do their own research on the topics presented, would probably be apt to find themselves believing the contents of the documentary and being angry and afraid. This can be related to the video The Devil Came on Horseback. To add to the already dismal situation in Darfur, there is a general lack of full information on behalf of the Sudanese government and other parties involved to the Sudanese people. The Devil Came on Horseback highlighted some of the struggles of the Darfur region but also explored some of the root causes and interests that have been fueling the conflict in the region for decades. Political /social equality and economic issues/resources are just some of the causes for rebel armies to have organized in this region. Where The Devil Came on Horseback most heavily relates to the discussion on media this week is the fact that the Sudanese government located in the capital continues to skew and alter information in order to achieve its goals. This is seen in covering up much of China's economic interest in the region, to blatantly telling the public that Janjaweed militia is not tied to the current governmental regime.

All of this brings me back to my question, how much do we value objective truth? We are constantly bombarded with new information containing various shades of truth due to the growing influence of technology. The world is growing more integrated on a daily basis. How is one to know that they information that they come across is objective and not merely a perspective? So, is there any value in objective truth at all? Should truth be skewed, altered or in some cases completely thrown out in order to help the collective good; in order to bring about positive social change in which equality and positive peace are pursued? Is it different if truth is forfeited for the common good rather than for profit or personal gain? These are questions I think we all need to answer as individuals and as a species as a whole.

-Wesley Patrick

"Spotlight", continued...

DR. PETERSON: The weekend that we were closing (Docs), one of the filmmakers at Ball State, Bob Mugge, showed up. He's the Endowed Chair of the Telecommunications Department, an internationally known producer of documentary films, mostly music-related. Anyway, he walked into the club, and he ended up documenting the entire weekend for his documentary. From what I understand, his next project will relate to the classic Middletown studies of Muncie carried out in the 1920s and 1930s by Robert and Helen Lynd. Although he and his students will be collaborating on the project with Ball State's Center for Middletown Studies, perhaps Ball State's Center for Peace and Conflict Studies could assist with research or promotion. They (Bob Mugge and his wife and production partner Diana Zelman) want to make one last contribution to the Muncie community before Bob's appointment as endowed chair ends in 2014.

-Ennea Fairchild

Photo borrowed from: https://www.delta.edu/images/gps/

Activity

The Olive Branch Word Search!

N V R Y O W M W Y F B I G R F S S G O T T E C M U
M T E P V C U W W D N H B G E O T Z F D Z C W X C
N B C O N D Q L O H U M D Q U M J K F I K D B R Q
O N F R N V M J E K J J M X X Q J M R U O Z S V K
T O A H R R B G I A G X Q J U B C P E K I O S T J
Q E F T J S A X C I C I E K D S E X E V Z S J G M
H T Y N F W W F W S B V R M G C D W T B I H Q O T
L Z D A H J X O X C C C C I A R E N H V E W I C R
N A M L I T C Z Y U S H N E W J C E E C L X Y O Y
X O F I U A O J B L S X P I R D K S S Y O R S V N
H Q Z H B R E A D F O R T H E W O R L D M F S M Z
D X I P I L B U O P E K J P I Q I J A J X P O Y U
F M A F X O G U U F O Z W L P C X B V R R I V T O
N E C O N C D I F W T S S P G J B H E H I G R N Q
J H Y L S I F E S W X Y I X Q Q F B S M H Y C X S
Q L B O X J F K M J V I N T O P J Z X T Q Z N D Y
D H N O V P I L Q Y J R U A I T X G O P C M N E K
V B Y H C V A M K N O L A F Y V B I N V L L K M S
A T P C Y R A D K H G J I E E I E N M T N R D T S
M T Z S D J Y C V F U L I N S L N P S H T U P S J
L K G C H S Z J P U U Y F H R I W X E I F Z O T B
J S J E P Z G T D U T N D T B K K R K A H I J E M
K K P A W D H J O C O L B O J T E J A X C J Y Z H
W T R Z T U Z Z E K Q S G M Y S U N X M M E O N V
J S C E G K F L V R Q W T R Q F Z O M G K R D N W

BREAD FOR THE WORLD
DR WITKOWSKI
FREE THE SLAVES
OXFAM
PFEFFER PEACE PRIZE
POSITIVE PEACE
SCHOOL OF PHILANTHROPY

On-Campus Events

Wednesday, February 20th, Student Center Room 102, 12-1 pm

Culture Exchange – Zimbabwe.

Weekly Culture Exchange presentations are held every Wednesday at the Rinker Center for International Programs, SC 102 from 12pm-1pm. Each week a different country is highlighted, typically presented by a native of that country and culture. Bring a lunch or stop by the Tally for a dish inspired by the week's country and learn about the world beyond Muncie!

This week, Charlotte Nheta will present on her country, The Republic of Zimbabwe.

Thursday, February 21st, Whitinger Building Room 148, 2 pm

The Miller College of Business is hosting "Dialogue Days" in which successful Ball State alumni come speak to business classes. The College also hosts panel discussions with the alumni. On Thursday, February 21st, panelists will be discussing "Ethics, Social Responsibility, and Sustainability" in room 148 of the Whitinger Business Building at 2:00 p.m.

The Social Justice League meets at 5 pm in the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies, 310 N. McKinley Ave. For more info, email sjl@bsu.edu.

Friday, February 22nd

Rock the Cause, the Lend-A-Hand Day kickoff concert will be held in the Student Center Ballroom from 7-10pm on February 22nd. Local bands Kaitlin Klotz, Nor Heart, Coyotes, Scarlett Hill will be performing and a makeshift photo booth will be available for free portraits as well. We ask that you bring a personal care item donation (i.e. clothing, new toiletries, or nonperishable food) to be distributed to Muncie residents in need in April. The concert is sponsored by Student Voluntary Services, Women's Rugby, Glue and Scissors Society, and Dance Marathon.

Meditation in the Museum. The last hour of the weekday is reserved for quiet time at the David Owsley Museum of Art. Meditation is a great way to start off your weekend. The activity is open to everyone and is drop-in and self-guided.

February 24th-28th: National Eating Disorder Awareness Week

Counseling and Health Services will be offering eating disorder screenings all week from 11am-2pm in the Student Center Lobby and from 5-9pm at the Rec Center. (Free T-Shirt with each screening while supplies last!) Other various events throughout the week include:

Sunday, February 24th, 5-7pm Worthen Arena

Everybody Get Moving: Walk to Raise Awareness for Eating Disorders (FREE WATER BOTTLES WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!!)

Monday, February 25th, 5-6pm Park Hall Multipurpose Room
Everybody's Different: Panel Discussion about Body Image & Diversity
Tuesday, February 26th, 5-6 pm Park Hall Multipurpose Room
Healthy Eating for Everybody: How to Navigate Dining Out
Wednesday, February 27th, 5-6 pm Park Hall Multipurpose Room
Mirror Mirror on the Wall: How Media Messages Affect Everybody
Thursday, February 28th, 5-6 pm Kinghorn Hall Multipurpose Room
What Everybody Needs to Know about Dieting

On-Campus Events

Monday, February 25th

OXFAM meets Mondays at 6 pm in the basement of Bracken library. For more info, email ajhartman@bsu.edu

Building Tomorrow meets Mondays at 6:30 pm in the Schwartz Digital Complex room in Bracken Library. For more info, email ksrowe@bsu.edu

Call to Action meets Mondays at 7:30 pm in the Student Center Room #306. For more info, email lefortier@bsu.edu.

Friday, March 1st & April 5th, 8 a.m., David Owsley Art Museum

Yoga in the Museum Sculpture Court.

Wake up your morning with tension-releasing yoga lead by instructor Sarah Lyttle. Yoga mats provided or bring your own. $10 BSU affiliates, $13 BSU non-affiliates.

Please register early, minimum 8 participants is required.

To register and pay, visit: http://bsu.edu/recreation/instructional-classes.html

Tuesday, March 26th Student Center Ballroom, 2nd floor

Annual Ball State University Student Symposium Registration

Registration Deadline: Friday, February 22nd

This is a chance for students, faculty, and the Muncie community to discuss research efforts and view the connection between special projects and education. The most outstanding posters, creative or multimedia displays, and other exhibits will be awarded cash prizes at the end of the day. Every Ball State student who has participated in organized work inside or outside the classroom and was advised by a Ball State faculty member is eligible to register for the symposium.

Click here to register or view the symposium's guidelines: http://cms.bsu.edu/about/administrativeoffices/spo/spotlights/studentsymposium

Donate to the SVS 25th Annual Lend-A-Hand Day!

Student Voluntary Services is collecting donations of gently used clothing, home goods, new toiletries and non-perishable foods which will be given to Muncie residents in need at the YWCA on April 6th. Donations may be delivered to the Office of Student Life (SC 136) until March 30th or in any residence hall until March 1st. The residence hall with the most donations will win a personalized plaque to recognize their hard work!

Questions? Contact the SVS Grad Assistant, Michelle Kailey at mrkailey@bsu.edu or 765-285-3535.

Spring 2013 (time varies), Lucina Hall

Counseling Center Group Therapy

The Counseling Center offers a large variety of therapy sessions that are completely free to Ball State students. Just a few of these groups include:

Understanding Self & Others- a discussion and discovery of understanding and acceptance of themselves and others

Journey to Wholeness- a supportive group for survivors of sexual trauma

Safe Haven- supportive group for GLBTQ students to discuss topics including family concerns, support, relationships, depression, personal growth and more

Kaleidoscope- a supportive group for ethnic/racial minorities to discuss topics including discrimination, identity of self, family concerns, body image, and more

You can find more information about these and more groups here: https://apps.bsu.edu/CommunicationsCenter/Story.aspx?MessageGuid=a83cc747-5339-43e1-8e42-a9726d5e097f

Call 285-1736 to sign up for one of these free groups.

Off-Campus Events

Thursday, February 21st

Fast for Gaza will meet at 12 noon at Christian Theological Seminary, 1100 W. 42. For more info, contact Lew Weiss at ljweiss@clarian.org or 962-8580.

There will be an Anti-death Penalty Witness, 12:30-1:30 pm, at the east steps of the State House, Capitol Ave. and Market, sponsored by The Indiana Information Center on the Abolition of Capital Punishment (IICACP). Bring a sign or use one of ours; come for any part of the hour. For more info, phone 466-7128.

Christians for Peace & Justice in the Middle East will meet at 6 pm at the home of Dottie Gerner. Bring a sandwich. For more info or directions, phone Dottie Gerner at 283-7175.

Friday, February 22nd

The weekly vigil protesting warfare will take place, 4:30-5:30 pm, in front of the Federal Building, Michigan and Pennsylvania, sponsored by the Indianapolis Peace and Justice Center. Bring an appropriate sign or have one provided. For more info, phone Gilbert Kuhn at 403-2835 or email Ron Haldeman at ronjane@igc.org

Saturday, February 23rd

C.U.R.E. (Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants) will hold a monthly meeting, 10-12 am, at North United Methodist Church, W. 38 & Meridian. For more info, phone Marilyn Reed at 352-0358 or Lela Ewers at 831-0765.

[Nashville] There will be a Peace Vigil on the theme "War Is Not The Answer!" at 6 pm at Brown County Courthouse, Main and Van Buren Streets sponsored by Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (Brown County branch). For more info, contact Tom Hougham at 878-4210 or annntom@hotmail.com

Sunday, February 24th

The last of three sessions on “Why the Conflict? Seeking to Understand the Israeli/Palestinian Tension” will take place, 6:30-8 pm, in Fellowship Hall at St. Luke’s United Methodist Church. For more info, email Terrie Coe at coet@stlukesumc.com

Thursday, February 28th, 1-4 pm

IUPUI Campus Center room 450 (420 University Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46202)

IUPUI is hosting a Nonprofit Expo on February 28th from 1-4 pm. Students, alumni, and other community members are welcome to attend this free event to meet with a variety of nonprofit, government, and community partners about internship, volunteer, and job opportunities. More than 45 organizations exhibited last year and several hundred people attended.

For more information, visit www.spea.iupui.edu/npexpo or contact Rachel Hathaway at npexpo@iupui.edu.

Christians for Peace and Justice in the Middle East: “Tears of Gaza”

Chistians for Peace and Justice in the Middle East is bringing the film “Tears of Gaza” to central Indiana for four screenings:

1) Wed Feb 20 at 7 pm at the Student Center of IUPUI (420 University Blvd, basement level)

2) Thur Feb 21 at 8 pm at the Schwitzer Center (room 010) on the University of Indianapolis campus

3) Fri Feb 22 at 6 pm at the Eman School at 11965 Allisonville Road in Fishers

4) Sat Feb 23 at 7 pm at the Landrum Bolling Center on the campus of Earlham College in Richmond. For the final three evening screenings, Fidaa Abuassi (see below) will be present.

Grants and Fellowships

International Pfeffer Peace Prize-deadline March 2, 2013
Each year, the Fellowship of Reconciliation awards three peace prizes to individuals or organizations whose commitment to peace, justice, and reconciliation is recognized as extraordinary. The International Pfeffer Peace Prize was established in 1989 by Leo and Freda Pfeffer to particularly honor those around the world working for peace and justice.

Walter Isard Award for the Best Dissertation in Peace Science-deadline June 1, 2013
The Walter Isard Award for the Best Dissertation in Peace Science is given every two years. The award honors outstanding contributions to the scientific knowledge of peace and conflict. The winner is selected on the basis of the importance and scientific significance of the dissertation with respect to the field of peace science and its contribution to the understanding of international behavior more generally.

Morton Deutsch Conflict Resolution Award-deadline June 15, 2013
The award recognizes achievement in integrating theory and practice in conflict resolution.

Conferences

Benjamin V. Cohen Peace Conference: Promoting nonviolence at home and beyond
Muncie, Indiana, April 5 and 6, 2013
www.bsu.edu/cohenpeaceconference
Deadline for pre-registration: March 22, 2013

Notre Dame Student Peace Conference 2013
Notre Dame, Indiana, April 5 and 6, 2013
Registration materials will be available soon.

Rotary Club of Londonderry Global Peace Forum
Derry-Londonderry, Ireland, May 4-26, 2013
The aim of the Derry~Londonderry Forum is to contribute to Reconciliation, Learning and Full Self Expression for those involved in peacemaking and peacebuilding throughout the world.

Center for Peace and Conflict Studies

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We're on Twitter! Follow @bsu4peace to get our latest updates.

"LIKE" us on Facebook! Ball State University Peace Center

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:

Ennea Fairchild (eafairchild@bsu.edu) *or*

Erin Silcox (esilcox@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