



The Olive Branch

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The Olive Branch is a publication of the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies at Ball State University. Every issue, we shine a spotlight on people, events, campus groups, conferences, and organizations who are working towards a more peaceful world.



Women's Strike for Peace



**BALL STATE
UNIVERSITY**

EST. 1918



Theresa Flores: Fighting Human Trafficking



The Ball State University Center for Peace and Conflict Studies along with the City of Muncie are very pleased to announce that the 4th Benjamin V. Cohen Peace Conference: Building a Beloved Community, will be taking place on March 27th-28th, 2020!

The conference is a biannual event hosted by the Ball State Center for Peace and Conflict Studies since 2013.

- Conference features scholars, students, practitioners, and activists from diverse disciplines.
- Presentations on strategies, research, & suggestions tied to building nonviolent communities.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. popularized the concept Beloved Community. For Dr. King, this is a community where hunger, homelessness, poverty, racism, discrimination, and hatred are unacceptable, conflicts are resolved nonviolently, and reconciliation is inherent. The 4th Cohen Conference will feature presentations that address Building a Beloved Community, community peacebuilding, race relations, preventing school and university violence, poverty, human rights, and environmental preservation, amongst other themes.

The [keynote speakers](#) of the conference are:

- BSU President Geoffrey S. Mearns
- Muncie Mayor Dan Ridenour
- BSU Provost Susana Rivera-Mills
- Ross Foundation Founder and Activist, Derris Ross

Click [here](#) to find out more about the conference, and click [here](#) to register!

The Women's Strike for Peace: Responding to Male Militarism

In October of 1961, notable American feminists Bella Abzug and Dagmar Wilson were outraged by the discovery of radioactive isotopes showing up in human breast milk and cow's milk as a result of nuclear fission. Nuclear fission, in this case, referred to the nuclear testing done in the atmosphere over United States (U.S.) lands and on Pacific islands; between the U.S. and the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) during the Cold War. This caused nuclear particles to spread across U.S. lands, regardless of the location of testing sites. These "tests" came to serve as an indication (and warning) of mutually assured destruction, and the nuclear weapons possessed by both countries.



Women striking at the Nevada Nuclear Testing Site during the first Women's Strike for Peace, 1961.

In an expression of their outrage, Women Strike for Peace (WSP) was created with the intent to pressure the U.S. and Soviet Union to stop all testing of nuclear weapons. The two activists, Azbug and Wilson, then made a call to action to all mothers, framing their opposition to nuclear weapons as a motherhood issue and accusing the U.S. of being "unpatriotic." They believed that in calling on mothers, they could convince the average woman to work for peace. Six weeks later, their call was answered by thousands of women across the U.S.

On November 1st, 1961, fifty thousand women marched in 60 cities around the U.S. in this "Strike for Peace," demanding that world leaders "End the Arms Race – Not the Human Race". This incredible turnout made it the largest U.S. women's peace protest in the 20th century and made the organization one of the most significant movement groups of the Cold War.

The Women's Strike for Peace: Responding to Male Militarism

People across the U.S. were stunned to see the vast numbers of predominantly middle class, white mothers expressing themselves so publicly and forcefully — an act with such magnitude and publicity was unprecedented by women at this time and status in American society. Just two years later in 1963, the U.S. and Soviet Union signed the Partial Test Ban Treaty, which proved the significance of WSP's activism.

By the mid 1960s, the focus of WSP shifted to protesting the Vietnam War, making it one of the earliest opponents of the war. They organized multiple public demonstrations, met with women from North and South Vietnam, organized boycotts, met with the United Nations and political figures, and helped support draft resisters throughout the duration of the war. In all of their protests throughout the decades, the main goal of the organization and the women running it was to protect their families from the dangers of nuclear testing and a male-dominated militarism.



WSP protesting the Vietnam War, years after their initial strike against nuclear testing.

Today, the Women's Strike for Peace is renowned for its lack of official hierarchy and exclusive dependence of women volunteers across the U.S. to bring peace to the lives of civilians. WSP has planted the seeds for many other social justice organizations and movements, most notably the Women's March of 2017. This movement had an incredible impact on the American public's perception of peace, and also sparked the "concerned mother" movements that still exist for various causes today. Ultimately, WSP pushed to transform the vision of mother from a "passive victim of war to active fighter for peace" (Parrish, 2019).

References

Parrish, N. (2019). Women Need to March on for Peace. Retrieved from www.wand.org/single-post/2018/11/01/Women-Need-to-March-on-for-Peace

Theresa Flores: Fighting Human Trafficking

January is National Slavery and Trafficking Awareness Month, but Theresa Flores’s advocacy for these causes have an impact all year round. Statistics vary wildly in their estimates of the number of individuals in both labor and sex slavery in the United States. Trafficking, the transporting of these victims of sex slavery, is the second leading crime in the world according to UNICEF (2019). For Flores, this issue became personal when she was sex trafficked at the age of 15. Since her escape, she has been raising awareness about issues of sex slavery and trafficking through her publications, television appearances, involvement in Michigan legislature, and the creation of the nonprofit organization “Save Our Adolescents from Prostitution” (SOAP).

Through her story, Flores emphasized that she does not seem like a typical sex trafficking victim—growing up in an ordinary family in Detroit, Michigan. However, she was raped by an older classmate who she trusted and who soon became her pimp. Photos of the assault were taken and used as blackmail against her. Fearing that no one would believe her story, Flores became a victim of sex trafficking as a result of her pimp’s endless commands. She was transported multiple times a week in the middle of the night to motels and basements and forced to serve clients, often while drugged. She finally escaped both her assaulter and the prostitution industry when her family moved out of Detroit.



Theresa Flores, founder of SOAP (Save Our Adolescents from Prostitution)

When Flores was able to speak up about the incident, it became clear to her that her life’s calling was to raise awareness about sex slavery and trafficking in the US. She authored two books, *The Slave across the Street* and *Sacred Bath*, to share her story. The response to her story garnered the attention of the media, and she has since been featured on *The 700 Club*, *The Today Show*, *MSNBC’s Sex Slaves: The Teen Trade*, *Nightline*, *America’s Most Wanted*, and *For the*

Theresa Flores: Fighting Human Trafficking

In addition, Flores's advocacy reached the State of Michigan legislature, where bills have since been passed that criminalize those soliciting minors, making their crimes felonies with an added registration as sex offenders. Other bills resulting from her efforts removed prostitution-related offenses from victims' records and created Michigan's Human Trafficking Victims Compensation Act, a precedent for similar measures nationwide.

In 2010, Flores founded SOAP (soaproject.org), a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising awareness about sex trafficking and increasing individuals' access to a the sex trafficking hotline number. Volunteers have been mobilized to distribute bars of soap wrapped with the hotline number in order to discretely reach victims of trafficking held in motels and hotels across the country. Pictures of missing children and bars of soap with hotline numbers are particularly focused in areas surrounding large events such as the Super Bowl, other sporting events, conferences, and the Indy 500 that are often magnets for traffickers and their transported victims. As of 2019, over 100,000 volunteers have distributed more than one million bars of soap nationwide.

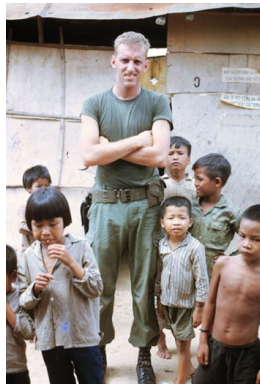


Bars of soap distributed by
Theresa Flores's organization SOAP.

The efforts of Theresa Flores have been a vital contribution to peace work aimed at ending sex slavery in the 21st century. Her advocacy in the legislature has given a voice to the victims of trafficking and her efforts to distribute hotlines and missing children reports has led to countless arrests and rescues. The longer pornography and prostitution industries demand underage children, the longer this form of social injustice will prevail. In a nation that claims to embody liberty and peace, the ongoing existence of human trafficking must be stopped. Thanks to the work of Theresa Flores, victims of sex slavery are one step closer to freedom.

Viet Nam: Remnants of a War by Gerald Waite

The American war in Viet Nam has left an indelible impression on veterans and their families in the U.S., in Viet Nam, and countries such as Korea whose soldiers were also combatants. As a former soldier in that war, I was an army officer assigned to the U.S. Marine Corps as a refugee advisor in Central coastal Viet Nam. I was involved in resettlement operations and village building attempts--some successful, some not. In 2004, I was awarded the Cohen Peace Fellowship to return to Viet Nam and study a village I had lived in during the war. My stated goal was to learn how people in that village had rebuilt their lives since the war. During this trip I learned of a massacre that had happened in the village area just before I lived there in 1970. Several South Korean Marines had found a party of 36 women and children foraging food and shot all of them. I interviewed the only survivor and some related family members of others. Upon my return to the U.S., I researched how our alliances came to be in that war, in an effort to understand several massacres that happened in that area of Quang Nam Province. What I learned was published in an article entitled Outsourcing a War: What you get for your Mercenary Dollar. It was printed in the Journal of World Peace in 2014. I didn't think much about it again till 2019.



Left: 1st Lt. Gerry Waite, Vietnam 1970 with “bombfinder kids”



Right: Village at Go Noi that Gerry helped build & lived in

In January of 2019, Koh kyoung-Tae, a reporter for Hankyoreh newspaper in Korea, emailed and asked for more specifics from my interviews of survivors. A Korean magazine article was subsequently published. In April, I was contacted by the Korean-Viet Nam Peace Foundation in Seoul and asked if I would travel to Korea for a speaking engagement in November of 2019. Since they offered expenses and a stipend I said absolutely yes!

Viet Nam: Remnants of a War by Gerald Waite

The trip turned out to be for two different events: the first, a museum exhibit opening, an archival exhibition of interviews and pictures of atrocity sites with a BBC interview; the second, a keynote speech at Seoul National University for the conference titled Beyond Viet Nam. At the conference there were two keynote speakers, myself and Khuat Quang Thuy, a North Vietnamese war veteran and a noted fiction author. In preparation for the talks I was informed that many people in Korea had read my 2014 article and that I should prepare a talk that was related but not the same. Consequently, I used the title of this piece, Viet Nam: Remnants of a War, in which I discussed the longevity and costs of ghosts arising from situations like the aforementioned massacre. People in Korea have similar belief systems to Viet Nam but most of the people I was in contact with in Korea considered that to be old-fashioned and passé. Even though the talk was delivered with real-time translation, attendees judging by their questions, understood the talk well. The question and answer session lasted far beyond the conference time and extended to the dinner afterwards.

Gerry Waite and Khuat Quang Thuy at Seoul National University Beyond Vietnam



Gerry with Mr. Hung at Go Noi — former enemies. A 2014 peace article was based around the massacre of his family.

During the week's meals and tours in Seoul, I talked to several Korean veterans of the war and Mr. Thuy, the veteran from the opposing side in the war. Initially I had been concerned about accepting this speaking engagement because I was afraid the Koreans would be critical of the “mercenary” terminology from the article. They weren't in the least. Most that I talked to understood the gist of the article as being critical of the American conduct of the war and agreed with the “mercenary” concept. Mr. Thuy, my former enemy, and I couldn't talk much because of language but we palled around the city and ate together like the brothers-in-arms that we are.

We made our own peace.

CONFERENCES

10-11th February, 2020	<p>International Conference on Amnesty, Peace, Politics, and Human Rights The ICAPPHR conference gathers scientists, researchers, and scholars for the interdisciplinary discussion of amnesty, peace, politics, and human rights. Located in Barcelona, Spain</p>
18th February, 2020	<p>Geneva Summit for Human Rights and Democracy This conference assembles victims, activists, diplomats, and journalists to advocate for current human rights issues requiring global attention. Located in Geneva, Switzerland</p>
21-22nd February, 2020	<p>International Conference on Geological and Environmental Sustainability This conference will include participants and speakers around the world to cultivate an interactive forum for scientific cooperation and exchange on current environmental issues. Located in Spanish Town, Jamaica</p>
27-28 February, 2020	<p>International Conference on Media, Peace, and Economy The ICMPE conference is a platform for interdisciplinary presentation and exchange of ideas surrounding recent innovations, trends, and challenges surrounding the fields of media, peace, and the economy. Located in Tokyo, Japan</p>

ON AND OFF CAMPUS EVENTS

<p>6th February, 2020 2:00PM-3:00PM BL 104</p>	<p>Occupied Territory: Policing Black Chicago from Red Summer to Black Power Dr. Balto was awarded the Cohen Peace Fellowship in 2017, during which time he conducted a research study on the topic of this lecture. He has published a book with the same title.</p>
<p>6th February, 2020 6:00PM-8:00PM Student Center Ballroom</p>	<p>Race and Police: Historical and Contemporary Issues of Policing Brown and Black Communities Dr. Boyd will be joined by two historians of African American history and policing, Dr. Simon Balto and Dr. Max Felker Kantor.</p>
<p>8th February, 2020 8:00AM-10:00AM Muncie Fieldhouse</p>	<p>Walk a Mile in My Shoes The 16th annual Walk a Mile in My Shoes fundraiser aids Muncie Mission in providing food and shelter to those in our community who are homeless or struggling with addiction.</p>

ORGANIZATIONS

International Justice Mission

IJM is a global organization that protects the poor from violence in the developing world. IJM fights by rescuing victims, bringing criminals to justice, restoring survivors, and strengthening justice systems. The group meets Tuesdays at 6:00PM in the Student Center, room 301.

Cardinal Kitchen

Cardinal Kitchen is Ball State University's campus food pantry. The pantry is located on the second floor of the Multicultural Center and is available for use to all undergraduate and graduate students. The pantry is open the last three Tuesdays of every month from 5:00-8:00PM. Its mission is to ensure that no Ball State student goes hungry on our campus.

MOSAIC

MOSAIC is a social justice peer education program whose mission is to engage undergraduate students in open dialogues focused on diversity and social justice topics to promote awareness, change, and inter-group understanding.

Global Brigades

Global Brigades is an international non-profit organization that empowers communities to meet their health and economic goals through university volunteers and local teams.

Feminists for Action

Feminists for Action is a group dedicated to the empowerment of women, men, and children through advocacy and education. They strive to educate others about issues in the global, national, and community level. They encourage thought-provoking discussions and work to organize events to benefit feminist causes. FA meets Mondays from 6:30–7:30PM in Burkhardt Building Room 109.

Ethnic Theatre Alliance

The purpose of Ethnic Theatre Alliance is to explore worldviews of cultures, diversity, and social justice in order to educate members through Fine Arts. They do this in accordance with the Ball State University mission to create a community for the members to learn and develop worldview cultures so they may become better artists and people.

OFF-CAMPUS GROUPS

- A Better Way
- AWAKEN
- Edible Muncie of Delaware County
- Islamic Center
- Muncie Action Plan
- Muncie Human Rights Commission
- Muncie Interfaith Fellowship
- Muncie OUTreach
- National Alliance on Mental Illness
- YWCA
- Whitely Community Council
- United Way of Delaware County
- Blood N Fire

ORGANIZATIONS CONTINUED

Ball State University Social Justice League

The Ball State University Social Justice League (S JL) is an organization of students and faculty members united by their commitment to social justice. The S JL seeks to change social institutions, political and economic systems, and governmental structures that perpetuate unfair practices, structures, and policies in terms of accessibility, resource distribution, and human rights.

Student Action Team

SAT is an organization made up of general members and housing and residence life representatives. This organization is dedicated to volunteering and supporting Ball State University. SAT meets 4PM on Mondays in the Kinghorn multipurpose room. This organization can be contacted through an email to Housing and Residence Life at housing@bsu.edu.

Spectrum

Spectrum's goal is to provide an anonymous, healthy and safe place for Ball State University students and surrounding communities who are discovering their sexual orientation to help find an understanding network of support. Spectrum meets Thursdays at 8:00 PM in SC 310. Prior to meetings, they meet to have informal family dinner in the Tally at 6:30PM.

OXFAM America

Oxfam America is a global organization working to right the wrongs of poverty, hunger, and injustice. Oxfam saves lives, develops long-term solutions to poverty, and campaigns for social change.

Students for Life

Ball State Students for Life (BSSFL) is committed to the protection of all human life; from conception until natural death. They strive to educate members and the Ball State University community about why they value life in all its forms. They strive to respond with love, compassion, and support to those who suffer from restrictions of life. BSSFL meets every Wednesday from 6:30-8PM in the Whiting Business Building room 142.

Call to Action

Call to Action (CTA) is a student organization at Ball State looking to educate and create awareness of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) political issues at the local, state, and federal levels in order to empower students to take positive action towards equality for LGBT individuals and to influence others to take positive action. CTA has meetings on Mondays at 7:30PM in Teacher's College room 108.

BSU COUNSELING CENTER SUPPORT GROUPS

Every year, students, faculty, and staff members use the services of the Counseling Center at BSU. Their comprehensive services office provides free and confidential psychological and career resources to students. Call (765) 285-1736 or stop by Lucina Hall, Room 320.



Mindfulness

This four week skills group will provide you with the opportunity to learn and practice various mindfulness skills. This group meets Tuesdays at 3:00PM, starting 2/4/20.

Understanding Self and Others

This group will meet weekly throughout the semester and will include discussions surrounding topics like depression, anxiety, and family issues. This group meets Mondays at 3:00PM or on Wednesdays at 3:00PM. Start date TBD.

Weight Not, Want Not

This group will meet weekly throughout the semester and will provide a supportive environment for women with eating disorders and/or body image struggles to find ways to cope. Start date & time TBA.

Safe Haven

This group will meet weekly throughout the semester and will provide a space safe for members of the LGBTQIA+ community to discuss shared experiences and offer support to one another. Safe Haven meets every Wednesday at 3:00PM. Start date TBD.

Surviving and Thriving

Surviving and Thriving is be aimed to help sexual assault survivors. In this group, students share their experiences, find ways to cope, and gain perspective. This group meets on Thursdays at 11:00AM, starting 1/30/20.

Building Resiliency

This four week workshop helps you learn useful skills to empower you to build resiliency when things feel out of control. Meets Thursdays at 2:00PM, starting 2/6/20.

Loss and Grief

This group will meet weekly throughout the semester and will provide a supportive environment that includes discussions about normal grief and loss and the tasks involved in the grieving process.

Stress Less

This group will meet weekly throughout the semester and will focus on managing anxiety and depression symptoms, managing stress, improving self-esteem, and identifying healthy coping skills to better improve self-care. This group meets on Wednesdays at 3:30PM starting on 1/29/20.

ABOUT US

The Center for Peace and Conflict Studies is an interdisciplinary center whose mission is to pursue research on structural and direct forms of violence and conflict; to implement nonviolent strategies to resolve conflict; to offer mediation services to individuals, groups, and organizations; and to train people in conflict resolution, mediation, peace-building, leadership, meditation, and sportspersonship skills. The center also pursues public diplomacy, sports diplomacy, and cultural exchange as part of local, regional, national, and international projects designed to promote mutual understanding, appreciation, cooperation, and respect. Our services include monthly events, newsletters, the Social Justice League, the Muncie Interfaith Fellowship, meditation classes, mediation training and services.

Staff Members

- Director: Lawrence Gerstein, Ph.D.
- Research Fellow: Gerald Waite
- Curriculum Coordinator: Steven Hall, Ph.D.
- Outreach Coordinator: Beth Messner, Ph.D.
- Graduate Assistant: Aashna Banerjee
- Interns: Adrian Scott, Audrey Loomis, Marla Summers, Star Shomongo

To include your events in the newsletter, please write to abanerjee@bsu.edu

Come visit us!

- We are located at 310 McKinley Avenue, Muncie, 47306
- Located inside the white house across the street from the campus shuttle bus stop at the BSU Student Center!
- Our doors are open 10 AM-4 PM Monday through Friday.

Do drop by!



Follow us!

