



## Veterans For Peace Chapter 74 – The Michael Gramlich - Metro Detroit Chapter

Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Monroe Counties

[www.vfp74.org](http://www.vfp74.org) - Steve Saelzler - Chapter Coordinator - [saetzler@comcast.net](mailto:saetzler@comcast.net) – 734-675-4138

(home) – 734-674-0688 (cell)

Also, visit us on Facebook, and “like” us at [www.facebook.com/VFP74](https://www.facebook.com/VFP74)

### May 2021 VFP Chapter 74 News Update

Receiving this Update by email but not yet a Veterans For Peace member? Please consider joining! Non-veterans can join as an Associate Member. The more VFP members there are, the more we can do. For membership information visit <https://www.veteransforpeace.org/donate/join-renew>

#### 1. Next VFP Chapter 74 Meeting – Saturday, May 15th – 2pm – ***By Zoom Teleconference Only***

Due to the Corona pandemic, and the closure of our regular (Swords Into Plowshares Peace Center) meeting location, the Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup> Veterans For Peace Chapter 74 meeting will be by Zoom teleconference only. There will be no face-to-face meeting. To participate, a few minutes before 2pm, May 15th, click on...

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89741129850?pwd=aVN2QlF4VmZ6eFA5MXVTdWNwN05hUT09>

Anyone can participate in this meeting, or any other VFP Chapter 74 event, be they veteran or not. The Veterans For Peace Chapter 74 meeting agenda is below...

1. Introductions and welcome
  - a. VFP mission statement
  - b. Members and guests present – Member news
2. General business
  - a. Treasury report
  - b. Membership
  - c. Other
3. Old Business
  - a. Peace Pole WSU & Schools
  - b. Arlington Michigan Memorial Day display
  - c. Deported Veterans Mural Project
  - d. Other
4. New Business
5. Upcoming events
6. Adjournment – Next meeting date

#### 2. VFP Arlington Michigan Display In Downtown Detroit On Memorial Day – May 31st



Veterans For Peace Chapters 74 and 93 have again joined forces to set up the Veterans For Peace Arlington Michigan display (one grave marker for every Michigan soldier killed in the Afghan and Iraq wars – 230 total) in downtown Detroit on Memorial Day. The purpose of this display is to honor those who have fallen, to provide a place to grieve, and to educate the public about the costs of war, as well as the needs of those returning from conflicts. The display will be held on Monday, May 31st, 11am to 5pm, in downtown Detroit's Grand Circus

Park (Woodward at East Adams – map link at <https://goo.gl/maps/MjhWcB4ospmmwwFu6>).

Volunteers are very much needed to help set up the display starting at 10am (assemble in Grand Circus Park by the dog park area near Woodward) with setup taking an hour. Additional volunteers are needed to staff the display throughout the day and also take the display down at 5pm (takes around a 1/2 hour). If you can help out please contact Steve Saelzler 734-674-0688 - email [saetzler@comcast.net](mailto:saetzler@comcast.net).

#### 3. Mother's Day Peace Walk In Detroit



This walk and rally is a Mother's Day tradition to help bring Mothers Day back to it's roots as a day of peace and justice ([www.zinnedproject.org/news/tdih/mothers-day-for-peace](http://www.zinnedproject.org/news/tdih/mothers-day-for-peace)). Sunday, May 9th, 9am to 10am with a 2021 theme of “Peace:Rooting the Soul of Justice”. Sponsored by Women Walking Woodward for Peace. Meet up on the west and east side of Woodward Avenue at Grand Circus Park.

Signs and banners provided. Come in Peace to drum, sing, dance & pray. Supported by Citizens for Peace, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Meta-Peace Team, UU Detroit, Swords Into Plowshares Peace Center and Gallery and Passing the Torch - Preserving the Flame. Please wear masks and observe physical distancing. For more information, contact Anita: [j.anita.809@otmail.com](mailto:j.anita.809@otmail.com) or visit [www.facebook.com/womenwalkingwoodwardforpeace](http://www.facebook.com/womenwalkingwoodwardforpeace).

#### 4. Welcoming New Immigrants



VFP Chapter 74 Chair Steve Saelzler is inviting anyone to welcome new refugees to the metro Detroit region Fridays at Detroit's Clark Park on the corner of Verner and Clark (map at <https://tinyurl.com/ClarkPark-Map>) from 3:45pm to 4:45pm. The name of the event is We Stand With Our Neighbors Immigration Vigil This weekly vigil was started in response to school children in Southwest Detroit whose teachers and counselors are deeply concerned about the trauma students are experiencing as they face the threat and reality of detention and deportations. Our message is: No deportations! No ban! No wall! No harassment and intimidation!

The vigil is hosted by the Sisters of Mercy; IHM Sisters; Pax Christi Michigan; Detroit Marygrove Pax Christi; Amnesty International - Detroit Chapter; University of Detroit Jesuit JustPeace; Friends of Immigrants; Congregation of St. Joseph; Home Visitors of Mary; Detroit Metro Interfaith Worker Justice; Neighbors and Educators from Southwest Detroit. Their Facebook page is [www.facebook.com/WeStandWithOurNeighbors](http://www.facebook.com/WeStandWithOurNeighbors).

If you have Veterans For Peace hats or other gear, please wear (or bring) them. The VFP Chapter will bring four VFP flags and some signs/banners will be available to borrow. For questions or more information about this event please call or text Steve at 734-674-0688.

#### 5. Fireworks-Free Fourth

Keeping in mind that loud explosions can trigger PTSD in many veterans, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency are highlighting quieter camping options around the Fourth of July. Visit [Michigan.gov/FireworksFreeFourth](http://Michigan.gov/FireworksFreeFourth) to view a list of suggested parks.

#### 6. Announcement, Anniversaries & Reminders

Sunday, May 9, 7:30 p.m. Celebrant's Flame Book Launch - Online event.

Sunday, May 9 marks the 100th anniversary of Daniel Berrigan's birth and also the publication launch of Celebrant's Flame: Daniel Berrigan in Memory and Reflection, a new book by Rev. Bill Wylie-Kellermann. You are invited to a celebration of both, a zoom gathering of music, art, and word. Participants include author Bill Wylie-Kellermann, with Kateri Boucher, Frida Berrigan, Kathy Kelly, John Bach, troubadour Charlie King, Eric Martin, John Dear, Jim Reale and Fa Terrence Moran. Rev. Bill Wylie Kellerman is a lifelong activist for peace and justice and a leader in the Michigan Poor People's Campaign, People's Water Board Coalition and others activist organizations for justice. For those of you that may be unfamiliar with Daniel Berrigan, [HERE](#) is a Wikipedia entry (not vouching for its accuracy). Register on Eventbrite and receive the zoom link in your email. <https://www.eventbrite.com/.../celebrants-flame-book...>

#### August 12-15 – Veterans For Peace National Convention (Online)

More information at <https://www.vfpconvention.org>

#### VFP National Online Social Hours

VFP has experimented with VFP Social Hours and members enjoyed the chance to chat and catch up (or meet) with other Veterans For Peace members. VFP will continue these every Thursday at 6pm. (EDT). To join the Social Hour, go to <https://zoom.us/j/324812650> or go to <https://zoom.us/join> and click join meeting and enter in Meeting ID: 324 812 650

#### VFP Open Mike Session – Every Friday

The Veterans For Peace Open Mic will take place every Friday from 8pm-12am CST live from the [VFP Facebook page](#) and [YouTube channel](#). Selected artists will receive 7-10 minutes to share their music with a live audience. Artists are welcome to share pre-recorded videos or tune in and perform live (with prior approved soundcheck). For more information visit <https://default.salsalabs.org/T29e41f2d-3aa2-4a20-a424-47b81d44c964/ac2d1723-28ae-4fc8-a164-aa3cdd82bea9>

### VFP John Lennon Birthday Benefit Concert CD

VFP Chapter 93, just to the west of us, has a compact disc (CD) recording of the musical artists performing at their October John Lennon Birthday Benefit Concerts over the years for our Chapter's Peace Scholarship program. And like the Concert, a purchase of the CD also goes to benefit the Peace Scholarship program. The John Lennon Birthday Benefit Concert CD can be purchased for \$15, plus \$3 for shipping, by PayPal by visiting [www.vfp93.org/john-lennon-concert-cd](http://www.vfp93.org/john-lennon-concert-cd).

### Veterans For Peace National Weekly E-News List

Get updates on upcoming VFP national actions, ongoing campaigns and news from chapters across the country. Additionally, the e-news provides resources and helpful tips for engaging your own actions. To sign up visit <https://veteransforpeace.salsalabs.org/ebblast0/index.html>.

### A Simple Way To Promote VFP - Wear Your VFP T-Shirt!

Help spread the word about Veterans For Peace by wearing a VFP t-shirt, sweatshirt or button around your town or in your travels. Not only does this introduce the public to the fact that there are veterans who stand for peace but can help bring additional veterans into the organization. Don't have a VFP t-shirt or button? Order them by visiting <https://shopvfp.org> (secure, online sales available).

### Our VFP Chapter Can Use Your Help

Currently our VFP Chapter has only a few people doing all the work and projects and to say we could use help is an understatement. Most of these jobs don't take up that much time at all, and would help out the Chapter immensely. One thing we are trying to promote is for people to sign up for a "volunteer email list". We always need extra people to help staff events like the Arlington Michigan display on Memorial/Veterans Day. Just tell us you want to be on the volunteer e-mail list and when an event date starts rolling around, we will email you to see if you can help out. If you can, great. If not, we understand. Even if you are not a veteran, we could still use your help. To be placed on the "volunteer email list", just send an email to Steve Saelzler (Chapter Coordinator) at [saenzler@comcast.net](mailto:saenzler@comcast.net) or call at 734-675-4138 (home) – 734-674-0688 (cell) and he will get back in touch with you. Thanks in advance for your consideration of this request!!!

### Metro Detroit Peace Events Calendar

For a complete update of Metro Detroit area, visit the Gray Panthers of Metro Detroit website at [www.graypanthersmetrodetroit.org/events-calendar](http://www.graypanthersmetrodetroit.org/events-calendar).

### VFP Michigan Peace Scholarships

Applications are being taken now for the Veterans For Peace Michigan Peace Scholarships, sponsored by VFP Chapter 93. The Scholarships, out of an endowment provided by Yoko Ono to Veterans For Peace, are awarded to college students enrolled in a peace studies or conflict resolution related program. Awards are given to either Michigan residents, or students enrolled at a Michigan college, with a preference given to military veterans. For more information, visit [www.vfp93.org](http://www.vfp93.org).