



August 2013

Peace Economy Project   
Cut Military Spending. Fund Human Needs.



*"...they shall beat their swords into plowshares..."*

## Report Back from DC: Annual appeal to Congress to cut Pentagon waste



The last week of July was an exciting time in Washington DC. Activists demanding comprehensive immigration reform were risking arrest. Congress was finishing up their summer session. And the Peace

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### Save the dates!

#### National Strike Against Low Pay

Thursday, August 29th  
4:30 p.m.  
11N 4th Street, St Louis

Unite with fast-food workers in St. Louis who are standing up for good jobs and an end to unfair labor practices

#### Unpacking Bias: Understanding Privilege and Oppression

Saturday, September 7th  
8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Economy Project was on Capitol Hill ensuring that voices speaking out against excessive Pentagon bloat were heard.

Congressional Lobby Intern Ricky Shah and I headed out to DC with a list of meetings and a pile of signatures, 412 in total, to be delivered to 75 different Congressional offices. We had meetings with legislative aides from the offices of Missouri Representatives Lacy Clay, Ann Wagner, Jason Smith, Blaine Luetkemeyer, and Emanuel Cleaver. We also met with an aide from Illinois Congressman Rodney Davis's office, and aides from Senator Claire McCaskill and Roy Blunt's offices.

Upon arriving on Capitol Hill, we were met with a familiar face, former PEP director and Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) lobbyist, Tila Neguse. She was able to help us prepare for our meetings, as well as come to some of our conversations with legislatures. Together we pitched our appeal to Congress, the dire need to cut the Pentagon and reinvest in human needs.

Many of our conversations were frustrating endeavors. Erik Rust, the aide from Ann Wagner's office, spoke of weapons like the F-35 being the vision of the future, while Medicare could be cut down. These sentiments were troubling to us, but we were able to share with them our vision of a peace economy.

The history of St. Louis and the work done by the St. Louis Economic Conversion Project proved to be a powerful point in our conversations, especially in Congressman Leutkemeyer's office. His aide, Chris Brown, seemed hesitant to get on board with Pentagon cuts because union members from Boeing had visited to express concern about job loss. We were able to share how our organization historically had re-employed many McDonnell Douglas workers laid off in the 90s.

[Read More](#)

## Matthew joins JPS to start radio program

by Matthew Guiffre

### **St. Mark's Episcopal Church (4714 Clifton Ave.)**

JPS will be hosting a training focused on recognizing our biases and how they affect our work as social justice activists. The day will include exploring privilege and oppression.

The training will be led by Kira Banks, a clinical psychologist who has been facilitating and training in the area of diversity and inclusion and intergroup dialogue work since 1998.

To register fill out our [registration form](#) by Sept. 3rd. Cost is \$10-25, sliding scale and lunch will be provided.

### **Peace Talks of the People, by the People, for the People**

**Saturday, September 7th  
8:30 am to 3:30 pm  
Fellowship Hall of  
Transformers United for  
Christ, 1145 College  
Avenue, Alton, IL**

The Peace Pirates will be hosting their first Peace Talks of the People, by the People, for the People.

I recently joined the Justice and Peace Shares community through the Loretto Volunteer Program. For the next year, I'll be spending my time writing and producing a new podcast series and radio show.

With a little luck, this show will help to spread the word about the different work the organizations under the JPS umbrella are doing, and what social action-related events are going on in the St. Louis community.

For two years, I worked at a non-profit radio station in Nome, Alaska where I served as the Production Director and DJ of a morning show. It is my hope that I may be able to channel some of my past experience working in radio and put it to use at my current position with JPS.

I am excited to begin this job which will allow me to collaborate with a variety of different people. I believe that this show has the potential to help generate more awareness for groups like PEP, and I'm looking forward to getting it started.



These Peace Talks are designed to give everyone the chance to find more peaceful solutions to current community, national and global concerns. Open Space Technology will be used to collaborate, share ideas and brainstorm on topics such of imperialism, economic justice and concerns brought forth by participants.

The cost for the full-day event is \$15 in advance, or \$20 at the door. [Pre-register here.](#)

To learn more about the Peace Pirates and this event, please visit their website, [thepeacepirates.com](http://thepeacepirates.com).

**The Peace Economy Project is a Proud Member of the**  
***St Louis Justice and Peace Shares***  
<http://jpsstl.org/>

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### About Peace Economy Project

The Peace Economy Project is a non-profit, grassroots organization that researches military spending and the military-industrial complex, educates about military spending and advocates for a peace-based, rather than a war-based, economy. PEP is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and donations are tax-deductible. Donations to support the work of the Peace Economy Project may be sent to our office at:

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