



Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice

Network News

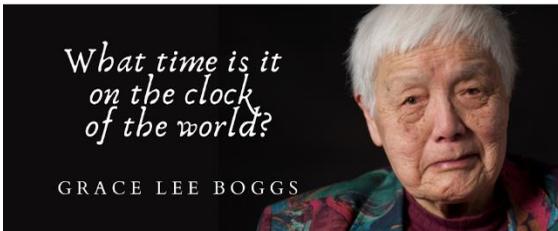
December 2021

Finding Our Path with a Just Transition

- Sarah Hinkley, Network Coordinator

The WNPJ Fall Assembly was a great success!

We are grateful for the over 60 attendees who participated (virtually) in the special evening on November 13! The theme of the event, and the guide for WNPJ's next chapter is the **Just Transition framework** created by the national network Climate Justice Alliance (climatejusticealliance.org)



The Just Transition framework provides an inclusive and uplifting vision of where our economy and our society must move towards in order for us to survive and thrive on this planet. Revolutionary leader Grace Lee Boggs often asked the question 'What time is it on the clock of the world?' We know right now throughout the planet it is a time of extreme climate chaos, devastating social and economic injustice, and pervasive militarism and imperialism. And yet, it is also a time of deep change and transformation.

We are grateful to be entering this next chapter of deep change and transformation with you all! Let us embrace our humanity and call ourselves to our highest possibilities. Being human is a gift.

We are all worthy; we can all learn. Our dreams are possible. One person, one organization cannot do it all, but together as a network we can champion one another and move forward together towards our very worthy goal: sustainable peace and justice.

To learn more about the Just Transition, you can visit climatejusticealliance.org/just-transition/



Find videos of the assembly recordings here:

wnpj.org/fall2021assembly

- **Dena Eakles** opens with the work of Wisconsin's Echo Valley Hope
- **Winona LaDuke** talks about "Pandemic as Portal"
- **Introduction to the Just Transition Framework** created by the Climate Justice Alliance
- **Presentation and discussion with Zoltan Grossman**, author of *Unlikely Alliances: Native Nations and White Communities Join to Defend Rural Lands*
- **Words from Network Coordinator Sarah Hinkley:** WNPJ's role moving forward
- **Awards** to some of our outstanding activists
- **Poetry reading** – "The Low road" by Marge Piercy, performed by Staceyann Chin

2021 WNPJ Awards!



Bonnie Block: Lifetime Achievement Award

Bonnie Block is known both in Wisconsin and throughout the country for her work for peace and justice. She is a member of and has served as Chair of the national board of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, the oldest and largest interfaith peace fellowship in the world, and as Director of the Lutheran Peace Fellowship, a national peace and justice organization related to Lutheran church bodies in the U.S.

Locally, she served as president of the Madison chapter of the United Nations Association and Director of the Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice. Bonnie was one of the Founders of the Coalition to Ground the Drones and End the Wars, a group that organizes protests against drone warfare at Volk Airfield. A believer in the power of nonviolent direct action, Bonnie participated in acts of civil disobedience at Volk Field for which she was arrested, brought before judges, and fined. Once, refusing to pay the fine, she spent several days in jail. She is also active with Raging Grannies of Madison. This is only a small sampling of Bonnie's engagements in peace and justice work.

For those who know Bonnie well, it's not hard to see that her courageous actions on behalf of peace and justice are rooted in who she is as a person. She cares about people and the earth, empathizes with those who suffer violence and injustice and is determined to do whatever she can to alleviate that suffering not only through acts of personal kindness and support but by working to change the systems that cause much of this suffering.



Debra Gillispie: Peacemaker of the Year Award

Debra Gillispie is the founder of Mothers Against Gun Violence and a determined advocate working to end gun violence in her community and throughout the state of Wisconsin. Debra knows firsthand the power of storytelling. She lost her own son to gun violence in 2003. By telling her story of heartbreak, loss and lasting love for her son she found a vehicle for her healing journey. And she didn't stop there, she reached out to numerous other victims of gun violence to use their voices and tell their stories. In partnership with UW Milwaukee she worked to collect hundreds of stories, knowing that statistics are not enough. People must understand the human impact behind those statistics. Debra founded Equity Media and hosts her own radio program. She speaks out against the media stereotyping and stigmatizing members of the African American community, and advocates for change in representation. If you have ever met Debra, you sense instantly she is a shining spirit of compassion and resilience. Learn more at <http://www.milwaukee.renaissance.com/MothersAgainstGunViolence>



Building Unity Team: Grassroots Solidarity Award

We acknowledge the hard work of the Building Unity Team these past two years and in recognition offer them the Grassroots Solidarity award. Building Unity started as an incubator project within WNPJ with an aim of pulling together a variety of people and organizations to address pressing issues throughout the state of Wisconsin. And they have pursued these efforts on a number of fronts.

For instance, Building Unity leaders journeyed for over 3,000 miles in a 34 foot motorhome adorned with signs and banners, variously dubbed the 'Votemobile' or the 'Unitymobile', to draw attention in numerous locations all over the state. They engaged residents around issues that mattered to them and registered people to vote. Along these tours, and in partnership with organizations, they spoke out for the need for Wisconsinites to truly have a Just State Budget.

Building Unity has logged countless hours fighting for Fair Maps in our state. They created educational videos that guided residents through the process of giving input as to where their communities of interest truly reside, in an effort to not have that defined by outsiders. Throughout these efforts, Building Unity built connections with multiple people and organizations along the way which will continue to strengthen coalition work far into the future. Learn more at buildingunitywisconsin.org



Don't Look Away at Volk Field

- *Joy First, Wisconsin Coalition to Stop the Drones and End the Wars*



Monday November 29, marks three months since the murder of ten members of the Ahmadi family, of which seven were children, by a US government drone in Afghanistan. Five activists in Wisconsin stood at the gates of Volk Field, a Wisconsin Air National Guard base where personnel are trained to operate the Shadow

drone. We mourn all those who have been killed by US killer drones.

December 1, marks 10 years since we first stood at the gates of Volk Field. We have been there on a regular basis for ten years, several times risking arrest. Normally, about 100 cars from the base drive past us as we stand there.

We must remember that although President Biden has told us that the war in Afghanistan is over, we continue to fly drones over Afghanistan, dropping bombs and killing innocent people, even though the military admits that 90% of those killed are not the intended target. Children continue to die by our bloody hands in Afghanistan.

Watch for information on how you can get involved in ending these crimes by our government in January and February. Please don't look away. Contact Joy First (joyfirst5@gmail.com) or visit wnpj.org.

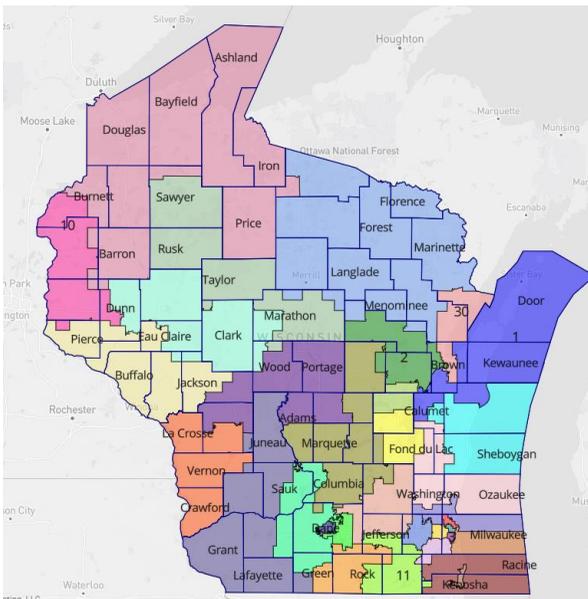
Redistricting According to State and Federal Law Can Move Us Toward Democracy

- Mary Kay Baum

The Wisconsin Fair Maps Coalition, composed of individuals and organizations concerned about our democratic process, has been working to address the gerrymandering of state legislative districts in Wisconsin. Stay in touch by signing up for their newsletter at fairmapswi.com.

The court majority intends to use our existing 2011 maps as a starting point in the current Johnson v. WI Elections Commission court.

Below is the current 2011 State Senate map. Most every District is either way over or under the ideal population.



Like many counties, Sawyer County was broken apart. In fact, Sawyer County was stretched down in steps through five counties to join with middle of the State, Marathon County. Sawyer County, in the Northernmost county of Senate

District 29, includes some of the most outstanding Wild Rice ecology and their Ojibwa protectors.

Every member of the Wisconsin Supreme Court agrees that the new maps must follow our State Constitution and Federal Law such as the Voting Rights Act (VRA). Article IV of our constitution requires redistricting the members of the Senate and Assembly according to the number of inhabitants and attempting to create compact, convenient and contiguous districts.

However, these laws were not followed in 2011. Instead, counties and municipalities were unnecessarily cut up, avoiding State and federal requirements. Continuing with the “Least-Changes” necessary will likely preserve the problematic districts.

If our constitutional rights are protected district by district, as promised, most gerrymandered districts would be corrected. Certainly Sawyer County would be rectified to become whole and stay connected with the other most Northern Counties.

The timeline for the Wisconsin Supreme Court is:

- Dec 15: Nine parties submit proposed maps with expert reports and legal arguments
- Jan 4: Final briefs are submitted to the court
- Jan 18: Potential WI Supreme Court hearing begins

A January 31 federal court trial date (BLOC et al v. Spindell et al) is reserved to ensure that WI Supreme Court maps comply with federal law. WI must have new maps by March 1st, 2022 for the 2022 elections to occur.

Watch the WNPJ news for a January showing of the Wisconsin documentary ‘Can You Hear Us Now?’ (documentary.org/project/can-you-hear-us-now)

How One Faith Community is Addressing Anti-Racism

- *Shel Gross, Madison Friends Meeting*

Following the murder of George Floyd, **Madison Friends Meeting** (MFM) made a commitment to transform ourselves into an anti-racist faith community. While many individual members in our Quaker community have been involved in anti-racism efforts over the years, this was the beginning of our journey to do so as an organization. After a year and a half, we can point to much that we have done while gaining appreciation for the work left to do.

MFM's work was built on the work that both our national and regional Quaker organizations have been doing over the past few years. This work has been coordinated by a new Anti-Racism (AR) Subcommittee of our Peace, Social and Earth Concerns (PSEC) Committee. The Subcommittee keeps the concern in front of our members by sending out "AR Updates" every two to three weeks through our internal listserv. Using a "**Learn, Talk, Act**" rubric we provide links to videos, podcasts, articles and more (both short and longer pieces) that folks can use to further their education about anti-racism concerns. These updates have been well received by our members and, based on comments we have received, have nudged people to explore this issue more. We can make samples available to others who are interested. This rubric is also a good way to summarize how we have moved forward:

LEARN: In addition to the Updates, the AR Subcommittee has led a number of forums on topics such as the characteristics of white supremacy culture, alternatives to calling 911 in order to reduce potential harm to people of

color, restorative justice practices and Heather McGhee's book, *The Sum of Us*.

TALK: We've provided more in-depth learning opportunities, both through MFM and our regional Quaker organization, to allow exploration of the internal work we need to do to address racism. This included a 14 session discussion group using the podcast *Seeing White* to educate ourselves about the history of race and racism in our country and a four week virtual retreat on *Interrupting Racism*, led by folks from the American Friends Service Committee, a Quaker organization with a long history of anti-racism work.

ACT: We have used some of our forums to stimulate individual and organizational actions, such as writing letters in support of the Civilian Oversight Board and the non-law enforcement mental health crisis response team. We invited the Dane County TimeBank (now Flywheel Skill Share), to lead a letter-writing session for us. And we have connected with other organizations in the community. Last year we sponsored and provided support for the Kids March for Black Lives that was organized by Allies for Black Lives. This year we sent a team to the Madison Gospel 5K Walk/Run, organized through Mt. Zion Baptist Church to raise funds to support health in the Black community.

We also looked at structural elements of racism that might exist in our faith community. We reviewed the donations we make to community organizations to make sure they were in line with our anti-racism commitment. We asked our religious education leaders to ensure we are considering how our curriculum reflects this as well. During our building renovation we explored how we could engage minority contractors.

(continued)

More recently we have responded to calls from Native American advocacy groups to support federal legislation that will create a Truth and Healing Commission on Native American boarding schools. As one of the faith groups that ran such boarding schools we are educating ourselves about the harm that was done and how we can move towards right relationships with Native American people.

All of these efforts underscore that anti-racism work needs to be an ongoing part of how we live as a faith community.

(madisonfriends.org)

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## Embracing a Just Transition in Rural Wisconsin

- *Dena Eakles, Echo Valley Farm / Hope, Ontario, Wisconsin*

Several years ago when WNPJ added Sustainability to its mission, it was a huge step forward. It indicated our awakening to the very real need to protect the Earth.

Living in rural Wisconsin I am witnessing there are far too many people willing to sacrifice the land for the dollar. The increased felling of trees is due to the recent demand for lumber. Little thought is given to how the landscape, animals or neighbors will cope with spring rain run-offs. And utilities are promoting clean and green energy, while over charging ratepayers for transmitting coal and nuclear energy from far away. The colonial mindset is still dominant.

The leaders across this country who created the Just Transition principles have been strengthened, not defeated; by the unwillingness of the dominant culture to change. They often live on the front lines of climate change brought on by capitalistic plunder of resources. And they are not yielding in their efforts to protect their communities and the Earth. Just Transition is designed to be place based and will evolve differently in each locale. I look forward to learning more and to help my community move towards this more human and environmentally friendly advocacy.

Our WNPJ network is a statewide community of people who have devoted much of their lives towards a just and peaceful world. There is much to learn and much to give as we proceed towards the Just Transition. Simply stated: We need one another.

(echovalleyhope.org)



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Stay connected with WNPJ!

Even in the midst of an almost two-year pandemic, we continue to be resilient and find ways to stay connected. Two new (virtual) ways you can stay connected with WNPJ are:

Weaving the Web

WNPJ's monthly virtual drop in hour



All are welcome to drop in the first Thursday of each month. No agenda, just people who care about peace and justice showing up to connect. Zoom information is available on the WNPJ website.

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### WNPJ Online Member Circle



WNPJ will soon have an online member circle to accompany us into the new year. This will be different from the WNPJ website which is available to the public. With the Online Member Circle, members will receive a password into an online community where they can share information about their organizing efforts, turn to each other for tips and resources, and overall stay connected with one another. Keep an eye out for an informational video from us sharing more details in the coming weeks.

# Climate Change, Economic and Environmental Justice, and F-35 Fighter Jets

- Vicki Berenson, *Safe Skies Clean Water Wisconsin*

Some people see the basing of a squadron of F-35 joint strike fighter jets at Truax Air National Guard base in Madison as a local issue, with a great deal of focus on the expected noise increase – which is a real health threat. But the F-35 program has wide-ranging implications for our country as a whole, and as is often the case, the environmental, economic and global security impacts disproportionately affect people of color, children and those with fewer resources.

The U.S. Department of Defense is the world's largest institutional user of petroleum, and therefore the single largest producer of greenhouse gases in the world – with the largest portion of Pentagon fuel consumption being for military jets (watson.brown.edu). But did you know that “because of U.S. government pressure, the governments negotiating the 1992 Kyoto Protocol agreed that emissions generated by military activity would not count as national emissions and would not have to be reported?” As a consequence, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which produces one of the world's most trusted reports on the rate at which climate change is occurring, does not include national military emissions in its calculations.” (streetroots.org)

The F-35 program alone is expected to cost a total of \$1.7 trillion by the end of its life cycle, funds that could address critical domestic needs. On top of that, these weapons of war are some of the least energy efficient ever produced, emitting massive amounts of CO2 and requiring more fuel than just about any other plane in

history. PFAS – “forever chemicals” that cause a host of long-term health problems – are found in groundwater at the Truax air base at hundreds of times the regulated levels, spreading to Madison waterways and lakes, and concentrating in fish that residents catch to feed their families. PFAS fire-fighting foam is required in large amounts to contain any F-35 fires that may occur.



**No F-35s**  
for our environment



[safeskiescleanwaterwi.org](http://safeskiescleanwaterwi.org)

The U.S. has provided F-35s to Israel as part of their military aid, and countries like United Arab Emirates, Canada and Switzerland are also attempting to purchase them. The F-35 has clearly become nuclear-capable. Some military officials describe a scenario where a pilot is button-ready to drop a nuclear bomb at the Russian border, which then causes Russia to cease whatever aggressive moves they have begun, the drop is remotely canceled, and the F-35 is recalled. What could go wrong?

Safe Skies Clean Water Wisconsin (SSCW) signed on to petitions to address the issue of military emissions, including one sent to participants in the COP26 UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow. We remain connected with our colleagues in Burlington, Vermont who are

fighting the F-35 fighter jet training in their community on many fronts, and we are working with CODEPINK to bring together the many groups opposing the F-35s to make it clear it's a national and global issue - for so many reasons besides the noise.

SSCW has filed two lawsuits. One challenges the Environmental Assessment on the expansion at Truax, asserting that it was not legally prepared and requiring them to stop construction and prepare a full Environmental Impact Statement. The second lawsuit challenges the Environmental Impact Statement on the F-35 basing decision, arguing that the existing EIS uses old documents and does not include new information, including PFAS evidence and stricter noise standards currently under review. Lawsuits are slow but all efforts on all fronts are important.

We are working to draft an Environmental Justice Complaint to file with the US Environmental Protection Agency, asserting that the Wisconsin Air National Guard, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Dane County, the Dane County Regional Airport have failed to protect overburdened communities in Madison against further and disparate exposure to noise, pollution, and economic harm, and that the stationing of the F-35 fighter jets will result in disproportionate impacts to low-income people and families of color living in communities adjacent to the base.

We believe that strong voices from our public officials are important in turning around the Air Force decision. To this end we continue to work on ways to pressure state and local officials to take a strong public stand against the F-35 basing decision. We continue to work on strategy and educating the public.

(safeskiescleanwaterwi.org)



## What is a Just Transition?

*Just Transition is a vision-led, unifying and place-based set of principles, processes, and practices that build economic and political power to shift from an extractive economy to a regenerative economy. This means approaching production and consumption cycles holistically and in a waste-free way. The transition itself must be just and equitable, redressing past harms and creating new relationships of power for the future through reparations. If the process of transition is not just, the outcome will never be. Just Transition describes both where we are going and how we get there.*

## Just Transition Values

- \* Buen Vivir (We can live well without living better at the expense of others)
- \* Meaningful Work
- \* Self Determination
- \* Equitable Redistribution of Resources and Power
- \* Regenerative Ecological Economics
- \* Culture and Tradition
- \* Solidarity
- \* Builds What We Need Now

## **WNPJ 2021 Member Organizations**

350-Madison Climate Action team  
Anathoth Community Farm  
Building Unity Wisconsin  
Casa Maria Catholic Worker  
Chrysalis  
Church Women United - Madison  
Church Women United of Wisconsin  
Citizens Climate Lobby - Madison WI Chapter  
Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger  
Colombia Support Network  
Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes  
Crawford Stewardship Project  
Echo Valley Hope  
Families for Justice of Dane County  
Family Farm Defenders  
Farley Center for Peace Justice and Sustainability  
First Unitarian Society  
First United Methodist Church Madison  
Flywheel Skill Share  
Forward Marching Band  
Fox Valley Peace Coalition  
Groundwork  
Interfaith Peace Working Group  
James Reeb UU Congregation  
Juneau County Peace Committee  
JustDane  
Kickapoo Peace Circle  
King Coalition of Madison and Dane County  
Madison Area Bus Advocates  
Madison Area Democratic Socialists of America

Madison Friends Meeting  
Madison Infoshop  
Madison/Rafah Sister City Project  
Marquette University Center for Peacemaking  
Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA)  
Pax Christi  
Peace Action of Wisconsin  
Peregrine Forum of WI  
Physicians for Social Responsibility Wisconsin  
Racine Coalition for Peace and Justice  
Raging Grannies of Madison  
Richland Center - Santa Teresa Sister City Project  
Safe Skies Clean Water Wisconsin  
Sinsinawa Dominicans  
Sisters of the Divine Savior  
SOULS: Solomon's Outreach and Urban Learning Sessions  
United Nations Association - Dane County  
United Nations Association of Greater Milwaukee  
Veterans for Peace Madison #25  
Veterans for Peace Milwaukee #102  
Veterans for Peace Sheboygan #114  
WAVE Educational Fund  
WI Books to Prisoners  
WI Coalition to Ground the Drones and End the Wars  
Wisconsin Democracy Campaign  
Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice  
Wisconsin Green Muslims  
Wisconsin Physicians for a National Health Plan  
Wisconsin Pledge of Resistance  
Wisconsin Resources Protection Council  
WISDOM  
Women's International League for Peace & Freedom (WILPF)  
Worker Justice Wisconsin

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WNPJ Staff:

Sarah Hinkley, Network Coordinator

Volunteers:

Judy Miner

If you're interested in volunteering,
see <http://www.wnpj.org/volunteer> and sign up!

Send action alerts to info@wnpj.org

2021 WNPJ Board of Directors:

Tynnetta Jackson – Co-Chair
Mary Kay Baum – Co-Chair
Vicki Berenson – Secretary
Amy Washbush – Treasurer
John Peck
Debra Gillispie
Dena Eakles
Erika Bach

Your contributions make all the difference!

Moving forward with the Just Transition framework as our guide means WNPJ needs to fill several different roles. Your contribution allows us to give them the time and attention they need to be successful!



Connector - Create opportunities for Network members' to get to know each other and each other's work. Extend the invitation to people and organizations throughout the state to join WNPJ.



Catalyst - Share educational resources, tools and opportunities that can help strengthen Network members' work and their understanding of a Just Transition.



Incubator - Support member groups' new and emerging work that helps strengthen the Network's commitment to a Just Transition.



Amplifier - Support the peace and justice work of those most impacted by the extractive economy. Highlight and invest resources in their vision and leadership.



Reflection Space - Offer opportunities and tools for Network members to reflect on their work with the aim of deepening their analysis and accountability to a Just Transition. *Thank you for your continued support!*

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## WNPJ Membership Form

(Suggested dues: \_\_\$35 Individual, \_\_\$52 Sustaining, \_\_\$45 Family, \_\_\$10 Fixed Income, \_\_ \$50 Organization without paid staff, \_\_\$75 Organization with paid staff, \_\_Benefactor: \$ \_\_\_\_\_)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Send me email News & Alerts Checks payable to **WNPJ | PO Box 727 | Madison, WI 53701**

Or pay online at [wnpj.org/donate-join](https://wnpj.org/donate-join)

**The work of WNPJ Members is wide-ranging, but it is all interrelated. Each piece contributes to making a better world for the people in it.**

*Peace • Nonviolence • Climate and environment • Physical and Mental Health • Spirituality • Economic justice • Criminal justice • Immigration • Sustainable agriculture • Racial equity • Communication • and more!*

***Please consider joining us to create a strong and unified voice for change in Wisconsin!***

Connecting the dots...



...since 1991

[wnpj.org](http://wnpj.org) | 715-600-2766



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