



*Peace House*  
*Uncle Foods Diner*

*Feeding the Hungry*  
*Advocating for Economic Justice*  
*www.PeaceHouse.net*

## Peace House Fall Report 2020

### How Peace House Has Been Serving in the Rogue Valley

**We all remember March 2020:** the month of the Pandemic surge. The Peace House Tuesday meal known as Uncle Food's Diner was no longer an option. Our normal indoor meal at Wesley Hall had to suddenly MORPH or go away! How to feed our houseless people in smaller groups?

- For efficiency and safety, we hired a kitchen staff led by our long-time Tuesday chef, Maren Faye.
- *We went to cooking four day a week. Eventually we bought a big 2011 Ford van for deliveries!*



***We are proud to say that Peace House - Uncle Food's Diner has provided over 15,000 meals since March 25th, delivering hot meals four days a week! One day, we***

*even made 100 hoagies for the Takelma firemen battling the fire to the west!*

**We collaborated with Pam Marsh and OHRA** (Oregon Resources for Residents of Ashland); as well as with Jobs with Justice and the Monday Meal Team. Together they are covering three a week.

Our Diner volunteers include Mary, Vicky, Tim, Kathy, Kai, and many others. Our kitchen crew includes Maren, Gina, Boots Kerul, Ann and Jerry. Together these staff and volunteers are the heart of "Uncle Food's Diner!"



**With the ORAH Winter Shelter open**, we are also delivering meals to Ashland's most fragile homeless residents, collaborating with the Presbyterian Church, Temple Emek Shalom and The Havurah.

**Uncle Food's Diner grew, survives and has expanded to fit the times**, avoiding large gatherings while feeding those who are hungry. We are able to do this because you, as part of this community, have responded generously to meet human needs during this Pandemic and the Alameda Fire trauma. We thank you for all you have done to respond!

### **Our Online News and Calendar of Events**

If you subscribe, you are receiving our weekly and bi-weekly publications of events, activities, spotlights and urgent news events. You receive colorful emails indicating event fliers, invitations, reporting on local events, spotlights and urgent actions alerts.

We have covered not only local events such as police sweeps along the Greenway; national crises such as the death of George Floyd and the incarceration of children and parents along the US-Mexican border; or the resistance to ICE detentions in Bend, OR; and international events such as human and civil rights violations in Central and South America.

**Central American Accompaniment:** Peace House especially accompanies the work of PROAH in Honduras, one of the most violent countries in the world. We track the huge number of rights violations in Honduras in particular, and decry the aggressive campaign of defamation, intimidation and

death threats against civic leaders that has been used to try to control critics of the current government, including Jesuit priest Ismael Moreno (Padre Melo) and human rights leader Bertha Olivas, founder of COFADEH (Committee of Families of the Disappeared and Detained) resisting repression and electoral fraud and demanding justice for those who are victims and their families.



**Lucy Edwards and Berta Olivas**

Peace House member Lucy Edwards spends an average of four months each year (a little less during the pandemic) to provide an international accompaniment for Berta Oliva.

### **The Rogue Liberation Library: Sending Books to Prisoners**

This project was begun by Kai Safran and Rose Goodwin, and Peace House adopted it in 2019. Through national networks, prisoners can learn about our program and others like it that send books upon request.



During the COVID-19 we were one of two in the country still corresponding with prisoners and honoring their requests, sending titles

from our sizable library of paperbacks. Since the program began RLL has mailed approximately 1080 book packages, and now sends an average of 100 each month. The team of volunteers has grown over time and developed efficient ways of getting the books to those in prison who crave access to literature and information of all kinds.

### **The Annual Hiroshima-Nagasaki Vigil**

Each year, for over 30 years, Peace House has either participated in or organized a vigil to commemorate the horrifying results of the atomic bombings of these two Japanese cities and the suffering of their people. While this year's observance was simplified due to COVID-19, we coordinated it, meeting in Lithia Park as usual, with a ceremony led by Rev. Paula Sohl to remember the victims and pray for continuing deterrence to nuclear war.



### **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons gets 50th ratification and Will enter into force on January 22, 2021**

Peace House applauds the success of this effort by non-nuclear weapons states to convince the nine nations with nuclear arsenals to dismantle them and lift from the world the very real threat of a nuclear holocaust. Like the treaties banning chemical and biological weapons, the very existence of this treaty will exert a continuing pressure to join. Further, the nuclear states can no longer blunt citizen demand that such weapons be abolished by arguing that they have been negotiating toward that goal. The response to their interminable negotiations has become simple: **SIGN THE TREATY.**

Peace House has been the nexus of nuclear disarmament work in the Rogue Valley since its founding in 1982. We plan to intensify our programming in 2021 by focusing on the treaty, and we hope you will assist with this work. For more details about the treaty, please see our website.



### **Our Fellowship of Reconciliation Affiliation**

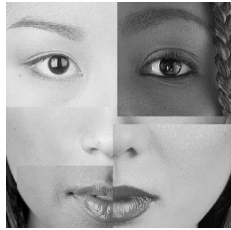
This year we have re-activated our affiliation with the national FOR leadership, and our Director is on weekly Zoom calls to stay in touch with what is happening in the network of nonviolent action to address racism and other forms of discrimination. This group has its roots in Gandhian and Kingsian nonviolence and has been active for decades teaching strategic nonviolence since before the 1960's, and is a source of profound commitment from both faith-based and secular organizations that work for peace. Since the recent murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and several others, staying connected to FOR National has been inspiring and informational regarding trends around the United States.

**Cultural Agility Training:** Peace House and The Multicultural Center joined Gilda Montenegro for seven hours of training in recognizing and countering discrimination and prejudice or cultural bias. This was a great time for our two organizations to get better acquainted and also to learn from Gilda in a structured Zoom setting. We hope

this will lead to more understanding diversity in our two organizations and in our work.

### **Confronting and Deconstructing Racism**

In January, Peace House helped sponsor the Ashland annual Martin Luther King Day and continues to support the “**Deconstructing Whiteness**” studied on Zoom the last Thursday of each month all year. The way to join is listed in our Calendar of Events.



We follow the work of the **Southern Poverty Law Center** and are addressing issues and behaviors of white supremacy in Southern Oregon. We want to encourage you to follow: *Sounds Like Hate: Meet the Women Behind the podcast investigating the proliferation of hate and extremism in modern America.*

Not since the civil rights movement has America seen the level of racism and bigotry that's now coursing through the mainstream and tearing at the seams of our nation. But unlike that era, extremists who promote hate are now able to recruit young people and spread radicalizing propaganda through the power of social media, a tool their forebears could never have imagined. To help people understand the threat this radicalization poses and the impact it's having on American society, the Southern Poverty Law Center launched its first original podcast, **Sounds Like Hate**, in August. Peace House

recommends that our readers follow this audio documentary series, produced and hosted by award-winning journalists, producer/filmmakers Geraldine Moriba and Jamila Paksima. It explores the dangerous realities of hate in modern America and the ways people have escaped the far-right extremist movement. You can access all episodes of *Sounds Like Hate* as soon as they're released by **subscribing with your podcast app of choice**, such as **Apple Podcasts** or **Spotify**. Each episode is also available at: [www.soundslikehate.org](http://www.soundslikehate.org).

As we face the end of 2020, with all the tensions that have come to bear, Peace House pledges to continue our work building a compassionate society, a culture of nonviolence, justice and peace.

On behalf of our hard-working team at Uncle Food's Diner and the Rogue Liberation Library, as well as our many supporters and volunteers, and our Board of Directors, thank you for your support. It makes all the difference! We pledge to honor your faith in us and what we do!

In solidarity,

*James Phillips*

Dr. James Phillips, Chairman of the Board

*Elizabeth V. Hallett*

Elizabeth V. Hallett  
Executive Director, Peace House