

Introduction

Before the existence of the nonprofit ARC38, lifelong pacifist Bill Henry was interested in the formation of "*Empower People*," a center dedicated to Peace & Justice. Some years after #OWS, the demands of property ownership shifted the goal onto farming and agriculture in order to achieve a tax-free zoning designation. Dedicating the activities and programs will bring back this original vision of empowering people and educating the public about non-violence.

This document calls for the formation of a Library and Museum dedicated to Peace and Justice to enable visitors to learn more about both the history of the non-violence movement and the existing issues facing our world today. By creating experiential learning opportunities such as events with visual aids and exercises, participants will be invited to learn how to research and critically analyze complex situations, examining the point of view of players on both sides of each issue and applying the tools of activism to existing struggles.

Vision for the Formation of the Peace & Justice Library and Museum in Wassaic

In recognition of the need to educate and honor the history of the founders of peaceful resistance and direct nonviolent action movement the Peace and Justice center in Wassaic will be a living example to inspire peace, tolerance and non-violence. This theme has been selected to bring unified focus to the diverse collection of media, resources and activities this project aims to consolidate existing efforts and supplies.

Inspired by leaders and movements dedicated to peaceful means to achieving justice— we call for the formation of a lasting container featuring this work. Many personal stories have not been sufficiently shared— we aim to change that. Starting with the life story and historic stance against nuclear war exemplified by Bill Henry and other members of the Committee for Nonviolent Action— the growing collection of books, art and educational tools will tell these stories in order to inspire others.

Utilizing existing books, workstations and learning resources already on site in the second floor Main Barn structure at 426 Old Rte 22— this library, gallery and museum will support a growing repository featuring natural building, healing, community resources, fundraising and many other topics as well as hosting seminars.

Furniture includes three+ desks as workstations, and an 8-drawer flat-file system to store and organize original artwork for curation and rotation of house collection to complement temporary gallery exhibits.

Primary activities of the Peace & Justice Library and Museum

Creation of original media telling the story of Bill Henry and other unsung leaders in activism

Sharing of Media in celebrating the causes and players involved

Hosted events featuring nonviolent toolkits such as NVC, storytelling and games

STEPS FORWARD:

Formalized agreement with Bill Henry for use of 2nd floor of Main Barn

Agreements with Nonprofit for extension of programs and sharing of resources

Working with

Cataloging of existing book, art and resource collection

Formation of Wishlists and means for donating items including periodical descriptions

Web Presence for telling stories of Bill Henry and other modern activists in light of historic giants

Calendar

Alliances with other Peace and Justice oriented nonprofits to include WPPS and other local ORGs

FOUNDING MEMBERS:

Bill Henry

Lifelong radical pacifist and member of War Resistor's League and the Center for Nonviolent Action. Creator of Satyagraha as a land-based project also in Dutchess County dedicated to exhibiting these principles and founding supporter of the nonprofit ARC38 as formal landowner— (seeking cooperative lasting ownership of 36 acres including barns across from land owned by ARC38).

Stacey Hessler / Shine

Founder of the Occupy Bus Tour, Board Member of ARC38 and co-Founder of the People's Project, she operates a community bus project bridging land projects and events of significance including Standing Rock, the DNC/RNC and various crisis and disaster relief efforts. They have been consistently working a network of sites between Florida, Tennessee, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, South Dakota, New York and Massachusetts.

Other Example Leaders in Nonviolence and Activities

- Ruby Bridges
- Jacques Cousteau
- Freedom Riders
- Mahatma Gandhi
- Martin Luther King, Jr
- John Lewis
- Nelson Mandela
- Michelle Obama/nutrition
- Rachel Carlson – Silent Spring
- Rosa Parks
- Sadako Sasaki

Peace-Promoting Activities

Each day perform an act of kindness

Create Sadako Sasaki Peace Cranes

Treat all animals with kindness

Point out historical events of nonviolence

Explore ways to protect our natural environment

Choose games, toys and entertainment void of violence Practice listening skills and refrain from foul language

Eat nourishing food and promote a healthy lifestyle

Learn to communicate better

Celebrate the success of the Season of Nonviolence