

Muste Notes



AJ MUSTE INSTITUTE
GRASSROOTS ORGANIZING FOR NONVIOLENCE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

VOLUME 26, NUMBER 1



FALL 2019

2019 Grants: Social Justice Fund



PHOTO COURTESY NOTIMORE

The International Forest Defenders Conference in 2018 brought together over 50 frontline environmental defenders with security specialists, academics, lawyers, and funders. NotiMore defenders joined the conference from Malaysia, Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam, Indonesia, the Philippines, Turkey and Brazil.

The Muste Institute's 2019 Social Justice Fund grants reflect the range of issues activists are tackling in creative and cost-effective ways. Here are a few of our recent grantees:

In 2016 three women founded **NotiMore** (N1M), an environmental campaign group that supports frontline environmental defenders at risk of serious injury or death, and investigates the root causes of environmental conflict. N1M investigates environmental conflict and crime, working closely with at-risk defenders and communities in Cambodia, West Africa and Brazil. A social justice fund grant will help them work with **frontline environmental defenders in Para, Brazil** where they face violence, and killings.

For two years, more than 730,000 Rohingya began fleeing to Bangladesh to escape a violent campaign of ethnic cleansing. **World Comics India's Grassroots Comics Project** works to empower and humanize Rohingya immigrants in India—of which there are 17,500—to document and raise awareness of their life stories in Myanmar,

and their current struggles.

When activist groups traveling from around the country to the nation's capital need support from kindred spirits, they can call on the **Mobile Screen Printing Project of the D.C.-based group, The Sanctuaries**, a newly-formed multi-cultural arts community. The Sanctuaries shares its expertise in training artists to work alongside activists to build power and shift culture, making demonstrations and actions more effective.

Sane Energy Project is committed to replacing fracked gas infrastructure with community-led, sustainable energy. To that end, we are funding its Direct Action Tour: 6 trainings in New York State in nonviolent grassroots activism and community activism against fracking.

A new generation of student leaders is learning to help shape foreign policy to prioritize human needs over military solutions. Over 100 students from more than 25 **Peace Action** student chapters, with support from a

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October 2019

Dear Friends:

A few weeks ago, 16-year-old Swedish environmentalist Greta Thunberg got in an emission-free racing yacht and sailed across the Atlantic. She joined other activists at the Global Climate Strike convergence at the United Nations in late September.

During her address at the U.N. Climate Action Summit, Greta admonished world leaders, “*You are failing us. The eyes of all future generations are upon you. Right here, right now, is where we draw the line.*”

Young Greta's journey is one of a long list of clarion calls by fearless individuals.

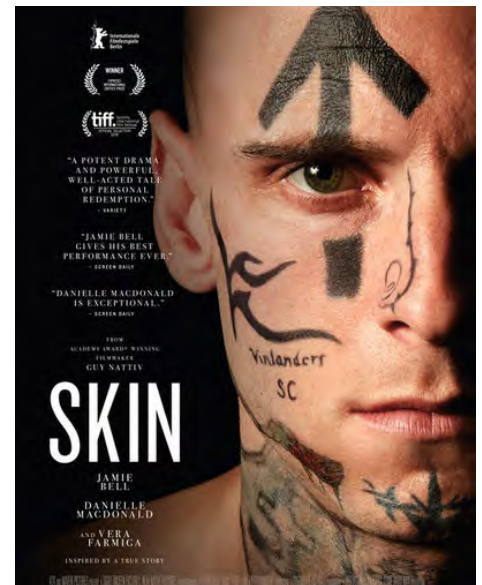
Social change milestones, marked by the actions of a few, grow into movements of many. Like stacked dominoes, they shift public consciousness. A few courageous women, standing up against abuse by powerful men, emboldened unknown thousands to say, “Me Too,” and demand justice. Community residents in Ferguson, Ohio stood strong in the face of police violence against African Americans, leading to Black Lives Matter. Native American teenagers helped halt an energy pipeline, averting devastation to their Dakota homeland. Football players, backed by their coach, went on strike amid a series of hate speech incidents—that administrators failed to address—on the Columbia, Missouri campus.

Recall the summer of 1969. Beyond well-known social justice luminaries, local mavericks left an indelible mark on our society. Politically-charged women took over the underground newspaper *The Rat*, transforming it into one of the first second-wave feminist newspapers

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On the Set of “Skin”

A few scenes in the recently-released feature film “Skin,” written and directed by Guy Nattiv, were filmed in the Muste Office. The movie is inspired by the true story of Bryon Widner who escaped from the Vinlanders Social Club, a white supremacist group and over a two-year period removed his white power tattoos—many covering his face and neck. Assisting in Bryon's departure from the group is real-life activist Daryle Lamont Jenkins (played by Mike Colter of “Luke Cage”) of One People's Project (onepeoplesproject.com). In 2019, Nattiv won his first Oscar for a short documentary by the same name.



Dear Friends

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in the United States, educating America on the difference between gender and sex. The Young Lords Party was born to Puerto Rican youth in East Harlem, ushering in years of street activism that transformed how health care is delivered in the City among other gains. Look for our board member Johanna Fernandez's forthcoming book *The Young Lords: A Radical History*. Patrons at the

Stonewall Inn resisted against a police raid, resulting in a series of riots that lead to the gay liberation movement and today's fight for LGBTQ+ rights in the United States.

These examples, and many more, are a testament to how acts of conscience resonate for decades. They are a renewed call to action when property interests prevail over human needs.

The Muste Institute believes, and invests in, the power of the people. In tumultuous

political times, no one knows what will ignite major social upheaval. The Muste Institute has always put its money on the groups and individuals who stoke the fires of change in their own communities, each one a beacon for other activists.

We see you,

Heidi Boghosian
Heidi Boghosian

Welcome New Board Members

The Muste Institute is pleased to welcome three new members to its board of directors:



King Downing

is an attorney and founder of the Human Rights-Racial Justice Center, advocating and organizing on criminal and economic

injustice, including police practices, racial profiling and mass incarceration. Most recently he ran the Mass Defense program of the National Lawyers Guild. He also directed the Healing Justice Program of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), and is the former national coordinator of the ACLU's Campaign Against Racial Profiling. King is a contributor to the following books: Twelve

Angry Men, (New Press) and Torture in the U.S., 2nd Edition, (AFSC).



Johanna Fernandez

teaches 20th Century U.S. history, the history of social movements, the political economy of American cities, and African-

American history at Baruch College. Founder of the Campaign to Bring Mumia Home, her book *The Young Lords: A Radical*

History (University of North Carolina Press) will be published in February 2020.



Mitty Owens

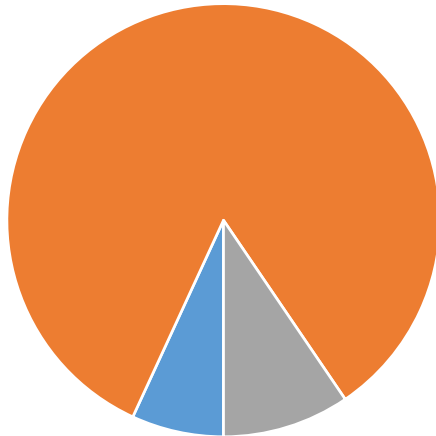
has a background in developing community land trusts and other models of affordable housing, followed by work in

micro-lending and credit unions. His work has included the Center for Community Self-Help, the Ford Foundation and the Office of Financial Empowerment under NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg. Mitty has also run his own consulting firm offering strategic planning and organization development to nonprofits. He has served on several economic and social justice boards, including Yale University's Dwight Hall Center for Public Service and Social Justice, Global Exchange.

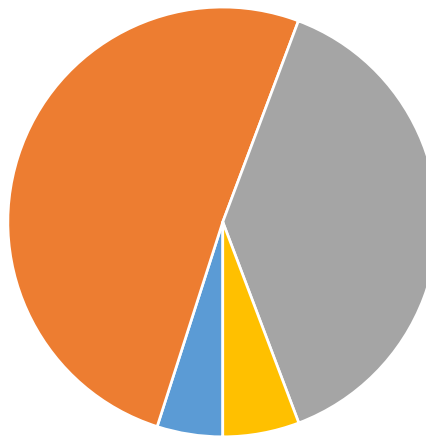
2018 Financials: What You Helped Support

A.J. MUSTE MEMORIAL INSTITUTE, INC. Revenue & Expenses as of 06/30/19

REVENUE



EXPENSE



■ **Contributions and grants:**

\$100,823
7%

■ **Investment income:**

\$1,225,532
84%

■ **Rental and other income:**

\$139,342
10%

■ **Grants:**

\$133,620
7%

■ **Other program services:**

\$1,041,652
57%

■ **Administration:**

\$600,192
33%

■ **Fundraising:**

\$62,600
3%

SOCIAL JUSTICE FUND: 13 grants (\$55,900) in the U.S. and beyond for organizing, mobilizing, and educating in favor of immigrant rights, racial justice, worker empowerment, health care access, educational rights, nonviolent movement building, transnational solidarity, land and housing rights, and justice for Palestine; and in opposition to war and militarism, criminalization and mass incarceration, the death penalty, nuclear weapons, and economic injustice.

SHARED SPACE SOLIDARITY GRANTS: \$73,500 to tenant groups in the Muste shared space for undocumented youth organizing, media justice, anti-war and anti-militarism education, labor solidarity, tenant advocacy, and related work.

SPONSORED AND ENDOWMENT GRANTS: \$198,095 in support for several projects in the U.S. and beyond promoting feminism, self determination, human rights, international justice, and nonviolent resolution of conflicts; opposing war, militarism, imperialism, occupation, and displacement; and educating about climate change, nuclear power, and the environment.

Social Justice Fund

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Muste grant, will attend the 4th annual Peace Action Conference in New York State.

The People Empowerment Program in Liberia is working to improve deplorable health conditions of detainees in Liberian prisons. They lack adequate food, essential medical supplies, pure drinking water, beds and ventilation such that detainees become chronically ill with pneumonia, scabies and TB. Their **Promoting the Rights of Women in Detention Project** will address violations against, and improve the rights of, female prisoners through monitoring and awareness raising. It will also strive to improve high rates of pretrial detention cases by advocating for speedy trials and case processing support and documentation.

The **AfriRemedy** project aims to advocate and lobby against the military sexual harassment and rape of women in Zimbabwe. It is a direct response to the atrocities that occurred during demonstrations fueled by inflation and fuel price increase, and from military killings of ordinary citizens during the August 2018 presidential elections. Whenever Zimbabweans protest social injustices, military forces retaliate violently. The project will advocate for peace and to push for legal action towards perpetrators of human rights violations.

A.J. Muste Memorial Institute

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phone (212) 533-4335 · email info@ajmuste.org
www.ajmuste.org

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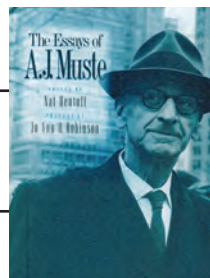
A.J. Muste Memorial Institute

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ESSAY SERIES ON NONVIOLENCE



#1: Martin Luther King, Jr. – America's leading apostle of human dignity – *Loving Your Enemies; Letter from a Birmingham Jail; Declaration of Independence from the War in Vietnam*. Also in Spanish – see #13.



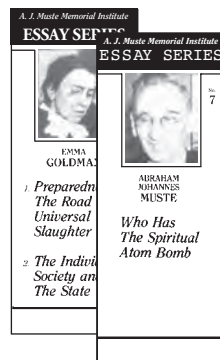
#2: Barbara Deming – the feminist connection to nonviolence – *On Revolution and Equilibrium*

#3: Henry David Thoreau – the original architect of resistance – *On the Duty of Civil Disobedience*

#4: Jessie Wallace Hughan – suffragist, peace activist, founder of the War Resisters League – *Pacifism and Invasion; On Duelling*

#5: Emma Goldman – fiery orator, anarchist, agitator for peace and liberation – *Preparedness: The Road to Universal Slaughter; The Individual, Society and the State*

#6: Rosa Luxemburg – courageous leader of Germany's democratic socialist movement – *Prison Letters*



#7: A.J. Muste – foremost 20th Century Pacifist theoretician and activist, minister, socialist – *Who Has the Spiritual Atom Bomb?*

#8: On Wars of Liberation – three essays on just resistance, freedom struggles, including analysis of Gandhi's position

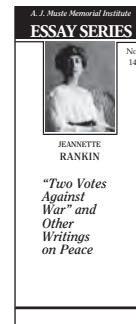
#9: Aldous Huxley – Twentieth Century visionary – *Scientific Writings on Science, Liberty and Peace*

#10: Paul Goodman – pacifist, anarchist, activist – *The Morality of Scientific Technology; The Psychology of Being Powerless*

#11: Some Writings on War Tax Resistance – thoughts, poems, tales from resisters, including Juanita Nelson, Allen Ginsberg and Pete Seeger

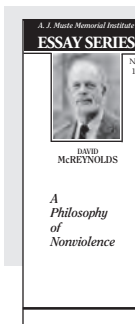
#12: Sidney Lens – peace and labor activist, socialist, occasional political candidate – six articles spanning three decades on the state of the U.S. labor movement

#13: (Spanish) Martin Luther King, Jr. – Spanish language translation of *Loving Your Enemies, Letter*



from a Birmingham Jail and Declaration of Independence from the War in Vietnam.

#14: Jeannette Rankin – first woman in Congress, suffragist, pacifist – *"Two Votes Against War" and Other Writings on Peace*



#15: David McReynolds – longtime activist with the War Resisters League, Socialist Party presidential candidate – *A Philosophy of Nonviolence*

Peace Agitator: The Story of A.J. Muste, by Nat Hentoff.

A 250-page biography with many photos, profiling the 'grandfather' of the U.S. peace movement – minister, labor activist, pacifist and resister. Introduction by Larry Gara.

Wear Your Peace Shirt.

Muste Institute t-shirts are black cotton with a four-color geometric design and the words: "There is no way to peace, peace is the way – A.J. Muste" Available in large and extra large. Shirts are made in the U.S.A.

The Essays of A.J. Muste: Edited by Nat Hentoff, preface by Jo Ann O. Robinson. Originally issued in 1967, this 500-page edition includes Muste's "Notes for an Autobiography," plus essays on pacifism, civil rights, trade unionism and foreign policy, written between 1905 and 1966.

Essay Series

- 1 Martin Luther King, Jr.
- 2 Barbara Deming
- 3 Henry David Thoreau
- 4 Jessie Wallace Hughan
- 5 Emma Goldman
- 6 Rosa Luxemburg
- 7 A. J. Muste
- 8 On Wars of Liberation
- 9 Aldous Huxley
- 10 Paul Goodman
- 11 War Tax Resistance
- 12 Sidney Lens
- 13 Martin Luther King, Jr. (Spanish)
- 14 Jeannette Rankin
- 15 David McReynolds

Quantity

Pamphlets (total qty):	_____	x \$2.00* (any 5 free with purchase of Essays book)	\$ _____
Sampler Pack	_____	x \$20.00 (one each of all 13 available pamphlets)	\$ _____
The Essays of A.J. Muste	_____	x \$20.00	\$ _____
Peace Agitator	_____	x \$5.00 (free with purchase of Essays book)	\$ _____
T-Shirts (XL only)	_____	x \$15.00	\$ _____

* Bulk rate: pamphlets are \$1.40 each for a total of 20 or more.

I am enclosing a tax-deductible contribution for the Muste Institute's work promoting active nonviolence and social justice:

* for bulk rates, contact the Muste Institute office

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