

Muste Notes



AJ MUSTE INSTITUTE
GRASSROOTS ORGANIZING FOR NONVIOLENCE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

OCTOBER 2021

Muste Launches Rapid Response Grants



In response to the pandemic and a surge in needs among activist organizations, the Muste Institute has created **Rapid Response Grants**. With quick turnarounds, and an eye for time-sensitive work, the awards are designed to give a boost to front-line organizing initiatives. In the past year, we have given grants to: the Philadelphia Radical Collective, the City Waste Worker's Union in New Orleans; the BlackOUT Collective (pictured); Cooperation Jackson; Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota; People's Strike; Stadium Stompers in Philadelphia; Jane's Place Neighborhood Sustainability Initiative, Jericho Movement Richmond; and *Casa Corretjer, Aguadilla & Ciales*, Borikén/Puerto Rico.

Social Justice Fund Serves Increasing Needs

To meet the increasing number of applications for our Social Justice Fund grants, the Institute has streamlined our application and review process. Applicants answer a few short pre-screening questions, and if eligible, then fill out a longer (streamlined!) application form. This has made the process less cumbersome for groups seeking funding, and has also made the internal vetting process more manageable and efficient. It cuts the time staff members need to prepare

the applications for board review, resulting in considerable savings in resources. That savings is passed on to the level of gifts we're able to fund each year.

This year we awarded Social Justice Funds to the following groups: Peace Action Fund of New York State for its Former Student Organizer Engagement Project; the Fund for Empowerment's Houseless Leadership Project; Athletes and Advocates for Social Justice in Sports; CoAct's Real Stories/College

Homelessness; United for Peace and Justice's Seeding Young Peacemakers; Chatham Organizing for Racial Equity's ShiftingPowerTrainingServices; the FANG Collective's Shut Down ICE; Santa Barbara Friends Meeting/Truth in Recruitment's Truth in Recruitment, Military, and the Draft Interview Project; Beyond the Bomb's #FutureFirst Conversations Campaign; Voz Latina Broadcasting's Asserting Your Rights; and Time's Up Environmental Group's Buzz About Bees.

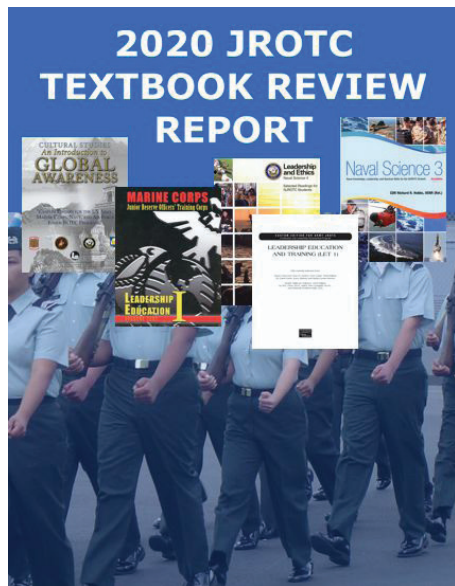
What Is JROTC teaching our kids?

Project YANO used a Muste Social Justice Fund grant to conduct its JROTC Textbook Review Project to analyze educational materials used in Junior ROTC curricula across the nation. Gathering the documents required outreach to schools, extensive internet searches, and direct requests to the military branches. After assembling a team of reviewers with experience and extensive knowledge of history and political issues, they conducted a Zoom tutorial



Photo credit: Monique Sandoval

Mernie Aste (Project YANO board member) talking to students about different alternatives to the military and financial opportunities at the A.R.E. conference.



for reviewers to demonstrate how to access the documents, insert reviewers' comments, and post the results.

On August 2, 2021, *Law & Disorder Radio* featured a segment on one of Muste's grant recipients, Project YANO and its JROTC Textbook Project. Heidi Boghosian interviewed Rick Jahnkow,

a co-founder and board members of Project YANO. Rick worked for 34 years as the organization's full-time program coordinator. He has researched and organized around the issues of military recruiting and the militarization of K-12 schools.

The Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps, or JROTC, is a federal program sponsored by the US Armed Forces in high schools and some middle schools across the nation and at US military bases globally. It teaches its lessons to more than half a million students in approximately 3,400 high schools nationwide. Recently, the the military and its supporters are urging an expansion. Project YANO responded by launching a Textbook Project to see what the textbooks used in JROTC are teaching.

The results were alarming. To listen to Rick Jahnkow explain what their panel of experts found, listen online to the interview: <https://lawanddisorder.org/?s=J+ROTC>

Firelands volunteer organizers are holding 500 deep organizing conversations with low-wage workers to build an economy that's healthy for working families and the land in Washington's rural timber country.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It's been a while since we shared Muste Notes—and what a while it has been!

We have struggled with the devastation of COVID-19 and the administration's intentional mismanagement of the crisis. We also joined the powerful uprisings, sparked by the police murder of George Floyd, that developing into an outcry against recent and historic police killings of black and brown people in the U.S.

“Modern day evils—structural racism, economic exploitation, poverty, class stratification—all are compounded by a pandemic that has exposed the apartheid-character of our society. The resulting outrage inspired an outpouring of action demanding justice. From the streets of urban metropolises to public spaces in rural townships, an estimated 25 million people joined both spontaneous and organized demonstrations and fortified grassroots movements.” – Muste Board Member Johanna Fernandez

The work of Muste Institute's allied groups and grant recipients multiplied and continues to stretch their shoestring resources. These courageous change-makers redoubled their efforts and are raising the bar for all of us.

In the face of governmental neglect of the pandemic, individuals joined together to organize large scale food distributions, mass prison bail outs and a nationwide rent strike. In the face of xenophobia and white supremacy, movements against ICE and the Police, as well as calls for reparations and land back, grow exponentially. In the face of climate catastrophe, movements to block pipelines have increased and more people are turning to indigenous climate activists to learn from and spotlight their knowledge.

As always, the Muste Institute has and will continue to support and be inspired by the work of resilient rebels. We look ahead to evolving alongside our comrades as the power of grassroots organizing intensifies.

Heidi Boghosian
Heidi Boghosian

A.J. Muste Memorial Institute

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TURNING DOLLARS INTO ACTION

With your support, in 2020 the Muste Institute gave \$656,000 to grassroots activism initiatives:



Strategic Planning

The Institute recently retained Joseph Barretto of Barretto Consulting LLC to lead our board and staff in the strategic planning process. Joseph is an Affiliate Consultant at Community Resource Exchange and sits on the Selection Committee for The New York Community Trust Nonprofit Excellence Awards. He is chair of the Board of Directors of the Filipino American Human Services, Inc.

Joseph has worked with groups such as the Hetrick-Martin Institute, New York Peach Institute, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center, the National Domestic Violence Hotline, and the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development.

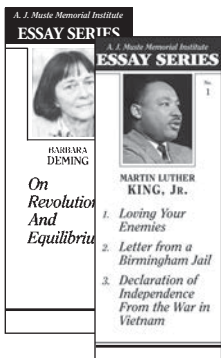
This is an opportune moment to reflect on Muste's historical roots and to evaluate how best to serve activist communities moving forward. In late June, we moved out of our temporary rental space on Canal Street in Manhattan and we are working remotely for the upcoming year. The process of visioning and planning will inform what kind of permanent space we seek in the future.

A.J. Muste Memorial Institute

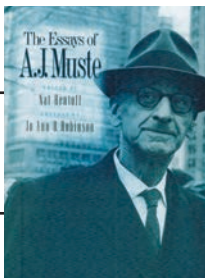
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ESSAY SERIES ON NONVIOLENCE



#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.



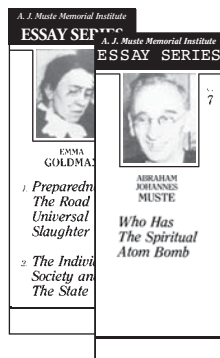
#2: Barbara Deming – the feminist connection to nonviolence – *On Revolution and Equilibrium*

#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

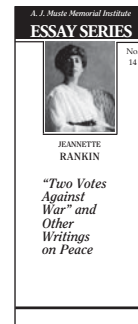
#9: Aldous Huxley – Twentieth Century vision of a utopian world – *Science, Liberty and Peace*

#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

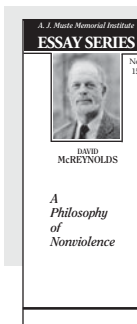
#12: Sidney Lens – peace and labor activist, socialist, occasional political candidate – six articles spanning three decades on the state of the U.S. labor movement

#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*



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.

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
- 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)	\$ _____

* 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:

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