



## Overview 2018

*In a year of continued social, ecological and military conflicts, challenges and resistance, the Traprock Center reached people and communities locally and beyond. Some of this work is presented briefly here. **We thank contributors for helping make it possible and hope for continued community trust and support in coming years.***

### **Public education, starting locally, reaching widely**

Through talks and media presentations, many in local towns in Western Massachusetts and others at national and international conferences, Traprock Director Pat Hynes and others shared their research and experience. Presentations this year – which remain on offer to interested sponsoring groups – included: Syrian Women Refugees in Lebanon; Women’s Feminist Peace Conference (Accra, Ghana); Militarism and Climate Change; The Polluter Does Not Pay: Pollution on US Foreign Military Bases; Agent Orange: The US war on People and Nature in Vietnam.

### **Guest speakers**

With support from the [Markham-Nathan Fund for Social Justice](#), Traprock board members organized events with two compelling activists. [Iris Morales](#), lawyer, writer-publisher and Young Lords activist in 1970’s New York City, spoke on the disastrous hurricane María in Puerto Rico at Earth Day events in Wendell and Springfield. [Paul K. Chappell](#), Peace Literacy Director for the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, spoke at UMass and Greenfield Community College in November. Chappell drew on his time in the military and his multiracial identity to introduce the concept of Peace Literacy ([peaceliteracy.org](http://peaceliteracy.org))

### **Climate action**

In November and December 2018, board member Anna Gyorgy traveled to Germany to research and document the international movement for climate justice around the December UN Climate Conference, held in Katowice, Poland. Building on her reporting and video of the 2017 UN conference in Bonn, Germany, she collaborated with the local newsweekly, *Montague Reporter*, on a series of six dispatches on the issues, also featured on the Traprock website.

### **Traprock writing and publishing**

In regional newspapers and online, Traprock reached a wide audience. In 2018, articles, editorials and letters to the editor addressed the urgent issues of climate disruption; militarism, war and a nuclear-free world; US military pollution; and feminist action for peace. Many are available on the Traprock website at [The Pen is Mightier than the Sword](#). In addition, Traprock’s projects often received positive media coverage.

## Common Threads dialogues

Director Sarah Pirtle worked this year with Tahirah Amatul-Wadud and youth group director Saadia Ahmed from the Islamic Society of Western MA to create three dialogue events bringing together girls and young women who are Muslim and non-Muslim. Tahirah organized the most recent – A Girls Youth Group Empowerment Panel with women of color speaking about their careers.

*PASSING THE POWER ON: Connecting Ages, Changing Ageism* is the next in our [dialogue booklet series](#). Focused on Ageism and Intersectionality, it gives insights from the Traprock conference held this year on ageism in progressive communities that was co-led in January by Sarah and Larkin Christie of Youth Rise Together. The booklet will be available in early 2019 as a free download from the Traprock website.

## Children are our future; Support for youth, for peace

In 2018, the peacebuilding [Journey Camp](#) led by board member [Sarah Pirtle](#) celebrated its 20th anniversary. Impacting the lives of more than 2,000 young people thus far, this summer experience offers a supportive and empowering community for individual and group development. Plus, “the idyllic natural setting of the camp is absolutely spectacular,” writes a parent.

[Books for Children](#) Successful collaboration with children’s librarians in Greenfield (2016) and Orange, MA (2017) resulted in their new collections of children’s books on peace, social justice and nature. This Traprock project, possible through generous donations, continued with great success in 2018 at various [Montague](#) libraries. Participation in the first African Women’s Feminist Peace Conference in Accra, Ghana led to partnering with a feminist organization in Sierra Leone dedicated to peace and justice for women and children. They are the recipient of our 2019 Children’s Book Collaborative award of \$1,000 to purchase children’s books and films.

In 2018, Traprock again organized and sponsored the [Peacemakers Award](#) with the Interfaith Council of Franklin County. For the 18th year, area young people dedicated to peace and justice in their schools and communities were honored at a special event held in May.

**Wally and Juanita Nelson Scholarship and Student Fellowship** The annual scholarship helps a Greenfield Community College student and a student Fellow who do exemplary work on behalf of peace, social justice or environmental justice. Supervised by GCC faculty and Traprock board member Josh Becker.

## Collaborations

In April 2018, Traprock supported a Franklin County Tax Day Speakout, focused on the military budget. During August 6–9, a multifaceted commemoration of the atomic destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 emphasized the need for nuclear disarmament now. We will continue our collaborations in 2019 with Greening Greenfield, The Resistance Center in Northampton on the Nuclear Ban Treaty, Franklin County Continuing the Political Revolution and its Peace Task Force, and the 10,000 Trees for Vietnam project to support additional tree planting in an area affected by Agent Orange.

## **And an information center**

In an era of electronic communication in an area full of resources, active groups and programs, the Traprock Center for Peace & Justice offers a website-based community calendar of events, and a dynamic email service with more than 400 subscribers receiving timely information on events of interest around the valley.

*For more information on all programs, see the Traprock website at <https://traprock.org>.*

*To join the Traprock listserv, email Traprock Center for Peace & Justice at [justicia@traprock.org](mailto:justicia@traprock.org).*

***Tax-exempt donations to continue and expand this work are most welcome. You may donate online at <https://traprock.org/donate/>, or you may send a check to:***

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