

Valley Peace Center Records

1967-1973

28 boxes (13.75 linear ft.)

Call no.: MS 301

Read collection overview [Collection overview](#)

A community organization located in Amherst, Massachusetts, that was staffed largely by volunteer workers and financed by memberships and contributions and aimed to oppose the Vietnam War, to counsel young men of draft age, and to support programs directed at related social and political problems. Includes minutes, correspondence, financial records, newsletters, clippings, volunteer and membership lists, questionnaires, notes, petitions, draft registration forms, buttons, posters, circulars, pamphlets, brochures, periodicals, bound volumes, and other printed materials on such topics as issues of war and peace, draft counseling, alternative service, fund raising, boycotts, war tax resistance, demonstrations, prison reform, environmental quality, and political candidates.

See similar SCUA collections:

[Antinuclear](#)[Massachusetts \(West\)](#)[Peace](#)[Social change](#)[UMass \(1947- \)](#)[Vietnam War](#)

Background on Valley Peace Center (Amherst, Mass.)

A community organization staffed largely by volunteer workers and financed by memberships and contributions, the Valley Peace Center was established in October 1967 to oppose the Vietnam War, to counsel young men of draft age, and to support programs directed at related social and political problems. The Center rented space in Amherst, Massachusetts to house its draft counseling program, its library and its literature distribution services, and for planning and carrying out its other programs. The Center was succeeded by the New Valley Peace Center in April 1973.

Historically a center of dissent, the academic community's skepticism toward the Vietnam War was reinforced during this era

by military draft laws and regulations that provided deferments for college and graduate students so long as they were pursuing their studies. This provision constrained many draft-age young men to college campuses and served to increase their uneasiness. As the decade of the 1960's progressed, opposition to the War and the draft grew, first on and then off the college campuses; spokespersons emerged; organizations were formed; and activities through which opposition to the war could be expressed were developed. In this milieu, in the summer of 1967, members of campus groups at the University of Massachusetts such as the Faculty Group on War and Peace and the Students for Political Action, together with individuals from other area colleges and from the community at large - representing primarily religiously oriented groups - joined forces to form the Valley Peace Center of Amherst.

According to its October 1967 brochure, the Center was conceived of as an "umbrella organization serving as a resource to all those concerned with current international tensions and domestic conditions associated with a state oriented to war." The founders of the Center defined six central aims: U.S. disengagement from the Vietnam War; reversal of the neglect of the human needs of deprived and minority groups in America; change of the draft law to better accommodate objection to the Vietnam War; elicitation of pledges from the government to avoid first use of nuclear and biological weapons; reduction of the power of the "military-industrial complex"; and strengthening of the United Nations. The first aim predominated and served as the unifying position of the Center over its existence.

The Center was active for more than five and a half years, drawing its financial support largely from the community and the bulk of its work force from student and community volunteers. Most of its resources were devoted to draft counseling and the support of that activity, to its library and its literature distribution programs, and to the anti-Vietnam War demonstrations of the late 1960's and early 1970's, especially the weekly Amherst Common Peace Vigil and the demonstrations at the Westover Air Force Base in Chicopee.

As the United States wound down its activities in Vietnam, changed the military draft law, reduced draft calls and eventually discontinued the draft altogether, the role and future of the Center came into question, and a series of conflicts erupted among its participants, especially between some of those long associated with it and a group of energetic newcomers. The quarrel came to a head in the spring of 1973 when, following a change in the voting membership of the

Center's executive board, the views of the newcomers prevailed and the old-timers withdrew. The disruption caused so extensive a reorganization of the Center that it was viewed as discontinued. The succeeding organization renamed itself the New Valley Peace Center.

Scope of collection

The Valley Peace Center Records document the philosophy, activities, programs, and membership of the Center from its founding in 1967 to its disbanding and eventual re-forming as the New Valley Peace Center in 1973. The records comprise minutes, correspondence, financial statements, bills and invoices, manuscripts, surveys, membership lists, subject files, newsletters, brochures, posters, buttons, stickers, clippings, notes, petitions, draft registration forms, pamphlets, periodicals, bound volumes, and other printed materials on such topics as war and peace, draft counseling, alternative service, fund raising, boycotts, war tax resistance, demonstrations, prison reform, environmental quality and political candidates. The collection is prefaced with an introductory file including studies of the Center and is arranged into four series: organizational papers; programs; literature; and artifacts.

Arrangement

This collection is organized into four series:

- **Series 1. Organizational Papers**
- **Series 2. Programs**
- **Series 3. Literature**
- **Series 4. Artifacts**

Series descriptions

Series 1. Organizational Records

Includes the Valley Peace Center Newsletter and the Valley Peace Center News Notes (subseries 1/00). The minutes of the Center begin with the surviving records of the Hampshire County Peace Action Committee, an ad hoc group which created the Center, followed by the minutes of its own Executive Board with certain other communications sent to members, surviving non-programmatic correspondence (correspondence relating to the Center's several programs is placed with other materials relating to respective programs), volunteer and membership lists and responses to mailings, all making up subseries 1/1. The financial records (subseries 1/2)

of the Center comprise all surviving bills, cancelled checks, stubs and correspondence relating to its expenditures; no journal or other running record besides the check stubs seems to have survived. The Center's personnel did a great deal of clipping of current newspapers and leaves in magazines, both local and national; those clippings that originated in the local press or dealt with events taking place in this region are filed with the programs to which they related in series 23 or chronologically, except that the Westover Air Force Base demonstrations have their own folders in subseries 1/3. Materials relating to the activities of one of the Center's precursor groups, the Faculty Group on War and Peace, together with miscellaneous material from three individuals prominent at one time or another in the activities of the Center make up the fourth subseries of Organizational Papers.

Series 2. Programs

Arrangement:

Arranged by activity. Within each subseries, materials are arranged under either the name of the program or the name of the organization spawned by or cooperating with the Center.

Contents:

Includes materials used to organize and initiate services that the Center set out to provide. Subseries 2/1 is a general file of these programs and organizations. Materials relating to the assistance of candidates for public office, draft counseling, to the work involved in placing potential draftees in alternative service program, and to the provision of the library and literature distribution programs are set out in subseries 2/2 through 2/5, respectively.

Series 3. Literature

The Center operated its literature distribution and library program with several aims. It distributed literature and loaned books and pamphlets furthering its views on the Vietnam War, on war in general, and on other social problems in which it was interested. It informed potential draftees of their options, and kept draft counselors informed on the current state of the military draft laws and regulations and on court cases involving the draft. Much of the material was in the form of flyers and circulars, and periodicals produced by national organizations of long standing with well-known spheres of activity and expertise. These materials are arranged in subseries 3/1, under the name of the issuing agency, or, in the case of periodicals, by title. Some circulars and the like from miscellaneous sources are in topical groups in subseries 3/2. Clippings and extracts from the national media on the Vietnam war and other international and domestic issues in which the Center's participants were interested, are arranged by subject, and make up subseries 3/3.

Format considerations dictated the arrangement of most pamphlets and of books into subseries 3/4 and 3/5, respectively. Most pamphlets and all books are filed alphabetically by the name of the author, or, when none

was shown, by title. Some smaller pamphlets showing no author are filed in subseries 3/1 under the name of the issuing agency.

Lists of book and pamphlet titles in this series are available in the collection.

There are many instances in which drafts of meeting minutes, carbons of outgoing correspondence, manuscript notes, etc., were made on the back of spare copies of notices of the Center's activities. In some cases, those copies used for "scratch" purposes may represent the only copies of such notices surviving in the files.

Series 4. Artifacts

Includes stickers, rubber stamps, and thirty-eight buttons related to the Vietnam peace movement, the McGovern candidacy, and other issues; and two rubber address stamps for the Center. Also included in this series, and stored in map case 2, drawer 5, are two posters advertising the Center's address, phone number and its services; one poster "Strategic Air command/Peace is our Profession"; and a copy of the U.S. Constitution, Bill of Rights with footnotes.

Collection inventory

Series 1. Organizational Records

Introductory materials

- | | | |
|--|------|----------|
| • Guide (Removed to notebook of inventories.) | | Box 1: 1 |
| • Donor File, (Removed. Office records.) | 1971 | Box 1: 2 |
| • Bergethon, B. - Outline for paper | | Box 1: 3 |
| • Bergethon and Panter - Small Time, Most Greatly Liv'd' - original typescript | | Box 1: 4 |
| • (Same) - photocopy | | Box 1: 5 |

Subseries 1/00: Publications

- | | | |
|---|-----------------|----------|
| • Valley Peace Center Newsletter | 1967-1970 | Box 2: 6 |
| • Valley Peace Center News Notes and Valley Peace Center Newsletter | 1970-1973, 1973 | Box 2: 7 |

Subseries 1/1: General

• Hampshire County Coordinated Action For Peace	1967	Box 2: 8
• Minutes and papers of the Executive Board	1967	Box 2: 9
• Minutes and papers of the Executive Board	1968	Box 2: 10
• Minutes and papers of the Executive Board	1969	Box 2: 11
• Minutes and papers of the Executive Board	1970	Box 2: 12
• Minutes and papers of the Executive Board	1971	Box 2: 13
• Minutes and papers of the Executive Board	1972	Box 2: 14
• Minutes and papers of the Executive Board	1973	Box 2: 15
• New Valley Peace Center	1973	Box 2: 16
• General Correspondence of the Board	1967-1973	Box 2: 17
• Valley Peace Center vs. James Kelley		Box 2: 18
• Volunteer and membership lists		Box 2: 19
• Volunteered in response to mailing	1970	Box 2: 20
• Volunteered in response to mailing	1971	Box 2: 21

Subseries 1/2: Financial papers

• Bank statements and cancelled checks	1967-1968	Box 3: 22
• Bank statements and cancelled checks	1969-1970	Box 3: 23
• Bank statements and cancelled checks	1971-1972	Box 3: 24
• Check stubs	October 1967-March 1969	Box 3: 25
• Check stubs	March 1969-April 1971	Box 3: 26
• Invoices, correspondence, etc. - A-L		Box 3: 27
• Invoices, correspondence, etc. - M-Z		Box 3: 28
• Bills and invoices	1968-1970	Box 3: 29
• Bills and invoices	1971-1972	Box 3: 30

Subseries 1/3: Newspaper clippings - local

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- 1973 Box 4: 37
- Westover demonstrations - #1 Box 4: 38
- Westover demonstrations - #2 Box 4: 39
- Local student registration Box 4: 40
- Undated Box 4: 41

Subseries 1/4: Resources and backgrounds

- Faculty Group on War and Peace - Activities 1965-1968 Box 4: 42
- Faculty Group on War and Peace - clippings, etc. 1965-1968 Box 4: 43
- Faculty Group on War and Peace - Returns of 1967 questionnaire Box 4: 44
- Faculty Group on War and Peace - Petitions Box 4: 45
- ?Allen, Dean A.? Manuscript notes for 2 talks about 1967 and letter 1970 Box 4: 46
- Burak, Nonnie - correspondence, not Valley Peace Center Box 4: 47
- Winston, Robert M. - course notes, #1 Box 4: 48
- Winston, Robert M. - course notes, #2 Box 4: 49

Series 2. Programs

Subseries 2/1: General (Often includes newspaper clippings)

- Fund raising Box 5: 50
- Advertising and Advertisements Box 5: 51
- Amherst Area Peace Action Committee Box 5: 52
- Amherst College; protest against investments in prime military contractors Box 5: 53
- Amherst High School Box 5: 54
- Anti-Draft Resistance Group Box 5: 55
- Apartheid boycott, etc. Box 5: 56
- Blacks and minorities - local Box 5: 57
- Coffee house proposal Box 5: 58
- Community Involvement Committee Box 5: 59

• Connecticut Valley Anti-War Coalition (CONVAQ	1970	Box 5: 60
• Discussion groups		Box 5: 61
• Environmental quality		Box 5: 62
• Group for New Culture Protection (includes newspaper clippings)		Box 5: 63
• Hampshire County Citizens Committee on Housing and Community Development		Box 5: 64
• Letters to Editors		Box 5: 65
• Literature distribution		Box 5: 66
• Mailing list, undated		Box 5: 67
• Military suppliers - boycotts, etc.		Box 5: 68
• Miscellaneous		Box 5: 69
• Moratoria	1969-1971	Box 5: 70
• Moratoria - New England Packet	1972	Box 5: 71
• Moratoria - "Set the Date Now" packet		Box 5: 72
• New Politics Coalition		Box 5: 73
• Nuclear pollution		Box 5: 74
• People's Lobby		Box 5: 75
• Prison reform		Box 5: 76
• Speakers		Box 5: 77
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• War tax resistance		Box 5: 79
• Westover demonstrations - 41		Box 5: 80
• Westover demonstrations - #2		Box 5: 81
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Subseries 2/2: Political Action

• General		Box 6: 83
• Petitions and letter writing		Box 6: 84
• Hatfield - McGovern amendment		Box 6: 85
• Petitions - local	1970	Box 6: 86
• Movement for a New Congress		Box 6: 87
• Candidates for political office - local		Box 6: 88
• Candidates for congress	1972	Box 6: 89

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| • Presidential candidates - poten general | 1972 | Box 6: 90 |
| • Presidential candidates - Gravel | 1972 | Box 6: 91 |
| • Presidential candidates - McGovern | 1972 | Box 6: 92 |

Subseries 2/3: Draft Counseling

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| • Draft law and regulations - appeals procedures | | Box 6: 94 |
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| • Draft lottery | | Box 6: 97 |
| • Local draft boards - rights and responsibilities | | Box 6: 98 |
| • Massachusetts State Headquarters, U.S. Selective Service System - Circulars to local draft boards | | Box 6: 99 |
| • Vermont State Headquarters, U.S. Selective Service System memoranda to local draft boards | | Box 6: 100 |
| • Counselor's folder | | Box 6: 101 |
| • Counseling applications | | Box 6: 102 |
| • Advice to counselees | | Box 6: 103 |
| • Counselor's status | | Box 6: 104 |
| • Counselors' training, including programs for Valley Peace Center personnel | | Box 6: 105 |
| • Lists of reference materials for counseling | | Box 7: 106 |
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| • Lists of draft counseling centers | | Box 7: 108 |
| • Draft registration, including form 100; classification questionnaire | | Box 7: 108 |
| • Travel abroad for registrants | | Box 7: 110 |
| • Refusal of induction; conscientious objection after induction | | Box 7: 111 |
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| • I-AO - noncombatant military service | | Box 7: 113 |
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• University of Massachusetts/Amherst as an employer		Box 8: 143

- Potential jobs - employers' brochures, #1 Box 8: 144
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- Delaware Draft Counseling and Educational Service Box 9: 152

Subseries 2/5: Program resources

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- Price lists - films Box 9: 154
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Series 3. Literature

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- Akwesasne Notes Box 10: 159
- American Friends Service Committee Box 10: 160
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- Association for International Cooperation and Disarmament (AICD) (Australia) Box 10: 162
- Avoid Vietnams in Latin America (AVILA) Box 10: 163
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- Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation Bulletin Box 10: 165
- Boston Area Ecology Action Box 10: 166

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• Committee for Legal Research on Draft (bibliography)	Box 11: 176
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• Friends Peace Committee "Non-Violence" direct action, personal, nonphysical training manual (with notations)		Box 12: 195
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• National Citizens Committee Concerned about Deployment of the ABM		Box 13: 214
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• National Council to Repeal the Draft		Box 13: 216
• National Council to Repeal the Draft. Newsletter		Box 13: 217
• National Council to Repeal the Draft. NCRD News Update, #1-9	1973	Box 13: 218
• National Council to Repeal the Draft		Box 13: 219
• National Inter-religious Service Board of Conscientious Objectors		Box 13: 220
• National Peace Action Coalition		Box 13: 221
• National Strike Information Center Newspaper		Box 13: 222
• New American Movement. "Full Campaign-anti-war, anti-imperialism"	1972	Box 13: 223
• New England Committee for Non-Violent Action; see also Direct Action		Box 13: 224
• New Mobilization Committee		Box 13: 225
• Newsletter on Military Law and Counseling, vol. 2-3		Box 13: 226
• Newsletter on Military Law and Counseling, vol. 4-5		Box 13: 227
• Nor more Hiroshimas! vol. 16:1-3	1969	Box 13: 228
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• Opposition Air-War Bulletin, #1-3, (all published?)	March-April 1972	Box 13: 230
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• Peacemakers		Box 14: 232
• People's Coalition for Peace and Justice		Box 14: 233
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• Promoting Enduring Peace, general, Cards C 17-19 and 21, and unnumbered reprints		Box 14: 235
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• U.S. Dept. of the Army (probably attachments to CCCO circulars)	Box 14: 249
• U.S. Dept. of State	Box 14: 250
• U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity Mobilization of Non-poor volunteers in Community Action (annotated)	Box 14: 251
• U.S. Selective Service System	Box 14: 252
• U.S. Selective Service System. Brochures, 1972 series	Box 15: 253
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• Washington D.C. protests, - People's lobby, March blockade	15-22 May 1972	Box 16: 275

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• Draft and draft status		Box 16: 277
• Draft counseling		Box 16: 278
• Draft alternatives		Box 16: 279
• Foreign - Bangladesh, India and Pakistan		Box 16: 280
• Foreign - China		Box 16: 281
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Subseries 3/4: Pamphlets

Note:

(legal sized materials are in folder 355)

• Allen, Robert I. <i>Dialectics of Black Power</i> . N.Y.; Weekly Guardian Associates; 1969. 32 pp.	Box 18: 330
• Amherst, Mass., Citizens Review Commission Report to the town of Amherst, Nov. 1, 1969. 22 pp.	Box 18: 330
• American Friends Service Committee. <i>Speak truth to power: a Quaker search for an alternative to violence. A study of international conflict prepared for (the author). (author?, 1955)</i> . vii,	Box 18: 330

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- _____. (another copy, same collation; printed in 1955). Box 18: 330
-
- Bell, Inge Powell. Status discrepancy and the radical rejection of nonviolence. Photocopy from *Sociological Inquiry* 38:51-64, 1968, pp. 52-63 not copied. Box 18: 331
-
- Berkeley-Oakland Women for Peace, Your draft-age son: a message for peaceful parents. Berkeley, CA, the author, 1968. 27 pp. Box 18: 331
-
- Blumberg, Herbert H. Accounting for a nonviolent demonstration. Photocopy from *Sociological Inquiry* 38:43-50, 1968. With Bell, Inge Powell in L. Box 18: 331
-
- Blumberg, Herbert H. A guide to organizations, books and periodicals concerned with nonviolence. Photocopy from *Sociological Inquiry* 38:73-93, 1968. With Bell, Inge Powell in L. Box 18: 331
-
- Brinton, Howard H. The peace testimony of the Society of Friends. Philadelphia?; American Friends Service Committee; (1955?). 16 pp. Box 18: 331
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- Brown, Harrison. Community of fear, by Harrison Brown (and) James Real, with forward by Reinhold Niebuhr. Santa Barbara Ca.; Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions; 1960. (40 pp.) Box 18: 331
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Series 4. Artifacts

Valley Peace Center sign, on cardboard 13" X 13": black lettering on white panels of heavy paper pasted onto black background; some panels missing.	Map Case #2, drawer 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel 1. Valley/Peace/Center/ open weekdays/ one to five p.m./(panel 2) telephone AL 3-3683. • Panel 2. Saturdays, two to four • Panel 3. Trained draft/and military counselors are/available during these hours./For urgent cases/other times/ (missing). 	
Valley Peace Center poster, on heavy beige paper 24" X 18". "where will the children play/valley peace center. 1 cook place/in the alley. amherst 253-3683" over silhouettes of people and animals; signed: Stella 73 6/20. (i.e., 20-6-73?)	Map Case #2, drawer 5
Photograph poster, 23" X 17" of missile and billboard with legend "Strategic Air command/Peace is our Profession"; by Fleur De Lis, Amherst, Ma.	Map Case #2, drawer 5
U.S. Constitution. Bill of Rights, as proposed March 4, 1789. 13 1/2" X 15" facsimile, with footnotes.	Map Case #2, drawer 5
Rubber Stamp: "Valley Peace Center/1 Cook Place - In the Alley/253-3683/Amherst, Mass. 01002"	Box 4
Rubber Stamp: "Valley Peace Center/P.O. Box 418/Amherst, Mass. 01002"	Box 4
Blank button. 5 red.	Box 4
Blank button, red, hand-lettered: "KIDNAP/BEBE/RE(B)OZO"	Box 4
Peace stamps 1 1/2" X 5" booklet, of 500, with 72 remaining.	Box 4

- All our sons in Vietnam are POWs (5)
- Peace on earth, good will toward men (5)
- War is not healthy for children (5)

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Acquired in February 1974 by a group of Executive Board members including Nonny Burack and Professor Dean A. Allen.

Accruals

Accretions expected.

Processing Information

Processed by W. B. Cook, Jr., May 1980.

Language:

English

Acknowledgments

Encoding funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

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Names

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- Valley Peace Center news notes.
- Valley Peace Center newsletter.
- Vietnamese Conflict, 1961-1975--Protest

- Valley Peace Center (Amherst, Mass.)--Archives.

Genre terms

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