

the marching of Brazilian protesters and their calls to transform Brazil into the remarkable country tourists once believed it to be during the summer of 2016.

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### Division II - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Lauren Bowman Independent Study Promoter of Peace

"It must be a peace without victory... Victory would mean peace forced upon the loser, a victor's terms imposed upon the vanquished. It would be accepted in humiliation, under duress, at an intolerable sacrifice and would leave a sting, a resentment, a bitter memory upon which terms of peace would rest, not permanently, but only as upon quicksand. Only a peace between equals can last" (Woodrow Wilson, regarding World War II). Eighty years ago the world was in a state of turmoil. Peace had been eclipsed by hunger for power, and all humaneness was forgotten while a madman ravaged Europe. Even then, a few people still stood for peace. One such person was a young German girl named Sophie Scholl. She was part of a resistance group who called themselves the White Rose. The goal of Sophie Scholl and the White Rose was to protest National Socialism (Nazism) and bring about peace through writing instead of violence.

On May 9, 1921, a mayor and his wife gave birth to a girl named Sophie Scholl in Forchtenberg, Germany. As the fourth out of six children, Sophie led a quiet, normal childhood until Hitler came to power in 1933. At twelve years old, she joined the League of German Girls, the female division of the Hitler Youth, and was soon promoted to Squad Leader. However, the Nazi ideology increasingly conflicted with her values and Christian faith. Her brother and father were both arrested separately for anti-Nazi actions and these events left an impression on her. After graduating from secondary school, Sophie became a kindergarten teacher. In 1941, she began working as a nursery teacher in Blumberg as part of auxiliary war service. Sophie disliked this position and began to involve herself in passive resistance against the war effort. In May 1942, after serving six months in the National Labor Service, she enrolled at the University of Munich, along with her brother Hans. Hans also played a key role in the

resistance, and the two became associated with a group of like-minded resisters.

In early 1942, the White Rose was formed by Hans Scholl, Willia Graf, and Christoph Probst. They wrote and distributed six anti-Nazi leaflets across Munich and mailed them throughout Germany. Some of these writings even made their way to the United States. When Sophie found out about the group, she convinced her brother to let her help. She carried messages and distributed leaflets. As a woman, she was less likely to be randomly stopped by the SS. The pamphlets contained messages such as this: "We will not be silent. We are your bad conscience. The White Rose will not leave you in peace!" (the fourth leaflet). It also contained calls to peaceful action. "Everyone is in a position to contribute to the overthrow of this system... it can be done only by the cooperation of many convinced, energetic people... We have no great number of choices as to these means. The only one available is passive resistance" (the third leaflet). Their goal was to end the genocide of Jews and bring peace to the world. They believed that violence could not end violence and that only peaceful resistance was the solution to ending the war.

Many people say the White Rose underestimated the monstrosity of the war. Not long after they began, on February 18th, 1943, Sophie Scholl, and her brother Hans were arrested while distributing the sixth pamphlet at the University of Munich. Just four days later a trial was held by a passionate Nazi, Roland Freisler, also known as the "hanging judge." In court, Sophie stated, "Somebody, after all, had to make a start. What we wrote and said is also believed by many others. They just don't dare express themselves. I am, now as before, of the opinion that I did the best that I could do for my nation. I therefore do not regret my conduct and will bear the consequences that may result from it." Sophie and Hans, along with Christoph Probst who had been arrested later, were sentenced to death by guillotine and were killed only a few hours later. Sophie's last words were, "How can we expect righteousness to prevail when there

their oppressive socio-political landscape into one of justice and equality. Sadly, these democratic views came with a price. They are the reason she was targeted on the night of March 14, 2018. While driving home, she was assassinated by two men, who appeared to be professional killers having connections to Jair Bolonsario, Brazil's president. Her death sent a shockwave across the favelas. Her life and devotion to service, despite the tremendous risk she willingly faced, has inspired armies of courageous Brazilians to line the streets and carry on her legacy. More than ever before, they have utilized their power in numbers to demand justice.

When I discovered Marielle's story, I was astonished by her exemplary bravery and persistence. Despite being well aware of the deep-rooted corruption embedded into Brazil's government and their infamous hatred of activists, she still chose to stand up for all of the hard-working mothers, unfortunate victims of assault, homeless children, and all other underrepresented groups in Brazil. She stood for those without a voice - those who couldn't stand for themselves. She inspires me to work harder to ensure a more peaceful and just world because even in one of the world's most repressed political climates, she still managed to create tangible and fundamental change to the institutions that oppressed her people. As a citizen of the United States, a country where we are entitled to the freedom of speech and our natural rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, I ought to combat the injustices that I and other Americans endure on a daily basis. If there's one lesson Marielle's life has taught me, it is to take advantage of the well-fostered spirit of democracy that has already been instilled into our country.

Marielle Franco paid the ultimate sacrifice in order to defend the most vulnerable citizens of Brazil. She willingly risked her life for what she believed was the greater good. She was a hero. Despite her tremendous impact on the activist culture in Brazil, many only remember her for conspiracies clouding her death, rather than her efforts to consolidate peace. Nevertheless, her life's impact can still be vibrantly heard through

legislature's Commission for Human Rights Defense. After years of garnering political experience, in 2016, Marielle decided to run for a position as a city councillor of Rio de Janeiro. In a world where only 11% of elected councillor positions in Brazil are held by women (Corral), the odds were stacked against her; especially considering that she was also a woman of color and part of the LGBT community, with both groups being heavily discriminated against in Brazil. Nonetheless, she won the election by a landslide and received the fifth highest vote total out of more than 1,500 candidates (Giangrande). As one of the only politicians with her unique background and demographic, she accumulated massive support and attention. For Brazil's corrupt, oppressive government, she represented an anomaly.

Throughout her career, Marielle worked to provide justice to the underrepresented populations of the favelas and created peace in a community driven by gangs and violence. As a city councillor, Marielle stressed issues relating to corruption and the favelas in many of her bills. On December 9, 2018, she passed a bill into law, which campaigned against the harassment of women, especially at schools. The bill utilized widespread advertisement through the public transit system, which explained and denounced sexual harassment, and vouched for the use of public transit video surveillance cameras as a method of identifying violators (Assédio). She later authored Espaço Coruja, or Owl Space, a bill which currently provides night-time nurseries for the children of working families to accommodate for night shifts (Espaço). Furthermore, she accommodated Brazil's youth by passing a bill which promotes the social reintegration of juvenile offenders through various governmental-services and socioeconomic measures. These programs were imperative in developing responsibility and initiative in these young adults, while also encouraging the, "reinsertion of adolescents in the educational system," (Establishment). However, despite the many life-changing bills which she authored and passed, arguably the most notable impact she had throughout her life was empowering the common people of Brazil to realize that they had the power and strength to rise up and transform

is hardly anyone willing to give himself up individually to a righteous cause? Such a fine sunny day, and I have to go, but what does my death matter, if, through us, thousands of people are awakened and stirred to action?" The Nazis continued their investigation and other members of the White Rose were later arrested.

Upon learning of Sophie's life and death, many people inside and outside the country were inspired to join the fight for freedom and justice in Nazi Germany. Franz J. Müller, the last surviving participant of the White Rose, said, "[Children] tend to be amazed by what we did, but Hans and Sophie Scholl really did not want to be heroes. Friendship and freedom were the values most important to them." Sophie was not trying to gain money or fame; she just wanted to abolish the evil in Germany. She was only twenty-one, yet her actions are still remembered. Today she inspires us to stand up for peace and justice by using writing and other non-violent methods. We must remember that often, "the pen is mightier than the sword." If we say we are against violence and then try to end violence using violence, our actions will prove our words untrue. Sophie inspires me by demonstrating that something as simple as writing could have an enormous impact on the world.

"Stand up for what you believe in even if you are standing alone" (Sophie Scholl). Sophie and the members of the White Rose lived out this quote. They stood up against the Nazis, even when others were afraid; and they did so in a peaceful manner. With strength and determination, Sophie Scholl fought for peace and justice, through writing.

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### **Division II - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place**

**Kayla Zhu**

**Central Valley HS**

**Yuri Kochiyama: Togetherness of All People**

There are a large amount of Asian-American women who've dedicated their lives to activism, fighting for peace and justice. Their names remain unknown to most Americans, even though they've played such a large role in the way lives are today. Yuri Kochiyama is a great example of one of these women. She is a Japanese American who's faced the racial inequity of the government, and fought hard for not only for

### **Division II - 1st Place**

**Rana Banankhah**

**Independent Study**

**Marielle Franco:**

**Brazil's Voice in a Country Choked by Oppression**

As hordes of tourists and excited fans flooded the terminals of Rio de Janeiro's international airport during the summer of 2016, they poured out of the exits to behold the breathtaking city. Modern infrastructure, picturesque views, and extensive security impressed travelers as they prepared to head toward the stadium where the Olympics were being held. As they drove through the highway, where a road barrier displaying vibrant, colorful art lined the road, they may have noticed the glossy new skyscrapers adorning the coastline. Rio de Janeiro appeared to perfectly coalesce with the standards of the idyllic city. But all of those delightful expectations were nothing more than a lie. Only a few yards away from that very highway, intentionally hidden by the recently developed road barriers, were the favelas, or Brazilian slums. Drug lords and gang members were, and still are, the only authorities present in these parts of the city. The area is practically patrolled by gang members freely strolling around with machine guns slung across their backs. In the Maré favela, one of the deadliest parts of the city, Marielle Franco, a young mother attending university, advanced through the chaos.

As an LGBT woman of color living in the favelas, Marielle Franco was born and raised in a world of discrimination and desperation. She began working at the ripe age of eleven (Maliutchenko) to pay for her college education and bore her first child at the age of 18 (Viola). Unfortunately, tragedy rattled her life in 2000 when she experienced the loss of a close friend to gun violence (Maliutchenko). As she struggled to cope with the pain of her loss, Marielle transformed her anguish into action, as she immersed herself into the world of human rights activism. She promptly pursued a degree in social sciences and joined the state

Specifically, I have gained knowledge from Cole as I have always enjoyed picking apart his lyrics, educating myself on ideas that I may have never known of. Through his rap, I was able to question my own impact on the world as I gained a desire to express myself as he does. Consequently, I hope to use my own art to convey messages of significance similar to Cole. This desire proves that Cole's impact is of peaceful nature as art is a much better substitute for violence. Cole has taught me to access my inner thoughts through these means rather than add to the present anger and hatred in the world. Additionally, I am inspired to participate in my own community being more observative of my environment. Similar to Cole, I hope to reverse many of the injustices in the world starting in my own community. I can accomplish this by reaching out to leaders surrounding me and drawing more attention to important topics. Overall, Cole has allowed me to access a creative side of myself as he has inspired me to search for new methods to speak up.

Cole, a known and accomplished rap artist has continued to carry his own legacy, guiding massive groups of people including myself to spread peace and understanding. Although his form of expression is often overlooked and mocked, he finds a way to attract the eyes of others through the originality he brings to the table. Therefore, Cole has proven himself to be a hero of peace as he has created an accepting and loving environment for all people.

Asian-Americans, but a variety of different ethnic backgrounds to grow together towards a peaceful future. Yuri Kochiyama is a lesser known activist who has worked for both peace and justice through non-violent and non military means, inspiring me to make the world a more peaceful place as well.

Yuri Kochiyama dedicated her life to decreasing racial injustice; helping African-Americans while freeing political prisoners was just a part of it. According to "Asian American Activism: The Continuing Struggle", Kochiyama took part in the Civil Rights movement while "learning about Black history and listening to Black speakers, writers, and activists... Kochiyama shifted toward Black liberation, joining the Republic of New Africa, a militant Black nationalist organization in Harlem." ("Yuri Kochiyama" 2) With this, Kochiyama promoted and pushed for integrated education, giving young black children a chance at education as well. The way she would put time and effort into researching topics that would have little benefit for her showed how selfless she was, as well as how much she cared for the well being of those around her. In "Yuri Kochiyama (1921-2014)", Kazuyo Tsuchiya explains that "Yuri's keen interest in equality and justice led her to work for the sake of political prisoners in the U.S. and other parts of the world in her later years. Yuri was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005 for her tireless struggles against imperialism and racism." (Tsuchiya 3). As a victim to the Japanese internment camps as well as her father's passing as a political prisoner, she knew first hand the feeling others felt; she knew the oppression and inequality had to be fixed. Of course, the racial injustice of society wouldn't fix itself, so she decided to do something about it. For the rest of her life, Kochiyama worked through ups and downs to advocate a future of the togetherness of all people.

Kochiyama's actions were just as impactful as they were important. She inspired many to advocate for a future where society worked together, as well as pushed for reparations to give back nearly-lost lives of innocents. In a tribute to Yuri, Scott Kurashige reminisces "I am one of thousands whose lives were

immensely touched by Yuri Kochiyama. Not all of those people are Asian American, but for those who are, Yuri directly and indirectly helped us connect our own identity struggles to the broader and more radical struggle for human liberation.” (Kurashige 1). Being one of the many individuals who were deeply inspired by Kochiyama, Kurashige found great interest researching America’s racial injustice as well as spreading her ideas through his love of writing. She had given many people of color a sense of justice in the American world, and changed many lives both positively and heavily. Her actions were also very important as she saved the lives of many political prisoners. “She ‘Has Become an Ancestor?—Yuri Kochiyama’s Legacy: I remember” recalls how “It is no accident that political prisoner, Abu-Jamal, would commemorate Yuri Kochiyama. Abu-Jamal, who was framed by Philadelphia police and convicted through prosecutorial misconduct for the 1982 murder of policeman Daniel Faulkner, always maintained his innocence.” (Taylor 4). Koriyama not only changed lives, but saved them as well. Abu-Jamal was only one of the many accused innocents Kochiyama had fought for; she worked as best as she could with many of her friends to free as much as she could have. Her hard work heavily inspires me as a young American who also wants the togetherness of all people.

The dedication of Yuri Kochiyama makes me want to help others as much as I can as well, whether the impact be large or small. One of my favorite quotes from her is “Our ultimate objective in learning about anything is to try to create and develop a more just society” (Kochiyama). My ideal future would be to improve the relationships of society, to shape a world that is more peaceful and fair. World peace may be labeled impossible, but activists like Kochiyama inspire me to help the world take another step towards the concept. Another favorite quote of mine is, “...transform yourself first...Because you are young and have dreams and want to do something meaningful, that in itself, makes you our future and our hope. Keep expanding your horizon, decolonize your mind, and cross borders.” (Kochiyama)

abusive stepfather. Although many share similar experiences and can relate to him, not many are able to create positivity from negative memories. Following, Cole’s illustrative and poetic music features a sense of depth that presents questions to society and future generations. By creating music that has deep meaning, Cole fights his own peaceful protest. As more and more people see the beauty in his work, they gain knowledge which is indeed the most powerful gift. Whether or not everyone agrees with his perspective, it can be recognized that Cole has taken an approach to activism that not many have achieved.

On a global level, Cole has impact a wide range of people of all races, religions, and genders by using his music to persuade others to fight for their own beliefs whether they agree with him or not. One specific way he has contributed to a more just world is that he has identified racial inequalities he has seen throughout his life, whether it be directed at others or himself. For instance, Cole’s song, *1985*, identifies modern representation of white privilege in relation to cultural appropriation. He harshly explains the want for other people to be black culture wise until it comes to living reality as an African American. Moving on, Cole’s live performances are arguably the most impactful part of his character as an artist as he is able to create personas and attitudes that reflect a deeper meaning. In one performance with the singer Daniel Caesar, Cole preaches the false reality of the temporary high that results from drugs as he takes on the role of a person under the influence. Stepping out of this role, he transforms his characteristics and mannerisms into himself and proceeds to lecture the audience on the benefits of an alternate method, meditation. By performing a song like this, Cole influences others to become sober themselves and attempt to meditate as a more beneficial solution to any struggles they may endure. Overall, Cole has consistently upheld a platform that encourages and informs others.

Lastly, I have been greatly influenced myself by Cole as I can vicariously live through his art and hopefully unlock my own voice in the world. Although my personality and experience differs greatly from his, I am able to feel connected to the music.

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### **Division I - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place**

**Yara Choeb**

**Riverbank HS**

### **Unconventional Activism**

Jermaine Lamarr Cole, otherwise known as J. Cole, fulfills his role as an activist and artist as he continuously creates rap music in which listeners can feel understood and heard. Although he voices his protest in an unconventional way, he is drawing attention through his poetic and profound words. Thus, Cole can be characterized as a hero of peace as his art as a rapper influences not only his immediate followers, but also a global audience, ultimately persuading others to take their own stand in the world.

To start, Cole's identification as a music artist has allowed him to express ideas of significance to him whether it be about global issues or inspiration. In particular, he has created several albums which express racial inequalities and misconceptions; he expresses the impact of his childhood while simultaneously telling a story. Unlike other peacemakers such as politicians or writers, Cole is able to connect to people in a unique way. His ability to involve the listener in the song as though they themselves are living in it has drawn attention since the beginning of his career. Growing up humble, Cole experienced life as a mixed child with an

Change starts with the individuals that recognize it. I know the future I find ideal, filling the world with more love, won't be easy to reach. Even so, I'll expand my horizon, decolonize my mind, and cross borders to reach that goal. I want to inspire others just as Kochiyama has inspired me.

Yuri Kochiyama, a lesser known peace activist, has dedicated her life to advocating the growth of equality towards a peaceful future between all backgrounds. She fell in love with her work, and did more than what she could to develop this flawed society. Even though the world will never reach conventional perfection, it has come closer to a much better life for its inhabitants. This is because there are people that push for what's morally right, and it becomes a chain reaction of increasing activism. Maybe like this, world peace can be achieved.

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**Division III - 1<sup>st</sup> Place**  
**Isabella Salzer**  
**Oakdale Jr HS**  
**Works of a True Hero**

In today's world, it is hard to find someone who is a true hero. Nobody in our society has a pure heart, but some people go above and beyond to make our world a better place. Joseph Campbell once said, "A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself." I believe this to be true, and that to be a true hero, they must be able to inspire others to do so as well. I believe a great example of a hero is Leymah Roberta Gbowee.

Leymah is a peace activist, social worker, and women's rights advocate who helped lead a non-violent movement, which ended the Second Liberian Civil War. In 2011, she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her amazing efforts in ending the fourteen-year-old war in a peaceful and fair manner. She became the founder of the Women in Peacebuilding Network and helped run protests with multiple races of people to get rid of President Taylor. It brought many people to the cause and eventually, Taylor resigned and went into exile. In his wake, a peace treaty was signed which mandated a transitional government.

Leymah became a global leader and was requested at the United Nations Commission to share her opinion on matters such as women's rights. She has inspired people around the world for her strength and perseverance, as well as her ability to peacefully solve horrible situations. Leymah once said, "You can never leave footprints that last if you are always walking on tiptoe." When Leymah started to unite people she didn't intend to leave a whisper; she would leave an entire story that would be passed on to inspire others.

Leymah shows that we don't need to use violence to solve problems. In America, there are riots that sometimes end up in bloodshed and grief. The Women in Peacebuilding Network

when I joined my current Boy Scout Troop. One of the leadership requirements was to complete a "Baden-Powell" in order to rank up. This meant coming up with a volunteer project to benefit someone/something in the community. I then had to coordinate how the project would get done. I have organized and participated in many different "Baden-Powells" that have helped spread peace throughout my community. Baden-Powell's legacy has inspired others to follow in his footsteps to make our world a more just and peaceful place. For me, his name is synonymous with giving and doing the right thing. I have over 175 recorded volunteer hours since starting high school. Many of those hours have come from Eagle Scout projects, including my own. Giving back to those in need is rewarding, and because of him, I feel that people should have a sense of giving back. Those that have a willingness to give help to create an environment of peace. Biden once famously said, "Try and leave this world a little better than you found it" (Baden-Powell Introduction)

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It spread across the globe and his training book was translated into all the world's major languages (Baden-Powell Introduction).

With the guidance of Baden-Powell, the Boy Scout Movement continued to grow (Baden-Powell Introduction). The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is "to serve others by helping to instill values in young people and, in other ways, to prepare them to make ethical choices during their lifetime in achieving their full potential. The values we strive to instill are based on those found in the Scout Oath and Law" (Mission and Purpose of the Boy Scouts of America). In 1917, after the war had ended, Baden-Powell wanted Boy Scouts to strive for and maintain peace (Celebrating the life and legacy of Baden-Powell). This man inspired generations of young people, wrote many books, earned honorary degrees, decorations, and nineteen foreign scout awards (Baden-Powell Introduction). Anyone that has been in Scouting has benefited from his visionary ideas. I feel that through his lifetime work of promoting the well-being of young people, he was instilling qualities that would stay with a person as they become adults. Baden-Powell was an individual who worked for peace and justice by educating young people. Seventy years after his death, Messengers of Peace, a global initiative was launched in over 220 countries to inspire young men and women to work harder on Baden-Powell's dream of peace through scouting (Alder, 2015)

Baden-Powell's actions were an important contribution to building a more peaceful and just world. He was an insightful man who realized that teaching and instilling values when a boy was young, would help to ensure that he would not only be self-fulfilled but would play a positive role in society when he grew older. Baden-Powell is considered the father of Boy Scouts, an organization that has had millions of boys go through the program. Over a hundred years later, I have followed the principles that were first presented by Baden Powell. The first time I heard of Robert Baden-Powell was

made sure that everyone would stay safe and calm during their protests. At one point the military arrived and attempted to arrest Leymah. She used smarts instead of strength and threatened to disrobe them which, according to traditional beliefs, was a curse that would bring a horrible misfortune upon them. They immediately stood down and Leymah created a turning point that would lead to the resignation of President Taylor.

I am inspired by Leymah Gbowee because she makes me feel as if I have the power to do something in this world. Violence is not needed to leave a mark on society. Leymah and her network inspire all people around the world, not only women, to stand up for themselves in a peaceful and just manner. Leymah believes, "As we build peace, let's not forget the youth as they are our future." She understood that the foundation beneath the peace they built, needs to outlive them. It lets me and other youths around the world believe that we can help add to that foundation and even build upon it. I hope that more people can learn and be inspired by the true hero that is shown by Leymah Roberta Gbowee.

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**Division III -2<sup>nd</sup> Place**  
**Nathan Carlson**  
**Independent Study**  
**Fresh Start**

“Bring me the hair clippers!” That's what I would say if I was Anna Ennis-Hatton, the co-founder of the First Tuesday Project in Modesto. Prior to this organized monthly program you would find Anna with her hair cutting supplies at various spots around Modesto. She would also be found once in a while at Beard's Park where all homeless were stationed by the city, but it became very unsafe, so she had to stop and find a new location. This brought to mind how Anna could spread her talent to every unfortunate citizen in her hometown. Anna gives haircuts to people that can't afford to have it done elsewhere. Providing haircuts gave a sense of peace and social justice for a fresh start to those who need it most.

Feeling unsafe sharing her talents, led to the birth of the First Tuesday Project with Interfaith Ministries, whose mission is “Many faiths; one purpose-restoring dignity, health and hope” (Interfaith). The routine for each client starts with taking a shower at the Cleansing Hope Shower Shuttle, then they receive a haircut by a licensed volunteer hairstylist, including Anna, and then they are encouraged to visit the Clothes Closet for twenty pieces of clothing. Anna shared with me the types of clients that they serve. Some are homeless, others have just come out of jail, several have lost their jobs, a few are behind in their bills, and others come from nearby shelters. Each month Anna has around 20-60 clients.

Her actions help contribute to building a more peaceful world because she helps homeless people of the community to feel cared for. Anything can be frightening, especially inviting someone that is different through your eyes. "I have worked with some of the richest people on earth and also with the ones that have nothing... and you know what? There is not much difference between the two. We are all people no

**Division I - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place**  
**Noah Scarbrough**  
**Hughson HS**  
**Robert Baden-Powell: A Peace Activist**

Well-known recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize include people such as Elie Wiesel, Nelson Mandela, Jimmy Carter, and Barack Obama. This prestigious award can be given to an individual that promotes peace between nations (All Nobel Peace Prizes). However, there are many individuals that also promote peace that are not as widely known. An individual who had been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1928, but probably is not as widely known, is a man named Robert Baden-Powell (Nomination Database - Peace). This man had a vision of a peaceful world of brotherhood. What Baden-Powell is most widely known for is his contribution to the world of scouting. He is named the “Chief Scout of the World” (Baden-Powell Introduction). He was a person that wanted to help others and help them prepare for their lives ahead of them. Despite not being known by many people today, Robert Baden-Powell was a promoter of peace during his lifetime.

I believe Baden-Powell made important contributions to promote a peaceful and just world. After returning back home from his military duties in 1903, Baden-Powell discovered he was a national hero. A book he had originally written for soldiers, Aids to Scouting, was being used by youth leaders to teach youth various survival skills. His fame led to invitations to speak across Britain and was asked to come up with ways to improve citizenship training for boys. He rewrote his book, removing military references, for younger boys and in 1907 organized a camp that included boys from wealthy families and those from working-class families. Regardless of social standing, all boys could stand to learn and develop their citizenship. This was the start to the scout movement. His book, which started as a training guide became the handbook for the Movement.

Services (CDSS) showed that during the years of 2013 to 2017, Stanislaus County alone received 1,087 refugees.

Just as Thompson said, "Peace is not created through passivity and quietism and in order to aid in the building of a peaceful and just world", Yasir did the exact opposite. He assists in this vision by getting involved and rallies for these families to be helped by sharing the situation of these hardships struck families and how anyone everyone can help.

Yasir's fierce sense of dedication and strength has inspired in many ways, I could fill a book. I had the opportunity to work beside him for many aspects of Al-Misbah's Resettlement projects in the initial stages of the non-profit and every step taught me a lesson. Upon seeing a need for something that would bring peace, even to one person, you should seize the opportunity and make it happen. Al-Misbah wasn't built overnight, it was through hard work, dedication, faith, strength, and perseverance.

After experiencing the surge of refugees in real-time, Yasir gathered up the strength and will power to be a change in this momentous event. With an imagination that was the sky's limit, Yasir used his strong sense of justice to turn his sympathy for these displaced families into energy that would fuel his vision and succession of Al-Misbah. All of his continuous efforts have made me realize that I and anyone can work together to create a more peaceful and just world by simply taking action.

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matter what. We are the same makeup, just some of our circumstances are different from one another. God created us equal even though at times we forget that." (Ennis-Hatton)

Anna inspires me through great ways as she begins to change the world and make every human feel equally cared for, even when someone is suffering deeply in their lives. Through Anna's twenty years of hairstyling her life has changed profoundly. She has helped me to understand how to feel more comfortable around homeless people when I am at the park or at one of my baseball games. She explained to me how to use my inside courage to look them in the eyes and smile. "You never know what a simple 'hello' can do for another person." (Ennis-Hatton) I feel empowered to seek out and care for the unfortunate people around me.

Everyone should have the opportunity to feel cared for and loved. Anna chose to start this city-wide project, where she helps the unfortunate become ready for a fresh start. She inspired me to follow in her great adventures. Her genuine respect for people brings peace to Modesto.

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### Division III - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

**Stella Whitier**

**Hart Ransom Acad Charter**

**A Hero Close to Home**

"When will our consciences grow so tender that we will act to prevent human misery rather than avenge it?" — Eleanor Roosevelt

Chris Whitler is a man who demonstrates peace, love, and kindness greatly. He does all of the little things without anyone knowing. He works without complaining. He goes the extra mile to make others happy. He is my definition of a hero who works for peace. My father is someone who is

trusted by many people from all walks of life. He works at a residential care facility for the mentally ill where he organizes games for them, sings songs with them, and takes them out on trips. He has created a safe space for the homeless by setting up a cafe on 9th street. He picks up bread and pastries from donations, then goes and sets up coffee and pastries on the street and creates a space where homeless people can feel like they still have a sense of dignity. He also is a pastor and works with the youth at his church. In all three hats he wears there is a common thread of care, respect, and dignity that he shows to the outcast and lonely.

Chris Whittler is someone who speaks on behalf of the marginalized and forgotten. When someone is homeless, they can feel like they do not have a voice. That they are not treated like a real human being, because sadly, they are not treated the way they should be. My father gives them their voice. He stands up for them by speaking at churches and conferences on behalf of the homeless community. He makes them feel dignified. He makes them feel welcomed. He treats them like the human beings that they are.

When I was little I would always make up clubs. Every week would be a different club. No matter what it was, he would support it. He especially liked the Save America Club, which lasted a month or so. He has taught me to keep going even if I fail. He has taught me to keep making clubs until one of them actually lasts. He inspires me everyday with his acts of kindness towards others to do the same.

My father believes that kindness is the way to peace. He shows kindness to me, kindness to others, kindness to people in need, even kindness to people who may not seem to deserve kindness. Chris Whittler, a human being who tries his best to help everyone who needs it, to create a safe space for the outcasts, the unwanted, the poor, the hungry, the dirty, the people of the streets. No matter who they are, what they look like, where they have been, what choices they have made, he still loves them and cares for them. That is my definition of a hero who works for peace.

**Division I - 1<sup>st</sup> Place**  
**Maryam Sabri**  
**School Whitmore Charter**  
**Creating a Peaceful World One Hand at a Time**

One of the most befitting quotes that describe the work of a local community member was once said by the American Journalist Dorothy Thompson; "Peace has to be created, in order to be maintained. It is the product of faith, strength, energy, will, sympathy, justice, imagination, and the triumph of principle. It will never be achieved by passivity and quietism." Mohammad Yasir Khan, a Muslim American strives to bring peace and justice to this world by implementing these very values. Yasir's actions have led to building a more peaceful and just world, including creating a non-profit organization that specializes in helping refugees while also bringing communities together through various events to establish bonds between the people of neighboring counties through family activities such as camping, community picnics, and basketball tournaments. Leading by example perhaps is the method to spark inspiration because of viewing and partaking in some of the projects Yasir leads, I strive to help create a more peaceful and balanced world.

With the guiding principles of Islam and its many lessons of peace, including Islam's equivalent of the golden rule, faith is simply one ingredient in the simple recipe called peace. Just as a horse has the will power to move mountains upon the sight of delectable treats like rosy apples and bright carrots, Yasir is the same. Upon the sight of surrounding communities he filled the need to help with new families seeking refuge from the terrors of wars, he sprang into action by establishing a non-profit called Al-Misbaah to provide "a foundation for a home" for each refugee family so they could become a proper, functional unit of society (Al-Misbaah). As part of "a foundation for a home" basic necessities like hygiene products, food, and clothing. In addition, they help by providing transportation services that were gathered from donations via monetary donations and physical new or gently used items. A statistic from the California Department of Social

### Division IV (grades 5 & 6)

Award	Name	School	Teacher
1st	Landon Sales	Independent Study	Susan Janis
2nd & SW	Julia Hartley	Hart Ransom Acd Chtr	Susan Janis
3rd	Lila Fritz	Hart Ransom Acd Chtr	Susan Janis
HM	Marcus Ang	Hart Ransom Acd Chtr	Susan Janis
HM	Haeliana Halloran	Hart Ransom Acd Chtr	Susan Janis
HM	Aidan Suntra	Hart Ransom Acd Chtr	Susan Janis
Finalist	Raina Curson	Great Valley Acad-M	Kassandra Angel
Finalist	Malachi Geiken	Hart Ransom Acd Chtr	Susan Janis
Finalist	Joseph Hajjar	Hart Ransom Acd Chtr	Susan Janis
Finalist	Khylee Houston	Agnes Baptist Elem	Toni David
Fin & SW	Erin Leamy	John Fremont Elem	Doren Arnold
Finalist	Sparsh Malhotra	Agnes Baptist Elem	Toni David
Finalist	Hasan Modan	Agnes Baptist Elem	Toni David
Finalist	Luke Nelson	Independent Study	Susan Janis
Finalist	Rafael Padilla	Hart Ransom Acd Chtr	Susan Janis
Finalist	Akhil Patel	Hart Ransom Acd Chtr	Susan Janis
Finalist	Aubrey Perez	Osborn Elem	Sra Enciso
Fin & SW	Jud Perryman	Hickman Middle Sch	Michelle Blaze
Finalist	Paige Shea	Connect. Waters Chrtr	Alida Higgins
Fin & SW	Rachel Warter	Agnes Baptist Elem	Toni David
SW	Hunter Miner-Hill	Somerset MS	Denise Argain
SW	Josephine Webster	Valley Home Elem	Mrs. Stewart

HM = Honorable Mention

SW = School Winner, recognized for the top essay from a school that has submitted 10 or more essays in the Division

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### Division IV - 1<sup>st</sup> Place

#### Landen Sales Independent Study A Magic Apple

"Who will feed the kids this weekend?" Missy Hammerstrom found herself asking this question when she realized that there were many children in her hometown of Louisville, Kentucky going to bed hungry (Blessings in a Backpack). One day she was having lunch at an elementary school and a young girl asked for her apple. Missy asked her if she was still hungry after lunch, but the little girl replied that the apple was for dinner. This saddened Missy. Determined to help this girl as well as other children, that night Missy purchased several backpacks and filled them with food. The following morning she donated them to the school. Missy worked tirelessly to bring peace to her community by feeding hungry children.

Missy saw a problem that needed to be fixed. One hungry little girl and the gift of an apple led to the beginning of Blessings in a Backpack. In 2005 she started this organization in her garage by packing food for local kids in her town. Now, fourteen years later, it is a national organization that has grown dramatically. Blessings in a Backpack sends 87,300 kids home with food every weekend. Forty-five other states have joined this mission to feed starving children (Blessings in a Backpack).

Feeding hungry children contributes to creating a more peaceful and just world. Children should not have to go to school hungry or worry about where their next meal will come from. By feeding the hungry children and

giving them needed nourishment students' grades improved. Creating a fair and healthy learning environment has been an added benefit. Thanks to Missy, many families have felt loved and supported with each bag of food. She has changed lives for the better and has shown countless children that their lives matter.

All that Missy has accomplished has inspired me to also make a difference in my community. I volunteered with a group of children for her organization. We met in a barn and were placed at our own stations. We filled hundreds of boxes with food. It was a nice feeling knowing i was helping children who needed food in my area. My eyes have been opened to see there is a need for more people to step up and help children that are hungry.

Missy fulfilled her purpose here on Earth. She died in 2010 knowing that she brought peace and justice to her hometown and also her country! Countless lives have been changed from all that Missy has accomplished. She has shown the world that we can make a difference in any community we live in. We should all be inspired to sacrifice as Missy did. Her life leaves a legacy of bringing peace to hungry families, one backpack at a time.

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**Division IV -2<sup>nd</sup> Place**

**Julia Hartley**

**Hart Ransom Acad Charter**

**We Can All Be a Bridge to a Better World**

In the moment of crisis, the wise build bridges and the foolish build dams. - Nigerian proverb.

Kenya is prone to flash flooding because it is on a flood plain. During a two month period in 2018, 77 people died and more than 211,000 people were displaced from flooding. (OCHA Flash Update #1: Floods in Kenya). These floods also bring in deadly animals.

**Division III ( grades 7 & 8 )**

Award	Name	School	Teacher
1st & SW	Isabella Salzer	Oakdale Jr HS	Dee Hawksworth
2nd	Nathan Carlson	Independent Study	Susan Janis
3rd & SW	Stella Whitler	Hart Ransom Acad Chtr	Susan Janis
HM	Catherine Mullins	Hart Ransom Acad Chtr	Susan Janis
HM	Connor Swearingen	Independent Study	Susan Janis
Finalist	Guy Bradshaw	Hart Ransom Acad Chtr	Susan Janis
Finalist	Alyna Fabing	Oakdale Jr HS	Dee Hawksworth
Finalist	Jessica Garibay	Cesar Chavez Jr HS	Michael Bryan
Finalist	Gavin Gleason	Oakdale Jr HS	Dee Hawksworth
Finalist	Mason Harry	Oakdale Jr HS	Dee Hawksworth
Finalist	Taylor Hay	Oakdale Jr HS	Dee Hawksworth
Fin & SW	Amberlin Hopwood	Cesar Chavez Jr HS	Michael Bryan
Fin & SW	Chloe Jacques	Yolo MS	Brandi Decator
Finalist	Abigail Moberly	Hart Ransom Acad Chtr	Susan Janis
Fin & SW	Bridget Morrow	St. Stanislaus Catholic Sch	Sarah Muñoz
Fin & SW	Joshua Nugent	Our Lady of Fatima	Star Pedron
Fin & SW	Adelyn Persons	Turlock Jr HS	Denise Nulph
Finalist	Jenna Sanders	Oakdale Jr HS	Dee Hawksworth
Finalist	Quinn Swearingen	Independent Study	Susan Janis
Finalist	Madeline Wold	Oakdale Jr HS	Dee Hawksworth
SW	Saida Alvarez	Mark Twain Jr HS	Keri Mcintyre
SW	Ryan Arias	Sacred Heart Elem, Turk	Elaine Magni
SW	Grace Benham	Hickman Charter Elem	Tracey Kline Bret Bergthold
SW	Blake Melo	Sacred Heart Elem, Pat	Susan Paiva
SW	Ethan Real	Hickman Middle School	Michelle Blaze

HM = Honorable Mention

SW = School Winner, recognized for the top essay from a school that has submitted 10 or more essays in the Division

### Division II (grades 9 & 10)

Award	Name	School	Teacher
1st	Rana Banankhah	Independent Study	Susan Janis
2nd	Lauren Bowman	Independent Study	Ann Bowman
3rd & SW	Kayla Zhu	Central Valley HS	Megan Oliveria
HM	Aaron Madrigal	Central Valley HS	Megan Oliveria
HM	Itzayhana Yopez Ochoa	Central Valley HS	Megan Oliveria
HM	Tyler Jean Lao Verjinski	Central Valley HS	Megan Oliveria
Finalist	Avery Bezanson	Whitmore Charter	Jillian Gill
Fin & SW	Hope Elizondo	Oakdale Charter	Jeannette Ves'selis
Finalist	Taylor Hill	Central Valley H S	Megan Oliveria
Finalist	Jasman Kaur	Central Valley H S	Megan Oliveria
Finalist	Melvin Morales Lepez	Central Valley H S	Megan Oliveria
Finalist	Carlos Magaña	Central Valley H S	Megan Oliveria
Finalist	Kylie Maines	Central Valley H S	Megan Oliveria
Finalist	Alexa Martinez	Central Valley H S	Megan Oliveria
Finalist	Emily Medina	Central Valley H S	Megan Oliveria
Finalist	Salvador Ochoa	Central Valley H S	Megan Oliveria
Finalist	Guadalupe Peregrina	Central Valley H S	Megan Oliveria
Finalist	Nathan Runyon	Hart Ransom Acad Char	Susan Janis
Fin & SW	Devika Singh	James Enochs H S	Chris Hayden
Finalist	Yamily Lizeth Zaragoza	Central Valley H S	Megan Oliveria

HM = Honorable Mention

\*SW = School Winner, recognized for the top essay from a school that has submitted 10 or more essays in the Division

Hippopotamus kill five hundred people a year and crocodiles are reported to kill over one thousand people a year. (What Are the...) Harmon Parker builds bridges in Kenya, Africa, so people do not have to be killed by lethal animals or floods. Parker is a little-known hero working for peace and justice by saving lives with bridges.

Parker's first trip to Kenya was a weeklong mission trip where he built a house. This is where he fell in love with the people, especially the children. He learned about the dangerous conditions of Kenya and decided to make saving lives and helping families his lifelong passion. Parker has been building bridges in Kenya for thirty years. He says, "They (the people of Kenya) have brought me a clear sense of purpose and meaning." (Living in a Walking World)

Unquestionably, the rivers in Kenya are treacherous. They have taken lives from every village across the flood plain. Not only are the rivers vicious, they are also barriers. They prevent people from reaching doctors, children from attending school, and merchants from reaching the markets. After a community bridge was built in one village, the local school attendance rose from 250 students to 600. Another time there was a mother who was taking her sick baby to the hospital. The hospital was ten miles away but when she had walked seven miles, the river was too full to cross and she had to turn back.

This year I have decided to help to build a house just like Parker. Every year I go to summer camp and see all the friends I only see once a year. However, this year I am going to forgo camp so I can attend Project Mexico. While in Mexico, I will help build a house for a family who doesn't have one. Every year children die because they do not have a warm place to live. I hope this experience will build in me a life-long desire to help others and remain focused on the needs around me. I want to be a bridge-builder and change the world.

Parker has dedicated his life to building bridges and bringing peace and justice to Kenya. Those bridges have improved people's lives by enabling students to attend school and families to reach life saving health care. His life has inspired me to sacrifice part of my summer to help and

serve others. By building bridges, our unsung hero, Harmon Parker, is saving lives and working for a more peaceful and just world.

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### Division IV - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

**Lila Fritz**

**Hart Ransom Acad Charter**

**Georgia Gilmore**

Did you know that baking helped the bus boycott? Georgia Gilmore was born on February 5, 1920. She was a fearless cook who helped fund the bus boycott. She raised money so that all of the people in her town were able to ride the bus and not be treated unfairly. Georgia Gilmore was a unsung hero who fought for peace and justice during the Civil Rights Movement.

Georgia Gilmore was a cook, midwife, and activist who sold food at the Montgomery Improvement Association to support the bus boycott in 1955 (Godoy). The bus boycott lasted 381 days (Miller). In that time she made fried chicken, pies, pork chops, and pound cake. All of the money she made was given to the bus boycott. Gilmore raised so much money that she inspired other women to help raise money secretly for the bus boycott. Georgia started a secret club called "The Club From Nowhere." They used this name because no one knew where the money was coming from. (Godoy)

She also helped raise money for the Civil Rights Movement. The money was raised for everyone to be treated equally. The money the club made went toward transporting people where they need to go because they were refusing to ride the bus. They were not going

### Division I (grades 11 & 12)

Award	Name	School	Teacher
1st	Maryam Sabri	Whitmore Charter	Nancy Rossi
2nd & SW	Noah Scarbrough	Hughson HS	Karalee Ruelas
3rd	Yara Choeb	Riverbank HS	Rosalind Taulbee
HM & SW	Emily Hanson	Hughson HS	Karalee Ruelas
HM & SW	Jacob Martin	Patterson HS	Valerie Jamieson
HM	Emily Swehla	Independent Study	Susan Janis
Finalist	Bridgette Allen	Riverbank HS	Rosalind Taulbee
Finalist	Gisell Chavez Alvarez	Patterson HS	Phoebe Skelson
Finalist	Reza Banankhah	Independent Study	Susan Janis
Finalist	Jaden Brazil	Hughson HS	Karalee Ruelas
Finalist	Sofia Gregoris	Patterson HS	Phoebe Skelson
Finalist	Alexandra Henshaw	Riverbank HS	Rosalind Taulbee
Finalist	Samantha Mendoza	Patterson HS	Valerie Jamieson
Finalist	Alysse Messer	Hughson HS	Karalee Ruelas
Finalist	Mercedes Padilla	Hughson HS	Karalee Ruelas
Finalist	Emma Pohl	Hughson HS	Karalee Ruelas
Finalist	Angelica Recinos	Patterson HS	Valerie Jamieson
Finalist	Haley Sims	Downey HS	Bill McHale
Finalist	Angel Tinoco	Patterson HS	Phoebe Skelson
Finalist	Danielle Torres Wera	Patterson HS	Phoebe Skelson
SW	Drake Heffington	Oakdale Charter	Jeannette Ves'selis

HM = Honorable Mention

\*SW = School Winner, recognized for the top essay from a school that has submitted 10 or more essays in the Division



**Division I (grades 11-12) and Division II (grades 9 - 10)\***  
**Division III (grades 7-8) and Division IV (grades 5-6)\*\***

The 2020 Peace Essay Contest challenges you to find and bring recognition to one of these lesser-known heroes of peace. You may find them in your family or neighborhood, in your community or nation, or in places all over the globe. They may have lived in the past or might be living today. They may have used ideas, words, pens, music, shovels, diplomacy, technology or a variety of other common or unusual tools to build peace between people, groups or nations. The focus of each person's work may differ, but common to all peacemakers is a commitment to using non-violent principles and actions to nurture and encourage positive relationships among people resulting in a more peaceful world, locally and beyond.

By talking with others and/or researching, find and write, in your own words, about a lesser known person who has worked for peace and justice through non-violent and non-military means. This person may have lived in the past or is living today. He or she may be from your local community or from anywhere around the globe, working to make our world a more fair and peaceful place. In your essay:

- Describe who the person is/was and how they have worked for peace and justice.
- Explain why this person's actions are an important contribution to building a more peaceful and just world.
- Tell how the work of this person might inspire you to also find ways to work for a more peaceful and just world.

Print your word count at the end of the text of your essay, Then show Works Cited for any quotations, borrowed ideas and facts that are not general knowledge. (The title and citations are not included in the word count.) If you are uncertain about plagiarism, ask your teacher. Further suggestions on using citations are included in the submission details and at <http://peaceessaycontest.weebly.com/>.

\* 500 - 1000 Words

\*\* 250 - 500 Words

to ride the bus until they were treated fairly. Georgia was the kind of person who stayed in the background, and gave her time and money for peace and justice. (Godoy).

Georgia Gilmore took something she loved and shared it with the world to help better lives. Georgia inspires me because I love to sew and can share that with the others. I can make different items that people need but cannot buy. In the past, my 4-H group and I made and donated blankets to the fire department. The firemen could hand them out to children who have lost their homes in fires. In the future, I can make blankets and donate them to the children who need them on my own.

Georgia Gilmore has since passed away. Georgia Gilmore has contributed to so much in her town that she inspires other people today so they can do to something amazing. After she died, people are still fighting to be treated better. Her family took over her cooking and kept the Club From Nowhere going. They kept selling all the recipes Georgia made. As a unsung hero for the Civil Rights Movement, Georgia Gilmore was a strong woman who fought for peace and justice.

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<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/31/obituaries/georgia-gilmore-overlooked.html>

## Screening and Judging of Essays

Selection of essay finalists and winners is a completely blind process. After all of the essays are submitted in November, each essay is assigned a unique number, which is written on both the essay and the submittal form. The submittal forms are removed and given to our data base administrator. He logs them into the data base. No one else has access to the data base or submittal forms thereafter. There are no identifying marks on the essays except the assigned number. The essays go through several rounds of screening, with 20 of the best essays picked and passed to the next level and combined with other best essays at that level. Finally at the highest screening level, 20 essays are picked in each division as Finalists. Finalists essays go to three or four judges in each division. The judges have 2 weeks to review and rank their essays. The 13 judges met on the evenings of February 3 and 4 (two divisions each evening) to discuss their recommendations and come up with a consensus of the winners, honorable mentions and school winners. Only after the judges have met and submitted their selections (by the code number) to the data base administrator, are the winners known.

## 2020 Peace Essay Contest Heroes of Peace

Peace is understood to mean not only an absence of hostilities or war, but also a state of harmony and justice existing between people, groups or nations. All over the globe and throughout history, there have been people who have steadily worked for peace and justice through non-violent and non-military means. They have worked alone and sometimes joined with others, often working behind the scenes. These people are the rarely recognized heroes of peace.

Martin Luther King, Jr., Gandhi or Mother Teresa are examples of well known peacemakers. However, there are many people whose peacemaking efforts are not widely recognized. The experiences of these unheralded peacemakers are sometimes told in songs and stories, but seldom make the history books.

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**“It isn’t enough to talk about peace.  
One must believe in it.  
And it isn’t enough to believe in it.  
One must work at it.”**

**Eleanor Roosevelt**

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## Winning Essays

### 2020 Peace Essay Contest



Heroes of Peace 2020

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