

# Meet the Board Members

## San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace

### **Liz Apfelberg, Treasurer**



Elizabeth (Liz) immediately became involved with Mothers for Peace when she moved to San Luis Obispo in 1971 with her husband and two children. She was an original intervenor in the licensing procedures opposing Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant operation. She acted as MFP lay attorney before the Atomic Energy Commission (now Nuclear Regulatory Commission) from 1973-1976. Liz has served as President of

the San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace and is currently the treasurer.

Liz received a BS in Biology from the City College of New York and an MS in Education from Cal Poly. She is a retired high school and middle school teacher of biology, science, and math.

Liz is also a member of AAUW (American Association of University Women) working on Equity Issues and other concerns important to women. She served as Public Policy chair and as a Co-President. In addition, she served two terms as a commissioner on the San Luis Obispo Commission on the Status of Women (as well as two terms as Chair of the Commission) and two terms on the Board of the Tri Counties (SLO, SB and Ventura) Planned Parenthood. She also serves as Secretary and member of the Central Committee of the San Luis Obispo Green Party. She is a proud life member of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

Liz continues her long, active membership with the San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace which she considers the “most wonderful group of supportive women, committed and educated on the issues. Being well informed enables us to educate others and be effective as intervenors.”

She cherishes her two “absolutely wonderful granddaughters,” who are both now young adults.

### **Elaine Holder, President**



Elaine joined Mothers for Peace in 1981, two years after she moved to San Luis Obispo to teach Psychology at Cal Poly. She joined because of the help the group gave to young draftees during the Vietnam War and because of her conviction that this generation has no right to leave deadly nuclear waste for descendants to cope with for thousands of years. She is currently serving as president of the group.

Elaine served as secretary of the Hospice of San Luis Obispo County Board of Directors for six years. She later helped to organize the Interfaith Coalition for the Homeless and she served as secretary of the steering committee for the building of the Prado Day Center. She lost a very beloved son to a degenerative disease in 2010 but she has three surviving children, two biological and two bonus grandchildren, and one biological and two bonus great-grandchildren who add great joy to her life.

## **Elizabeth Brousse, Board Member**



Elizabeth joined Mothers for Peace shortly after the 9.0 earthquake struck near Honshu, Japan, which in turn generated an estimated 45-foot tsunami at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear site in 2011. This disaster occurred six months after she had moved to Templeton from Marin County. She soon found the Mothers for Peace - an informed, cohesive activist group that was forcefully challenging the Company mentality of San Luis Obispo County.

Elizabeth's professional career was primarily in Marin County where she taught high school social studies/English and counseled for 10 years. She went back to university to obtain an ESL (English as a Second Language) credential and became an ESL teacher and administrator for grades K-12. She also spent four years teaching ESL and GED in the San Francisco County Jail and 12 years teaching at College of Marin. These experiences reinforced her awareness of the involvement in peace and justice issues. She is currently active with peace groups in the County and participates in a foreign policy group through AAUW. Mothers for Peace, however, is her primary focus.

Elizabeth was fortunate to have been able to combine the love of travel and adventure as a secondary career. She has organized special interest tours and served as travel editor for a Marin newspaper. The highlight of her journeys remains the 4 month overland bus trip from London to Katmandu in 1978. These experiences expanded her world view and reinforced her commitment to peace.

Elizabeth, a political science graduate from Stanford, continued her graduate work at various universities. Elizabeth has two daughters (both active with conservation groups) and two grandchildren (one majoring in environmental studies at UC Santa Cruz. She is very proud of their commitment.

## **Nancy Norwood, Board Member**



Nancy and her family moved to San Luis Obispo in 1977. At the time, her sons were very young. "I immediately became involved with the Mothers for Peace. We had vacationed in the area many times, and I was concerned about the plans to build a nuclear power plant on the Central Coast. I was very glad to find a group working enthusiastically and knowledgeably in their role as legal intervenors."

Nancy is retired from a career of social work with developmentally disabled adults. In that role, she has been closely involved over the years with the County Office of Emergency Planning.

## **Molly Johnson, Facilitator**



Molly Johnson is a fourth generation resident of north county San Luis Obispo County. Her great-grandfather settled there in the late 1800s. She comes from a farming/ranching family, and her mother still lives on the family ranch outside of Templeton. Molly attended Templeton schools until graduation in 1970.

She was a core member of the Earth Day Alliance (EDA) from 1993 – 1996 and has been involved in Earth Day every year since then in some

capacity. In 2010 she joined the board of EDA and was named Director in 2012.

She was a member of the Nuclear Waste Information Committee of San Luis Obispo County in 1995 and 1996.

In 1996, Molly moved to the Needles/Mohave Valley area where she directed the Save Ward Valley Coalition office in Needles, CA, for four years to prevent the proposed Ward Valley low-level nuclear waste dump. She coordinated the successful efforts of the Ft. Mojave Indian Tribe (FMIT), the Colorado River Native Nations Alliance, and other state, regional, and national organizations. During that time, Molly also worked for the FMIT Health Department as a driver, taking Elders to appointments in the area, in Phoenix, and in Loma Linda.

During her stay in the Ward Valley area, Molly also became involved in actions carried out at the Nevada Test Site by Healing Global Wounds and Shundahai Network headed by Corbin Harney, Western Shoshone Medicine Man. In 1998, Healing Global Wounds became H.O.M.E. (Healing Ourselves and Mother Earth) and Molly became, and continues to be, a board member of that organization.

After returning to San Luis Obispo County in 2000, she became active with Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility. She is the newsletter editor for that organization.

Molly also became involved with Mothers for Peace upon her return to the area. That involvement has increased as time has gone on, and she is now happy to hold a position on the Board of Directors.

## **Sherry Lewis, Assistant to the Treasurer**



Sherry has been a supporter of Mothers for Peace for many years and has more recently become active. She is a member of the Green Party and has been involved in various liberal causes. Sherry has studied drawing and painting for many years, and at Cuesta College she learned the excitement of creating “protest paintings” which combine her activism with art. Some of the themes in her artwork have been: the Rodney King riots, the first Iraq war, and America’s use of torture.

The hideousness of highly radioactive nuclear waste—lethal for society’s eternity—has kept her focused more recently on the utter insanity of dependence on nuclear energy. But because a positive outlook is necessary for a happy life, Sherry has turned her attention to painting scenes from a 2011 walk she participated in: Peace Walk for a Nuclear Free World. This walk combined her interests in art, activism, Buddhism, Native American (Lakota) spirituality, and Japanese language and culture. (Sherry majored in Japanese in college.)

**Jane Swanson,  
Spokesperson**



Jane has been an active member of the San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace since the group formed in 1969. She currently serves as a spokesperson. "This is an amazing, all volunteer, local non-profit," Jane explains. "Only because we live in proximity to the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant do we have the legal standing to demand that the NRC protect public safety instead of corporate profits."

Jane and her husband enjoy two adult children and eight grandchildren. Jane is a retired elementary school teacher and a performing musician.

**Linda Seeley,  
Vice-President**



Linda Seeley has been a member of the Board of Directors since 2008 and a member of the Mothers for Peace since moving to San Luis Obispo in 1982. She currently serves as a spokesperson as well as Vice-President. She is active in the environmental community in several capacities, seeing the need for mutual support and communication among many groups who share the vision of a sustainable future for SLO County.

"The most deadly legacy of our time is the nuclear waste that we are leaving for the future generations," Linda asserts. "We must find a way to stop making this lethal substance, and that means shutting down nuclear power plants."

Linda has three grown children and three grandsons. Linda is a retired nurse-midwife who has delivered many babies in San Luis Obispo County. She serves on the Core Team of the Nuclear Free Campaign of the Sierra Club. Additionally, Linda is an advanced facilitator of the Work that Reconnects - group work developed by Joanna Macy, PhD.

**Jill ZamEk,  
Secretary & Oversight  
Treasury Officer**



Jill has lived in San Luis Obispo County since 1976 and joined the Mothers for Peace in 1982. She "appreciates working with like-minded people who are dedicated to improving the health of our planet and the conditions of its living beings."

Jill's husband and two adult children give her great joy. She also enjoys hiking, wildlife, gardening, literature, art, and traveling. Jill currently teaches at a local elementary school.