

# Meet the Board Members

## San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace



### Elaine Holder, Historian

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.

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 and a very beloved daughter in 2018, but she has two surviving children, two biological and two bonus grandchildren, and one biological and two bonus great grandchildren who add great joy to her life.



### Nancy Norwood, Advisory 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. Molly attended Templeton schools until graduation in 1970.

Molly 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 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 and with Mothers for Peace.





## Sherry Lewis, Treasurer

Sherry has been a supporter of Mothers for Peace for many years and then stepped in as a Board Member. She is also 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. Her work combines her interests in art, activism, Buddhism, Native American (Lakota) spirituality, and Japanese language and culture.

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.



## Jane Swanson, President & 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 has retired from teaching elementary school and as a performing musician with the SLO Symphony. She continues to teach French Horn to private students.

## Linda Seeley, Vice-President & Spokesperson

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. Additionally, she serves on the Diablo Canyon Decommissioning Engagement Panel.

Linda is active in the environmental community in several other capacities, seeing the need for mutual support and communication among many groups who share the vision of a sustainable future for SLO 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.

“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.

## 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 likeminded 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, her granddaughter, and her pets give her great joy. She also enjoys hiking, wildlife, gardening, literature, art, and traveling. Jill is a retired elementary school teacher.



## Elizabeth Brousse, Advisory Board Member

Elizabeth joined Mothers for Peace shortly after the earthquake and tsunami which created the devastation at 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 included teaching high school social studies/English, and English as a Second Language (ESL). She counseled students for 10 years. She also spent four years teaching ESL and GED in the San Francisco County Jail and 12 years teaching at the College of Marin. These experiences reinforced her awareness of the connection between peace and justice issues. She is currently active with peace groups in the County and participates in a foreign policy group through AAUW.

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 has two daughters (both active with conservation groups) and two grandchildren.

