

# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

**Thea Harvey**

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*"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."*

~ John Fitzgerald Kennedy ~

One of the unexpected benefits to my new position as EPS's sole staff person is that I get to open the mail. Every time I open an envelope and find within a check, I am touched. I am very aware that each donation is backed by belief in our mission and encouragement for fulfilling it. The mission we have chosen is ambitious. If we were engaged in feeding the homeless, we would have the satisfaction of seeing quantifiable, tangible results on a daily basis. But in working to inform discourse on issues as philosophical as war and peace, conflict and security, we are afforded distinctly fewer opportunities for instant gratification. I take each donation as a communication, an encouragement, a vote of confidence.

That's why it is important to me that my first official word here as Director should be one of gratitude. I want to express my tremendous thanks and appreciation to all of you who support us financially and otherwise. It is important to say so. But it is even more important to deserve your support through action.

Increasing EPS's capacity to promote reasoned economic analysis and appropriate action to a national audience is critical. One significant tool for spreading the mission is this newsletter, newly dubbed the "EPS Quarterly." I have watched the newsletter grow, evolve, and improve during the past few years, and I hope you enjoy every issue as much as I do. I will be working closely with our editor Kate Cell to bring you articles and information that are inspiring, informative, and useful.

Other plans for increasing our effectiveness include an omnibus master proposal, currently under development, for an "Economists' Program on National Security." Our plan for the next three years is to drive home the point that economics has something important, but often neglected, to say about the reality of national security and foreign policies, across a spectrum of issues related to war, peace and the military budget. We hope to change the way these issues are discussed, not only in official councils but equally in the media, to gain recognition of the need for sober economic judgment of costs and consequences.

I believe that all of the changes we have made in the past few months, from moving the office to the Levy Institute, to reorganizing the Board of Directors, to changing the name, result in an organization that is more agile and accessible. The smaller number of Board members helps overcome our geographical dispersion. The Board is able to communicate and meet more easily, governance issues are more easily dealt with and the organization as a whole is better able react to changing conditions. Our new name, which reflects a broader and more inclusive program, is catching the eyes of our colleagues at conferences, and of the media. EPS has been infused with a sense of energy and renewal. I am excited to be a part of this stage of its growth.

As EPS acts to improve our capacity to undertake rigorous economic analysis and promote greater understanding of the full range of economic causes, costs and consequences of violent conflict, I would like to encourage you to become active also. There are numerous ways to contribute to issues that you find important. One can write letters to one's representatives in government, to newspapers, or on the internet. One can study the issues, as

many of our members do, then provide information for citizens and policymakers to make more informed decisions. Some can make activism their full-time job, as I have been privileged to do, or give their time as volunteers. And of course, one can make financial contributions – not an insignificant form of activism.

As director, I look forward to our continued collaboration towards the goal of a more just and peaceful world. If you have any questions about EPS, or our programs, please don't hesitate to contact me.

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Thea Harvey is Executive Director of Economists for Peace and Security. She can be reached at [theaharvey@epsusa.org](mailto:theaharvey@epsusa.org).

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