

## Susan Hopkins Joins CEASE



Susan is one of the most devoted and long-term members of our CEASE organization. The story about how that came to be is quite remarkable.

Susan and I met in a wonderful, little Thai restaurant in our nearby town, Grass Valley, California. She shared a transcript of an interview she had years ago with CEASE founder, Peggy Schirmer and her husband, Boone.

Susan laughs that dialogue from the transcript reveals how Peggy enticed her into taking on a leadership role in CEASE:

**Peggy:** *“How did you get involved? What was the issue then?”*

**Susan:** *“Well, the issue was a conference proposal. I got a call on Martin Luther King weekend from Peggy Schirmer, (chuckles) who enticed me . . . to write a conference proposal for a conference which I had never attended. (both women laugh). . . I’d been subscribing to the Newsletter. . . and the conference was in Anaheim. So, you looked down the membership list – who’s in Anaheim, or nearby? Who can we“, , , “Snag” says Peggy*

**Susan:** *“Snag. There you go! And I was so green, that I said yes.”*

Peggy assured Susan she would have help in completing the task of writing the proposal for the CEASE seminar at the 1986 NAEYC conference in Anaheim. And thus enticed, Susan attended her first CEASE working retreat to prepare. In the 1980’s CEASE was primarily focusing on opposing nuclear weapons. Susan’s primary interest, however, was in peace education and a shift of interest for this presentation was honored by the group.

Susan was quite taken by how CEASE members engaged collaboratively in all of their work. Susan received help on writing the proposal from Mary Daniels, Sunny Wallick and others. Susan remembers at the conference CEASE brought in a lot of teachers; they held small group sessions on conflict resolution and other peace education curriculum. Everyone was very happy with the outcome.

CEASE is lucky that Peggy Schirmer was such a convincing and persistent “snagger,” as CEASE has been blessed by Susan Hopkins’s significant contributions over the past 30 years.

Sharon Davisson, Nevada City, CA

