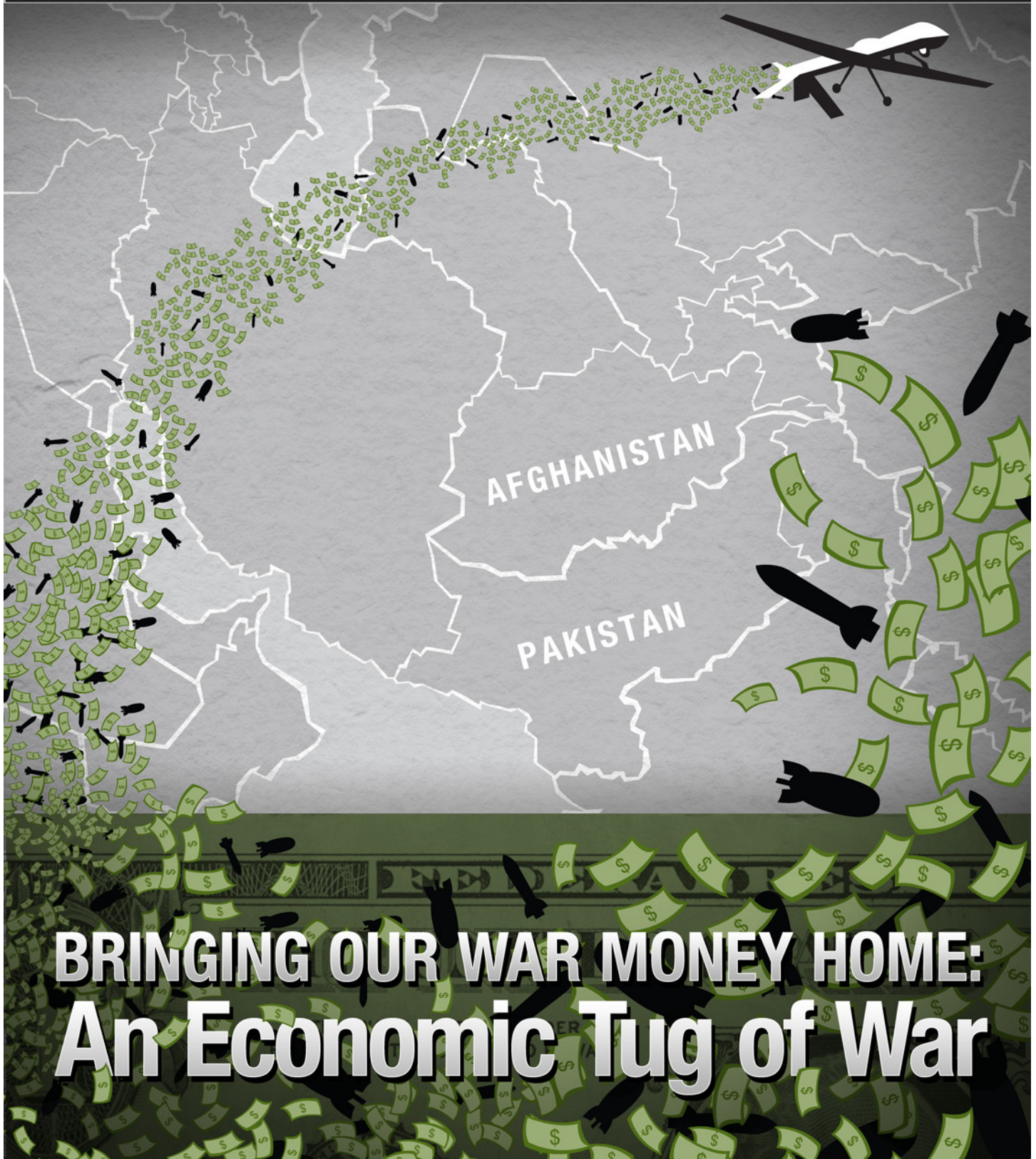


SYRACUSE

PEACE COUNCIL'S

Peace Newsletter

Central New York Voices for Peace and Social Justice July-August 2011 #806



SPC INFO

SPC Steering Committee 2011

Jessica Azulay, Carol Baum, Jack Brown, Andy Mager, Jessica Maxwell, Kimberley McCoy, Rae Kramer, Julianne Oldfield, Amelia Ramsey-Lefevre, Carole Resnick, Ursula Rozum, Richard Vallejo, Rose Viviano, Sara Watrous, Wendy Yost.

SPC's Peace Newsletter

Editorial Committee: Saptarshi Lahiri, Jessica Maxwell, Donna Mühs-McCarten, Amelia Ramsey-Lefevre, Aly Wane. **Layout:** Jessica Maxwell. **Calendar:** Rich Vallejo. **Proofing:** Rae Kramer, Andy Molloy.

peacecouncil.net

Read the PNL online (issues dating to 1936!), learn about projects and upcoming events, get involved, and subscribe to our e-announcements list.

SPC Committees & Projects

Bikes 4 Peace - fixing bikes and working cooperatively with youth
Bring Our War Money Home - education, outreach, advocacy, demos
Ground the Drones - education, demonstrations, outreach
Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation - education, hydrofracking ban
Radical Reading - not currently meeting
Youth & Militarism - counter-recruitment and youth empowerment
75th Anniversary - event organizing, materials, planning
Fundraising - overall planning to raise funds to support SPC's work
Event Committees: Birthday, Bowlathon, Plowshares, SummerCrafts
Finance - analysis, reports, budget, general oversight
Peace Newsletter - produce SPC's monthly newsletter

Affiliated Projects & Coalitions

Alliance of Communities Transforming Syracuse - faith & secular groups
Caribbean Latin America Coalition - sister communities, solidarity, SOA
CNY Working for a Just Peace in Palestine & Israel - education, action
Public Power Coalition - working for municipal power in Syracuse

Peace Newsletter

Central New York Voices for Peace & Social Justice

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About the Cover: Local graphic artist Jeff Passetti created this original cover to highlight the crucial work of SPC's new Bring the War Money Home Campaign (see page 3).

Peace Newsletter

Submissions: pnl@peacecouncil.net or 472-5478.

Advertising: Call 472-5478 or visit our website for rates and sizes.

Calendar: Submit items for the Sept. PNL calendar by August 12.

The Syracuse Peace Council (SPC)

founded in 1936, is an antiwar/social justice organization. It is community-based, autonomous and funded by the contributions of its supporters.

SPC educates, agitates and organizes for a world where war, violence and exploitation in any form will no longer exist. It challenges the existing unjust power relationships among nations, among people and between ourselves and the environment. As members, we work to replace inequality, hierarchy, domination and powerlessness with mutual respect, personal empowerment, cooperation and a sense of community.

Present social injustices cannot be understood in isolation from each other nor can they be overcome without recognizing their economic and militaristic roots. SPC stresses a strategy that makes these connections clear. We initiate and support activities that help build this sense of community and help tear down the walls of oppression. A fundamental basis for peace and justice is an economic system that places human need above monetary profit. We establish relationships among people based on cooperation rather than competition or the threat of destruction.

Our political values and personal lives shape and reflect each other. In both we are committed to nonviolent means of conflict resolution and to a process of decision-making that responds to the needs of us all.

Educate, Agitate, Organize: SPC IN ACTION

compiled by Carol Baum

Eyewitness Afghanistan

Longtime SPC activist Ed Kinane flew to Afghanistan on July 16 to join a four week Voices for Creative Nonviolence delegation. Ed went to learn about the effects of this ten-year-long war on the people there, and in particular about the impact of drone warfare on them. The delegation will meet with the Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers (a group campaigning to rebuild Afghanistan and end the war), other grassroots groups and Afghan civilians. Check out the SPC website for Ed's reports, and consider inviting him to speak to your faith community, labor group, etc., in the fall. Contact Andy.

County Legislature Passes Onondaga Resolution

On July 5, the Onondaga County Legislature narrowly approved a resolution expressing their intent to return Murphy's Island, a small piece of land along the south shore of Onondaga Lake, to the Onondaga Nation. Special thanks to Lloyd Withers who initiated this action and worked on it persistently for several years. This is an important first step, but much work remains before Murphy's Island is returned to the Onondaga. If you'd like to help on this or other efforts to support the Onondaga, contact Andy.

Ground the Drones

The Ground the Drones Committee has been busy since the April 22 action at Hancock Air Base at which 38 people were arrested. Committee members are either personally dealing with the legal system or playing support roles. Most of the Hancock 38 Drone Resisters are going pro se (representing themselves through the legal process), which has involved many court appearances. Motions will be argued in late July and early August; we still don't know when trial(s) will be.



On June 24, a symbolic "boat to Gaza" headed through downtown Syracuse to the Federal Building. The demonstration, which was held in solidarity with the Freedom Flotilla seeking to break the Israeli blockade of Gaza, drew 25 local activists. At the Federal Building, letters seeking justice for the Palestinians were delivered to our federal representatives. Photo: Keren Carmeli

There are several committees doing support work – hospitality, publicity and a tribunal committee (for educational activities during the trial(s)). To help out, contact Carol.

In addition, the local SPC Ground the Drones Committee participated in a regional meeting, inspiring Rochester activists to borrow our drone model for a tableau.

And speaking of tableaux... A tableau is a street theater piece which gains attention through its stillness – the "actors" are completely stationary and silent. Once again we will perform a tableau outside the main

entrance of the NY State Fair. We'd love your help. Contact Carol.

Bring the War \$ Home

The new Bring the War \$ Home Committee is up and running! Our first focus has been to provide informational materials and create interactive activities for SPC outreach tabling. At Jazz Fest, we offered a military spending quiz and a penny poll, in which people showed their federal spending priorities by putting pennies into jars representing different categories (see page 7).

We will continue both activities through the summer and experiment with other forms of outreach. Also, we're organizing some "Bring the War \$ Home" themed Peace Outreaches (see page 4).

Please join us to make the problem of military spending a part of the economic discussion. Contact Carol or Jessica.

Bikes 4 Peace: Same Fun, New Look

We're half-way through our busy summer schedule, having completed three clinics at Northeast Community Center and two at Loguen Park. We also held a special Saturday clinic for youth in the Onondaga Earth Corps to help them fix up bikes to commute to work. We'll be at the Spanish Action League parking lot at 700 Oswego St. on **August 3 and 10 from 5-7 pm.**

continued on next page

SPC Monthly Program

The Arab Spring and Islam:

A Look at Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood and Sharia Law

Wednesday, July 27, 7 PM

Artrage Gallery (505 Hawley Ave.)

Egyptian native and long-time Syracuse activist Mohamed Khater will speak on this critical issue related to developments in the Middle East. Contact Andy.

2013 East Genesee St., Syracuse, NY 13210 • (315) 472-5478 • spc@peacecouncil.net
www.peacecouncil.net • **OFFICE HOURS:** Monday-Friday, 10 am – 5 pm

STAFF ORGANIZERS

Carol Baum: carol@peacecouncil.net • **Andy Mager:** andy@peacecouncil.net

Jessica Maxwell: jessica@peacecouncil.net • **Ursula Rozum:** ursula@peacecouncil.net



To increase visibility we are giving those who help with at least two clinics a free Bikes 4 Peace T-shirt, designed by local graphic artist Adam Rozum. We also have a new banner, additional tools, and 15 bike helmets to distribute, all purchased with funding from the Salt City DISHES grant. We welcome people of all skill levels to post flyers, pick up donated bikes, sign-in youth at clinics, and work with youth to fix bikes. Contact Jessica or Ursula.

Hiroshima/Nagasaki Commemoration

SPC and Peace Action are organizing commemorations of the US atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki 66 years ago. On **Monday, August 1** we're having a paper crane-making and dessert party at 7 pm at 2013 E. Genesee St. We'll teach adults and children how to make the cranes, which will be distributed during the procession the following week. On **Thursday, August 4 at 7 pm** we're sponsoring an Interfaith Sharing for Peace and a Lantern Floating at the Everson Museum Plaza (State St. between Harrison and Madison). Feel free to bring children – there will be activities for them. Then on **Tuesday, August 9** please join us for our annual dramatic procession to remember the dead and demand the abolition of nuclear power and weapons. We'll gather at 11:30 am near City Hall (215 E. Washington St.); please join us, wearing white or light-colored clothing. Contact Carol.

Working for a Clean, Green Energy Future

SPC joined a coalition of Upstate NY groups to lobby in Albany against nuclear power in late June. Activists met with Tom Congden, Deputy Secretary for Energy and the Environment, who confirmed that a new nuclear reactor is unlikely to

be built in NYS in the near future, given the Fukushima disaster and the financial weakness of the industry.

The Attorney General's (AG) office has asserted the state's right to intervene in the relicensing of the Indian Point Generating Station (a nuclear power facility 35 miles outside of Manhattan). In a meeting with their office, we encouraged them to join Beyond Nuclear in petitioning the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to suspend operations at the 23 GE Mark I boiling water reactors in the US (including Nine Mile Point I and Fitzpatrick, both near Oswego). All three reactors that melted down at Fukushima were of this design, which has fatal flaws that the NRC has known about since the 1970s. This year, the amount of energy produced by renewables in the US surpassed the production from nuclear power. The Mark I reactors provide 4% of US energy needs. It's time to turn the page on nuclear power. You can individually support the Beyond Nuclear petition and learn more at beyondnuclear.org.



The SPC contingent at the Pride parade was small, but spirited. Other SPC activists marched in the Juneteenth parade. Photo: Carol Baum

PeaceSongsCNY: Turning Up the Volume on Peace

SPC is asking Central New Yorkers to tap into the power of music for social change and submit songs related to peace and social justice to be considered for a CD. Entitled *PeaceSongsCNY*, the CD will be released in honor of SPC's 75th anniversary. Original submissions are encouraged but traditional (non-copyrighted) songs will also be considered. **Submissions are due by**

Weekly Peace Outreach

Join our weekly presence to end the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan! Contact Ed or Ann, 478-4571.

Tuesdays: 4:15-5 pm

- July 26** S. Salina St. & Seneca Tpk. (Southside/Valley). **Bring the War \$ Home.**
- Aug. 2** Hancock Air Base Entrance (E. Molloy Rd., Mattydale)
- Aug. 9** Rte. 81 & Adams St. (Downtown). **Bring the War \$ Home.**
- Aug. 16** Hancock Air Base Entrance
- Aug. 23** Rte. 81 & Adams St. (Downtown). **Bring the War \$ Home.**

Also **Saturdays 8-9 am** on Park St. across from the Regional Market.

October 1. For full details, see peacecouncil.net/songs or call Amber at 315-200-5266 or Jack at 732-266-9016.

SPC Out and About

June was a busy month for the SPC tabling outreach team, with festivals and events every weekend. We marched in the Pride and Juneteenth Parades, partnered with ArtRage at Art on the Porches, braved the rain at JazzFest, and tabled at the Duck Race, the Big Splash and Michael Franti concerts. Thanks to everyone who participated. Our next major event is the **Arts and Crafts Festival, July 29-31** in downtown Syracuse. We'll need lots of people to staff our booth over the three-day festival. It's fun. Contact Ursula.

Colombia Solidarity

On July 21, a small delegation left CNY to visit our sister community in Cajibío, Colombia. Activist musician Colleen Kattau, SPC staff organizers Jessica Maxwell and Ursula Rozum, and SPC Steering Committee member Sara Watrous spent several days with the Small Farmer's Movement in southwestern Colombia to work in solidarity against corporate exploitation and in support of human rights

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Hiroshima/Nagasaki/Fukushima—Never Again

Diane Swords

Syracuse Peace Council, Peace Action and local congregations will mark the anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the US and commit ourselves to abolish nuclear power and weapons. While there have been commemorations in Syracuse every year since 1945, this year is different, with the meltdown of three of the four units at the Fukushima-Daichi nuclear plants on everyone's minds. Contrary to nuclear industry claims that nuclear power is a different issue from nuclear weapons, the Japanese tragedy vividly illustrates that human bodies and the environment feel no difference.

The question for anti-nuclear organizers worldwide is: "Can we turn this latest tragedy into an awakening for publics lulled by industry reassurances and presidential promises?"

Nuclear Weapons are Used Even When Not Exploded

The bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were the only times nuclear bombs have been exploded in war. Yet in another sense, nuclear weapons have been used in every war since 1945. Daniel Ellsberg points out that the US uses nuclear weapons in the way that a gun is used when pointed at someone's head. Even if not fired, it forces compliance.¹ Joseph Gerson's 2006 book *Empire and the Bomb* chronicles 40 times when the US used this form of "nuclear blackmail."² The Bomb is the ultimate instrument of imperialism.

We Are All Downwinders

Even when nuclear weapons are not detonated, many people are exposed to the effect of the nuclear cycle. The Western Shoshone in the Great Basin area of Nevada and Utah, whose land was taken to create the nuclear test site, are the most bombed nation on earth. The nuclear cycle, from mining, to waste, to nuclear tests and power plant emissions, causes human illness and environmental destruction. We all know

Diane is a longtime activist working towards the abolition of nuclear weapons and power.



Anti-nuclear activism on the rise: Greenpeace activists included a radiation symbol in this updated version of The Scream. They projected the image onto a nuclear reactor in Spain calling for "NO MÁS FUKUSHIMA" ("NO MORE FUKUSHIMA").

people who are radiation victims (though cancer tumors do not do the courtesy of announcing their source). When we include economic harm from absurd expenditures on nuclear weapons and power, the effects devastate us all.

Pushing the Nuclear Industry Since the 1950s

Eisenhower's "Atoms for Peace" speech in 1953 made nuclear power a tool of US foreign policy and a stimulus for the nuclear industry that grew from the atomic establishment of World War II. After touting benefits for "peace, international prosperity and goodwill" to the world, Ike gave industry access to private ownership of reactors. One of the results is described by Dr. Shoji Sawada, theoretical particle physicist, Professor Emeritus at Nagoya University in Japan, and survivor of the Hiroshima bomb. In the mid 1950s, "[the] Japan Scientists Council recommended the Japanese government not use this technology yet, but the government accepted to use enriched uranium to fuel nuclear power stations, and was thus subjected to

US government policy."³

When Fukushima's reactors 1, 2, and 3 experienced full meltdowns in March 2011, it took Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) until June to admit it, and announce that the accident probably released more radioactive material than Chernobyl, making it the worst nuclear accident on record. Meanwhile, a nuclear waste advisor to the Japanese government reported that an area roughly 17 times the size of Manhattan is now likely uninhabitable. US doctors connect substantially elevated rates of infant mortality in several west-coast US cities to radiation from Fukushima.⁴

Presidential Promises and Realities

In 2009, President Obama called for nuclear abolition. Yet his 2012 budget requests funds for new nuclear weapons plants and subsidies for new nuclear power plants. His budget includes more money for nuclear warheads than the previous administration, and more than many Cold War administrations. A former official from the Office of Management and Budget states "After accounting for inflation, the \$7.63 billion request is 21 percent more than Ronald Reagan's largest nuclear weapons budget and 19 percent more than President George H.W. Bush's highest spending level." Besides new warheads, this budget increases spending to develop delivery vehicles. One stunning example is plans for 80 to 100 nuclear capable "drones."⁵

In spite of the Japanese disaster, Obama continues to promote nuclear power and press for subsidies for new plants. Speaking of Georgia plants that Obama supports, a former nuclear engineer notes: "In addition to a cornucopia of biochemically and radiologically hazardous waste materials, the proposed power plants will also manufacture plutonium-239, raising the question of whether the Obama administration's underlying intent is to provide

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Citizens of Auburn Stand Up to Hydro-Fracking

by Alex Bissell

Hydro-fracking is an issue that is cropping up in the public consciousness of New York with increasing frequency. Rallies, like the one on June 2 at Auburn, are becoming more and more common. With the DEC's release of the draft SGEIS, citizen action to ensure the government is looking out for their best interests is becoming very important.

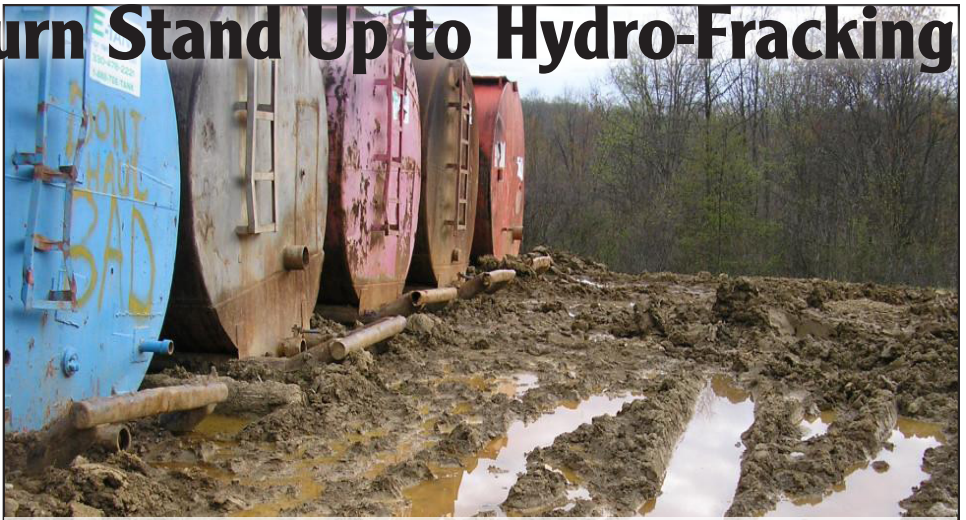
So, what is hydro-fracking and why is it so detrimental to the health of humans and the environment? These questions call for a compact introduction to this messy subject.

A Toxic Practice by an Unscrupulous Industry

What is likely being referred to when "hydro-fracking" comes up is the relatively new practice of high-volume, horizontal, slickwater hydraulic fracturing. Under the 1992 Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS), hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling were allowed, though never combined. 80,000 gallons was the quantity of water projected at that time as the ceiling for fracking operations. However, new methods have since evolved, giving rise to high-volume hydro-fracking operations, which use in excess of 300,000 gallons per stage.

Besides "high volume," the new methodology is also described with the terms "horizontal" and "slickwater." "Horizontal" refers to the leg drilled after the completion of the vertical hole, which can stretch out laterally for thousands of feet. "Slickwater" refers to the toxic chemistry that accompanies the procedure.

The supplement to the GEIS currently being produced by the DEC is supposed to take these new developments into account. Until the final version is released, drilling into shale gas units is being permitted infrequently in New York. The Marcellus formation is the most prominent shale. Besides containing the desired gas, it is also filled with many naturally occurring toxic elements like bromide, arsenic, barium, and even radioactive ones like uranium, thorium, and radium. Any fluid pumped



A pool of dumped wastewater next to several tanks on Ohio citizen Harry Boyd's property. Used with the permission of Harry Boyd.

down into it is likely to come back up contaminated, and it is that fluid which is sent to wastewater plants for treatment and release. What is alarming is that those plants are not equipped to treat high salinity or radioactivity.

Citizens of Auburn Make a Stand

At the wastewater treatment plant in Auburn, the focus of recent rallies, drilling waste from hydro-fracking operations is already being accepted. When questioned in March of this year, Bruce Ross, assistant civil engineer at Auburn, stated emphatically that they do not accept "horizontal frack-water" or "water from the Marcellus formation." However, Terrence Cuddy, a resident of Auburn and co-founder of the Cayuga Anti-Fracking Alliance, found this official story was not actually the case.

The Cayuga Anti-Fracking Alliance approached local officials about the acceptance of wastewater from horizontal hydro-fracking operations. Mr. Cuddy reports that the officials were very defensive in their response, and shortly afterward six citations were given by the city to drilling companies for "not submitting self-monitoring reports." Encouraged by this apparent validation of their suspicions, they looked deeper and found that, despite the official policy of only issuing twelve-month permits, several companies had been issued four-year permits.

A FOIL (Freedom of Information Legislation) request to the city of Auburn revealed several anomalies at the plant. Anshutz Exploration, despite a certificate stating their wastewater comes from vertical wells, has four horizontal wells listed on their Attachment A (a document listing a

company's permitted wells). Not only that, but the documentation also showed that Auburn received water from Anshutz that was not from any of the Attachment A wells, and that no lab analyses were performed on these. There are approximately seventy lab analyses missing. What few lab analyses were performed showed regular violation of permitted pollutant concentrations.

Chesapeake Energy, another of the companies permitted to dump waste at Auburn, did not have an Attachment A at all. Additionally, two of the wells from which material was transported by Chesapeake and Anshutz were, in fact, from Marcellus shale (in spite of Mr. Ross' vehement statements suggesting otherwise). These are just a few of the discrepancies that were uncovered.

On May 5th, armed with these alarming facts, Terrence Cuddy and the Cayuga Anti-Fracking Alliance presented the city council with five-hundred signatures against Auburn's treatment plant receiving drilling wastewater. When this did not appear to make the desired impact, they got another 800, for a total of 1300 signatures. On June 2nd, they organized a rally of 200 individuals who went to the city council and delivered the additional signatures. There, for 90 minutes, 24 speakers spoke about the issue of hydro-fracking waste.

In the aftermath of the protest, the mayor of Auburn proposed a moratorium on accepting gas drilling wastewater which recently passed with a 3-1 vote by councilors. This is a shining example for the rest of New York. It proves that hard work can pay off, and that petitions and rallies are still a viable way to make your voice heard. Speak up!

Alex, resident of Rochester and student at SUNY Oswego, is an intern with Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation.

Put Your Two Cents In

Burton Schaber and Dania Souid

The Peace Council's booth at our second annual SummerCrafts at Jazz Fest was a mixture of music, fliers, questions and dialogue. We decided to be even more interactive this year by inviting festival goers to put their two cents into the federal budget.

The Penny Poll

The Penny Poll is an attempt to create a People's Budget. Each person received 15 pennies to distribute between six jars that symbolized different categories of the Federal Budget. Afterwards, participants were given a flyer that depicted the actual federal budget, so they could compare the government's choices with their own. This led to many conversations about how to change the federal budget.

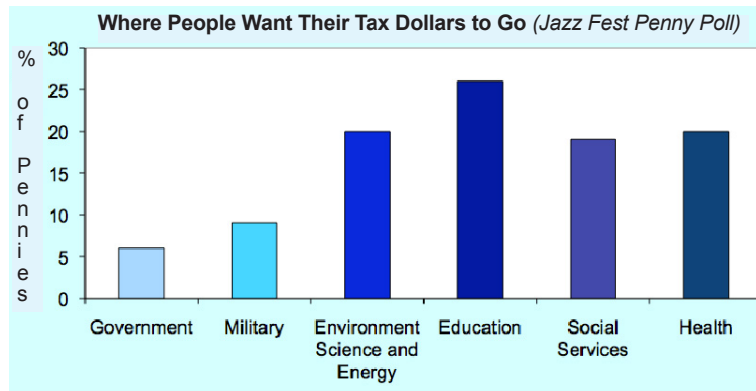
The first purpose of the Penny Poll is to educate people about how our federal tax dollars are spent. One of our central realizations was that most people don't know how the government uses tax dollars. We focused in particular on the military budget. Although many people are aware that wars overseas are expensive, the flier we distributed at the Penny Poll, from the *National Priorities Project*, shows just how costly—27.4 ¢ out of every federal tax dollar goes directly to the military (not including Veterans Benefits and interest on the debt due to military spending). Through the Penny Poll we also hoped to show how other areas of the federal budget suffer because of the high military budget. The Penny Poll gave people a chance to decide how they want their money spent. The difference between this 'People's Budget' and the Federal Budget is substantial. Knowing the difference between the two budgets is just the first step; next we encouraged everyone to get involved, whether through the Peace Council or contacting a local congressperson.

What Were People's Reactions?

Jazz Fest is a free and widely publicized

Burton and Dania are both Syracuse area natives interning with SPC for the summer.

event, which brought a diverse crowd to SPC's booth and the Penny Poll. People thought about where and how to distribute their 15 pennies. Afterwards, many were interested in sharing their reasons. Some were teachers affected by school budget cuts who put their pennies towards education. Some older men and women dependent on Medicare and Medicaid put their pennies in health. Every story was different. Their personal experiences and opinions determined how they wanted their money



to be spent. Even families didn't always agree on where to put the pennies. In one case a mother and son took the penny poll together. While mom dropped pennies into the military jar, her son pointed and asked for pennies to go into education. He complained that he wanted more pennies to go to his school, to which his mother responded "You can be home-schooled." Even when people put money in the military they often had personal reasons—to support veterans' benefits or because their child was overseas at war.

The Penny Poll was an opportunity to challenge people to think about which parts of the federal budget are most important to them—and, by comparing their choices with the actual federal budget, to see exactly how federal spending doesn't align with what people in this country want.

The Results

Our poll consisted of six categories. The first category, **Government and Commerce**, covered the costs of law enforcement, diplomacy, humanitarian aid, interest on debt, and the costs of running the federal government. The second category, **Military**, included spending on national defense, nuclear weapons, international security,

and veteran's benefits. **Environment, Energy and Science** incorporated renewable energy, energy efficiency, transportation, and food. The fourth category was **Education**, which encompassed federal spending on elementary, secondary and higher education, career, technical, and adult education, special education, and student financial assistance. **Social Services** covered federal spending on job training, disability, retirement, unemployment insurance, social security, housing assistance and credit, and community development. Finally, the **Health** category included funds allocated towards healthcare, Medicare, and Medicaid.

After compiling the data from two days of penny polling, our results were staggeringly different from the actual federal budget. One enormous difference was **Military** spending, dropping from around 27% (actual) to around 9% (Penny Poll). **Education** saw almost a complete turnaround, increasing to over 25% from the measly federal allocation of 3.5%. The **Environment, Energy and Science** category was given a 17% boost from 3% in the Federal Budget to 20% in the People's Budget.

What You Can Do NOW

The Bring the War Money Home Campaign at the Syracuse Peace Council is a great way to start making the changes exhibited by the people's budget (see p.3).

- Watch the video of the Penny Poll on the Peace Council's YouTube channel
- Sign *The Military is Our Spending Problem* petition
- Get your own copy of the petition to pass out in your community
- Contact local government officials by phone, email or snail mail
- Write a letter to the editor for your local newspaper
- Attend or organize a local demonstration
- Attend the national October 6 demonstration in Washington, D.C.
- For more information visit nationalpriorities.org or www.warresisters.org 🐾

More Than a Rug: Weaving Peace in Pakistan

Dede Leister

In the Oriental Rug Room at Ten Thousand Villages in Ephrata, Pennsylvania a man perches on the edge of a pile of over 50 8'x10' tribal carpets, sipping a cup of Pakistani green tea and watching as rug artisans first burn the back of a nearly completed rug with a natural-gas flame and then wash it with soap and water.

"We want customers to understand what goes into these carpets. You cannot understand how durable these rugs are until you see all that has gone into making them," said Yousaf Chaman, rug program director. And the cup of green tea? "Just typical Pakistani hospitality," said Chaman. "We want folks not only to see the artistry of Pakistan but also to experience the warmth of its culture and understand how fairness and peace can be achieved in the villages of Pakistan."

Bunyaad Builds Peace in the Villages of Pakistan

The rugs come from Bunyaad, an artisan group in Pakistan, also directed by Yousaf Chaman. Bunyaad, meaning "foundation" in Urdu, works to build strong foundations for peace in Pakistani villages by providing just working conditions, including fair wages, and creating a culture of respect and tolerance. Over the years, Bunyaad has grown to include over 850 families in roughly 100 villages throughout Pakistan. Bunyaad artisans, male and female, receive the same living wage, allowing them to build better homes and living conditions and create educational opportunities for their children. If not paid a living wage, artisans often resort to borrowing money from high-interest lenders to afford family necessities, beginning a downward spiral of debt. Bunyaad offers a no-interest loan to artisans to pay off creditors—a loan that is repaid at a rate that works with the family's finances.

"Bunyaad builds peace by showing rug artisans respect," explains Chaman. Bun-

yaad artisans choose the color and design of each rug they produce. They allow nature, tradition and inspiration to guide their creativity. Rug Room staff frequently travel to Pakistan, not on buying trips, but rather on learning trips. "We

purchase everything the artisans produce, but our trips to Pakistan allow us to work side-by-side with the artisans and foster open communication," said Chaman. If asked what they like about working for fair trade, artisans often say that it is the respect that they receive from Bunyaad—demonstrated most recently when they paid artisans lost wages from the devastating floods of August 2010.

Bunyaad breaks down barriers and inequalities by welcoming both Christians and Muslims into their program and providing equal opportunity for women and men. In the villages, there is very little opportunity for employment, especially for women. Work on the looms gives women autonomous year-round stable employment that can be done from home and over which they have control. With these earnings, women are finding increased financial independence and the ability to support their families. Having a wage-earning skill gives these women a sense of pride as well as an avenue to true social change for themselves and their family. "By working with women in their village homes, we are not empowering this woman and her family but her entire community," said Jenni Leister, a Rug Room staffer for over 15 years, with over 35 trips to Pakistan.

Many North American consumers are unaware of the hurdles facing Pakistan beyond the hunt for terrorism on the nightly news. The literacy rate in Pakistan is roughly 49% with female literacy signifi-



Liaqat, a village supervisor from Lengha Pakistan, has put four daughters through high school by selling his rugs with the Bunyaad artisan group. Photo: Dede Leister

cantly lower. Over 40% of the population lives below the poverty line, on less than \$2 USD a day. Unemployment looms at 15% and inflation has climbed from 7.7% in 2007 to over 13% in 2010. Record floods in August 2010 lowered agricultural output and worsened inflation; reconstruction costs will further strain limited resources.

Bunyaad also supports ten schools throughout Pakistan, helping many children, especially young girls, have easier access to education. Sometimes the distance to the school is so great that parents do not feel comfortable letting their young girls walk to school. Liaqat, a village supervisor, lives in the village of Lengha, Pakistan and began working for Bunyaad 18 years ago. The economy of Liaqat's village is struggling because of its proximity to the Indian border, as potential unrest deters businesses from locating there. Working for Bunyaad has enabled Liaqat to give his four daughters a high school education. Liaqat expresses how education holds the key to peace in Pakistan. He said, "All the children should be educated. Once they are educated, I don't care if they become farmers or employees or start their own businesses, but they need to have an education."

Oriental rugs made by the Bunyaad artisan group can be purchased at Rug Events held at Ten Thousand Villages in Ithaca, NY from August 26-28 and at One World Goods in Rochester, NY from October 6-9. For more information, visit rugs.tenthousandvillages.com.

Dede Leister has been working with Ten Thousand Villages Oriental Rug Program for seven years as Rug Event Coordinator. She's passionate about the Pakistani people after traveling to Pakistan twice to learn from rug artisans.

The Predators: Where is Your Democracy?

Kathy Kelly

This article was originally published online by Kathy Kelly on May 9, 2011.

On May 4, 2011, CNN World News asked whether killing Osama bin Laden was legal under international law. Other news commentary has questioned whether it would have been both possible and advantageous to bring Osama bin Laden to trial rather than kill him.

World attention has been focused, however briefly, on legality issues regarding the killing of Osama bin Laden. But, with the increasing use of Predator drones to kill suspected "high value targets" in Pakistan and Afghanistan, extrajudicial killings by US military forces have become the new norm.

Just three days after Osama bin Laden was killed, an attack employing remote-control aerial drones killed 15 people in Pakistan and wounded four. CNN reports that their Islamabad bureau has counted four drone strikes over the last month and a half since the March 17 drone attack which killed 44 people in Pakistan's tribal region. There were 111 strikes in 2010. The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan estimated that 957 innocent civilians were killed in 2010.

I'm reminded of an encounter I had, in May 2010, when a journalist and a social worker from North Waziristan met with a small Voices for Creative Nonviolence delegation in Pakistan and described, in graphic detail, the drone attacks which they had personally witnessed: the carbonized bodies, burned so fully they could be identified by legs and hands alone, the bystanders sent flying like dolls through the air to break upon walls and stone, with shattered bones and sometimes-fatal brain injuries.

"Do Americans know about the drones?" the journalist asked me. I said I thought that awareness was growing on

University campuses and among peace groups. "This isn't what I'm asking," he politely insisted. "What I want to know is if average Americans know that their country is attacking Pakistan with drones that carry bombs. Do they know this?"

"Truthfully," I said, "I don't think so."

"Where is your democracy?" he asked me.



Source: Veteranstoday.com

"Where is your democracy?" Ideally, in a democracy, people are educated about important matters, and they can influence decisions about these issues by voting for people who represent their point of view.

Only a handful of US officials have broached the issue of whether or not it is right for the US to use unmanned aerial vehicles to function as prosecutor, judge, jury and executioner in the decision to assassinate anyone designated as a "high value target" in faraway Pakistan or Afghanistan....

Fully informed citizens might be invited to consider the Golden Rule, but they would certainly be involved in the debate over how we will be treated in future years and decades when these weapons have proliferated. In 1945, only one country possessed the atomic bomb, but within decades, the "nuclear club"

had expanded to five declared and four non-declared nuclear-armed states in a much less certain world. Besides the risk of nuclear war, this weapon proliferation has consumed resources that could have been directed toward feeding a hungry world or eradicating disease or easing the effects of impoverishment.

As of now, worldwide, 49 companies make 450 different drone aircrafts. Drone merchants expect that drone sales will earn \$20.2 billion over the next 10 years for aerospace war manufacturers. Possibly, one day drones may be aimed at us.

Also worth noting is the observation that drones will make it politically convenient for any country to order military actions without risking their soldiers' lives, thereby making it easier, and more tempting, to start wars which may eventually escalate to result in massive loss of military and civilian life.

Voices for Creative Nonviolence believes that standing alongside people who bear the brunt of our wars helps us gain needed insights. Where you stand determines what you see.

Twice, in 2010, while in Afghanistan, I met with a large family living in a wretched refugee camp. They had fled their homes in the San Gin district of the Helmand Province after a drone attack killed a mother there and her five children. The woman's husband showed us photos of his children's bloodied corpses. His niece, Juma Gul, age 9, had survived the attack. She and I huddled next to each other inside a mud hut on a chilly December morning. Juma Gul's father stooped in front of us and gently unzipped her jacket, showing me that his daughter's arm had been amputated by shrapnel when the US missile hit their San Gin home. Next to Juma Gul was her brother, whose leg had been mangled in the attack. He apparently has no access to adequate medical care and experiences constant pain.

It's impossible to conjecture what would have happened had Osama bin Laden been apprehended and brought to appear before a court of law, charged with crimes against humanity because of

continued on next page

Kathy Kelly (kathy@vcnv.org) co-coordinates Voices for Creative Nonviolence and is one of 37 people going to trial in Syracuse this fall for staging a "die-in" at the entrance to Hancock Airbase in April. Visit vcnv.org/drone-resisting-sanitized-remote-control-death-for-a-resource-packet-on-drone-warfare.

PEACE?

In a conversation recently with some friends, we were discussing peace, and whether it is an attainable goal. One friend of mine said some things of interest.

"Men have been trying forever to create peace. There are always those who will destroy and undermine the efforts of making a peaceful world. For these reasons, I see no incentive for supporting peace efforts. They are a lost cause."

Two things immediately struck me about this statement, and maybe you feel the same as I do.

First, "there are always those who will destroy and undermine," does not seem to me to be a feasible excuse for not attempting to create peace. What follows is a narrative which I've heard but not found any written evidence for.

Singer-songwriter and reggae genius Bob Marley was the target of an assassination attempt during his career. He was shot, but the bullet missed any crucial organs. At the hospital, he asked for release because he had a concert the next day. The doctors released him from the hospital against their better judgment, and Marley went on to perform. After the concert he was asked by an interviewer why he left the hospital and chose to risk his health and perform. He responded with something to the effect of, "The men fighting to make this world destructive are not taking a day off, and so neither can I."

This is my point. Can the presence of evil in the world energize peace-makers rather than enervate or discourage them?

Second, "men have been trying forever to create peace." Really? Trying? Do we try to create peace as courageously as we try to solidify our careers? Do we try to encourage reconciliation as vigorously as we try to catch television and movie premiers? Do we demand peace as often and as strongly as we demand cell phone service, web access, satellite reception, and amenities for ourselves? For many of us, the answer is clearly "no." We receive what we seek. It is not harder work to create peace than it is to create any other aspect of our lifestyles. It is just refocused work. If we did indeed demand peace as intensely as we can demand these other things, it may have been attained right now.

Even if I am wrong, the fact that peace has been demanded in the past does not make it a null point of interest today. People have demanded new technology and better economic standing for all of history. The fact that we haven't perfected it does not discourage anyone in pursuit. Even today, there are those all around the world who work diligently for peace. Yet it still eludes us based upon the mass of passivity that flows from the vast majority of our populations. Again, if this passive action could be redirected in quantity with the same intensity, maybe peace would not be such an unachievable goal.

Think today: Do I demand peace and reconciliation as intensely as I demand other things?

—CJ Dates



Hiroshima / from page 5

electricity to Georgia citizens or to further escalate the nuclear weapons race."⁶

Perhaps this can all be explained by huge campaign donations to Obama's senate and presidential races from Exelon, the nuclear giant that owns 12 power plants in Illinois.⁷

Organizing for Change

Help seize this moment of attention to nuclear issues to rebuild a movement for nuclear abolition and peace. Work with Syracuse Peace Council and Peace Action CNY to accomplish these goals: no new bomb plants; no wars; bring troops home; phase out nuclear power; close GE Mark I reactors in the US that are identical to the Fukushima plant (including Nine Mile Point I and Fitzpatrick near Syracuse). ☸

ATTEND OR JOIN US TO COORDINATE SUMMER EVENTS:

- **Paper crane and lantern construction:** August 1, 7 pm at the Syracuse Center for Peace and Social Justice.
- **Interfaith Service and lantern floating:** August 4, 7 pm at The Everson Museum Fountain
- **Dramatic Procession:** August 9, gather at 11:45 am near City Hall.
- **Peace crane-making workshops for children:** throughout the summer.

Contact Carol at 472-5478 or Amelia at 478-7442.

1 Gerson, Joseph (1995). *With Hiroshima Eyes: Atomic War, Nuclear Extortion and Moral Imagination*. Philadelphia, PA, New Society Publishers. p. 4.

2 Gerson, Joseph (2007). *Empire and the Bomb: How the US Uses Nuclear Weapons to Dominate the World*. Ann Arbor, MI, Pluto Press. pp. 37-38.

3 Jamail, Dahr "Fukushima: It's much worse than you think". *Al Jazeera*, June 16, 2011. <http://english.aljazeera.net/indepth/features/2011/06/201161664828302638.html>

4 *ibid*

5 *Ibid*

6 Green Party press release, February 18, 2010. <http://www.gp.org/press/pr-national.php?ID=297>

7 McCormick, John "Nuclear Illinois Helped Shape Obama View on Energy in Dealings With Exelon". *Bloomberg*, March 23, 2011. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/print/2011-03-23/nuclear-illinois-helped-shape-obama-view-on-energy-in-dealings-with-exelon.html>

Predator / from page 9

his alleged role in masterminding the 9/11 attacks. But, I feel certain beyond doubt that Juma Gul posed no threat whatsoever to the US, and if she were brought before a court of law and witnesses were helped to understand that she was attacked by a US unmanned aerial vehicle for no reason other than that she happened to live in proximity to a potential high value target, she would be vindicated of any suspicion that she committed a crime. The same might not be true for those who attacked her.

SPC activist Ed Kinane is currently in Afghanistan with another *Voices for Creative Nonviolence* delegation. Look for an article from Ed in the October PNL—coinciding with the 10th anniversary of the US invasion. ☸

SPC Activist Profile: *Herm Bieling*

Born in Syracuse, Herm Bieling has spent most of his life in the Emerald City. He retired in June after 39 years as a diesel mechanic in stone quarries. His grandfather refused to carry a gun in WWII and was forced to stand on the front lines with a fife. Herm is proud to continue this important legacy. Though previously active on SPC committees, today Herm is content to hold signs at Weekly Peace Outreach in addition to volunteer handiwork.

When did you become acquainted with SPC?
I was 14 or 15. My parents were members. I come from a long line of activists. My dad moved from being a union person to a business person because there was a lot of favoritism and racism in the union. Racism manifested itself such that the African Americans did the unskilled labor. My father was a craftsman and he taught his craft in his business. He taught his craft to African Americans.

Tell me about your history in activism.
When I was a kid I took a trip to Texas on the bus and I went through St. Louis. St. Louis in the 60s was decidedly segregated. Racism at the time, even in Syracuse, was a pretty rampant thing. Then the war took

precedence in my mind. But I was frustrated with how long the war was taking. Every time we went to Washington the government would do something to escalate it and that would be the headline. Our opposition to the war would be ignored.

Do you have kids and are they involved in the movement?
I have two boys. My dad took me by the hand and taught me how to think. I couldn't see making somebody think like you do. Just live an example and hope they pick it up. Basically they have but they went the long way around. They both joined the Army. I was never able to reproach them for their decisions. When kids are coming up and making their decisions you have to give them space. But my older son has participated with me in several marches since he was in the war.

Any last comments?

The current peace movement has really got to step up and diversify into an organization that will do more to publicize the money reasons for the way things are. We have to help people understand that there is a class war going on and they don't even know it. Our leadership is a farce. Democracy is ok if it's under the CIA. I can't see pushing democracy on people if it's a lie.

—Amelia Ramsey-Lefevre



Mother Earth has Rights

Kathy Kern

In 2003, I saw a documentary, *The Corporation*, that explored the concept of “personhood” granted to US corporations by the Supreme Court through the 14th amendment. That decision essentially meant that corporations had the same legal rights as actual human beings. The filmmakers asked the question, “So let’s say corporations ARE actually human beings; what would happen if they had to be as accountable as human beings are for their behavior?” The film interviewed a psychology professor and consultant to the FBI, who examined corporate behaviors such as callous disregard for people’s feelings; the incapacity to maintain human relationships; reckless disregard for the safety of others; deceitfulness; the inability to experience guilt and the failure to conform to social norms; and the inability to respect the law. The psychologist concluded that if large corporations were actually people, they would be diagnosed as psychopaths.

Bolivia is preparing to pass a bill that would confer personhood on another non-human entity, Mother Earth [*Editor’s note: the bill passed in April*]. Arising from the April 2010 Global People’s Conference on Climate Change held in Bolivia, the bill states, “Mother Earth is a living dynamic system made up of the undivided community of all living beings, who are all interconnected, interdependent and complementary, sharing

a common destiny.” If passed, the law would give Nature the legal rights to life, regeneration, biodiversity, clean air, and restoration; and it would mean that public policy would focus on living in harmony with nature, rather than on consumption and the production of goods.

Practically, implementation of the law would begin with setting up a new Ministry of Mother Earth. That ministry would oversee the transition from non-renewable to renewable forms of energy, develop economic indicators assessing the ecological impact of economic activity, and carry out ecological audits of private and state companies. It would regulate greenhouse gas emissions, invest resources in energy efficiency, ecological practices and organic agriculture, and require that corporations and individuals be held accountable for environmental contamination.

Raul Prada, an advisor to Bolivian social movements notes that this change in economic thinking “... will need policies developed in participation with movements, particularly in areas such as food sovereignty... redirection of investment and policies towards different ecological models of development...[and] the cooperation of the international community to develop regional economies that complement each other.”

I hope that those of us in the First World manage to get behind this movement in Bolivia. The choice is between supporting Creation and supporting Psychopaths. ♻️

Kathy Kern is an activist/author for Christian Peacemaker Teams.

Three Days in the Life of a Migrant Laborer: *Day 1*

David Van Arsdale

Editor's Note: Labor has been under assault from all sides. Sadly, this has created a false dichotomy between the rights of migrant workers (be they documented or otherwise) and those of US workers. In this investigative piece, David Van Arsdale reveals an economy increasingly dependant on flexible labor, which seems to threaten the security of work for us all. In sharing this experience, we hope to spark a fruitful debate on the potential of solidarity of workers across national boundaries.

Here in Upstate and Central New York the general public is aware that employers are increasingly dependent on immigrant workforces. We see and hear that headline regularly. We are less aware, however, of how migrant workers get jobs and the function of the work they do at workplaces. In a two part series for the *Peace Newsletter*, I am sharing my experiences working “undercover” with immigrant Latino workers through staffing agencies that specialize in dispatching them to employers in New York and sometimes neighboring states. I invite you to follow my experiences.

Pimping migrant workers

A temporary worker should never oversleep. This was my thought as I hit the snooze button on my alarm clock two or three times. By the time I awoke, it was half past seven in the morning—far too late, I thought to myself, to find a construction

or factory job through the staffing agency in Harlem through which I was working. I decided to try anyhow. I arrived to discover a mostly-vacant waiting room. There were only two other workers waiting and both of them informed me that most of the jobs were dispatched before seven, as I had suspected. Juan, a twenty-four-year-old Nicaraguan who lives in the housing projects across the street from the agency, asked me if I knew of any other agencies offering work.

lars. Neither Juan nor I wanted to pay this much or go in debt to the agencies, which is also an option. Therefore, we decided to try our luck someplace else.

We walked outside and spotted a roundup of people getting into two large cargo vans. We approached the workers and asked them if they were going to work. They directed us to the agency dispatching the jobs. A woman behind a desk at the agency explained that the vans



A collage of employment agency signs in Queens, New York. Photo: David Van Arsdale

I asked if he wanted to come with me to try the agencies in Queens, in the Latino neighborhoods. Juan and I became quick friends, we jumped on the subway and headed for Queens.

As Juan and I walked down a major street in our construction clothes, solicitors approached us from many directions, handing us flyers with directions to their respective *Agencias de Empleo*, employment agencies. The flyers promised work in construction, restaurants, cleaning, factories, delivery, offices, and housekeeping. Juan and I made our way from one agency to the next. One told us that we could deliver Chinese food for five dollars an hour. Another told us that we could lay bricks for ten dollars an hour. Still, another offered us a painting job for seven dollars an hour. All of these agencies told us there was a charge for their services. The latter two said that the charge was one hundred dollars, and the agency offering the Chinese food delivery job was only going to charge us fifty dol-

lars. Neither Juan nor I wanted to pay this much or go in debt to the agencies, which is also an option. Therefore, we decided to try our luck someplace else.

I took a seat in the back. There were four of us on each of the bench seats made for three, and two others sat on the floor. In the hour that it took to get to the factory, I learned that most of the workers in the van were recent immigrants from Mexico. There were also a couple of workers from Puerto Rico and Ecuador. A woman sitting to my right was from Peru. Their ages appeared to range from around sixteen to sixty-five. Juan, two others, and I, were the only men in the van. One of those men, Pedro, sitting

David Van Arsdale is an Associate Professor of Sociology at Onondaga Community College. He can be contacted at davidgvanarsdale@gmail.com.

continued on next page

Migrant Laborer / from previous page

to my left, had worked at the food factory on prior occasions and coached Juan and I on what to expect and how to behave.

At the food factory

We arrived at the factory ten minutes before the start of the second shift. Juan and I followed Pedro into the mens' locker room, where Pedro told us to take off our hats and jackets. We then followed him into the dressing room, where we put on white lab jackets and proceeded to walk onto the factory floor. There were three

the manager explained, and he showed me how to spread butter on one half of a thinly sliced piece of dough about twelve inches long as it quickly passed by me on the belt. After the dough was buttered, a woman to my right positioned a piece of cheese in raspberry glaze on the unbuttered half. Then, women to her right folded the dough into rugelach (a type of pastry). Other workers at the end of the line packaged the rugelach into plastic containers and then stacked the containers on the skid at the end of the line.

"This seems easy enough," was my first thought. My brush went from the large pan that held the hot butter on my right to

need a GED to go to community college, information that instantly seemed to make her my friend.

As Rosa and I buttered the dough that rushed by, she taught me some useful survival techniques that helped me keep pace with the belt. "You hear the rhythm of the factory?" she asked, referring to the thumping noise made by the dough-making machine on the other side of the factory. "You can brush to that rhythm and when that gets boring," she explained, "you can sing a song to the rhythm or just dance a little." Rosa was right. Keeping pace with the rhythm helped the time pass and helped me stay on pace with the conveyor belt. The

hardest time to keep the rhythm, however, was in the moments when my eyes wandered to the clock overlooking the factory floor. Of course, one's eyes go there for answers to questions like, "how long till the next break?" Or, "how much time has passed since I last peeked at the clock?" Breaks at the factory happen twice



From the back of the van – on our way to the food factory. The picture is blurry so as to obscure the identity of workers in this underground economy. Photo: David Van Arsdale

rather official-looking men waiting to greet us, each wearing a blue jacket like our white jackets, only theirs had their names and the company name printed on them. There was also a man from the Food and Drug Administration wearing an official "FDA" hard-hat and jacket. The company men welcomed us and asked if we understood English. We nodded yes. One of the men asked us, "Have you ever worked in this factory before?" We shook our heads as he went onto explain that there was really nothing to it. "Just a few rules," he said. "No jewelry, no chewing gum, no cell phones. Hair and beard nets are required in the factory, and always wash your hands every time you walk into the factory." He showed us how to put on the hair and beard nets, took Juan to one end of the factory, and had another manager take me to the opposite end where I was to work alongside a thirty-foot conveyor belt. "This is what you are going to do,"

the conveyor belt where I buttered the half pieces of dough. But the strips of dough came one right after another. I buttered about two pieces of dough every three seconds. After thirty minutes of buttering, my right hand began to cramp. In an attempt to switch to my left hand I got backed up, which caused the women further down the line to discipline me a bit. There was a line on each side of the conveyor belt, both performing the same duties. The woman applying butter to dough across from me looked at me and smiled. "You'll learn to use your left hand," she said. "You'll need to keep your right hand from cramping." This woman, Rosa, was nineteen years old. She was relatively new to New York City and talked about her dream of going to community college to become a nurse. She told me that she was going to get her GED next year after her English improved, and then apply to college. I told her that it was a good plan and explained she did not

in an eight-hour shift, and each break is fifteen minutes long.

The assembly-line workers in the factory come from agencies all over the New York metropolitan area. The factory does not know the names, ages, or any personal information about the workers, nor does it care to. It calls the agencies to get whatever number of workers it needs. For the factory, there are many benefits to working with the agencies, perhaps the greatest of which is being able to flexibly employ a dedicated workforce. When demand is strong, the company calls the agencies and they provide the workforce. When the freezers are full, a sign that demand has decreased, there's no need for the call. This way the company's payroll corresponds to the ebbs and flow of production. Of course for the workers, when demand is slow, so too is their opportunity for work and pay.

Part II of this essay will appear the September issue of the Peace Newsletter. ♣

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Letters to the Peace Newsletter

Editor's Note: We always love to find out who's reading the PNL and what they think. In response to Carl Mellor's article on Jazz in the May 2011 issue, we received the following.

The CNY Jazz Arts Foundation (CNY Jazz) enriches our community by sustaining and presenting the art form of American Jazz. It would be great for you to spotlight CNY Jazz—we're in our 15th year, organizing year-round events (www.cnyjazz.org).

Some programming highlights:

- ° Northeast Jazz & Wine Festival (formerly Jazz in the Square), July 29-31, 2011

- ° Pomco Presents Jazz in the City—a series of late summer mini-festivals in four Syracuse near-neighborhoods

- ° SummerJazz Workshop, Scholastic Jazz Jam, & Vocal Jazz Jam—educational programs that bring local jazz students together with professional musicians for clinics and performances

- ° CNY Jazz Orchestra—the performance wing of CNY Jazz, led by SUNY-Potsdam's Brett Zvacek

- ° Jazz Central—our HQ at 441 E. Washington St. is a small theater that presents music, comedy and theater throughout the year.

Warmly,

Martin Walls, *Communications Director, CNY Jazz*



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and sustainable development. Look for a presentation on our trip in the fall. If you would like to donate towards the expenses of the delegation, please send checks made out to "Syracuse Peace Council" with "Colombia delegation" in the memo line.

SPC has Nick Papatonis to thank for much of what's posted on our active YouTube channel. Since returning to Syracuse last fall, Nick has become SPC's steady videographer, not only doing the taping, but uploading the videos almost immediately. Nearly 2,000 people have viewed his videos of Noam Chomsky. Hundreds of others have watched his videos of the Ground the Drones demonstration, Poetry for Peace, the Nakba commemoration and much more. We're delighted that Nick is part of the SPC team. Express your appreciation to Nick by checking out some of our videos on YouTube and pass on the links to your friends!



If you've stopped by the SPC office recently, you might have noticed quite a crowd of young people working at computers, designing posters, fixing props, or participating in meetings. That's because we have six (!) interns here for the summer. Lena Gluck, Danielle Limer-Nies, Cody Maggi, Burton Schaber, Dania Souid and Matt Whelan have been working on Syracuse Stories, outreach tabling, Hiroshima/

We're excited to have so much activity around the office. Look for a special insert in the September *PNL* on student activism.

– Amelia Ramsey-Lefevre

SPC is participating in the Alliance of Communities Transforming Syracuse (ACTS) Listening Campaign to find out what issues are important to constituents of member organizations. In the organizing traditions of Saul Alinsky and Marshall Ganz, SPC activists will conduct one-on-one meetings with other SPC activists and supporters to better understand one another's desire for social change. Our goal is to conduct 30 interviews by the beginning of September. Contact Ursula to schedule a time to sit down and share your motivation to work for peace and social justice or, better yet, to learn how to help with the one-on-ones.

SPC Summer Picnic. All are invited to SPC's Summer Picnic, to be held in the lovely backyard of Ann Tiffany, Ed Kinane and Aggie Lane (340 Midland Ave.) on **Wednesday, August 24** at 6 pm. Please bring a potluck dish to pass. Contact Carol.

One Person's Junk...is another's treasure! It's time to go through your stuff and save some of those little-used treasures for **SPC's Garage Sale**, to be held **September 10-11**. Watch for details in the September *PNL* and on the website.

On July 8, the NYS DEC released their draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (SGEIS). It bans hydrofracking in the Skaneateles Lake watershed (Syracuse's unfiltered drinking water source) as well as NYC's watershed, and above 18 "primary aquifers" throughout the state. But this leaves much of the state at risk.

Please write letters to newspapers and the Governor expressing your support for equal protection for ALL New Yorkers.

Get on the BAN-wagon! Sign the statewide ban petition at frackaction.com, and join with shaleshockcny.org activists in working to enact local bans.

Comment on the SGEIS. The 60-day comment period will likely begin in early August. Go to shaleshockcny.org to learn how to comment. Contact Lindsay Speer, 475-2559 x104.

—Lindsay Speer ☸

SPC Calling!

Over 20 SPC activists worked on our annual summer phonathon, speaking with or leaving messages for hundreds of SPC supporters. If you received a message, we hope you'll give as generously as you are able. If you didn't receive a call, we'd still warmly welcome a check or online donation (peacecouncil.net/donate). SPC accomplishes a great deal with limited finances; the easier the money comes in, the more time can go into educating, agitating and organizing. Thanks to all who participated or donated.

SummerCrafts: Still Learning in Our Second Year

SPC organizers, local craftspeople and community groups once again took to the OCC hill to enrich the already fantastic JazzFest with handmade products and information about local efforts. Despite a slightly smaller group of vendors and extreme wind and rain that forced a few folks to close down early, SPC nonetheless hosted a crafts fair featuring jewelry, paintings and prints, clothing and bags, and home decorations. Activists engaged hundreds of festival visitors with our penny poll, Bring the War \$ Home petition, paper crane-making and a quiz about the federal budget. SPC earned over \$2700 for our efforts. Special thanks to JazzFest coordinator