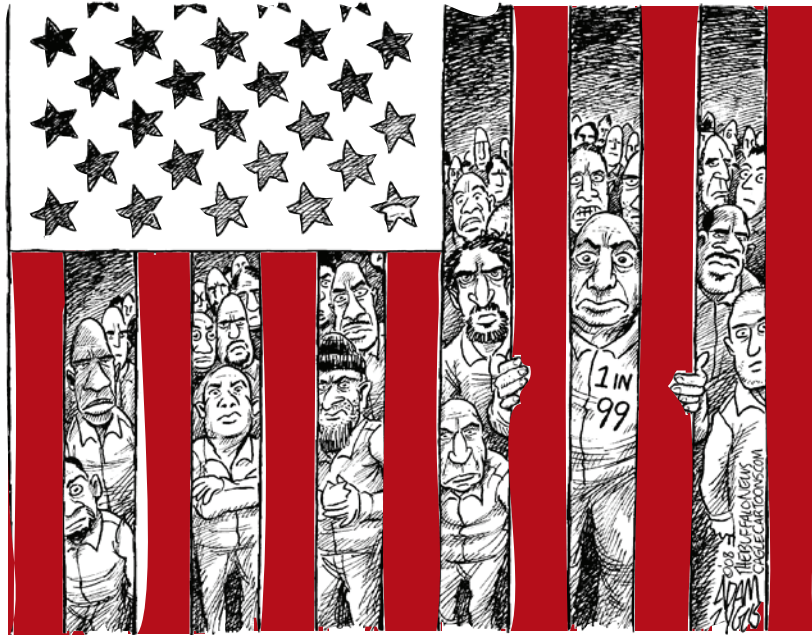


Peace Newsletter

Central New York Voices for Peace and Social Justice

February 2012 #811



Mass Incarceration and the Prisoner Justice Movement in New York



by Naomi Jaffe

Dear Prisoner Justice Network, I have been in prison for 27 years. My last parole hearing lasted four minutes.

Dear New York State Prisoner Justice: We, New York's incarcerated prisoners have gone 70 years without a pay wage increase. Our pay is about \$4 a week...

Dear Brothers and Sisters, My reason for writing this letter is what the black and latino prisoners are going through, which is a series of staff assaults, sexual harassment and racialism. It would be appreciated if this is published. Maybe someone would do something to help us.

Dear Prisoner Justice, I was convicted for a burglary. No weapon was involved, nobody was home, and nobody was hurt. I was sentenced to 12 years to life.

Dear Friend: Injustice can make a person insane, when a person feels that nobody is listening to them and they have no court for the redress of their grievance.

These are a tiny sampling of the dozens of letters received by the New York State Prisoner Justice Network. Who are these

incarcerated women and men, why are they in prison, what happens to them while they are there, and what happens when (and if) they get out?

New York's 56,000 prisoners: 75% are people of color; 96% are male; the great majority have never had a trial (they were convicted on plea bargains); around 2/3 are poor; about half are from New York City. Some are innocent, some have committed serious crimes, and many are somewhere in between. Very few have done anything as terrible as what is being done to them in the name of justice.

Mass incarceration clearly does not do what its backers say it does—it does not keep our communities safe. It does not protect our kids from gun violence or police abuse. It does not protect women from sexual assault. It does not heal mental illness, nor does it create paths to dignity and economic sustenance. It does not interrupt violence—it feeds the cycle of violence. Mass incarceration is a false solution that gets in the way of real solutions.

Instead, the real agenda behind mass incarceration is repression, racism, power, and greed. The prison boom of the 1970s and 80s followed the mass social justice movements boom of the 60s and 70s.

Today, careers are made out of the bloated prison system:

SPC INFO

SPC Steering Committee 2011

Susan Adair, Jessica Azulay, Carol Baum, Jack Brown, Saptarshi Lahiri, Andy Mager, Jessica Maxwell, Kimberley McCoy, Julienne Oldfield, Amelia Ramsey-Lefevre, Carole Resnick, Ursula Rozum, Richard Vallejo, Rose Viviano, Wendy Yost.

SPC's Peace Newsletter

Editorial Committee: Saptarshi Lahiri, Andy Mager, Amelia Ramsey-Lefevre, Christina Sterbenz, Aly Wane. **Layout & Calendar:** Jessica Maxwell. **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
CNY Working for a Just Peace in Palestine & Israel - education, action
Ground the Drones - education, demonstrations, outreach
Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation - education, hydrofracking ban
Youth & Militarism - counter-recruitment and youth empowerment
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
Public Power Coalition - working for municipal power in Syracuse

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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 March *PNL* calendar by February 13.

The Syracuse Peace Council (SPC)

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

SPC educates, agitates and organizes for a world where war, violence and exploitation in any form will no longer exist. We challenge 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.

Peace Newsletter

Central New York Voices for Peace & Social Justice

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Educate, Agitate, Organize: SPC IN ACTION

compiled by Carol Baum

Ground the Drones— Join the Resistance

An evening with Kathy Kelly. Kathy Kelly (Voices for Creative Nonviolence) will arrive several days before her court appearance to speak throughout the Syracuse area (contact Carol for locations and times). On **Tuesday, February 28 at 7 pm**, she will speak at ArtRage Gallery (505 Hawley Ave.) about her recent trip to Afghanistan and India. Her India trip was especially notable in that she accompanied the Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers (AYPV) to meet with Gandhian activists there. We plan to, cyberspace willing, connect with the AYPV via Skype.

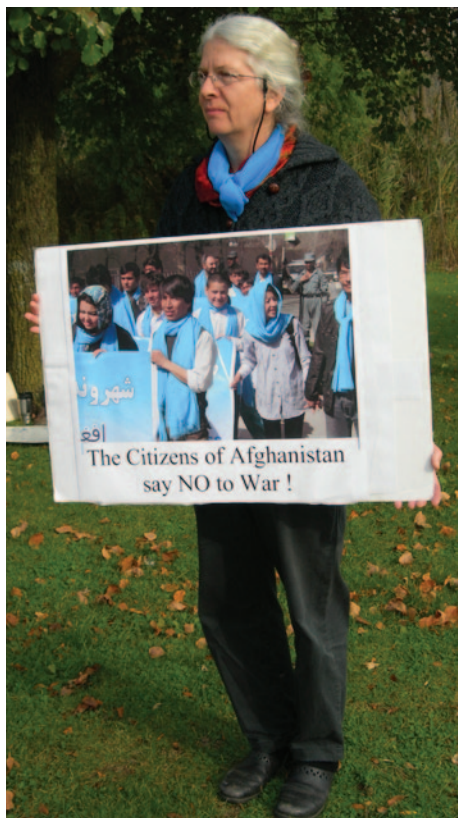
Next court appearance. Come and support the Hancock 38 drone resisters once more—**Wednesday, February 29 at 5 pm** at the Town of De Witt Court House. Four people will be sentenced; Kathy Kelly will appear for her trial; and anyone who has refused to pay their fines and/or perform their community service must appear before the judge.

Fines and creative fine paying—how you can help. The Hancock 38 each received fines of \$250, plus court surcharges of \$125. Some folks are paying the fines to the court, others have chosen to pay them to the Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers (to help with their rent of an office in Kabul) and present the receipts to the judge. Regardless of where the money is going, some of the Hancock 38 could use some help with the fines. To contribute, send a check to SPC, with Hancock 38 in the memo line.

Upstate NY Coalition to Ground the Drones and End the Wars met in late January. SPC's local group continues to meet regularly. Contact Carol.

People Power

It's time to fulfill your 2012 resolution to get more involved in work for social change!



Hancock 38 Drone Resister Martha Hennessy holding a photo of Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers during a press conference before trial. The defendants wore scarves similar to those worn by the AYPV. Photo: Carol Baum

In January, SPC hosted a Skillshare on Nonviolent Direct Action (thanks to SEIU 1199 for the use of their new space). On **February 16 at 6 pm**, you are invited to the first Activist Orientation of 2012—whether you're new to the Peace Council or have been out of touch for a while. You'll see a short video about the SPC's history, hear about current SPC projects and learn how you can join in. By hosting skillbuilding trainings and general orientations, SPC hopes to create a welcoming space for individuals interested in social change.

Another way to meet Peace Council activists and volunteers is to stop by the Leftist Lounge, our once a month coffee

house and hang out, coming up next on **February 17**. To RSVP for the Activist Orientation or to find out how to get involved with SPC, contact Ursula.

Come Strategize with SPC

Consider joining SPC's Steering Committee and other core activists at our **February 4-5** retreat. We're meeting at scenic Alverna Heights in Fayetteville for a look at the direction of our program work. If you're active on an SPC project or committee, this is an opportunity to meet folks from other parts of the organization and help set the broader direction. Among key items on the agenda are: strategies for diversifying SPC, improving our efforts to bring in new people, analyzing our anti-war organizing and looking at whether we can free up organizational resources to respond more effectively to late-breaking events and developing trends. Saturday evening will be play time. Contact Amelia, ahramsey@syr.edu, or call the office.

In Memory of Linda Perla

Linda was a long-time member and strong supporter of the SPC. In the 1970s and 80s she was active in struggles against nuclear power and US support of repressive regimes in Latin America. Linda was a creative member of the Peace Calendar committee from 1983 to 1994, and in 1995 she wrote a moving and humorous article on the 25 year history of the Peace Calendar. Linda joined the SPC Steering Committee as part of our revitalization in 2002.

In all her progressive work Linda brought a profound sense of justice, a subtle humor, much-needed organization and a people-oriented style. Linda died January 16, 2012. A community memorial service will be held in April at Plymouth Church.

—Dik Cool

NOON

In addition to our major projects (see below) to stop fracking and initiate the Two Row Wampum Campaign, NOON continues its overall mission of educating

continued on next page

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www.peacecouncil.net • OFFICE HOURS: M-Th, 10 am–5 pm; F, 10 am–2 pm

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



SPC in Action / from previous page

our people about the Onondaga Nation, Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the need to respond to their call for social healing and environmental preservation. A recent op-ed in the *Post-Standard* by NOON activists Phil Arnold and Sandy Bigtree (published January 13) is an example of that work. NOON's next organizing meeting will be **Tuesday, February 14 at 7 pm** at SPC. Contact Andy.

Cleaning Up Our Part of the Two Row

Organizing work is well underway for a Two Row Wampum Commemoration initiative being planned by Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation and the Onondaga Nation. 2013 marks the 400th anniversary of this first and foundation-setting treaty between the Haudenosaunee and European settlers.

The organizing committee, which has formed committees focusing on fundraising, outreach, education, and enactment planning, meets next on **Tuesday, February 7 at 7 pm** at SPC. We also have a special program planned at 6 pm the following evening (**Wednesday, February 8**) at the Onondaga Nation Cookhouse to view slides of a trial paddling trip down the Hudson undertaken last summer by Hickory Edwards, Bud Homer and Brandon Homer of the Onondaga Kayak and Canoe Club. We'll share soup and bread while hearing about the trip and discussing plans for the overall effort. Contact Andy.

NO to Hydrofracking

Some 40,000 New Yorkers sent comments to the Department of Environmental Conservation about hydrofracking, the largest public participation in state history. Initial reports puts those comments at 10 to one against fracking! Activists are now turning our attention to legislative efforts and stepping up the pressure on Governor Cuomo. Momentum continues to build for a statewide ban, a victory which would

reverberate around the nation and the world, making a major stand for protecting the Earth. We need your energy now and in the coming months. ShaleshockCNY meets next on **Wednesday, February 15 at 6 pm** at Onondaga Free Library, 4840 West Seneca Tpk. Contact Jack, 424-1454 or ramskids2go@aol.com.

Strike for Peace Bowlathon March 4

Outrageous costumes and clever team names! High jinks and high spirits! Gutter balls and magnificent strikes! Yes, it's time to get your team together for SPC's annual Strike for Peace Fundraising Bowlathon on **Sunday, March 4**. This year we'll once again be at Flamingo Bowl for two sessions. Registration forms, flyers and pledge sheets are available at peacecouncil.net/bowl.

We'll have prizes for costumes, team name, age diversity, team spirit and more, as well as free t-shirts for anyone raising \$50 or more in pledges. Teams which raise \$75



The Central Square Unitarian Universalist team was one of the winners of the Team Spirit award at last year's Bowlathon. Photo: Carol Baum

or more in pledges as a group will be listed in the coveted *Pledgers Hall of Fame*.

Contact Carol to reserve a lane for your team. Teams are 4-6 people (individuals are welcome — we'll match you with a team). Entry fee is \$15 for adults, \$10 for kids (12 and under) and includes two games plus shoes. The alley is completely accessible, and bumpers are available. Discounts are available for early reservations. For *PNL* subscribers, more information on the inserted flyer.

Winter Peace Outreach



The drones are impervious to the cold, and so are we! **The first Tuesday of each month through March** we'll be at the main entrance to **Hancock Air Base** (E. Molloy Rd. between Thompson and Townline Rds.) from **4:15-5 pm** to catch the shift change.

Next Peace Outreach: Tuesday, February 7. Contact Ed or Ann, 478-4571.

Help Keep SPC Solvent

SPC's "FUN" (Fundraising/Development) Committee, is responsible for keeping the funds flowing smoothly to support the critical activist work we do. Our very successful 75th anniversary year has left us in good financial shape, but a little worn. That small committee would welcome some new blood as we look ahead to our upcoming work. This includes the Bowlathon, Spring Fund Appeal, SummerCrafts, Phonathon and more. This is a great way to support the organization you believe in. Contact Andy.

Steering Committee News

SPC welcomes to our Steering Committee Susan Adair, coordinator of our *PNL* distribution, and Saptarshi Lahiri, *PNL* editorial committee member. SPC activist Rae Kramer is rotating off the Steering Committee, but remains active with the Ground the Drones committee, as well as the Bowlathon and Plowshares committees, and the Caribbean Latin America Coalition (oh, and she proofreads the *PNL*). Thanks Rae — we hope you find a little free time with one less committee on your plate!

The Steering Committee helps shape SPC's overall program direction and oversees our financial planning and general organizational health.

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Drones on Trial: Quotes from the Hancock 38

Compiled by Christina Sterbenz

In April 2011, the “Hancock 38” peacefully approached Hancock Air Field in DeWitt, New York. They intended to bring a written citizens’ indictment to the military base for violating international peace laws with the use of MQ9 Reaper drones, but they never got the chance. Their indictment confiscated, they approached the gate and lay down in protest. They came to exercise their right to free speech and left with charges of disorderly conduct.

The trial excerpts below show that the defendants and their attorneys not only proved the Hancock 38’s innocence, but the drones’ illegality. Judge David Gideon, however, found every defendant guilty and immediately sentenced four to jail. He assigned fines, court fees, and community service to the rest. Ever persevering in their civil disobedience, many refused to comply and must return to court (see box).

Free Speech

“And then, clad in bloody shrouds, they peacefully, quietly, and solemnly lay down on the driveway leading to the base to symbolize the innocent victims of the reaper drones. Symbolic speech, Judge, that’s what it was. That’s what everyone recognized it to be,” said Attorney Sam Young, representing defendant Kathleen Rumpf.

“The military, the police, and the prosecutors may have not liked the message that these folks were trying to convey. You, yourself, may not like it or agree with it. It may have made them uncomfortable; it may make you uncomfortable, but that does not make it any less protected,” said Young.

International Law

“When I was a teenager, which was many moons ago, the United States was in a crisis. 58,000 US soldiers had been killed in Vietnam. Over two million Vietnamese had been killed. The United States citi-

zenry had come to their wits end, and the consciousness of the nation was shifting My father participated with many other Catholics, clergy and lay people in direct actions of tearing up draft files of our soldiers that were to be drafted from our poor inner cities that were going to be sent to Vietnam. These files, it turned out we learned, were the only copies of these young men’s names that were to be sent to Vietnam. My father was arrested when I was fourteen in 1971. And for this action he was facing 47 years in prison As a result of the judge’s decision to allow the issues of foreign affairs and acknowledge Article 6 [of the Constitution], the [Camden 28] were acquitted in a historical



Retired Col. Ann Wright speaks at the Nov. 3 press conference. Behind her is a copy of the citizens’ indictment brought by drone resisters to Hancock on April 22, 2011. Photo: Chris Sabas

decision—because the truth was allowed in the courtroom,” said defendant Mary Anne Grady Flores.

“The US is in daily violation of its commitments under the UN Charter. Violations of the Charter are war crimes. Many people are being killed illegally—lynched—by the US government. We use the term lynchings intentionally, to remind you of that long chapter in US history where domestic lynching was tolerated, and also, equally important, that in the past longstanding traditions of law have been drastically changed,” said defendant Pete Bianco.

WITNESS THE TRIAL EXPERIENCE

Wednesday, February 29, 5 pm

Town of DeWitt Courthouse

On Feb. 29, four of the Hancock 38 defendants will be sentenced, one will appear for trial, and resisters refusing to pay fines or perform community service will appear before the Judge.

“From my significant exposure to war I have learned two important things. One is that IHL (International Humanitarian Law) is terribly important in restraining the most heinous and inhuman of acts which occur in war and make war so horrible. The other, more important, lesson is how simple it is for a system to convince good people to not enforce or comply with IHL....

Let me be clear about the long-term, delayed cost of failing to comply with IHL.... You and your squad hit the dirt because there was suspected enemy activity. Through a break in the brush you see something moving. Over your sights you see it looks like a woman, and it looks like she is carrying a baby. You ask should you open up and fire on her. Your orders are that this is a free fire zone and all people are considered the enemy.... Instead of asking is she in a free fire zone you should have asked your command is it legal to force a population to leave their homes and ancestral village under threat of death.... If I had asked the right questions, if I had followed the right law, only our imagination can say how many innocent lives would have been saved.

continued on page 10

WELCOME TO THE 11/12 SEASON

Caroline, or Change

Book and Lyrics by Tony Kushner
Music by Jeanine Tesori
February 1 - 26, 2012

Red

By John Logan
March 7 - 25, 2012

The Brothers Size

By Tarell Alvin McCraney
April 18 - May 12, 2012

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Climate Change: Voices from the Global South

by Saptarshi Lahiri

The 17th UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) annual negotiations were concluded in Durban, South Africa, last month. The Conference of the Parties (CoP) as it is better known, is the annual meeting of Kyoto Protocol signatories (as well as non-aligned observers) who attempt to assess progress in dealing with climate change, as well as negotiate the Kyoto Protocol in order to establish legally binding obligations for developed and developing countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. Several key issues were discussed—chiefly involving the culpability of the industrial global north with regard to historic pollution starting with the industrial revolution, the vulnerability of the non-industrial global south, and the recalcitrance of

trenchant emerging economies referred to as BASIC (Brazil, South Africa, India and China) to commit to emission cuts, unless the rich, industrialized global north were prepared to commit to more, owing to a longer history of high emissions. Presented here are a compilation of quotes on these issues from people who stand to be most affected by climate change.

On the United States' refusal to ratify the Kyoto Protocol:

"Principally, a country like the United States never signed the Kyoto Protocol, for example. They never agreed to having a legally binding agreement on emission reduction. They've always favored a situation where they stand apart and then allow others to struggle against the tide. And

Saptarshi is a graduate student at SUNY-ESF finishing his Masters thesis. He serves on the PNL Editorial Committee and the SPC Steering Committee.

now, because the US, as the major emitter of greenhouse gases has never agreed to a fully multilateral system of cooperating with other countries in the world, some nations like Japan, like Russia, Australia, Canada, who is a heavily polluting nation, have teamed up with the United States. And we're seeing the European Union generally speaking one language and walking

that remaining space (yet) the efforts of China to turn to green energy, to reduce emissions is not being recognized. Scientists tell us that China has done far more than the United States in terms of reduction of emissions. And in fact...developing nations...have committed to deeper emissions reduction than the industrialized world."

— *Nnimmo Bassey*

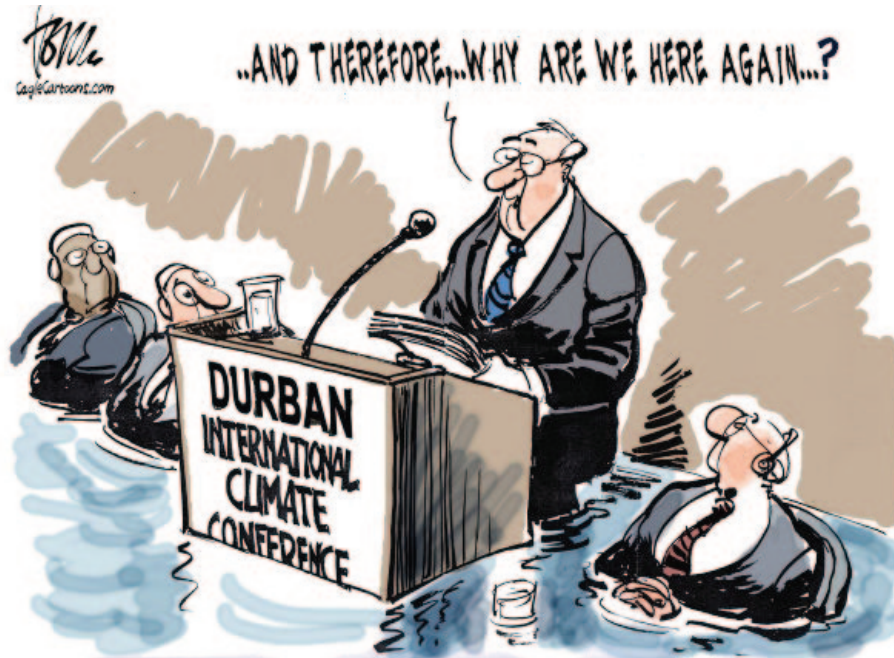


Image: Tom Janssen

the other way. So, the rich countries are standing in the way of a real agreement that could avert disaster."

— *Nnimmo Bassey, executive director of Environmental Rights Action in Nigeria and chair of Friends of the Earth International (FOE)*

"Eight years is a death sentence on Africa."

On emerging economies, like China, outstripping the rich global north:

"At one level, the historical responsibility cannot be forgotten—cannot be overlooked. The atmospheric space for carbon, for greenhouse gases, has already been colonized by the United States and other rich, industrialized nations...(now) the debate is about who is going to occupy

"Three-fourths of all the greenhouse gases that have accumulated in the atmosphere, and will stay there warming us up for thousands of years, come from the developed countries of the Global North, led by the United States, right, which is responsible for more than one-quarter of all emissions accumulated in the atmosphere. So, we have to have a balance between historical responsibility and current and future responsibility. And I think the United States government is

totally wrong in trying to blame China for—you know, as the biggest polluter. It is indeed today the biggest emitter, but the United States was the biggest emitter for 150 years."

— *Indian writer Praful Bidwai, author of The Politics of Climate Change and The Global Crisis: Mortgaging Our Future.*

On the false promise of the neoliberal "Green" Economy, and spurious decarbonization schemes such as Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and Reduction in Deforestation and Degradation (REDD/REDD+):

"Instead of cutting greenhouse gas emissions 80% like we need, the UN is promoting false solutions to climate change like carbon trading and offsets through the Clean Development Mechanism and the proposed REDD+, which provide pollut-

continued on page 10

Mass Incarceration / from cover

prosecutors, police, right-wing media, prison guards, politicians, pundits, legislators, governors.

And yet, this is a moment of possibility for prisoner justice. The US prison system is being challenged from many sides. The anti-death penalty and innocence movements have raised fundamental questions; Michelle Alexander's book *The New Jim Crow* provided definitive evidence that mass incarceration is the leading form of racial oppression in our time; major prison strikes in California and Georgia in 2011 called attention to intolerable conditions.

In New York, modest reforms have been won, such as alternative and reduced sentencing for drug offenders, limiting solitary confinement for people with diagnosed mental illness, and counting prisoners in their home communities rather than their place of confinement for legislative districting. There is a strong campaign challenging the parole policies that can keep people behind bars forever with no way out.

The prisoner justice movement has a large and bold vision: a society that directs resources to the causes of social problems, including economic injustice, racism, and inequality; implements community-based accountability; treats violence, addiction, and mental illness as serious public health issues; and addresses the crimes and violence of the most powerful members of society as well as the least powerful. Re-thinking mass incarceration challenges us to work toward a prisonless society that would liberate not only prisoners, but all of us. ♻️

Naomi is a member of the New York State Prisoner Justice Network.

SPC Monthly Program

WHAT'S WRONG WITH NEW YORK'S PRISON SYSTEM -- and what can we do about it?

NYS

Prisoner Justice Network

Thursday, February 9, 7 pm

ArtRage Gallery (505 Hawley Ave.)

Learn about some of the key injustices in NY's prison system at this presentation by activists from the NYS Prisoner Justice Network. Discussion to follow focused on community-based solutions. Free. Refreshments provided.

Co-sponsored by the Center for Community Alternatives, NYS Prisoner Justice Network and the Syracuse Peace Council. Contact Jessica: jessica@peacecouncil.net or 472-5478.



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Iran: Targeted in Many Ways

Judy Bello

Cries for war with Iran are again rising. In November, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), under a new director and heavily pressured by the US State Department, released a report implying that Iran is developing nuclear weapons. Iran's civilian nuclear program is heavily monitored by the IAEA, which has repeatedly confirmed that the level of enrichment is consistent with civilian uses and no nuclear materials have been diverted. The information on which this report is based is no different than the last report from Mohammed El Baradei's IAEA in 2009.

Iran is surrounded by US bases and military forces in Iraq, Kuwait, Afghanistan and Pakistan. It is targeted by US missiles in Europe and Israel. Repeated upgrades of international sanctions have left Iran without parts to repair their aging civilian airlines or high tech medical equipment parts that are readily available in western countries. Despite its vast oil reserves, Iran imports refined petroleum products like gasoline and heating oil, because sanctions have made it impossible to repair the oil refineries destroyed during the Iran-Iraq War.

War Has Begun

The last decade has seen a cyclical escalation of threats and sanctions against Iran by Israel and the United States. The US currently has two aircraft carrier fleets in the Persian Gulf, while Iranian forces conduct defensive military exercises in international waters off their own coast. At the same time, the escalating program of covert sabotage ratchets up pressure inside Iran, and an increasing stream of accusations comes from the US mainstream press and the Israeli and European press.

Judy Bello, who recently spent 3 days in jail in Syracuse for her role in the Hancock 38 (see page 5), led a Fellowship of Reconciliation Civilian Peace Delegation to Iran last May, her second to that land.

Numerous instances of sabotage and assassination have occurred inside Iran, all attributed to the Mossad, CIA or MI6. On January 11, nuclear scientist Mostafa Ahmadi Roshan was killed by a magnetic bomb attached to his car from a passing motorcycle. He was the fourth Iranian scientist assassinated in the last two years; a fifth scientist survived an attack. Last November, an explosion killed 30 in a Tehran missile base. A couple of

with the Mossad and the CIA.

There are also strong indications that the US worked with Israel to unleash the Stuxnet virus on Iran's nuclear enrichment facilities. Israeli sources have more or less taken credit for many of these operations, while the US consistently denies involvement. But George W. Bush designated millions for covert operations in Iran. One might ask, "Where did it go?" The most recent sanctions against Iran include a prohibition against diplomacy with Iranian officials. This leaves us with a covert war and no mechanism for reconciliation. What could possibly be gained by such a restriction?



Image: Judy Bello

No Iranian Retaliation

It is interesting that Iran has not significantly retaliated for these actions. Iran remains active in regional diplomacy, with a history of encouraging regional cooperation through trade and mutual support systems. The hype in the mainstream press over Iranian terrorism and the dreaded Iranian bomb seems oddly disconnected from reality. Even when attacked by Saddam's chemical weapons during the 80s, Iran did not reciprocate in kind. Oil is often cited as the reason for this campaign of terror against Iran. And, Iran is designated a 'state sponsor of terrorism' for actively supporting and advocating the Palestinian right to self-determination and condemning Israel's ethnic cleansing in Palestine.

But I believe there is something more going on here. The US is a little over 200 years old. Israel is just over 60. Iran has been around for over 3000 years as a center of culture and civilization. It has a cultural identity deeply rooted in its society. Over millennia, the Persian Empire has expanded across the Arab world, India and southwest Asia. Iran has a Jewish population that goes back to biblical times, supports Kurdish and Arab populations, and has recently absorbed influxes of Armenian, Azerbaijani and Russian refugees. Iranians know who they are. This kind of integrity is stunning when you first encounter it. I imagine it is terrifying to the contemporary proponents of American hegemony.

weeks later, another explosion occurred in a nuclear storage site in Isfahan, and in December yet another explosion rocked a nuclear site in Yazd.

These attacks were likely perpetrated with the assistance of the Mujahedin-e-Khalk (MEK) a terrorist organization that has lived under US protection on a base in Iraq near the Iranian border since the beginning of the Iraq War. Shortly after the Islamic Revolution, the MEK bombed the offices of Imam Khomeini's political party, killing more than 30 members of the Iranian Parliament and Cabinet, including senior clerics. The MEK fought with Saddam Hussein against Iran in the Iran-Iraq War, and since 2003 has worked openly

Drones on Trial / from page 5

That was an opportunity to support IHL. I failed the test. These opportunities come and we are tested. Even Judges occasionally get tested. They, like me, will face pressure by the system and social pressure making it hard to comply with IHL—but in the balance hangs the lives of hundreds or thousands,” said defendant Elliot Adams.

Reaper drones

“Since April 22, when our action occurred, drones have killed between 250 and 360 human beings in Pakistan alone according to the New America Foundation. These numbers probably don’t include the deaths of 16-year-old Tariq Aziz and his 12-year-old cousin, Waheed Khan, who were killed on Monday, the day before our trial began,” said defendant Harry Murray.

“Drones also create the threat of a new arms race. Drone technology is much easier to develop than nuclear weapons technology. A number of nations besides the US have already developed them, including Israel and China. The specter of a world in which both state and nonstate actors can launch drones to target any individual they wish, remotely controlled from half a world away, is a nightmarish world, a world we do not wish to bequeath to our children. Furthermore, drones make Upstate New York a war zone . . . What happens when a suicide bomber decides to target a legal combatant, a drone pilot at Hancock when they are sitting at a soccer game, watching their kids play soccer?” said Murray. ♻️

Durban Conference / from page 7

ers with permits to pollute. The UN climate negotiation is not about saving the climate, it is about privatization of forests, agriculture and the air.”

– *Berenice Sanchez of the Mesoamerica Indigenous Women’s Biodiversity Network, Mexico.*

“We are here to express our concern about the false solutions that have made a business out of climate change. For indigenous peoples, the way of life we maintain in our territories is sacred. Therefore, we see carbon markets as a hypocrisy that will not detain global warming. With this moratorium, we alert our peoples about the risks that come with REDD+: threats against our rights and those of our Mother Earth, with the attempts to turn our lands and our forests into a waste-basket for carbon, while those responsible for the crisis continue reaping the benefits.”

– *Marlon Santi, former President of the National Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador*

And finally, most poignantly, Nnimmo Bassey on the bureaucratic foot-dragging and obstruction that the US heroically engaged in at Durban, exhibiting itself in the guise of chief UN climate negotiator Todd Stern who “categorically” rejects “the sense of guilt, or culpability, or reparations” on behalf of the US and talks about committing to sign an agreement in 2015 to come into force in 2020, a language that implies eight years of inaction:

“Eight years is a death sentence on Africa.” ♻️



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Looking for more information? Please visit us on the web at: www.connectionschny.org Find us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/connectionschny

Obama and Immigration Reform: A Lack of Leadership

Aly Wane

On March 21st, 2010, I joined over 200,000 others and marched on Washington to pressure President Obama to make good on his promise to pass comprehensive immigration reform that would create an earned path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants. I could detect a change in the air. The immigration reform movement had, up until then, been very hopeful of the new President and trusted that the machinery of democracy would lead to a positive outcome. But I could tell that there was more anger, militancy and disillusionment with Obama. For good reason.

The Deporter-in-Chief

It's early 2012, and not only has the administration failed to live up to its promise, but it has deported over one million people in its first three years. In comparison, the Bush administration deported 1.57 million people in its two full terms. There is no denying it: Barack Obama has been an utter disappointment on immigration reform. On this, as well as many other issues, he has used the same playbook: kowtowing to right wing pressure in the hopes that his political opponents would eventually concede to modest legislative change. As a result, he has alienated both his base and a Republican Party that stonewalls at every turn.

Nowhere is this more apparent than in the immigration reform struggle. The right wing has done a masterful job of stirring up racial and class anxiety, and linking immigration to the already toxic debate of "The War on Terror." Thus, in the mainstream media, the term "illegal alien" has morphed into "potential terrorist." Additionally, conservatives have drummed up false fears about "lack of security at the border" despite the fact that, according to the nonpartisan Bureau of Justice Statistics, crime rates in the Mexican border states are actually lower than in the inland states.

Aly is a Senegalese immigrant activist and member of the Peace Newsletter editorial committee.



Image: Favianna Rodriguez

Finally, "illegal aliens" have become the perfect scapegoats for an economy that has been rigged for the 1 percent for at least 30 years of voodoo, "trickle down" economics.

The results on the ground have been devastating. Immigration raids have continued in workplaces and homes, expanding the war on civil liberties. We've seen an exponential increase in deportations, separating families without due process or judicial review. Increased militarization of the border has included the hiring of private military contractors and the use of unmanned drones. Meanwhile, Republicans have pushed for more stringent laws, such as Arizona's SB1070, which urges law enforcement to apprehend anyone who "looks like an illegal alien," Alabama's HB 56, which would deny public utility access to undocumented people, and Georgia's HB 87, which would make it illegal for citizens to give undocumented people rides.

Immigrants for Sale

The immigration detention network is essentially the newest face of the prison industrial complex. In the wake of Arizona's SB1070, NPR reported on the collusion

between legislators and corporate interests to write the law. The story detailed meetings between Arizona State Senator Russell Pearce (among others), the prime sponsor of SB1070, and a secretive industry group called ALEC (the American Legislative Exchange Council) which includes the Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) and the GEO Group, both large private corrections industry players. The bill provides a steady flow of undocumented immigrants to CCA and other detention corporations, leading to high profits. This law and similar state laws are broadening the definition of "criminal immigrant," leading to record numbers of detentions, to the corporate glee of the corrections industry.

Glimmers of Hope

The administration's current failure on immigration is due to its unwillingness to separate the immigration issue from the national security issue and its inability to re-frame immigration in terms of the humanitarian crisis created by repeatedly breaking up families and wasting the energy and potential of undocumented youth who want nothing more than to contribute to this country. However, immigration proposals being pushed by the Democrats (like the DREAM Act and an earned, arduous path to citizenship for the undocumented) are actually supported by the majority of US citizens. Thus, the legislative impasse is mostly due to political timidity, a lack of vision from the Democratic Party and the recalcitrance of the Republican Party.

Thankfully, unrelenting pressure from grassroots activists like the young DREAMers and the reality of growing Latino voting power has pushed the administration to move in the right direction. Recently, the Department of Homeland Security declared that it would engage in deportation case reviews with the goal of nullifying deportation orders of undocumented immigrants with family ties and no criminal records. Young people who would be eligible for the DREAM Act would also qualify for cancellation of removal. These moves give slight hope to the immigration reform movement that bolder steps might be forthcoming. ♣

Syracuse's Citizen Review Board Rises Again

Nancy Keefe Rhodes

In 1993, Syracuse passed an ordinance establishing a Citizen Review Board (CRB) to hear complaints against the police. The CRB came out of Common Councilor Charles Anderson's Task Force on Community and Police Relations, which began meeting a year and a half before the 1991 Rodney King incident, and feedback from Syracusans that an independent process was needed. Last spring, Councilor Pam Hunter formed a committee of community members to revise the CRB, which included myself and attorney Alan Rosenthal, also part of the original task force. This work culminated on December 29, 2011 when the Common Council unanimously passed the new version. The Council has made their eight new appointments to the CRB, which has begun meeting. At this writing, the Mayor is expected to announce her three appointments shortly.

"From the beginning," I wrote in the August 1995 *PNL*, "Syracuse's CRB has presented long-haul lessons on compromise and independence."

Then, as more recently, the issue of subpoena power often hogged the limelight. In fact, for much of its existence, Syracuse's CRB and many of its fans and enemies alike have remained fixated on this idea of "making them talk," locked in the embrace of that long-ago legal stand-off.

A Second Chance

Life doesn't offer many such do-overs and, from that vantage point, I have some observations.

In 1993, we created a CRB with too

Nancy Keefe Rhodes lives in the Hawley-Green neighborhood, where many have noticed Officer Ed forging a different kind of relationship on his beat than has sometimes been the case. Go to the Peace Council's website to see the newly amended CRB ordinance for yourself.

much "independence" and its own surprising potential to go rogue. If this phrase seems provocative, think about it. We were so worried about needing to protect the CRB from outside influence that we neglected—in ways that now seem breathtaking to me—to insure its own integrity. By "integrity" I mean the several senses of that word: its capacity to remain true to its purpose and to operate smoothly as intended, as well as its capacity to engender respect because of correct behavior.

Most accounts of the CRB's revamp- ing begin with Mayor Stephanie Miner's

couldn't criticize the CRB. I don't know about you, but I felt betrayed last February—and not by Stephanie Miner.

The New Model

Much of what the new CRB does is to clarify and sharpen everyone's job and what should occur in the CRB's overall workings—and then provide a time-sensitive Plan B if it doesn't. So Council and Mayor alike must use their power to fill a vacancy—or someone else will. The next CRB Administrator has a clearer job description and more on-going oversight.

There is also more direction about keeping CRB activity transparent.

The new law also clearly departs from the 1993 version. Mostly obviously, the new CRB law specifically requires that the police and the CRB share information and conduct parallel, simultaneous, time-limited investigations. This is one feature of other CRBs—New York City and Albany, for example—that has stood the test of time and greatly diminishes the importance of subpoena power, which is no longer the sole means of getting information for hearings. That is, the CRB can go around that fight now. We can't guarantee

a future mayor and a different chief won't resist this, but right now it has a chance to establish itself as workable.

We should note that this "make them talk" mentality is symptomatic of something more pervasive than dissatisfaction with police. In 1992, the *Washington Post* columnist E.J. Dionne published *Why Americans Hate Politics*, in which he explores the decline in voting and other forms of participation. He concluded that the national discussion had become so polarized that most people felt there was nothing there for them. Are we surprised that Dionne's book was re-issued in 2004, a national boiling point of "for us or against us"? If we can avoid that old impasse, we can step back and look at the whole more clearly. And perhaps the police can too. ♻



A September 2010 protest outside the Justice Center calls for accountability for the deaths of Raul Pinet and Chuniece Patterson in police custody. The CRB was created to address such complaints of police misconduct. Photo: Kimberly Mccoy

firing last February of its one and only administrator—ironically, for failing to answer a subpoena. But apparently that was merely the last straw in a long decline marked by years of inaction, undelivered reports, unheld hearings and meetings, and unavailable office hours. Stung by Miner's move, the Council accused her of overstepping. But who else was going to break that particular log-jam? A year ago, the CRB had just one member whose appointment was current and no mechanism in the original ordinance for regular evaluation. In many ways, the CRB had come to mirror the very entity it was created to check and balance—to the point that if you were a progressive person in favor of the checks and balances that should just be normal in a democracy, you somehow

Urban Forests for Food and Ecological Balance

Frank Raymond Cetera

The international community celebrated the United Nations' "Year of the Forest" in 2011. The Vibrant Cities and Urban Forests Task Force, convened by the US Forest Service, published their "National Call to Action"—a vision for how urban forests can serve our cities' needs for health, social services, landscape design and economics. Now is the time to take this concern about forests into all aspects of life, including as an egalitarian means to feed people.

Food security is threatened by numerous hierarchical systems that undermine sustainability. Capitalism is perhaps the most glaring example—anti-ecological at its core due to massive resource extraction and environmental degradation at the expense of exploited labor and the natural world. Capitalism's products, just as much as its actions, lead us into a downward spiral of malnutrition from processed, nutrient-deficient foods, sensational marketing and over focus on "shelf-life."

Forest Gardening

Forest gardening offers one strategy toward sustainability. Instead of relying on accepted practices of resource development for unending economic growth, we can rely on nature's systems to readily meet our needs.

Locally, the Rahma Clinic Edible Forest Garden on South Salina St. is seeding the idea of forests as urban food resources. Rahma ("mercy" in Arabic) is a free health clinic. It is a project of the Muslim American Care and Compassion Alliance (MACCA), which is an organization started by members of the local Muslim community.

Permaculture design principles, best practices for using nature's systems to integrate human needs into the landscape, are being used to develop the 1/10th acre site. Reflecting the health mission of the Rahma Clinic, the forest garden will provide fruits and perennial vegetables to be picked and eaten as an alternative to the convenience foods found on most corners.

Forest gardens are unparalleled food systems. Temperate forests are among the world's most productive ecosystems, surpassed only by tropical forests, swamps, marshes and estuaries, which are harder to come by in rust belt cities. Forests are over twice as productive as single dimensional agricultural or garden land.

Forests are also extremely resilient, something desperately needed in our neighborhoods. Resiliency, the sustained ability of a system to respond to disturbances and retain function and structure, is exhibited throughout nature's complex web. Nature's design showcases that system success and integrity are

Frank is the President of the Alchemical Nursery, serves on SPC's Advisory Committee and works as a Certified Business Advisor for the Small Business Development Center at Onondaga Community College.

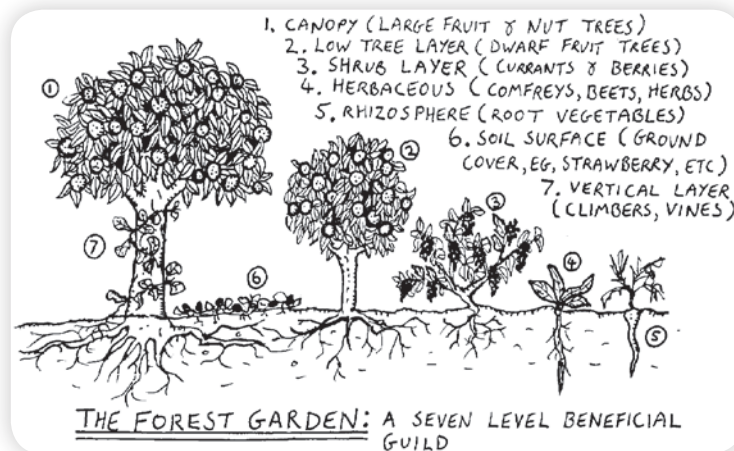


Image: Graham Burnett

possible without current environmental industrialization.

The need for natural processes is being increasingly recognized in our society. Rain barrels, rain gardens, green roofs, porous pavement—as supported by Onondaga County Save the Rain, are good examples of decentralized and ecologically sound,

though at times one dimensional, solutions. True resiliency is ensured by practices that are multidimensional, not just physically—as forest gardens exhibit with vertical tiers and horizontal intercropping, but also in ecosystems and community services.

Transforming our Social Future

A forest garden combines the best of green infrastructure's ecosystem services with the edibles production of traditional community gardening. It reduces inputs by local sourcing—transforming our physical landscape into a permanent resource and shifting our community landscape into one poised for ecological and social complexity. Hence, allowing us to create resilient, stable food systems and empowering communities to prepare for the major transitions to come.

The trifecta of economic instability, climate change and peak oil present a massive challenge to our generation and those to come.

As we collectively move forward towards social cooperation, ending our domination of nature must accompany this journey. By developing perennial food resources, we also create perennial ecocentric forest resources and an opportunity for increased comfort with nature. Permaculture design ethics, people-care, planet-care and fair-share of surplus provides a framework for creating future endeavors in the spirit of cohesive security among our neighbors.

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David Francey

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Lost Time

Feb. 17 / *Bluegrass in the dead of winter! One of CNY's most dynamic and innovative ensembles.*

Dana & Susan Robinson

Mar. 2 / *Neo-trad, Americana stylings in both original and standard material.*

At the Westcott Center:
Joanne Shenandoah
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Understanding the Palestinian Plight

Fifty people attended CNY Working for a Just Peace in Palestine and Israel's January 18 showing of "One Family in Gaza." The post-video discussion featured a conversation via Skype with filmmaker Jen Marlowe.



Mark your calendar for a presentation by William Parry, author of *Against the Wall: The Art of Resistance in Palestine* on **Tuesday, February 21 at 7**

pm at ArtRage Gallery, 505 Hawley Ave. *Publishers Weekly* wrote: "Journalist and photographer Parry combines images of the wall art (Israel's separation/confiscation wall), UN reports, and interviews with human rights observers and locals to critique the ongoing occupation and how the wall, specifically, facilitates the theft of land and water, the destruction of homes, and the extermination of Palestinian culture." Contact Andy.

Youth and Militarism Works with Vets for Peace

A local chapter of Veterans for Peace (VFP) has recently become reinvigorated by several new members. SPC's Youth and Militarism Committee is excited to begin working together with VFP members on our outreach to both city and rural high schools. If you're available between 10-1:30 on weekdays and are interested in partnering with SPC and VFP to inform young people of their rights and options related to military service, please contact Jessica or Andy.

Welcome Interns!

It's time to welcome the new crew of Winter 2012 interns. Brianna Carrier (SU) will focus on grantwriting and educational materials for the Two Row Wampum Commemoration. Christina Sterbenz (SU) will work with the *PNL* (see page 5). Matthew Harmer (SUNY Oswego) will work with SPC staff to develop a Campus Organiz-

ing internship position, which will aim to educate and organize Oswego students around Peace Council issues. Elyse Irvis (SU) will work on event organizing, starting off with the Strike for Peace Bowlathon.

If you have a little extra time and are interested in developing your organizing skills or gaining professional experience, consider applying to intern with SPC. The Peace Council accepts internship applications year round. See peacecouncil.net/intern.



Saptarshi Lahiri at last August's Hiroshima Day procession. Photo: Diane Lansing

Activist Appreciation: Saptarshi Lahiri

The Peace Council got lucky when Saptarshi Lahiri came through our doors in June, 2011. Saptarshi is a graduate student at SUNY ESF in sustainable economics. In addition to having a deep and critical analysis of the current economic system, he is also willing to help wherever it's needed. Saptarshi became an instant regular on our outreach tabling committee, staffing many events during the summer and fall, often with his partner Anneka. Saptarshi also serves on the *Peace Newsletter* committee and contributed an article to the December 2011 issue, *Towards an Economy Based on Well-being* which calls on the Occupy movement to make the connection between the economic and ecological crises. His patience, intellectual curiosity, and dedication are a great asset to the editorial committee. In addition, in January 2012, he joined the Peace Council Steering Committee.

Thank you Saptarshi for all that you do!

PeaceSongs CNY in process

Over 300 people participated in the online poll conducted with the *Syracuse New Times* to pick the final four songs for the PeaceSongs CNY CD. See and listen to the full list of selections online: peacecouncil.net/songs. Over the next couple of months, we'll gather the final pieces, have the CD mastered, design the CD package and prepare for the CD release party in the spring. Stay tuned. Contact Andy.

Public Power Joins City Sustainability Committee

The city of Syracuse is embarking on a process to draft a city-wide sustainability plan. On Thursday, January 5, the Public Power Coalition hosted a presentation by members of the City's Bureau of Planning and Sustainability to explain their process and share the data and assessment which has been done to date. The city has now assembled an advisory committee to assist with generating a draft plan to eventually be presented to the Common Council for approval. The Public Power Coalition has been invited to have a representative on the committee.

If you'd like to get involved with the Public Power Coalition, email cnyppc@yahoo.com or come to our next meeting on **Thursday, February 2, 7:30 pm, 2013** E. Genesee St., 1st floor.

ACTS Task Forces Meet

The three task forces of the Alliance of Communities Transforming Syracuse have recently begun to plan new campaigns. As one of ACT's member groups, SPC is encouraging activists to join one of their three task forces. The Justice Task Force is celebrating their recent victory—that the Onondaga County Sheriff's office will no longer provide arrest history background checks, aka CHAIRS reports—and will meet next on **February 21 at 5:30 pm** (location TBD). The Food Access Team (next meeting—**February 15 at 7:30 pm** at the ACTS office, University United Methodist Church—contact Carol for directions) is working to bring fresh food and produce into corner stores. The Public Education Task Force is still in the process of determining a clear issue, but knows it will focus on Pre-K (next meeting—**February 6 at 7 pm** at Grace Episcopal Church).

To join one of these task forces as an SPC representative, contact Carol. ♣

Syracuse Peace Council Community Calendar FEBRUARY 2012

5
Gay and Lesbian Catholics. 5pm. All Saints Ch., 1304 Lancaster Ave. 770-2155.

EVERY SUN: "Top of the World" music. 10pm-12am. 88.3 FM.



6
EVERY MON: GED classes. 9am-12pm. Westcott Community Center. RSVP to Paul Harvey at 247-4420 or WCC at 478-8634.

ACTS Public Education Task Force. 7pm. Grace Episcopal Church, 819 Madison St. Carol. 472-5478.

12
Herbs for Winter Health. Workshop. 1pm. 2013 E. Genesee St. Nick 708-5750.

Closing the Gap between the Rich and the Rest of Us: a Green New Deal. 2-5pm. ArtRage Gallery, 505 Hawley Ave. Green Party, syracusegreens@yahoo.com or 440-9341. RSVP by Feb. 5 to request childcare or transportation.

13
Syracuse Greens monthly meeting. 7pm. 2013 E. Genesee St. (1st floor). Ursula 472-5478

5th Annual OCC Gospel Fest. 6pm. Storer Aud., OCC. Free. Tix from 498-2787.



19
PACNY Annual Mtg. 2-4pm. Barnes Mansion, 930 James St. Jeff. 443-5046.

Gay and Lesbian Catholics. 5pm. All Saints Ch., 1304 Lancaster Ave. 770-2155.

20

Westside Residents Coalition. 7pm. Brown Memorial, 228 Davis St. 476-7475.

26
Fundraiser/Open House: for Linda "Sparky" Mortimer. 1-5pm. ArtRage, 505 Hawley Ave. \$10 donation welcome.

27


Jan. 31
Jan 23-Feb 28: Impossibilitas Cuban Art Exhibit. 9am-4pm. Ann Felton Multicultural Center Gallery, Onondaga Community College. arts@sunyocc.edu

Jan 19-Mar 2: CNY Scholastic Art Exhibit. 9am-6pm. Whitney Applied Technology Center, Onondaga Community College. arts@sunyocc.edu.

Unsung Heroes Film Series: *Throw Down Your Heart*. 7pm. RedHouse, 201 S. West St. \$8/\$5 Members. theredhouse.org.

7
Ground the Drones Peace Outreach. 4:15-5pm. Hancock Air Base Entrance (E. Molloy Rd., Mattydale). 478-4571.

Partnership for Onondaga Creek Mtg. 6pm. Brady Faith Center, 404 South Ave., Aggie 478-4571. Call to confirm.

Two Row Wampum Commemoration Committee. 7pm. 2013 E. Genesee St., 2nd Floor. Andy, 472-5478.

Feb. 1
EVERY WED: Open Figure Drawing. 7-10pm. Westcott Comm. Ctr. Free. 478-8634.

Increasing Taxes on the Wealthy. Public debate. 7pm. Everson Museum, 401 Harrison St. RSVP: campbell@maxwell.syr.edu or 443-5046.

Postpartum Support Group. 7pm. Women's Info. Center, 601 Allen St. 1st and 3rd Wed. monthly. Christine, 546-5075.

8
Two Row Wampum Commemoration Program. 6pm. Onondaga Nation Cookhouse. Andy, 472-5478.

Play: "Caroline or Change." Runs February 1-26, Syracuse Stage. Fee. 443-3275 or syracusestage.org for details and tix.

February 15 Proposal deadline: Conference on Activism, Rhetoric, and Research at SU, happening May 5. http://carr.cccircle.net

2
CNY Working for a Just Peace in Palestine and Israel meeting. 11:30am. SPC office, 2nd flr. Andy, 472-5478.

Fair Economy Organizers Training. 5:30-8:30pm. Living Water Church of God in Christ, 121 Huron Street. rivera@citizenactionny.org.

Public Power Coalition. 7:30pm. 2013 E. Genesee St., 1st fl. Jessica, 472-5478.

Solidarity Committee Meeting. 7:30pm. ground floor SPC Office, 2013 E. Genesee St. solidaritycny.wordpress.com.

3
Dr. Dhafir Resentencing. 11am. US District Court, 100 South Clinton St. (Fed. Bldg.). Andy, 472-5478.

First Friday Vigil for Jobs. 12:30pm. Federal Bldg. Corner of Washington & Clinton Sts.

David Francey. Folk Music. 8pm. May Memorial UU, 3800 E. Genesee St. Folkus.org. \$15.

4
EVERY SAT: Democracy Now! Time Warner Cable Channel 98. 9-11am.

SPC Retreat. 10-6 Sat/10-4 Sun.. Alverna Heights, 7770 Green Lakes Rd., Fayetteville. Amelia, ahramsey@syr.edu or 472-5478. RSVP requested.

Native American Winter Games & Sports. 10am-4pm. Ganondagan State Historic Site, 1488 State Route 444, Victor, NY. Amy. (585) 425-1864.

Film: *Some Like It Hot*. 8pm. ArtRage, 505 Hawley Ave. \$5 Donation.

9
Caribbean Film Fest. Thru Feb. 12. Community Folk Art Center. 442.2230.

SPC MONTHLY PROGRAM
What's Wrong with NY's Prison System. 7pm. ArtRage, 505 Hawley Ave. Jessica, 472-5478. See page 8.

10


Caribbean Film Fest. Current Social Issues. "Children of God," "The Almighty Penis," "The Power of Vagina." Community Folk Art Center. 442.2230. \$5/ adult. \$2/students

11
EVERY SAT: Native American Art/ Haudenosaunee Crafts. Open House. 12-4pm. Sculpture/Culture Studio, 522 Hawley Ave. 314-6912. Free

"Men Only" Exhibit Opening Reception. 7-9pm. ArtRage, 505 Hawley Ave. 218-5711.

2nd Saturday Concert Series: Joanne Shenandoah. 8pm. Westcott Comm. Ctr. Folkus.org. Tix: 478-8634.

15
Shaleshock CNY Meeting. 6pm. Onondaga Free Library, 4840 W. Seneca Tpk. Jack, 424-1454 or ramskids2go@aol.com.

Skunk City Neighborhood Association. 6:30pm. Mundy Library, 1204 S. Geddes St. 476-7475.

Postpartum Support Group. 7pm. Women's Info. Center, 601 Allen St. 1st and 3rd Wed. monthly. Christine, 546-5075.

ACTS Food Access Team. 7:30pm. 1085 E. Genesee Street. Carol, 472-5478.

16
Third Thursday: Citywide Arts Night. 5-8pm. www.th3syracuse.com.

Gallery Talk: William Knodel & Nancy Keefe Rhodes. 7-9pm. ArtRage, 505 Hawley Ave. 218-5711.

SPC Activist Orientation. 6pm. SPC Office, 2013 E. Genesee St. Ursula.

Southwest Action Committee. 7pm. Brady Faith, 404 South Ave. 476-7475.

17
LostTime. Bluegrass ensemble. 8pm. May Memorial UU. Folkus.org. \$15.

Leftist Lounge. 8pm. SPC, 2013 E. Genesee St. Ursula 472-5478. See page 4.


18
Thornden Park Chili Bowl Festival. Fundraiser for park improvements. 12-4pm. Thornden Park Fieldhouse.

"Living Fully, Finding Joy in Every Breath". Talk by Tibetan lama. 4pm. May Memorial, 3800 E. Genesee St. Rangrig Yeshe, 449-2305.

14
SUN Southside Coalition. 6:30pm. Beauchamp Library, 2111 S. Salina St. 476-7475.

NOON Steering Comm. Mtg. 7pm. 2013 E. Genesee St. Andy, 472-5478.

EVERYTUES: Rough Times Live (Media Unit). 8pm. Time Warner 98. 478-UNIT.

22

LEAP INTO ACTION FEBRUARY 29 SHUT DOWN THE CORPORATIONS ONLINE.ORG

21
ACTS Justice Task Force. 5:30pm. Location TBA. Carol, 472-5478.

SPC Steering Committee Meeting. 6:30-9pm. Open to SPC supporters. Jessica, 472-5478.

Against the Wall: The Art of Resistance in Palestine. 7pm. ArtRage, 505 Hawley Ave. See page 15. Free.

23
EVERY THURS: Moving for Better Balance. Exercise for seniors. 11-11:45am. Westcott Comm. Ctr. Transportation can be arranged. 478-8634.

PNL Mailing Party. 4pm. SPC office, 2013 E. Genesee St., 2nd floor. Free Pizza. Jessica, 472-5478.

EVERY THURS: Talk to a lawyer. 6-8pm. Westcott Comm. Ctr. 826 Euclid Ave. Steve, 478-8634. Free.

24
Boxed Items are Syracuse Peace Council related events. Info: peace-council.net, 315-472-5478.



25
Pax Christi Monthly Meeting. 9:30am. 208 Slocum Ave.

Inlaws and Outlaws. Film Screening. 8-10pm. ArtRage, 505 Hawley Ave. 218-5711.

EVERY SAT: Sharing the Earth (PAR). 10pm. Time Warner 98.

29
Friends of Dorothy dinner. 5:30-7pm. St. Vincent's Parish Center, Burnet Ave. & Winton St. (entrance on Winton). Donation. www.friendsfordorothy.syracuse.com

Ground the Drones Court Appearance. 5pm. Town of DeWitt Court, 5400 Butternut Dr. E. Syracuse. See page 3.

Mar 1
CNY Working for a Just Peace in Palestine & Israel meeting. 11:30am. SPC office. Andy, 472-5478.

Public Power Coalition. 7:30pm. 2013 E. Genesee St., 1st fl. Jessica, 472-5478.

EVERYTHURS: *Essential Dissent*. 8:30-9:30pm, Time Warner 98.

2
Dana & Susan Robinson. *Americana style music*. 8pm. May Memorial UU. Folkus.org. \$15.

Randy Brecker Sextet. *OCC Legends of Jazz Series*. 8pm. Storer Aud., OCC. Free tix while they last. See page 8.

UPCOMING EVENTS
Sunday March 4
Strike for Peace Bowlathon. Flamingo Lanes, 7239 Oswego Rd., Liverpool. Form your team today! See p. 4 for full details.

