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SPC INFO

SPC Steering Committee 2012

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 **Radical Reading**: reads & discusses timely books

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 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

Peace Newsletter Central New York Voices for Peace & Social Justice

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About the Cover: "Come Out Come Out," created for the October 11, 1987 March on Washington for Gay and Lesbian Rights, is one of the oldest posters in the Syracuse Cultural Workers archive. Photo by Jan Phillips; design by Susie Gaynes, Amy E. Bartell, SCW (see SCW ad on page 10).

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 July/August *PNL* calendar by July 2.

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.

Educate, Agitate, Organize: SPC IN ACTION

compiled by Carol Baum

Ground the Drones Work Heats Up

Much has happened in the last month, with more to come throughout the summer.

Court appearances of Hancock **Peacewalkers.** Thirty-three people from throughout Upstate NY were arrested on April 22 while walking peacefully on the shoulder of the road to Hancock Air Base. Charged with marching without a permit, they are being arraigned on various dates at the Town of Dewitt court. Many have a pre-trial hearing on Thursday, June 14. Join us in court to support them; hospitality is also needed. Contact Carol for court time.

Drone Summit in DC. Four SPC activists participated in CodePink's Drones Summit in Washington, DC, April 28-29.

Peace outreach arrests. At the May 2 peace outreach at Hancock Air Base, Ed Kinane and Dick Keough were arrested for assembling without a permit. These and the April 22 arrests raise First Amendment/ free speech issues. As the cases wind their way through court, we will obtain permits for the peace outreaches, but under protest (not having done so for the previous two years of outreaches there).

Staged readings of The Predator *play*. The play asks audiences to grapple with issues around drones. We recently presented at SU's Conference on Activism, Rhetoric and Research. Any suggestions of other venues?

The next regional meeting is in Ithaca in early June.

Other upcoming plans include street theater at the State Fair.

To get involved, contact Carol.

Activist Appreciation: Aly Wane

Aly Wane's first interaction with SPC was when he came to SPC's Study Group in early 2004. He had driven from where he worked at Unity Acres, a Catholic Worker



May of 2011. Photo: Ray Trudell.

farm providing hospitality to homeless men. Everyone immediately knew he was special. An admitted news junkie, he is an avid reader, insightful political analyst, riveting speaker and an incredibly sweet, caring, supportive person. Over the next few years Aly became an integral part of SPC and our community. He served as a long term intern and now, although no longer an intern, he comes into the office almost every day. He has been part of the PNL editorial committee, both as a writer and editor, for eight years and works passionately for immigration reform. He is a gifted communicator in both the written and spoken word, and many people have had the pleasure of doing one-on-ones with him. Aly is a born connector—of people and of ideas. Please join us as we celebrate Aly as a loved and valued member of our community on Monday, June 25. For more details contact Carol.

Turning the Tide Against Nukes

With over 350 signatures (including four Syracuse common councilors) on our petition to close the Fitzpatrick Nuclear Plant until it addresses immediate safety concerns, the Alliance for a Green Economy has stepped up the pressure to phase out nuclear power in NY. If you haven't signed yet, you can do so at agreenewyork.org.

We're gearing up for a summer of outreach and strategizing, including supporting a Peace Walk led by longtime Buddhist peace walker Jun San. The walk will begin at the Onondaga Nation, pass through Syracuse and Oswego, and go around Lake Ontario into Canada, finishing in Buffalo. Look for an event in Syracuse the week of July 10. Contact Jessica to get involved.

Reading Group

In May, the Radical Reading Group began discussing Michelle Alexander's The New Jim Crow. The meetings have been rich and well-attended, with perspectives shared by an inter-generational and racially diverse

continued on next page

SPC Monthly Program

Poetry for Peace

Wednesday, June 13, 7 pm

Thornden Park Amphitheater

Poetry has a special way of reaching deep inside and touching important truths. That's part of what makes it such a powerful medium for inspiring social activism. Join us for SPC's annual poetry event, featuring a variety of amazing local poets and slammers and an open mic. Contact Andy.

2013 East Genesee St., Syracuse, NY 13210 • (315) 472-5478 • spc@peacecouncil.net www.peacecouncil.net • OFFICE HOURS: M-Th, 10 am-5 pm; F, 10 am-2 pm

STAFF ORGANIZERS

Carol Baum: carol@peacecouncil.net • Andy Mager: andy@peacecouncil.net Peace council.net Jessica Maxwell: jessica@peacecouncil.net • Ursula Rozum: ursula@peacecouncil.net

SPC in Action / from previous page

group. In addition to addressing the legal racial caste system Alexander describes in her book, the discussion has been enriched by personal stories of dealing with the "corrections" system. The next meeting of the Radical Reading Group will be on **June 6 at 7:30 pm** at SPC. Contact Ursula.

United as One

SPC joined with other partners of the United as One coalition to organize a vigil outside the "Justice" Center on May 12 calling for justice for Raul Pinet, who had died in custody in 2010 due to the actions of jail guards. Over 50 people attended the event, where members of Raul's family spoke out, the pattern of Justice Center abuses was pointed out and dozens of people chalked messages on the sidewalk and jail wall.

Raul's death was not just an isolated incident but indicative of a pattern that underscores the need for increased oversight and accountability mechanisms.

Plans are already taking shape for a public forum in June. The United as One coalition meets the **first Thursday** each month at 6 pm at the Enable office located at 1603 Court St. Contact Jessica if you would like to represent SPC at this coalition.

SPC Out and About

Now that warm weather is here, opportunities abound to engage new people in our work for peace and social justice. On Saturday, June 9, the Peace

Council will table at the Duck Race to End Racism. Then on Saturday, June 16, you are invited to march with SPC in the Juneteenth Parade (meet 11:30 am at MLK School, 416 E. Raynor St.) and the Pride Parade (meet 10:45am at the Q Center, 627 W. Genesee St.).

To join our outreach team, help staff tables at community events, organize new outreach tabling, and leaflet and door-knock, contact Ursula.

Plowshares Application Deadline: June 4

The Plowshares Committee has been preparing for the 42nd annual Plowshares Craftsfair and Peace Festival set for December 1-2 at Nottingham High School. The application

for craftspeople and community groups is available for download at peacecouncil. net/plowshares. The application **deadline** is **Monday, June 4** (dropped off at SPC's office or postmarked). We look forward to another powerful community gathering and holiday shopping experience. The committee welcomes new members. Contact Lanny, 445-2840.

Tide Turning for Palestine

Over 50 people attended our third annual Nakba Commemoration on May 20. This year's event focused on the continuing nature of the Nakba (the catastrophe which created 750,000 Palestinian refugees in 1947-48). SPC intern Lana Hijazi shared the story of her family's experience of the Nakba (also shared with the general public via a May 19 *Post-Standard* op-ed), followed by a Skype conversation with Palestinian activist Mazin Qumsiyeh from Bethlehem, Palestine.

Up next is Rabbi Brian Walt speaking about the international movement for Boy-



Chalked messages in front of the "Justice" Center in memory of Raul Pinet, Jr., who was killed there in August 2010. Photo: Barrie Gewanter.

cott, Divestment and Sanctions to compel Israel to halt its violations of international law and human rights on **Wednesday, June 20 at 7 pm** at ArtRage, 505 Hawley Ave. Several new people have joined the committee, and more are welcome. Contact Andy.

Working as Allies to the Onondaga

SPC's Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation project recently spoke, along with the Doctrine of Discovery Study Group and Onondaga leaders, at an event in conjunction with the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York City. Over 50 people, including folks from Venezuela and Australia, learned about our efforts in "Working as Allies to Indigenous Peoples."

PEACE OUTREACH

Want to spur conversations and let thousands know you oppose war and the reaper drones? Please join us! Bring a sign or use one of ours.

Tuesdays: 4:15-5 pm

June 5 Hancock Air Base Entrance (E. Molloy Rd., b/w Thompson & Townline Rd.)

June 12 Northern Lights (*Mattydale*)

June 19 Hancock Air Base Entrance

June 26 Northern Lights (Mattydale)

July 3 Hancock Air Base Entrance

July 10 E. Seneca Tpk. & S. Salina St. (Valley)

Saturdays: 9-10 am

Park St. across from the Regional Market main entrance.

Contact Ed or Ann, 315-478-4571

The presentation received an enthusiastic response.

The Good Friends Garden, a collaboration between NOON and Onondaga gardeners, is planting and integrating permaculture principles in their work.

NOON's monthly meetings are the second Tuesday of the month at 7 pm at SPC (June 12 this month). More helpers are welcome. Contact Andy.

Spreading the Word About the Two Row

Over the past month, meetings have been held with leaders at Ganondagan Historic Site (Victor, NY), the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, the Environmental Consortium of Hudson Valley Colleges/Universities and with activists in New York City. All were positive steps in building the Two Row Wampum Renewal Campaign for 2013 (HonorTheTwoRow.org). The year-long, statewide educational and advocacy initiative seeks to honor native treaties and protect the Earth by sharing the powerful message of the Two Row Wampum Treaty. Committees are working on outreach, education, symbolic enactment planning, fundraising and

continued on page 15

The Bullying Culture

Phoenix Robertson

I have never been pushed down a flight of stairs. No one has ever spat at me and called me a dyke. I've never been beat up in the school yard or verbally harassed.

And yet I am a victim of homophobic bullying.

Let's backtrack for a second here. "Bullying." It's a very popular word

amongst politicians and public figures right now. Good. It should be. With queer teens committing suicide at a rate up to five times greater than

times greater than that of their straight and cisgender (when one's gender identity matches the sex one is assigned at birth) classmates, it's about

time we sat up and paid attention.

But bullying doesn't start and stop at the schoolhouse door. These kids abusing and dehumanizing their peers aren't getting their sense of superiority out of thin air. Our culture is saturated with homophobia and transphobia, and those of us who don't fit neatly in to the pretty little heteronormative (cultural bias favoring heterosexuality and cleancut, binary gender) boxes face bullying everywhere we turn. It's very easy to say

that children—no matter their gender identity or sexual orientation—shouldn't commit suicide. It takes a little more effort to examine the reasons so many lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender children are committing suicide.

Phoenix is a junior in high school and an active member of the queer community.

In eighth grade, my Catholic school's religious education teacher stood up in front of the class and explained to us—in the same tone of voice used by our earth science teacher to explain to us how air naturally moves from a high to low pressure system—that homosexuality is a mental disorder. I cried myself to sleep that night.

That was bullying.

CO PERCENCIAL PERCENCI

SPC has marched in the Syracuse Pride Parade for decades, expressing our commitment to the inextricable link between peace and social justice. Above Jessica Maxwell, Mike Pasquale, Wendy Yost and Jerry Lotierzo march with our rainbow peace banner. Consider joining SPC's contingent on Saturday, June 16 at 10:45 am (parade steps off at 11 am) in front of the Q Center (627 W. Genesee St.) and finishing at the Inner Harbor (400 W. Kirkpatrick St.). The Festival runs noon-5 pm at the Inner Harbor. This is one way to stand with GLBT youth and let them know that they have broad support in the community! Photo: Harry R. Freeman-Jones

My dad stopped talking to me for a month when I came out to him. That was bullying.

A stranger once approached me at the state fair to tell me how my rainbow buttons made him sick. That was bullying.

New York, the state I live in, has yet to pass a law protecting me from discrimination in jobs and in housing on the basis of my

occasionally masculine gender expression.

That is bullying.

PRIDE

I can't even hold hands with a girl I like in public spaces without having to worry about potential perpetrators of violence hiding out in the swarms of people. That is bullying.

Alright, so bullying permeates my life from sunrise to sunset—but so does liberation. So does survival.

I find my liberation from bullying every day in queer culture and community. I find my liberation in my short hair and baggy pants. I find my liberation in straight allies and the little things that tell me the world is changing slowly but surely.

I find my liberation in every second that I choose to live, because that is a choice in defiance of a culture that tells me I don't deserve the same life that everyone else does. Every little gay beat my gay heart makes is a conscious rebellion against the bullying culture.

Resources

In Syracuse, the Q Center offers support, counseling and other resources. Contact them at 315-701-2431 or qcenter@ AIDSCommunityResources.com or find them on Facebook.



It's a 30th Anniversary BEACH PARTY!

M&T Syracuse Jazz Fest

"The Northeast's Largest Free Jazz Fest"

Friday, June 22 and Saturday, June 23

2012 Lineup:

DONOVAN

Billy Vera

Cyrille Aimée

Harri Stoika

Average White Band

- Friday Night Headliner: **KENNY G**
- Saturday Night Headliner: **DONOVAN**
- AVERAGE WHITE BAND
- BILLY VERA BIG BAND
- Jaimoe's Jasssz Band
- Harri Stojka & The Hot Club of Vienna
- Gregory Porter
- Mingo Fishtrap
- City of Syracuse Parks & Recreation Stan Colella All-Star Band, Joe Carello, director
- All County High School All Star Jazz Band, Steve Frank, director
- And Introducing... Cyrille Aimée & Diego Figueiredo

It's Jazz on the Beach at the 30th Annual M&T Syracuse Jazz Fest. See and hear jazz legends and rising stars, Friday and Saturday, on the beautiful shores of Jamesville and enjoy the spectacular Price Chopper Fireworks Display Saturday Night. As always, admission is FREE. For details and directions, visit syracusejazzfest.com

Frank Malfitano **EXECUTIVE PRODUCER**



"Coming Out" as Queer and Undocumented

A New Strategy for the Immigrant and LGBTQ Rights Movements

Jorge Gutierrez

On May 4-6, 2012 the United We Dream Network brought together about 60 Queer Undocumented leaders and allies from 10 different states to present the Queer Undocumented Immigrant Project (QUIP) at the UCLA Labor Center in downtown Los Angeles. This convening was intentional in creating a space to have Queer Undocu-

mented youth come together to address their intersecting identities and realities, share their stories with each other and for each other, and to strategize innovative ways to utilize QUIP to bridge the immigrant and LGBTQ rights movements. The Queer Undocumented Immigrant Project Convening was the first of its kind nationally and thus historic.

QUIP and Queer Undocumented organizing work underscores the significance of the "coming out" experience as it pertains to Queer Undocumented youth and Queer people of color. Throughout Queer US history, "coming out" experiences have more often than not been framed and restricted to reflect only the experiences of upper class, white, gay men. If we seek to utilize "coming out" narratives

as a tool for inspiration, hope, education and advocacy, we must then redefine their meaning and purpose to include identities and realities of Queer people of color in this country and across borders. But maybe the expression "coming out" is not necessarily sufficient for those of us who identify as Oueer and Undocumented. What we do know and have learned very early in our lives is storytelling: telling our Queer testimonials to survive, build community and create alliances from our multi-oppressed sites. For us, the Queer Undocumented youth community cannot negotiate one identity at a time while "coming out." We cannot speak of being Queer without speaking of our Undocumented status, and we cannot be visible about our Undocumented status without creating Queer visibility. So, to us "coming out" is about acknowledging the many identities that intersect in our everyday lives.

In efforts to inspire Undocumented youth to publicly share their stories in the hopes of advancing advocacy efforts to pass the DREAM Act, immigrant youth

"I (ANNOT KEEP ALY QUEER UNDOCUMENTED IDENTITY PRIVATE, NOT UNTIL ME AND MY BROTHERS ARE PUBLICLY PROTECTED!"

-JORGE

embraced the "coming out" experience from the LGBTO movement. For many of the DREAM Act movement leaders at the forefront, such a "coming out" experience came from the soil of their own experience. These same leaders identify as Queer and Undocumented or UndocuQueers. My own "coming out" storytelling couldn't just be about me. I had to make very painful negotiations with myself when I only shared my Undocumented story or only my Oueer story. I would walk into a meeting, rally or an action, and I would tell myself "today I am only wearing my Undocumented or Queer hat." Ultimately, my Queer testimonial needed to be not just about myself; it needed to connect me with my UndocuQueer brothers and sisters, and my community. In a way, I stopped "coming out." Instead, I engaged in sharing my Queer testimony, which allowed me to understand my oppressions and link them to the oppressions of my community. It is no coincidence that UndocuQueers have been some of the most visible in leading the work within the immigrant youth movement since the introduction of the DREAM Act in 2001. We are youth who

are all too familiar with the pain, separation, racism and homophobia inflicted upon our communities. Our visibility and work is rooted in urgency and resiliency.

The new UndocuQueer "coming out"/testimonial narratives are providing a strategy for alliance building between the immigrant and LGBTQ rights movements. But it must be UndocuQueers who get to primarily create the vision for this new framework. The vision has been taking shape and form for years now through the organizing of UndocuQueers. Both movements are beginning to gather momentum and realize the potential transformational force that these Queer Undocumented "coming out" narratives possess.

Queer Undocumented intersectional organizing between the immigrant and LGBTQ rights

communities is taking root through initiatives like the OUIP Project in California. Washington, Oregon, New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Texas, Florida, Massachusetts, Washington DC, New York and other parts of the country. "Coming out" narratives are being redefined by queer undocumented youth. They no longer serve to just depict a singular, monochromatic experience but rather address the many intersecting identities that exist in all communities. UndocuQueers are reminding both movements that our efforts need to be collective, address multiple issues and that all of our work must be about a love that can allow us to transform our movements. We are UndocuQueers. We

Jorge Gutierrez is a proud UndocuQueer organizer.

Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions

Another Nonviolent Strategy for Palestinian Liberation

Keren Carmelli

Reports of renewed negotiations between the Israelis and Palestinians produce cynical responses from some, and rightfully so: new "Roadmaps" or "Peace Plans" bring Palestinians no closer to a just resolution.

The problem is that the negotiating sides

are unequal. Israel is backed by the US and sports a well-funded military. The Palestinians remain an occupied people, denied many of the basic human and national rights enjoyed by Israelis. These rights include the ability to travel freely both domestically and internationally, the right to purchase land and the right of return for refugees.

Israel's continuous human rights abuses, despite condemnation by the world community, indicate its unwillingness to relinquish power without severe outside pressure. The US has

proven time and again that it cannot act as an honest broker for peace because it continues to support Israel financially and militarily. As a result, Palestinian Civil Society has turned to another outside force to support their struggle for equality: the global movement for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS).

Origins of BDS

In 2005, Palestinian activists issued a call for a comprehensive economic, educational and cultural boycott of Israel. Supporters of the call are influenced by other successful boycott movements of the past (particularly the struggle to end Apartheid in South Africa).

BDS has three stated objectives: ending Israel's occupation and colonization of all Arab lands and dismantling the Wall; recognizing the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality; and respecting, protecting and promoting the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as

Keren, a dual Israeli-US citizen, is the first recipient of the Gary Bergh Memorial Scholarship travel grant to Palestine. In 2010 she joined a delegation to the West Bank with Interfaith Peace Builders.

stipulated in UN resolution 194. This resolution, passed in December 1948, includes articles which specify Palestinians' right to access holy sites in a demilitarized Jerusalem and calls for the return of refugees—neither of which have been fulfilled.

Some BDS campaigns identify a company or product operating illegally in the

AHAVA:

Made by Israeli Profiteers in Occupied Palestine

Ahava beauty products are made from stolen Palestinian natural resources and produced in an illegal cattlement in Palestinian territory.

Occupied Palestinian Territories and exploiting Palestinian resources (like the Dead Sea beauty product company, Ahava). Others target a company or product for contributing to the expansion of the occupation's infrastructure (like Veolia, the transportation company responsible for the Jerusalem Light Rail which connects settlements). BDS campaigns are underway against Motorola, Elbit Communications, Sabra Hummus, Soda Stream, Caterpillar, TIAA-CREF, Lev Leviev Diamonds and others.

BDS Successes

BDS successes range from small food coops in Olympia, Washington (hometown of slain activist Rachel Corrie) to Britain's fifth largest grocery chain, both refusing to purchase produce from Israeli settlements mislabeled as "Products of Israel."

Palestinians for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI) emphasize the severance of academic and cultural ties between foreign and Israeli educational institutions. Many Israeli academic institutions work closely with the military and state to develop new technologies and mechanisms servicing the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. PACBI's objection to collaboration with Israeli institution

stems from its desire to de-normalize a state which disrespects the rights to education of all its citizens, as Palestinian institutions of higher learning are often closed by Israel for extended periods of time.

From independent musical acts like Devendra Banhart and Cat Power to international celebrities like Elvis Costello,

Carlos Santana and the Pixies, artists have cancelled scheduled performances in Israel. Elvis Costello called his decision not to perform "a matter of instinct and conscience." Other performers, like Elton John and Madonna, have not heeded the boycott call despite public pressure.

Kairos Document

Palestinian Christians expressed support for BDS with the release of the Kairos Document—a plea to Christian congregations to support BDS

campaigns. In early May, following lengthy debate, the United Methodist General Conference voted down a divestment resolution focused on Motorola, Caterpillar and Hewlett-Packard. However, the church did pass a resolution calling on the US to end "all military aid to the region" and upon all nations not to import goods from Israeli companies operating in occupied Palestinian territories. The Presbyterian Church will consider a similar resolution in July.

The Impact of BDS

The international BDS movement is a public relations nightmare for Israel. The Israeli Knesset has gone as far as banning Israelis from expressing their support for BDS. This is an unabashed move to stifle free speech and intimidate Israelis who choose to voice solidarity with their oppressed neighbors. either as individuals or as members of organizations such as Boycott from Within. Despite such intimidation, BDS campaigns continue to grow (including discussions within SPC's CNY Working project). With persistence, companies will see Israel as a less attractive partner for business, and perhaps then Israel will begin to see the Palestinians as a more attractive partner for peace.

War on Women

Betty DeFazio

The saddest thing is most women don't know how much danger we could be in.

-written by a 32-year old Planned Parenthood volunteer on her Facebook page

This gut-wrenching remark causes the hair on the back of my neck to rise because she is completely correct. Birth control and family planning are being attacked even though most people in the US view contraception as essential care.

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, "Women are major consumers of health care services, negotiating not only their own complex health care but often managing care for

their family members as well. Their reproductive health needs, as well as their greater rates of health problems and longer life spans compared with men, make women's relationships with the health care system complex. Women are also more likely to be low-income and often face the added challenge of balancing work with family health and caregiving responsibilities. For the one in five women who are uninsured, access to high quality, comprehensive care is even more difficult."

So, when did the "war on women" start? Some argue that restrictions began shortly after the US Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision in 1973. They point to the 1976 Hyde Amendment passage, which makes it illegal for federal funds to be used for abortion except in rare circumstances.

Yet, from my vantage point it has gotten far worse in the last two years. Even in April 2004, when we organized the "March for Women's Lives" during then President George W. Bush's administra-

DeFazio is the Executive Director for Planned Parenthood of the Rochester/Syracuse Region Action Fund.

tion, the attacks on Planned Parenthood and women's access to reproductive health care weren't at the fever pitch they seem to be at today. Don't get me wrong, things were bad then, too. However, things have ramped up even more.

The Guttmacher Institute's winter 2012



policy review reports more than half of US women of reproductive age (15-44) now live in states that are hostile to abortion.

In early 2011, the newly-elected Republicans in the US House of Representatives, in one of their first acts, tried to eliminate funding for Planned Parenthood, putting many low-income women at risk of losing their only health care. Despite their 2010 campaign promises to focus on jobs and the economy, the House immediately attacked social safety net programs like family planning.

Then, they moved to repeal the Affordable Care Act even though it represents the greatest single advance for women's access to health care in a generation. More access means healthier women and healthier families by:

- Providing 20 million more women with preventive care without co-pays;
- Increasing access to contraception;
- Expanding access for women (especially young women) who will be newly eligible for insurance coverage;
- Ending discriminatory practices against women; and
- · Allowing young adults to stay on their

parents' health plans until age 26.

And if the ongoing misinformation campaign about the federal program called "Title X," which strictly uses federal funds for family planning and *not* for abortion isn't enough, there is the explosion of "ballot initiatives"

across the country such as efforts to:

- Define "personhood" from the moment of conception;
- Shame women into changing their mind about abortion rather than supporting them to take care of their health and wellbeing;
- Add barriers to access by implementing unnecessary and invasive procedures or delays.

Those are just the attacks on a policy level. Not included are the at-

tempts by Catholic Bishops to limit women's access to birth control, nor the efforts to pressure organizations that partner with Planned Parenthood to disaffiliate with us.

When I speak with supporters, they are thankful to be living in "progressive" New York. Yet, like the volunteer noted, New Yorkers "...don't know how much danger we could be in" if we don't pass the Reproductive Health Act this year.

Some citizens are aware of the threat. A recent survey shows that more than half of New York voters are concerned about the possibility that the federal government could make abortion illegal. With New Yorkers concerned that a woman's health care decisions could be taken away, it is time for the state legislature to pass the Reproductive Health Act, which:

- Guarantees a woman can make her own personal, private health decisions, especially when her health is endangered.
- Treats the regulation of abortion as a public health and medical practice issue

continued on next page

War on Women / from previous page

rather than as a potential crime.

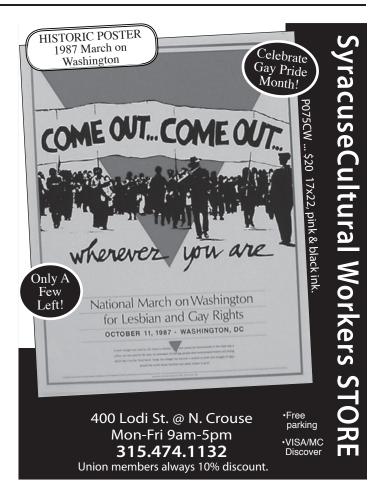
 Affirms New Yorkers' right to use (or refuse) contraception, regardless of what politicians in Congress decide.

Outside my office is a 2003 poster Planned Parenthood created for the 30th anniversary of Roe v. Wade. It shows a 1970s photograph of a woman holding an infant, and the caption reads, "My mom and me. She votes Republican. She is conservative, middle-class, patriotic housewife. And, if you take away our right to choose our future, she will march with me. The freedom gained in her lifetime won't be lost in mine."

While there are continued attacks on Planned Parenthood nationally, the fight against women's access to reproductive health care has gone local with more than 1,000 state bills! Despite these challenges, Planned Parenthood health centers are continuing to serve millions of women, men and young people, and are working to create the healthiest generation ever.

Reproductive health issues and rights should not be a partisan issue. Women don't turn to politicians for advice about birth control, mammograms, cancer screenings or treatments. Politicians should not be involved in a woman's personal decisions about her pregnancy. All political leaders should support access to reproductive health care services regardless of their party affiliation.

Planned Parenthood works to end this assault on reproductive health by maintaining strong education and advocacy programs. You can get involved, by going to: www.pprsr.org.





How does FREE RENT and FREE UTILITIES sound?

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Third Parties and Social Change

When Third

Parties Hurt

Ordinary

People

Madis Senner

In the summer of 2000 I told the new priest at St. Mary's Episcopal in West Harlem that I was voting for Nader because there was no difference between Republicans and Democrats. "Not true," he said. He told me that he had spent his whole life working with the disadvantaged and that there was a big difference: Democrats cared about the poor.

When I look back at that moment and see what has transpired since then, it is clear that he was right. Worse, third parties can undermine progressivism and the struggle for social justice.

You've heard it from the Greens and others—Big Money owns the *Republicrats*, making them indistinguishable. The idea that they are the same is a myth. While both parties are beholden to Big Money, history shows that there are big differences between them.

Meaningful Differences

Consider what has happened since 2000. Had the environmentalist Gore won, he would not have signed legislation to allow fracking. That is huge! Clearly, Gore would not have nominated conservatives like Roberts and Alito to the Supreme Court, who gave us rulings like Citizens United. Arguably, the neocons would not have persuaded Gore to invade Iraq, and the pursuit of Al Qaeda might not have resulted in an invasion of Afghanistan.

Big differences remain. The Ryan budget, as Dana Milbank of the Washington Post notes, is "helping the poor by hurting them." Ryan wants to cut safety nets and reduce Medicare to fund tax cuts for the rich. Mitt Romney has said that he does not care about the very poor.

Then there is the Republicans' war on women (see page 9). Cut funding for preventive health, eliminate funding for Planned Parenthood, halt the Paycheck Fairness Act that would give equal pay to women for the same job....

What little gains we achieved with Obama's Healthcare plan, the Republicans have vowed to overturn. Closer to home we have a contentious congressional race to unseat Anne Marie Buerkle (24th) by Democrat Dan Maffei and Green Ursula Rozum. Maffei lost to Buerkle in 2010 by a mere 600 votes.

The Greens feel that Maffei is no different than Buerkle. Really? Buerkle's conservative score of 91.2 ranks her 15th among 435 representatives. Her score was 56.7 points higher than Maffei's. She has taken the Norquist pledge not to raise taxes; she is pro war; she is against preventive health for women; and she has consistently voted the Republican line, so we can expect her to vote for the Ryan budget.

Rozum's entry into a close race will help Buerkle and ultimately keep the Republican majority in the House. A Post

continued on next page

Madis is a local activist who has worked on a range of peace and social justice issues.

Barbara Humphrey

Noam Chomsky recently wrote, "There has always been a gap between public policy and public will, but it just grew astronomically." (Nation of Change, 5/9/12) He offers one example: Washington is obsessed by the debt, while the majority of us are

advocating for jobs, higher taxes on the wealthy, and preservation of social

benefits. But the list of examples is seemingly endless: there is majority support to end the war in Afghanistan that Congress continues to fund and the President continues to wage; popular advocacy for bailouts on Main Street results in bailouts to Wall Street: universal healthcare was prohibited from Affordable Care Act deliberations despite support for this option; and on and on.

Looking at the two major political parties, whose members are being elected to branches of government at all levels, it shouldn't surprise us that this is the case. As Chomsky points

out, a growing concentration of wealth since the 1970s has bought political power, giving rise to bipartisan legislation. The results are new fiscal policies and tax changes that benefit the wealthy, deregulation via corporate governance in the executive branch, and rulings like Citizens United from the judiciary.

Where does hope lie? Where is the change we can believe in?

For me it can only come from independent third parties—parties that are not owned and controlled by the wealthy, military-industrial power elite that finances the candidacies of the two major parties; parties that accept limited donations from individuals only; parties owned and controlled by the people who elect candidates to carry out the people's will.

Independent third parties, such as the Green Party, that meet these thresholds must have the capacity to form, organize and grow in order to successfully compete with the two major corporately-owned and financed parties at the ballot box. One

continued on next page

Barbara, a long term activist with the Syracuse Peace Council, gave up her Democratic Committee membership in 2011 to work for the Council candidacy of Howie Hawkins. She later enrolled in the Green Party, and is now supporting the candidacy of Ursula Rozum for Congress.

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Standard article in May supports this, citing a poll showing a tight race swinging more to Buerkle with the entry of Rozum.

Ed Griffin-Nolan, a former PNL editorial committee member, wrote in the Syracuse New Times that Rozum's entry was a "game changer" and asked why Greens would knowingly help the budget-slashing, climate change-denving, shouldershrugging, pipeline-hugging, Pentagon-booster Buerkle.

Worse is that Buerkle is a very divisive figure that has drawn the ire of many. Should Rozum siphon off enough votes to help Buerkle win, blame will be focused on the Greens and possibly even on progressive causes. Greens will deny this, but we need only to look at their dismal showing in the national elections since 2000, when many blamed Nader for helping elect Bush. What makes their poor performance even more startling is that it was at a time of rapid growth for progressivise institutions such as SPC.

A More Nuanced Decision

Third parties are vital, but we need to be judicious in voting for them. There are big differences between the two parties, differences that will hurt the most vulnerable among us. While many of us in the struggle for social justice live a simple and modest life and willingly accept hardship, is it right for us to have the poor and disadvantaged suffer because we want to make a statement?

It is also important to see a strategy and purpose in voting for a third party. Locally, many of us are chagrined as to why the Greens are running Rozum, when they know it will help Buerkle. This risks angering many and is not a way for the Greens to build momentum to win their first local election. Your vote does count. Please don't make it count for injustice and help one of the most conservative members of Congress return to Washington!

of the most viable paths to electoral competitiveness is to run candidates; first, candidates who will use the bully pulpit to reach people with their party's message, and then candidates who will run to win.

The Syracuse Greens have been using this model to build capacity for many years. This year we endorsed Ursula Rozum to challenge incumbent Republican Ann Marie Buerkle and former congressman Democrat Dan Maffei. Rozum's Green New Deal platform is designed to give voters a true choice in November by engaging them in the key issues facing our country—endless war, an economy teetering on depression, a heating planet ready to go up in flames.

Major parties, committed to maintaining their positions of power, will do what they can to discourage this kind of third party competition. Often they will try to co-opt the parties and, when not successful, to accuse third party candidates of spoiling their ability to elect their candidates and thus causing the election of the worse, not the lesser, of two evils.

The Democrats and their supporters have already begun their "spoiler attack," but when you look at the two major party candidates—their sources of donations, the votes they have taken—it is obvious that the Green Party offers the only non-corporatist option. If elected, Rozum's obligation would be to the people of the new NY24 Congressional District, not the corporations generously endowing her opponents.

Independent third parties deserve an environment that supports their formation and growth. Let's give the people the audacity to hope that when we go to the ballot box, we have the option of voting for and electing candidates who will create a genuine people's government where there is no gap between public policy and public will.



The Economics of Ending the Oil Wars

Seth Rutledge

Currency Wars

It is obvious that the wars are connected to oil; but we are not going to war just for oil companies' profits, but also to ensure that oil is only sold for dollars.

If you look at the history of the oil wars, a clear pattern comes to light. In the '70s, a deal was made with Saudi Arabia. The US supplied weapons to the royal family, and in return, they agreed to sell oil only for dol-

lars. This maintained the dollar's status as the world reserve currency.

The US is fighting to maintain this dominant global economic position. The invasion of Iraq occurred after Saddam started selling oil for the euro. Iran has made moves to sell oil for the euro. The US has backed three coup attempts in Ecuador, Venezuela, and (with success) in Honduras—all member states of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Americas, an organization that uses their own international currency, the SUCRE, as a medium of exchange instead of the dollar.

The Price of Peace

Activists need to come to terms with this reality and its consequences; ending the oil wars could result in loss of the dollar's reserve currency status. In turn, this could lead to a devaluation of the dollar. The costs of borrowing to cover the US debt would skyrocket, leading to more severe austerity, privatization, and concentration of power in financial elites. Who benefits from the petro-dollar system? The people receive some benefit through increased purchasing power. This has led, however, to a trade imbalance in which we import more than we export. The trade imbalance is then offset by borrowing from foreign

Seth is a resident of the Westcott Nation, painter (Sethpaints.com) and blogger at alchemicalnursery.org.

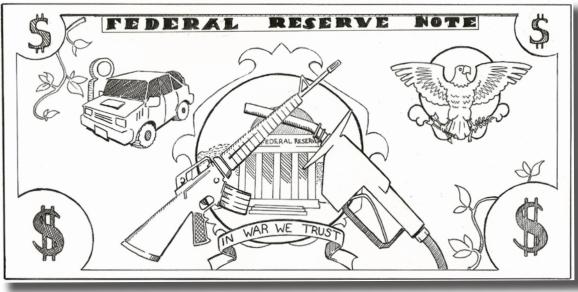


Image: David Carnes

countries like China, creating massive dollar reserves and massive US debt.

The high dollar has also undermined our manufacturing base as companies leave for cheaper areas abroad. As US manufacturing jobs decline, workers turn to lower paying jobs in the service industries. Meanwhile, the high dollar benefits the financial oligarchs through an endless line of credit and cash bailouts from the Federal Reserve. The military-industrial complex also benefits from the deficit financing of foreign wars. Clearly, the benefits of the petro-dollar accrue to the ultra rich.

Who Controls the Money Supply?

Now let's look at who controls the money supply. There are two commonly held myths about money.

Myth #1: The government controls the money supply. *Truth:* The Federal Reserve (the Fed), which prints our money, is controlled by private banks. The Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) of the Fed is the body responsible for expanding and contracting the money supply (by purchasing and selling government debt) and determining interest rates. The FOMC is composed of seven governors and five Reserve Bank Presidents. The governors are appointed by the president of the US. The regional Federal Reserve Bank Presidents are elected by the board members of the 12 regional Federal Reserve banks. The board members of the 12 Federal Reserve banks are elected by the private member banks. Therefore, control of the FOMC, and consequently the money supply, is largely in the hands of private banks.

Myth #2: Banks loan us money from deposits that they hold. Truth: When banks make loans they essentially create the money using the "fractional reserve" system, which means the banks retain actual deposits totaling 10% or less of what they lend. Between the FOMC's creation of money and the private banks' creation of new money through fractional reserve lending, our money supply is almost completely in the hands of the private banks. This massive power is abused, funding speculative gambling, real-estate bubbles, oil price volatility, hostile takeovers, and other drains on the real economy of production of goods and services.

Legislation for Peace and Prosperity

How do we end the wars without triggering a sovereign debt crisis followed by draconian austerity measures? The answer is twofold: we must reduce our dependence on oil and foreign goods, and we must produce goods for the global market that will generate demand for dollars. These goals are not likely to be met while our monetary system is in the hands of bankers who refuse to invest in the real economy.

The beauty of the answer is that all

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The Economics of Ending Oil Wars / from previous page

we have to do to take back our monetary system is change it to the way that people already think that it is; i.e. restore the money creation power to the government and require banks to lend only the savings that they hold.

Representatives Dennis Kucinich and John Conyers have submitted a House bill that would achieve these goals: The National Emergency Employment Defense Act of 2011 would make the Fed part of the Treasury. This would give the government the power to employ the whole nation to rebuild our infrastructure, fully fund education and healthcare, rebuild our manufacturing base, convert war production to civilian production, and transition to sustainable industries.

What could this look like? The government could spend money into circulation and loan money to banks, expanding and contracting the money supply to stabilize prices. For example, given 17% real unemployment in March 2012 (including involuntary part timers and discouraged workers) and a \$15 trillion GDP for 2011, \$2.55 trillion dollars (17% of \$15 trillion) could be printed and spent to fully employ the nation and grow the economy 17% without inflation. This is roughly \$100,000 each for pay and materials for the 26.7 million currently unemployed. So long as the money is used to grow the real economy of production of goods and services, inflation would not be a concern. We could easily transition to renewable energy and locally produced goods, ending our dependence on oil and foreign goods. We could let freedom reign in oil producing nations, without collapsing the dollar.

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SPC in Action / from page 4

Haudenosaunee connections. It's an ambitious effort which is building momentum, but needs more help. Contact Andy.

No Frackin' Way

The campaign to ban fracking for natural gas continues throughout New York. Bans and moratoriums have been passed by town, county, and village governments in over 100 communities. Members of Shaleshock CNY (of which NOON is a founding organization) have been educating CNY town boards and helping them to enact effective legislation to protect their land.

In early May, neighboring Vermont became the first state to ban fracking.

Let's keep working to make New York next! A Michigan group has started the process to enact a state constitutional amendment to ban fracking. Horror stories continue to come in from states where drilling is underway, including a pipeline rupture and a well explo-

– Jack Ramsden

Spring is a Great Time to Support SPC!

sion in PA Contact Jack at 424-1454

Our spring fund appeal featuring a letter from retired Col. Ann Wright was mailed on May 11. She wrote in part, "As I travel the country and the world, speaking and acting for peace, I have had the opportunity to work with many groups. During my visits to Syracuse, I have been deeply impressed by the work of the Syracuse Peace Council."

If you received it, please consider donating generously. If you haven't seen it, check it out at peacecouncil.net/donate. It includes a premium offer of a free PeaceSongsCNY CD with donations of \$60 or more.

Welcome Summer Interns

We're excited to welcome nine interns for the summer. They are: Claire Bach (focusing on Hiroshima commemoration, antiwars, Bikes 4 Peace), Rachel Cary (outreach, antiwars, hydrofracking), Gavin Caster (Ground the Drones, outreach), Lana Hijazi (video, Palestine/Israel), Kirstie Pena (youth publications and counter-recruitment), Joseph Perez (NOON, Palestine /Israel), Shakira Smith (Two Row Renewal Campaign outreach), Kelsey Titus (video work)

and Aya Yamamoto (Two Row).

We can accomplish so much more with many hands, hearts and minds. We're looking forward to a sizzling summer.

CD Release Party a Smashing Success

The PeaceSongsCNY CD release party on May 6 saw great music, an enthusiastic crowd and lots of celebration of SPC's work. Thirteen of the 18 artists featured on the CD performed. Get your CD (only \$10) at the SPC office, Syracuse Cultural Workers (400 Lodi St.), Syracuse Real Food Coop (618 Kensington Rd.), Sound Garden (310 W. Jefferson St.) or online shortly. See peacecouncil.net/songs for details.



Laura Wilanski and friends perform at the PeaceSongs CD release party at Metro on May 6. Photo: Jack Bocchino

Pumped up for Summer

As we go to print, Bikes 4 Peace is preparing for our new volunteers/mechanics orientation (May 29) and finalizing summer dates and locations for free clinics. We'll also be helping youth fix their bikes at the upcoming Southside Grows Healthy Festival on **June 23, 10-3 pm** in the Dunk 'n Bright parking lot on S. Salina St. Contact Jessica or Ursula to get involved.

We Are New York

This Syracuse-area coalition sponsored a showing of *Priceless* on May 9, a documentary exploring how corporate money has corrupted politics in the US. A second documentary will be shown at 7 pm on **June 21** at the Palace Theatre. *The Heist* examines how corporations stole our country and changed the rules of the economic and legal systems to their benefit. The film will be followed by brief commentary. The local Move to Amend chapter will table in the lobby with information on the movement

to end corporate personhood through a Constitutional amendment.

SPC Acts in ACTS

SPC continues to be an active member of the Alliance of Communities Transforming Syracuse by participating in the clergy caucus, the Leadership Council and the Food System Task Force. Currently the Food System Task Force is concentrating on the passage of the new Farm Bill to allow more monies to be allotted for two food stamp programs. To get involved with these or the Justice or Public Education task forces as an SPC representative, contact Carol.

Help with Center's Garden

The Syracuse Center for Peace and Social Justice (where SPC's office is located) is looking for people to help with gardening/landscaping. We have a wonderful landscaping plan—most of the plantings are in, but they need to be maintained and more are planned. Let's put some sparkle onto East Genesee Street and make the Peace Council's home stand out.

We have openings to join our landscaping committee. Contact Brent at 701-1580.

– Walter Putter

Former SPC Staffer Marilyn Miller Dies

I'm looking at a *PNL* page from March, 1973. It has a photograph of 19 people—the Steering Committee and staff—in front of a wall plastered with Indochina Peace Campaign posters. An article introduces two new staff people: Marilyn Miller and Chris Murray.

Marilyn (Genever, in recent years) had coordinated the county-wide distribution (over 100,000 copies!) of "Six Million Victims" prior to Nixon's re-election in fall, 1972. She brought a calmness, an "I've-seen-it-all-so-cut-the-BS" presence to the SPC office.

In her tenure (1973-1976) she worked tirelessly behind the scenes strengthening SPC's infrastructure, working with volunteers and stabilizing a tumultuous office. She also held at least one SPC garage sale in Liverpool where she lived for many years. She passed away on April 25. Rest in peace Marilyn—and thank you.

- Dik Cool ♠