

SYRACUSE

PEACE COUNCIL'S

Peace Newsletter

Central New York Voices for Peace and Social Justice

October 2013 #828

STOP TPP



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SPC INFO

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SPC's Peace Newsletter

Editorial Committee: Tree Florack, Ben Kuebrich, Saptarshi Lahiri, Leahann Lynagh, Amelia Ramsey-Lefevre, Aly Wane. **Layout Coordinator:** Jessica Azulay. **Proofing:** Rae Kramer, Andy Molloy.

peacecouncil.net

Read the *PNL* online (issues dating to 1936!). See all our projects and events.

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 & End the Wars: education, demonstrations, outreach
Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation: education, hydrofracking ban, Two Row Wampum campaign
Military Alternatives Education Project: counter-recruitment in high schools
Youth RIOT: Resisting Imperialism & Oppression Together (youth organizing)
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
United as One: working for justice in the local justice system
We Are NY: labor and community activists working for the common good

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About the Cover

Cover image from the We Party Patriots website www.wepartypatriots.com. The illustrator is unknown.

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Calendar: Submit items for the Nov-Dec *PNL* calendar by October 28.

Peace Newsletter

Central New York Voices for Peace & Social Justice

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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 Jessica Azulay

77th Syracuse Peace Council Birthday Dinner

**From Pakistan to Syracuse...
Grassroots Resistance to Drones
with special guest Noor Mir, CODEPINK
Anti-Drone Campaign Coordinator**

**Saturday, October 5, 2013
Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church
\$15-50 sliding scale
(\$25 suggested donation)
Dinner 6:30 (tasty vegetarian food!)
Program 7:30**



Make your reservation today! www.peacecouncil.net/birthday or (315) 472-5478

Ground the Drones End the Wars

We gave out 2,000 leaflets on “The Two Faces of Drones” at the State Fair! Our tableau, stationed just outside the Fair’s main entrance, garnered support, objections, curiosity and interesting conversations. The tableau was a dramatic presentation of the two faces—surveillance at home and killing people abroad. Great thanks to the 24 people who participated over the course of five days.

Kathy Kelly and Buddy Bell will bring the Justice for Afghanistan Tour to Syracuse from October 13-15. Kathy and Buddy,

who together have been to Afghanistan 15 times, are traveling as part of a Voices for Creative Nonviolence speaking tour calling for reparations to rebuild Afghanistan’s agricultural infrastructure. Join them at our weekly **Peace Outreach at Hancock Air Base on Tuesday, October 15 from 4:15 – 5 pm** (see page 6), followed by a program at **ArtRage Gallery at 7 pm** (505 Hawley Ave., Syracuse). In addition, they will speak at St. Lucy’s Church (432 Gifford St., Syracuse) at the 9 and 11 am masses on Sunday, October 13, and on Monday at 7 pm.

Also coming up: a meeting of the Upstate Coalition to Ground the Drones and End

the Wars in October, and the Anti-Drones Summit in Washington, DC in November.

For more information, contact Carol.

Birthday Dinner!

**From Pakistan to Syracuse
with Noor Mir of CODEPINK**

On **Saturday, October 5**, celebrate the Peace Council’s 77th birthday and enjoy a tasty vegetarian meal, followed by a talk and discussion titled “From Pakistan to Syracuse... Grassroots Resistance to Drones” with Noor Mir from CodePink Women Against War. Based in Washington DC, Noor is the anti-drones campaign coordinator for CODEPINK and calls Islamabad, Pakistan her home. She graduated from Vassar College in 2012 with majors in Political Science, French and English.

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SYRACUSE www.peacecouncil.net • OFFICE HOURS: M-Th, 12-7 pm

**PEACE
COUNCIL**

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No US Military Intervention in Syria

As the Obama administration escalated threats to bomb Syria, the Peace Council held an August 30 protest against US military intervention in Syria. About 35 people attended the 11 am demonstration and called on the US to send humanitarian aid instead of bombs to the Syrian people. Peace Council staffers have compiled a reading list on the crisis in Syria, which can be found on the Peace Council website (www.peacecouncil.net), and various Syria-related educational events are being planned. Check the Peace Council website.

Photos: Top: Passersby sign petitions and make phone calls to elected officials at the Westcott Street Fair. Bottom: SPC Staffer Amelia Ramsey-Lefevre makes a statement to the media during SPC's August 30 demonstration against military intervention in Syria. Carol Baum took both photos.

While studying abroad she took courses on international law and targeted killings, and was driven by what she learned to turn it into a year-long research thesis on drone warfare in Pakistan. Noor is passionate about killer drones, humanitarian law and race relations. This year's birthday dinner will take place Saturday October 5, at Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church (5299 Jamesville Rd., Dewitt). Doors open at 6 pm. Dinner is served at 6:30 pm. Program with Noor begins at 7:30 pm. \$15-50 sliding scale (\$25 suggested donation). In addition to being an exciting event with delicious food, this is an important fundraiser for SPC. Please make your reservation at www.peacecouncil.net/birthday. There are many opportunities to lend a hand preparing for the birthday dinner. Contact Ursula or Carol.

NOON Updates

Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation's E-News Announcements are now being distributed twice monthly. They are an opportunity to explain NOON's projects and what people can do to help, along with a calendar of native events and activities. We are very excited to be able to connect with more people this way. To join the list, contact Carol.

Other events coming up:

- Kate Lewis, Sue Eiholzer and Wendy Gonyea, Beaver Clan Mother, will present a workshop at the Imagining America Conference in October.
- The Good Friends Gardeners are taking in the last harvests and will soon put the garden to bed for the winter.
- Work on a new Haudenosaunee Confederacy sign at Onondaga Lake Park and the new *Neighbor to Neighbor: Nation to Nation* booklet are drawing to a conclusion.
- Hydrofracking efforts are focused on stopping a new gas pipeline which will run from Binghamton to Syracuse.
- Information tabling continues to keep us busy.

To get involved or suggest information tabling opportunities, contact Carol.

CNY Working Keeps on Working!

CNY Working for a Just Peace in Palestine and Israel hosted Steve Downs on September 17 to speak at ArtRage Gallery in a

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No War is Humanitarian War

Ben Kuebrich and Amelia Ramsey-Lefevre

"I'm disturbed by this notion that every time we see something bad in the world, we should bomb it."

- Alan Grayson, Florida Representative

"Killing people to prevent their being killed with the wrong kind of weapons is a policy that must come out of some sort of sickness."

- David Swanson, Green Party Secretary of Peace

At the time of printing, the Obama administration had bowed to US citizens and the international community and decided not to bomb Syria, at least for the moment. With a recent report showing that US military personnel are also against the war by a three-to-one margin, this would have been a unilateral attack in every sense—the Obama administration and the military industrial complex dancing alone amidst a jeering crowd of detractors.

The administration's next move was to ask Congress for authorization, a constitutional necessity that became plan B. With little apparent congressional support, it seemed as if we were heading toward a vote against military intervention when John Kerry stumbled upon what might be a viable diplomatic solution: the Assad regime can hand over their chemical weapons stockpile to be destroyed by the international community. Spoken as a hypothetical that Kerry said "can't be done," Russia and Syria quickly agreed to the concept. Under an agreement brokered by the UN, Syria is to give up its chemical weapons by the middle of 2014, and as of September 14 they have become an official signatory of the international treaty against chemical weapons.

We hope this effort will satisfy those who would bomb Syria, even while the Obama administration maintains that military intervention remains "on the table." We also hope that any future US efforts can be limited to providing food, shelter, and medical care to refugees and further diplomacy that might stop the violence that rages in Syria.

How did we get here?

Barack Obama and John Kerry faced the US public and stated with utter conviction that Bashar Al-Assad had perpetrated a

SPC Staff Note: This article is commentary by some members of the PNL Editorial Committee on the actions of the Obama administration and the US government from the time the Obama administration seriously discussed bombing Syria through the decision to back off from an imminent attack. The Peace Council does not have an updated statement on the wider situation in Syria. In the process of trying to update our September 2012 consensus statement on Syria (see peacecouncil.net), we found that some new points are an easy consensus (no US attack on Syria) while others are not. The situation is complex, and sorting through what has been written on Syria—articles which differ in quality and come from a wide range of perspectives—is challenging. We have posted links to a variety of articles, commentary, and interviews on our website. We are holding a two-part teach-in on Syria, so we can all learn and talk together. Keep checking the website for updates on articles, activities and our position.



horrific sarin gas attack. This pronouncement came before the UN had even been able to confirm that a chemical weapon attack occurred. The Obama administration, already threatening to use "targeted military force," requested that the UN leave the country before completing their investigation. The UN refused to leave and did confirm that sarin gas had been used, although their report did not determine who was responsible for the attack.

The use of chemical weapons by anyone is reprehensible. Yet it is also reprehensible that the Obama administration played into the fears and sympathies of US citizens in order to rush toward an attack that would have inevitably killed more civilians and would likely have added fuel to the violence in Syria and possibly the region.

By claiming that Assad had crossed an "international red line," reference to an off-the-cuff remark made by Obama in March, the administration has framed the bombing as part of a humanitarian effort meant to "send a message" about "international norms." When going to Congress, Obama stated that "America and Congress's credibility is on the line" because these "international norms are important."

No Moral or Legal Authority

Let's be clear: potential US military involvement in Syria has nothing to do with humanitarianism. And while bombs may enforce an "international red line," it has to be said that the US does not have much moral authority when it comes to practicing international law or the use of chemical weapons on civilians. As the historical record indicates, the resounding "message" of a unilateral attack would have been hypocrisy, not the good will of the US government to protect civilians.

A recent report of declassified documents shows that the US provided intelligence to Iraq in 1988 as it killed thousands of Iranians with sarin gas. In 2012, the Red Cross reported that one million Vietnamese live with disabilities from the six pounds

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talk entitled “The War on Terror – Making Us All the Enemy” with excellent attendance and delicious snacks! His talk was one of many the group has presented in an effort to keep the issue of the illegal occupation of Palestine on the minds of the people in our area. Because we believe that US funding is instrumental in supporting Israel’s policies of occupation and military control, we believe that it is our responsibility to influence our government’s choices and actions. One way we can do that is by bringing accurate and important information that is left out of the “mainstream” media. Stay tuned for upcoming films and presentations from this committee. Contact Jessica.

Two Row Campaign Looks to the Future

Two Row Wampum Renewal Campaign organizers are busily following up on the glorious journey down the Hudson River this summer. We continue spreading the word about this first agreement between the Haudenosaunee and Europeans and the roadmap it offers to a peaceful, just and sustainable future. Discussions are underway about the most effective ways to build on the momentum generated thus far. That momentum includes over 160 articles and stories about the Two Row, many videos, followup programs, continued sharing on the internet and more. We have nearly 1,000 signatures on our Declaration of Intent (subscribers see insert and please collect some more!).

Join us for a report back event on **Monday, October 14**, Indigenous Peoples Day at 7 pm at SEIU 1199, 250 South Clinton St. to hear from organizers and paddlers about the trip and join in discussions about where to go from here. You can find updates, videos, photos and more at www.honorthetworow.org or call 701-1592.

Fundraising!

The Peace Council exists thanks to the generous financial contributions of community members who believe in the importance of our ongoing work. Staff and the Fundraising Development committee are continually engaged in grassroots fundraising

PEACE OUTREACH

Show your opposition to war and the reaper drones! Bring your own sign or use one of ours.

Tuesdays: 4:15-5 pm

- Oct 1** Hancock Air Base Entrance (*E. Molloy Rd., between Thompson & Townline Rds.*)
- Oct 8** Intersection of E. Genesee and Erie Blvd.
- Oct 15** Hancock Air Base Entrance
- Oct 22** E. Genesee and Erie Blvd.
- Oct 29** Hancock Air Base Entrance

Saturdays: 9-10 am

Park Street - Across from the Regional Market main entrance.

Contact Ed or Ann, 315-478-4571

Activist Appreciation: Cindy Squillace



Cindy Squillace has been part of the Syracuse Peace Council for nearly 40 years. To all her work Cindy brings warmth, caring, a sense of humor and compassion which make her stand out in any group. Cindy was one of the “bloody nuns” who boldly confronted Secretary of State Alexander Haig at the SU graduation in 1980. More recently her primary involvement has been with NOON and the Two Row Wampum Renewal Campaign. Her people skills were deeply appreciated as the group worked through touchy interpersonal issues and as the Two Row trip headed down the river. She coordinated the “Peacekeeping” group, helping resolve problems as they arose and providing a listening ear whenever needed. Thanks for all you do, Cindy!

activities to make sure the SPC meets our shoestring budget. Special thanks to our Fundraising Committee—Wendy Yost, Sarah Eggers and Sherly Day-Bernthal, and thank you to Rae Kramer for hosting the annual SPC Garage Sale which raised over \$1,300! Also, many appreciations to Metro Lounge and to the artists who performed at the SPC benefit on September 12: Colleen Kattau, Laura Sue the Silver Nightingale, and the members of Root SHOCK.

Hats off to Wendy Yost for her persistence in promoting the bike raffle and to bike shop Mello Velo for their support! Please support the artists and businesses that support SPC.

The Peace Council is facing a budget deficit this year and we are developing strategies to make sure that we can maintain our current level of program and staffing. In mid-October we will be sending our fall fund appeal letter—but you can donate anytime, day or night, at www.peacecouncil.net/donate!

Justice in the Americas

CNY activists will be traveling to the November Vigil to Close the School of the Americas the weekend of November 22-24. You can learn more at www.soaw.org. Contact Ann for carpooling details, (315) 478-4571. The SOA Abolitionists will be hosting author Rosalie Reigle at ArtRage Gallery on **Tuesday, November 1, at 7 pm**. Reigle is the author of *Doing Time for Peace* – a

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Marginalized voices of the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington

Editor's Note: While the 50th anniversary of the March On Washington was a commemoration of the civil rights legacy, it was also a Democratic Party event with little of the subversiveness of the original March. Many prophetic voices doing critical grassroots, transformational activism were excluded at the last minute for fear that their messages might be deemed too radical. Two such voices were those of Phil Agnew, one of the leaders of the DREAM Defenders, and that of Sofia Campos, an undocumented activist with United We Dream, a group which has been pushing for immigration reform. Despite being snubbed, they decided to give the speeches they would have liked to give anyway.



Phil Agnew delivering his poem, "2 minutes", the day after the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington. Source: YouTube/Dream Defenders Channel

Phil Agnew

"2 minutes"

By the time we finish another black boy will lay bleeding in the streets of Chicago and as we rest our heads tonight 300,000 of our veterans lay homeless, and I want to explain how the hate we spread abroad is the reason that hatred washes on our shores... but I only have two minutes.

And, I could tell you that Philadelphia just closed 23 of its schools at the same time it builds a \$400 million state of the art prison and that North Carolina and Florida continue to silence its citizens at the ballot box- but I only have two minutes.

I could tell you how as we celebrate Dr. King's Dream, over 400,000 of our immigrant brothers and sisters languish away in privately owned detention camps... and how we still find our queer brothers and sisters imprisoned in the shadows of closets—but I only have two minutes.

I'd tell you how our mothers, sisters, wives and daughters still earn less, have no control over their bodies, and are traded and trafficked like slaves... or that it's easier for someone to buy a gun and put it to their head than it is to diagnose the illness within it. But I only have two minutes.

Phil Agnew is the Executive Director of the Dream Defenders and Sofia Campos is the Board Chair of United We Dream.

If there was time, I'd tell you that millions of young people and queer people and poor people and people of color are asking what we do with this anger, fear, disappointment, and frustration. This "MAD" that we feel??? —but, alas, I only have one more minute.

And with it. This last minute of our conversation I'd like to tell you that... though it may seem that all is lost... that there is a generation of dreamers, fighters, defenders, lovers, builders bubbling, bubbling, bubbling beneath the rubble.

And beneath your feet you may feel a collective quaking... tremors of a sleeping giant awakening. Emanating from fault lines at the Arizona-Mexico border, and Raleigh and Austin, and Cleveland, and Chicago, and Tallahassee, Florida.

And we've come here from every crack, crease, and crevice of our country to our Capitol to say that for all whose cares have been our concern. We will not be co-opted. We will not be bought. But, we are ready.

And for those that doubt our energy and discipline. We are ready.

For those that believe that future fingers may fail the torch. Fear not. We are ready.

For all those that believe in the power of nonviolence and love as unconquerable. We are ready.

Fifty years ago a man told us of a Promised Land. And for 50 years we've

wandered and wondered. Where are the youth?... a constant whisper in our ears.

And so we have come, asking neither permission nor questions, but to say that we are here. Believing indeed that we have a beautiful history, and that the one we will build in the future will astonish the world.

And we are ready.

May the outcome always prosper over income. Peace over Profit. Revolution over revenue and all peace and power to the people. Don't believe us. Just watch.

Sofia Campos

My name is Sofia Campos: born in Peru, raised in California, soon to start my first day of graduate school at MIT. My family and I are undocumented; we have limited if any legal rights in this country we've known for over 17 years. My parents gave their all so I could reach for my dreams, and in turn I graduated from UCLA and committed myself to fighting for a more just, humane world. I fought with immigrant youth for Deferred Action in the footsteps of Martin Luther King and Ella Baker, and now my mom sleeps better knowing my siblings and I are a little safer, even though she is not.

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Anti-Nuclear Campaigns Gain Steam as Plant Closures Continue

Jessica Azulay and Linda DeStefano

Two thousand thirteen might go down in the history books as the year activists finally turned the tide against the nuclear power industry. It may also go down as the beginning of one of nuclear power's most dangerous eras.

In the 1970s, anti-nuclear activists fought the industry to a virtual stalemate. Between 1979 and 2012, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) didn't issue a single license for a new nuclear power plant. But victories against existing plants were rare. Fewer than ten were shut down permanently between 1980 and 2012.

Fast forward to today, and the victories just keep coming. First came the announced closure of the Kewaunee reactor in Wisconsin. Then came Crystal River in Florida, followed by San Onofre in California. The icing on the cake was the August 27 announcement by Entergy Corporation that it would permanently shut down the Vermont Yankee reactor in late 2014, handing a sweet and long-awaited victory to activists who had built a powerful campaign against it. This year has also seen the cancellation of plans to increase power generating capacity at five reactors and the canning of plans to build a two-reactor unit in Levy County, Florida.

So, what's happening to all these nukes? The nuclear industry is getting hit by age-related and costly repairs, increased regulation after Japan's 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster, escalating activism, and (probably most importantly) a bad financial climate. Profits are being squeezed, and in some cases, once lucrative reactors aren't able to turn a profit at all.

Kewaunee closed for purely economic reasons. San Onofre and Crystal River closed because they were shut down for costly repairs, and the companies operating them determined they weren't worth fixing. Both were helped along by anti-nuclear activists who kept heat on the NRC and the nuclear operators to prevent the reactors from restarting. The Vermont Yankee closure resulted from a mixture of activism and economics. The plant's operators faced projected financial losses compounded by the state government's determination to shut down the plant, thanks to unrelenting organizing and public pressure on state policy makers.

There are strategic lessons for anti-nuclear activists in these closures, as well as hopes that the victories will keep coming. Entergy's FitzPatrick reactor here in Central New York has repeatedly been pointed out by financial analysts as being particularly vulnerable. The plant, located in Oswego, is expected to see financial deficits for the foreseeable future. As the only Fukushima-style reactor in the US without an installed hardened vent, FitzPatrick may see higher than average costs from post-Fukushima regulations. In recent months, FitzPatrick has become increasingly unreliable and unsafe due to a variety of age-related equipment failures, most notably the plant's main condenser, which needs a costly replacement.

The Alliance for a Green Economy (AGREE) is pushing on multiple fronts to shut down FitzPatrick. AGREE, headquartered in Syracuse, is a statewide coalition that includes the Syracuse Peace



Image: SAGE Alliance www.safeandgreencampaign.org

Council, Peace Action, the Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter and other environmental groups. AGREE has filed multiple petitions with the NRC in an effort to get the plant shut down for safety violations, or at the very least to increase regulatory oversight of the reactor. AGREE is also meeting with New York State policy makers to preempt any efforts by the company to seek a financial bailout. To sign a petition against a potential nuclear bailout see www.allianceforagreenconomy.org. AGREE is also promoting renewable energy planning on the state level in an effort to continue the economic squeeze on nuke plants, improve the environment, and make sure nuclear plants don't get replaced with fossil fuels (like natural gas).

The economic decline of the nuclear industry is something for environmentalists to celebrate, but it is also something to fear. When reactors get into financial trouble, they may be at their most accident-prone. Economic distress creates an incentive for the nuclear owners to put off repairs and cut the workforce. Nuclear watchdogs are particularly worried about safety at Vermont Yankee, which Entergy intends to operate until late 2014, a period expected to be marked by worker attrition and reluctance to put any money into maintenance. AGREE has joined activists in Vermont and Massachusetts in a groundbreaking petition to demand that the NRC enforce its "financial qualifications" regulation and shut down plants that aren't making enough money to pay for necessary operating costs. The petition focuses on Entergy's operations at FitzPatrick, Pilgrim (in Massachusetts) and Vermont Yankee.

Meanwhile, the ongoing crisis at the Fukushima nuclear station provides a reminder of the real costs and dangers of nuclear power. TEPCO, the company that owns the devastated reactors at Fukushima, has admitted that thousands of tons of radioactive water has leaked or been dumped into the Pacific Ocean. It remains to be seen whether the company and the Japanese government can get the leaks under control. ♻️

Jessica is the staff organizer for Alliance for a Green Economy and for the Syracuse Peace Council. Linda represents the Atlantic Chapter for the Sierra Club in the alliance. To get involved in AGREE's efforts contact Jessica: jessica@allianceforagreenconomy.org.

The People vs. “Free” Trade

Can resistance to corporate trade policies help create the movement we need for the better world we want?

Ursula Rozum

Authors Note: The following article is written with information from the Green Shadow Cabinet, Citizen Trade Campaign and PopularResistance.org.

On August 19, Colombian farmers’ organizations initiated a massive nationwide strike—the Paro Nacional Agrario. They blocked roads, dumped milk on cars and basically stopped producing food for the cities. According to news reports coming out of Colombia in early September, tens of thousands of Colombians are demonstrating in the streets. The farmers’ strike has been supported by oil industry workers, miners, truckers, health sector professionals, and others. On August 29, ten days into the strike, more than 20,000 students joined the movement and shut down the capital city, Bogotá. The problem? Government policies are making it impossible for farmers to do their work and make a living producing food.

Recent free trade agreements (FTAs) signed with the US and the EU are undercutting Colombian producers, who simply cannot compete with subsidized imports. One of the triggers for the mobilization has been Agricultural Law 970, which forbids farmers from replanting their saved seeds unless they are approved by the Colombia Agricultural Institute. This law is rooted in the US-Colombia Free Trade Agreement and is an attack on the timeless practice of farmers saving their own seeds.

The mobilization has been extremely successful in opening up space for discussion, solidarity and resistance in Colombia. Students, for instance, have been keen to support the farmers. They rallied loudly against GMOs and for food sovereignty. But they also wanted to put forward their own demands for free public education, nudging the mobilization beyond agrarian concerns into a broader wave of social pressure to change current Colombian policies.

While Colombian social movements are coming together to confront policies

that favor multinational corporations over Colombian workers, policies epitomized in the US-Colombia Free Trade Agreement, another trade agreement is being negotiated mostly in secret, that many are referring to as “NAFTA on steroids.”



The Movimiento Campesino de Cajibío, CNY’s sister-community partner through the Colombia Support Network, participates in Colombia’s national farmers’ strike. Photo credit: Jhon Campo

The Trans-Pacific Partnership

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is a new international trade pact crafted by multinational corporations and currently being negotiated in secret by the Office of the US Trade Representative (USTR) along with eleven other foreign governments. The TPP began as trade talks among a few Pacific Rim countries, but has been expanded to include Australia, Brunei, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, Vietnam, Mexico, and Canada, with the possibility of further expansion to Japan, Korea, and China. While the public and media are not allowed to see the text, and members of Congress only receive limited, heavily restricted access, 600 corporations have been advising the president and suggesting amendments as they have full access to the documents. This includes Monsanto, Walmart, Bank of America, JP Morgan, Pfizer, Cargill, Exxon-Mobil, and Chevron—some of the worst corporate citizens in the US.

Representative Alan Grayson, the only member of Congress granted even limited access to the TPP negotiating texts, describes the agreement as “an attack on democratic

governance” and “a gross abrogation of American sovereignty... a punch in the face to the middle class of America.”

If ratified, the TPP would establish a system of international tribunals allowing corporations to challenge the laws, regulations and even court decisions of any member nation (including local, county and state laws) if they are deemed to adversely impact the corporation’s expected future profits. Under the TPP’s “investor-state” provision, corporations would even be al-

lowed to file preemptive lawsuits against proposed government actions before they are undertaken. In New York, for example, this could prevent the state and municipalities from passing anti-fracking legislation or enacting consumer protection laws.

Many in Central New York are familiar with the negative impacts of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), negotiated in the early 1990s, which overturned many environmental and worker protection policies. NAFTA caused the elimination of hundreds of thousands of US jobs, and millions of Mexican farmers who could no longer compete with heavily subsidized US crops were displaced from their land, setting off a wave of desperate migration northward. Similarly, the US-Colombia Free Trade Agreement is putting Colombia small farmers out of business. The TPP will greatly accelerate this global race to the bottom; its negotiating countries already constitute 40% of the world economy and it contains provisions allowing other nations to join later.

Ursula is an SPC staff person. She is passionate about organizing to end corporate rule.

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ERIC LIU

lectures.syr.edu



In his work, Liu takes both the left and the right to task for forgetting the moral principles that give real meaning to love of country, and reminds all that we can live out the American ideal in our everyday choices. He believes citizenship is about showing up for community and country—and that anyone can be, and should be, a great citizen. In his opinion, this is a pivotal moment for Americans from left, right and center to reclaim responsibility for solving problems together. In this University Lectures presentation, Liu will share thoughts on how to accomplish this, as well as address the question of what patriotism really means. Liu has been hailed by The New York Times and The Washington Post as a leading voice of his generation, and is founder of the Guiding Lights Network, which promotes and teaches the art of creative citizenship.

Eric Liu

CIVIC ENTREPRENEUR, AUTHOR, FOUNDER OF GUIDING LIGHTS NETWORK

THE TRUE MEANING OF PATRIOTISM

Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2013

7:30 pm, Hendricks Chapel

Free and open to the public.

Contact the Office of Academic Affairs

for more information:

315-443-2941

eegray@syr.edu

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**UNIVERSITY
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**Reduced-rate parking for this event is available in the Irving Avenue parking garage.*

Syria / from page 5

of Agent Orange that the United States dumped for every man, woman, and child in the country during the Vietnam War. In 2004, the United States used white phosphorus and depleted uranium in Iraq, two weapons that are banned by international treaties and norms. Meanwhile, Israel, the United States' main ally in the Middle East and a threat to Syria, has not ratified the ban on chemical weapons. Still, the US continues to provide Israel with over three billion dollars per year in military aid. Given this history, one has to ask where the international standard against chemical weapons came from—certainly not US military actions.

Furthermore, in the case of Syria, the Obama administration has brazenly promoted its right to a unilateral attack. Without UN approval and without Syria posing a direct threat to the US, an attack is a violation of international law, so the Obama administration has been talking incessantly about an international red line while preparing to violate one. It seems like the best message the US could send when it comes to international law is to lead by example and start abiding by it.

Another way?

If humanitarianism were in fact the goal of the United States in Syria, would bombing be the first option? Even with ongoing negotiations, there are reportedly at least 96 cruise missiles positioned off the coast of Syria. Alone these bombs are valued at \$461 million. For the moment let's ignore other costs associated with striking Syria and just consider the cost of these bombs.

The UN has raised just 40% of the \$4.4 billion dollars it has asked for to address the humanitarian crisis in Syria. The price of those 96 missiles could close the approximately \$400 million aid gap for food programs within Syria, or the \$330 million gap for emergency non-food items and shelter. That is, with the cost of the bombs alone, we could not only "send a message" but actually bring life instead of death to other human beings.

Conclusion

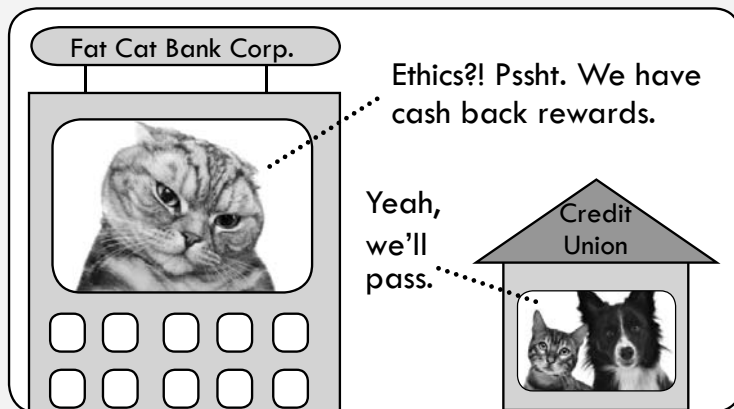
A US military strike on Syria would have sent the message that if anyone is going to recklessly attack civilians in the face of international laws and norms, it will be this government. Following the logic of the so-called "war on terror," which kills civilians with brutal regularity in the face of international law, a unilateral attack on Syria would have been completely in line with US foreign policy.

Thankfully, public pressure has forced Obama to change course on Syria, but progressives and peace activists must stay vigilant. Before Bush invaded Iraq on false pretenses, he first asked that the Iraqi Army allow the US to enter and "eliminate weapons of mass destruction." Ten years later, the US has been through a three trillion dollar war, over 100,000 Iraqi civilians lost their lives, and nearly 5,000 US soldiers died, all based on false information and the notion that the United States must bomb its way to democracy and human rights around the world.

In remembering this history, we should know that no war can be humanitarian and realize that when the US confuses peace with war, everyone loses. ♻️

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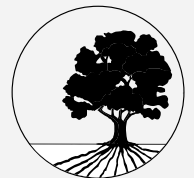
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BILLY COLLINS

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Billy Collins is an American phenomenon. No poet since Robert Frost has managed to combine high critical acclaim with such broad popular appeal as Collins has. A former United States Poet Laureate (2001-03) and New York State Poet Laureate (2004-06), Collins sees his poetry as “a form of travel writing” and considers humor “a door into the serious.” The typical Collins poem opens on a clear and hospitable note but soon takes an unexpected turn; poems that begin in irony may end in a moment of lyric surprise. Collins has published nine collections of poetry, and his work has appeared in a variety of periodicals including *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review* and *The American Scholar*. He is a Guggenheim fellow and a New York Public Library “Literary Lion.” Collins’ most recent book, “*Aimless Love: New and Selected Poems 2003–2013*,” was published in March.

Billy Collins POET

AIMLESS LOVE: NEW AND SELECTED POETRY WITH BILLY COLLINS

Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2013

7:30 pm, Hendricks Chapel

This lecture is sponsored in cooperation with the Humanities Center as part of the 2013 Syracuse Symposium

Free and open to the public.

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March on Washington / from page 7


The Civil Rights Movement fought for our dignity, regardless of skin color, and in today's immigration fight we still fight for that same human dignity—my mom cannot visit her mom abroad before she dies because she would not be allowed to come back and see me. Mothers and daughters like us deserve the Inalienable Right to hug each other and feel safe in our homes without fearing ICE or the police, but this is not the case when our communities continue to be dismantled by senseless, inhumane policies like Secure Communities and the current 400,000 deportation quota in DHS. This must stop, just like segregation policies were made to stop in the 1960s.

Youth have asked ourselves what we can do for our country,

and we are doing it through organizing and actions of civil disobedience.

President Obama, we must stop the mass deportations and incarceration of our communities, feeding corporate profit day after day. We do not need more drones and militarism around our borders—that is exactly what Martin Luther King warned against! In addition to racism and materialism.

We are raising our voices so not one more father is needlessly incarcerated and not one more LGBT person is unjustly excluded. So not one more black boy is gunned down, and not one more daughter has to live without saying goodbye to her mother. My mother and grandmother deserve to say goodbye.

“We who believe in freedom take care of each other, and if we do not rise, we will all fall.” –Isang Bagsak 

People vs. “Free” Trade / from page 9

Provisions in the TPP specifically threaten to:


- **Undermine food safety protections** by making it harder for countries to adopt regulations such as labeling laws or banning GMOs.
- **Dismantle the “Buy Local” movement** by overturning government laws designed to keep taxpayer dollars in the local economy.
- **Inhibit access to lifesaving medicine** by extending monopoly drug patents for big pharmaceuticals.
- **Curtail Internet freedom, spur further financial deregulation, roll back environmental laws and more.**

Leaked drafts of the TPP's intellectual property chapter reveal that the TPP would roll back reforms to US trade pact drug patent policies. The TPP would empower drug companies to attack the medicine formulary systems, such as those New Zealand, Australia and other developed countries have used successfully to reduce drug prices.

Much like the polices that have Colombia farmers in the streets, the TPP will make it more difficult for countries to adopt and maintain strong food safety regulations governing pesticides, food additives and genetically modified organisms (GMOs) by granting so-called “life sciences” corporations unprecedented power to erect barriers to those regulations. Under past Free Trade agreements, consumer right-to-know rules requiring product labeling have been attacked and dismantled.

The food safety and drug accessibility issues raised by the TPP are expansive and controversial. The trade policies being promoted under the TPP will inhibit the ability of countries, including the US, to make their own decisions, based on local conditions and markets, about farming practices and the production of local, healthy food. This puts the food supplies of those countries at risk, especially when farming and food supplies are increasingly affected by energy costs and adverse weather conditions, precipitating price spikes. By limiting access to affordable drugs, the TPP further threatens the health of the populations of participating countries, especially those in developing countries. World food and health crises will have a ripple effect and, given the restrictions placed on the FDA by the TPP, ultimately have a negative impact on US consumers of food and drugs.

The TPP is being negotiated under unprecedented secrecy

because previous attempts to pass similar “free trade” pacts have been met with widespread public opposition. Grassroots movements in the past have successfully stopped the Multilateral Agreement on Investment, the Free Trade Area of the Americas, the expansion of the World Trade Organization, and others. The Obama Administration plans to bring the TPP to a “fast track” vote as early as the Fall of 2013, bypassing congressional review and public debate entirely. The Trans-Pacific Partnership, because of its far reaching effects, is an opportunity for our movements to come together and to stand up to the corporations seeking to increase their control over all aspects of human life. Therefore, we must act now, utilizing education, protest and pressure on Congress to stop the TPP and to build a broad-based movement for future battles. 

Take Action!

Contact Rep. Dan Maffei 202-225-3701

Ask him to vote “No!” to Fast Track on the Trans-Pacific Partnership and to demand transparency and a democratic process for the largest and most wide-reaching trade agreement in history.

Learn more <http://www.citizen.org/TPP>

Find action resources FlushtheTPP.org



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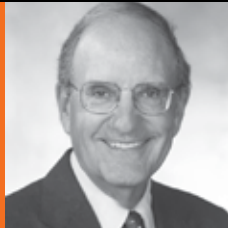
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GEORGE J. MITCHELL

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George J. Mitchell was the first University Lectures speaker in October 2001, less than a month after 9/11. A highly respected peace envoy, he returns to Syracuse University to discuss prospects for global peace and how (or if) the world has changed in the 25 years since the bombing of Pan Am 103. Mitchell became Senate Majority Leader on Jan. 3, 1989, two weeks after the tragedy. After an illustrious 15-year career in the Senate, Mitchell served as a special advisor to President Clinton on Ireland. Under his leadership the Good Friday Agreement, an historic accord ending decades of conflict, was agreed to. In 2000 and 2001, Mitchell served as chairman of an International Fact-Finding Committee on violence in the Middle East. In 2008, TIME magazine named Mitchell one of the 100 most influential persons in the world. The George J. Mitchell Scholarship is one of the most selective in the United States.

George J. Mitchell

FORMER U.S. SENATOR, AMERICAN STATESMAN

PAN AM 103 AND OUR WORLD 25 YEARS LATER

Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2013,

5:30 pm, Hendricks Chapel

This lecture is sponsored in cooperation with the Office of the Chancellor, the Whitman School of Management, the College of Education, and Hendricks Chapel and is part of SU's Commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of Pan Am Flight 103

Free and open to the public.

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collection of interviews with prisoners of conscience, including CNY activists who have done time for civil disobedience to close the School of the Americas.

Garage Sale Gratitude

Thanks to all who donated, did set up and clean up, purchased our goodies, and helped make this another successful foray into commerce, peace and justice style. Despite some rain and semi-frantic “cover the stuff, uncover the stuff, cover the stuff, uncover the stuff...” we took in \$1,300!! Special thanks to sale coordinator Rae Kramer, and to helpers Teresa, Herm, Ann, Shara, Brian, Laurie, Lanny, Vicki, Daves 1 and 2, Gary, Ed, Renee, Ursula, and baby William.

We have “routinized” this event into our annual calendar, so here’s a heads-up for next year: the weekend after Labor Day for the sale and the Wednesday through Friday before the weekend for donations. Keep us in mind throughout the year. Your friends at SPC Garage Sale Central.

Welcome Interns!

The SPC staff is excited to host new interns this Fall. Briana Shetler, a senior at Syracuse University, brings her talents to support SPC’s event organizing, including the birthday dinner. Calvin Walds,

an SU Master’s student in Pan African studies will be sharing his research skills and also supporting anti-war organizing.

Thanks for Distributing!

For decades, faithful volunteers have distributed the *Peace Newsletter* around Syracuse and the metropolitan area as a free publication. We wish to thank both the distributors, past and present, as well as the businesses and offices that make the *Peace Newsletter* available to the public at their locations. Providing free public access to the *Peace Newsletter* is truly a team effort which has carved out a place for the PNL in the greater Syracuse community. Accolades and kudos to those who help to make this happen on behalf of the mission of the Syracuse Peace Council. ♻️



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