

Cornel West to Speak in Syracuse

We are thrilled to announce that activist/thinker Dr. Cornel West will be speaking in Syracuse on **Sunday, April 27 at 2 pm** (doors open at 1:30) at Tucker Missionary Baptist Church, 515 Oakwood Ave., Syracuse as part of the National Spring Days of Actions Against Drones.

Admission is free. His talk will focus on “Connecting the Dots: Racism, Poverty and Drones” and is organized by the Peace Council and Upstate Coalition to Ground the Drones and End the Wars.



People’s Orders of Protection Against Drone Terror

After Cornel West’s talk, please join us at **4:30 pm** at the OCM BOCES parking lot (6820 Thompson Rd. - near E. Molloy Rd.) for a permitted march to Hancock Air Base (drones are piloted over Afghanistan, and maintenance technicians, pilots and sensor operators are trained there). The theme of “People’s Orders of Protection” is an allusion to the Orders of Protection served to many people who have participated in nonviolent civil resistance at the Base, as well as the needs of people around the world to be protected from drone attacks. For details, contact Carol or visit SPC’s website.

May Day Inequality for All

On **Thursday, May 1 at 7pm** the Peace Council is cosponsoring a screening of the new documentary “Inequality For All” at the Palace Theatre alongside our labor and community allies in the We Are NY coalition. “Inequality for All” is the groundbreaking work by Robert Reich, Secretary of Labor under Bill Clinton. The film examines the roots of today’s inequality crisis and puts forth persuasive arguments for economic policies that increase wages and improve the economy for the 99%. For more information, contact Jerry at 243-9823.

Jail Oversight Bill Going to Vote!

United as One is excited to announce that a bill will be introduced to the Onondaga County Legislature to create an oversight structure for the Justice Center, the county’s downtown jail. This comes almost five years after the deaths of Chuniece Patterson and Raul Pinet in the facility. The new oversight structure will function similarly to the city’s Citizen Review Board, but its powers will be limited to making recommendations about policy, procedure and training of staff, and not disciplinary recommendations. The bill will be discussed by the Public Safety Committee on **Wednesday, April 9 at**



Photo: Max Brown

noon, and it will be up for a vote on **Tuesday, May 6 at 1 pm** at the County Legislature at 401 Montgomery St., Suite 407. Please come to one or both meetings to support the bill. Contact Amelia.

Activist Strategy Group

To better understand the strategies available when organizing for social change, the Peace Council invites activists and organizers to join us for a strategy reading and discussion group. Our first meeting will be at the Peace Council office on **Friday, April 11 at 7 pm** to begin discussing Bill Moyer’s *The Movement Action Plan: A*

SPC INFO

SPC Steering Committee 2014

Jessica Azulay, Carol Baum, Jack Brown, Sarah Eggers, Barbara Humphrey, Ben Kuebrich, Kimberley McCoy, Julienne Oldfield, Amelia R. Lefevre, Carole Resnick, Ursula Rozum, Brian Tackett, Richard Vallejo, Aly Wane, Jim Weidman, Wendy Yost.

SPC's Peace Newsletter

Editorial Committee: Ben Kuebrich, Saptarshi Lahiri, Leahann Lynagh, Amelia R. Lefevre, Nikeeta Slade, Aly Wane. **Layout Coordinator:** Jessica Azulay. **Proofing:** Rae Kramer, Andy Molloy.

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

WeAreNY: labor and community activists working for the common good

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About the Cover: Max Brown snapped this shot of SPC activists Lana Hijazi and Rachel Cary with Cornel West at CodePink's "Drones Around the Globe: Proliferation and Resistance" Summit in Washington, DC on November 16, 2013.

Peace Newsletter

Sponsored by the Syracuse Center for Peace & Social Justice

Article submission criteria: Contact pnl@peacecouncil.net or 472-5478.

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

Calendar: Submit items for the May *PNL* calendar by April 14.

peacecouncil.net

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

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No More All of the Above Energy Plans!

On January 7, 2014, the New York State Energy Planning Board released the 2014 draft New York State Energy Plan. The state releases an Energy Plan every four years to map out New York's energy future. Unfortunately, the 2014 Draft State Energy Plan does not represent the sea-change in energy policy that New York needs to confront the global climate crisis, mounting pollution, public health concerns, or energy affordability.

The draft plan commits to 80% greenhouse-gas reductions by 2050, but the commitment is hollow without aggressive interim targets for greenhouse gas reductions, energy efficiency savings, or renewable energy development. A number of experts have demonstrated that New York has the potential to transition to a carbon-free and nuclear-free energy system. All that's missing is the political will to change course. Tell Governor Cuomo and the Energy Planning Board to put New Yorkers to work on a major energy transition that will revitalize our economy, improve our health, create energy independence, and give us a fighting chance to stave off the worst effects of the climate crisis.

Let Governor Cuomo and the NY Energy Planning Board know what you think about the draft Energy Plan

Written public comments will be accepted until April 30, 2014. Read the draft New York Energy Plan and make comments at www.energyplan.ny.gov/Process/Comments.aspx.

For more information, including an expanded version of these talking points as well as analysis of the draft Energy Plan from other organizations and experts, visit www.agreenewyork.org.

Talking Points on the draft 2014 New York State Energy Plan

- The state should recommit itself to meeting the energy efficiency and renewable energy goals set by the Public Service Commission for 2015 (30% renewable energy and 15% energy efficiency) and should immediately set even more aggressive goals for 2020 and 2030. Both a commitment to the 2015 goals and new, ambitious targets for the coming years are absent from the draft Energy Plan.

- There are some promising policy proposals included in the plan, including utility reform, better building codes, and financing strategies for efficiency and renewable energy. However, the initiatives lack detailed descriptions and measurable goals.

- The draft plan promotes natural gas consumption and the construction of additional gas pipelines and other gas infrastructure in New York. This will encourage fracking in other states and possibly New York, and jeopardize the state's ability to meet the 80% reduction target by 2050. New York should commit to a ban on fracking and a rapid phase-out of imported gas.

- The draft plan calls for the conversion of space heating from oil to natural gas, which will create more gas consumers and lock New York into carbon dioxide and methane emissions from gas for decades to come. The state should not subsidize space heating systems that use natural gas and should instead invest in efficient geothermal, solar thermal and electric systems.

- The draft plan fails to take into account the nuclear plant retirement schedule for New York. All of the state's reactor licenses will expire by 2050 (two of them in 2029), yet the plan projects nuclear power generation levels *above* what they are today for 2030. There is no rational basis for these projections. The draft plan also fails to acknowledge or account for the



Rally and press conference at the March 6, 2014 public hearing on the draft energy plan. Photo: Ursula Rozum.

possibility of early nuclear retirements due to aging and economic pressure (even though the FitzPatrick and Ginna reactors in Upstate New York are widely seen as vulnerable to early closure), and says nothing about helping communities and workers transition out of the nuclear industry.

- The draft plan sets relatively meager targets for electric vehicle adoption and lacks aggressive strategies for reducing transportation-related emissions. Electric cars, increased use of public transit, and community development that discourages sprawl are all acknowledged in the draft plan as necessary. But the plan lacks aggressive policies to take the state from rhetoric to effective action.

- The draft plan refers to studies that have so far been withheld from the public. These include a greenhouse gas inventory and a study on New York's potential for renewable energy and energy efficiency. These studies are cited in footnotes of the draft plan, but the public has not been given the opportunity to review them. Without transparent methodology and data, it is impossible to fully evaluate the energy plan.

- The draft plan sets energy affordability as one of its top-line goals, yet lacks any policies that will directly ensure that low-income ratepayers do not see their bills increase as a proportion of their income.

Points compiled by Jessica Azulay, staff organizer for the Peace Council and Alliance for a Green Economy.

Connecting the Dots: The Onondaga Nation

Jeanne Shenandoah
Onondaga Nation

“All men are born free and equal, in dignity and in rights, and, being endowed by nature with reason and conscience, they should conduct themselves as brothers one to another.”

- From the Preamble to the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, adopted in 1948 by the Ninth International Conference of American States in Bogotá, Colombia; the same meeting adopted the Charter of the Organization of American States and thereby created the Organization of American States.

In “Reasserting Sovereignty: Onondaga Lake” (*Peace Newsletter* #832, March 2014), Joe Heath, the General Counsel for the Onondaga Nation, explained the reasoning behind the Onondaga Nation’s 2005 filing of its Land Rights Action in Federal District Court. In 2013 the case finally reached the US Supreme Court, which refused to hear it, thereby leaving the Onondaga Nation without a remedy for the wrongful taking of their land. In this article, I want to share more about the Nation’s connection to the lands that are its home, particularly Onondaga Lake and Onondaga Creek, to help deepen understanding as the Land Rights Action moves into the international arena.

The Land Rights Action

The Onondaga Nation continues to believe that there needs to be a healing with respect to New York State’s wrongful taking of the Onondaga Nation’s land. In April, 2014, the Nation will bring the Land Rights Action to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, which is part of the Organization of American States. This Commission has demonstrated, through rulings in other cases, a profound respect for the rights of indigenous peoples, demonstrated in part by its reliance on and respect for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Throughout the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, the fundamental rights associated with land are explicitly and implicitly protected. Article 32 speaks directly to the prevention of environmental degradation. It provides that “indigenous people have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories or other resources,” that States shall consult and obtain free and informed full consent from indigenous people through their own governments “prior to any activity affecting their lands or territories, particularly in



The Onondagas were among the first in NYS to be aware of the dangers of hydrofracking. Tadodaho' Sid Hill spoke at an Albany rally in 2011. Photo: NOON Archives

connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.” Significantly, the article concludes: “States shall provide mechanisms for just and fair redress for any such activities, and appropriate measures shall be taken to mitigate adverse environmental, economic, social, cultural or spiritual impact.” It is this just and fair redress that the Onondaga Nation seeks in bringing its Land Rights Action into the international arena.

The Creek and the Lake

It is difficult to put into English words our Nation’s and our people’s deep and fundamental cultural, historical and spiritual connection to Onondaga Creek and Onondaga Lake. Onondaga Creek flows through the center of both our currently recognized territory and our much larger aboriginal territory. We believe that the Creek is a living spirit which has provided life and sustenance to our people for all the centuries that we have lived in what is now called Central New York.

The Creator has given us a great duty to take care of, or be stewards of, Mother Earth and the air, water and all plants and animals. It is the knowledge of our people that all living things have a spirit. It saddens us greatly that the Creek, the Lake, and all the fish, plants and animals that depend on these waters are being harmed and destroyed.

In our culture, we are taught to give thanks daily to the Creator for all forms of plants and animals; we do not consider that humans have superior rights to these other life forms. We are taught that we must all share the gifts of the Creator. One

On Land Rights Action Goes International

of the responsibilities of our leaders is to preserve the natural world for those yet to be born.

Water

Historically, it is important to remember that the Onondaga Nation's aboriginal territory, which we enjoyed up until the invasion of the Europeans about 400 years ago, was an area of land approximately 40 to 50 miles wide that began on the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario in the North, and ran down well into Pennsylvania to the south. Our aboriginal territory was bordered on the east by the territory of the Oneida Nation and on the west by the territory of the Cayuga Nation. Before the Europeans, our people had access to many lakes, rivers, streams and ponds for fishing and gathering. Fish from all of these waters were one of the main sources of our food and sustenance. Additionally, our culture relied heavily on plants and other wildlife from these water sources.

After the illegal activities of New York State in the late 1700s and early 1800s, taking our land in violation of federal law and treaties, our territory was drastically reduced from this large aboriginal area to its currently limited size. During this same period, the majority of our people were either killed or driven out of our territory to try to live elsewhere.

The negative impacts of these land thefts were extreme on the Onondaga people and on our culture. One of these negative impacts was to dramatically reduce our access to water to that limited portion of Onondaga Creek that runs through our cur-

rently recognized territory. Therefore our ability to supply our people with the important food source of fish and other water-based wildlife has been drastically reduced. As a result, our people's health has suffered immeasurably.

Further, the lack of access to water-based plants and other water-related wildlife has had an extremely negative impact on our people and our ability to maintain our traditional culture. One example of this is that several of our clans, such as the turtle clan, the eel clan, and the heron clan, are named after our water-based brethren. Even today, fish, eels, crabs (crayfish) and clear water are still key components to some of our ceremonies. A key activity connected to the need for clean water is a ceremony where participants dance in the Creek and use fish and eels from the Creek as part of the ceremony.

Healing

Because of our traditional mandate to preserve the natural world for our future generations, our Nation and its Chiefs, Faithkeepers and Clan Mothers are dedicated to restoring Onondaga Lake and Onondaga Creek to the pristine condition we enjoyed for centuries before the arrival of the Europeans. We believe that such restoration will provide and promote a healing, not only for our people and our culture, but also for all people who live in this area.

We are very grateful to those who have supported the Onondaga Nation in so many ways over the years. Going forward, it is

"...indigenous people have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories or other resources."

-Article 32 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People

clear that support from our neighbors will be critical to the success of our Land Rights Action. While the international forums in which the Onondaga Nation will seek justice have moral authority, they have limited ability to compel the United States or New York State to redress the harm that the Onondaga Nation has suffered to its lands and waters. We call on you, our neighbors, to support the Nation by calling for clean water, clean soil, clean air, for all of our children and grandchildren.

Note: Portions of this article appeared in slightly different form as Appendix 2 to the Partnership for Onondaga Creek's Title VI Petition to the US Environmental Protection Agency, 2004.

Syracuse Cultural Workers / Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation / Peace Council / Alchemical Nursery
Two Row Wampum Renewal Campaign

Celebrate Earth Day

Weds. April 23, 2014 7pm
ArtRage Gallery
505 Hawley Ave Syracuse, NY

"Braiding Sweetgrass"
Author Robin Wall Kimmerer will speak about her new book and our connection to the Earth
Light refreshments served FREE and open to the public

Photo: Dale Kakkak

Copies of Robin's book are available at the event for signing & purchase. Also at:
Syracuse Cultural Workers STORE 400 Lodi St M-F 9-5pm 315.474.1132



Educate, Agitate, Organize: SPC IN ACTION

compiled by Jessica Azulay

SPC in Action / from Cover

Strategic Framework Describing the Eight Stages of Successful Social Movements. Often referred to as “essential reading” for activists, Moyer analyzes how successful, people-powered movements follow a similar arc of development. Get the readings at peacecouncil.net/readinggroup. Snacks potluck! For more information, contact Ursula.

Frontlines of Fracking

Congratulations to Preble for becoming the first town in Cortland County to pass a ban on hydrofracking. In Cayuga County, residents are pushing the County Legislature to place a moratorium on the use of fracking wastewater as a de-icer on county roads. To learn more and to get involved in Cayuga County efforts to prevent the spread of poisonous fracking waste on our roads, contact Michael Gorr, 685-6545.

Ani DiFranco Ticket Raffle

The Peace Council is raffling off a pair of tickets to Ani DiFranco's April 29 concert

at the Palace Theater. Drop by the office or pick up your raffle ticket at ArtRage Gallery (505 Hawley Ave.), SparkyTown Restaurant (324 Burnet Ave.), or the Syracuse Real Food Co-op (618 Kensington Rd.). Raffle tickets cost \$5 each, or \$10 for three. The winning ticket will be pulled on **April 17**. All proceeds benefit the Peace Council. Many thanks to our friends at Righteous Babe Records for donating the tickets!

ACTS

The Alliance for Communities Transforming Syracuse (ACTS) is a grassroots organizing alliance, working on issues related to public education, food access and justice. ACTS has also convened the Moving People Transportation Coalition to work on issues around the redesign of I-81, currently an elevated highway through downtown Syracuse. ACTS' Annual Dinner will be held on **Tuesday, April 29** at the Drumlins Country Club. Tickets are \$60. To join the SPC contingent at the dinner (or to donate towards helping someone attend), contact Carol.

NOON Upcoming Events

The Good Friends Garden, a 7-year collaboration between NOON and the Onondaga Nation, will host an educational event in late May. People interested in working on the garden, as well as those wanting to learn more about traditional techniques, are welcome to attend. In addition to gardening together, the Good Friends Garden holds a Seed and Plant Giveaway for Nation residents; brings in Haudenosaunee elders and teachers to teach about seed saving and traditional gardening; has helped bring honeybees to the Nation; and gives away vegetables to elders and others. Check our website (www.peacecouncil.net/noon) for details or contact Amelia or Carol.

The Syracuse Cultural Workers,

along with NOON and other groups, will host a book signing with Robin Kimmerer promoting her new book *Braiding Sweetgrass*, **Wednesday, April 23 at 7 pm at ArtRage Gallery**, 505 Hawley Ave. Robin, a SUNY-ESF professor and member of the Potawatomi Nation, brings together her training as a botanist and the indigenous teachings that regard plants and animals as our oldest teachers. Contact Carol or Amelia.

No Solitary! No Mass Incarceration!

United as One is supporting work to oppose excessive use of isolated confinement in state prisons by sending a few people to participate in a lobby day in Albany asking officials to support the HALT Solitary Confinement bill. Because long term isolated confinement is both widespread in NYS and known to be psychologically damaging, the bill would create an alternative unit that would provide greater support to prisoners who might otherwise be subject to extensive solitary sentences. The lobby day will take place on **Monday, May 5** and will coincide with a statewide rally against mass incarceration. Details to come. Contact Amelia.

Work for Peace at Your Day Job

Thank you Frank Cetera, Stephanie Cross, Michael Gorr and Howie Hawkins for pledging to Work for Peace at their day jobs! A grassroots organization like the Peace Council can only thrive with a grassroots base of support. If you're fortunate enough to have gainful employment in today's difficult economy or another source of consistent income, join our "Work for Peace at Your Day Job" campaign. Pledge an hour's wage to the Peace Council each month, and for that hour, wherever you are,

STREET HEAT

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

Tuesdays: 4:15-5 pm

- April 1** Hancock Air Base Entrance (E. Molloy Rd., between Thompson & Townline Rds.)
- April 8** W. Genesee St. and Onondaga Ave.
- April 15** Hancock Air Base Entrance
- April 22** W. Genesee St. and Onondaga Ave.
- April 29** W. Genesee St. and Onondaga Ave.

Saturdays: 9-10 am

Park Street - Across from the Regional Market main entrance.

Contact Ed or Ann, 315-478-4571

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STAFF ORGANIZERS

Carol Baum: carol@peacecouncil.net • Ursula Rozum: ursula@peacecouncil.net
Jessica Azulay: jessica@peacecouncil.net • Amelia R. Lefevre: amelia@peacecouncil.net

you'll be working for an end to oil wars, an end to drone strikes, and for a world where violence and exploitation no longer exist...you'll be working for peace at your day job! Peace Council pledgers are a lifeline for our organization. Visit peacecouncil.net/dayjob to join the campaign today.

GMO Labeling

Foods containing genetically modified organisms (GMOs) have been sold in the United States since 1996. Unlike 64 other countries around the world, the United States does not require labeling of foods containing GMO ingredients. Food justice activists around the country, concerned about potential health risks associated with the consumption of GMOs, are demanding that GMO foods be labeled. In New York State, there are bills in the Assembly and Senate that would require all food sold in New York containing GMOs be labeled as such.

In March, GMO Free CNY activists screened the documentary *Genetic Roulette* about the connections between industrial food companies like Monsanto and the federal government, and the potential risks associated with eating genetically modified foods. The film is available at SPC if you would like to arrange a screening for your group. GMO Free CNY also collected petition signatures in support of the GMO labeling bill at Natur-Tyme, a local business member of the NY GE (genetically engineered) Labeling campaign. Lobbyists for the agribusiness industry representing the likes of Monsanto are prowling the halls of the Albany legislature trying to kill GMO labeling in NY. Please take action in support of GMO labeling by contacting Senators Valesky (315-478-8745) and DeFrancisco (315-428-7632). Ask

them to support the NY GE Labeling bill. GMO Free CNY is convened by the Peace Council. To get involved in local efforts, contact Katie 673-3303. Our next meeting is **Thursday, April 10 at 5:30 pm** at the Peace Council office.

CNY Working for a Just Peace In Palestine and Israel

CNY Working for a Just Peace in Palestine/Israel sent a delegation of four of its members to The National Press Club in Washington DC on March 7 for a first ever Summit to Assess the "Special Relationship" Between the US and Israel. Distinguished speakers included retired military, CIA Intelligence personnel, and elected public figures, as well as respected journalists specializing in the region. The event was recorded and televised on CSPAN and is available to view online. On March 31, CNY Working held our annual event to commemorate Land Day. The event remembers March 30, 1976 when Palestinians were killed protesting inside Israel against the seizure of their land. CNYWJPPI is always seeking new members who share its passion for justice.



Brian Tackett (from right) at the ROTC work-in. Photo: Jessica Azulay.

Activist Appreciation: Brian Tackett

Brian Tackett has been involved with the Peace Council since 2011 when he began helping at outreach tabling and with the Bring the Money Home campaign. Brian lives in the Westcott neighborhood at the Bread and Roses Collective. He's known to lend a hand at local garden work days with the Alchemical Nursery on the grounds of the Syracuse Real Food Coop and the Rahma Edible Forest Garden. In the fall of 2012, Brian was instrumental in organizing SPC activists and SU students for a "work-in" at the ROTC (Reserve Officers' Training Corp) space on the SU campus, in which anti-war students temporarily reclaimed the space for educational purposes, not war. He also knelt in an orange jumpsuit for hours outside a CIA recruitment session on campus to protest the spy-agency's presence on campus. In recent months, we've been grateful to have Brian's help in the office working as a Database Management intern, helping to clean up *Peace Newsletter* subscriptions and update our office systems. Brian is also on the Peace Council Steering Committee. Brian, we appreciate your wit, attention to detail, creativity and reliability.



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