

SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL'S

Peace Newsletter

Central New York Voices for Peace and Social Justice

July-August 2014 #836



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SPC INFO

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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
- New Yorkers Against Fracking:** statewide coalition opposing hydrofracking
- GMO Free CNY:** works against genetically modified organisms in food
- Move to Amend:** works against corporate control of the democratic system

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Peace Newsletter

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Article submission criteria: Contact pnl@peacecouncil.net or 472-5478.
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Calendar: Submit items for the September PNL calendar by August 25.



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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 Carol Baum

Let's Solarize Syracuse

The Peace Council has joined with Alliance for a Green Economy and several other local organizations in a grassroots community solar initiative called Solarize Syracuse. The project is a way for us to work together to build solutions to the problems of climate change, wars for oil, fossil fuel and nuclear dependency, and volatile energy prices. Solarize Syracuse will make putting solar panels on our homes and businesses easier and more affordable through a series of community workshops and a bulk buying program.

Join us at one of our workshops in July, August and September to learn about how solar works and how you can save money putting solar on your home. Residents and businesses in the City of Syracuse and the Towns of DeWitt, Manlius and Onondaga are eligible for the program. Contact Jessica or visit www.solarizesyracuse.org for more details.

Still Resisting Nuclear Weapons 69 Years Later

SPC and Peace Action of CNY are gearing up for the annual Hiroshima Day Dramatic Procession. Each year we gather to solemnly commemorate the tragic nuclear bombings of the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945, and to look hopefully toward a future with no threat of nuclear disaster, whether from weapons or power plants.

This year's procession steps off at noon from the City Hall Commons on **Wednesday, August 6**. Participants are asked to **arrive at 11:30** to find your place in the procession. A short gathering at the MOST Museum (the Procession's end point) will follow. To help with promoting the event or developing new props, contact Amelia.

Additionally, Peace Action will host a



On June 3, Alliance for a Green Economy and members of the Peace Council delivered more than 8,000 postcards to New York State Legislators asking them to put state resources behind a transition to a carbon-free, nuclear-free energy system in New York. Photo: Eduardo Sanin

follow up event, the Peace Potluck at the Park, on **Sunday August 17 from 3-7 pm** at the Thornden Park Lily Pond. Contact Diane at 479-5658 for more information.

Don't Build on the Wastebeds

This summer, Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation is mobilizing public opinion to say "not good enough" to Honeywell's clean-up of Onondaga Lake. In particular we are concerned that the lake bottom clean-up plans will leave 80% of the mercury and other hazardous contaminants in the lake.

Right now we are focusing on the proposed amphitheater on the west shore of the lake. If approved, the amphitheater will be built on top of hazardous wastebeds up to 80 feet deep, which have had minimal clean-up. Aside from grave concerns about human and environmental health, citizens are objecting to the plans for financial and other reasons. Visit peacecouncil.net/

noon/amphitheater for more information. Please consider submitting comments on the Environmental Impact Statement and attending the public meeting about the project on **July 23** (see page 9). This is part of advocating for a real clean-up of the Lake.

Voices We Need to Hear

On **Tuesday, August 12**, Central New York Working for a Just Peace in Palestine and Israel will screen *Voices Across the Divide*, a powerful documentary and oral history project exploring the Israeli/Palestinian conflict through rarely heard personal stories. The film was produced and narrated by Alice Rothchild, an American Jew raised on the tragedies of the Holocaust and the dream of a Jewish homeland in Israel. Through interviews with Palestinians living in the US, she helps the viewer to understand the Palestinian experience of loss, occupation, statelessness, and immigration to the US. The free showing is at **7 pm** at ArtRage Gallery, 505 Hawley Ave.

The next meeting of the committee is **Thursday, August 14, 1:30-3 pm** at SPC. Contact Carole at 315-471-6431.

continued on next page

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SYRACUSE www.peacecouncil.net • OFFICE HOURS: M-Th, 11-5 pm

PEACE COUNCIL

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Carol Baum: carol@peacecouncil.net • Jessica Azulay: jessica@peacecouncil.net

Amelia Lefevre: amelia@peacecouncil.net • Michael Messina-Yauchzy: michael@peacecouncil.net

Win a Great Bike!

It's time again for SPC's Bike Raffle fundraiser. This year's bike is a Bianchi Cortina hybrid, valued at \$450 from Mello Velo Bike Shop (550 Westcott St.). Tickets are \$2 for 1, \$5 for 3 and \$10 for 7, and are available at SPC, Mello Velo, Syracuse Real Food Co-op and from SPC volunteers. The drawing is September 21 at the Westcott Street Fair. To help with selling raffle tickets, contact Michael.

Michael Filling in for Ursula on Leave

Ursula Rozum, energetic SPC staff organizer for several years, has taken a leave of absence through the fall to manage Howie Hawkins' Green Party campaign for New York governor. Filling in for Ursula will be longtime community activist Michael Messina-Yauchzy.

Michael first came to Syracuse in 1981 to study cooperatives and economic democracy and was a founder of the Cooperative Federal Credit Union and a former food co-op on the south side. As his interests broadened, Michael organized in the worker health and safety movement, worked with organizations to end violence against women, completed a doctoral thesis on students organizing against rape

on campus, and conducted research on college admission of former prisoners. He was affiliated with SU's Program for the Analysis and Resolution of Conflict and has taught sociology for many years. Most recently, Michael has been a lead organizer locally of the Move to Amend campaign, which organizes for a constitutional amendment to establish that a corporation is not entitled to the rights of persons. He is also a member of the DREAM Freedom Revival "social justice musical theatre" troupe, the Syracuse Community Choir and Syracuse Friends Meeting (Quakers). Michael lives in Syracuse with his partner, Carolyn, and daughter, Sierra.



One of the quilts from the Drones Quilt Project, which commemorates lives taken by drone warfare, was loaned to SPC for display. We've displayed it at college campuses, at the Cornell West talk in April, the Syracuse Community Choir Concert in June, and will soon display it at an event in the Petit Branch Library in Syracuse. Contact Brianna to host a display. Photo: Ursula Rozum

Downtown Outreach: No New War in Iraq and More

SPC was in the streets in June responding to preparations for the US to militarily intervene in Iraq after the Islamic State (formerly known as ISIS) captured much of the northern and western regions of the country. The US and other western military powers have played a significant role in deepening sectarian divisions in the region during the past decade and before. We do not believe further military intervention can bring desperately needed peace and stability to the people of Iraq.

SPC recently hosted a "No US Military Intervention in Iraq" phone booth in downtown Syracuse, prompting dozens of passersby to call their representatives and tell them not to support military mobilization. Additionally we handed out hundreds of leaflets and interviewed with local reporters.

These efforts were part of our weekly outreach at the Downtown Farmers Market. We are tabling on different issues each week on Tuesdays throughout the summer. To learn more, contact Brianna at brianna@peacecouncil.net.

Summer Hours at SPC Office

The summer is our time to be educating, agitating and organizing outside in the

streets and on the sidewalks, as well as a time for staff vacations. So, our July and August in-office hours will be Monday–Thursday from 11–5 pm. Someone is often in the office later than 5 pm (as I type this it's 7:30), so if you'd like to drop in after 5, feel free, but call first (472-5478).

NOON Booklet Is Available

The (very) long-awaited 2014 version of the NOON booklet is out! Titled *Neighbor to Neighbor, Nation to Nation: Readings About the Relationship of the Onondaga Nation with Central New York, USA*, it is the result of a labor of love by members of Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation and the Onondaga Nation. A substantial 79 pages, there are sections on Haudenosaunee culture, Haudenosaunee/US history, the environment and more.

If you are interested in receiving a copy, please stop by the SPC office or give us a call. The booklet is an excellent resource for high school and college classes, and we are eager to have it used as an educational tool. We are happy to offer the booklet as a gift, but we accept contributions (\$5 suggested donation, more if you can, less if you can't). If larger orders are needed for groups, we are happy to talk with you regarding cost.

Thanks to the Syracuse Cultural

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

- July 22 Adams & Almond Sts.
- July 29 Adams & Almond Sts.
- Aug 5 Hancock Air Base Entrance (E. Molloy Rd., between Thompson & Townline Rds.)
- Aug 12 Mattydale/Northern Lights
- Aug 19 Hancock Air Base Entrance
- Aug 26 Mattydale/Northern Lights
- Sept 2 Hancock Air Base Entrance

Saturdays: 9-10 am

Park Street - Across from the Regional Market main entrance.

Contact Ed or Ann, 315-478-4571

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Who Won Iraq?

Tom Engelhardt

The following is excerpted from the original article, published on July 3 on the Al-Ahram Weekly website. Please find the link to the full article at visit www.peacecouncil.net/pnl.

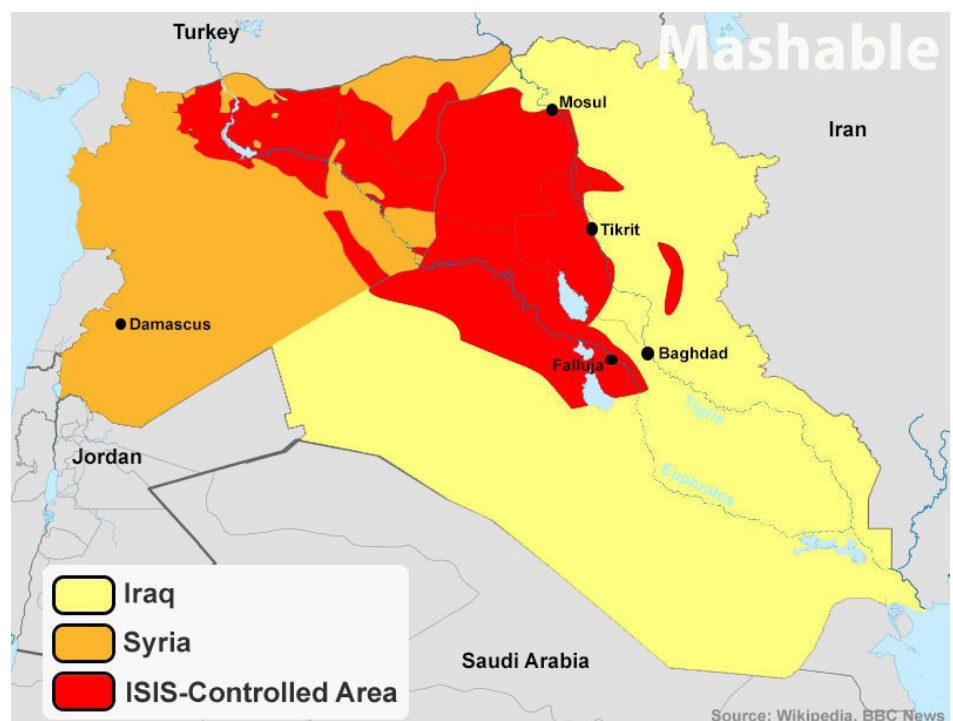
As Iraq was unravelling last week and the possible outlines of the first jihadist state in modern history [the Islamic State, formerly known as ISIS] were coming into view, I remembered this nugget from the summer of 2002. At the time, journalist Ron Suskind had a meeting with “a senior advisor” to President George W. Bush (later identified as Karl Rove). Here’s how he described part of their conversation: “The aide said that guys like me were ‘in what we call the reality-based community’, which he defined as people who ‘believe that solutions emerge from your judicious study of discernible reality’. I nodded and murmured something about enlightenment principles and empiricism. He cut me off. ‘That’s not the way the world really works anymore,’ he continued. ‘We’re an empire now, and when we act, we create our own reality. And while you’re studying that reality — judiciously, as you will — we’ll act again, creating other new realities, which you can study too, and that’s how things will sort out. We’re history’s actors... and you, all of you, will be left to just study what we do.’”

As events unfold increasingly chaotically across the region that officials of the Bush years liked to call the “Greater Middle East,” consider the eerie accuracy of that statement. The president, his Vice President Dick Cheney, his Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, and his National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice, among others, were indeed “history’s actors.” They did create “new realities” and, just as Rove suggested, the rest of us are now left to “study” what they did. And oh, what they did! Their geopolitical dreams couldn’t have been grander or more global. ... They expected to pacify the Greater Middle East, garrison Iraq for generations, make Syria and Iran bow down before American power, “drain” the global “swamp” of terrorists, and create a global Pax Americana based on a military so dominant that no other country or bloc of countries would ever challenge it.

It was quite a dream and none of it, not one smidgen, came true. Just as Rove suggested they would—just as in the summer of 2002, he already knew they would—they acted to create a

world in their image, a world they imagined controlling like no imperial power in history.

...
In short, this was one for the history books. And not a thing—nothing—worked out as planned. You could almost say that whatever it was they dreamed, the opposite invariably occurred. For those of us in the “reality-based community,” for instance, it’s long been apparent that their war and occupation would cost the US, literally and figuratively, an arm and a leg (and that the



Source: Wikipedia/BBC News

costs to Iraqis would prove beyond calculating). More than \$2 trillion later—without figuring in astronomical post-war costs still to come—Iraq is a catastrophe.

...
The arrogance of those occupation years should still take anyone’s breath away. Bush and his top officials remade reality on an almost unimaginable scale and, as we study the region today, the results bear no relation to the world they imagined creating. None whatsoever. On the other hand, there were two dreams they had that, after a fashion, did come into existence.

Many Americans still remember the Bush administration’s bogus pre-invasion claims—complete with visions of mushroom clouds rising over American cities—that Saddam Hussein had

Tom is co-founder of the American Empire Project and author of *The United States of Fear* as well as *A History of the Cold War*.

continued on next page

Iraq / from previous page

a thriving nuclear program in Iraq. But who remembers that, as part of the justification for the invasion it had decided would be its destiny, the administration also claimed a “mature and symbiotic” relationship between Saddam Hussein’s Iraq and Al-Qaeda? In other words, the invasion was to be justified in some fashion as a response to the attacks of 9/11 (which Saddam Hussein had nothing to do with). Who remembers that, the year after US troops took Baghdad, evidence of the nuclear program having gone down the toilet, vice president Cheney, backed by Bush, doubled down on the Al-Qaeda claim?

“There clearly was a relationship. It’s been testified to,” said the vice president on CNBC in June 2004. “The evidence is overwhelming. It goes back to the early 90s. It involves a whole series of contacts, high-level contacts with Osama Bin Laden and Iraqi intelligence officials.” Based on cherry-picked intelligence, such claims proved fraudulent too, or as David Kay, the man assigned by the administration to hunt down that missing weaponry of mass destruction and those Al-Qaeda links, put it politely, “evidence free.”

Be careful, as they say, what you wish for. More than a decade after its invasion and occupation, after Cheney made those fervent claims, no administration would have the slightest problem linking Al-Qaeda to Iraq (or Syria, Yemen or a number of other countries).

In the period before and after the invasion of Iraq, top Bush officials and their neocon supporters spoke with relish about taming an area stretching from Northern Africa through the Middle East and deep into Central Asia that they termed an “arc of instability.” In a February 2006 address to the American Legion focused on his “global war on terror,” for instance, President Bush typically said: “Slowly but surely, we’re helping to transform the broader Middle East from an arc of instability into an arc of freedom. And as freedom reaches more people in this vital region, we’ll have new allies in the war on terror, and new partners in the cause of moderation in the Muslim world and in the cause of peace.”

By then that “arc,” which in the period before 9/11 had been reasonably stable, was already aflame. Today, it is ablaze.

In the wake of Mosul’s fall [in June 2014], ISIS advanced even more rapidly than the American army heading for Baghdad in the spring of 2003. In some Sunni-dominated cities and towns, the takeovers were remarkably bloodless. In Baiji, with a power plant that supplies electricity to Baghdad and Iraq’s largest oil refinery (now under attack), the insurgents reportedly called the police and asked them to leave town—and they complied. In Kirkuk, a city in northern Iraq that the Kurds have long claimed as the natural capital for an independent Kurdistan, Iraqi troops quietly abandoned their weaponry and uniforms and left town, while armed Kurdish forces moved in, undoubtedly permanently.

All in all, it’s been a debacle the likes of which we’ve seen only twice in our history—in China, when in 1949 Chiang Kai-shek’s largely American armed and trained military disintegrated before the insurgent forces of communist leader Mao Zedong

and a quarter-century later, when a purely American military creation, the South Vietnamese army, collapsed in the face of an offensive by North Vietnamese troops and local rebel forces. In each case, the resulting defeat was psychologically unnerving in the United States and led to bitter, exceedingly strange, and long-lasting debates about who “lost” China and who “lost” Vietnam.

In a country visibly sick of our wars of this century in which even many elite figures find further intervention in Iraq distasteful, “Who lost Iraq?” may never gain the sort of traction the other two “lost” debates did.

“We” may not have “lost” Iraq, but can there be any question that Washington lost in Iraq? American goals in the region went down in flames in a fashion so spectacular, so ignominious, that today nothing is left of them. To the question, “Who won Iraq?” there may be no answer at all, or perhaps just the grim response: no one. In the end, Iraqis will surely be the losers, big time, as Syrians are just across the now non-existent border between what until recently were two countries.

As for the future Washington has to offer, the Obama administration is, it seems, considering responding to the crisis in Iraq in the only way it knows how: with bombs, cruise missiles and drones.

The question that remains is: Will they or won’t they send American air power back into Iraq? Will they or won’t they, that is, let loose the guns of folly and so quite predictably destabilize a terrible situation further?



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SPC and Student Activism: Two Cases from the Sixties

Jason Luther

The concept of town and gown—the notion that universities are sequestered physically and figuratively from the cities and towns in which they are located—has a long and ongoing history. Yet the historical record reveals a more complicated story, where students and community partners, especially the Syracuse Peace Council, have worked together in their mutual quest for peace and social justice. The following represents a brief selection of such moments from the Sixties, though there are many other moments that occur long before them and as recent as this year. In crafting these snapshots, I draw primarily from a series of comprehensive books by John Robert Greene called *Syracuse University* (particularly chapter 14 from *Volume IV* and chapter 3 from *Volume V*), as well as the digitized and publicly available *PNL* archives which go back as far as SPC's beginning in 1936.

The Civil Rights Movement in Syracuse

Soon after the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) organized historic sit-ins in North Carolina in 1960 and Freedom Rides throughout the South in the spring of 1961, four SU grad students and one professor, George Wiley (one of two black faculty members), organized a chapter in Syracuse. Although CORE fought desegregation in the city schools and picketed for better jobs for blacks at the Hotel Syracuse, its most dramatic challenges arrived in the fall of 1963 as the city began plans to demolish the Fifteenth Ward to make room for public housing and I-81. At the time,

Jason is a PhD student at Syracuse University. Last semester, his writing students worked on an archival research project about SU activist histories.



The Daily Orange, SU's student newspaper, featured a special cover on May 7, 1970 in support of student strikes. Source: DO archive

the Fifteenth Ward was home to 90% of the black population of Syracuse, and the razing of existing houses would displace thousands of residents. As bulldozers moved in, CORE members locked themselves to construction equipment, climbed the rooftops of buildings, and picketed the main site on Harrison Street. Mayor Bill Walsh had fourteen of them arrested, sparking several tense discussions at SU and provoking public shame from Chancellor William Tolley.

During this time, most of the Peace Council's attention was on the Cold War and the nuclear arms race. Even though the *PNL* ran a statement in October 1963 on race relations in Syracuse that echoed and supported CORE's emphasis on racial equality in the areas of education, employment, and housing, there was an implied separation between the primary aims of SPC and those of CORE, epitomized in the final sentence of the statement: "As for civil disobedience, we do not take a position for or against it; but we fully support those who, in a spirit of creative non-violence, feel morally compelled to make this form of witness."

But as time went on, CORE increasingly inspired SPC. One year later, in the fall of 1964, SPC sponsored a daylong symposium that asked a number of important questions,

including: "Can the peace movement and the civil rights movement become united in a common enterprise?" CORE chairman Bruce Thomas, who replaced Wiley, spoke about his activism in Mississippi the previous summer and SPC sponsored a workshop on nonviolent tactics where participants were guided through a "series of carefully planned role-playing sociodramas" designed to help activists potentially confront tense or hostile situations. Perhaps a sign of things to come, the *PNL* suggested that "[tr]aining in nonviolent methods is helpful in preparing people to take part in nonviolent direct action projects."

The Viet Nam War

The largest public demonstration ever recorded in Onondaga County occurred on October 15, 1969, when 10,000 Syracuse protesters joined other cities across the US for The Moratorium To End the War in Viet Nam. The October 1969 edition of the *PNL* listed additional activities from area schools, including SU, OCC, Le Moyne, and area high schools such as JD and Nottingham. On SU's campus, Student Government President David Ifshin played a critical

continued on page 14

Hancock Air Base and Orders of Protection

Carol Baum

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the above defendant, [name] observe the following conditions of behavior:

Stay away from Earl A. Evans; the home of Earl A. Evans; the school of Earl A. Evans; the business of Earl A. Evans; the place of employment of Earl A. Evans; Refrain from communication or any other contact by mail, telephone, e-mail, voice-mail, or other electronic or any other means with Earl A. Evans;

Refrain from assault, stalking, harassment, aggravated harassment, menacing, reckless endangerment, strangulation, criminal obstruction of breathing or circulation, disorderly conduct, criminal mischief, sexual abuse, sexual misconduct, forcible touching, intimidation, threats or any criminal offense or interference with the victim... .

These words are from the order of protection issued by Town of DeWitt Justices to all nonviolent civil resisters arrested at Hancock Air Base since October, 2012. Beginning in May, 2014, new language was added to allow those with orders to participate in legally permitted activities at the base. About 50 activists are currently subject to orders of protection. Col. Evans is Hancock's mission support group commander.

MQ-9 Reaper drones (weaponized, unmanned aerial vehicles) came to Hancock Air National Guard Base near Syracuse in late 2009. The base quickly became a hub of Reaper activity, piloting Reapers flying over Afghanistan and training drone pilots, sensor operators and maintenance technicians. Protests at Hancock began almost immediately. April, 2011 saw the first mass nonviolent civil resistance action, resulting in 38 arrests.

The First OOPs

In 2012, the number of smaller actions stepped up and in October, the Hancock 17 were issued temporary orders of protection (OOPs). While being arraigned, the non-violent activists were each read the order to protect Col. Evans and were stunned. No one knew him, what he looked like, or where he lived, and certainly no one had ever stalked or threatened him.

Carol is active with SPC's Ground the Drones Committee and Upstate Drone Action. She is grateful to the many who helped with this article. To learn more about the orders, upcoming trial dates and other events, see upstatedroneaction.org.



Mary Anne Grady Flores speaking at a Hancock 17 Drone Resisters pre-trial press conference, February 2014. Photo: SPC archives

It was clear that the goal was to keep them away from Evans' "place of business," aka Hancock Air Base. In a perversion of justice, the commander of the base, inside miles of fencing defended by armed guards, obtained an order of protection against nonviolent activists, while families in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Somalia, Yemen and elsewhere remain unprotected against US drone strikes.

Since then, everyone arrested at Hancock actions has received a temporary order of protection—temporary in that it is in effect until trial. Since a few trials have been scheduled two years after an action, those temporary orders will have been in effect for two years. Then, if the resister is found guilty, he/she may receive an OOP for another two years.

Challenging the OOP

It is critical to challenge this use of OOPs to suppress dissent, with the threat

of one year in prison if the order is violated. There is grave concern that this technique may spread. For example, an Ithaca area anti-fracking activist was issued an OOP to stay away from Inergy's local manager (someone he's never met) and his place of business (a proposed gas storage facility).

A March 2014 ruling by Acting Justice of the Supreme Court Brunetti vacated the OOP of Hancock drone resister Dan Finlay. While the District Attorney's office appeals the ruling, OOPs continue to be reissued, including to Dan.

Meanwhile, Ithacan Mary Ann Grady Flores was recently found guilty of violating her OOP. She was sentenced to 12 months in prison for unintentionally violating it while photographing an action at the base, whose participants, ironically, were all acquitted. She is appealing her case.

People's Order of Protection

As important as it is to challenge the use of OOPs to suppress dissent, we cannot forget the reason for protesting at the base. Upstate Drone Action's recent march called "Peoples' Orders of Protection Against Drone Terror" focused on who really needs an OOP. Raz Mohammad sent this plea from Afghanistan:

On Friday the 30th of May, 2008, my brother-in-law was killed by a drone along with four of his friends. My brother-in-law was a student and he was innocent. Accountability from the US Military for this incident was non-existent.

The incident created a situation which was beyond imagination. It affected the minds of my sister and all members of my family. When my nephew was five years old, he asked his mother "Where is father?" My sister replied "He was killed by a computer." These negative effects persist on all of us to this day.

I am worried for my family and for the people of Maidan Shahr. I request that the United States courts protect my family and my village.

If the courts won't do it, all of us working together will. ☸

Proposed Lakeside Amphitheater Seeks to Bury the Waste

Andy Mager and Jack Ramsden

“Not good enough” is our response to the overall “clean-up” plan for Onondaga Lake. The current proposal to construct an amphitheater atop the massive wastebeds (up to 80 feet deep) on the lake’s west shore is simply the latest step in the ongoing efforts to mask the depth of the toxic problems facing the lake and our communities. It builds on the narrative—heavily funded and loudly trumpeted by Honeywell’s well-oiled public relations apparatus—that “the lake clean-up is nearly complete.”

Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation has long called for a more thorough and holistic remedy for Onondaga Lake. We do so as concerned citizens who value the lake for its ecological importance and benefits to people, as well as part of our work as good neighbors to the Onondaga Nation. The Onondaga have consistently challenged the plans put forth and adopted by Honeywell, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

We join others in the community in celebrating the accomplishments made thus far at Onondaga Lake. Sewage plant upgrades have been effective, agricultural runoff has been reduced and sewage overflows are being addressed through green and grey infrastructure improvements. However, much work remains to restore the lake to its ancient beauty and health. We are particularly concerned that the lake bottom clean-up plans will leave in place about 80% of the sediments contaminated with highly toxic mercury, benzene, PCBs, dioxin and other hazardous wastes.

Clean Up, Not Cover Up

The proposed amphitheater and associated public review process offer an opportunity to press for a more thoughtful restoration of the west shore of the lake and to challenge

the larger narrative. The County’s design includes an amphitheater with covered and lawn seats (capacity 17,500 people), a festival area, a smaller outdoor community theater and a “nature” area and recreational trails. There is already growing concern about the environmental, economic and social aspects of this proposed project.

In April, Tadodaho Sid Hill asked the *Post-Standard*, “How are you going to clean it up if you keep covering it up?” The plans call for building the amphitheater on top of Wastebeds 1-8, which include the old Crucible landfill. In comments on the County’s Draft Scoping document, attorney Joe Heath requested on behalf of Onondaga Nation “that Wastebeds 1 through 8 be completely removed by the responsible parties, and this large shoreline area be fully restored to a more natural state, including the construction of many acres of wetlands. If such removal and restoration were accomplished, then this area could be made into safe and usable park land.”

Other Concerns

The impetus for the amphitheater proposal came in part from a desire to access state funds for a large infrastructure project (after the suggested “new Dome” idea collapsed). There is a great rush to move this ahead, including the passage of state legislation to allow for an expedited “design/build” process. We need to slow the process down so the issues can be fully considered.

The project relies on a Superfund

What You Can Do

Help turn the significant public skepticism about this project into a force capable of preventing it from moving forward, and do so in a way that reopens up the fundamental question of a full clean-up and restoration of Onondaga Lake.

- Learn more about the issue and share information with family, friends and neighbors. Full details at www.peacecouncil.net/noon/amphitheater.
- Submit comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (**July 9-August 11**) and attend the public hearing on **July 23 at 11 am** in the Legislative Chambers of the County Courthouse, 401 Montgomery St, Syracuse.



“clean-up” plan for the wastebeds that has yet to be designed to protect the public (especially young children) from dangerous exposure to site contaminants, including undocumented industrial wastes. EPA says that construction workers developing the site should wear protective clothing and equipment because of health risks from exposure to contaminants.

Construction and operation of this facility are expected to create extreme noise levels, violating DEC and local standards in some areas. Heavy traffic, vibrations, and light pollution may also negatively impact wildlife and the nearby communities of Solvay and Lakeland. The economic viability of this project is questionable, given expected competition from other regional venues and the lack of a concrete business plan. The County assumes, rather than demonstrates, that there will be economic benefits for nearby communities. ♻️

Andy and Jack are members of the NOON Steering Committee.

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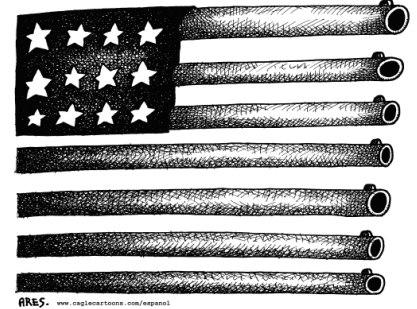
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Veterans: What the 4th of July Means to Me

The Peace Newsletter editorial committee thanks these members of a local veterans' writing group for sharing their thoughts with us this July 4.



Jennifer Jeffrey, US Coast Guard

I think about the people that we call revolutionaries. Most of them were undisciplined, everyday people who banded together to fight against injustice. They also wanted the right to create their lives in the new world and to keep some of the products of their labors for themselves and their families. We call the 4th of July "Independence Day" and it was surely about that, but just as much it was about interdependence and what we can all accomplish if we stick together. Certainly this is not the whole story of the revolutionary war and the formation of our country, but the ideals that they struggled for are great ones. It is important to be vigilant so those principles do not get corrupted. They are what I strive to live my life in service of.

Bill Cross, US Army, Vietnam veteran

Four Memories: Fourth of July.

Three wounded revolutionary War vets. Drumming. Carrying a flag, playing a fife. Like the fife I played in a boy scouts drum & bugle corps.

Second, July 4, 1958, getting to eat all that I wanted at the cadet mess during beast barracks.

Number three, hearing well-meaning pols extol the sacrifice of service, leaving me nearly flat.

Number four, a friend of mine being murdered in Cazenovia, July 4, at the July 4 celebration. My romance with July 4 stopped there.

Doug Van Delia, US Army

The Fourth of July reminds me of the movie, *Born on the Fourth of July*, and story of Ron Kovic and the hypocrisy, really, of the parades, the flag-waving. And then him going off to war, being a paraplegic, his return, lack of support, and becoming an ex-patriot.

Ralph Willsey, US Army, Iraq veteran

Fireworks aren't fun anymore. A jarring system shock if I don't know they're coming. Not nearly as much fun to watch as they are to set off yourself.



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I Am Not an Aspiring Citizen

Aly Wane

As I write this, another Fourth of July is approaching, and I have been struggling with how I feel about the concept of citizenship. One of the strategies being adopted by the immigration reform movement is to rebrand undocumented immigrants as “aspiring Americans” and “aspiring citizens.” I certainly understand why this makes sense within the confines of DC politicking. For a long time, undocumented people have been portrayed as dangerous “illegals” whose criminality is inherent in their beings. It has taken a lot of work and effort from activists, many of them undocumented themselves, to organize, share their stories, and reject the old narrative.

However, as an undocumented person myself, I am uncomfortable with the term “aspiring citizen.” I want to be clear that I do continue to seek citizenship because I have been in this country most of my life, and because I identify with US culture more than any other country’s. However, I seek citizenship for practical reasons, such as the right to work and vote in a community that I have called home most of my life.

Being undocumented for so many years has taught me about the dehumanization that comes with nationalism. As I write this, there is a humanitarian crisis happening at the border. Recently, there has been an increase in unaccompanied minors trying to reach the US. They are mostly refugees from Central American countries like Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras (all countries negatively impacted by US foreign policy). The detention facilities at the border are operating at capacity so some of these children are being re-routed to other facilities around the country.

On July 1, three buses containing approximately 140 migrant children were met with angry protesters in Murietta, CA who didn’t want these kids to be placed in



Home. Source: humanityhallows.co.uk

a local processing facility. Many protesters draped themselves in US flags and chanted, “USA! USA!” while screaming about getting the “illegals” out of their community. The curious thing about this protest is that these protesters have already won the political battle. The President, shamefully, in my opinion, has asked for the authority to fast-track the deportation of these kids. There was no clear political goal. It was simply an Orwellian “Hate Hour,” a nationalistic venting of hatred for its own sake. These protesters have simply decided that these poor traumatized children were less than human because they weren’t citizens and therefore not deserving of love or compassion.

I believe that nationalism is also the dehumanizing force that is at the heart of our foreign policy. Take the War in Iraq, for example. Our foreign policy leaders do not see Iraqis as full human beings. The

US lost approximately 4,500 soldiers in that war, but the number of Iraqi casualties according to the Center for International Studies is one million. In addition, there were 4.5 million Iraqis who were displaced. Yet, when we “left” the country, the rationale coming from both parties was that it was time for the Iraqis to “stand up” and “take responsibility” for their country, as if they hadn’t sacrificed enough and should have been grateful for the invasion. The condescension in that rationale is remarkable. The assumption here is obviously that a US life is more precious than an Iraqi life, and part of that prejudice is due to a toxic nationalism.

I am also uncomfortable with the term “aspiring citizen” because I have consciously started to call myself a global citizen, fundamentally rejecting the idea that I am “alien” in any way. I believe that many other undocumented migrants are having a similar change in consciousness. Our sense of allegiance is to the globe, not one country over another. As

migrants we assert the right to live, love and work where we want to, in the same way that multinational corporations can cross borders freely. If capital has the right of movement, then surely labor does. Frankly, in an age when we are facing deep environmental catastrophes, a sense of global solidarity will be necessary for our species to survive. Climate change and the nuclear threat are but two crises that require a sense of belonging to the planet, not to just one country.

The immigration debate is one that is filled with tension, bigotry, and xenophobia, but it is also a debate filled with hope. Hope for recognition of a greater interconnectedness. July 4 is a day to celebrate this country’s independence, but my sense is that the US will only achieve greatness if it realizes that it is but one nation in the global community, and that interdependence is just as valuable a quality. ♻️

Aly is an undocumented activist and a member of the SPC Steering Committee.

The Death Penalty is Cruel and Unusual Punishment

Amelia Lefevre

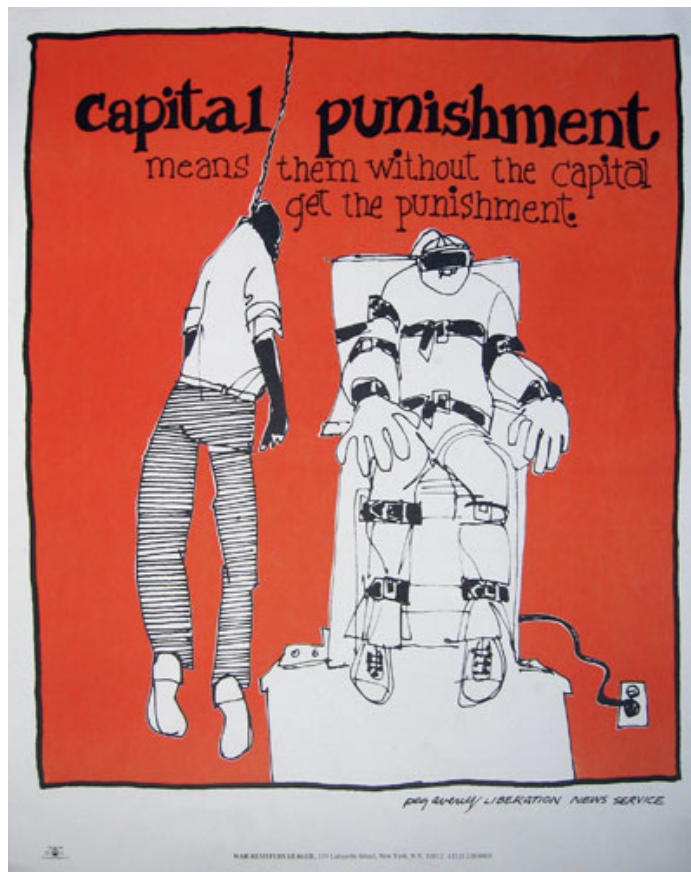
The cruelty of capital punishment is being played out grotesquely in the current crisis around lethal injection. Many states' favored method of prisoner execution became imperiled when production of a key execution drug, sodium thiopental, came to a halt in 2011. Since then prisons have gone to great lengths to continue the executions, including experimenting with the three-drug cocktail. These exercises have led to numerous horror stories.

Humane Execution?

In recent US history, acceptable forms of execution have included, more or less chronologically: hanging, firing squad, electric chair, gas, and the currently acceptable method, lethal injection (see www.peacecouncil.net/pnl for a chart showing the date and method of every execution in the US). Each was successively considered too cruel, "inhumane," and therefore unconstitutional. The constitutionality of the method of lethal injection for execution of prisoners (established by *Baze v. Rees* in 2008, though the practice has been in use since 1982) rests on the Eighth Amendment, the famed exhortation against "cruel and unusual" punishment.

The concern about the "humanity" of the method of capital punishment (if you can call any form of execution humane) brought us the three-drug lethal injection cocktail that all 32 death penalty states have on the books today. Dr. Jay Chapman was the medical examiner for an Oklahoma prison in the 1970s when he publicly expressed opposition to the use of the electric chair to execute prisoners. Chapman did not oppose the death penalty itself, but was reportedly disgusted by the accepted method of execution saying, "we kill animals more humanely." He was

Amelia is a staff organizer at the Peace Council.



Historical poster by Peg Averill. Source: fogcityjournal.com

challenged to suggest a better method and within just a few short weeks he invented the now ubiquitous three-drug protocol.

His design included: 1) sodium thiopental, an anesthetic to make the prisoner unconscious and unable to feel pain, 2) pancuronium bromide, a paralytic, whose sole function appears to be to prevent any spasms that could result from the final drug and be uncomfortable for onlookers to see, and 3) potassium chloride, which stops the heart and kills the inmate. It's interesting that only one of the three drugs actually serves the function of killing the prisoner: the others attempt to allay any moral concerns the executioners and those complicit may have about taking another human's life.

New Drug Cocktails

But the current challenges to lethal injection

aren't coming from questions about whether it is a humane method of execution. In 2010, a North Carolina drug manufacturing plant owned by Hospira, the only plant in the US that produced sodium thiopental, came under investigation by the FDA for serious safety breaches. After more citations the same year, the FDA forced the plant to shut down. The company shifted operations away from North Carolina with plans to move the production of sodium thiopental to one of its locations in Italy. Italy, a country which is staunchly anti-death penalty, refused to grant the necessary permits to produce sodium thiopental, saying it could not guarantee the drug would not be used for capital punishment. Sodium thiopental officially went off the market in January 2011.

Prisons around the country responded in various ways. The most disturbing have been when states have

decided to take the science into their own hands and experiment with other drugs that they think might work just as well as sodium thiopental. The first of these was pentobarbital, which was also quickly taken off the market (July 2011) because the company producing it did not support its use in executions and could not guarantee it would not be diverted for lethal use. Next was propofol in 2012 and then phenobarbital in 2013. The manufacturers of both placed restrictions on distribution of the drugs in order to prevent their use for lethal injections.

It is extremely important to note that pentobarbital, as well as other drugs that later replaced it, is not an anesthetic like sodium thiopental but a sedative. A sedative can make someone unconscious if administered in very heavy doses, but that is not its intended function as in the case of an anesthetic. (In 2014 Indiana announced

Letter to the Editor

June 6, 2014

Peace Newsletter
Editorial Committee
Attn: Amelia Lefevre
CC: Ann Tiffany &
Carole Resnick



Friends,

Back in the early '80s I spent several weeks witnessing apartheid in South Africa and several more weeks in apartheid Namibia. Namibia, a former German colony, was then militarily occupied by South Africa. When I returned home I joined Syracuse's anti-apartheid movement. I also began studying the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

The startling similarity and intimacy between those two colonial settler states led to my March 1987 *Peace Newsletter* article, "Israel & South Africa: The Apartheid Axis." The next two *PNLs* printed a rebuttal and angry letters from SPC supporters in which my article was called "anti-Semitic."

In the wake of the 2008 Israeli invasion of Gaza I resumed my study of what had become the ethnic cleansing of Palestine. I then spent a month in Israel and the West Bank, part of that time on a Christian Peacemaker Teams delegation (and several days on a kibbutz). The facts on the ground readily reinforced my perception that Israel, like South Africa in the 80s, was a white supremacist state.

I mention this background as a prelude to sharing my dismay about some unfortunate wording in an otherwise worthy and well-intended article in the June 2014 *Peace Newsletter*, "BDS: An International Response to a Palestinian Request" by Ann Tiffany and Carole Resnick.

In the third paragraph U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry is described as speaking "the truth" when, behind closed doors, he asserted that Israel risks becoming an "apartheid state." No, Israel doesn't risk becoming. For over six decades (since the 1948 Deir Yassin massacre), Israel has enforced apartheid—with dire consequences

for the Palestinian people...and for the Israeli soul.

Kerry further asserts that "...apartheid [is] a word best left out of the debate here at home." The article, having already framed Kerry's words as "[t]he truth," let that

assertion stand unquestioned. My dismay is that this framing obscures and sugarcoats reality, adding more murk to what is sometimes an already purposely muddled issue.

-Ed Kinane

Ed is a co-founder of the SPC-affiliated CNY Working for a Just Peace in Israel and Palestine.

June 7, 2014

No disagreement at all, Ed. My apologies that because we rushed the process of writing this piece I was not nearly as thoughtful or as good a self-editor as I am when I am able to put time into the process. The intention of course was not to say that Israel might become an apartheid state in the future. There is no disputing that that status is current. The intention was to point out that even John Kerry was acknowledging apartheid as the issue. The writing was poorly crafted in this regard, and I am sorry that the error was not caught pre-publication.

-Carole Resnick

Note from the editors:

The Editorial Committee thanks Ed for writing to us with his concerns. The *Peace Newsletter* strives to be a resource of accurate information and a platform for our community to understand those forces that obstruct peace and social justice. We welcome corrections, commentary and feedback. You can contact the *PNL* at pnl@peacecouncil.net or 2013 E. Genesee St., Syracuse NY 13210. ♻

its intention to use the anesthetic Brevital in its lethal injection protocol; Brevital's producer issued a statement opposing this plan.)

The use of sedatives in place of anesthetics could explain the cases in which prisoners were visibly still conscious and even speaking as the execution proceeded. Numerous cases of this have been documented, including some in which the prisoner has exhibited great pain. In one tragically poignant case, an inmate, when asked for his last words prior to the execution, stated, "To my kids, I'll always love you." But contrary to his intentions, he spoke spontaneously as he was dying. His actual last words were, "I can feel my whole body burning."

The Lonely Executioners

Our federal and state governments are seeking ways to continue executing prisoners at any cost. In addition to the drug experiments described above, Arizona illegally imported sodium thiopental from London after Hospira stopped producing the drug. In Texas a scandal ensued when a distributor sold a drug used in execution believing it was selling to a hospital, not a state prison. And it has become a disturbingly common practice for prisons to obtain lethal injection drugs mixed from compounding pharmacies, small operations that are intended to supply very small batches of medicine on a case-by-case basis.

More recently, on May 22, Tennessee's governor authorized the use of the electric chair for execution in the case that lethal injection drugs were not available. Lawmakers in Wyoming and Missouri are considering bringing back the firing squad.

However, the day must come when the executioners realize they are alone in their desire to kill. The companies that design and produce the pharmaceuticals used in executions often publicly oppose such usage, and Italy has been joined by the entire EU in banning the export of drugs used in executions to the US. It does not matter the method: execution is not humane. No drug will make it otherwise. We must follow Europe's lead and ban the death penalty in the US. ♻

role mobilizing, while SPC helped form committees at OCC and Lemoyne that led to direct action both on those campuses and off. Members reportedly felt mixed about the Moratorium—invigorated, of course, by the numbers, but also “shocked” and “dismayed” at how much work was ahead: “Those of us who had grown used to a minority psychology, thinking of ourselves as the virtuous few, had to admit that we had greatly underestimated the potential for anti-war organizing in Syracuse. We had assumed that the apathetic middle almost by necessity would remain the apathetic middle.” But the momentum from the October Moratorium led to another historic march on Washington the following month, where half a million protesters descended on the White House. The SPC worked with representatives from the community as well as SU School of Social Work, SU Student Government, Lemoyne, OCC, and the High School Student Union to form a steering committee called the Syracuse New Mobilization to End the War in Vietnam; they also sponsored bus

rides to Washington for \$15.

The following spring, Nixon invaded Cambodia and publicly labeled student activists “bums,” while peace groups across the US met to plan additional demonstrations to end the war. Four days after the invasion, on May 4, 3,000 students at SU were in the middle of a rally when news reached them that four students were shot dead by the Ohio National Guard at Kent State. Later that evening, moods shifted from shock to anger as students at campuses across the nation reacted violently to the events at Kent State. At SU, students broke windows, graffitied buildings, and set up barricades. The next day, the *Syracuse Herald-Journal* ran a front-page story, whose headline read “Students run wild at SU.” That afternoon, however, a composed student body—approximately 7,000 students—marched downtown, two-abreast, in a line that stretched from main campus to South Salina Street.

Of these events, the 1970 April/May edition of the *PNL* remarked: “Few people realize how constructive and creative the student strike at Syracuse University has been. The normal business of the school came to an end as students and faculty

gathered in many different meetings and forums to discuss how to end repression in the US and how to end the war in South East Asia.” These events had a direct effect on the daily work of the SPC. On May 6, for example, the Peace Council organized a silent vigil downtown, which was attended by 4,000 people—“[s]welled by Syracuse University strikers.” According to the *PNL*, many of the students at both SU and OCC depended on the SPC “for ideas, speakers, films, literature, and just plain help.”

Looking back, looking forward

As any history should, these two cases provoke some critical questions about the past, present, and future of activism in Syracuse. This is especially true in terms of how, over time, the SPC and Syracuse University students and faculty have collaborated on key issues, shared knowledge and tactics, and understood their roles and purposes in the city and beyond. Activist histories generally—and the *PNL* archive specifically—are useful tools for putting progress in perspective, for seeing what’s old, what’s new, and to hear the many voices that have come before us. ♻️

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SPC in Action / from page 4

Workers for including the booklet in their Fall Catalog for national distribution. See syracuseculturalworkers.com. Contact Carol.

Two Row Campaign Ends

Following two and a half years of sharing the powerful history of the Two Row Wampum and engaging thousands of people in the work of renewing that first treaty between the Haudenosaunee and European newcomers, the Two Row Wampum Renewal Campaign has come to the end of its journey. While the campaign ends, the treaty and work continue.

Aspects of the campaign will continue in the work of Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation (NOON), which initiated the project. The Onondaga continue advocating through their appeal to the Inter-American Human Rights Commission, work to clean-up Onondaga Lake and more. Spinoff efforts include the new group Neetopk Keetopk, a Two Row-style group in the Hudson Valley and plans for a Two Row paddle down the Grand River initiated by Haudenosaunee people of the Six Nations Territory next summer. The campaign website, www.HonorTheTwoRow.org continues as a legacy of the project.

Bikes 4 Peace

Many people do not have access to adequate transportation. Bikes 4 Peace hopes to alleviate that need by helping those who can, to ride a bike. Bicycling is inexpensive, healthy and above all fun!

We hold bicycle repair clinics in various locations in Syracuse throughout the summer. Bring your broken bike, and even if you don't have one, come to one of our clinics to learn how to fix a bike. Those who need a bike can earn one of our bikes in need of repair and fix it for themselves. We provide parts, tools and guidance in bike repair. You provide the labor. So, don't be afraid to get your hands dirty this summer and join us at one of our bike repair clinics.

The July clinics are on **July 16 and 23** from **5-7 pm** at Brady Faith Center (404

South Ave.). August clinics are **August 6 and 13** from **5-7 pm** at La Liga (700 Oswego St.)

For more information, see us online at facebook.com/groups/bikes4peace or peacecouncil.net or call Dave Kashmer at 315-350-7642. See you this summer!



Ann Jamison (far left) with her 2012 CNY NOW Bowlathon team. Photo: Diana Cramer.

Activist Appreciation: Ann Jamison

SPC thanks to Ann Jamison for her long time support and hard work in so many ways. Currently Ann distributes *Peace Newsletters* to the West Side of Syracuse every month, an indispensable role. Ann is also well known for regularly bringing a large group of enthusiastic bowlers to the annual Bowlathon. Her National Organization for Women bowling teams consistently place in the Pledgers' Hall of Fame for their generous support of SPC. We also applaud Ann's work for law enforcement justice through the ACTS Justice Taskforce, of which SPC is a member. Thanks for everything you do to further peace and social justice in our community, Ann!

Phonathon a Success

On three recent evenings, SPC activists gathered to share a meal and make fundraising phone calls for our vital programs and activities. We had a great time talking with SPC supporters, collecting donations, and getting feedback and ideas about SPC's work. We received over \$1,300 in contributions and pledges, as well as a number of unspecified promises of support. Thanks to Syracuse Cultural Workers for allowing us to use their space and phones.

If you received a call, please respond with the most generous contribution you are able to give. Your donation will help us keep organizing for peace and social justice. And if you didn't get a call, we will be happy to talk with you or send information. Contact Michael.

Drones Summer Plans

Members of SPC's Ground the Drones, End the Wars Committee participated in Upstate Drone Action's recent retreat. People attended from all the major Upstate cities and NYC. We discussed our local as well as regional plans. Being nearest to Hancock Air Base, SPC's local plans include providing hospitality for people on trial and their supporters, jail support, downtown tabling, organizing a tableau/street theater to stage at the NY State Fair, performing *The Predator* play, exhibiting the Drones Quilt and organizing Street Heat (see box, page 4).

One outcome of the retreat was the formation of an Order of Protection (OOP) Committee to clarify the legal issues, help people with OOPs, and come up with strategies to combat the OOPs. See page 8 to learn more about how this important legal tool used primarily in domestic violence situations is being used against nonviolent civil resisters at Hancock Air Base. Contact Carol.

SPC Summer Interns

SPC is excited to welcome a new group of interns this summer. Holly Reedy is involved with Bikes 4 Peace, puts together our e-newsletter each week and works on creative projects around the office. Sharon Dellinger brings her extensive experience working with systems to her work on clean-up of the SPC database and the online *PNL* archives. She also participates in anti-drones work and the weekly Downtown Outreach. Brianna Shetler joins us for a third semester, this time coordinating the Downtown Outreach, soliciting *PNL* ads, helping with Hiroshima Day planning and staying connected to anti-drone work.

We're having a great summer so far and looking forward to the rest of it! Please join us. Contact Michael. ☘

