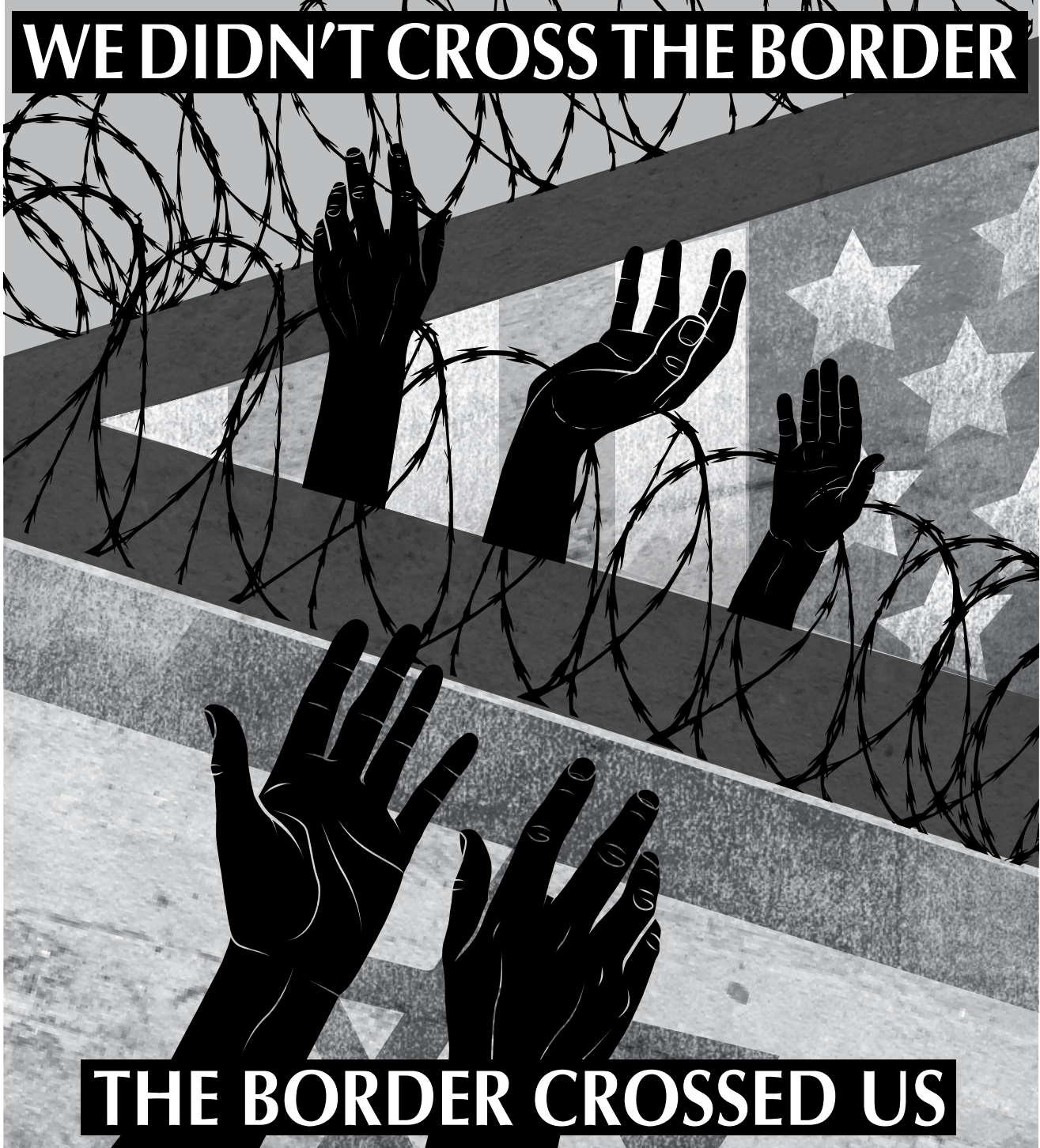


SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL'S
Peace Newsletter
Central New York Voices for Peace and Social Justice September 2014 #837

WE DIDN'T CROSS THE BORDER



THE BORDER CROSSED US

Image: Jeff Passetti

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SPC INFO

SPC Steering Committee 2014

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

SPC's Peace Newsletter

Editorial Committee: Andrew Miller, Amelia Lefevre, Nikeeta Slade, Aly Wane. **Editorial & Layout Coordinator:** Amelia Lefevre. **Proofing:** Rae Kramer, Andy Molloy. **Web:** Simone Richmond.

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
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, Onondaga Lake cleanup
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

Peace Newsletter

Central New York Voices for Peace & Social Justice

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 I've included an extra donation of \$_____ to support SPC's work.

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About the Cover: Jeff Passetti's beautiful artwork draws connections between border tensions at the southern US border and in Israel/Palestine. From US taxpayer-funded weaponry and surveillance equipment to an underlying tone of xenophobic racism, the parallels abound.

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 October *PNL* calendar by September 22.

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

SPC Garage Sale

Reduce! Get rid of unwanted stuff. *Reuse!* Your trash is my treasure. *Recycle!* Down with planned obsolescence. And support the Peace Council at the same time!

This year's garage sale is **September 13-14: Saturday 9 am–5 pm, Sunday 9 am–12 pm**, 401 Scottholm Blvd., Syracuse. Drop off your "gently used" items Wednesday-Friday, **September 10-12** between **9 am and 10 pm**. Wanted: household and sporting goods, books, DVDs, games, toys, furniture, linens, tools, plants, art, jewelry, lamps, holiday items, appliances and more.

Please NO clothing, old electronics, things that DON'T work and miscellaneous crap (oops! not-good stuff). Helpers welcome for set-up and sale. Food provided. Questions? Call Rae, 445-2840.

No West Shore Amphitheater!

Following a successful campaign by Citizens for a Better Plan (of which NOON/SPC is a part) to extend the public comment period on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed amphitheater project at Onondaga Lake, a public hearing was held on August 26. Our hope is that the Legislature will find, following the close of the comment period on September 5, that the DEIS is insufficient and must be redrafted. To learn about the statement's shortcomings – and how to send in comments yourself – visit www.peacecouncil.net/noon/amphitheater.

Citizens for a Better Plan will continue strategizing on how to best challenge this rushed project, in particular its proposed location on top of 80-foot-deep hazardous wastebeds on the west shore of Onondaga Lake. See www.facebook.com/Citizens-foraBetterPlan and also SPC's website for



About 45 supporters of nuclear disarmament gathered in downtown Syracuse on August 6 as part of the Peace Council and Peace Action's annual commemoration of the tragic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. Special thanks to Simon Morrin for creating our new "peace sun" props. Photo: Diane Lansing

fact sheets. Contact Amelia.

Eliminating Police Brutality in Syracuse

Two recent cases of inappropriate use of force by the Syracuse Police Department have prompted the United as One coalition to launch a campaign against police brutality in our city. We will target SPD's Use of Force policy, which is extremely vague. The coalition will set up listening stations throughout the city during September and October to gather stories from victims of violence at the hands of police. Though there are ways for victims to report their stories and seek investigation (particularly the Citizens Review Board), we know that many fear retribution or don't believe the system can actually deliver justice to them.

We will add these stories to others to bolster our efforts as we push for a rewrite of the Use of Force policy. Contact Amelia.

Justice for Raul and Chuniece

In addition to launching the new campaign described above, United as One (UaO) is hoping to successfully finish its original campaign—the push for a jail oversight policy to prevent any more needless deaths at the County's jail, ironically named the Justice Center. For the past four years UaO has worked to honor the memories of Raul Pinet, Jr. and Chuniece Patterson, and we are very excited that a bill is finally expected to go to vote in the County Legislature in October. The Public Safety Committee will discuss the bill on **Monday, September 8 at noon** and we expect the bill to go to vote on **Tuesday, October 7 at 1pm**. It is extremely important for the community to show its support for jail oversight at both meetings. Please come. Contact Amelia.

continued on next page

2013 East Genesee St., Syracuse, NY 13210 • (315) 472-5478 • spc@peacecouncil.net



www.peacecouncil.net • OFFICE HOURS: M-F, 11 am-5 pm

STAFF ORGANIZERS

Carol Baum: carol@peacecouncil.net • Amelia Lefevre: amelia@peacecouncil.net

Michael Messina-Yauchzy: michael@peacecouncil.net



Jessica organizes SPC's Marketplace at Plowshares 2013. Photo: Jocko Randall

Jessia Azulay, Staff Organizer Extraordinaire

Farewell to Jessica Azulay who has left her position as SPC staff organizer after two years of dedicated work. She was active with us for years before joining the staff, previously serving on the Steering Committee and serving twice as a short-term staff organizer.

With a unique personal style that is simultaneously lighthearted and dead serious, Jessica has made her mark at the Peace Council. She is impeccably fair, believes deeply in sharing skills and is committed to transparency in organizational affairs. She thinks creatively and independently, raises questions and welcomes debate. Jessica brought an unshakeable commitment to non-hierarchical structures and equal sharing of responsibilities to the staff collective, where she offered a steady voice embracing both compassion and reason.

Jessica is passionate about her work, thoughtful about her words and skilled in many areas which have helped to move SPC forward. For example, she was the primary designer of the new website, wrote documentation for it and trained others to work with the new site. She is talented with numbers, understands budgets, and is willing to do the work involved in keeping SPC organized and solvent. Jessica is also a skilled researcher, writer and political thinker, who is articulate in clarifying and expressing information and analysis.

Although we hate to see her go, we are proud of her leadership as the current staffperson for Alliance for a Green Economy (AGREE), where she works full time. We're grateful that Jessica will remain active with SPC and continue to serve on the Steering Committee. Thank you so very much for all of your work!

SPC in Action / from previous page

Aly Joins Immigration Media Campaign

On August 20, Aly Wane joined ten other undocumented immigrants in Washington, D.C. at a news conference to press President Obama to use his executive authority to increase the number of undocumented people eligible for some form of a deferred action program. Currently, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program allows a small number of undocumented people to receive temporary legalization and work permits. However many do not qualify, including Aly.

At the news conference, the eleven immigrants symbolically applied for the program and shared their stories with the media.

Aly is a member of the SPC Steering and *PNL* Editorial Committees. He is a dedicated activist and a kind, thoughtful person who is an integral part of our community. We stand with him.

SPC Open House September 23

We've had a busy summer, and now off to an even busier fall! If you'd like to learn more about the Peace Council or become reacquainted, come to the Fall Open House. Meet SPC activists and learn how to become one yourself. Come to our office **Tuesday, September 23 at 6:30 pm** for pizza (including vegan pizza), good conversation and learning about SPC. If stairs are a problem, let us know and we will make it work. Contact Michael.

Seeking PNL Website Worker

Do you want to help launch the *Peace Newsletter* into the digital age? Are you interested in learning about SPC's website? The *PNL* is looking for a long-term volunteer to take charge of moving the newsletter's archives from SPC's old website to our new one. Website visitors can currently view all *PNL* archives back to Issue #1 from 1936, but individual articles are only tagged and searchable back through 2012. This is a multi-month project that requires substantial training. You must commit to work on the project regularly (weekly or bi-weekly) for a minimum of six months. Contact Amelia.

People's Climate March Bus

On Sunday, September 21, there will be an unprecedented climate mobilization in New York City, the People's Climate March (www.peoplesclimate.org/march). Buses are in the process of being organized from Syracuse by Sierra Club and possibly others. Check www.peacecouncil.net—we'll put information there as we get it.

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

- Sept 9 Geddes & W. Genesee Sts.
- Sept 16 Hancock Air Base Entrance
(E. Molloy Rd., between Thompson & Townline Rds.)
- Sept 23 Geddes & W. Genesee Sts.
- Sept 30 Geddes & W. Genesee Sts.

Saturdays: 9-10 am

Park Street - Across from the Regional Market main entrance.

Contact Ed or Ann, 315-478-4571

Intern for Peace and Justice in the Fall

SPC is seeking interns who want to change the world. Whether you want to work for peace in the Middle East or here in Onondaga County, we are interested in you (or someone you know). Interns can focus their work on any of our committees (see page 2), or on event organizing (including

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Blowback on the Border: The US' Child Refugee Crisis

Laura Carlsen

After three years of relative silence, the US press has finally “discovered” the crisis of tens of thousands of unaccompanied minors piling up on the US border. Although the coverage often began with moving stories of the hardships these young migrants faced, it soon turned ugly. For right-wing pundits and politicians, the “humanitarian crisis” has become a crackdown on kids.

The dominant narrative has been that foolish parents, perhaps duped by scheming criminal bands, are sending hapless children north to take advantage of loopholes in US immigration practices.

This is just plain wrong. On every count.

Knowing the Risks

First, parents and migrating youth are not naive. They usually know the dangers, which include injury, rape, extortion, kidnapping, and even death. Parents carefully consider the risks before making the decision to spend thousands of dollars to send their children away.

The three countries responsible for the increase in child migrants are Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador. Honduras has the highest per capita homicide rate in the world, with El Salvador and Guatemala in fourth and fifth place, respectively. In certain neighborhoods in these countries, the homicide rate is far higher than the already high national rate, and young people are the most at-risk of all.

That’s why many Central American parents have concluded that the greatest risk is keeping their kids at home.

Consider the case of David. Both David’s parents live in the US, where they had hoped to bring their son up due to the violence in his neighborhood. Salvadoran

gangs had been hounding the boy to join them. Sometime after he refused, his body was found decapitated in a vacant lot on July 12. He was 10 years old. Family members were afraid even to go to his funeral for fear of retaliation.



Undocumented mother and child facing Border Patrol on July 24, 2014 in Mission, Texas. Photo: John Moore/Getty Images

A study by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees found that more than half of the child migrants had reported fleeing violence and threats, and were likely eligible for international protection. If they’re deported, many could face the same fate as David.

Family Reunification

An under-reported fact is that many parents are not sending their children north to be on their own. They are sending south for their children to join them in the US.

I asked Father Alejandro Solalinde, who runs the Ixtepec migrant center in southern Oaxaca, about the sudden increase in minors migrating out of Central America. He replied that the increasing number of Central American children filling his shelter were the last link in a “chain of desperation.” The fathers migrated to support the families, then older brothers and sisters left to join the fathers, and finally mothers

are leaving with the younger ones—or if the mother is already gone, they send for the children.

Children have a right to grow up with parents. Something is deeply wrong with economic integration and immigration policies that force them apart. Generations will carry the scars of separation, yet the issue of family reunification has scarcely surfaced in the current debate.

Rather than take any of this into account, the US government has undertaken a propaganda campaign to convince Central Americans to stay put, as though the decision to migrate were a mere whim. While billboards popping up in Central America emphasize the risks of the journey, the State Department is focusing its efforts on “dispelling the misguided notion that these children will not face deportation proceedings.”

The Border Security Myth

There is a perception that “lenient” US immigration policies—and false promises from scheming human smugglers—have encouraged new generations of Central Americans to take their chances at the US border.

But the UN survey of some 400 child migrants and families found that only two listed permissive US immigration practices as their reason for migrating. And if anything, the US border is more militarized than ever, with record deportation rates.

Moreover, while human trafficking and organized crime are indeed established problems on the border, it’s actually a result of border control that is too strict, not too lenient. Tighter US border security measures have made it nearly impossible for migrants to cross alone.

As with drug prohibition, policies to

Laura is Director of the Center for International Policy’s Americas Program.

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Detroit's Water War

Martin Lukacs

It was six in the morning when city contractors showed up unannounced at Charity Hicks' house.

Since spring, up to 3,000 Detroit households per week have been getting their water shut-off—for owing as little as \$150 or two months in bills. Now it was the turn of Charity's block—and the contractor wouldn't stand to wait an hour for her pregnant neighbour to fill up some jugs.

"Where's your water termination notice?" Charity demanded, after staggering to the contractor's truck. A widely-respected African-American community leader, she has been at the forefront of campaigns to ensure Detroiters' right to public, accessible water.

The contractor's answer was to drive away, knocking Charity over and injuring her leg. Two white policemen soon arrived—not to take her report, but to arrest her. Mocking Charity for questioning the water shut-offs, they brought her to jail, where she spent two days before being released without charge.

Welcome to Detroit's water war—in which upward of 150,000 customers, late on bills that have increased 119 percent in the last decade, are now threatened with shut-offs. Local activists estimate this could impact nearly half of Detroit's mostly poor and black population—between 200,000 and 300,000 people.

"There are people who can't cook, can't clean, people coming off surgery who can't wash. This is an affront to human dignity," Charity said in an interview with Kate Levy. To make matters worse, children risk being taken by welfare authorities from any home without running water.

Denying water to thousands, as a sweltering summer approaches, might be bad enough in itself. But these shut-offs are no mere exercise in cost-recovery.

The official rationale for the water shut-downs—the Detroit Water Department's need to recoup millions—collapses on inspection. Detroit's high-end golf club, the Red Wing's hockey arena, the Ford football stadium, and more than half of



Children attending a rally against water shut-offs in Detroit on June 20, 2014. Photo: Justin Wedes

the city's commercial and industrial users are also owing—a sum totaling \$30 million. But no contractors have showed up on their doorstep.

The targeting of Detroit families is about something else. It is a ruthless case of the shock doctrine—the exploitation of natural or unnatural shocks of crisis to push through pro-corporate policies that couldn't happen in any other circumstance.

The first shock was the slow disaster that struck Detroit over the last four decades: the flight of corporations toward cheaper, overseas labor; the movement of white, wealthier Detroiters to the suburbs, draining the city's tax base; a Wall Street-driven financial crisis that left many homeless or jobless; and the deliberate starving of the city of funds owed them by the Republican state legislature.

On its heels has come a round of economic shock therapy. Taking advantage of the severe decline in revenue from Detroit's first shock, the media, corporations and right-wing politicians drummed up a crisis of fear about financial debt. This has become the pretext for a swift assault on Detroit's public resources: an attempt to dismantle its schools, to slash its pensions, and to transfer its parks and art and land into the hands of private corporations.

The public water system, a prized resource worth billions and sitting on the Great Lakes, is now the latest target—and

the water shut-offs are a way to make the balance-sheet more attractive in the lead up to its privatization.

As Detroiters like Charity Hicks have taken a stand, they have been met by a third shock: literal blows of police force and violence, intended to dampen any resistance.

Taking full advantage of Detroit's plight required the removal of another obstacle: democracy. No Detroit politician, subject to the pressures of an electorate, could imagine going after the city's water. But in 2013, using Detroit's debt as his excuse, Michigan's Republican governor Rick Snyder imposed an "emergency manager"—a trustee to govern Detroit unilaterally. When Detroiters overwhelmingly voted in a referendum against the "emergency manager" law, Snyder passed a new one overnight—with a provision rendering referendums meaningless.

Having made his reign democracy-proof, Detroit's emergency manager has proceeded to drive the city toward bankruptcy. With the bankruptcy dominating media headlines across the country, the real nature of Detroit's crisis has been obscured and ignored. It has left the banks and corporations free to pursue a liquidation of the city's assets. And nothing is

Follow Martin on twitter: @Martin_Lukacs.

continued on page 13

A Jewish Woman Working for Peace in Israel/Palestine

Mara Sapon-Shevin

Several weeks ago, as I stood with a sign as part of a vigil against the Israeli actions in Gaza, a woman passing by rolled down her window and gave me a huge thumbs-up. Moments later, she had parked her car and came running across the Erie/Genesee triangle where we stood to introduce herself as a Palestinian woman. We embraced and I introduced her to some of the other protesters, including another woman from Palestine. She cried and said, “I didn’t know there were people here that cared about this.”

Since that moment, Aziza Zahran has joined our CNY for a Just Peace in Israel/Palestine group and become a consistent participant in our activities. As she and I have begun to know one another, she shared “You were the first Jewish woman I had ever met who didn’t have a gun.”

That statement, clear and stark as it is, makes me weep.

I have been involved in political action working for a peace and justice in the Middle East for over thirty years, beginning with New Jewish Agenda in Cleveland to my move to Syracuse 23 years ago when I co-founded Syracuse Jews for Peace, was a member of Women in Black and then became an active member of CNY for a Just Peace in Israel/Palestine.

I have consistently spoken out against the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza and because of that stance I have been called, among other things, a “self-hating Jew” and an “enemy of Israel.” I have been adamant that I am not a “self-hating Jew”—and maintained that it was, in fact, my Jewish upbringing and education which made me such a staunch advocate for social justice. I took to heart the Jewish teachings about clothing the naked and feeding the hungry. As a child I said that I wanted to



Source: Jewish Voice for Peace

make the world better. Every Yom Kippur for the last eight years I have chanted the haftorah from Isaiah that says that God does not want you to merely tear your clothes and fast and repent, but that you must do the real work, the hard work, of working for justice. Many who supported my social justice work when it pertained to South Africa or Nicaragua wanted me to suspend those same principles when it related to Israel.

And, I also argued that I was NOT an “enemy of Israel” but rather someone who wanted to hold Israel to a high standard of moral behavior. I supported Israel’s right to exist as well as the rights of Palestinians to self-determination and statehood.

Now, painfully, I am no longer certain that I can say that I am not an enemy of Israel, if that means that I believe that Israel’s right to exist excuses any of its current policies or means that Israel’s right to exist trumps the rights of Palestinians. Although I never would have called myself a “Zionist,” I, like many American Jews, was brought up to celebrate Israel as the safe homeland of the Jews. But the ways in which Israel was founded and the current policies and practices now disturb me greatly. I find myself in a position of separating myself from Israel in many ways, including through Boycott, Divestment and Sanction campaigns and I cannot glibly say

that “Israel has a right to exist,” much less a “right to defend itself.”

It has always been painful for me—and has sometimes made coalition work difficult—when people have been unable to separate “Jews” from “Israel.” I have defended non-Jews’ rights to criticize Israel without being labeled “anti-Semitic” and I have worked hard to explain to many that “Israel” and “Jews” were not synonymous. There have been Jews for thousands of years—far longer than the State of Israel has existed. I do not want my values as a Jewish activist and my identity as a Jewish woman to be conflated with Israel’s occupation of Palestine.

A recent article in the *New York Times*, is entitled “The End of Liberal Zionism: Israel’s Move to the Right Challenges Diaspora Jews,” and this makes it clear that I am not alone in my extreme discomfort about Israel now. In this article, by Antony Lerman, he writes, “The original tradition of combining Zionism and liberalism—which meant ending the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, supporting a Palestinian state as well as a Jewish state with a permanent Jewish majority and standing behind Israel when it was threatened—was well intentioned. But everything liberal Zionists stand for is now in doubt.” But Lerman is also concerned—as am I—with the ways in which criticizing Israel can

Mara is an active member of CNY Working for a Just Peace in Palestine and Israel (an SPC committee). Visit peacecouncil.net/pnl to see an article written by Aziza Zahran.

feed genuine anti-Semitism.

Recent attacks on Jews in France and Germany are terrifying to me; a kosher supermarket and pharmacy were smashed and looted, crowds chanted “Death to Jews” and “Slit Jews’ throats.” In an article in *The Guardian* by Joe Henley entitled “Antisemitism on rise across Europe ‘in worst times since the Nazis,’” he writes, “The conflict in Gaza is breathing new life into some very old and very ugly demons.” But some argue that this response is not simply a reaction to this latest version of the Israel/Palestine conflict and that “the threats, hate speech and violent attacks feel like the expression of a much deeper and more widespread anti-Semitism.” It has been pointed out that the protesters are not screaming “Death to the Israelis” but “Death to the Jews.”

At the same time, the Syracuse Jewish Federation has launched a major new fundraising campaign to raise funds for Israel in its “hour of need.” And the most recent issue of the *Jewish Observer* (the newspaper of the Federation) has a front-page article explaining how the Boycott, Divestment and Sanction (BDS) movement is an attempt to “de-legitimize Israel’s right to exist” and is both wrong-headed and dangerous.

So, where does that leave me and others like me? I am buoyed by the large numbers of Jews who are also speaking out against what is happening in Gaza. Jewish Voice for Peace and other organizations have taken strong stands, and massive protests in Washington, London and Cape Town have been organized to protest current policies.

I do not feel alone as a Jew who is working for social justice, but I am, indeed, frightened. I want peace and justice for all—and I want to continue to do this work as a Jew. Being Jewish and working for peace and justice are not incompatible. ♣

Drones and the Gaza Goldfish Bowl

Ed Kinane

In their coverage of this summer’s Israeli invasion of Gaza, the *New York Times* and many other mainstream media would have us believe that that bully, Gaza, is hitting poor Israel below the belt. Their narrative ignores key realities:

- Israel, a colonial settler state much like former apartheid South Africa, is the nuclear-armed regional superpower. It has one of the world’s mightiest militaries, thanks in part to three billion dollars in US military aid it receives annually.

- Israel has deployed surveillance and weaponized drones 24/7 over Gaza ever since its 2008/2009 Operation Cast Lead invasion of that isolated, desperately poor—but feisty—refugee enclave of Palestine. Many of those Gazans (or their parents and grandparents), before being driven out in 1947, had their homes, land and livelihoods in what is now Israel. In 2008 Gaza already had been crippled by years of illegal military occupation. Now this huge glass prison is being garrotted by years of Israel’s military siege.

- During the Operation Cast Lead massacre (the kill ratio was 100 to one), Israel used air power to destroy broad swaths of civilian infrastructure. In 2008/2009 Israeli drones killed 87 Gazan civilians, including many children, maiming more and terrorizing hundreds of thousands.*

Ed is a member of Upstate Drone Action, www.upstatedroneaction.org.



Note that along with the US, Israel leads the world in developing both surveillance and weaponized drones. It used the 2008/2009 invasion to test and subsequently export its Israeli Aerospace Industries’ “Heron” drone and its Elbit Systems Ltd’s “Hermes” drone.

What can we do to end the ongoing carnage? For starters we can pressure our Congressional representatives—Ms. Gillibrand, Mr. Schumer and Mr. Maffei—to end US military aid to Israel. More long term, we can join efforts to ban weaponized drones over US skies and internationally. And when there’s a justice-for-Gaza demo, let’s be sure to join it.

*See the Human Rights Watch 2009 39-page report, “Precisely Wrong: Gaza Civilians Killed by Israeli Drone-Launched Missiles.” Also see Norman G. Finkelstein, *This Time We Went Too Far: Truth and Consequences of the Gaza Invasion*, O/R Books, 2010. And Ilan Pappé, *The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine*, Oxford, 2006.

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Marie@syracuseculturalworkers.com





UNIVERSITY LECTURES

Van Jones
GREEN JOBS AND SUSTAINABILITY
Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2014

Eve Ensler
IN THE BODY OF JUSTICE
Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2014

Carrie Mae Weems
SWINGING INTO SIXTY: A WOMAN PONDS THE FUTURE
Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2014

Barry Scheck
THE INNOCENCE PROJECT: DNA AND THE WRONGLY CONVICTED
Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2014

Andreas Weigend
WE ARE OUR DATA: HARNESSING THE POWER OF SOCIAL DATA
Tuesday, March 3, 2015

Laurel J. Richie
THE WNBA: SHOWING THE WORLD WHAT'S POSSIBLE
Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Annie Griffiths
FROM PHOTOJOURNALIST TO PHOTO ACTIVIST: THE RIPPLE EFFECTS IMAGES PROJECT
Tuesday, Mar. 24, 2015

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Peace Council Year-End Financial Report

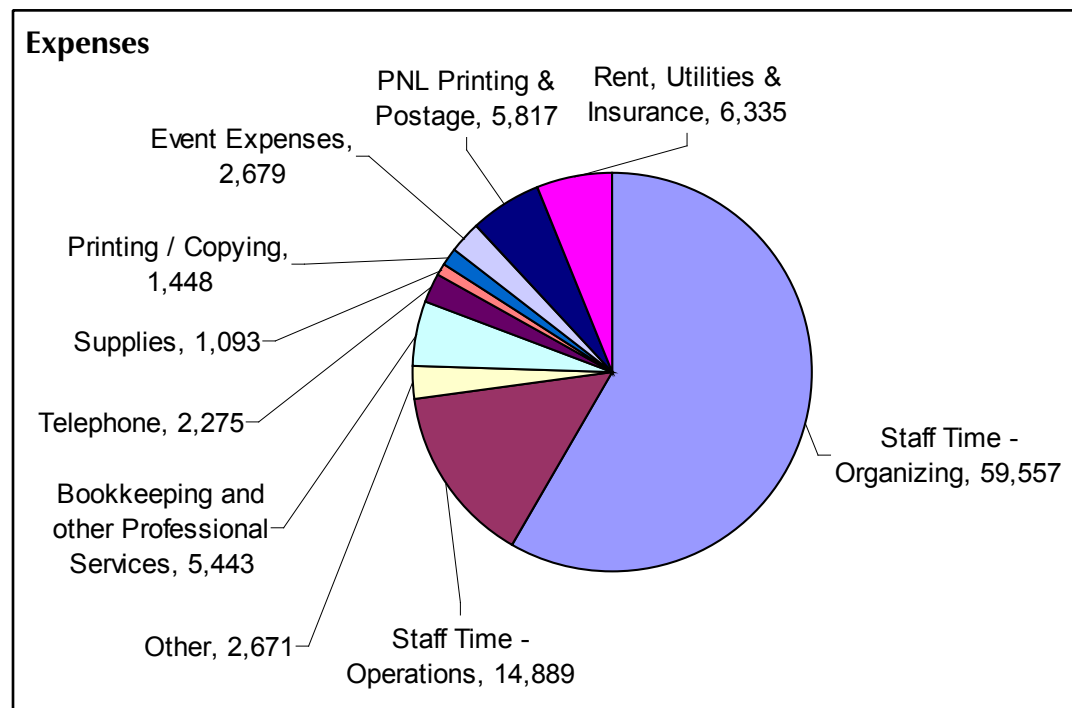
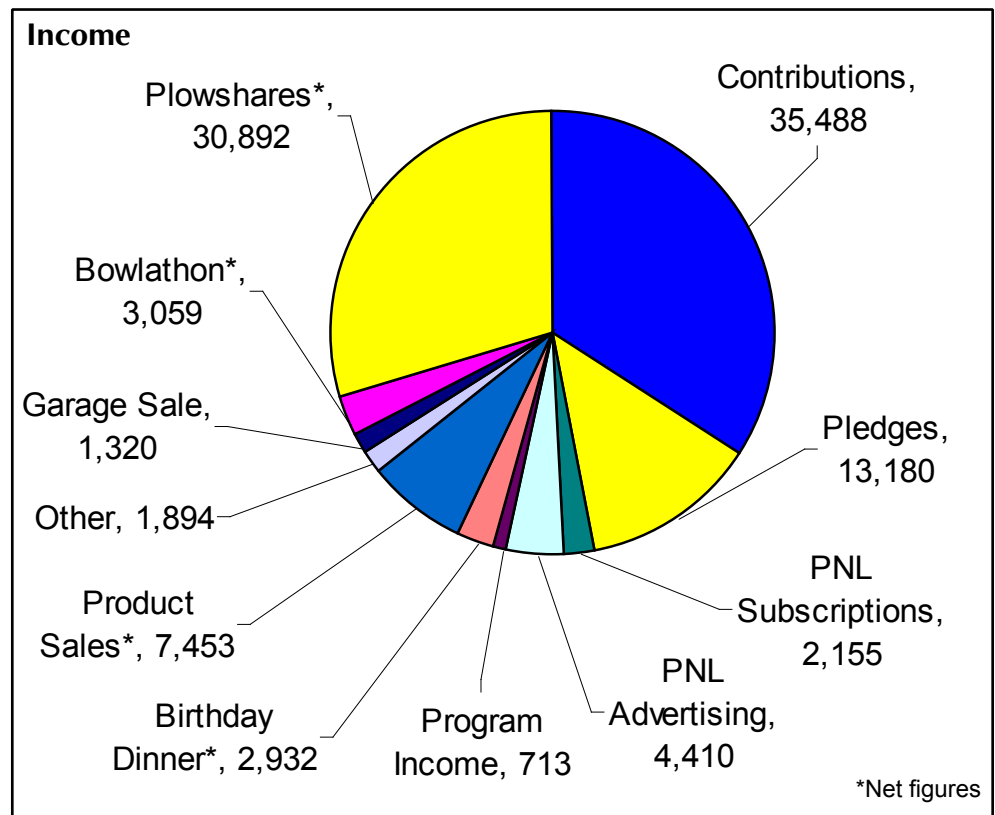
July 2013-June 2014

Have you ever wondered where the Peace Council's money comes from and where it goes? Have you ever wondered what our assets are as an organization? Here we present a financial report for our last fiscal year, which ran from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014.

During that period, SPC brought in approximately \$103,496, and spent approximately \$102,206. The pie charts on this page represent how that money was raised and how it was spent. We make every effort to break even on an annual basis.

In addition to our general yearly budget, we also report here on our other assets. The Peace Council maintains a rainy day fund, and our committees have some savings with they use for their own organizing purposes. Additionally, SPC holds a mortgage on the Center for Peace and Social Justice building, which houses SPC.

If you would like more detailed information about our finances, contact us. We will open our books for you.



Assets:

General Savings (Rainy day fund): \$31,600
Mortgage: \$60,000

Committee Accounts:

Bikes for Peace: \$290
CNY Working For A Just Peace in Palestine and Israel: \$1,300
Ground the Drones and End the Wars: \$400
Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation: \$1,300

Committee savings accounts fluctuate during the year, as committees spend and raise money. The amounts here do not reflect anything about organizational priorities.

NOTES: A "net figure" is an income figure with the expenses associated with raising that money subtracted. "Contributions" include one-time donations, bequests, honoraria, and responses to our fund-appeal letters and the annual phonathon. "Other Expenses" include miscellaneous fundraising expenses, taxes, bank/credit card fees, postage and website costs.

Van Jones



UNIVERSITY LECTURES



Van Jones

GREEN JOBS AND SUSTAINABILITY

Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2014

In this lecture, Van Jones will offer a viable plan for solving the two biggest issues facing the country today—the economy and the environment. He will also address the questions of why Americans don't vote with their environmental conscience, and why they are not motivated into action by the climate and energy challenges. Jones is president and co-founder of Rebuild the Dream, a platform for bottom-up, people-powered innovations to help fix the U.S. economy, and founder of Green For All, a national organization working to get green jobs to disadvantaged communities. In 2009, Jones worked as the green jobs advisor to the Obama White House, and was the main advocate for the Green Jobs Act, signed into law by President George W. Bush in 2007.

This lecture is sponsored in cooperation with the Syracuse Center of Excellence in Environmental and Energy Systems and the L.C. Smith College of Engineering and Computer Science.

Free and open to the public.
Contact the Office of Academic Affairs
for more information:
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eegray@syr.edu

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Blowback on the Border / from page 5

criminalize migration have created a black market that real criminals have eagerly claimed as their own. Today, the cost of migration has skyrocketed, and drug cartels earn millions taking migrants north. This leaves migrants extremely vulnerable to extortion and abuse, since when they are defined as “criminals” or “illegals,” they have no recourse to defend themselves.

Blowback

The steady increase in child migrants dates back to 2011. Although the US government is not solely at fault, what we’re seeing is the cumulative effect of years of policy failure.

Take trade policy. Since the North American and Central American Free Trade Agreements went into effect, millions of Mexicans and Central Americans have been economically displaced and forced to emigrate.

NAFTA pushed the Mexican migration rate up to half a million a year. In the first year of CAFTA alone, 11,457 jobs were

lost in El Salvador, while the number of Salvadorans leaving for the United States increased from 507 per day to 740 per day. In Guatemala, transnational extractive projects are displacing indigenous and rural populations.

Honduras is the most dramatic case of a policy disaster. Following the country’s 2009 coup, which deposed the democratically elected President Manuel Zelaya, the US government blocked a return to constitutional order by normalizing relations with the coup government. Post-coup Honduran governments have presided over rampant violations of human rights, a huge rise in organized crime, and a breakdown in the social fabric, leading to widespread delinquency.

The US-funded drug war also accounts for much of the violence. Every war has its refugees. The war on drugs has proven to be no exception.

When counternarcotics efforts targeted drug lords in Mexico, they splintered traditional cartels and created violent rogue groups that spread throughout Mexico and into Central America. By fortifying abusive security forces in nations barely emerging from decades of military dictatorships,


the drug war has meant a setback for both democracy and public safety.

The Best Interests of the Child

As the Obama administration and the right wing focus on how to keep the child refugees out of the country, too few have any concern for what domestic relations law calls “the best interest of the child.”

The House Progressive Caucus position, by contrast, has called on the US government to uphold the children’s rights to due process and asylum, to provide adequate facilities for their care, and to review policies that contribute to forced migration, such as neoliberal trade policies and US support for the drug war in Mexico and Central America.

The refugee crisis on the border is blowback for years of short-sighted policies that failed to consider the human consequences for the people of the region. If we fail to address these root causes, we will fail to solve the problem—no matter how much taxpayer money or Border Control we throw at it.

But, most of all, we will fail the children. 

Detroit Water War / from page 7

off the table.

There is one other way the situation in Detroit would never have come to pass: if this was a city predominantly of white people instead of black. Too many in the US view Detroit like the policemen viewed Charity—as deviant, inferior and beyond repair. This racism has meant decades of block-busting, red-lining, police brutality and the legislative punishment of the city. And it has done something more insidious: it has written off the people of Detroit.

“Every day, we’re shown that black lives, black quality of life, black communities, don’t matter,” says Charity.

The attitude was expressed in a recent statement of L. Brooks Patterson, the elected executive of the mostly white Detroit suburb of Oakland: “I made a prediction a long time ago, and it’s come to pass. I said, ‘What we’re going to do is turn Detroit into an Indian reservation, where we herd all the Indians into the city, build a fence around it, and then throw in the blankets and corn.’”


The US banks and corporations who now have Detroit on the hook want these ugly truths to stay submerged. They haven’t flinched while the water has been shut-off. Nor did they flinch when Detroiters’ heat was cut—in 2013, before the worst winter on record, 169,407 households were disconnected. But they loudly protested when organizations proposed a tour of the city for the US judge who will rule on Detroit’s bankruptcy—that, they insisted, would be too “dangerous.”

The view the judge would see is in radical contrast to Detroit’s prevailing image: a city with a flowering network of community gardens, more than any in the US, feeding residents and nurturing solidarity; a rich artistic and musical culture; and neighborhoods organizing for meaningful education and to restore local democracy. No one denies Detroit is racked by crime, poverty and unemployment—but it is also hard to miss its vibrant renewal.

It is from this incredible web that a challenge to the water shut-offs is emerging. Community organizations have filed a human rights complaint to the United Nations, demanding Michigan state impose

a moratorium on the shut-offs. UN experts have already responded critically. There are daily acts of civil disobedience: cars being parked over water valves to prevent shut-offs; neighbors teaching each other to turn the water back on. A new initiative called the Detroit Water Brigade—an Occupy Sandy-style response to disaster zones created by the deprivation of water instead of its excess—is accepting supplies from around the country, opening local service hubs, and coordinating calls to action.

And the Detroit People’s Water Board, a broad coalition co-founded by Charity Hicks, continues its work of raising consciousness about water justice and conservation, setting out a vision for water as a public trust, not a commodity—a source of life, not of private enrichment.

“This is a test being looked at by cities across the US—even the world,” Charity says. “We will not let water be used as a weapon to remake the city in a corporate image. We will re-establish what it is to live in a democracy, with a water system that is part of the commons, that affirms human dignity and that ensures everyone’s access.” 

SPC's upcoming Birthday Dinner on November 1 and our December Plowshares Craftsfair and Peace Festival). We also welcome your own ideas for internships.

Interns at the Peace Council need to be self-starters and comfortable operating in a grassroots environment. Hours, start date and length of internship are flexible. Check out the intern application at www.peacecouncil.net/internships-in-activism.

Drone Activism and Dewitt Town Court

Much of the summer has been spent dealing with court:

- In early July, Mary Ann Grady Flores was sentenced to one year in prison for violating an order of protection which she received after a nonviolent civil resistance action at Hancock Air Base. She is currently out on \$5,000 bail, having received a stay of sentence as her appeal is being heard.

- On July 22, seven activists were arrested at the base for delivering a war crimes indictment and a people's order of protection. Two were accused of violating orders of protection and given \$10,000 bails each. Within the week, their bails were reduced to \$100.

- There was some great news at the end of July. Vietnam veteran and Buffalo resident Russell Brown was acquitted for participating in an action in April, 2013. He had lain in the roadway across from the base to symbolize the death of drone victims. Russell told the jury, "Lying in that road was the most peaceful moment I've experienced since I left Vietnam. I was silent then in the face of those atrocities and I can't be silent anymore."

- Court appearances and trials continue and need your support. Check out the dates on upstatedroneaction.org/WebCalendar/month.php

- Legal help is needed and expenses are mounting. Please consider making a check out to Upstate Drone Action and send to UDA c/o the Syracuse Peace Council, 2013 E. Genesee St., Syracuse, NY 13210.

Contact Carol.

Local Ground the Drones Work

A recent Ground the Drones outreach table netted eighteen letters to Rep. Maffei about drones. A "Drone Deliberation" program drew a small group to hear local anti-drone activist Ed Kinane speak and then view the film *Unmanned: America's Drone Wars*. Our State Fair tableau engaged fairgoers to read our literature and talk with us.

As part of Upstate Drone Action, we've also started work on the Day of International Action to Ban Weaponized Drones and



Thanks to Our Summer Interns

SPC has been graced once again with three terrific summer interns—Sharon Dellinger, Brianna Shetler and Holly Reedy.

Sharon and Brianna were the brains and brawn behind the weekly Downtown Out-reaches. Each week they set up an SPC table on the sidewalk by the Farmer's Market and interacted with shoppers for two hours. They also joined the Ground the Drones Committee and helped organize the State Fair tableau. In addition, Sharon, whose numerous skills include office systems analysis, helped a great deal with our database. Brianna did a bit of everything, including being an SPC representative with Solarize Syracuse and organizing the recent "Drone Deliberation" talk and film showing.

Holly's focus was Bikes 4 Peace (B4P), so she was in the office less. She also worked on SPC's weekly e-newsletter and helped with a variety of odd jobs.

We are so grateful to Brianna, Holly and Sharon for their spirit, humor, flexibility and most of all dedication—and look forward to working with them in the future.

Left: Brianna and Sharon coordinating SPC's downtown outreach tabling. Photo: Carol Baum



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Drone Surveillance (**Sunday, October 5**).
Contact Carol.

Bike Raffle: Go the Extra Mile for Change

Tickets for SPC's annual Bike Raffle are available now. Support SPC while getting a chance at a Bianchi Cortina hybrid, valued at \$450, from Mello Velo Bike Shop (550 Westcott St.) Tickets are 1 for \$2, 3 for \$5 and 7 for \$10 and are available at ArtRage Gallery, Mello Velo, Strong Hearts Café, Syracuse Real Food Co-op, SPC, and the Pewter Spoon Café in Cazenovia. The drawing will be held **September 21**, at the Westcott Street Cultural Fair.

You can also go the extra mile by selling Bike Raffle tickets. Pick up an envelope of 20 tickets with full instructions at SPC, or contact Michael and we'll send them to you.

Gaza Rallies and Vigils Draw Many

CNY Working for a Just Peace in Palestine and Israel continues to hold public events toward ending the massive violence against civilians in Gaza. More than 200 people rallied at the Federal Building in Syracuse on July 25, with representation from SPC, Ithaca Jewish Voice for Peace, Cornell Coalition for Justice in Palestine and many in the local Palestinian and Muslim communities.

SPC is holding weekly vigils at the intersection of Erie Blvd E. and E. Genesee St. **every Friday from 4:30-5:30**. Come hold a sign on this major commuter route. We also encourage you to boycott companies that benefit from the occupation. Don't buy Sodastream, Sabra Hummus, Tribe Hummus, Ahava, Hewlett Packard or Motorola.

To learn more about us, go to "Free Palestine" on the "Campaigns" tab on SPC's website.

Move To Amend

The Move To Amend (MTA) campaign continues to organize nationally for a constitutional amendment establishing that a corporation is not entitled to the rights of persons and that election spending is not a "free speech" right of corporations. MTA is part of the New York For Democracy coalition which recently signed a majority of the NY Assembly and nearly half of the NY Senate onto a letter calling on Congress to pass an amendment. We'll survey candidates

for office this fall through our "Pledge to Amend" campaign, educating voters on their responses. Locally, MTA is working to make Syracuse the twentieth New York municipality to call for an amendment. MTA meets the **third Thursday each month, 7-9 pm** at the Center for Peace and Social Justice. Contact Michael or see www.movetoamend.org/NY-Syracuse. SPC is an endorsing organization of Move To Amend.



We are Solarizing Syracuse

Your neighbors are looking into whether they can reduce their environmental impact and save money by going solar. Are you? Solarize Syracuse, a project organized by local community organizations (including SPC) and Syracuse-area residents, offers people the opportunity to learn about how solar energy works and find out whether their property is suitable for solar. Through a partnership with a local solar company, Solarize offers bulk purchase discounts to our community, so the more people who sign up to go solar, the more everyone saves. More than 200 people have signed up so far for a free solar quote and several contracts have been signed. With all the incentives and tax credits available, solar can be more cost-effective than utility electricity rates. Don't miss this opportunity. Attend one of our free workshops (see calendar) or visit www.solarizesyracuse.org.

Ruth Putter iPresente!

Longtime activist Ruth Putter died in April, 2014. Throughout her long life she was a committed social justice activist and feminist. She was a talented photographer and much of her work documents more than 70 years of peace and social justice movements, civil rights and feminism. She co-authored a book of photographs and writings on the Women's Peace Encampment at Romulus, NY and had many exhibits of her work.

Ruth was incredibly generous. After the death of her husband Norton, Ruth offered to fund the creation of ArtRage: The Norton

Putter Gallery, and was instrumental in the restoration of the Matilda Joslyn Gage House in Fayetteville (Gage was a feminist contemporary of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony). She donated time and money to many groups and in death left money to a number of them. SPC is grateful and proud that she included us. Thank you, Ruth, for what you've done, who you were and your investment in the future.

Celebrate Fall at Sycamore Hill Gardens

The Syracuse Center for Peace and Social Justice is so busy managing the building for us tenants that they hold only one fundraiser a year – and it is a lovely event. Get outside on **Sunday, September 7 from 11 am to 4 pm** at Sycamore Hill Gardens (2130 Old Seneca Turnpike, Marcellus) for an afternoon in a country garden. Tickets are \$5-50 sliding scale (more if you can, less if you can't) in advance and \$10-50 at the door (free for children under 8). Tickets are available at the SPC office, Cooperative Federal, Syracuse Food Coop and ArtRage.

Bikes 4 Peace

Bikes 4 Peace is drawing to a close after another successful summer. We held four busy bicycle repair clinics at two locations in Syracuse – Northeast Community Center and Brady Faith Center. We gave five bicycles to children who had helped repair them and provided parts and guidance to repair numerous bikes brought in by neighborhood residents. In addition we passed out three large bags full of new bike helmets courtesy of the Onondaga County Traffic Safety Advisory Board. A lot of kids went away happy those evenings with the parents who assisted us.

We also gave two bikes to Brady Faith's Pedal to Possibilities program, which holds community bike rides with formerly homeless people who can earn a bike after riding a set number of miles.

For next summer we're looking for possible Bikes 4 Peace clinic sites on the near west side. If you have an idea for a site, please contact Dave Kashmer at 315-350-7642 or daveekash@gmail.com.

Bikes 4 Peace will hold an end of the season bicycle repair party, time and place to be announced. Until then, thank you to our volunteers; special thanks to Dave Kashmer for coordinating this summer. ♻️

