

SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL'S

Peace Newsletter

Central New York Voices for Peace and Social Justice

October 2014 #838



This photo shows high tension and a militarized police force in Ferguson, MO two days after police fatally shot Michael Brown, an unarmed teenager. Photo: Whitney Curtis/NYT

Congress shall make no law ... abridging the freedom of speech ... or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

-First Amendment to the United States Constitution

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

ISIS
page 5

Solidarity Economy
page 7

Ferguson
page 8

Cold Case Justice
page 9

SPC INFO

SPC Steering Committee 2014

Jessica Azulay, Carol Baum, Jack Brown, Barbara Humphrey, Ben Kuebrich, Kimberley McCoy, Julianne 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 CONTENTS

SPC in Action

compiled by Carol Baum 3

A Better Approach to ISIS: Don't Bomb!

by SPC Steering Committee 5

Solidarity Economy Towards a Dignified Life

by Frank Cetera 7

Reflections on Ferguson Freedom Ride

by Nikeeta Slade 8

Cold Case Justice Initiative

by Barbara Humphrey 9

Remembering Sam Feld and Mayer Shevin 11

Is Utica More Progressive Than Syracuse?

by Dave Kashmer 13

October Days of Justice

compiled by Andrew Miller 13

SPC Community Calendar 16

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 Nov-Dec *PNL* calendar by November 3.

Peace Newsletter

Central New York Voices for Peace & Social Justice

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The Syracuse Peace Council (SPC),

founded in 1936, is an antiwar/social justice organization. We are community-based, autonomous and funded by the contributions of our supporters.

SPC educates, agitates and organizes for a world where war, violence and exploitation in any form will no longer exist. We challenge the existing unjust power relationships among nations, among people and between ourselves and the environment. As members, we work to replace inequality, hierarchy, domination and powerlessness with mutual respect, personal empowerment, cooperation and a sense of community.

Present social injustices cannot be understood in isolation from each other nor can they be overcome without recognizing their economic and militaristic roots. SPC stresses a strategy that makes these connections clear. We initiate and support activities that help build this sense of community and help tear down the walls of oppression. A fundamental basis for peace and justice is an economic system that places human need above monetary profit. We establish relationships among people based on cooperation rather than competition or the threat of destruction.

Our political values and personal lives shape and reflect each other. In both we are committed to nonviolent means of conflict resolution and to a process of decision-making that responds to the needs of us all.

Educate, Agitate, Organize: SPC IN ACTION

compiled by Carol Baum

SPC Turns 78 with Cold Case Justice

Join the Peace Council for our annual birthday celebration on **Saturday, November 1** at Bellevue Heights United Methodist Church (2112 S. Geddes St., Syracuse). We will host SU Law professors Paula Johnson and Janis McDonald, co-founders of the school's Cold Case Justice Initiative, which works to bring long-lost justice to the families of victims of racially and politically motivated murders related to the Civil Rights movement (see page 9).

Enjoy a delicious home-cooked meal, lovingly prepared with excellent quality, locally sourced and seasonal foods, complete with birthday cake. After dinner, we will listen to Janis and Paula's fascinating presentation. **Doors open at 5:30 pm, dinner is served at 6 pm, speakers at 7 pm.** Suggested donation \$25 (no one turned away); \$10 for speakers only. **Make your reservation by Friday, October 24.** Contact Amelia for information or to volunteer for cooking, logistics, or set up.

Global Action Day Against Drones October 5

Join us **Sunday, October 5**, at Hancock Air Base for the first Global Action Day Against Weaponized and Surveillance Drones. Gather at Hancock's main entrance (6001 E. Molloy Rd., Mattydale) at 1 pm (parking is available at OCM BOCES, 6820 Thompson Rd.; also side streets).

Theater, creativity and participation is the spirit of the event. Costumes, props and signs are encouraged! Come alone or with your group (and if you don't have a group, form one or join one). Group representatives will be offered the opportunity to speak for a few minutes. Just to get your creative juices flowing, consider forming groups like Bicyclists Against Killer Drones,



This year's tableau at the NY State Fair depicted the repercussions of the US drone problem – a grieving Muslim mother, dead family members and friends, and a US drone pilot suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. Thousands of leaflets were distributed. Photo: Carol Baum

Medical Workers Against Killer Drones, Gardeners...you get the idea!

For help with making signs, contact Paul (pauljfrazier@yahoo.com). If you're in a group, let Bonny know so we can promote it (mahoneybonny@gmail.com). For general information or to help with organizing, contact Carol at SPC.

To check out actions happening around the world, go to globaldayofaction.nation-builder.com/calendar.

Say No to the Wastebed Amphitheater

In a clear effort to create the impression that the Onondaga Lake clean-up is "done," the Wastebed Amphitheater (also known as the "Lakeview Amphitheater") is proposed to be constructed on top of wastebeds 1-8

on the western shore of the lake. Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation (NOON) and other community groups comprising Citizens for a Better Plan (CfBP) have been organizing against its construction since the summer. First, CfBP advocated for (and won) an extension for the public comment period on the 654-page Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Then on August 26, we brought people out to the only evening Public Hearing on the amphitheater. Several NOON members made statements, and NOON submitted a written comment.

There are a few more opportunities for input into the process:

- Attend the public meeting on the economics of the amphitheater: **Wednesday, October 1 at 6 pm** at the Geddes Town Hall (1000 Woods Rd., Solvay).
- Attend the public hearing on the tentative county budget: **Thursday, October 9 at 7 pm** at the Legislative Chambers in the County Courthouse (401 Montgomery

continued on next page

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

SYRACUSE
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STAFF ORGANIZERS

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

St., Syracuse).

- Contact your county legislator about voting no to the Wasted Amphitheater. Go to www.ongov.net/legislature/members.html for their contact information; you can link to a district map from there.
- Sign the online petition. Link to it from peacecouncil.net/noon/amphitheater. Download fact sheets there also.

Movement on Jail Oversight in November

The walls of the Onondaga County Legislature's meeting room were lined with observers during the September 8 Public Safety Committee meeting, many of whom held signs calling for independent review of incidents in the county's Justice Center and an end to deaths in the jail. Chairman of the Legislature, Ryan McMahon, presented a bill to the committee that would create an independent group with the power to hold the jail accountable in suspected cases of negligence or malpractice by jail staff. We expect the bill to be come up for vote before the legislature on **Tuesday, November 4 at 1 pm**. (Please confirm close to the date.) Supporters of the bill are welcome to observe the legislative sessions with signs of support, and the public will also have

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

- Oct 7** Hancock Air Base Entrance
(E. Molloy Rd., between Thompson & Townline Rds.)
- Oct 14** Adams & Almond Sts.
- Oct 21** Hancock Air Base Entrance
- Oct 28** Adams & Almond Sts.

Saturdays: 9-10 am

Park Street - Across from the Regional Market main entrance.

Contact Ed or Ann, 315-478-4571

the opportunity to make brief comments. Contact Amelia.



Barb (second from left) demonstrates in support of the Hancock 17 Drone Resisters. Photo: Carol Baum

Activist Appreciation: Barbara Humphrey

2014 has been a year of good fortune for SPC: it has seen the addition of powerhouse organizer Barbara Humphrey to both our Steering and Fundraising Committees! Barb has long worked for peace and social justice in Syracuse, with the Peace Council as well as with other groups. Currently she has stepped up as a major organizer of SPC's Birthday Dinner (see page 9), maximizing SPC's capacity to meet our fundraising goals this year. An organization couldn't ask for much more than Barb's great sense of humor, sharp political insight, strong convictions, clear thinking in group decision-making, and the attention and skill to help design and pull off successful fundraisers! Thank you, Barbara. We are lucky to have your energetic presence among us.

No Justice, No Peace in Palestine and Israel

CNY Working for a Just Peace in Palestine and Israel has continued to meet twice monthly during this period of high tension in the Middle East. We are currently holding vigils every other Friday afternoon from 4:30-5:30 at the intersection of E. Genesee St. and Erie Blvd., directly across from the Dewitt fire station. The committee is particularly concerned that the public differentiate between ISIS and Palestinian political organizations, such as Hamas.

On **Saturday October 18**, we are co-sponsoring a production of the one-

woman theater piece, "My Name is Rachel Corrie," based on the journals of the late peace activist who died facing down home demolitions in Palestine. It is at 7 pm at University United Methodist Church (1085 E. Genesee St., Syracuse); admission is \$8-15 sliding scale (more if you can afford it, less if you can't). We are also working to step up our education and organizing on the BDS (Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions) Movement.

People Want Solar

Solarize Syracuse launched an ambitious campaign to bring solar power to Syracuse this summer. We held nine community workshops between July 31 and September

13. Over 600 people attended, and many workshops were standing room only. Over 450 people enrolled for a free site assessment to find out how solar panels could work on their property. As we write, we have 21 signed contracts, all residential projects, for a total of 155 kW of power. With three weeks left for contracts to be finalized, that number could still grow considerably. For a sense of the impact Solarize Syracuse has had, there were 14 residential solar PV projects installed in the same geographic area in all of 2013, for a total of 120 kW of capacity.

People's Climate March Huge

Four busloads of Central New Yorkers and two busloads of Onondagas went down for the People's Climate March on September 21 in New York City. Thanks to the Sierra Club for organizing three of the buses and Divest SU and ESF for organizing the other CNY bus (Divest is a group of Syracuse University and Environmental Science and Forestry students who are working together to persuade their schools' administrations to divest their endowments from the fossil fuel industry).

The march powerfully threaded many messages together and became a giant (400,000 people) theater piece with sections depicting six themes, each represented by many contingents—Frontlines of Crisis Forefront of Change (people most im-

continued on page 15

A Better Approach to ISIS: Don't Bomb!

SPC Steering Committee

President Obama has launched a new wave of US-led war, this time against ISIS (Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, also known as ISIL or simply the Islamic State). Obama has made clear we are getting into this for the long haul, stating that the US must sustain military action beyond the end of his presidential term.

Members of the SPC Steering Committee are not surprised that the US is turning to a show of military might instead of seeking partners to negotiate a just peace, but we mourn the fact that we are at war yet again. Or perhaps we should not say “again,” because this new battle front is part of the perpetual war fostered by US and other western leaders whose friends stand to benefit politically and financially.

We believe that Obama’s new policies in Iraq and Syria are hugely mistaken and we are outraged because this new wave of war comes largely thanks to the actions and policies of our own government.

US Lays Groundwork for ISIS

Any analysis of the current crisis must begin by acknowledging that ISIS, as we know it today, exists due to the US invasion of Iraq in 2003. ISIS is a radicalized version of an al-Qaeda splinter group formed in response to the Iraq invasion by US forces.

The US implemented a policy of de-Ba’athification in Iraq from 2003-2004 that precluded any member of Saddam Hussein’s former party from present or future employment in Iraq’s public sector. De-Ba’athification eviscerated Iraq’s already-fragile government ministries and police force, exacerbated crime and social turmoil, and laid the foundation for over a decade of sectarian tensions. After the transfer of authority to the US-backed Maliki’s Shiite government in 2004, many say the policy continued unofficially as unaddressed discriminatory policies against Iraqi Sunnis fueled the eruption of sectarian tensions into civil war. ISIS traces its roots to 1999 but claimed its identity as ISIS, and its current and most successful

leader during this period.

ISIS was the strongest insurgent force in Iraq that outlasted the US occupation and departure, and also enjoyed de-facto territory ownership in Syria beginning in 2013. The group leveraged its familiarity with the weaknesses and sectarian loyalties of Iraqi defense forces to successfully invade and capture Iraqi cities. The Shia-dominated Iraqi military, weary from a



decade of sectarian violence, generally proved unwilling to risk their lives defending Mosul, a primarily Sunni city, in a conflict with ISIS. As a result, the US is bombing its own weapons, vehicles and military equipment which were abandoned to ISIS forces in Mosul and other cities in Northern Iraq.

The heavy weapons supplied to the Iraqi army are not the first American weapons wielded by ISIS. The Obama administration armed and trained several Syrian rebel factions in attempts to stack pressure against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. Many of those weapons were taken by ISIS as the group made military gains across the eastern part of the country.

A Better Approach

We disagree with the bombing of Iraq and Syria and call for the following actions from the US government:



1. Do not arm anyone. The President himself acknowledged that there is no military solution to this crisis. We agree with him. This is why we oppose sending weapons to the region and arming any factions. We especially oppose arming the Free Syrian Army, a rebel group which has committed some of the very same atrocities that we rightly condemn ISIS for committing (such as beheadings).

2. No US arms or personnel. We oppose bombing raids as well as sending more troops to the region. The debacle in Iraq was not just a disaster militarily; it created the very chaos that we now see in Iraq and Syria. We should not add fuel to the fire.

3. End blowback-generating practices. We call for an end to techniques—such as torture and the use of drones—that are not only immoral in themselves but virtually guarantee a violent blowback when they become recruiting tools for groups like ISIS.

4. Fund non-military humanitarian aid. We support the implementation of a humanitarian aid process to be administered by an international agency such as the UN.

5. Support diplomacy. And finally we encourage a diplomatic effort that would include all of the players in the region in order to come to a peaceful resolution to the crisis.

In trying to resolve this crisis, we should take the lead from peace groups in Iraq and Syria, as they should have the right to determine their own futures. ☸

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Solidarity Economy Towards a Dignified Life:

Biofábrica Campesina of the Movimiento Campesino de Cajibío

Frank Cetera

Editor's Note: This piece was originally written for Colombia Support Network's fall 2014 newsletter.

The sister-city relationship between the tri-cities of Syracuse/Cortland/Ithaca and Cajibío in Cauca, Colombia, a project of the CNY chapter of the Colombia Support Network, reached a 10-year milestone in 2014. Twelve CNY resident activists traveled to Cajibío as part of the sixth delegation in the relationship's history. An overlying theme that has emerged with time is the transition from the relationship's more purely "solidarity" origins, to recognition of our shared challenges and search for solutions, including opposition to capitalist economic structures and resource extraction.

With little governmental help for sustainable agriculture and increasing costs of items such as chemical pesticides associated with industrial agriculture, small farmers in Cauca have turned to the production of compost.

"Systemic transformation" is the most descriptive strategic terminology for the role the Biofábrica Campesina project plays in the Cauca solidarity economy movement—regional efforts to create economic sovereignty outside of current repressive capitalist practices. It highlights how Biofábrica is not only centered on creating food sovereignty, but also social change from economic equality and reciprocity, and partnerships at the local to international levels for advancing the small farmer movement.

The economic difference to the small farmer is staggering. One bag of compost costs approximately 10,000 pesos, 7 to 8 times less than a bag of chemical fertilizer. In addition, the compost is sold right within the local community in which it is produced, reducing the need for expensive transportation infrastructure arrangements.

The income of a small farmer in Colombia is much smaller compared to that of the minimum salaried worker in Colombia. But their needs are also less in

terms of providing for a dignified life. This dignified life is one based on their desires to restore an ancestral heritage related to farming practices, and to maintain personal and familial sovereignty without giving in to lifestyle changes brought about by neoliberal policies (in which many families are forced from their land and into urban areas, dead-end jobs, and living conditions out-of-sync with dignified life traditions). This compost production business, which alone is supporting 11 families that work on



At the Feria Campesina. Photo: Frank Cetera

the project, provides a major contribution towards the realization of this life.

The ecological benefits to the land and farming success are also huge. As climate change affects growing seasons and rain cycles, rainwater collection and irrigation timing have become difficult. Compost has the ability (unlike chemical fertilizer products), due to organic matter content, to hold water in the soil for an extended time, providing a buffer for irrigation practices.

The Biofábrica operation began with financial support from the Movimiento Campesino de Cajibío (MCC) through a 2,000,000 peso investment. Although 40% of this money was granted to the Campesina, 60% was in the form of a loan at 1% interest. This loan is paid back as part of a revolving cycle of reciprocity between the community members, and seeds the next solidarity economy project—such as a forthcoming egg production business.

The small farmer solidarity economy was further highlighted at the second Feria Campesina (Small Farmer's Fair) coordinated by the MCC. Seeds, knowledge, flavors, farm products, and cultural heritage (art and dance) were exchanged during a day of celebration. But more than celebration, the event was meant to highlight the Campesin@'s campaign to be recognized as a distinct population by the Colombian State government—a community with rights and responsibilities, and a voice in Colombian governmental proceedings.

Looking at one of the most quoted definitions of the solidarity economy, provided by Alliance 21—which convened the Workgroup on the Solidarity Socioeconomy in 2003, one can recognize that these economic and community building activities outside of the profit-driven corporate culture of current neo-liberal economics demonstrates such a recognized population already exists within the Campesina:

"Solidarity Economy designates all production, distribution and consumption activities that contribute to the democratization of the economy based on citizen commitments both at a local and global level."

These solidarity economy actions by the Campesin@ also highlight the goals and challenges that we as a sister-community, and international brethren, share together in the face of government corruption and corporate domination. These shared goals and challenges hold the potential for galvanizing the solidarity economy movement within Cauca, Colombia and everywhere else around the world.

International profiteering through capitalism will stop at no end as we know, because capitalism has no directive to include human rights over revenues. But the Campesin@ in their actions, and those of us in solidarity, can continue to create a new world order of mutual aid, self-development, and economies based on care as central to our worldview. Social and economic change must follow a dual-fold path of political engagement, with the underlying surging path of direct action through solidarity economy actions. ♡

Frank is a 2014 CNY-Cajibío Delegate.

Reflections on Ferguson Freedom Ride

Nikeeta Slade

On August 28, six of us from Syracuse joined other Black organizers, cultural workers, healers, etc. from all across the country for a weekend of national action in Ferguson. According to the organizers, “the Black Life Matters Ride” was organized in the spirit of the early 1960s interstate Freedom Rides to end racial segregation.” Armed with the spirit and knowledge of the radical Black Freedom tradition, when the Black Lives Matter group put out the national call to be in Ferguson, my friends and I knew we had to answer.

The March

We arrived in Ferguson on Saturday, the day of the National March. The gray skies and thick clouds that hung low above our heads seemed to capture our collective state of grieving and mourning, not just for Mike Brown, but for the countless other Black people mercilessly killed at the hands of the state. We walked down West Florissant, one of the main streets in town, to get to the starting place of the march. West Florissant was lined with a number of plazas and stores, and some of the boarded up stores had messages thanking people for the love and support of Ferguson.

The march started on the corner of West Florissant Street and a much smaller street, Canfield Drive. Five hundred people marched down Canfield Drive, young, old, predominantly Black with a smattering of white faces chanting “hands up don’t shoot!” As we were marching down Canfield Drive, the street began to narrow and I realized we were actually marching in a residential neighborhood. It seemed odd to me that we would march in this small community, rather than march down West Florissant, a much broader and busier street that would have certainly increased visibility. We eventually stopped and the Fruit of Islam, the defense wing

of the Nation of Islam, the Black Muslim religious and political organization, told everyone to get on the sidewalk. My



This makeshift memorial for Mike Brown was created by residents and visitors in the exact spot where he was fatally gunned down and where his body was savagely left for hours. Photo: Jeanelle Hope

friends who were further up in the march told me that we were actually standing in the place where Mike Brown was killed. After people began moving to the sidewalk, I then saw the memorial filled with caps, teddy bears, t-shirts, and all sorts of trinkets and tokens of love for Mike Brown. He was somebody’s son, someone’s neighbor, someone’s friend. Mike Brown was somebody. A human being.

I had a difficult time making sense of where we were because none of the photos and reports I’d seen up to that point had captured the intimacy of the street and the neighborhood where Mike Brown was gunned down as if he were mere prey. In that moment, I realized that Darren Wilson not only had no regard for Mike Brown’s

life but he obviously had no respect for the lives of anyone in that community. Apartments were at the edge of the narrow street, and as my friend Sherri pointed out, those gun shots could have easily gone into someone’s home. It also made it that much more repulsive and vile that police left Mike Brown’s dead body in the street for four hours. How traumatic and harrowing it must have been to have Wilson shooting in such a closed space, and then leaving a young boy’s body in the street for all of the community to see. This further solidified to me that Black people are not even safe in what are supposed to be the most sacred spaces in our society; our homes and our communities.

**“Can’t be revolution
without women,
can’t be revolution
without children”[†]**

The Black Lives Matter organizers made a concerted effort to amplify the voices and the work of Black women and Black youth organizers in Ferguson, and the importance of this cannot be stressed enough. After

the March on Saturday, we were invited to a BBQ that was put together mainly by women and youth in the community. One woman told us about the efforts of a dedicated group of local teens that started a collective called LostVoices. She told us that these teens camped out at a local church, hardly getting any sleep for at least 10 days straight as they were collecting and distributing vital supplies such as food and water for the protesters and community members. They had also been holding demonstrations, protests, voter registration drives, amongst other important political activities as well. Their commitment to fighting for justice has been absolutely unwavering.

Later that evening, we heard from

Nikeeta is a socialist activist and writer living in Syracuse, NY.



Sea of marchers marching down Canfield Drive in Ferguson, MO. Photo: Jeanelle Hope

three young Black women that had been working tirelessly since August 9th, the day Mike Brown was killed. They also had been collecting and distributing supplies for fellow protestors and activists. Additionally, when the protests erupted in Ferguson, these women strategically used social media to actually let people know what was happening on the ground and to highlight their own experiences with being beaten and tear gassed. One of the women remarked that the police had absolutely no qualms with beating, tear gassing and brutalizing women. This was such an important point because far too often, conversations about police brutality usually focus on cisgender heterosexual Black men, to the exclusion of Black women, trans members of the Black community, and queer members as well. This was an important reminder, that any fight for racial justice must be unapologetically intersectional and inclusive.

St. John's United Church, a local church, was gracious enough to host us throughout the weekend, so on Sunday, our final day there, they invited us to a special sermon that connected the politics of Jesus to the struggle in Ferguson. Reverend Starsky Wilson's earth-moving inspirational message argued that the political climate of Jesus' time was similar to our own and that we need radical and revolutionary resistance to fight occupation, militarism, racism, and bigotry. The church filled with thunderous applause, foot stomping, and shouting from believers and non-believers alike. After the sermon, a 10-year-old girl from California gave a heart-wrenching testimony about her fears of being gunned down by a police officer while playing outside with her friends and how it was this fear for her life and her own safety that compelled her to come to Ferguson so she can have the future she knows she deserves. On the one hand it was absolutely devastating to hear a 10 year old express her fears about the reality of living in a white supremacist society that has no regard for her life or the lives of other Black children, but on the other hand, it was inspiring to hear that even 10 year olds have a profound and deep commitment to fighting for justice.

We would do well to remember these stories of courage and commitment in Ferguson when racist and/or opportunistic talking heads try to demonize and criminalize Black people for actively fighting for a world and a society where Black lives do indeed matter.

[†]Lyric from hip hop group Arrested Development's song "Mama's Always on Stage." ♫

Cold Case Justice Initiative

Barbara Humphrey

The Syracuse Peace Council is proud to bring the Cold Case Justice (CCJI) Initiative to its 2014 Birthday Dinner on Saturday, November 1 at Bellevue Heights Methodist Church (2112 S. Geddes St., Syracuse). Following dinner at 6 pm, CCJI Directors, SU Law Professors Paula C. Johnson and Janis L. McDonald, will speak about this project.

CCJI is an interdisciplinary project that engages Syracuse University College of Law faculty and students to seek justice for racially motivated murders during the Civil Rights era on behalf of their victims, families, local communities and society at large.

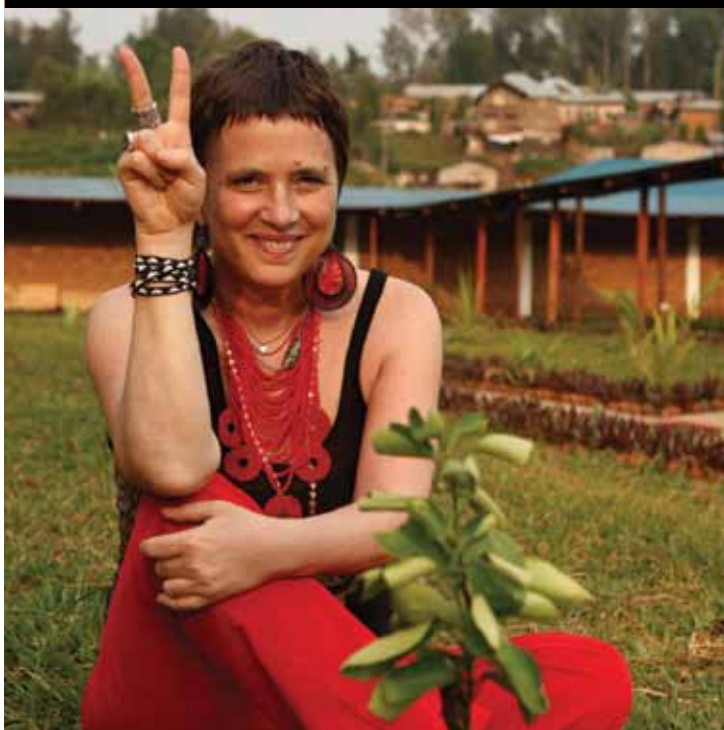
The CCJI project was founded at Syracuse University in response to the 1964 murder of Ferriday, LA, shop owner Frank Morris by suspected Ku Klux Klan members, a case that remains unsolved to this day. Under the supervision of College of Law Professors Johnson and McDonald, SU law students' research led to witnesses providing new information on the case, the appointment of a special agent by the FBI, and a pledge by the US Attorney General's Office for a full review of the case. As a result, Professors Johnson and McDonald developed the course "Investigating and Reopening Unsolved Civil Rights Era Murders." First offered during the 2007-08 academic year, this course introduces students to civil rights history and law; criminal procedure, evidence and advocacy skills; and global human rights in the context of investigating civil rights era murder cases in the US.

In addition to its investigations and research into unsolved cases and academic course offerings, CCJI offers public forums and other special events, and serves as a clearinghouse for sharing and receiving information on active cases. CCJI not only focuses vigilant attention on these long unresolved, racially motivated killings of the past, but also on continuing issues of racial justice, such as the deaths resulting from police brutality in primarily poor communities of color. ♫

Eve Ensler



UNIVERSITY LECTURES



Eve Ensler

IN THE BODY OF JUSTICE

Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2014

Playwright Eve Ensler will speak about her efforts through the years to stop violence and create a planet in which women and girls are free to thrive, rather than merely survive. Her well-known work “The Vagina Monologues” inspired her to create V-Day, a global activist movement to stop violence against women and girls that raises funds and awareness through benefit productions and other artistic works. V-Day’s newest campaign, ONE BILLION RISING, launched in February 2012, has been active on the Syracuse University campus. One of Ensler’s latest efforts, City of Joy, was launched in 2011 in the Democratic Republic of Congo to help women survivors of violence.

Free and open to the public.
Contact the Office of Academic Affairs
for more information:
315-443-2941
eegray@syr.edu

lectures.syr.edu

This lecture is sponsored in cooperation with the Pulse performing arts series, the LGBT Resource Center, the Humanities Center as part of the 2014 Syracuse Symposium, the David B. Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics, and the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications.

Remembering Sam Feld and Mayer Shevin

The Peace Council community lost two long-time activists last month. Here we devote some space to their memories. See more reflections at www.peacecouncil.net/pnl.

The age of my parents, Sam represented the generation of activists who preceded me. Since my earliest days as a teenage activist, I have always been moved and motivated by those who were significantly older than me, but who were still out there on the street, making their presence felt and their voices heard. Since I am now of the elder activist generation, Sam was really the only one left who was enough older than me to take that role! I would notice with amazement that he had walked up the stairs to the office to lend a hand with a mailing, or that he had come out to yet another demonstration. In my head I would say to myself “I almost didn’t come today because I’m tired (or too busy, or on the edge of giving up)—what’s my problem? If Sam can come out, I can too.”

Sam was with us this summer as we stood against the attacks on Gaza. Actually, Sam never just “stood.” He chatted, he discussed, he joked. I don’t know for sure, but my guess is that he knew from experience how important it was to keep spirits up on the picket line during a strike. Sam was a comrade who inspired not only by his words and actions, but also by his longevity in the struggle. I hope that I can at least in part, fulfill the role he played for me, for those who have come after me. Thank you so very much Sam, for staying with us as long as you did.

-Carole Resnick

Years ago I worked on an oral history project interviewing local activists. I spent some time with Sam at his and Jane’s home on Allen Street. Now, Sam’s all-too-short Syracuse.com obituary tells us he flew 35 missions over Europe during World War II, garnering warrior medals. These included the Distinguished Flying Cross and even one bestowed years later by Russia’s then-president, Boris Yeltsin. But that afternoon in Sam and Jane’s living room it was clear that the recognition Sam was most proud of was embodied in his thick, heavily redacted FBI dossier acquired through the Freedom of Information Act.



Sam Feld. Photo: Andy Mager

Like the late peoples’ historian Howard Zinn and like Nick Cardell, the late May Memorial minister, Sam’s anti-war convictions stemmed from knowing all too well the obscenity of war, especially the obscene terrorism of air war. Men like Howard, Nick and Sam spent their post-war years, not reveling in their thoroughly courageous exploits, but helping to make this world one where such war was no longer an option.

-Ed Kinane

Twenty-three years have passed since I first met Mayer. I am lucky he was in my life for so long. We were in each other’s lives as friends, chosen family, coworkers, and collaborators. I learned so much from Mayer, as he worked tirelessly to advocate for and with people with disabilities. Even when Mayer used written or typed words to speak for himself, he had the mission of teaching his care staff about communication access for nonspeakers. Never giving up...

Mayer’s advocacy was about voice.

In many ways, Mayer used his own words as a voice for people with speaking disabilities: His famous poem “The Language of Us and Them” epitomizes this. He wrote, edited, and helped publish newsletters (*Talking Politics* and the *Facilitated Communication Digest*) centered on the rights of nonspeech communicators.

In other ways, Mayer worked to make the voices of nonspeech communicators audible. He created public forums for them to communicate, online (Facilitated Communication, or FC, World) and at conferences (e.g., assisting nonspeech communicators give public speeches across the world, creating seminars where only nonspeech communicators were allowed to ‘talk.’)

Lastly, and maybe most importantly, Mayer worked to create voice *with* nonspeech communicators. Being friends, sharing meals, visiting, going on trips together, and, of course, having conversations with nonspeech communicators, Mayer created a relationship voice for people who rarely get the chance to participate in ordinary friendships.

May all your work on voice continue to be seen, heard and respected, Mayer. We all learned so much from you!

-Annegret Schubert

Night has come, my wee one...

...If you listen, quiet and still,

You can hear the stars whisper your name...

(from a round by Mayer)

Mayer—a poet, cultural worker, facilitator of communication, father, ally and friend—will be remembered fondly in these roles, in various circles of community. His loved ones will miss his unique way of being in the present with people, in life.

Mayer was a healer of human connections, a wise Jewish elder, and a proud “geezer” in the tradition of Wicca. He integrated all these roles in the uniqueness of Mayer, and gave all who knew him the encouragement to be themselves as well.

-Peter E. Swords



Mayer Shevin. Photo: Diane Lansing

Barry Scheck



UNIVERSITY LECTURES

Barry Scheck

THE INNOCENCE PROJECT: DNA AND THE WRONGLY CONVICTED

Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2014

Attorney and DNA expert Barry Scheck will speak on the Innocence Project, a national litigation and public policy organization he co-founded in 1992 dedicated to reforming the criminal justice system. Scheck and the organization have used DNA evidence to exonerate almost 300 wrongfully imprisoned people, many of whom were on death row or had been incarcerated for decades. Scheck is considered to be one of the 100 most influential lawyers in America.

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Is Utica More Progressive Than Syracuse?

Dave Kashmer

I came across an article recently in the *Utica Observer-Dispatch*. It was about a bicycle program similar to Bikes 4 Peace in that we both teach bike repair skills and give away bikes if the recipient works on the bike. But there the similarity ends.

Utica Bike Rescue just received a \$42,000 grant from The Community Foundation of Herkimer & Oneida Counties to expand their program. Syracuse is similar to Utica in that we both have high poverty rates, and many people in the city do not have cars. Some people use bikes to get around. But if a person in our town cannot afford a bike, there are few options but \$2 for a bus ride or to walk.

Bikes for Peace runs on funds from the Syracuse Peace Council, and our volunteers donate bikes, bike parts and their time. A few good people will also donate bikes to us, but that number is limited. Organizations such as the Syracuse Center For Peace and Social Justice, Northeast Community Center, Brady Faith Center and the Spanish Action League let us use their spaces for our bike repair clinics.

There are upstate New York towns besides Utica that have good-sized bike recycling programs. Rochester, Troy and Ithaca are others. Syracuse has always been known as a transportation hub, and it seems that the automobile is the only thing on people's minds lately. We're considering replacing the Route 81 viaduct and spending a lot of money on it. The automobile is a century old form of transportation, and the bicycle even older. But the difference is a bike is a lot cheaper, healthier, more reliable and easier on the environment.

I for one would like to see Syracuse become the center of sustainable transportation for upstate New York. But with other towns promoting bicycles as an alternative, we might have to hand the distinction over to a town like Utica. ♡



An SPC volunteer teaches bike repair at a 2011 Bikes for Peace clinic. Dave Kashmer coordinated the program this summer. Photo: SPC archives



October Days of Justice

National Coming Out Day: October 11

Founded in 1988; October 11 is the anniversary of the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights (1987). Celebrate and support those who choose on this day to come out. Don't forget to be there for friends & loved ones for whom this year isn't the right time to come out.

Columbus Day: October 13

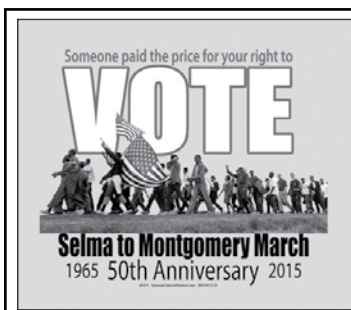
Christopher Columbus arrived in the Americas on October 12, 1492, in search of gold for himself and his expedition's investors. The indigenous populations of the Americas were devastated. Awareness of the genocidal acts of Columbus and subsequent expeditions grew in the latter half of the 20th century.

Hispanic Heritage Month/Mes de la Herencia Hispana: September 15-October 15

Rooted in 1968, seven countries celebrate their independence on Sept. 15: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Mexico, Chile, and Belize celebrate their independence days within the same period. 17% of the US population, or 54.1 million people, claim Latino origins.

National Domestic Violence Awareness Month: October

Originating with a Day of Unity in October 1981, NDVAM is now a platform to mourn the loss of victims of domestic violence, support and celebrate survivors, connect those who contribute to ending domestic violence, and listen to each other's stories. ♡



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Carrie Mae Weems



UNIVERSITY LECTURES

Carrie Mae Weems

SWINGING INTO SIXTY: A WOMAN PONDER'S THE FUTURE

Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2014

Photographer and artist Carrie Mae Weems will take the audience on a journey through the stories she has told through art in her esteemed 25-year career, including family relationships, gender roles and the histories of racism, sexism, class and various political systems. She has done this by utilizing many mediums through the years, including photographs, text, fabric, audio, digital images, installation and video. Weems was awarded a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship in 2013, and a 30-year retrospective of her work opened in January at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York City.

Free and open to the public.
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SPC in Action / from page 4

pacted by climate change), We Can Build the Future (labor, families, students), We Have Solutions (renewable energy, environmental organizations), We Know Who Is Responsible (anti-corporate campaigns, peace and social justice groups), The Debate Is Over (scientists, faith communities) and To Change Everything, We Need Everyone (community groups, neighborhoods, LGBTQ groups, cities).

For more information on local organizing, contact Carol.

Drone Activism and Court: The Continuing Story

We are now into trials for the Hancock 31 (arrested for a nonviolent action at Hancock Air Base in April, 2013). Since these are mostly individual jury trials scheduled about once a month in the Town of DeWitt Court, they will continue into the summer of 2015.

On September 15, Eve Tetaz of NYC, charged with disorderly conduct for reading aloud the Preamble to the UN Charter and the First Amendment of the Constitution, was acquitted. When the police ordered her to stop, she continued. The prosecution's video showed the arresting officer grabbing those documents from her hands and tossing them aside.

Binghamton activist Jack Gilroy, as the first of the Hancock 31 to be found guilty (of obstruction of governmental administration and trespass), will be sentenced on Wednesday, October 1 at 4:30 at the Town of DeWitt Court (5400 Butternut Dr., East Syracuse). Supporters are welcome. He faces one year in prison.

Meanwhile, trials for other actions at the Base continue. On September 19, Mark Colville of Amistad Catholic Worker in New Haven (Connecticut) was found guilty of five charges after having carried flowers and a People's Order of Protection to the Base's front gate. An hour before the trial, Judge Jokl told Mark he will be sentenced to the maximum penalty if he were found guilty by the jury. When Mark asked, "Why?" the judge responded, "Because I think you deserve it."

This is a difficult process. Real jail time is being faced, along with the prospect of permanent orders of protection. The appeals take money, since all the proceedings must be transcribed. Please consider donating to the legal fund. Send checks made out

to Upstate Drone Action to UDA c/o the Syracuse Peace Council, 2013 E. Genesee St., Syracuse, NY 13210.

Also, please consider attending a trial to support the person on trial, show the judge and the jury that people care, and get an amazing education in itself. Contact Carol for details or go to upstatedroneaction.org/WebCalendar/month.php.



Pat Carmeli of CNY Working for a Just Peace in Palestine & Israel at the twice monthly Vigil for Gaza. Photo: Mara Sapon-Shevin

Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation

In addition to working as part of Citizens for a Better Plan (see page 3), Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation (NOON) is busy with its other projects. The Roots of Injustice Workshop went so well over the summer that a committee has formed to support holding more workshops locally. The Good Friends Gardeners have evaluated their summer work and decided to continue in their collaboration with gardeners at the Onondaga Nation, but with some changes next summer. We continue with our information tabling at events, and now that school has started, are eager to find opportunities to speak with students. Also, look for announcements this fall for an event to celebrate the publication of our new booklet, *Neighbor to Neighbor, Nation to Nation: Readings About the Relationship of the Onondaga Nation with Central New York, USA*.

Contact Amelia or Carol.

Welcome Fall Interns

The Peace Council has two interns thus far for fall, and they are both off to a solid start. Hasmik Djoulakian is a sophomore at Syracuse University, majoring in Citizen-

ship and Civic Engagement. She brings her organizing experience to NOON and the October 5 anti-drone protest at Hancock Base. Hasmik has previously worked with several environmental organizations and has a strong interest in global women's issues. Crystal Lau is an International Relations and Hospitality major who has studied abroad in Hong Kong and is involved with LINK (Liberty in North Korea). Crystal is helping with organizing events, focusing on the November 1 Birthday Dinner and Plowshares Craftsfair. We continue to interview new intern applicants and will keep you posted.

Westcott Street Cultural Fair

If you saw a gorilla wearing a red t-shirt covered with buttons for sale on Westcott Street on Sunday, September 21, we hope you stopped by our booth. You also would have seen a hot red bicycle from Mello Velo on display for SPC's annual bike raffle. We actually had three booths at the Westcott Fair this year—Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation, CNY Working for a Just Peace in Palestine and Israel, and a more general SPC booth. Although we were hit by a long torrential rain in the mid-afternoon, resulting in an early closing, many fairgoers earlier came to learn about our latest work and upcoming events. Much appreciation to the many volunteers who made it work, especially Wendy Yost, who spent the entire day at our booth.

Garage Sale Showered with Success

Thanks to all who contributed, made purchases, and especially, to those who organized and worked at the annual SPC Garage Sale over September 13-14. We thank Rae Kramer, who provided so much of the energy and spirit for it (as well as her garage). Thanks also to Dave, Vickie, Barb, Lanny, Ed, Dave, Charlie, Flora, Marie and Renee. Special thanks to Ann, Bonny, Wendy, Teresa, Shirley and Laurie. Although it poured much of Saturday, stalwart volunteers and intrepid shoppers carried on, employing tarps, slickers, and umbrellas. Sunday was clear and easier, but it was quickly decided to re-open the sale the following Saturday as well, to move out the remaining bargains. This year's garage sale brought in \$1,700 to fuel our work for peace and social justice. ☸

