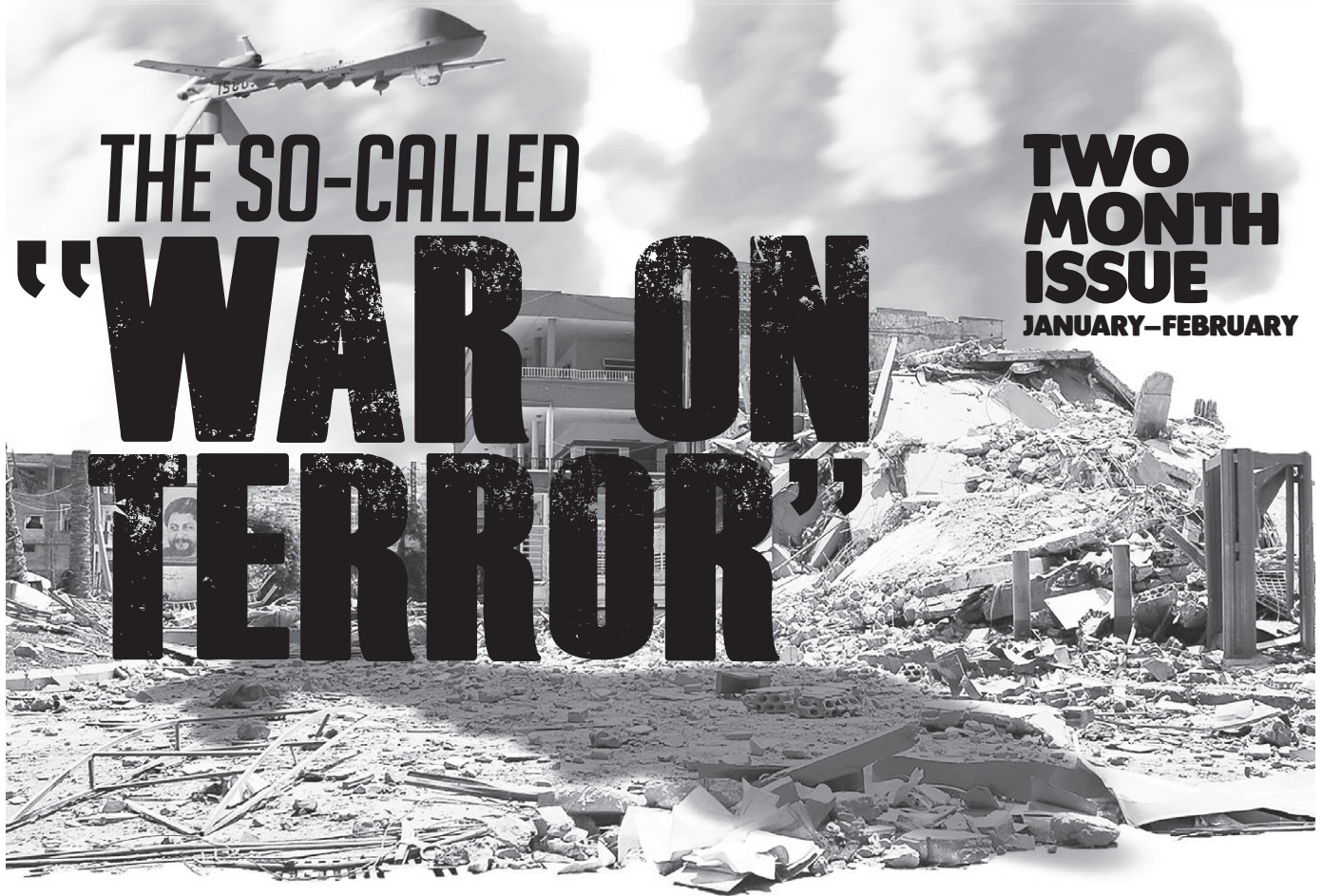


PEACE NEWSLETTER



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This issue of the *Peace Newsletter* debunks the US' so-called "War on Terror." The quotation marks are purposeful. The phrase was pushed by the G.W. Bush administration after 9/11/01. It has been downplayed by the Obama administration, yet it has persisted in the public conversation about the US military presence worldwide. The worldview represented is simplistic: "*We* are the innocent good guys; *they* are the bad guys who want to destroy all that is right and good (namely *us*); and *we* have the right and obligation to stop *them* in any which way that we can to protect *our* interests. This country is the greatest in the world and anyone against *us* must be bad." Peace Council activists condemn and challenge this worldview, as well as what drives it: the desire to control the world's resources.

The articles look at the so-called "War on Terrorism" through the lenses of the different project committees of the Peace Council. While the emphases vary, there are common themes: the US as a perpetrator of terrorism throughout its history; the exploitation of fear to justify increased US military domination around the world and reduced civil liberties at home; the racist underpinnings in defining who the enemies are, both abroad and at home; and acknowledging that the role the US has taken in the world has given many legitimate reason to hate us.

With knowledge comes the responsibility of action. Please join your voice with ours.

– *The PNL Editorial Committee*

US War of Terror

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SPC Statement of purpose

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

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WINTER FILM SERIES

The Peace Council will present a film related to each of our major issue areas from early February through early April. Films will address nuclear disarmament, indigenous rights, resisting racism in the US, solidarity with Palestine, and drones.

Details are being finalized as we are going to print. Please look for a flier in your newsletter if you are a *PNL* subscriber, or go to www.peacecouncil.net/films for the full slate of films to be presented.

BOWLATHON COMING!

Start thinking about your clever team name and costume for the silliest Peace Council FUNdraiser of the year: the Bowlathon is coming! This year we'll be at Lakeview Bowling Center (715 Old Liverpool Rd., Liverpool, NY) on **Sunday, March 20**, session times TBA. You can start recruiting your team members and pledgers for now, and check for details as they are finalized at www.peacecouncil.net/bowl.



On December 30, dozens of people gathered to mourn and rage that another police officer got off without charges after killing an unarmed black person, this time 12-year-old Tamir Rice in Cleveland.

Photo: Minnie Bruce Pratt

MEMBERSHIP

For many years, SPC membership has been informal. If you considered yourself a member because you donate, pledge, subscribe to the *Peace Newsletter* or participate in SPC's work in an ongoing way, you were a member. For the past few years, the Steering Committee has been developing a more formalized membership structure. The structure we designed seeks to continue to be inclusive and to strengthen the empowerment of

the grassroots activists involved in our ongoing work, while helping more people identify more strongly with SPC.

Moving forward, you will be considered a Peace Council member if you agree with our Statement of Purpose (find it on page 2) and contribute time or money. Being an SPC member gets you a *PNL* subscription and makes you eligible to participate in Steering Committee selection. For more information, go to peacecouncil.net/membership.

To launch membership, we assessed who already met these criteria and contacted those people with an option to opt out of membership. Please contact us if you would like to opt out, or if you think you should be considered a member but have not heard from us. We are planning a membership meeting for the spring where SPC members can learn and share updates about how SPC functions, including the budget and Steering Committee selection. Questions? Contact Ursula.

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THE PEACE NEWSLETTER IN THE CHANGING MEDIA LANDSCAPE

Welcome to the Syracuse Peace Council's 80th year of educating, agitating and organizing for peace and social justice. Much of our activist history is reflected in our *Peace Newsletter (PNL)*, which has been published (mostly) monthly since January, 1936. All of the issues are available online at www.peacecouncil.net (to access the older issues, go to the bottom of www.peacecouncil.net/pnl/old-pnl-archive).

The *PNL* has been through many iterations over the years, starting in January, 1936 as a one-page newsletter. It has been typed on a typewriter (correction fluid and all) and mimeographed. It has been laid out by hand (using rulers, glue and caffeine) by a community of people working late into the night. Today's *PNL* is laid out on a computer and is printed offsite on newsprint, which enables us to distribute thousands throughout the Syracuse area.

Most important, the *PNL* has been a source of political analysis, a place to report otherwise-ignored news, an organizing tool, a voice for people finding theirs, and a way to connect the dots among issues.

For several years we have produced 10 issues a year. In 2016, the *PNL* will go to an every-other-month schedule. This decision was not made lightly, nor is it our ideal, and will be reevaluated later this year. The Steering Committee, *PNL* Editorial Committee and the staff all agreed to it. We want to share with the readership our rationale for making this decision. There were three factors that worked together:

1) Changing media landscape.

There's no doubt about it – the media landscape is changing. We remain completely committed to print – not everyone has easy access to cybercommunications, many people still have a preference for paper, and the print *PNL* is distributed to coffee

shops, restaurants, etc., where people can come across it. Print has an accessibility that is different from computer bytes. But computer bytes have a kind of accessibility too, and although SPC has a website, and is on Facebook and Twitter, we don't put anywhere near as much energy into those as we do into print. We'd like to have time to experiment more with other media and see how our various forms of media can reinforce each other, rather than compete.

2) The cost of printing and postage continues to go up.

The print *PNL* is costly and continues to cost more. The *PNL* has been our largest expense after staff time. After much analysis, we found that the best way to save money on the *PNL* is to have fewer issues. This will free up resources that can be used on other types of media work and more peace and justice organizing.


3) Changing SPC staff jobs.

A staff person coordinates the *PNL* and works with the editorial committee. It is a very demanding job that used to be rotated among staff once or twice a year. Amelia Lefevre had been coordinating the *PNL* for three years and needed a break. To maintain the monthly pace of production, either of the other two staff people would have needed to change their jobs dramatically. Thinking this through provided the impetus to look at the entire picture of SPC media/communications.

We are both sad and excited – sad because print is a valuable form of communication, and we will be doing a little less of it, but excited because other possibilities are then opened up. We welcome your input and energy as we work to communicate to educate, agitate and organize in as many ways as we can. ☺

– Carol Baum






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OUR TERRORISMS

SPECIAL: "WAR ON TERROR"

Ed Kinane

Pundits and politicians incessantly invoke, but seldom define, "terrorism." Like the phony "war on drugs," the phony "war on terrorism" promotes economic interests, serves political agendas. Neither war reduces drug use or violence. Nor are they designed to.

"Terrorism" – past and present – pervades the US psyche and economy. Terrorism, so-called, and the fear thereof, blunts our minds, shrinks our hearts. This contrived national obsession gives the Pentagon and NSA/Homeland Security their ever-expanding powers. It tightens their grip. It swells their coffers.

Their bloated budgets, like the Congress that appropriates their funds, march to corporate drummers. Since World War II, terrorism/militarism has been exceedingly profitable for the "defense" industry (think Lockheed Martin *et al*). The high-tech war industry – the US economy's warped backbone – enriches the rich, deprives the poor.

Military spending sucks the life out of civil society. That poorly monitored spending finances death-dealing, profit-intensive projects; these preempt job-intensive, life-serving ones. Pentagon budgets assure grossly underfunded housing, schooling, health and infrastructure development. Like the anti-Soviet nuclear arms race, the terrorism/militarism nexus drives both economic disparity and domestic repression.

Some terror – i.e. *the use, or threat, of violence against civilians for political/economic ends* – isn't contrived. Some terror is all too real. And has deep roots:

- The continent-wide armed robbery of indigenous lands. Thanks to their higher tech weaponry, European invaders ethnically cleansed Native Americans – mostly non-combatants. We all occupy stolen land.
- The wholesale abduction of Africans – robbing them not only of their labor, liberty, and dignity, but of their offspring.

Ed works with SPC's Ground the Drones and End the Wars committee. Reach him at edkinane@verizon.net. For more of Ed's drone commentary, see truth-out.org/author/itemlist/user/45267.

Without a whip at her back, a noose around his neck, no human endures such rape and servitude. See the film *12 Years a Slave*.

That terrorist regime lives on today with mass incarceration and what author Michelle Alexander calls "The New Jim Crow." Police assassinating young black men mirror Ku Klux Klan lynching. Both go unprosecuted. (Note the enduring intersection of impunity and racism.)

We've been conditioned to believe terrorism is violence perpetrated by the "other" – the non-white other. Blind to the origins of white supremacy and privilege, we are the legatees of our previous terrorisms. Only when terrorism is defined do we see Manifest Destiny and slavery for what they were. Only when terrorism is defined do we see today's "War on Terrorism" for what it is: a War of Terrorism.

The "War on Terrorism" – quotation marks are a must – features aerial bombing of people of color who can barely shoot back: the Anglosphere globalizing its centuries-long terror track.

Since August 6, 1945 the world has been chilled by US nuclear blackmail. Since the grotesquely one-sided air onslaught on Viet Nam and since the 2003 "shock and awe" terror attacks on Baghdad, the world knows it resists the Imperium at its peril.

Nuke and B-52 terror can't neutralize, but they do provoke, non-state terrorism and resistance. The hunter/killer MQ9 Reaper drone and its cowardly ilk seem for now to be just the thing for taking out "bad guys." But for each "bad guy" assassinated, many others are killed or recruited. Not smart...unless, of course, you profit from keeping the pot boiling.

Here in Upstate New York the Syracuse *Post-Standard* normalizes the hunter/killer Reaper drone operating out of Hancock Air Force Base. Like the KKK and the Wild West cavalry, these robots are deployed to kill with impunity. The *Post* ignores Reaper illegality, its evasion of due process, its violating others'



sovereignty. The *Post* sanitizes Reaper transgression against human bodies and human rights.

It barely mentions the drone "collateral damage" incinerating and dismembering mostly women and children and other noncombatants both within and beyond "legal" war zones. The *Post* ignores the back story behind the blowback – always called "terrorism" – of those avenging and resisting US aggression and domination. Further, perhaps sensing what a boon to business arms races are, the *Post* ignores the deadly prospect of drone proliferation.

The December 17 *Post* reports that the Reaper now is actually flying – not just being remotely controlled – out of Hancock AFB and from Syracuse's civilian international airport. The Page 1 story, festooned with color photos, is headlined "Reaper Drone Makes History in Syracuse."

With no pretense to journalistic balance, such stories fail to note that since 2010 there have been recurring anti-Reaper protests at Hancock AFB, home of the 174th drone Attack Wing. The increasingly militarized local police, at Hancock's bidding, arrest these protesters exercising their First Amendment right to petition the government for redress of grievance. Multiple incarcerations ensue.

But the *Post* doesn't acknowledge such erosion of civil liberty. Nor has it investigated allegations of Hancock war crime. Further, the *Post* has been eerily silent about the role that domestic drones may well soon play in policing and intimidating dissidents and minorities.

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WHITE SUPREMACY IS FUNDAMENTAL TO THE “WAR ON TERROR”

SPECIAL: “WAR ON TERROR”

Amelia Lefevre and Aly Wane

In the US, the state can murder a child with impunity if that child’s skin is a certain color, as in the tragic case of Tamir Rice. This represents a kind of terrorism, and yet the US government goes abroad to fight a so-called “War on Terror,” rather than fight it here. Some have argued that the government’s war on terror is in fact a war of terror, with its Hellfire missiles raining down on wedding parties and unsuspecting civilians. And, really, is it any surprise that a country that murders brown children within its borders would export that violence and do the same to the brown children of the world?

The US was founded on the murder and exploitation of non-white people (i.e. non-European and non-Christian people), first with the genocide of the indigenous people of this continent and then with the enslavement of peoples from the African continent. Today, domestically people of color are exploited and oppressed by every institution in the US, notably the prison system, the education system, and the police force. This is closely linked to the US’ international threat of violence (epitomized by nuclear weapons) to maintain global control over resources and to prevent any major challenger from coming to power on the global stage.

White Supremacy and the Racial Hierarchy

White supremacy is an invented ideology that says that people of European descent are more valuable, intelligent and civilized than people of color. The concept of “white” as a racial identity did not arise spontaneously, but was created and enforced by those with economic power. In the US, whiteness and the racial hierarchy can be traced back at least as far as the early colonial era and were created to uphold a capitalist framework. For example, the wealthy land-owners who exploited the labor of indentured servants of all skin tones had a clear incentive to break down

Amelia is a Staff Organizer at SPC. Aly is a global citizen.



possible solidarity among the workers. Race was and is used as a wedge; it’s a classic case of divide-and-conquer.

Some people believe that events that happened so long ago are not relevant today. But considering that modern day police forces developed from all-white patrols searching for enslaved blacks, one can see how the nascent white supremacy of the colonial US has matured, morphed, and entwined itself into the fabric of our society.

Other legacies of white supremacy persist across all US institutions. For example, people of color continue to be targeted for enslavement by the set of policies, practices and cultural attitudes making up the school-to-prison-pipeline, which pushes students of color out of the classroom starting as early as kindergarten and funnels them into the correctional system. Many of them lose rights, such as the right to vote and access to public benefits, when they are released from prison, not to mention being virtually unemployable due to the stigma of being a former prisoner.

African Americans, Native Americans, Latino/as, Asians, Arabs and Muslims of all colors experience potent racism in the US, though it looks different for each group. Racism against Arabs and Muslims plays a special role in the so-called “War on Terror.” While on the one hand the CIA trains and funds Islamic extremist groups in Syria and elsewhere, back home the Pentagon’s lap-dog, the mainstream media, is constantly suggesting to the US public that Muslims are a monolithic group that favors violence. The media implies that Muslims in the US are likely to be planning attacks on fellow residents and that the Muslim world resents the so-called “freedoms” of the US.

“War on Terror”: A Global Projection of White Supremacy

The ideology of white supremacy can be applied to the apparently permanent pursuit of targets inside and outside of declared war zones that is called the “War on Terror.” The US’ turn to unmanned drone warfare is telling in this regard. With the upsurge of killing by drone, fewer US personnel are entering war zones and risking death, while imprecise technology leads to hundreds of civilian deaths each year of primarily non-white people. To the US eye, all that matters is the reduction of risk and death to US personnel, and little thought is given to the toll on non-US lives. Although many US soldiers are not white, when operating in the military they serve to protect the interests of the power structure, which is controlled and designed primarily for white people.

The “War on Terror” is supported by white supremacy, one of whose functions is to uphold capitalism. It is the war *du jour* that

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A Yemeni boy walks past a mural depicting a US drone on December 13, 2013 in the capital Sanaa. Written under the painting are the words “Why did you kill my family?” Photo: AFP/Getty.

NY BILL WOULD CREATE OFFICIAL BLACKLIST OF ISRAEL BOYCOTT SUPPORTERS

SPECIAL: "WAR ON TERROR"

Nora Barrows-Friedman

A law being proposed in New York would create an official blacklist of supporters of the Palestinian-led boycott, divestment and sanctions movement.

Legal experts and activists say the measure is reminiscent of the McCarthy era and could have drastic consequences for individuals, organizations or firms who engage with the campaign to pressure Israel to respect Palestinian rights.

Two New York bills – one introduced in the state senate and another in the assembly – would require the state government to “develop, using credible information available to the public, a list of persons it determines boycotts [sic] Israel.”

Individuals or entities included on the state’s blacklist would be barred from partnering with state agencies unless they can demonstrate in a written statement that they are “not engaged in boycotting Israel.” State pension funds would also be prohibited from investing in institutions that have divested from Israel. Activists with the Palestine Solidarity Collective in New York are collecting signatures for a petition to lawmakers against the bill.

Nearly two dozen North America-based activist organizations are opposing the legislation.

Drastic ramifications

The New York bills are “the most egregious, most McCarthyite, most obvious violations of people’s First Amendment rights,” Josh Ruebner, policy director for the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation, told *The Electronic Intifada*.

If passed into law, the measure could hit local organizations that provide essential community services. Church groups, for example, that may belong to denominations which have passed boycott or divestment resolutions, often receive state funds to

The US government gives over \$3 billion annually in military aid to Israel under the guise of the “War on Terror.” Those funds sustain an illegal occupation of Palestinian land and a campaign of ethnic cleansing against the Palestinian people. US politicians at every level, especially in New York, clamor to show they “stand with Israel” despite that country’s serious human rights violations. Now, they are attempting to silence grassroots activists who are participating in the global nonviolent Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel’s policies.

provide social programs such as homeless shelters and soup kitchens.

“Does that mean that all these churches will become ineligible to feed the hungry?” Ruebner asked. A resolution pending in the US Congress, HR-567, would condemn the European Union’s decision to accurately label goods produced in Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank and Golan Heights.

Last year, Illinois adopted a first in the nation anti-boycott law that established a screening mechanism to compel the state’s pension board to exclude foreign corporations that have adopted BDS guidelines. Ruebner said that the Illinois law is now a nationwide model for anti-BDS legislation.

Boycotting the boycotters

In California, financial planner turned ultra-conservative Republican legislator Travis Allen introduced legislation on Monday that seeks to punish businesses that engage with the boycott of Israel.

One bill, AB-1551, explicitly targets the BDS movement and would in effect impose a state boycott of businesses or financial institutions in retaliation for any boycott of Israel.

State pension funds would also be required to pull investments from companies that divest because of human rights concerns.

The second bill, AB-1552, does not mention Israel by name but would prohibit any public entity from entering into a contract unless the contractor agrees not



In the 2014 Gaza War, Israeli forces killed 2,100 Palestinian civilians (more than 500 children). Less than 100 Israeli’s were killed, mostly soldiers.

to boycott a member state of the World Trade Organization. Allen’s anti-BDS bill labels boycotts as “discriminatory business practices,” echoing claims used by the Israeli government that the BDS movement singles out Israel.

In fact, boycott has been used as a tactic against many countries as well as within the United States. The US Supreme Court found in a landmark 1982 ruling on a case dating from the Civil Rights era that the right to use economic boycotts to pursue political ends is free speech protected by the First Amendment of the US Constitution.

In a press release announcing the introduction of his bills, Allen praises the “unique bond” between the US and Israel. He also notes that “California is home to an estimated 2,000,000 Jewish residents,” in effect conflating Jews with Israel. Allen made Israel advocacy a major part of his campaign for a California state assembly seat in 2012. He traveled to present-day Israel and the occupied West Bank where he affirmed his Christian Zionist belief that Israel has “a divine right to the whole land, which includes Judea and Samaria” – the term Israel uses for the West Bank. On a return visit in April 2015, Allen drank wine with leaders

Nora Barrows-Friedman is a writer and editor at Electronic Intifada and is the author of In Our Power: US Students Organize for Justice in Palestine. Used by permission from electronicintifada.net.

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Sue Eiholzer

Just as terrorism today is often justified by religious principle, our ancestors took the ancestral homelands of people, who had lived here for centuries, based on Papal Bulls of the 15th Century. Commonly referred to as the Doctrine of Discovery, the Papal Bulls gave Christians the right to "capture, vanquish and subdue all ... pagan and other enemies of Christ ... and take away all their possessions and property." Charles Mann in his book *1491* shows us the rich legacy of cultural and agricultural development in the western hemisphere. But if you were not Christian, you were considered pagan, primitive and uncultured, so you must be subdued.

A common thread in native cultures is their relationship with Mother Earth, which provides everything needed to sustain them as a part of that environment. Their Ancestral Land is a relative which held their history, ancestors and sacred sites. It was to be shared communally for the benefit of all members of their nation. They were spiritually connected and sustained by their land.

The newcomers had a very different relationship with the land. They did not allow for this difference. For them, their own culture and religion defined what was civilized and had value. And they had inadvertently (and purposefully) brought diseases that wiped out 95% of the native population, according to estimates. Whole communities and cultures were decimated, often making the land appear empty and uncultivated.

They negotiated at least 400 treaties. But we chose to break them, despite Article VI in our own Constitution stating that "Treaties made ... shall be the supreme Law of the Land." They defended themselves and their ancestral land as best as they could against Clinton's and Sullivan's slash and burn expedition sent by

George Washington. They fought in the courts and often won but were forcibly removed west of the Mississippi River despite their victories. And because of a belief in "Manifest Destiny," our ancestors moved west anyway. Buffalo herds were systematically wiped out. First Nations were confined to reservations comprised of poor, undesirable, alien land far from their ancient homelands, their ancestors and their sacred sites to eke out a meager existence as wards of the federal government. And still, they were massacred at Wounded Knee and Sand Creek. Their children were taken to boarding schools, forcibly or because families thought it was their only hope to survive starvation and other deprivations. But they suffered disease, inadequate health care and sexual abuse. The objective was to wipe out all trace of their language, culture and family connection to assimilate them into our ancestor's culture and "civilize" them. While some "Indians" undoubtedly did at times commit "terrorist" acts on the people invading their lands and terrorizing them, it does not by any means balance with acts committed by the "settlers," our ancestors.

Is this in the past? You decide. Indian Law to this day is still based on the Doctrine of Discovery, cited as recently as March 29, 2005, by the Supreme Court in the *Sherrill v. Oneida Indian Nation* decision. Native Nations must continually fight to preserve what land and resources they still possess, to protect burial grounds and sacred sites, recover stolen artifacts, develop economic independence and defend their Sovereignty. Their governments, whether traditional or elected, must be recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), an agency of the US Department of the Interior that manages America's vast natural and cultural resources, according to their website. Ours is "a unique legal and political relationship" with "tribes" that are "recognized" by our federal government.

And we enjoy the benefits of legacy. It is only just that we look at the myths and misrepresentations about our mutual history with the original natives of the United States. And that we question the things we were taught in school to justify the Doctrine of Discovery and Manifest Destiny. Justice would dictate that we recognize first nations peoples as equals worthy of self determination to live as they choose. They have the right to have their economic resources, health needs and legal positions respected.

As we address terrorism today, we must face the atrocities of our ancestors in the past and our current treatment of our indigenous neighbors. We can repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery and Manifest Destiny. We can atone by asking New York State to stop hounding First Nations about cigarette taxes and negotiate on Land Rights Actions. We can support their fair treatment in our courts. We can help them defend and save our shared environment. It's really the least we can do. ☺



This is a classic European representation of the first meeting between the Natives and the newcomers. The Europeans are bringing Christianity and "civilization" to the "uncivilized heathens."

Sue has been a member of the Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation (NOON) Steering Committee since 2000. Having worked on a wide variety of initiatives, she currently edits NOON's monthly electronic newsletter and is helping develop an educational Blanket Exercise.



DACHER KELTNER

lectures.syr.edu

From examining how we negotiate moral concerns to exploring the determinants of power and status, Dacher Keltner looks at the social practices by which we navigate the world. Keltner is director of the Social Interaction Lab at the University of California at Berkeley and faculty director of the Berkeley Greater Good Science Center. The podcasts of his course “Emotion” have been hailed by WIRED magazine as one of the five best educational downloads. In his presentation, he will detail the evolution and neurophysiology of compassion and kindness, and focus on five practices that elevate compassion—and in so doing increase life expectancy and well-being. He will also discuss the brand new science of awe and beauty, tracing its evolutionary roots.

Dacher Keltner

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Boycott, from page 7

in the Israeli settlement of Har Bracha near Nablus. Allen also boasts of his support for a number of Israel lobby groups including AIPAC, StandWithUs and organizations that fundraise for the Israeli army. As one of his first acts as a state lawmaker, Allen co-authored HR-35, a resolution conflating criticism of Israeli policies with anti-Semitism, especially on college campuses.

Claims of anti-Semitism

In addition to Illinois, several states have passed anti-BDS laws or condemnatory resolutions in the last year, including South Carolina and Tennessee. An anti-BDS resolution that was filed in Florida last month – which was backed by a major Christian Zionist organization – claims that the BDS movement “is one of the main vehicles for spreading anti-Semitic perspectives and advocating the elimination of the Jewish State.”

As of September 2015, more than two dozen anti-BDS bills and resolutions had been introduced at the local, state and federal level, according to Palestine Legal.

“Stigmatizing and suppressing”

Israel has made it no secret that it views BDS as a major strategic threat, and the scale of the pushback by its allies in the US is one indicator of panic about the growing momentum of this grassroots movement.

But activists from California to New York are already organizing to oppose this kind of legislation.

“Essentially, these bills are more in a series of measures of all sorts – by legislatures, on campuses, elsewhere – to try to undermine meaningful opposition to Israeli policies

and US support for them by stigmatizing and suppressing speech and nonviolent action in support of Palestinians’ rights,” David Mandel, a member of the National Lawyers Guild and activist with Jewish Voice for Peace, told *The Electronic Intifada*. “It’s not saying that you can’t speak freely, or that you can’t boycott – it’s saying that if you do, then you’re going to be penalized by not getting the benefits of economic relationships with the state or its pension funds or other affiliated institutions,” Mandel said.

This legislation is an attempt to “burden free speech,” Mandel added, which is something that activists and constitutional rights attorneys will challenge. The laws being passed or proposed cannot directly prevent people from taking action or exercising speech on Palestinian rights issues, Mandel stressed.

“The First Amendment is fortunately still pretty strong, and none of this can or should deter individuals from speaking out and organizing or being active on a policy level or promoting boycotts or divestment,” he said.

Josh Ruebner of the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation sees the alarm shown by Israel lobby groups and their legislative supporters as “recognition of just how much of an impact this movement is having.”

“I take it as a sign that the BDS movement is on the right track and is gaining traction – and is being taken seriously by policy elites in this country,” Ruebner added. “Clearly the authors of these resolutions are fearful of the boycott movement because they understand the writing on the wall.” ☪

What does domestic drone development and deployment have to do with terrorism? Plenty. Like the manned aviation and nuclear industries, the domestic drone industry (again think Lockheed Martin) will maintain the industrial base – facilities, research, engineering expertise, skilled labor, and operators – for the Pentagon’s Terror War.

As long as perpetual war keeps yielding corporate profit, state terrorism will keep “making history.” If we let it. ☪

White Supremacy, from page 6

feeds the ravenous hunger of the weapons producers and other defense industry corporations that comprise the military-industrial complex. It is also cover for the US global agenda which, at its core, aims to maintain monopolistic power over the world’s resources. The US, by itself and in conjunction with European governments, is constantly engaged in multiple proxy wars around the globe, in order to help keep people in power who are sympathetic to the Western powers. In the Middle East and across Africa, the US uses the boogey-man of terrorism to justify funding and training numerous militaries and non-government opposition troops.

(The US and NATO also use the guise of “humanitarian war,” as in Libya, to achieve political goals and regime change. This tactic of control is also a projection of white supremacy because it promotes the myth of the “white savior,” the idea that the US is needed to “save” peoples of color from their struggles and their own leaders.)

Back home in the US, the state not only has the power to murder a child playing in a park, it has the power to exonerate itself for that murder. It has the power to define whose life is human and whose life might be expendable if its existence is inconvenient. This is true on a global scale as well, with the US conducting illegal killings in both declared and undeclared war zones and manipulating the global political scales with billions of dollars in foreign military aid.

It all comes back to material benefits. From its inception, the myth of white supremacy was about the “right” of light-skinned people to exploit land and other people’s labor in order to amass a profit, thereby securing control of material goods, as well as influence over social arrangements. The same is true today, from brutal police repression of black men, women and children to the mass incarceration system to the US global agenda of resource domination. White supremacy is an integral piece of a global capitalist system that values only profit and power for those in control. We cannot separate the struggle against capitalism from the struggle against racism. ☪

Reapers, from page 5

Like the 1950s’ “Atoms for Peace” hype masking the dark side of the then-emerging nuclear industry, mainstream media downplay the drone dark side. The *Post* doesn’t want to jinx upstate New York’s becoming the Silicon Valley of an emerging domestic drone money machine. Over the next several years Governor Cuomo will be subsidizing that industry with tens of millions of taxpayer dollars.

SPC, from page 3

WANTED: INTERNS AND VOLUNTEERS

SPC is seeking interns to work with us in a number of project areas, including: Anti-War Organizing, Grassroots Fundraising, E-communications and Social Media, Event Organizing and more (details at www.peacecouncil.net/intern). Internships are flexible and can be from 8–15 hours per week. Internship opportunities are unpaid. We guarantee plenty of practical hands-on experience and opportunities to take on responsibility!

We also welcome volunteers with all sorts of interests and skills, to join an issue committee, an organizational committee (like the Fundraising or Membership Committee), help with a specific task such as distributing PNLs or updating the website, or to sign up for a weekly volunteer shift at the office. The possibilities are endless. Contact Ursula to learn more.

NEIGHBORS OF THE ONONDAGA NATION

NOON had a very successful 2015 with 10 tabling events and 13 people helping to staff them. We were able to add the four-day Grassroots Festival in Trumansburg thanks to Lindsay Speer taking the lead and friends in Ithaca stepping up. And who can forget the seven days at the World Indoor Lacrosse Championship at Onondaga. We carry a variety of books including our own *Nation to Nation* plus many informative pamphlets and handouts. If you would like to learn more and get involved, call Paul Eiholzer at 243-4498.

– Sue Eiholzer



THE WARMTH OF PLOWSHARES

This 45th year of the Plowshares Craftsfair was a delightful gathering of performers, artists, shoppers, and old and new friends, put on by a community of people working together over the course of many months. In this issue, Plowshares Committee member Rae Kramer (aka your official SPC raffle agent) begins a series offering a behind-the-scenes look (see page 15) at how Plowshares happens.

Great thanks to all who helped – and especially to the Plowshares Committee, which meets year-round: Barbara Floch, Lanny Freshman, Karen Kerney, Rae Kramer, Andy Molloy, Beth Mosley, Marie Summerwood and Mardea Warner. Please consider joining the committee – come for the great food, camaraderie, and the joy of putting together a marvelous community event which provides major support for SPC’s annual financial needs. Contact Amelia.

STOP REPRESSIVE NYS LEGISLATION

In the NYS legislature, bills have been introduced to punish people, companies and non-profit organizations that support boycotting Israel for attacks on the Palestinian people. For instance, a church, mosque or synagogue participating in a rally advocating for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) (a campaign led by Palestinian civil society that challenges Israel’s impunity in committing human rights abuses) could potentially lose state funding for its homeless shelter or its community food bank program. Accused individuals or groups could get off the list by signing a statement repudiating a boycott of Israel. This parallels the notorious 1950s McCarthyite policing of people’s political beliefs.

The Justice for Palestine committee and the Syracuse Peace Council signed onto a coalition letter opposing this reactionary anti-BDS bill. Read excerpts of the bill and the opposition letter at www.peacecouncil.net/BDS. It’s urgent that SPC members call their state legislators and urge them to oppose this repressive legislation.

The Justice for Palestine committee meets monthly and works to educate and organize in our community in support of human rights in Palestine. We are developing local BDS campaigns to expose how companies with a presence in Syracuse profit from the occupation of Palestine. To find out more, contact Ursula.

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ACTIVIST APPRECIATION: JONATHAN TRIER

This month we have the pleasure of appreciating Jonathan Trier. Jonathan has made himself invaluable for the past couple of years during Plowshares set up and clean up. Our main ladder man, he has taken charge of hanging decorations from the ceiling in the cafeteria and lends a hand with the SPC Marketplace set up. We are also very excited that Jonathan is considering joining the all-volunteer planning committee for Plowshares. When he's not working at an SPC event, you might see him around the community at ArtRage or working on a Green Party campaign.

We thank Jonathan for his humble, jump-in-and-get-dirty attitude, his good humor, and his reliability. When he takes on a task, he takes leadership to make sure it gets done right. It's helping hands like yours, Jonathan, that keep things rolling at SPC. Thank you so much!

NUCLEAR FREE WORLD

The Nuclear Free World committee continues to organize locally about the ongoing threats posed by the US government's nuclear weapons program. Please save the date on **Tuesday, March 22 at 7pm** for the screening of the film *The Forgotten Bomb* with filmmaker Bud Ryan. Ryan takes viewers on a globe-trotting journey through various perspectives on nuclear weapons, from the Peace Museums of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, to the "Nuclear Science" museums of the United States, to the place that birthed the atomic bomb (and cares for it still): the state of New Mexico where Ryan now lives.

The Nuclear Free World committee is also organizing the 2016 Youth Award, an annual scholarship for high school students who demonstrate a commitment to social action. Applications and nominations will be accepted in the spring. If you would like SPC activists to present a program about peace activism and the Youth Award to your class or youth group, please contact Ursula. The Youth Award is generously supported by John F.X. Mannion and Stephanie Miner.

To get involved, contact Diane, 315-391-4484.

LESSONS FROM PALESTINE

Ava and Pat Carmeli will present a report back and slide show from the Olive Harvest delegation to Palestine they participated in with CODEPINK. They will share what they learned about how the Palestinian people are struggling under Israel's occupation. Contact Ursula or go to www.peacecouncil.net for date and location.

STOPPING ISLAMOPHOBIA

SPC activists have begun a postering campaign to publicly oppose Islamophobia. Postering teams will be going out to put up signs in shop windows and in public places throughout the winter. Contact the SPC office to join the Stop Islamophobia Outreach Team.



Jonathan Trier (right) with his sweetheart, SPC Steering Committee member Kim McCoy, in the Rose Garden at Thornden Park.

PROTESTING DRONES IN OUR SKIES

December saw two major events in local anti-drone organizing.

First, the bad news: On December 16, the New York Air National Guard's 174th Attack Wing conducted their first MQ-9 Reaper flying operation from local Hancock Field Air National Guard Base and Syracuse Hancock International Airport. Members of the media were invited to view it, but no one else – but we were there protesting outside the Base's main entrance. The base commander said, "Starting today, we'll have daily operations from here on."

The good news is that on the same day, charges against five anti-Reaper drone protesters were dismissed, due to woefully inadequate paperwork. They had been arrested on September 21, having blocked Hancock's main entrance with three large one-word banners reading "Drones Kill Children."

Coming up **January 27–29** is the trial of Cynthia Banas, Mary Loehr and Harry Murray for their nonviolent protest in April, 2013 as part of the Hancock 31. The trial will be in the evenings at the Town of Dewitt Court House – contact Carol for time.

News about Hancock drone resister appeals: Two appeals had been filed, one to overturn the conviction of the Hancock 17 Drone Resisters, another focused on Mary Anne Grady Flores' conviction and one-year sentence for supposedly violating an order of protection. (Orders of protection, typically given in domestic violence situations, have been used by Hancock Air Base in an attempt to suppress anti-drone protests.) The ruling was supposed to be delivered in open court on January 22; instead it was emailed to Mary Anne's lawyer January 12. Both appeals were turned down and Mary Anne has been remanded to prison for six months. She plans to appeal to yet a higher court. This happened just as the *PNL* was being completed; for updates, go to SPC's website, sign up (on the website) for SPC's e-newsletter or contact Carol.

continued on next page

SPC, from page 13

REGIONAL ACTION OPPORTUNITIES

While SPC activists educate, agitate, and organize primarily in the Syracuse community, we are also part of a worldwide peace and justice movement. In the coming months, our members are participating in a number of regional mobilizations. Contact the SPC office to learn more about how to participate in group transportation and lodging for the following:

2016 Summit on Saudi Arabia: Understanding the Kingdom and Its Global Role. CODEPINK, *The Nation* Magazine, Institute for Policy Studies, Peace Action, and many other organizations are hosting a two-day summit on US-Saudi ties. March 5-6, Washington, DC.

Protest AIPAC in DC. AIPAC is the organization that lobbies Congress for policies that favor Israel and deny the rights of the Palestinian people. This is a Palestinian-led call to action. March 21-20, Washington DC.

17th Annual White Privilege Conference. This conference examines concepts of privilege and oppression, and offers solutions and team building strategies to work toward a more equitable world. April 14-17, Philadelphia, PA.

KICKOFF 2016 WITH A DONATION TO SPC!

To fund our local work for peace and justice, the Peace Council depends overwhelmingly on the generosity of individuals who believe in the power of collective action for social change. This winter, when you donate \$50 or more to SPC, we will send you a copy of Angela Davis' newest book, *Freedom Is a Constant Struggle: Ferguson, Palestine, and the Foundations of a Movement*, published by Haymarket press.

Dr. Cornel West had this to say about *Freedom Is a Constant Struggle*:

In a clear and concise manner, Angela Davis embodies and enacts "intersectionality" – a structural, intellectual and political response to the dynamics of violence, White Supremacy, patriarchy, state power, capitalist markets, and imperial policies.

We hope you'll appreciate this opportunity to reflect as a community on Angela Davis' insights into today's social movements, while supporting the Peace Council's work!

RETREAT WITH SPC

SPC's annual retreat is coming up in February, date to be determined. Our agenda is still forming as we go to press, but this year's retreat agenda is likely to include lots of time to discuss and evaluate SPC's work through both anti-war and anti-racism lenses. Participants will also hear about our newly launched membership program (see page 3) and get practice talking to others about becoming an SPC member.

People who are active with the Peace Council are encouraged to attend. Please call the office if you are interested in coming, so we know how many people to plan meals for. Contact the staff if you can bring something for lunch either day.

THANKS TO MARDEA WARNER

It Takes a Village to Make the Peace Council Work

Ms. Mardea Warner has been one of those behind-the-curtain, forces of nature whose face and voice are so well known in the Peace Council, Syracuse Community Choir, and Pan-African community of Syracuse and Central New York.

For the last 15 or so years, Mardea has been an integral part of the organizing committee for Plowshares, the largest and oldest fund raiser for the Peace Council. Mardea's African-inspired art can also be seen on clothing far and wide.

Syracuse and the peace and justice community's loss will be Oklahoma's gain, as Ms. Mardea moves to live near her parents.

We all wish the best to Mardea and her family in this next step in her life

– Lanny Freshman

NEW YEAR'S EVE WITH SPC

SPC activists rang in the New Year with a New Year's Eve Vigil for Peace. A small but determined group stood in front of the Christmas tree in downtown Syracuse, receiving honks from cars passing by. After a walk around the skating rink with signs, we adjourned to Ann Tiffany and Ed Kinane's home for bread, soup and treats. It was a lovely way to spend the evening and a rededication to our work for the upcoming year.



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NOT A CLICHÉ: TOO MANY PEOPLE TO THANK...

The Peace Council's Plowshares Craftsfair and Peace Festival is an annual event that brings together thousands of people for fellowship, fun, good eats, entertainment and commerce the way we'd like it to be. It is a two-day manifestation of hours of organizing, planning, creating, and asking for help. The backbone is the volunteer Plowshares Committee, which meets all year, and does a good part of its work around the potluck dinner table (to see who's on the Committee or to join, see page 12).

Much work is also done by staff, supported by volunteers who must be recruited, trained and organized. By the time one counts the folks who do set-up, clean-up, serve as "greeters," make signs, solicit donations, staff SPC tables and do whatever else is needed to create the Plowshares experience – this is a lot of

people. So...**thanks to all**, for whatever your part in supporting "the best multi-cultural craftsfair in Central New York."

Because Plowshares is a big deal for us – both in terms of our reliance on the funds generated and the wonderful time it is – we want to share a behind-the-scenes look. Over the coming months we will describe various pieces of the Plowshares puzzle and acknowledge those who make it work. We begin with the Raffle.

The Raffle has been a source of funds for many years. The MANY (usually at least 50!) prizes come from local businesses, artists/craftspeople, and individual attics and closets (e.g., that "odd" vase from Aunt Tillie becomes a treasured find for a prizewinner). Every year we gather a collection of disparate prizes, and there are some donors we always count on to

give something highly desirable. We want to thank them publicly and encourage SPC supporters to support them. So... please say "Hi" from SPC at:

Bersani Gallery, Eureka Crafts, Grindstone Farm, Nottingham Pet Clinic, Strong Hearts Café, Syracuse Cultural Workers, Cooperative FCU, and Syracuse Real Food Coop.

Thanks too, to the other prize donors and the folks who sell and buy tickets (*still* at the pre-recession price of \$1 for 1, 6 for \$5). And remember, your "trash" is our treasure. See you next year. ☺

– Rae Kramer

Your official raffle ticket agent, aka the woman with the bee-yu-tee-ful raffle hat.

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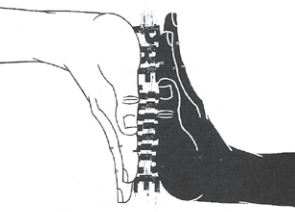

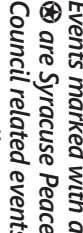
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MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
<p>JANUARY 25</p> <p>EVERY MON, Westside Residents Coalition, 6:30-8pm. Spanish Action League/La Liga, 700 Oswego St.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>EVERY TUES, Rough Times Live (Media Unit), 8pm. Time Warner 98, 478-JUNIT.</p> <p>EVERY TUES AND THURS, Free High School Equivalency Prep Program, 6-9pm. Westcott Community Center, 826 Euclid Ave. Brett, 289-9057.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>1/27-1/29 Jury Trial of Hancock Drone Resisters (see p. 12), 5pm. Dewitt Court, 5400 Butternut Dr., E. Syr. Carol, 472-5478.</p> <p>Robin Kimmere, author of <i>Braiding Sweetgrass</i>: 7:30pm. University United Methodist Church, 1085 E. Genesee St.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Talk by Feminist & anti-racist activist Peggy McIntosh, 4-6pm. Grewen Auditorium, Le Moyne College.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Journey Thru the Music of the African Diaspora featuring Jawanna Shaunte, 7pm. Community Folk Art Center, 805 E. Genesee St. 442-2230. FREE.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Prison Theater Film: <i>Mickey B.</i> 6pm. Grace Episcopal Church, 819 Madison St. \$5 donation. Opening Reception: Blackout-Through the Veiled Eyes of Others, 7-9pm. ArRage Gallery, 505 Hawley Ave. 218-5711, arragegallery.org.</p>	<p>31</p> <p>2/6-3/19 Art Exhibit: Blackout-Through the Veiled Eyes of Others. ArRage Gallery, 505 Hawley Ave. 218-5711, arragegallery.org.</p> <p>Gay and Lesbian Catholics. 5pm. All Saints Church, 1304 Lancaster Ave. 770-2155.</p>
<p>FEBRUARY 1</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>Street Heat, 4:15-5pm. Hancock Air Base main entrance, E. Molloy Rd. Ann or Ed, 478-4571.</p> <p>Partnership for Onondaga Creek, 6pm. Brady Faith, 404 South Ave. Aggie, 478-5471.</p>	<p>3</p> 	<p>4</p> <p>2/4-2/7 Caribbean Cinematic Festival, Community Folk Art Ctr, 805 E. Genesee St. 442-2230. community/folkcenter.org</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Prison Theater Film: <i>Shakespeare Behind Bars</i>, 7pm. Grace Episcopal Church, 819 Madison St. \$5 donation.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Prison Theater Film: <i>Mickey B.</i> 6pm. Grace Episcopal Church, 819 Madison St. \$5 donation. Opening Reception: Blackout-Through the Veiled Eyes of Others, 7-9pm. ArRage Gallery, 505 Hawley Ave. 218-5711, arragegallery.org.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>2/6-3/19 Art Exhibit: Blackout-Through the Veiled Eyes of Others. ArRage Gallery, 505 Hawley Ave. 218-5711, arragegallery.org.</p> <p>Gay and Lesbian Catholics. 5pm. All Saints Church, 1304 Lancaster Ave. 770-2155.</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Syracuse Greens Monthly Mtg. 7pm. 2013 E. Genesee St., 1st Floor. Howie, 425-1019.</p> <p>World Interfaith Harmony Event, 6:30-8pm. Mosque of Jesus, Son of Mary, 501 Park St. Interfaith Works & Women Transcending Boundaries. FREE.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Nuclear Free World Mtg. 5:30 potluck, 6:30 mtg. Call SPC for location, 472-5478.</p> <p>NOON Steering Comm Mtg. 7-8:30pm. 2013 E. Genesee St. 2nd Flr. Carol, 472-5478.</p> <p>SUN Southside Coalition, 7pm. Brady Faith Center, 404 South Ave. 476-7475.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Ground the Drones, End the Wars Meeting, 2pm. 2013 E. Genesee St. 2nd Flr. Carol, 472-5478.</p> <p>What if... Film Series Selection Dinner, 6-8pm. ArRage Gallery, 505 Hawley Ave. 218-5711, arragegallery.org. FREE.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Workers Center of CNY Know Your Rights at Work Training, 6pm. Workers Center, 2013 E. Genesee St. Nikeeta, 254-258-4282.</p>	<p>12</p> 	<p>13</p> 	<p>14</p> 
<p>15</p> <p>SUN Westside Coalition, 7pm. Brown Memorial, 228 Davis St. 476-7475.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>SPC Steering Comm Mtg. 6:30-9pm. 2013 E. Genesee St. 2nd Flr. Amelia, 472-5478.</p> <p>Community Participation Working Gp. (lake bottom remediation), 4:30pm. Jack for location, 424-1454.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Film: Spike Lee's <i>Bamboozled</i>, 7-9pm. ArRage Gallery, 505 Hawley Ave. 218-5711, arragegallery.org. FREE.</p> <p>Skunk City Neighborhood Assn. 6:30pm. Mundy Library, 1204 S. Geddes St. 476-7475.</p> <p>ShakespeareCNy Mtg. 6:15pm. Onondaga Free Library, 4840 W. Seneca Trpk. Jack, 424-1454.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>EVERY THURS, Talk to a Lawyer, 6-8pm. Westcott Community Center, 2nd Flr, 826 Euclid Ave. 471-3409. FREE.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>The Colored Museum preview performance by Paul Robeson Performing Arts Co. 7pm. ArRage, 505 Hawley Ave. 218-5711, arragegallery.org. \$10 donation.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>The Colored Museum preview performance by Paul Robeson Performing Arts Co. Second Day. 7pm. ArRage, 505 Hawley Ave. 218-5711, arragegallery.org. \$10 donation.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Eastside Neighbors Lecture Series with Marvin Dinger on Adventures in Life, 3-4pm. Westcott Comm. Center, 826 Euclid Ave. 478-8634. \$10 donation.</p> <p>Gay and Lesbian Catholics. 5pm. All Saints Church, 1304 Lancaster Ave. 770-2155.</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Events marked with a  are Syracuse Peace Council related events. peacecouncil.net 315-472-5478</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Talk by Black Lives Matter co-founder Alicia Garza, 7pm, doors open 6:30. Hendricks Chapel, Syr. Univ.</p> <p>Film: <i>Nigger</i>, 7-9pm. ArRage Gallery, 505 Hawley Ave. 218-5711. FREE.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Paint & Sip Night. Westcott Community Center, 6-9 pm. WCC, 826 Euclid Ave. \$35.</p> <p>Friends of Dorothy Dinner, 5-7pm. Bishop Harrison Center, 1342 Lancaster Ave. Sliding scale donation, \$0-whatever.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>"Blackface - Race: The American Obsession Nurtured & Affirmed thru Popular Music (1850-1940)", with musician Dick Ford, 7-9pm. ArRage Gallery, 505 Hawley Ave. 218-5711, arragegallery.org. FREE.</p>	<p>SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL</p> <p>PEACE</p> <p>COUNCIL</p> <p>SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL</p> <p>COMMUNITY CALENDAR</p> <p>JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2016</p>		