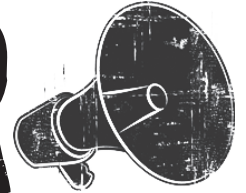
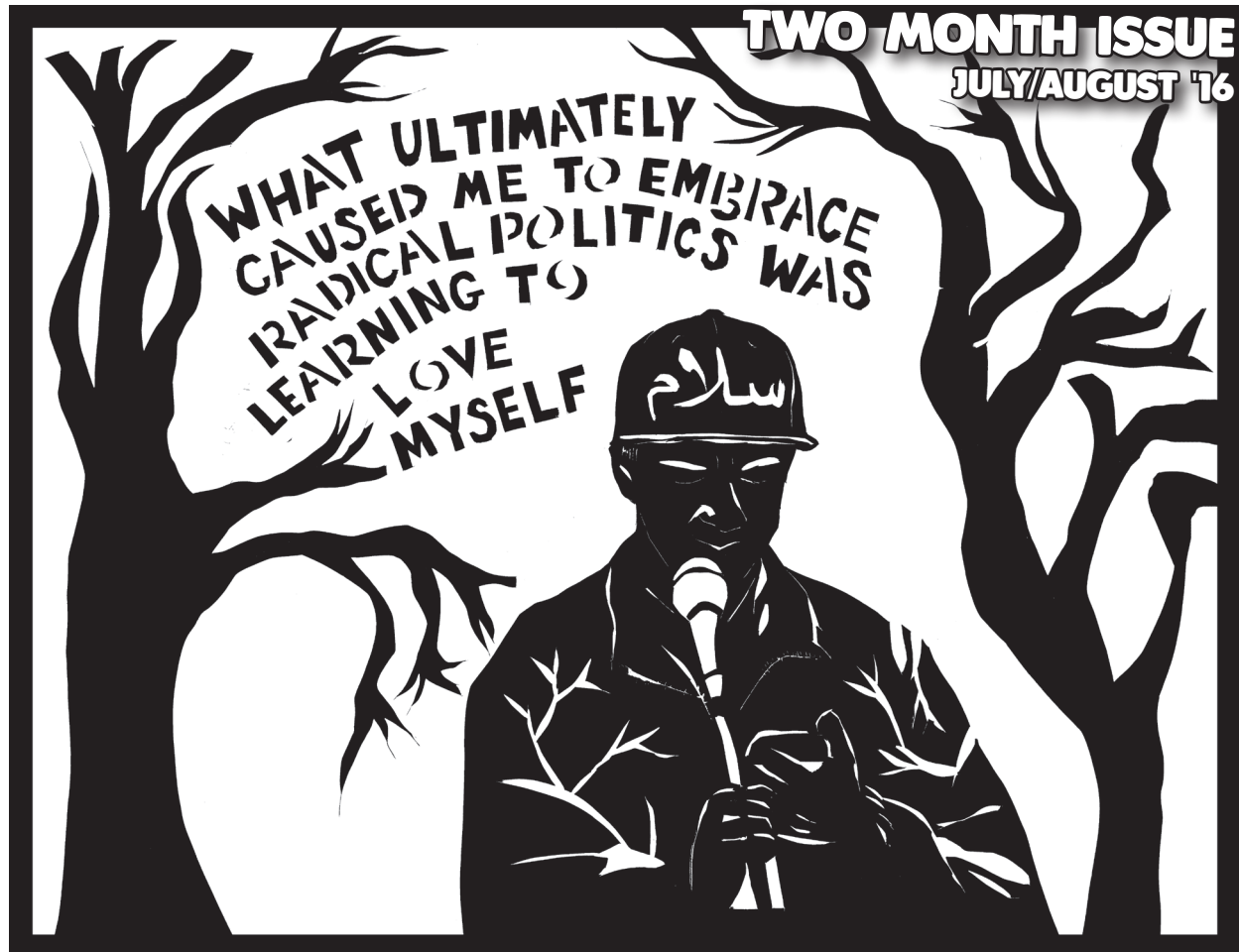


PEACE NEWSLETTER



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OUR COLLECTIVE STRENGTH AND RESILIENCE ON BEING TRANS AND MUSLIM IN SYRACUSE

*A conversation with Maysam Seraji
and Becca Shaw Glaser*

The Peace Newsletter is pleased to share this collaborative interview between Maysam Seraji, a 24-year-old Syracuse University student who identifies as an Iranian-American, transmasculine Muslim, and Becca Shaw Glaser, a 38-year-old Jewish activist-gardener-artist-writer-teacher. They met while organizing an anti-Trump demonstration in Syracuse in early 2016. We've included a glossary to accompany some of the terms used in the interview.

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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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SHAME ON CUOMO! OUR RIGHT TO BOYCOTT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

On June 15, SPC members of the Justice for Palestine committee joined a rally in Albany to decry Governor Andrew Cuomo's June 5 Executive Order seeking to punish supporters of the BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) movement in support of Palestinian human rights. The Governor's action galvanized activists from across New York—Palestine solidarity activists, civil liberties defenders, faith organizations, elected officials, antiwar groups and more. The crowd delivered over 12,000 petition signatures calling on Governor Cuomo to rescind Executive Order 157: "Directing State Agencies and Authorities to Divest

Public Funds Supporting the BDS Campaign Against Israel."

Rally goes heard from varied speakers on the importance of BDS and the links between the Palestinian struggle and broader justice movements.

Thanks to Maizy Ludden, Debra Lewis and Casey Mitchum for making banners and buttons and to the 19 people who attended from Syracuse. Thanks to drivers Carol Baum, Julienne Oldfield, Pat Carmeli, Lisa Cohen and Katie Feyh.

In the coming months, the Justice for Palestine Committee will be working with other local and statewide groups to host a Teach-In about BDS. We will continue to participate in international campaigns exposing how corporations like G4S, REMAX, and AirBnB profit from the occupation of Palestine.



Rally inside the Capitol Building in Albany to decry Cuomo's executive order and protect supporters of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement. Photo: Carol Baum.

JOBS FOR CITY RESIDENTS!

On June 6 the Common Council passed (7-1) the Syracuse Resident Employment Ordinance, and on June 16 the mayor signed the ordinance into law. The new law will secure 20% of in-state workhours for city residents whenever the city issues contracts solely with its money (i.e., not with federal or state grants) for construction and service contracts over \$100,000.

This victory came after a year and a half of hard work. Besides drafting and negotiating the final language, the Urban Jobs Task Force (UJTF, of which SPC is a member group) gathered 1,471 signatures from city residents supporting this initiative. This law is a compromise—the UJTF would have preferred a higher workhour percentage than 20% and a

requirement for hiring from distressed city areas, but in the end felt it was important to get the law on the books. Since the city will electronically monitor the workhour data and conduct an annual review, the UJTF sees future opportunities to strengthen this law.

—Aggie Lane

continued on next page

SPC, from previous page



Amelia Lefevre speaking at a 2014 news conference condemning a Staten Island Grand Jury's failure to indict the white officer responsible for the death of Eric Garner, an unarmed black man. Walt Dixie of the National Action Network (NAN) is pictured on the right. The event was organized by NAN, SPC and the Center for Community Alternatives. Photo: Ursula Rozum

HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI COMMEMORATIONS TO COME

Every August, we reflect on the lessons of the 1946 atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This year's commemoration begins with a Peace Picnic at the Thornden Park Lily Pond from 4pm until sundown on **Saturday, August 6**, the day Hiroshima was bombed.

On **Tuesday, August 9**, the day Nagasaki was bombed, all are invited to join a dramatic "March for a Nuclear-Free Future." Volunteers are needed to make props for the procession, help with outreach, and carry props and puppets. We will gather at 11:30 am at the City Hall Commons on Warren Street in downtown Syracuse and step off at 12 noon, ending at the Everson Museum plaza.

THANKS, AMELIA!

SPC staff organizer extraordinaire Amelia Lefevre will soon be leaving staff. Although we are oh-so-sad to see her go, we are very happy for her, as she prepares to give birth to her second child. While mothering will be her primary focus for a while, we're grateful to say she's not leaving SPC—Amelia is planning to take a leave of absence from SPC's Steering Committee, but expects to fully participate again next year.

We will miss Amelia's presence at the office and her good work here very much. She came to SPC as a volunteer in 2009, and brought with her a lightness in step, a love of nature (especially trees), a heart already experienced in change-making, and a fierce dedication to alternative print media. She joined the *PNL* editorial committee and never left.

SPC was thrilled when Amelia applied

for a staff organizer position and asked her to join the staff collective in 2012. She continued her work with the *PNL* and became the coordinator, which for a monthly publication that is printed with very little money can be quite the challenge. Over the last two years Amelia took real leadership regarding SPC's anti-racism work, challenging us to become a strong anti-racist organization. She worked to develop her own capacity to be an effective ally to People of Color, and co-facilitated two study groups—one on Anti-Racism and White Privilege, and the other on Poverty and Segregation in Syracuse.

We all wish her the best and look forward to a long and fruitful relationship with her as she steps back from staff responsibilities and turns to the amazing task of raising the next generation!

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS RECEIVE PEACE AWARD

The Nuclear Free World Committee celebrated the social change efforts of five high school activists with the 2016 Youth Peace Award at a ceremony and dinner on June 7. The recipients were: Abshiro Abubeker, a Fowler High School senior, who raises awareness about her Oromo People's non-violent struggle for land rights; Kristina Liu, a Fayetteville-Manlius High School junior, who works on women's rights issues with the Matilda Joslyn Gage Foundation's Girl

Ambassadors for Human Rights program; Lauren Ashby and Olivia Vaught, Nottingham High School juniors, who organize dialogue circles with the Seeds of Peace project; and Kema Ndebay, a Henninger High School junior, who is an organizer with the "Two Miles Is Too Far" student movement for increased public transportation for students. Special thanks to Youth Peace Award event organizers Margrit Diehl, Linda Kraemer, Diane Swords and Sally Salfadi.



Syracuse City School District Youth Peace Award recipients: Abshiro Abubeker, Olivia Vaught, Lauren Ashby, Kema Ndebay (left) and Kristina Liu (right) Photo: Ursula Rozum.



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A PLEA FOR A NEW ANTI-POVERTY CONVERSATION

(BECAUSE THE OLD ONE NEVER WORKED)

By Brian Escobar

For the last two years, dire statistics about Syracuse have poured in. First the *Post Standard* reported that we are the ninth most segregated city in the country. Then we learned that Syracuse has the highest proportion of blacks and hispanics living in extreme poverty neighborhoods, so-called concentrated poverty, of any city in the country and fifth highest for whites. Syracuse has more poverty than any other city in New York State. The census found that child poverty in Syracuse has reached 50%.

A brief history

Policy experts and social scientists agree that this state of affairs is the result of policies, rather than any unusual cultural deficiency or quirk of our people. The impoverishment of many in Syracuse is the legacy of slavery, segregation, redlining, the construction of I-81 through the 15th Ward (home to 80% of black residents at the time, a result of restrictions on where blacks could live), the subsidizing of white flight and suburban development, the offshoring of industry and attacks on unions—all the result of policies designed and implemented by white capitalists.

Why previous anti-poverty programs failed

In *Salt City and Its Black Community: A Sociological Study of Syracuse, NY*, S. David Stamps and Miriam Burney Stamps describe how the War on Poverty failed to reduce poverty in Syracuse because it was averse to conflict with business interests and did not pursue structural economic reforms.

While the more successful New Deal improved workers' bargaining position relative to bosses' by providing safety nets and reducing unemployment through massive jobs programs, the War on Poverty instead focused on providing services, education, and skill-building to individuals and families, and on funding community organizing. Instead of assuming the economic structure needed to be fixed, the War on Poverty assumed the problem was with the people in poverty. And War on Poverty programs were controlled by local white professionals and handpicked blacks who wouldn't rock the boat.

Big decisions on the horizon

At this moment decisions with long lasting consequences for Syracuse are being discussed and could be decided soon. The two remaining options for the future of I-81, a rerouted straightened viaduct or routing traffic through the city grid, could have drastically different impacts on the future of CNY. A decision could be made in 2017.

Brian is a Peace Council organizer and Sanders pledged delegate to the DNC this July.

City-county consolidation of services and government would also have a huge impact that would be with us for a long time. A referendum is being discussed for election day this November. Consensus CNY, a commission of local figures created by the city, county, and nonprofits to study city-county consolidation, is developing a proposal, in principle based on the public comments they have received since they produced over 50 proposals of services and functions to consolidate a few months ago. Consolidating city and county government would mean a decrease in representation of city residents. As Republicans tend to control the county while Democrats completely control the city, it would likely strengthen Republican influence over Syracuse without a corresponding increase in city influence over the county. While blacks make up over 30% of Syracuse residents, they make up only 12% of county residents. Latinx residents face a similar loss of representation.

Present similarities

Anti-poverty efforts in Syracuse continue along the lines of the failed War on Poverty. They are controlled by professionals and directed at individuals and families, financed by a combination of subsidies, government loans, private foundations, and investors. Policies are still designed in cooperation with business. What is different is that the federal government is not funding resident community organizing, which often had an adversarial relationship with the Syracuse power structure. Now even seemingly grassroots efforts are beholden to the establishment.

Greater Syracuse HOPE, also called the Syracuse Anti-Poverty Task Force, was formed in 2015 in response to the dire statistics cited above. It is pursuing a small \$500K grant set aside by the governor for upstate anti-poverty programs and competing with anti-poverty task forces from other cities for a \$20M grant pool set aside by the state to match foundation grants. HOPE's committees are comprised of professionals in government and the non-profit service sector, as well as business interests like representatives of Pyramid Corporation, owner of Destiny USA, and a couple of members from the Alliance of Communities Transforming Syracuse (ACTS). Token efforts at soliciting community input have taken place. Despite claiming to include the public, HOPE meetings are held during the workday and are not publicized.

The current iteration of the city-county consolidation was itself a top-down initiative of Governor Cuomo, who gave CNY a \$500M grant to Syracuse for pursuing consolidation and is offering \$20M to the local government with his favorite consolidation plan. Its 19 commissioners include representatives from local government and business with a single labor leader but no members of bottom-up community organizations.

While efforts include a few participants who have their ear to the ground, almost every one is dependent on the existing government and business power structure for their job, the funding their organization receives, or both.

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Trans and Muslim, from cover

Becca Shaw Glaser: Can you comment on your process of becoming politicized?

Maysam Seraji: This is a tough question for me because I believe, in a sense, that I was born politicized. I was brought up in a suburban, assimilatory household where we celebrated Christmas to better fit in with our white neighbors, and after 9/11 we started hanging up an American flag outside our door. Despite these things, I believe I was born into politicization, because that was my response to these suffocating impositions at the hands of white heteropatriarchy. I wasn't allowed to tell people where my folks were from, but we spoke openly with each other about how the war on terrorism was a flawed concept, how the Bush administration should be tried for war crimes, etc. Even if I would fall back to conservatism out of desperation or self-hatred, as many do after receiving death threats or other forms of racial trauma, I believe what ultimately caused me to embrace radical politics was learning to love myself.

BSG: Are there any ways in which you connect your politicization to having grown up in the Syracuse area?

MS: I don't know if I connect my politicization to being from here, but my being from here is certainly politicized, I suppose. Being the child of Iranian immigrants, I always found myself in political conversations. I remember being very conscious of current events from as far back as I can remember.

BSG: What are some ways you'd like to see the Syracuse area become a better place for people in the LGBTQ community, especially people of color and people who are trans and/or gender-nonconforming?

MS: I'm not sure if I know exactly what can be done to make Syracuse better for queer and trans people of color. There are certainly a lot of problems. From LGBT homelessness to not having much beyond gay bars, Syracuse certainly isn't a queertopia.

After attending the vigil for the victims of the Orlando shooting, I can unfortunately report that there wasn't much inclusion of the voices of people of color at all. There was a heavy focus on white gay folk, who I felt were not hit the hardest by this incident. There was no mention of the shooting victims being entirely black and brown bodies. There was no mention that it was "Latin Night" at the club, or that Latinx undocumented folk were affected. We even sang "We Shall Overcome" with no homage to the roots of the song.

Unfortunately, I felt the vigil highlighted a lot of things that are wrong with the Syracuse queer community. One speaker said "Gay

lives matter," which is a clear, violent co-opting of "Black lives matter" and "Black trans lives matter." Another speaker made some comment about how we need to be "diverse" even though it "makes us nervous." Who is the "us" he was referring to? The names of the dead were also mispronounced, which I thought was deeply violent and disrespectful. I could go on, but I won't. This was just one example of several problems the community here faces.

BSG: You were part of organizing the recent anti-Trump protest. What made you want to get involved?

MS: I am someone who was brought up in fear of stirring up any trouble with the establishment. I was taught that if I draw attention to myself through activism, I would get in to trouble with the law and essentially thrown in Gitmo. But to make a life-long struggle short, I have come to terms with these fears, and learned that I need to face them, take a stand, and fight back. Because really, we all might end up in Gitmo someday if we sit back and don't do anything. And also, Donald Trump sucks.

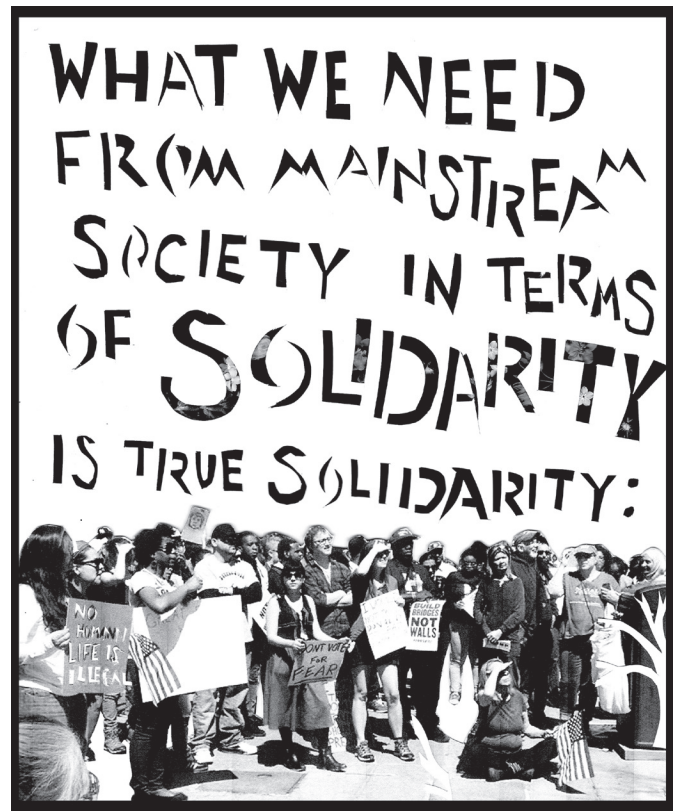


Image: Becca Shaw Glaser.

GLOSSARY:

Cis AKA Cisgender:

An individual who has a match between the gender they were assigned at birth and the roles and behaviors considered by society to be appropriate to their particular sex.

Colorblindness:

The ideology that erases people's experiences based on race and/or ethnicity.

Erasure:

The removal of something (in this context, of one's experience).

Genderqueer:

A term used by some individuals who identify as neither entirely male nor entirely female.

Gender non-conforming:

Individuals whose gender expression is different from societal expectations related to gender.

Heteropatriarchy:

Society as fundamentally based on male dominance—a dominance inherently built on a gender binary system that presumes heterosexuality as a social norm.

Intersex:

People who are born with a reproductive or sexual anatomy and/or chromosome pattern that does not seem to fit typical definitions of male or female. Intersex conditions

are also known as differences of sex development (DSD).

Latinx:

A gender inclusive term which replaces gendered terms such as Latino/a/@.

Note: Some of these definitions were altered from revelandriot.com/resources/lgbtq-and-trans-definitions.

BSG: I would love to hear about your take on political/creative work. How, for you, do political and creative work overlap? And what brings you to poetry? Who inspires you creatively/politically?

MS: I think creativity and politics overlap in that we have to look at who can afford to be creative vs. who is forced to be creative, as far as resistance and how we use our voices. Sometimes I feel that both my native tongue Farsi and English fail to express how I'm feeling. Some pain just comes out sideways. So I write poetry as an informal, honest way I can let things out. It feels like a kind of relief I can't get anywhere else, except maybe from singing. But singing is more removed as I don't often write my own music—I'm singing other people's stories and trying to make them my own. When I read poetry, I am reading by my own hand. And as far as creative/political inspirations: Malcolm X, Jennicet Gutiérrez, CeCe McDonald, Warsan Shire, and Nina Simone.

BSG: I sometimes hear people dismissing or pitting "identity politics" against the so-called "real" struggles of social transformation/revolution. How do you relate to this kind of framing of social struggles?

MS: I think I've heard this before, but it often comes in the same vein that erasure and colorblindness do. "Identity politics" is a term I've only heard in a negative light; as if having an identity at all is somehow inherently wrong. I don't agree. I do think there is useful work to be done around organizing and uniting together against oppression, but attacking each other for having identities is not something I think is productive to that goal.

BSG: I recently saw and loved your quote, "i aspire to infiltrate white space and disrupt it everywhere I go." Can you talk some more about that? For instance, what does that look like in practice?

MS: There isn't a real way this looks in practice aside from me just existing as a pale person of color. By that I mean when I feel safe, and sometimes even when I don't, I will disrupt oppression where I see it. Often that looks different in different situations, but by and large, white people, especially white cis men, think they get a pass with me. They think they can say something around me they wouldn't say in front of someone who they read as black or a woman. And when I call them out, it often takes them by surprise. I'm still working on this though; I think I could be better about sticking my neck out more often.

BSG: In some of my first engagements with feminist communities in the mid to late 90s, there were struggles between exclusionary feminists who wanted women-only spaces (we didn't use the term cis then), and the trans and intersex communities. A lot of the GLB community also excluded trans, gender-nonconforming and intersex people. The clashes are still going on, but I've felt some changes in terms of the better centering of trans, gender-nonconforming and intersex people within feminist and other activist struggles. What is your take on this?

MS: I think there is still a great deal of exclusion. Of course I cannot speak to it directly as I am not a trans woman or trans femme, but I know they get excluded the most. I see it experienced by people close to me. Maybe it has gotten better; I'm not sure of that either. But there are plenty of folks who want to strip us all of our humanity, and unfortunately, trans women get it pretty badly. My friend Sam Escobar, who identifies as genderqueer, recently asked me some questions for a piece on women-only spaces being more trans inclusive (see bit.ly/29SF0cM).

BSG: What were some of the things that excited/nourished you at the recent LGBT Muslim Retreat?

MS: Oh man! There was so much. We did a lot of beautiful, moving workshops together, prayed together, ate together, and in general just cried, healed, and had fun together. I think what excited me the most was that I could be in a space with people I just met and feel so at home and such love for them. It rejuvenated my connection to Islam and how really beautiful that can be as a queer and trans person. And it was nourishing in the same way—that so much love, healing, and validation could happen for all the parts of myself that didn't have a community before.

BSG: How has your political consciousness grown? What inspires you?

MS: Throughout my life, I have made a lot of mistakes. I have held beliefs that were not ok and tried very hard to assimilate. I even thought I was white for a long time, because Iranians are often told they are white, and many tell themselves that as well. I think I knew in my heart things weren't lining up when I was calling myself a white woman. I'm much happier now as a brown butch. I get a lot of inspiration from other QPOC, or queer people of color. Our collective strength and resilience inspires me to move forward.

BSG: Do you think about the work of personal/political healing/trauma?

MS: I think depoliticization of the personal is not possible. Healing and trauma are very connected to politics for me. We don't always quantify racial trauma or our experiences outside of the typical narrative of trauma. Not to diminish the trauma of war, but there are more ways to be hurt and traumatized than just that.

BSG: Where do you take strength and nourishment from?

MS: I get strength and nourishment from other QTPOC [queer and trans people of color], particularly women. I just find women to be stronger than me, and when I find strength in myself it comes from validation in my selves as a person radically existing in a society that wants me dead.

BSG: This is so sad to have to reference this, but would you want to say something in response to the murders at Pulse in Orlando?

MS: It is a sad, sad time. I think we are all feeling sad. It was a terrible thing that happened, but I think it is important that we, as a global community, remember who the victims were, and address this as a systemic problem within our capitalist culture.

Our culture produces these violent, homophobic, transphobic, misogynist/transmisogynist, and racist actions. There is a lot of media attention on the shooter, but we need to remember the victims. This attack was on Latin Night at the club, and it left behind many Latinx and black people dead. Many were undocumented. Many were trans. What we need from mainstream culture as far as solidarity is true solidarity; stop the ICE raids on Latinx queer/trans and nonqueer/cis folks. Stop coming to honor black and brown people only when they are dead. Stop condemning an entire community of Muslim folks for the actions of a shooter which were not related to his faith. Stop calling this a terrorist attack; it was a hate crime. I am seeing a lot of media coverage of Muslim LGBT+ folk right now, and it is such an unfortunate circumstance that we are being highlighted over the bodies of our slain fellow QTPOC. ☹

REMEMBERING HIROSHIMA/NAGASAKI

BUILDING THE ANTI-NUCLEAR, ANTI-IMPERIALIST MOVEMENT

By Diane and Peter Swords

Distorted History

Syracuse Peace Council urges everyone to use the Hiroshima/Nagasaki Commemoration (August 9) to strengthen the anti-nuclear, anti-imperialist movement. President Obama's historic trip to Hiroshima reminds the world of the ongoing urgency of dealing with nuclear weapons. His ambiguous legacy makes it clear that rhetoric and symbolism will not achieve nuclear abolition.

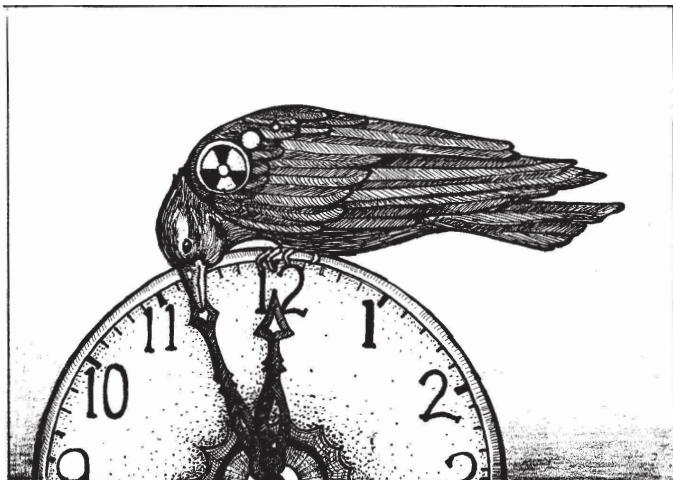
Many lessons of the last 70 years have been forgotten. Psychic numbing—the inability to maintain attention to threats too awful to imagine—keeps us from remembering the horrors of nuclear weapons. Researcher Stephen Lendman describes: “The bomb dropped on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, turned into powder and ash, in a few moments, the flesh and bones of 140,000 men, women, and children. Three days later, a second atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki killed perhaps 70,000 instantly. In the next five years, another 130,000 inhabitants of those two cities died of radiation poisoning.”

Political distortions make us forget the destruction and convince some that the bombings were necessary. Howard Zinn (and other historians) contradict this myth: “Hiroshima and Nagasaki were unforgivable atrocities, perpetrated on a Japan ready to surrender...a wanton act of gargantuan cruelty (not) an unavoidable necessity.”

If the public forgets the destruction and believes the myths, future nuclear war seems almost inevitable. Educating and organizing matters.

Three Minutes to Doomsday

The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientist has represented the dangers of nuclear disaster since 1947 using their “Doomsday Clock”. The closer to midnight the hands register, the closer scientists believe the world is to planetary disaster. (Originally the clock only referred to nuclear disaster. Now it also registers climate change and other life-threatening situations.)



“Three Minutes to Midnight.” Graphic: Maizy Ludden

In January 2015 the hands were moved to three minutes to midnight, the worst setting since the height of the Cold War in 1983. This year this setting was retained, “since recent progress in the Iran nuclear agreement and the Paris climate accord constitute only small bright spots in a darker world situation full of potential for catastrophe...” including US/Russian tensions approaching Cold War levels, the Syrian crisis, and North Korean nuclear tests.

Obama's Legacy

As President Obama laid a wreath at a Hiroshima peace memorial, he echoed his 2009 call in Prague to “pursue a world without nuclear weapons.”

He can claim some significant achievements in that direction. The Iran Nuclear Deal stops development of nuclear weapons by Iran and lifts some of the damaging sanctions that have hurt the common people of that country. It supports moderate politicians and could improve relations. The modest New START Treaty is commendable, having made some cuts in US and Russian deployed strategic missiles.

Yet the trade-off Obama made with Congress to get “New START” is utterly unacceptable. He agreed to “modernize” the entire US nuclear arsenal: the warheads, submarines, missiles, bombers, production facilities and command and control infrastructure, which is now estimated to cost \$1 trillion over the next 30 years. That is not compatible with a commitment to nuclear abolition.

As his term draws to a close, President Obama could take real steps to nuclear abolition. But he will only do this with strong pressure. We must demand action now and build towards greater pressure on the next government. Essential actions include the following:

- Remove the US nuclear arsenal from high-alert status, thereby leading all nuclear-armed nations to do the same;
- Initiate negotiations for global nuclear disarmament as required by Article VI of the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT);
- Announce further nuclear reductions with Russia;
- Join China and India to change US policy to ‘no first use’ of nuclear weapons, and urge NATO, Russia, and all other nuclear powers to do the same;
- Cancel the \$1 trillion, 30-year plan to overhaul the US nuclear weapons complex and redirect the resources to the needs of our communities.

Building the Movement

Building a movement to demand these actions requires connecting the urgent issues of our time. Vincent Intondi does that in his book *African Americans Against the Bomb*. He asks, “Will we ever get to a place where millennials rise up like previous generations and make the connection between racism, poverty, and nuclear disarmament?” Hiroshima survivor Setsuko Thurlow says we must “Stop pretending... We can't just leave it to the politician, military experts... They think by having more wicked stuff and by threatening the people, they can maintain security. But, to me, it's just sheer illusion...”

Through Hiroshima/Nagasaki commemorations we draw attention to paths to nuclear abolition, join fights against racism and poverty, and gather our energy as a movement. This not the time to leave it to others. It is three minutes to midnight! ☪

Diane and Peter are members of the Nuclear Free World Committee of SPC. They have been educating and organizing for nuclear disarmament since the 1980s.

NUCLEAR ENERGY: STILL UNSUSTAINABLE

By Andra Leimanis

From 2010 to 2015 New Yorkers often heard gas industry representatives talk about gas as a “safe, clean bridge to a renewable energy future.” Even some environmental organizations said “gas is not as bad as coal” and “fracking can be safe if it’s done right.” However, New Yorkers did not let the false question of which fossil fuel is worse divide us. Anecdotal evidence grew into peer-reviewed research results, and New York earned a fracking ban.

During the past few years, we have often heard false statements regarding nuclear energy. One is that, if we want a renewable energy future, we must keep aging and unprofitable nuclear reactors running because (say nuclear proponents) renewables are “not ready” and we should use nuclear energy as a “bridge” to renewables. A second is that if we allow nuclear plants to close, the replacement fuel would be gas. A third is that nuclear reactors constitute “zero-carbon” or “zero-emissions” energy.

However, attempts to classify nuclear as clean energy are attempts to divide renewable energy advocates. We shouldn’t accept any dirty and dangerous form of energy because energy efficiency and renewable energy are already available for widespread use to replace both fossil fuels and nuclear energy.

Nuclear energy remains a dirty, dangerous, and unsustainable way of producing electricity.

Greenhouse gas emissions. Nuclear energy does not provide “zero-carbon” or “zero-emissions” electricity, and every part of the nuclear energy cycle includes the emission of carbon dioxide

(CO₂). Although greenhouse gas (CO₂, methane and other) emissions from nuclear reactors are lower than emissions from fossil fuels, greenhouse gas emissions from reactors are higher than emissions from renewable energy electricity generators.¹ In the future, as higher grades of uranium ore are used up and lower grades are used, greenhouse gas emissions of nuclear energy will increase.² Renewable energy already outperforms nuclear energy in terms of CO₂ emissions and will do so to an even greater degree in the future. But there are problems beyond CO₂ emission.

Uranium mining and milling. Mining and milling uranium ore for nuclear reactor fuel leaves tailings that retain 85% of the original deposit radioactivity. Radioactive dust is transported offsite and contaminates streams, rivers and drinking water as well as land, building materials, livestock, and plants. Exposure to this dust causes generations of harm. As mining companies shut down, taxpayers are left with the costs of the environmental damage, public health crises and site remediation.

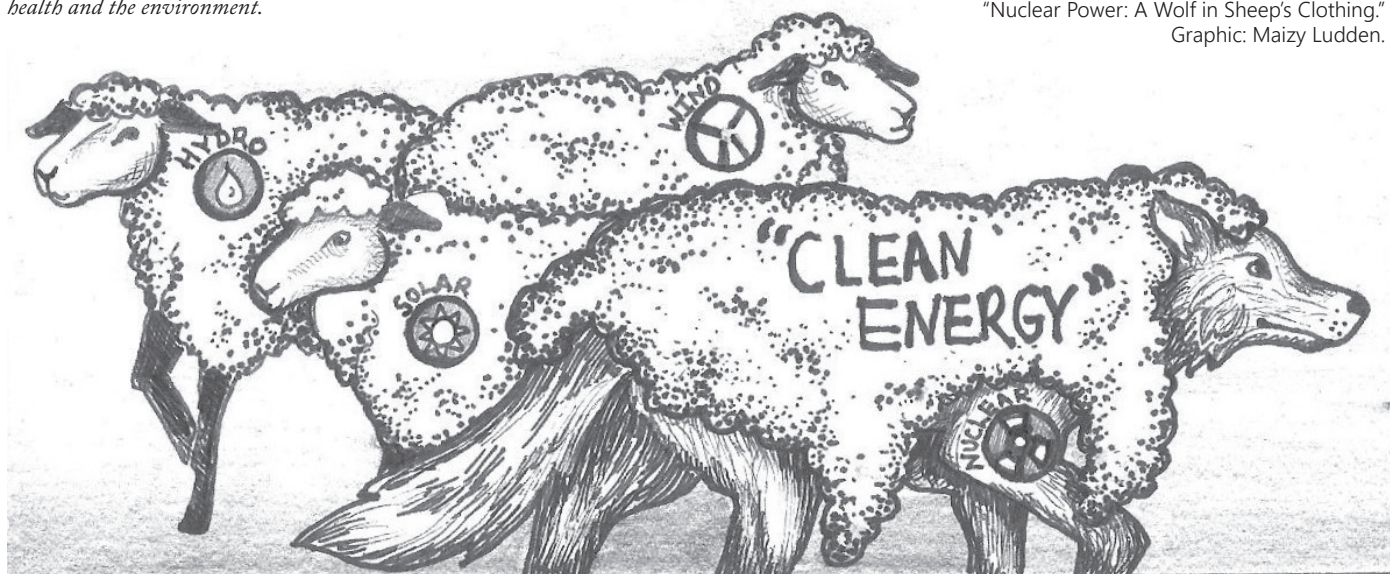
Routine and accidental emissions of radioactivity. There is no safe level of radiation. Even very low levels of radiation can have serious health impacts. The legal limit for radiation exposure, based on exposure for a healthy man, is set at a dose that will cause one additional cancer fatality per 286 people exposed. Women and children are more vulnerable to radiation.

Radioactive tritium leaks. Nuclear power plants routinely and accidentally release tritium (radioactive hydrogen) into the air and water. Tritium can be ingested, inhaled, or absorbed through skin. Once tritium is inhaled or swallowed, its beta particles bombard cells and could cause mutations. Tritiated water that becomes incorporated into plant and animal DNA is called organically bound tritium, and it delivers damaging radiation doses for a much longer time than ingested tritiated water or inhaled tritiated water vapor. Exposure to tritiated water has been clinically proven to cause cancer, genetic mutations, and birth defects in laboratory animals.³

continued on next page

Andra is Communications and Outreach Coordinator at Alliance for a Green Economy (AGREE). AGREE works to promote a just transition to a carbon-free, nuclear-free, and energy-efficient future, and educates the public about alternatives that can revitalize the economy and safeguard human health and the environment.

“Nuclear Power: A Wolf in Sheep’s Clothing.”
Graphic: Maizy Ludden.



Debunking Nuclear Power, from previous page

Unmonitored radionuclides in drinking water sources. Four upstate New York nuclear plants are located on Lake Ontario and use water from the lake for cooling the reactors and then return it to the lake. Nine million people depend on drinking water from Lake Ontario. In March 2016 over 100 groups called on the American and Canadian governments to list radionuclides as a “chemical of mutual concern” under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and to institute more comprehensive radionuclide tracking to understand impacts on drinking water quality, public health, fish and wildlife survival, and the health of aquatic ecosystems throughout the Great Lakes.⁴ Similar issues exist with nuclear reactors on the Hudson River.

Radioactive waste. Nuclear power plants generate radioactive waste products that require over 100,000 years of storage. The United States does not have a long-term nuclear waste storage solution, and all spent fuel is being stored at the nuclear plants in pools or in dry casks. Spent fuel pools at US nuclear power plants actually contain more fuel than the reactor cores do. The pools are overstocked and underprotected.

There are less dangerous and more sustainable ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions than to rely on increasingly expensive nuclear energy. Various researchers have created roadmaps for a zero-CO₂ economy without nuclear power. While nuclear power supplies too large a portion of US electricity to be

switched off instantly, a phase-out of nuclear power plants is doable. Eliminating all subsidies to fossil fuel and nuclear energy sources, and enacting energy efficiency incentives for appliances, buildings and vehicles are among the Clean Dozen policies recommended.⁵

Converting New York State’s energy needs to wind, water and sunlight sources can be done with existing technology, would be less costly, would create jobs and would improve our health and environmental quality.⁶

Nuclear energy is not a bridge. It has brought generations of environmental and health damage, nuclear waste, and delayed investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy. Possible dire consequences include reactor meltdowns, nuclear proliferation, loss of life, uninhabitable land and undrinkable water.

The real bridge to a renewable energy future is renewable energy. A renewable energy future can begin now. We must insist that it happens. ☯

¹ Sovacool, Benjamin. “Valuing the greenhouse gas emissions from nuclear power: A critical survey.” *Energy Policy* 36 (2008) 2940-2953.

² Storm van Leeuwen, Jan Willem. *Can nuclear power slow down climate change? An analysis of nuclear greenhouse gas emissions.* PDF. Amsterdam: World Information Service on Energy, Nov. 2015. 70 p.

³ Nuclear Information and Resource Service. Radiation: TRITIUM from Nuclear Power Plants: Its Biological Hazards. <http://www.nirs.org/radiation/tritium/tritiumhome.htm> (accessed June 27, 2016).

⁴ Jackson, John. *Radionuclides as a Chemical of Mutual Concern in the Great Lakes Basin.* PDF. Toronto: Canadian Environmental Law Association, Feb. 2016. 21 p.

⁵ Makhijani, Arjun. “Carbon-Free and Nuclear-Free: A Roadmap for U.S. Energy Policy.” *Science for Democratic Action* 15,1 (Aug. 2007) 1-14.

⁶ Jacobson, Mark Z., et al. “Examining the feasibility of converting New York State’s all-purpose energy infrastructure to one using wind, water, and sunlight.” *Energy Policy* 57 (2013) 585-601.

Please visit the Alliance for a Green Economy website to sign up for action alerts and updates about NYS energy issues. allianceforagreeneconomy.org/contact.

Current member organizations include: Atlantic Chapter of the Sierra Club, Citizens’ Environmental Coalition, CNY Chapter of Citizens Awareness Network, Citizen Action of New York, Nuclear Information and Resource Service, Peace Action of Central New York, Peace Action New York State, and Syracuse Peace Council.

The Anti-Poverty Conversation, from page 5

A plea

A mobilization of public will into an organized effort with bottom-up accountability and independence from the established power structure is necessary. Until now, the reaction to the disastrous situation of the city has been tepid. Meetings must be at times and places accessible to more of the public, unlike meetings between 9-to-5 on weekdays that only fit into professionals’ schedules. Leaders cannot be beholden to the power structure.

At the same time, we must break from the War on Poverty approach that has failed for decades. We cannot be averse to conflict with the Chamber of Commerce or its community front, CenterStateCEO, or their political allies. The business community does not share the interests of the city’s poor regardless of protestations to the contrary.

When the Urban Jobs Task Force pushed for an ordinance requiring a paltry 20% of workers on city contracts worth \$100,000 or more be city residents, even that request met

opposition from the business community and their local and state government allies. Other modest demands were watered down or removed in negotiations. The idea that people in poverty are the problem only looks at one side of the coin. The other side is the people who have benefited from the equation, the Bob Congels who profit from the minimum wage workers at Destiny USA and still receive 30 years of tax breaks.

For those goals that cannot be achieved through city or county policy, we need to participate in state, national, and global coalitions for basic income, universal healthcare, a shorter work week, and other policies on the scale of the New Deal that increase the power of ordinary people by decreasing our desperation, the desperation that leaves us working more hours for less money and benefits with less time for civic engagement.

In 1965 two members of the Congress for Racial Equality chained themselves beneath a car blocking the entrance to Niagara Mohawk, to force CNY’s biggest employer to hire more blacks. Their campaign worked. Let’s recapture that spirit. ☯

SOA WATCH CONVERGENCE AT THE BORDER

SOLIDARITY WITH REFUGEES FROM DEADLY US POLICIES

By Beth Harris

In collaboration with the arms industry, private security companies and paramilitaries throughout the world, the US government has created an unprecedented, expansive notion of sovereignty that erases borders to pave the way for corporate interests. At the same time, the US government militarizes and enforces borders to restrict the movement and resistance by those displaced by corporate economic interventions and the fear of being killed.

Policing the Globe for Multinational Corporate Expansion

The US government asserts its authority to police the world without any system of accountability within the US or internationally. There over 700 US military bases with 2.5 million personnel stationed throughout the world. David Vine argues, "The United States likely has more bases in foreign lands than any other people, nation or empire in history." Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (drone) strikes commanded by the US have been reported in six Middle Eastern countries. The US is responsible for one-third of arms exports throughout the world. Ninety percent of the weapons used by the drug cartels in Mexico come from the United States.

This hyper-militarization protects a predatory economic policy. In 1994, the North American Free Trade Agreement expanded corporate rights in the US, Mexico and Canada, putting small farmers and businesses in competition with multinational corporations. As a result many local farmers and owners of small businesses lost their means of survival and were left with few choices but northward migration. In 2006, this same oppressive logic was implemented in the Central American Free Trade Agreement, and again in 2012 in a free trade agreement between the United States and Colombia. The poor and working class, especially farmers, are those most negatively impacted by the so-called free trade policies. In the case of the US-Colombia FTA, a pre-condition for signing of the agreement was a Colombian law that would restrict the ability of Colombian farmers to save

seeds. According to the documentary *9.70*, the commercialization of patented seeds is one of the most profitable businesses in the world, with 10 companies dominating 77% of the global seed market. Of these 10, three control 47% of the market: Monsanto, DuPont, and Syngenta.

Hunting and Criminalizing Refugees

The militarization of the Border cuts through indigenous territory, dividing families and tearing apart communities. Fifteen security towers are being built by the Israeli security company Elbit through Tohono O'odham land, which is crossed by the US-Mexico border. The increased surveillance, check points and aggressive arrests have forced migrants to take more dangerous, remote paths, where they are vulnerable to attacks and extortion by the cartels, running out of provisions, and getting lost. Some are abandoned in the desert because they are too sick or weak to keep up with the others. These dangers happen both in Mexico and across the Border.

After the refugees are arrested, "Operation Streamline" uses fast-track criminal prosecution in Tucson federal courts to turn desperate refugees into convicted criminals en masse. About 70 refugees are brought together into the court in chains for deportation hearings. Their feet are shackled, and their hands are handcuffed, then shackled to chains around their waists. In 15-30 minute meetings with a lawyer on the day of their court hearing, they are told that they could plead guilty to illegal entry or illegal reentry and receive a sentence of 30-180 days in prison. If they plead not guilty and go to trial, they are told that the charge would become a felony and that they are unlikely to win. They receive no information about applying for refugee status. They are processed in groups of seven to ten and say "yes" or "no" to a series of questions posed by the judge. Dehumanized, chained and shackled, the refugees are treated like slaves, deprived of fundamental rights. The End Streamline Coalition is monitoring and fighting these assembly line proceedings and the criminalization of migrants.

The convicted refugees are transported to private prisons which profit from their incarceration. At the prison, their clothes and remaining belongings are stored. When the migrants are released from prison, they are deported without their belongings, which they are required to pick up later, though they are not allowed to reenter the US.

After the migrants are released at the Border in Mexico, they gather penniless, often sick and weak, at shelters to figure out their next steps. These are the lucky ones who survived the perilous journey.

continued on next page



October 7-10, 2016

Beth Harris is an organizer living in Ithaca, NY. She participated in the SOA Watch delegation to the Ambos Nogales border in April 2016. Beth is also active with the Central New York Sister Community with Movimiento Campesino de Cajibío, Colombia, Jewish Voice for Peace (member of national board and Ithaca chapter) and the Ithaca Committee for Justice in Palestine.

At the Border, from previous page

The border region is littered with dead bodies and body parts, which are stored in refrigerated units at the medical examiner's office in Tucson. The Colibri Center for Human Rights, located in this office, tries to match the remains to the reports of missing family members. Between 1999–2012, 2,269 migrant bodies were found near the Mexican-US border and stored.

SOA Watch Convergence on US/Mexico Border, October 7-10, 2016

Despite the global spectre of US imperialism, resistance to militarism and neoliberalism continues within societies and across borders. You are invited to join this resistance at the October 2016 bi-national School of the Americas (SOA) Watch Convergence at the border between Nogales, Sonora Mexico and Nogales, Arizona.

In Columbus, Georgia, the School of the Americas (renamed Western Hemispheric Institute for Security Cooperation-WHINSEC) trains human rights abusers throughout Latin America. From 1990–2015, SOA Watch organized annual protests to close SOA/WHINSEC. After consulting with communities and organizers along the US/Mexico border, SOA Watch decided to move its annual protest to the border, explaining, "We will shine a light on the many human rights violations caused by destructive US foreign policy that the School of the Americas represents."

WANT TO SUPPORT CNY ORGANIZING FOR MIGRANT WORKERS RIGHTS?

The Workers' Center of Central NY is a membership organization in Syracuse that works with migrant farmworkers in organizing for their labor rights on Upstate New York Farmers. Learn more about their local campaigns, such as justice for dairy workers and the Green Light drivers' license campaign, by visiting workerscentercny.org.

The Border Convergence will draw attention to the US-sponsored violence, militarization of the border and trade policies that cause refugees to migrate to the United States, and counter the anti-refugee rhetoric that is so rampant in the media and political discourse.

Can you join the bi-national Convergence between Nogales, Arizona and Nogales, Mexico from October 7–10? October 10 is Indigenous People's Day and will also be the fourth anniversary of the killing of 16-year-old Jose Antonio Rodriguez in Nogales, Mexico by a US Border Control Agent. To help organize or join the CNY contingent, contact Beth Harris, 607-266-7587 or Ann Tiffany 315-472-5478. Can't make it? Make a donation to support local activists who are traveling to the Border Convergence. Visit peacecouncil.net in the fall for information about a regional action in solidarity with the Border Convergence. ☸



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LESSONS ON INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY FROM CUBA

By Ursula Rozum

I arrived in Havana, Cuba on March 26. Both President Obama and the Rolling Stones had visited the island that week. According to our host, Madelaine, a Syracuse native studying medicine in Havana, by late March, 2016 Cuba was breaking tourism records, having already hosted over one million visitors in just the first quarter of the year. Tourists from all over the world visit Cuba. Only US citizens have to jump through hoops to enjoy the island's culture and natural splendors due to Cold War-era economic sanctions. These, according to the United Nations, have over five decades cost the country over \$1 trillion in economic development. I had the opportunity to live in Cuba for four months during a study abroad program over 10 years ago. My parents had grown up in Soviet Poland, and I was curious to see firsthand what life was like in a communist country. This time, I travelled on a journalistic visa to observe the Cuban medical system. I also wanted see what changes, if any, could be observed since the thaw in US-Cuba relations.

Most Cubans I spoke with were eager to share their opinions about Obama's visit and generally, about life in their country. Some agreed with the US President about leaving behind "the ideological battles of the past" while others were skeptical of US government intentions, given its history of aggression against Cuba. The most violent acts were perpetrated by the Cuban-exile community with support and financing from the US government. Attacks like the Bay of Pigs invasion and the bombings of hotels and stores in Havana as well as airliners, all which costs hundreds of Cuban lives, and CIA attempts to assassinate Fidel Castro are detailed in the documentary by Saul Landau, *Will the Real Terrorist Please Stand Up*.

While the United States has for over five decades unsuccessfully explored ways to overthrow Cuba's government, the Cuban government has turned the other cheek. Cuba was one of the first countries to extend aid after Hurricane Katrina in 2005, offering to send 1,586 doctors and 26 tons of medicine. This aid was rejected by the State Department. Many are aware that Cuba provides free healthcare and education to its citizens. These are guaranteed as a human right in its Constitution of 1976, along with housing and equal pay for women. What many don't know, however, is that since 2001 US doctors have been training at Cuba's international medical school. Currently, nearly 100 US students study medicine at the Latin American School of Medicine (ELAM by its Spanish acronym) in Havana. The average medical student in the US graduates with \$180,000 in debt, pushing new doctors into higher paying "specializations" which can pay more than twice as much as working in socially essential fields like primary care and pediatrics. US students who are accepted into the Cuban medical program receive complete six-year scholarships in exchange for making a commitment to treat the underserved of their communities upon graduating. They are trained extensively in preventative medicine and public health.

US students at the Cuban medical school study alongside aspiring doctors from around the world. I spoke at length with Ahmed, a fifth year Palestinian student from Gaza. Ahmed applied to the Cuban medical program "to help his people" who face a desperate situation. His experience highlights the contrast between US and Cuban foreign policy. Ahmed's father died in the 2014 Israeli war in Gaza. Billions of dollars in annual US military aid to Israel support its brutal treatment of the Palestinian people and the spread of Israeli settlements (which are illegal under international law). Meanwhile, Cuba has been training Palestinian doctors for decades.

According to the students I spoke with, there is now a large delegation from Yemen studying medicine in Havana. Their skills will be in high demand when they return home to what is the poorest country in the Middle East. In March 2015, a Saudi-led coalition began its involvement in Yemen's civil war using US-produced aircraft, missiles, and internationally banned cluster bombs. More than 6,200 civilians have been killed, millions displaced, and the country has been pushed to the brink of famine. According to a poll released in April, 82 percent of Yemenis between the ages of 18 and 24 now view the United States as an enemy. Knowing what we know about US foreign policy, can we blame them?

Like Cuba's "medical internationalism," the country's universal healthcare system is a source of great pride. It's impressive how much the Cubans are able to accomplish with so little. Cuba and the United States have similar life expectancies, around 79 years. Yet according to the World Bank, the United States spends about \$9,000 per capita annually on healthcare while Cuba spends less than \$1,000. Cuba boasts the world's highest doctor to patient ratio, about 1 to 170. The healthcare system is based on community clinics where doctors and nurses live in the neighborhoods they serve, and their focus is preventing disease. Cuba's strong healthcare system is not immune, however, to the US embargo. Many hospitals lack modern equipment, such as CAT scans and access to analgesics. When I asked if the medical students needed me to bring them anything from the US, they requested recordable CDs for patients' imaging studies.

The official US policy of economic and ideological aggression has failed to create regime change in Cuba. It's far past time to lift the embargo against Cuba, return the base at Guantanamo Bay to Cuba, and respect that country's sovereignty. There is a fair amount the US could learn from Cuba about international cooperation and economic human rights. If you look around Syracuse, it could easily be argued that it's the political-economic model here in the US that is failing and needs changing. ☮

Ursula spent a semester in Cuba in 2005. Contact her at ursula@peacecouncil.net to find out about a potential delegation to Cuba in 2017.

OLLIE CLUBB, ¡PRESENTE!

Long time peace and social justice activist Ollie Clubb died on May 28. An avid environmentalist and early climate change activist, Ollie could be seen riding his bike around his neighborhood well into his older years. His obituary says it better than we ever could. His activism “continued throughout his life and ranged from his work against nuclear proliferation to acting as the Co-Chair of the Syracuse Global Warming Action Network to his enthusiastic support of solar parking lot canopies.... He had a deep commitment to his Syracuse community and truly lived his belief that individuals and small groups could change the world.” Thank you, Ollie, for living so fully and so well, and inspiring us all.

GOODBYE BRIAN TACKETT

This summer we say goodbye and good luck to Steering Committee member Brian Tackett as he moves to Ithaca. Brian has been active with SPC since about 2011 when he began volunteering at outreach tabling events. As an intern in 2012, Brian became an expert in managing the SPC database and has since helped to organize *Peace Newsletter* subscriptions and membership and fundraising lists. A quiet but creative organizer, Brian initiated several direct actions at Syracuse University, including interrupting a CIA recruitment session. Thank you Brian for being an important part of our community.

DONATE TO SPC

In early July, you may have received a call from the Peace Council as part of our annual Phonathon. The Phonathon is an important fundraiser for SPC and an opportunity to hear members' thoughts about our work. Even if you didn't receive a call, please consider donating—by sending a check to SPC at 1313 E. Genesee St. or online via credit card at peacecouncil.net/donate. Check donations of \$50 and over may be tax deductible if written out to the Syracuse Center for Peace and Social Justice, with SPC in the memo line.

STREET HEAT

At least monthly since 2010 we have been demonstrating outside Hancock Air Base to call for an end to the illegal and immoral killing of human beings by the weaponized Reaper drone. Weekly on Tuesdays and Saturdays we've been hitting the streets to call for an end to the militarism dominating US foreign policy. We want Hancock base personnel to rethink their role in that killing machine, and we wish to remind the public of all the killing in our name. Please join us as often as you can. Contact Ann or Ed, 315-478-4571.

BIKES 4 PEACE RETURNS THIS SUMMER

Tragedies like the Father's Day shooting near Skiddy Park remind us that violence is a constant presence in our community. Bikes 4 Peace began in 2003 as part of a response to heightened violence in Syracuse, and this summer, SPC activists are re-launching the program.

Bikes 4 Peace brings people together by organizing pop-up bicycle repair clinics. Volunteer mechanics share repair skills and promote access to an inexpensive environmentally and socially conscious mode of transportation: cycling.

This summer, repair clinics will be held **Wednesdays from 5-6:30 pm**. On **July 6, 13, and 20**, pop-up clinics will take place in Skiddy Park at the corner of Tully and Tioga Streets in Syracuse. On **August 3, 10, and 17** the Bikes 4 Peace repair team will be at the Brady Faith Center, at 404 South Ave., Syracuse.

Please let us know if you can help with transportation, outreach and promotion, and/or bike repair.

-Maizy Ludden



Tuesdays: 4:15-5 pm

July 19 – Hancock Air Base entrance
(*E. Molloy Rd., betw. Thompson & Townline Rds.*)

July 26 – Adams and Almond (*Rte. 81*)

Aug. 2 – Hancock Air Base entrance

Aug. 9 – Mattydale/Northern Lights

Aug. 16 – Hancock Air Base entrance

Aug. 23 – Mattydale/Northern Lights

Aug. 30 – Mattydale/Northern Lights

Saturdays: 9-9:45 am

Regional Market main entrance (*Park St.*)

INTRODUCING SPC'S SUMMER INTERNS

Welcome to our new intern Maizy Ludden and to returning intern Katie Mouradian. Katie, a senior at Wells College and the president of the student government, decided to focus on fundraising for her internship, always an important need at the Peace Council. Maizy, a sophomore at Syracuse University, is working on projects related to Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation, Bikes 4 Peace and the PNL. Both are exciting up and coming organizers, and we're so glad they are sharing their energy and enthusiasm with us!

DISPELLING MYTHS ABOUT NUCLEAR ENERGY

Alliance for a Green Economy (AGREE) invites everyone to learn about the Public Service Commission's proposals for changing NY's energy system, speak at public hearings, and send comments to the PSC and Governor Cuomo (CleanUptheCleanEnergyStandard.org). AGREE supports the renewable energy portions of the Clean Energy Standard but opposes nuclear subsidies, asking instead for investment in additional renewables, efficiency, and just transition for workers and communities. We are dispelling myths about nuclear energy, explaining that nuclear is a dirty and dangerous barrier to renewables, and advocating for a #carbonfreenuclearfree energy future. Visit AllianceforaGreenEconomy.org and read our article on page 9 for more information.

GROUND THE DRONES THIS SUMMER

SPC's Ground the Drones and End the Wars Committee is once again planning to be at the NYS Fair at the end of August. But this time we'll be trying something different—asking fairgoers to sign a petition. Please join us.

Another petition we're promoting calls for closing the US' Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany and not replacing its functions anywhere else. Ramstein AFB is the site of a satellite relay station that enables drone operators in the US to communicate with drones in Yemen, Somalia, Afghanistan and other targeted countries. The petition (at tinyurl.com/hvyf44b) will be delivered in September to the German and US governments by US drone whistleblowers.

Also, the Upstate Coalition to Ground the Drones and End the Wars will hold a retreat the **weekend of July 30**—anyone who wishes to ground the drones is welcome to attend. Contact Ann (page 3) for details.

NOON SUPPORTS SKÄ•NOÑH GREAT LAW OF PEACE CENTER

On June 14 the Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation Steering Committee met at the Skä•noñh Great Law of Peace Center (6680 Onondaga Lake Pkwy, Liverpool; www.skanonhcenter.org). We heard from Phil Arnold and Sandy Bigtree about the creation of this educational facility which places the Onondaga Nation's history in the center. This is a complete transformation of a facility that had been the longtime home of a colonial narrative focused on French Jesuits who spent 18 months in Onondaga Territory over 350 years ago.

Skä•noñh ("peace" in the Onondaga language) provides a broad history of the formation of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, Onondaga culture, relations with the European newcomers and Haudenosaunee relations with the natural world. NOON encourages people to visit Skä•noñh and support its vision and ongoing development.

—Andy Mager

WIN A SWEET BIKE

It's time for SPC's Bike Raffle fundraiser. This year's raffle is once again supported by Mello Velo Bike Shop (550 Westcott St., Syracuse). Tickets to win a Raleigh hybrid bicycle are \$2 for 1, \$5 for 3 and \$10 for 7, and are available at SPC, the Syracuse Real Food Coop, Syracuse Cultural Workers, and from SPC volunteers. The drawing will be on September 18 at the Westcott Street Fair. To help with selling raffle tickets, contact Katie at 315-472-5478.

SPC'S RETREAT

SPC's annual retreat was held on June 25-26. The first day focused on anti-racism; we decided to cut the second day short so we could attend the rally hosted by the National Action Network calling for, among other things, an independent investigation into the Father's Day shooting. Thanks to all who came, and special appreciation to Julia Ganson for opening her home to us for the weekend. 🌿



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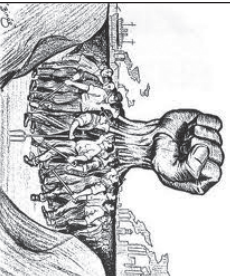






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MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
<p>JULY 18</p> <p>SUN Westside Coalition, 7pm, Brown Memorial, 228 Davis St. 476-7475.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>★ SPC Steering Comm. Mtg. 6:30pm. Open to SPC supporters. Ursula, 472-5478.</p> <p>Community/Participation Working Group. (lake bottom remediation), 4:30pm. Jack for location, 424-1454.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Skunk City Neighborhood Assn. 6:30pm. Mundy Library, 1204 S. Geddes St. 476-7475.</p> <p>Shaleshock CNV Mtg. 6:15pm. Onondaga Free Library, 4840 W Seneca Trpk. Jack, 424-1454.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>EVERY THURS. Talk to a Lawyer. 6-8pm. Westcott Community Center, 2nd Fl. 826 Euclid Ave. 471-3409. FREE.</p> <p>EVERY THURS. Other Voices, Other Choices. 7:30pm. Time Warner Cable Ch. 98. See othervoicesotherchoices.blogspot.com for programming.</p>	<p>22</p> 	<p>23</p> <p>EVERY SAT. Street Heat 9-9:45am. Regional Market Main Entrance.</p>	<p>24</p> 
<p>25</p> 	<p>26</p> <p>★ EVERY TUES. Street Heat 4:15-5pm. 7/19, 8/2 & 8/16 Hancock Air Base; 8/9, 8/23, & 8/30 Matydale/Northern Lights.</p> <p>EVERY TUES. Rough Times Live (Media Unit), 8pm. Time Warner 98. 478-UNIT.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Friends of Dorothy. Dinner. 5-7pm. Bishop Harrison Center, 1342 Lancaster Ave. Sliding scale donation \$0-whatewer.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>EVERY TUES & THURS. Free High School Equivalency Prep. 6-9pm. Westcott Comm Ctr, 826 Euclid Ave. Brett, 289-9057.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>★ Visit the SPC booth at the Syracuse Arts and Crafts Festival 10am-5pm. Columbus Cir.</p> <p>JULY 29-30. Stage of Nations Blue Rain ECOfest. Hanover Square/City Hall Commons.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>★ Ground the Drones Retreat. Ithaca. Ann, 478-4571.</p> <p>Learn how to take action against gun violence. 3pm. Betts Branch Library, 4862 S. Salina St. MomsInSyracuse@gmail.com. All welcome, family friendly.</p>	<p>31</p> 
<p>AUGUST 1</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Partnership for Onondaga Creek Mtg. 6pm. Brady Faith, 404 South Ave. Aggie, 478-4571.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>★ EVERY WED. Bikes 4 Peace Clinic. 5-6:30pm. 7/20 Skiddy Park; 8/3, 8/10 & 8/17 Brady Faith Center. Ursula or Maizy 472-5478.</p>	<p>4</p> 	<p>5</p> <p>Learn how to take action against gun violence. 3pm. Betts Branch Library, 4862 S. Salina St. MomsInSyracuse@gmail.com. All welcome, family friendly.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>★ Peace Picnic for Hiroshima Day. 4pm. Thornnden Park Lily Pond.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>ACTS Social Justice Leadership Training. 3-6pm. Liso, 416-6363.</p> 
<p>8</p> <p>Syracuse Greens Monthly Mtg. 7pm. 2013 E. Genesee St., 1st Fl. Howie, 425-1019.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>★ March for a Nuclear Free Future. 11:30am. City Hall Commons, Warren Street.</p> <p>★ NOON Steering Comm Mtg. 7pm. 2013 E. Genesee St., 2nd Fl. Ursula or Carol, 427-5478.</p> <p>ACTS' Criminal Justice Task Force Mtg. 5:15-6:45pm. Grace Episcopal Ch., 819 Madison St. 416-6363, acts.cny@gmail.com.</p>	<p>10</p> 	<p>11</p> <p>ACTS' Taskforce on Community Violence and Youth Mtg. 7-8:30pm. Southwest Comm. Ctr. 401 South Ave. 416-6363, acts.cny@gmail.com.</p>	<p>12</p> 	<p>13</p> <p>Learn how to take action against gun violence. 3pm. Betts Branch Library, 4862 S. Salina St. MomsInSyracuse@gmail.com. All welcome, family friendly.</p>	
<p>15</p> <p>SUN Westside Coalition, 7pm, Brown Memorial, 228 Davis St. 476-7475.</p> <p>ACTS Tabling Event- Information, Pre-K and Voter Registration, 12-5pm. Skiddy Park. Liso, 416-6363.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>★ Nuclear Free World Comm. Mtg. 6:30pm 114 Milnor Ave. Diane, 391-4484.</p> <p>★ SPC Steering Comm. Mtg. 6:30pm. Open to SPC supporters. Ursula, 472-5478.</p> <p>Community Participation Working Group. (lake bottom remediation), 4:30pm. Jack for location, 424-1454.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Skunk City Neighborhood Association. 6:30pm. Mundy Library, 1204 S. Geddes St. 476-7475.</p> <p>Shaleshock CNV Mtg. 6:15pm. Onondaga Free Library, 4840 W Seneca Trpk. Jack, 424-1454.</p>	<p>18</p> 	<p>19</p> <p><i>Events marked with a ★ are Syracuse Peace Council related events.</i></p> <p>peacecouncil.net 315-472-5478</p>	<p>SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL COMMUNITY CALENDAR JULY/AUGUST 2016</p>	