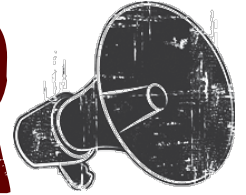


# PEACE NEWSLETTER



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## WATER IS LIFE: A WEEK AT STANDING ROCK

By Joe Heath

*Editors' note: The Standing Rock Sioux are in a historic struggle to stop construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline—planned to be 1,166 miles long, run through what is now North and South Dakota, Iowa and Illinois, and carry 570,000 gallons per day of the explosive Bakken crude oil. It would cross tens of thousands of rivers, creeks, streams, lakes and wetlands and destroy innumerable sacred, cultural and historic sites. Thousands of people have joined the Sioux at multiple peaceful prayer camps, representing hundreds of Native Nations. They are the water protectors. On October 27, the Treaty Camp located in the path of the pipeline was attacked by militarized state law enforcement in order to clear the camp out of the way. 141 people were arrested and subjected to imprisonment conditions that violate human rights.*

I arrived at the main camp on the Standing Rock Lakota territory on October 27, shortly before the shameful military assault on the smaller treaty camp that had been set up directly in the path of the pipeline. I will never forget the trauma to the water protectors that I saw and heard. I went there with the backing of the Onondaga Nation, as another level of their

support for the Standing Rock Lakota Nation, its citizens and their resistance to this black snake.

That morning, an overly militarized police force from seven states surrounded the treaty camp, and moved in to make arrests of Indigenous elders and their supporters as they prayed. The same military force then moved down state highway 1806 and arrested scores more. Their objective was to move the water protectors far enough away from the pipeline route for the company to set up razor wire and bring in bulldozers and other equipment to immediately dig for the pipeline.

This was the latest battle in the US Indian wars and on the same grounds where Custer and the 7<sup>th</sup> calvary attacked the Lakota people 160 years ago. When Indians are “in the way” they are simply forcibly removed. An Onondaga Clan Mother texted me that day: “Is this 1816 or 2016?”

The amount of force used against the water protectors, and the military equipment and tactics were astounding: armored personnel carriers and humvees brought in a militia armed with rubber bullets, which were fired at close range; pepper spray in canisters the size of fire extinguishers, also used at

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**Cover Photo:** Among the many photos that Joe brought back with him was this striking image. Unfortunately, we do not know the photographer.

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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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## COME TOGETHER AT PLOWSHARES! DECEMBER 3-4



The 2015 Plowshares Craftsfair. Photo: Mike Greenlar

At this time of year when the night is lengthening, the Plowshares Craftsfair and Peace Festival lights up our hearts and spirits. Plowshares is Central New York's premier multicultural crafts fair, celebrating a world where people enjoy their work and have control over it. It is a marketplace both of ideas and beautiful handmade items, a community gathering of people who hope and work for a better world.

It features 110 local craftspeople and 20 community groups. You'll find clothing, jewelry, ceramics, decorative objects, herbal medicines and more. When you need a break from shopping, enjoy the ongoing live entertainment, savor the tasty food from The Mission restaurant, or just hang out with old and new friends.

There's also the fun of exploring the SPC Marketplace (featuring an array of peace and social justice books, calendars,

T-shirts, stickers, buttons and more), buying raffle tickets and bidding on SPC silent auction items.

Plowshares is SPC's biggest fundraiser. Volunteers and the staff collective are bustling to get ready, and the weekend itself needs many more volunteers. You can help even now by getting the word out—post flyers (*PNL* subscribers have one enclosed), tell your friends, post on social media or put a lawn sign in your yard. Contact Carol if you can help in any way.

So mark your calendars: SPC's 46th annual Plowshares Craftsfair and Peace Festival is at Nottingham High School (3100 E. Genesee St., Syracuse) from **10 am-5 pm on Saturday, December 3** and **11 am-5 pm on Sunday, December 4**. Entry is sliding scale \$2-5 (more if you can, less if you can't), with under 16 and over 65 free. We look forward to seeing you there!

## THE WORK AHEAD

I am writing this to you the day after Donald Trump was elected the next President. By the time you are reading this, you probably will have read many articles and analyses about our prospects as a nation. But right now, it is important to acknowledge the amount of anger and frustration that there is in progressive circles. A certain grieving process will be in order. A Trump presidency will unleash the forces of racism, sexism, homophobia, ableism, and classism at unprecedented levels. The work that we do to move this country towards Martin Luther King Jr.'s

Beloved Community is hard, takes work, and is intergenerational. But this work has always been hard. And we believe that we are up to the task. At a time like this, it is important that we remember that we are connected to a legion of rebels, activists and organizers throughout history who have faced challenges much more daunting than this presidency. These ancestors of ours did not always see the fruits of their labor, but it is thanks to them that we have been able to push this nation towards its more humane policies. We owe it to them and to ourselves to

keep moving forward and continue the work. In fact, the resistance has already begun: protests have already erupted around the country to repudiate the politics of fear. Here at the Peace Council, we pledge to continue to be a resource for those willing to join us in our work. In a variation on Labor organizer Mother Jones' famous dictum: let's mourn first, then, let's organize. Because another world is still possible.

—Aly Wane

*continued on next page*

SPC, from previous page

## 6 WAYS TO GET ACTIVE WITH SPC RIGHT NOW

Join a community of activists dedicated to peace and social justice! There are so many ways to connect—both through the issues we focus on and the “business” of running an organization. Here are but a few (visit SPC’s website for more):

- Volunteer for a work shift at the Plowshares Craftsfair (December 3–4).
- Adopt a Plowshares lawn sign for your front yard.
- Come to the trial of the “Big Book” Drone Resisters November 29 (see this page).
- Contact Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation (NOON) to learn how to help with Standing Rock (the organizing changes quickly so it’s hard to be more specific, see page 9).
- Come into the office once a week to do whatever needs doing that day.
- Be on call for video and editing work.

## NOON

This *Thanksgiving, November 24*, at 10 am, Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation (NOON) invites you to a gathering on the Onondaga Lake Shoreline at Willow Bay Picnic Area. Join us for this Circle of Peace and Hope, to share in gratitude and friendship with the Onondaga people, as we work together for justice and Earth’s healing.

This month at the Syracuse Film Festival, NOON tabled at a showing of *The Good Mind*, a film featuring the Onondaga Nation people, history and culture. NOON then tabled at the Concert and Benefit Rally in support of Standing Rock Water Protectors, hosted by the Nation at their new Fieldhouse, Tsha’Thoñ’nhes. We also collected money at SPC’s Birthday Dinner, which we have given to the Onondaga to bring to Standing Rock. (To read more, see cover article.)

We are also eager to soon start presenting a new experiential workshop: “Witness to Injustice: Unraveling Native and US Relations.” Contact Carol.



## “BIG BOOKS” DRONE RESISTERS TRIAL IN NOVEMBER

Tuesday, November 29 is the trial for most of the Hancock drone resisters who had participated in the “Big Books” action at Hancock Air Base on March 19, 2015, the 12<sup>th</sup> year since the US invasion of Iraq. Please come in support! The trial is scheduled for 5 pm at the Town of Dewitt court (5400 Butternut Dr., East Syracuse)—call SPC first to make sure the time hasn’t changed.

## STREET HEAT’S NEW SCHEDULE

As the days become shorter and the weather more chill, Street Heat goes from twice a week to the first Tuesday of the month.

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 drones. In calling for an end to the militarism dominating US foreign policy, we want Hancock base personnel to rethink their role in that killing machine and to remind the public of all the killing in our name.

Please join us.

The nonviolent action blockaded Hancock’s main gate with a giant copy of the UN Charter and three other giant books—*Dirty Wars* (Jeremy Scahill), *Living Under Drones* (NYU and Stanford Law Schools), and *You Never Die Twice* (Reprieve).



### Early winter Street Heats:

**December 6 and January 10, 4:15–5pm.**

Hancock Air Base main entrance (E. Molly Rd. between Thompson & Townline Rds.).

Contact Ann or Ed, (315) 478-4571.

(To learn more about street heat, see article on page 8.)

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# COLOMBIA'S ROADBLOCK TO PEACE: BETWEEN HOPE AND DESPAIR

By Carolina Arango-Vargas

In October, the hope of millions of my fellow Colombians and I came to an abrupt halt. President Santos had called a plebiscite asking the Colombian people an apparently straightforward Yes or No question: "Do you support the final agreement to end the conflict and build a stable and lasting peace?" The agreement in question aimed to reach a political resolution to the 52-year long armed confrontation, the longest in the Western Hemisphere, with the insurgent guerrilla group FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia). However, by a razor thin margin (less than 60,000), the NO vote won.

For the past four years, and with the support of the governments of Norway and Cuba, a team of negotiators from the government and the FARC met in Havana. They established an agenda consisting of six key themes: comprehensive rural development; political participation; end of the conflict; solution to the problem of illicit drugs; agreement regarding the victims of the conflict; and implementation, verification, and public vote. Even though the team negotiated abroad, there were a number of mechanisms, such as regional and national forums, that allowed participation of civil society. Several Commissions provided input to the negotiators on key points, most notably, regarding the inclusion of a gender perspective to recognize the differential impact of war on women, girls, LGBT populations and ethnic minorities.

## A Restorative Justice

The agreement outlined the creation of a transitional justice system known as the "Special Jurisdiction for Peace" (SJP), a parallel system to the ordinary—and highly inefficient—criminal justice system, that would investigate, attribute responsibility and bring to an alternative justice circuit, all those who committed crimes against humanity in the context of the armed confrontation, not only guerrillas, but military officers and



Colombians gather in Plaza Bolívar in the heart of Bogotá before the October 2 plebiscite. Photo. Photo: Juan Pablo Gonzalez / C. C.

civilian collaborators as well. The agreement included complete amnesty only for rank-and-file members who were formerly accused of the crime of rebellion. A special Peace Tribunal would determine the sentences and conditions, ranging from two to eight years. Rather than prison, the sentence would entail mobility restrictions and require former fighters to perform restorative tasks for victims. The goal of the agreement was not only to punish, but also to help our nation to uncover truth and the extent of the war, its causes, actors and consequences, based on a full account of truth.

Besides providing alternatives to jail time, any peace negotiation with a political armed group must provide options that incentivize demobilization and allow reconciliation under the principles of truth, justice and reparation—the key elements of a restorative justice system. Because the history and causes of the Colombian conflict are so complex, the agreement was more than a simple treaty to allow "criminals" to escape punishment, as many claimed. The agreement was ambitious in aiming to achieve structural changes such as a land and agrarian reform, based on the principles of land restitution and redistribution. It would have required those who acquired land to prove they did so in good faith rather than as a product of displacing populations. It also included a number of initiatives to give farmers access to technologies and subsidies, and secure the participation of rural women.

The agreement promoted a solution to illicit drug production and distribution, by providing mechanisms for manual eradication

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*Carolina is a PhD candidate in Cultural Anthropology at Syracuse University, also holding a Certificate in Advanced Studies in Women's and Gender studies. She is originally from Bogotá, Colombia and has conducted long-term research with Colombian feminist NGOs and grassroots women's organizations. She analyzes the processes of collaboration among organizations, as well as the impact of political violence and feminist activism on women and their communities.*

*continued on next page*

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## Colombia's Roadblock, from previous page

and viable alternatives for growers. It also included guarantees for the rights to political participation in conditions of dignity and safety, in theory allowing people to defeat political enemies in the polls rather than on the battlefield. To facilitate the transition to civil life and the destruction of arms and ammunition, it designated a number of rural areas in the country to start the demobilization process, under the monitoring of UN observers. To further incentivize demobilization, the government would give guerrillas the equivalent of a monthly minimum wage for a period of time—as it has done for years with other surrendered fighters—pending the verification of their demobilization. More importantly, the talks allowed parties to reach a bilateral ceasefire, effectively stopping all armed confrontation and saving lives.



### The Vote

Before the vote, significant campaigns for YES and NO were launched. The YES campaigns focused on the benefits of the agreement, in particular, the need for national reconciliation, a shift towards a less violent culture and the economic benefits of no longer investing money in war. The NO campaign, spearheaded by ex-president Uribe Velez, manipulated the information regarding the agreement, preying on the fears and emotions of the Colombian population. NO promoters assured conservative sectors that Colombia would become a new Venezuela and that the head of the FARC would become the next president. Another sector of the NO, comprised of landowners, feared that the agrarian reform would threaten their right to private property by requiring them to prove their legal tenure, and that it would thwart foreign investment because it emphasized consultation with local populations.

Even though Mr. Uribe himself signed a peace agreement in 2003 with right-wing paramilitary groups under a different transitional justice system, he opposed the SJP on the grounds that it would bring impunity; that it was unacceptable that FARC leaders could participate in electoral politics, and that illicit drug dealing was a not crime connected to the armed political struggle. Another sector of the NO turned to the poorest populations and distorted information regarding the aid that would be given to demobilized guerrilleros, and bombarded viewers with images of crimes committed by the FARC, ignoring their efforts—albeit late—to ask for forgiveness. Perhaps most surprisingly, the head of the NO campaign confessed, post-facto, that among the Christian Right and Evangelical churches, they promoted the idea that the Peace Agreement threatened the “traditional family”. Led by former ombudsman Ordoñez, this now-powerful sector rejected the agreement on the false grounds that it was an attempt to spread a so-called “gender ideology” (a misnomer for the gender perspective, this term was coined by ultra-conservative Catholics in the 90s to oppose women’s and LGBT rights) due to its recognition of these specific victimized populations. Some pastors even called the agreement a “satanic” pact. Ultimately, it was dirty politics, exploiting the fears, misinformation, rancor and mistrust that are in itself the product of five decades of war.

Victims of the conflict were divided as well although a majority seemed to approve the agreement. While many regions and municipalities where the conflict has been prevalent voted YES, there were other regions where, under the same circumstances, the NO won. Abstention, say many, was the biggest winner. Only 37% of the electorate voted. It is not surprising in a country with a poor democratic culture, built upon the systemic exclusion of many, particularly in remote regions, and compounded by an outdated voting system and challenges to reach poll sites. Yet it is hard to understand how so many citizens said NO to ending a bloody war that has brought so much suffering, and to the possibility of breaking the endless cycle of violence, even more so when the agreement was in line with international laws.

### The Next Steps

Although President Santos has extended the ceasefire and has also won the Nobel Peace Prize—a nice symbolic gesture, but with little legal or political maneuverability—what the future brings is uncertain. A powerful opposition sector fundamentally opposes the agrarian reform, the political participation of FARC leaders and the SJP. Moreover, they appear to be delaying the situation with an agenda that goes beyond the approval of the Peace Agreement. The alliance Uribe and his followers have forged with evangelical Christians, traditional conservatives, regional leaders and people with questionable land holdings in rural areas, not only seriously threatens the agreement, but has halted what could have been a new era for our nation. In the meantime, the FARC and the negotiating team have met again in Havana to analyze the situation and try to amend the agreement without altering its fundamental content. They have also met with YES and NO representatives, yet it is unclear what aspects of the agreement will be modified and how it will be implemented.

Perhaps one of the most influential forces is that of the civil society and the pressure it can exert. Over the past month, thousands of citizens in Bogotá and several other main cities have massively gone out to the streets to demand the implementation of the Agreement. Students have led a massive movement calling for demonstrations that have united in some cases YES and NO voters who feel manipulated and frustrated. In particular, the Women’s Movement has demanded to keep the gender perspective in the agreement in spite of the attacks of the Christian Right, a sector whose political role seems to be growing.

The agreement, like a Jenga tower, was not perfect but it was a rarely achieved point of equilibrium between two key political forces that determine the conflict: the guerrilla and the state institutions, represented in Santos and his negotiating team, who accomplished a titanic task no other government was capable of doing. As part of the civil society we’ll continue mobilizing with a clear agenda, demanding a complete and indefinite ceasefire; the prompt implementation of the agreements; the permanence of the gender perspective and of the rights already granted by the Constitution; keeping the victims at the center of the process, and supporting the beginning of the peace talks with another insurgent group the National Liberation Army (ELN). Only then will Colombia be able to start building the peace we all so desire. ☮

# PALESTINIAN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER FACING TRIAL IN ISRAELI MILITARY COURT

*Ariel Gold*

Human rights activists are under attack in Israel/Palestine. On October 21, 2016, Israeli Knesset member David Bitan called for Hagai El-Ad, executive director of the Israeli human rights organization B'Tselem, to have his citizenship revoked after his testimony before the United Nations Security Council criticizing the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land. In March, 2016 Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon accused Breaking the Silence, an Israeli veteran's organization that collects and publishes testimony from Israeli soldiers, of treason. The latest attack is against internationally renowned Palestinian human rights defender Issa Amro of the heavily occupied West Bank city of Hebron. Issa is in a far more vulnerable position than members of B'tselem and Breaking the Silence. As a West Bank Palestinian he has almost no rights or protection and is subject to Israeli military, rather than civil, law.

In September 2016, following a successful nonviolent action in partnership with US and Israeli Jewish allies, Israel revived 18 military court charges against Issa dating back to 2010. The charges, which include such things as organizing illegal demonstrations (it is illegal for Palestinians to organize demonstrations with more than 10 people) and incitement (speaking out against the occupation), put Issa at risk of serving around 1-3 years in prison. The Israeli military court has an over 99% conviction rate.

Issa got his first taste of nonviolent activism as a university student during the second intifada. When his school was closed by the Israeli government, he began to study Gandhi, Martin Luther King, and Mandela. He led his fellow students in protests to reopen their university. Upon their success, Issa found himself addicted to the nonviolent struggle for freedom and equality.

Hebron settlers are of the most violent and ideologically extreme of the settler movement. They carry machine guns through the streets of the divided city. In 1994 a Brooklyn-born Israeli settler named Baruch Goldstein opened fire in the Ibrahimi mosque in Hebron, killing 29 Palestinians in worship. Since then, Shuhada Street, once the main marketplace and thoroughfare in the city, has remained almost entirely closed to Palestinians. Shops are boarded up and Palestinian families are forced to use alleyways, rooftops, and backdoors to enter their homes.

Issa leads the group Youth Against Settlements (YAS) which helps the Palestinian community in Hebron to remain resilient despite the violence and restrictions from Israeli settlers and soldiers. In 2014 YAS created the first new infrastructure in Hebron, a kindergarten serving Palestinian families who previously had to send their children through checkpoints to reach early childhood education. Issa and YAS are the main source of information for international media in Hebron. They



Palestinian human rights activist Issa Amro. Photo: [electronicintifada.net](http://electronicintifada.net)

regularly receive diplomats, officials, and delegations of human rights activists.

Issa has received international recognition for his human rights work. He has testified before the United Nations on numerous occasions. In 2009 he won the One World media award for his involvement in B'Tselem's "Shooting Back" video documentation project. In 2010 the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) declared Issa the human rights defender of the year for Palestine. In 2013 he was declared a Human Right Defender by the European Union. Finally, in 2016 he was honored by the Institute for Middle East Understanding.

The charges Issa is currently facing come on the heels of an influential action this past summer with the Center for Jewish Nonviolence (CJN). Issa and the CJN organized efforts to clean an abandoned Palestinian factory and transform it into a movie theatre. Hundreds of Israeli and American Jewish activists traveled to Hebron for the action. Many of the activists were arrested and the event received international media attention. Issa and his attorney believe the charges he is facing are politically motivated as reprisal for his work for Palestinian human rights.

Issa's trial in military court is scheduled to start on November 23. His trial was originally scheduled to start on September 25 but was delayed due to the prosecution not turning over their evidence on time. He just returned from two weeks in the US where he spoke at the US Campaign for Palestinian Rights conference (formerly the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation) and met with Human Rights Watch and the UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights. Although Issa is receiving support from these and other institutions, he is still at grave risk. CODEPINK and Jewish Voice for Peace are hosting parallel petitions asking Secretary of State John Kerry to call on Israel to drop the charges against Issa. You can sign CODEPINK's petitions at [www.codepink.org/stand\\_with\\_issa\\_amro](http://www.codepink.org/stand_with_issa_amro) and follow updates on Issa's case through the YAS website, [hyas.ps](http://hyas.ps). ☮

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*Ariel Gold is the Palestine campaigner for CODEPINK. She runs the Remodel RE/MAX campaign to get them to stop selling homes in Israeli settlements. Ariel spent fall 2015 with YAS in Hebron.*

# STREET HEAT: DOES HANCOCK FEEL THE BURN?

By Ed Kinane

In the eighties the second wave of the US anti-apartheid movement—focused then on South Africa—was at a boil. In those days “Doonesbury” had a prescient sequence satirizing the “activists” tied to their computers.

I too mostly dwell in the computer-domesticated indoors, generating or responding to email and chasing links. On-line is now my comfort zone. Maybe too comfortable.

With Occupy and the Arab Spring and Black Lives Matter and Standing Rock, I’ve come to think that here and abroad, historically and currently, much—maybe most—grassroots change only really begins when people, taking to the “street,” join en masse in solidarity and indignation. But we’re far less likely to mass anywhere if, in the first place, we seldom venture to the street.

So that is partly why some of us engage in what we call “street heat.” **Street heat is a way to get off our duffs, to break out of our cocoons, to overcome that hesitation to go public. It gets us standing up for what we stand for.**

Since late 2009 for 45 minutes beginning at 4:15 pm every first and third Tuesday of the month a handful of us—sometimes more—have been gathering across the road from the main entrance of Hancock Air Base. This is when the day shift changes at this Reaper drone hub. (On Saturday mornings and other Tuesdays we also do street heat elsewhere at busy intersections around Syracuse.\*)

It happens that Tuesday has come to have a macabre significance: each Tuesday Mr. Obama and his advisors choose the drone assassination targets for the next six months in the Islamic oil lands—assassinations immoral and illegal.

While tactically clever and corporationally enriching, this tactic is strategically stupid—among other things, such terrorism is a notoriously effective recruiter for Al Qaeda, ISIS and their ilk. (Pentagon contracts boost the burgeoning drone industry. NUAIR, Syracuse’s drone industry lobbyist, seems intent on glomming on to a chunk of that bonanza.)

Hancock AFB is contiguous to the Syracuse International Airport on the north edge of the city in the town of DeWitt. There with our signs we stand facing Hancock’s main gate and the rush hour civilian traffic along East Molloy Road. We want to “out” the 174th *Attack* Wing of the NY National Guard based at Hancock. The 174th remotely operates those Reaper drone robots 24/7 over Afghanistan and probably elsewhere. Hancock is in our back yard—if we don’t expose such war crime, who will?

By our presence and by our signs, we seek to prick the conscience of the 174th’s personnel, cogs in the Pentagon’s war machine. Our bold hand-drawn signs declare **US OUT OF THE MIDDLE**



The October 5 Street Heat focused on Keep Space for Peace Week. Pictured are Ed, Barbara, Dave, John, Leslie and Ann standing across the street from Hancock Air Base’s main entrance. Photo: Carol Baum

**EAST and DRONES FLY, CHILDREN DIE and BAN WEAPONIZED DRONES and WEAPONIZED DRONES=TERRORISM, etc.**

Without our stalwart presence year in, year out, it’s too easy, given US mainstream media, for the public to forget that the US has embarked on deliberate corporation-profiting perpetual war—an Islamophobic war on numerous fronts, a war not *on* terrorism, but *of* terrorism. And it’s too easy for Hancock drone operators, leading their sequestered, classified, indoctrinated, computerized lives to forget they help perpetuate the maiming and killing—all the while risking PTSD.

It’s hard to measure, but ongoing street heat is part of that relentless persistence needed to dent the Pentagon’s hegemonic designs. Without such presence and persistence—also occurring at various other US drone bases—drone warfare would surely become even more normalized than it already is.

The local mainstream corporate media has pretty much ignored us over the years—after all, hey, why alienate future drone industry advertisers or discourage drone industry entrepreneurs? The beauty of street heat, operating under the radar, is that it reaches at least a segment of the public despite the media blackout. While many drivers-by avert their eyes, some—whether with obscene shouts...or honks and gestures of encouragement—take notice.

You are invited to join us at street heat—please give it a try, either outside Hancock AFB or at one of our other locations once the weather gets warmer. If you’ve never done this before, try it out—with a group of friendly, like-minded people—and help break the silence. 🙏

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*Ed’s first PNL article about Hancock, “Drones and Dishonor in Central New York,” was published in October 2009. To join the campaign, reach him at edkinane340@gmail.com.*

*\* From early November through the end of March—the cold and dark season—we scale back, going out only on first Tuesdays. See page 4.*



## *Water is Life, from Cover*

close range; stun grenades, sound cannons, four-foot long batons and snipers on the hills.

After the 141 arrests the protectors were strip searched, and numbers were written on their arms with permanent marker, reminiscent of the concentration camps. They were herded temporarily into chain link cages in the basement of the sheriff's headquarters—no windows, concrete floors and no facilities. Eventually they were moved to four different jails, with some several hours distant. We were still working on securing their release on bail on Monday.

These are human rights abuses, and on Saturday, October 29, two United Nations rapporteurs arrived to investigate the violent activities of the law enforcement army. Their initial response was that there had been clear violations of international law.

It is important to understand that all of this atrocious attack took place on treaty lands. This area was promised to the Lakota in the 1851 Treaty of Fort Laramie—which has been repeatedly broken by two illegal acts of Congress and then by the Allotment Act.

It is also important to understand that the Standing Rock Lakota consider the Missouri River a living relative, to which they owe a fundamental duty to continue their centuries old stewardship. They have ceremonies to continue their gratitude and relationship, as it is the life blood of their people and their only source of drinking water.

The original route of the pipeline had been proposed to run under the River about 50 miles north of its current path, but this was rejected because of the potential danger to the drinking water supply of the city of Bismarck's 68,000 mostly white residents. As usual, the same protections were not considered or given to the drinking water supply of the Standing Rock peoples. This is just the latest occasion of environmental injustice to Indigenous peoples.

I also learned that no Environmental Impact Statement has been completed, primarily due to the financial concerns of the pipeline company. Certainly no meaningful consultation was afforded the Lakota, in violation both of the United Nations principle of "free, prior and informed consent" before Indigenous lands and waters are impacted, and of federal law. Sacred sites and burial sites have been bulldozed, and even the North Dakota Public Service Commission has cited the company for not reporting when cultural artifacts were unearthed during excavation.

As with all fossil fuel "midstream" infrastructure projects—those between the wells and the refineries—this one is driven by the financial interests of Energy Transfer Partners and their financial partners and bankers, who have already made millions in fees by financing this \$3.8 billion project. The company is in a financial bind because many of their contracts will expire at the end of the year, and the likelihood of renewals are shrinking as the Bakken fracked oil fields have already peaked, with production declining significantly. The Bakken fields themselves are an environmental disaster, where the huge amounts of methane that also come up after the fracking is simply vented into the air—enough to heat half a million homes a day. Over a 20-year period, methane is 100 times more a potent green house gas than carbon dioxide.

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*Joe has been the general counsel for the Onondaga Nation since the early 1980s. He has also been very active in the fossil fuel resistance movement.*

# DEFEND THE SACRED

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

- **Call the White House:** 202.456.1111. Tell President Obama to stop the construction and stop the military assault!
- **Donate to the Red Owl Legal Collective**, the National Lawyers Guild working group defending those arrested at Standing Rock, [nlg.org/donate/redowl](http://nlg.org/donate/redowl).
- **Donate to the main camp, Oceti Sakowin** at [www.standwithstandingrock.net](http://www.standwithstandingrock.net).
- **Go to Standing Rock** with enough support and gear to be self-sufficient and able to help the camp. Learn how to be a good ally at [www.standingrocksolidaritynetwork.org](http://www.standingrocksolidaritynetwork.org).
- **Follow Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation's** Facebook page or e-newsletter (sign up at [peacecouncil.net](http://peacecouncil.net)) to stay informed of local solidarity actions.

The Standing Rock Lakota leadership has called for all parties to sit down together and talk, while listening respectfully. They quote Sitting Bull, who said, "Let us put our good minds together and see what kind of life we can build for our children." Those of us who have listened to the Onondaga and the Haudenosaunee know that this is also a fundamental principle of the Haudenosaunee Great Law of Peace.

Just as with fracking here in New York, this insanity can be stopped if we educate, agitate and organize. I urge everyone to call, write or email the White House, which is beginning to listen, as President Obama can put an end to all of this. It is not too late. The army corps of engineers still must issue permits to allow the pipeline to go under the Missouri River. Call on the President to honor the treaties, stop the pipeline, stop the violence of the police and begin a healing process with the Standing Rock Lakota.

I found it deeply inspiring to see the hundreds of other Indigenous nations, from across Turtle Island and far beyond, who had sent some of their citizens to join the Standing Rock Nation in the main camp. I am working on the process of getting admitted to practice in North Dakota, so I can return to handle at least one of the felony cases. As of this writing, there are over 400 criminal cases pending and at least 141 of them are felonies. ☯

*STOP THE DAKOTA ACCESS PIPELINE,*

*HONOR THE TREATIES,*

*LEAVE THE OIL IN THE GROUND,*

*PROTECT MOTHER EARTH AND ALL HER WATERS,*

*MNI WICONI—WATER IS LIFE*

# THE NOOSE IS GETTING TIGHTER: PROTESTING INJUSTICE BEHIND BARS

Derek Singletary

*Editor's Note: Due to space limitations, this is an edited version of Derek's piece. Read the full version at [peacecouncil.net/blog](http://peacecouncil.net/blog).*

Recently, I was asked to write about my perspective on solitary confinement as part of the ongoing resistance in Syracuse to the use of such punishment with 16- and 17-year-olds held in the so-called "Justice Center". The ironic thing is that, for the first time in six years, I find myself in the box at this very moment. Not for violence. Not for drugs. But for having a peaceful protest like the ones that many of you participate in. For understanding the injustice of my situation and not being afraid to speak up.

See, the noose is getting tighter, and conditions are only getting worse. Every day, the Department of "Corrections" finds new ways to take something away. Recently they've come up with a statewide prohibition of hooded sweatshirts, citing the tried, true, and inexhaustible "security threat" reason. This comes just four years after the Trayvon Martin killing, when protesters wore hoodies to show their unity and support for the Martin family after their son was racially stereotyped and marked for death. Hoodies pose no more of a threat in jail than they do on the back

*Derek is currently being held in solitary confinement at Elmira Maximum Security Prison for his part in a peaceful protest by prisoners during the week of the 45th anniversary of the Attica Prison Rebellion.*

of a young black man walking innocuously down the street. Yet we as prisoners are condemned to go without the warmest article of clothing we had in freezing winters, in what can only be explained as systematic backlash.

At Green Haven "Correctional Facility" in particular, where the protest I participated in took place, the oppressive conditions are compounded. Correspondence from our friends and family sits in the mailroom for two to three weeks before being distributed; food packages rot. The visit room is crowded with overzealous "correction officers" who make it their business to stare you down, waiting to relegate you to keeplock status (locked in your cell for a period of weeks or months) if they don't like the way you are hugging your visitor.

Over the summer they began to regulate phone calls by imposing a 15 minute limit. There are usually anywhere from 150 to 200 prisoners in the yard at a time, yet only 20 phones. Why, instead of adding phones, do they limit their usage?



Derek with friend and Syracuse activist Emily Napier. Photo: *unknown*

*continued on next page*



## Syracuse Community Choir The Great Turning Winter Solstice Concert

**Saturday**

December 17, 2016 7pm

St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral  
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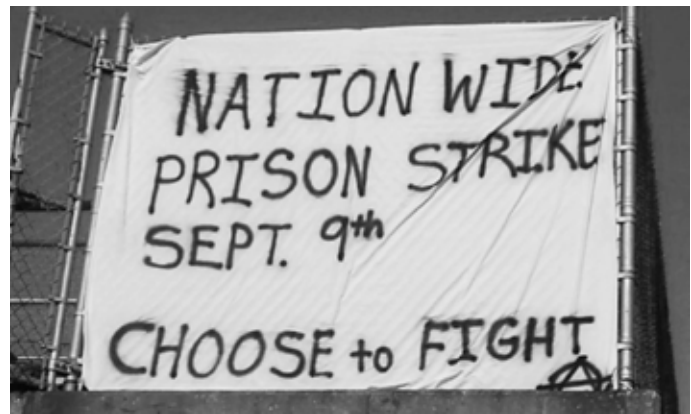
## Protesting Injustice, from previous page

Early in September, a group of us decided we had no choice but to take a collective stand. After our recreation time was again cut short, about 150 prisoners refused to return from the yard to the cell block. No violence occurred. We simply aired our grievances peacefully and then returned to our cells about 45 minutes later. Shortly thereafter, eight of us who were apparently identified as the leaders of the protest were rounded up. We were told to pack up our belongings, and the next morning I was put in a van to Elmira “Correctional Facility” where I was immediately placed in solitary confinement.

Today, for having peacefully stood against injustice, I remain in the box—I’ve been sentenced to spend six months here. I hate the box because I understand how solitary confinement inhibits the mind, poisons it with negativity, and in effect displaces the social skills we need to survive in the real world. See, I’m 31. But I came to jail when I was 25, and I still feel 25 because, though my experiences have made me a bit wiser, it’s very hard to grow in jail. And almost impossible to do so in the box. My neighbor (in the cell next to me) is 19. We’ll call him Jay. Jay came to jail when he was 11, got out when he was 16, did a couple months on the streets and came right back to jail. I don’t talk to him all that much because, just as I told you I still feel 25, Jay still sounds like he’s 11. His vocabulary is so deficient that an ordinary thing like a tuba is described as, “that shit that you blow on that makes noise.”

I don’t think we have to question the fact that his intellectual deficiency is a direct product of the jail system that seems so purposely designed to retard development. And trust me when I tell you that the box only makes it worse.

All you hear in here are war stories. Nothing positive. Just the spreading of the patriarchal ideology that tells us that being on the giving end of a violent encounter is the only way to become



A banner drop in support of the nationwide prison strike over the Lloyd Expressway in Evansville, Indiana. Photo: wheretheriverfrowns.com

a man. That and getting money. Not only does Jay hear all of this—it’s the only thing he hears. And it’s typical box socialization.

We should eradicate the box as a whole because it stunts growth and only reinforces negative thinking. But solitary confinement for teenagers like Jay is especially damaging. It only creates the very mental state that will land them back in jail or even worse.

Across the country, there are likely thousands of people in a situation very similar to mine—being punished in barbaric conditions for exercising our free speech, a right we are deprived of in jail. It’s impossible to know exactly how often this occurs because prisoners are rendered invisible. Our communication with the outside world is purposely and systematically restricted. Couple that with a media blackout on the plight of prisoners, and we are effectively silenced, even when raising our voices. People like you on the outside must be our witnesses if we have any hope of restoring the humanity of the millions of people behind bars in this country. ♪

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# REPORT ON THE NATIONAL PRISON STRIKES

*Marlon Calliste*

On September 9, 2016, the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Attica Prison uprising, a nationwide prison strike movement began. Thousands of inmates did not show up for work on that day, and protests continue as of this writing. Some correctional officers in Alabama even participated, refusing to show up to work in order to bring light to the inhumane living conditions inmates are subjected to. These protests are not a new thing: in 2010 a Georgia prison held a work strike in demonstration against harsh living conditions and the low, often non-existent compensation they received for their work. The current strike was organized and coordinated across 24 prisons in 12 different states, with the Free Alabama Movement (a group of inmates who are based out of the Holman prison in Alabama) acting as the lead coordinator of this massive project. Alabama’s prisons are notoriously overcrowded and underfunded.

These protests are as much about poor prison conditions and overpopulation as they are about the labor rights of inmates.

*Marlon is a student at SUNY Oswego and currently an intern at the SPC.*

Many prisons require that these inmates have a job. These jobs range from food preparation to janitorial duties, among others. When compensated for these jobs, prisoners receive far less than their unincarcerated counterparts: typically between 12 and 40 cents an hour. Some states, such as Texas and Georgia, do not even pay inmates and essentially use them as a free source of labor. In any other situation, this would be considered slavery—yet the United States has legalized and normalized this type of behavior. The 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment, despite legally outlawing slavery, contains the exception that in conditions of punishment for a crime, involuntary servitude is a legal and acceptable practice. This portion of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment has been exploited to the fullest extent. Prisons, especially privatized ones, are overfilling their facilities, well aware of the fact that they are gaining free labor that can be used to push profit margins to their absolute maximum. The fact that this labor force has very little legal recourse is an added bonus for prison operators, and until protests such as this become more commonplace and the public takes notice, this practice will continue. ♪

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# STUDENT ORGANIZING FOR PEACE AT SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

By Whitney Garcia and Michaela Czerkies

The student group Peace Action at Syracuse University is ready to begin its organizing! With students coming and going, busy schedules and a bureaucratic system, it has been hard for the Peace Action at SU chapter to get on its feet, but we have. This semester, our focus has been on recruiting members, collaborating on campus events and beginning the conversation around ways to take action on social injustices. The chapter wants to help rejuvenate the peace movement with student energy in order to work towards a peaceful world.

As the current president of Peace Action at SU [Whitney], with Stefan Nielsen-Sperb as vice president, we have struggled to motivate students to become interested in the issues of nuclear weapons and energy, refugees, militarism, etc. Michaela Czerkies, a former student organizer at the University of Albany Peace Action chapter, stated that in the beginning stages of her chapter, only a handful of students were interested. Today, the Albany chapter has over 40 members.

We at Peace Action at SU understand that it will not be easy to reach the success of our neighboring chapters. However, we have a passionate drive to fuel the peace movement. Michaela explained that she initially joined the UAlbany Peace Action chapter because she was looking to join a campus group that was organizing around causes that she cared about. At Peace Action student meetings, she felt welcomed and saw her peers' dedication to advocacy. Not only did the group take action on issues, but Michaela found incredible people to call her closest friends. Michaela and I met at the National Peace Action New York State (PANYS) conference in Washington, DC, and I witnessed firsthand the strong bond between students in their chapters. Upon arriving back to Syracuse University, I felt it essential to re-create that passion in activism and family-feeling that I saw there.

UAlbany Peace Action is PANYS' most successful chapter. They were recently awarded the Don Shaffer Peacemaker Award for their work during the 2015-2016 academic year. The chapter hosted their two biggest events that year: "Refugee Visibility Day" and "The Journey: Life as a Refugee." The first event used photos as a way to highlight the *experiences* of refugees, rather than the *statistics* often used to discuss them in the media. Michaela stated that, "Members got a lot of students engaging with us about the issue, inspiring them to actively support refugees by signing over 90 pages of petitions." In the chapter's second event, more than 75 people participated in a

*Whitney is a Syracuse University senior and student organizer for Peace Action at SU. Michaela was a student organizer for University at Albany Peace Action and is now active with the Nuclear Free World Committee.*



Peace Action members and student organizers gathered at the Peace Action national conference in Washington, DC. Photo: [blogs.brandeis.edu/wowblog/2016/06/21](http://blogs.brandeis.edu/wowblog/2016/06/21)

simulation of the journeys of refugees from Syria to the Europe, learning about the harsh obstacles that refugees face when they are forced out of their country.

Peace Action at SU hopes to bring the same awareness on our campus that other chapters do on theirs. Currently, multiple PANYS university chapters are working on refugee campaigns. While Peace Action at SU wants to build on the increasing momentum surrounding refugee advocacy, we feel that it's important to first establish a foundation on peace activism. Since our chapter is new on campus, we want to show Syracuse University students and community members Peace Action's mission to work toward abolishing war and weapons of mass destruction.

This generation's youth will one day be the country's leaders. Ultimately, this country needs social justice organizations like the chapters at University of Albany and Syracuse University. When a few students begin to take action for social justice and human rights issues, it encourages more of their peers to become involved. If we can start seeing the importance of working towards a militarization-free, nuclear-free and peaceful world, a lot of other problems will start falling apart. The Peace Action chapter at Syracuse University is still fairly new, but it's a big step towards a more just world. People in the community and SU students can become involved by attending meetings and events, and staying in touch with us through social media or email. Our journey is just starting in Syracuse and we can all be a part of seeing what it will flourish into. ☮

## CONTACT

 PeaceActionSYR  
PeaceActionAtSU@gmail.com

## MEETINGS

SU campus every other  
Tuesday, 7pm, location TBD



Left: Guest speaker Medea Benjamin answers questions at SPC's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Dinner. Right: SPC interns Xochitl Santamaria and Marlon Calliste staff the door at SPC's birthday dinner. Photos: Aubrey Moore

## BIRTHDAY DINNER

The Birthday Dinner was a great success. Medea Benjamin's talk urging boycott and divestment from the weapons industry and action against the alliance between US and Saudi Arabia was hard-hitting and thorough. Medea, a longtime anti-war disruptor and co-founder of Code Pink, is on tour promoting her new book, *Kingdom of the Unjust*.

Dozens of SPC members were crucial to the success of the dinner, from cooking the delicious food to setup to taking responsibility for table settings and washing dishes. The menu was chosen for accessibility, with vegan and gluten-free basic courses, and items that could be added for different dietary needs and preferences. The Birthday Dinner is one of the few times a year all of the Peace Council can come together.

## ACTIVIST APPRECIATION—DIANE SWORDS

This writer's biggest surprise in composing this was that Diane Swords had not been appreciated in these pages before! Diane is the complete activist/political analyst/organizer—in every aspect of her life she shows her passionate commitment to peace and social justice.

Diane has been a dedicated organizer for peace and nuclear disarmament since the early 1980s when she marched with over one million people in the streets of New York City as part of the Nuclear Freeze Campaign. For many years, Diane was a lead organizer with Peace Action CNY, having served as the organization's staff person and Co-Chair, and she helped facilitate Peace Action's merging with the Peace Council. Today, she is an active member of the Nuclear Free World Committee and the SPC Steering Committee. Recently, she was

instrumental in organizing the Peace Picnic to commemorate the bombing of Hiroshima.

Among her countless activist superpowers, Diane is particularly attentive to helping new activists feel welcome at events and meetings. You may have seen Diane's writing in the *Peace Newsletter*, sharing updates about US nuclear weapons policy. Far from a single issue activist, Diane is active organizing against Islamophobia on the Syracuse University campus, can be often be found performing with the Syracuse Community Choir, is dedicated to dialogue and is participating in the new local chapter of Jewish Voice for Peace. Thank you, Diane for sharing your skills and passions to help build a more compassionate community!



Diane Swords holds a peace sign aloft during a protest of Donald Trump's visit to Syracuse in April. Photo: Ray Trudell

## \$ FALL FUND APPEAL

If you didn't receive the Fall Fund Appeal letter but feel strongly that the mission of the Peace Council is a

necessary one, please consider donating. Call us at 472-5478 if you are considering donating or increasing your pledge.

*continued on next page*

SPC, from previous page

## ANTI-RACISM SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN

Peace Council members participated in ACTS' Rally for Justice on October 30 at Tucker Missionary Baptist Church, demanding public officials support universal Pre-K, a ban on landlords denying potential tenants due to source of income (which is often used as a cover for discrimination against people with disabilities and people of color), an end to solitary confinement of youth in the county jail (almost exclusively children of color), and an end to imprisoning youth with adults.

The campaign will continue to find ways to resist structural racism, especially in CNY, and working with other resisting groups. To get involved, contact Brian.

## NUCLEAR FREE WORLD

The world needs you! Here are five easy ways you can support a nuclear free world:

- Urge President Obama to leave a legacy towards nuclear abolition. Sign the petition at: [www.peace-action.org/issues/nuclear-disarmament](http://www.peace-action.org/issues/nuclear-disarmament).
- Write your representatives to support the SANE Act (S.831/HR.1534) redirecting revenue from nuclear madness to human needs.
- Promote youth peace making. Get your nomination or application form for the 2017 Youth Peace Award from [margrit.diehl@gmail.com](mailto:margrit.diehl@gmail.com).
- Join our film series kick-off with *The Forgotten Bomb* by Bud Ryan on January 17, 7pm at ArtRage Gallery.
- Come to our next potluck meeting on Thursday, December 8. See Calendar for details.

## STEERING COMMITTEE

We are endeavoring to make the Peace Council more transparent and accessible. While the Peace Council is often associated with its staff organizers, its strength really comes from all of our members.



The Steering Committee, like a board of directors, is ultimately responsible for the strategic direction and finances of the Peace Council. Starting in December you will be able to email a rotating member of the Steering Committee directly with ideas and concerns at [spcsteeringcomm@peacecouncil.net](mailto:spcsteeringcomm@peacecouncil.net). Put faces and names to Steering Committee members by going to our website. There you can also find contact information for each of our committees.

## IF YOU CAN'T STOP THEM...FIGHT HARDER!

Despite efforts by Alliance for a Green Economy (AGREE) that generated 15,000 public comments, over 100 organizations speaking out, dozens of elected officials raising concerns, op-eds and letters to the editor, in August the Public Service Commission approved a \$7.6 billion subsidy plan for three aging Upstate nuclear reactors as part of NY's Clean Energy Standard. But, we're not done yet: over 100 organizations are calling on Cuomo to halt the bailout; learn more at [stopthecuomotax.org](http://stopthecuomotax.org).

Outrageously, FitzPatrick, one of the reactors to benefit from the subsidies, is trying to postpone required safety upgrades. AGREE and Beyond Nuclear are petitioning the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to enforce timely upgrades.

On a positive note, the next round of Solarize CNY ([solarizecny.org](http://solarizecny.org)) will explain new Community Solar options in NY! ☺



## HAMACAS!

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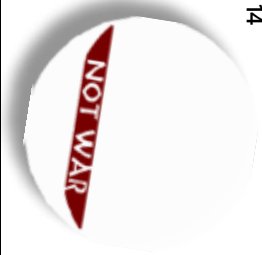


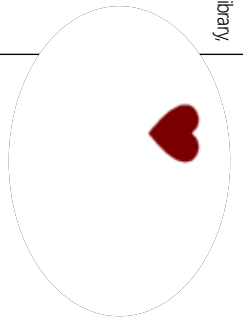

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|--|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| <p><b>NOV 21</b></p> <p>SUN Westside Coalition, 7pm, Brown Memorial, 228 Davis St. 476.7475.</p>   | <p><b>22</b></p> <p>EVERY TUES &amp; THURS, Free High School Equivalency Prep, 6-9pm, Westcott Comm. Ctr, 826 Euclid Ave. Brett, 289.9057.</p>   | <p><b>23</b></p> <p>Skunk City Neighborhood Assn, 6:30pm, Mundy Library, 1204 S. Geddes St. 476.7475.</p>   | <p><b>24</b></p> <p>★ Thanksgiving Circle of Peace and Hope, 10am, Willow Bay Picnic Area, north shore Onondaga Lake. NOON, 472.5478. See p. 4.</p>  | <p><b>24</b></p> <p><b>BUY NOTHING DAY</b></p>  | <p><b>26</b></p> <p>Thru Jan. 21, In God's House: The Photographs of Robert Knight Arthage, 505 Hawley Ave. 218.5711.</p>  | <p><b>27</b></p> <p>Thru Dec 3, Two Sides of James Ransome: Known and Unknown, Community Folk Art Center, 805 E Genesee St. 442.2230. <a href="mailto:dac@syredu">dac@syredu</a>.</p> |
| <p><b>28</b></p> <p>ACTS Research &amp; Action Mtg, 7-9pm, Temple Society of Concord, 910 Madison St. 416.6363.</p>  | <p><b>29</b></p> <p>★ Hancock Drone Resisters Trial, 5pm, Town of Dewitt Court, 5400 Butternut Dr., E. Syracuse. Call to confirm: SPC, 472.5478. See p. 4.</p> <p>EVERY TUES, Rough Times Live (Media Unit), 8pm, Time Warner 98, 478.8648.</p>                            | <p><b>30</b></p> <p>Friends of Dorothy, Dinner, 5-7pm, Bishop Harrison Center, 1342 Lancaster Ave. Sliding scale donation \$0-whatever.</p>   | <p><b>DEC 1</b></p> <p>EVERY THURS, Other Voices, Other Choices, 7:30pm, Time Warner Cable Ch. 98, <a href="http://othervoicesotherchoices.blogspot.com">othervoicesotherchoices.blogspot.com</a></p> <p>EVERY THURS, Talk to a Lawyer, 6-8pm, Westcott Community Center, 2nd Flr, 826 Euclid Ave. 471.3409. FREE.</p> | <p><b>2</b></p>   | <p><b>3</b></p> <p>★ Plowshares Craftfair and Peace Festival, Sat. 10-5pm, Sun. 11-5pm, Nottingham High School, 3100 E. Genesee St. 472.5478. \$2-5 sliding scale, no one turned away. See p. 3.</p> <p><b>plowshares</b><br/>WINTER CRAFTSFAIR AND PEACE FESTIVAL</p>  | <p><b>4</b></p>   |
| <p><b>5</b></p> <p>ACTS Pre-K Task Force Mtg, 7-9pm, Jowono School, 3049 E Genesee St. 416.6363.</p>   | <p><b>6</b></p> <p>★ Street Heat, 4:15-5pm, Hancock Air Base main entrance, E Molloy Rd, b/w Thompson and Townline Rds. Ann or Ed, 478.4571.</p>   | <p><b>7</b></p> <p>An Hour of Prayer for Peace in Our World: Music, Reflections and Silence, 5-6pm, St. Lucy's, 432 Gifford St. 475.7273.</p>  | <p><b>8</b></p> <p>★ Nuclear Free World Comm. Mtg, 6:30pm, 114 Milnor Ave. Diane, 391.4484.</p> <p>ACTS Taskforce on Community Violence and Youth Mtg, 7-8:30pm, Southwest Comm. Ctr, 401 South Ave. 416.6363, <a href="mailto:acts.cry@gmail.com">acts.cry@gmail.com</a></p>  | <p><b>9</b></p>    | <p><b>10</b></p> <p>Central NY Chapter Alliance for Retired Americans, 10am, NYSUT, 4983 Brittonfield Pkwy #203, E. Syr. Jerry, 243.9823.</p> <p>Concert: The Honky Tonk Hindooz, 8pm, Westcott Community Center, 826 Euclid Ave. <a href="mailto:newfolkow@nestscape.net">newfolkow@nestscape.net</a>, 478.8634. \$10.</p>                                  | <p><b>11</b></p> <p><b>TO BE DETERMINED</b></p> <p><b>HUMAN RIGHTS DAY</b></p>                     |
| <p><b>12</b></p> <p>Fundraiser: Order Tamales from the Workers Center, 218.5708. Last day to order is Dec 13; pick up tamales Dec. 17</p> <p>Syracuse Greens Monthly Mtg, 7pm, 2013 E. Genesee St., 1st Flr. Howe, 425.1019.</p> | <p><b>13</b></p> <p>★ NOON Steering Comm Mtg, 7pm, 2013 E. Genesee St., 2nd Flr. Carol, 472.5478.</p> <p>ACTS Criminal Justice Task Force Mtg, 5:15-6:45pm, Grace Episcopal Ch., 819 Madison St. 416.6363, <a href="mailto:acts.cry@gmail.com">acts.cry@gmail.com</a>.</p> | <p><b>14</b></p>   | <p><b>15</b></p> <p>Move to Amend Meeting, 6-7:30pm, Ground fl., Syr. Center for Peace &amp; Social Justice, 2013 E. Genesee St. Casey, <a href="mailto:highlife72@gmail.com">highlife72@gmail.com</a>.</p>  | <p><b>16</b></p>   | <p><b>17</b></p> <p>Winter Solstice Concert: The Great Turning, 7-9:30pm, St. Paul's Cathedral, 220 E. Fayette St. <a href="mailto:syracusecommunitychoir.org">syracusecommunitychoir.org</a>.</p>   | <p><b>18</b></p>   |
| <p><b>19</b></p> <p>SUN Westside Coalition, 7pm, Brown Memorial, 228 Davis St. 476.7475.</p> <p>ACTS Research &amp; Action Mtg, 7-9pm, Temple Society of Concord, 910 Madison St. 416.6363.</p>                                  | <p><b>20</b></p> <p>★ SPC Steering Comm. Mtg, 6:30pm, Open to SPC supporters. Brian, 472.5478.</p> <p>National Grid Consumer Advocacy, 12-2pm, Westcott Community Ctr., 826 Euclid Ave. 478.8634. FREE.</p>  | <p><b>21</b></p> <p>Skunk City Neighborhood Association, 6:30pm, Mundy Library, 1204 S. Geddes St. 476.7475.</p>                               | <p><b>22</b></p>   | <p><b>23</b></p> <p>Events marked with a ★ are Syracuse Peace Council related events. <a href="http://peacecouncil.net">peacecouncil.net</a> 315.472.5478</p> <p>Events are Syracuse, 315 area code unless noted.</p> |  <p><b>COMMUNITY CALENDAR</b><br/>NOV/DEC 2016</p>  |   |