SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL'S

# PEACE NEWSLETTER

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# TRUMP AND WHITE NATIONALISM

By Mark Rupert

Donald Trump brought his presidential campaign road show to Syracuse on April 16, 2016. I went to the OnCenter to see for myself what a Trump rally looked like. People wore T-shirts describing Hillary Clinton in misogynistic terms, exhorting Trump to "Build the Wall," and to defend the Second Amendment. I saw people wearing regalia from the right-wing conspiracy site Infowars.com, which endorsed Trump and produced "Hillary for Prison" shirts and signs that appeared around the nation. The crowd was mostly white and male, but there were more women than I expected, and a few families.

When Trump finally appeared, the crowd was ecstatic. But as he spoke I struggled to keep track of his main points. Here was a man unaccustomed to speaking in complete sentences, much less a series of coherent ideas. The crowd didn't care. He was their guy. They cheered as Trump demonized protesters, immigrants, Muslims and the media, blamed trade for the economic plight of rust belt towns like Syracuse, and promised

that his unique deal-making magic could restore our lost prosperity. He was interrupted a few times by protesters shouting inside the hall, but Trump seemed to enjoy the opportunity for political theater. As he had done with Black Lives Matter activists at other rallies, Trump ridiculed the protesters and called for the heavy security presence to "Get 'em out!" The crowd seemed energized by the silencing of perceived interlopers.

The next week in class, I talked to my students about the rally. One told me that she had also gone to the rally. Like me, she was there to observe, not to protest. But unlike me, she is a woman of color. She told me that she was harassed, that her presence was questioned by other attendees and that at one point she was hit on the head with one of the "Silent Majority stands with Trump" signs that the campaign staffers had distributed to the crowd. She wasn't injured, but the incident was shameful and telling. Underlying the glitz and incoherence of the Trump extravaganza were undercurrents of intolerance for dissent, racial hostility and potential violence.

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About the cover: In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, racist fears of an impending "Yellow Peril" swept the US and other Western nations. This was often depicted by the classic "Mongolian Octopus" political cartoon, first published in an Australian newspaper in 1886, showing an octopus with a racist stereotype of an Asian man as its head. In this re-appropriation of the cartoon, Trump and the nativism he rode on is correctly identified as the source of the worst impulses of this nation. Credit: Modified from "Mongolian Octopus," Wikimedia.

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## SPC Statement of Purpose

Phone

Address \_\_\_

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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Diane Swords, (315) 391-4484

#### INVEST IN OUR COMMUNITIES! NO \$54B MORE FOR WAR

#### Rally May 12

Trump is proposing a \$54 billion increase (that's \$54,000,000,000) to the already bloated US military budget, while cutting essential programs for our communities. This is an increase of 10%, which would bring US military spending to over \$600,000,000,000 (\$600 billion), more than that of the next highest eight countries combined.

Please join us on Friday, May 12 outside Rep. Katko's Syracuse office (441 S. Salina St.) to demand money for our communities, not for war! Gather at 4pm.

Please help! Phone banking and signmaking is Tuesday, May 9, 5:30-7:30pm at SPC; download the "No \$54 Billion (More) for War" petition at www. peacecouncil.net. Organizational cosponsors welcome. Contact Brian.

#### Phyllis Bennis on Anti-War Action

On April 20, foreign policy expert Phyllis Bennis spoke on "Unite! Resist Trump's Global Agenda and Protect Our Communities." She emphasized the need to connect the dots between various social justice movements and participate fully in newer social movements like Black Lives Matter, Standing Rock and the broadened sanctuary movement, while simultaneously fighting what Martin Luther King, Jr. called the triple evils of racism, materialism and militarism. SPC used this event as a launching point for our own local #No\$54BillionforWar campaign of of anti-militarism actions.

#### **New SPC Anti-War Working Group**

Our newest working group is starting up! As a broadly anti-militarism group, our goals are to 1) expose the costs of the Pentagon budget; 2) show effects of US imperialism on people at home and abroad; 3) address militarization of the Syracuse area in relation to escalating wars overseas; and 4) demand a just foreign policy and federal budget based on the needs of people.

Our March workshop for the CNY Solidarity Coalition highlighted programs that produce genuine security yet are cut to pay for militarism. We exposed the far-reaching effects of US military intervention abroad, including creating terrorism, Islamophobia and refugees. To get involved, contact michaela.czerkies@gmail.com.



Tax Day March. Photo: Sam Rose.

#### HP BOYCOTT CAMPAIGN

On April 19, SPC convened an info session featuring Ariel Gold of CODEPINK: Women for Peace, who recently returned from three weeks in the West Bank. She spoke about the HP Boycott Campaign. Hewlett Packard, involved in providing technology to prop up Israeli Apartheid, has been identified by the international BDS (boycott, divestment and sanctions) movement

and its leaders in Palestine as the priority corporation to boycott. HP is among the top military suppliers in the world, specializing in technologies to control and monitor large populations. These products are designed to limit human and civil rights, and they are a threat to ALL OF US.

The event was co-sponsored by the Syracuse Peace Council's Justice for

Palestine Committee, the Methodist Task Force on Peace and Justice Israel/ Palestine, Palestine Solidarity Collective, and Jewish Voice for Peace - Syracuse.

Then, on April 28, people rallied at Staples to Boycott HP: Technology of Israeli Apartheid and Prisons.

Contact Ursula for more info (ursula. rozum@gmail.com).

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#### NAKBA COMMEMORATION

The Justice for Palestine Committee will recognize the Nakba on Monday, May 15, 7-9pm at ArtRage Gallery (505 Hawley Ave., Syracuse). The Palestinian "Nakba" ("catastrophe" in Arabic) refers to the mass expulsion of more than 700,000 Palestinians from their homes in 1947-48. The Nakba was a deliberate, systematic act necessary for the creation of a Jewish majority state in historic Palestine.

The Nakba continues today in the form of ongoing Israeli theft of Palestinian land for Jewish-only settlements, the destruction of Palestinian homes and agricultural land, periodic brutal military assaults, and the denial of the internationally-recognized legal right of return of millions of stateless Palestinian refugees.

Dr. Osamah Khalil, author of America's Dream Palace: Middle East Expertise and the Rise of the National Security State and co-founder of Al-Shabaka (the Palestinian Policy Network), will speak.

To have your group co-sponsor, contact Ann, anntiffany6235@gmail.com.

#### SUPPORT "NO FIRST STRIKE"

Trump's bombing of Syria increases fear he might launch an impulsive, suicidal nuclear attack. Many think there are checks and balances preventing rash action—but there are not!

Trump has "sole authority" to launch nuclear warheads: "...the president—and only the president—can use them if and whenever he decides to do so...The people who set up the current commandand-control system did believe there was a check in place: elections" (*Washington Post* 12/1/2016). Too late!

The Markey/Lieu Bill (S200, HR 669) would prevent the president from launching a nuclear first strike without a congressional declaration of war. Tell your representatives it is urgent to support these bills. To get involved contact the Nuclear Free World Committee (Diane, drswords@gmail.com).

#### **NEIGHBORS OF THE ONONDAGA NATION**

Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation (NOON) is offering "Witness to Injustice: Unraveling Native and US Relations." This group exercise is a 1½ hour teaching tool that uses participatory education to raise awareness of the history of the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in the part of the world now known as the United States. It works best with a group of 25-30 people. Contact Cindy (cindysquillace@gmail. com) if your group is interested.

Spring and summer are times of NOON info tabling. This is an easy way

to get involved and learn from seasoned table staffers.

Also, we are developing a NOON local listserv. We have a nationwide list which receives NOON's e-newsletter, but need a list to communicate about local events and activities. If you are interested in tabling or being on either listserv, contact Sue (rsue@twcny.rr.com).

NOON is also strongly considering a campaign to have October 12 declared "Indigenous People's Day." Contact Sue to join in.

#### **MAY 1 STRIKE**

On International Workers Day (May 1) SPC joined the Workers Center and other organizations for a march and rally in downtown Syracuse.

We refuse to stay silent as government and corporate interests escalate immigration raids that are shattering families; violate Native sovereignty and ban Muslims because of their faith: increase the criminalization of Black and Brown communities and exclude trans people from public life; cut funding for human and environmental needs to give more money to war; drive down wages, safety protections and organizing rights while rapidly destroying the environment.



#### STREET HEAT SPRING SCHEDULE

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

#### Tuesdays: 4:15-5pm

May 9 - E. Genesee & Erie Blvd.

May 16 - Hancock Air Base Main Entrance (E. Molloy Rd. between Thompson & Townline Rds.)

May 23 - E. Genesee & Erie Blvd.

May 30 - E. Genesee & Erie Blvd.

June 6 - Hancock Air Base

#### Every Saturday 9-9:45am

Regional Market main entrance (Park)

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# WHAT A POLICY OF REAL SOLIDARITY WITH THE SYRIAN PEOPLE LOOKS LIKE

By James Trimarco

After the release of horrifying images of Syrian civilians killed by chemical attacks on Tuesday, there were predictable demands that the United States should "take action" against the regime of Bashar Al-Assad. Indeed, hawkish voices in both the Democratic and Republican parties have been calling for US military engagement in Syria at least since March 2013, when more than two dozen people were killed in a sarin gas attack in the country's north. In this context, Trump stands to benefit politically from Thursday's missile strikes against a Syrian airfield.

In his address to the nation, Trump said the goal is "to end the slaughter and bloodshed." But many Middle East experts say airstrikes won't stop the violence. Assad's regime and its allies have already weathered more than 100,000 casualties in a civil war that has killed or injured more than 11 percent of the country's population. Assad immediately responded to Trump's missiles with a promise that the attack "does not change the deep policies" of the Syrian government. As if on cue, the town that suffered the chemical weapons on Tuesday was bombed again on Friday and Saturday—presumably by the Syrian government.

The United States could go beyond limited airstrikes and ramp up military action. But the bloody outcomes of the war in Iraq suggest that this approach would only create more civilian bloodshed and suffering.

What could the United States do instead?

Two longtime advocates for peace in the region had some ideas: Stephen Zunes, a professor of politics and international studies at the University of San Francisco and Ramah Kudaimi, a Syrian-American organizer who serves on the National Committee of the War Resisters League.

This article was originally posted on the online edition of Yes! Magazine, April 18, 2017. James Trimarco is a senior editor at Yes!

Zunes and Kudaimi both started by explaining why US airstrikes won't work.

"Assad is a brutal dictator and a war criminal and should no longer be in power," said Zunes, "but it is not up to the United States—the world's No. 1 backer of autocratic regimes and occupation armies—to do so. It is up to the Syrian



Syrian refugees arrive aboard a dinghy after crossing from Turkey to Lesbos, Greece, on Sept. 10, 2015. The US has taken in about 14,000 Syrian refugees whileTurkey has taken in close to 3 million. Photo: Petros Giannakouris (AP)

people themselves, hopefully through reviving the impressive nonviolent pro-democracy ... movement that first emerged in the spring of 2011."

Kudaimi agrees that this is where the US should throw its support.

These groups—especially the Local Coordinating Committees that in some cases have morphed into community journalism teams—support democracy and are an alternative to hardline, antigovernment militias. Kudaimi requests that well-intentioned people in the United States educate others to dismantle "the false notion that the choice is between the regime and extremist groups."

Supporters of that strategy would want to act soon because the Local Coordinating Committees have diminished under oppression. But they still exist, as author Joseph Daher told Antidote Zine, and even held a local

election in January in Idlib Province the location of the most recent chemical attack blamed on Assad.

In the short term, Kudaimi thinks the most helpful policy the US could pursue is "drastically increasing the number of refugees it resettles" from Syria. (Of course, that would be a dramatic reversal for President Trump, who has promised to accept precisely zero Syrian refugees.) And continuing along those lines, Kudaimi wants to see the United States demand that European countries send more ships to rescue Syrian refugees who attempt to escape the country by boat.

When Zunes imagines a set of policies that could help end Assad's violence, he sees the United States acting together with the international community: "dramatically increasing humanitarian assistance; working toward an arms moratorium on all sides; holding an international peace conference which includes both relevant state and non-state actors; accelerating diplomatic efforts to overcome Russian obstruction at the United Nations; and pushing the International Criminal Court to indict Assad and others responsible for atrocities."

Again, many of those positions would constitute a significant reversal for the United States government. For example, the United States has sought to weaken the International Criminal Court in an effort to ensure that US government agents are never prosecuted there.

But for Kudaimi, even a strong shift on issues like the International Criminal Court won't suffice unless the United States begins to change its alliances among the Syrian people.

"I want to stress [that] humanitarian actions without the political will to support the Syrian struggle for freedom are not going to bring an end to this humanitarian crisis," she says. "As long as the Assad regime is allowed to act with impunity, it will continue to kill, torture, and displace as it pleases, and the humanitarian disaster will continue."

# **EXECUTIVE ORDERS**

by Eric van der Vort

Donald Trump has been very busy since Inauguration Day. He's issued a number of executive orders (EOs) banning people from Muslim majority countries, undoing President Obama's climate change protections, restructuring the executive branch by reorganizing "unnecessary and redundant federal agencies," and ordering construction of a border wall with Mexico.

He has done all of this and more unilaterally, without many speed bumps along the way. The courts have struck down parts of his travel bans or halted their enforcement. Other lawsuits will be filed and Congress might even refuse to fund them in budget allocations or through specific legislation. But the reality is that the president has a great deal of unilateral authority, and there isn't much that anyone can do about it.

#### What is an Executive Order?

Every president since George Washington has issued EOs. The Constitution, which is written more as a framework than a detailed blueprint for governing, does not mention EOs, but it does grant the president the executive power of the US. It invests them with broad powers as commander-in-chief and declares that they shall "take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed." Presidents use this vague authority to create a number of informal ways to exercise power, including issuing EOs.

EOs give instructions to other parts of the government under the president's control to act or behave in certain ways. The president is commander-in-chief of the military and of an extensive federal bureaucracy charged with carrying out the laws established by Congress. Issuing executive orders allows the president to shape policy in those agencies without needing Congressional approval or input. Examples of these are when Lincoln used this power to suspend the writ of habeas corpus and to issue the Emancipation Proclamation or when FDR's military used it to establish the system of Japanese-American internment. Truman issued an EO to integrate the armed forces, and Eisenhower issued one to support integration of Little Rock's schools.

#### What can we do about Executive Orders?

The Supreme Court has ruled that EOs have the force of law as long as they are based in some constitutional or statutory authority given to the executive branch. They enter the federal record in the same way legislation does, and they are difficult to overturn. The courts can intervene on some EOs, but they are only likely to do so for a compelling reason. Trump's travel bans are legally suspect because of their overt discrimination against Muslims and Islam, which violates US constitutional law. The travel bans are an exception to the general idea that EOs are hard to undo. Similarly, Congress can refuse to fund parts of an EO, but this is unlikely given partisanship in the legislature.

Eric van der Vort is a Syracuse resident. He is a doctoral candidate at the Maxwell School and an organizer with the CNY Solidarity Coalition.

The most effective method to reverse an EO is to elect a new president who will undo the previous president's actions.

Courts won't strike down most or even many EOs, but the work of legal groups to mitigate the damage EOs can do should not be underestimated. The courts can be used to finesse and refine the impact of EOs in ways that undermine the president's intended effect.



Trump has signed 25 Executive Orders in his first 95 days. It is a President's bluntest instrument. Adapted by Kanat Bolazar from "Trump's First Order of Business" meme.

For example, litigation by Texas against Obama's immigration EO delayed its implementation for years. The same principle is likely to be used by liberal states (e.g. New York, California) and civil society (e.g. ACLU, Planned Parenthood) to entangle many of Trump's EOs in the implementation phase for years to come. One concrete example of this is that First Nations on or near the Mexican border may use the courts to resist the border wall.

Executive orders are one of the bluntest instruments in the president's toolkit. Many EOs lead to significant harms or have big policy consequences, as in FDR's internment of Japanese-Americans. But some EOs may have no effect. While EOs have the force of law, they are unilateral actions that do not have the weight of both the Congress and the presidency behind them. The states, the courts, and the people can work to mitigate their harm. (A)

#### PARTICIPATE!

To help fight the Trump/Pence/Ryan agenda, join the CNY Solidarity Coalition.

www.cnysolidarity.org or (315) 472-5478 (See pages 8-9)

# **CRIMINALIZING DISSENT & PALESTINE SOLIDARITY**

By Ursula Rozum

The election of Donald Trump as the 45th President of the US unleashed a wave of protests and demonstrations. In response to the outpouring of dissent, anti-protest bills have been introduced in state legislatures. Many states are drafting bills to increase fines and jail sentences for protesters obstructing traffic (Minnesota, Washington, South Dakota, Indiana, Florida, Mississippi, Iowa), trespassing on infrastructure such as railways and pipelines (Colorado , Oklahoma), wearing masks (Missouri), or refusing to leave an "unlawful protest" (Virginia). Especially alarming are bills absolving liability from motorists who hit and kill protesters "accidentally" (North Dakota, Tennessee, Florida).

According to the National Lawyers Guild (www.nlg.org), the number of bills designed to limit protests and punish protesters is unprecedented. As of March 31, 2017, twenty-nine bills have been introduced in 20 states. The number doubles when bills penalizing support for the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement for Palestinian rights are included.



The BDS movement, launched in 2005 as a non-violent campaign to press Israel to obey international law and end its illegal occupation of Palestinian territory, has gathered significant momentum in recent years. BDS campaigns rely on the same constitutionally-protected tactics used to protest racial segregation in the US and apartheid in South Africa. The First Amendment prohibits the government from punishing those who engage in such boycotts in order to suppress their views.

On June 5, 2016, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo issued an Executive Order seeking to punish BDS supporters, proclaiming on Twitter, "If you boycott Israel, New York will boycott you." The Governor's action was met by immediate protests across the state organized by the NY Freedom to Boycott Coalition—outside his office in Albany, his home in Westchester and at his appearance at the opening of the New York State Fair in Syracuse.

In March 2017, with no oversight or public debate, the NY State Senate passed three bills that seek to limit BDS activism. Two of those bills (S4837 and S2492) directly relate

Ursula is a member of the NY Freedom to Boycott Coalition and the SPC Steering Committee.

to universities and student groups. Meanwhile, S2493 conflates criticism of the state of Israel with anti-Semitism, characterizing BDS activism as a form of "hate speech." If enacted, these bills would limit the ability of student groups to hold events with speakers who support the BDS movement or who are even critical of the state of Israel.

According to Rahul Saksena of Palestine Legal (www. palestinelegal.org), "The bills resurrect widely-condemned tactics used to undermine democracy: creating McCarthyite political blacklists, attacking academic freedom and cracking down on student organizing." Unlike the Republican-backed anti-protest bills in statehouses across the country, the three New York bills passed with support from most Senate Democrats.

The impetus for the anti-BDS bills in New York and across the country is the growing public support for boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) campaigns for Palestinian rights. According to a 2016 Brookings poll, the number of Americans who support imposing sanctions on Israel over its settlement construction has risen to 46 percent. One of the three demands in the Palestinian call for boycott, divestment and sanctions is an end to Israel's military occupation, a step that would require the dismantling of the West Bank settlements which are illegal under international law.

After suffering what the *Financial Times* called "reputational damage" due to successful BDS campaigns against it, G4S, the world's largest private security company, decided to end most of its involvement in Israel (G4S provides security at the Syracuse Airport and the Galleries in downtown Syracuse). Currently, the Boycott National Committee urges Palestine solidarity activists around the world to develop boycott campaigns to pressure Hewlett Packard to end its relationship with Israel (bdsmovement.net/boycott-hp). HP supplies the Israeli government with technology to maintain its system of surveillance, checkpoints and racial segregation.

The aim of legislation that limits free speech is to silence social movements by causing confusion and spreading fear. In order to defend our constitutionally protected right to dissent, it is critical that we push back on all bills that attempt to limit freedom of political expression. **(A)** 

#### TAKE ACTION IN NYS

New Yorkers should urge State Assembly members to oppose any bills that penalize political free speech in support of Palestinian human rights. This includes A3239, which calls for the creation of a blacklist of companies, organizations and individuals who advocate for the boycott of Israel, in order to deny them contracts with New York State.

NYS Assembly Switchboard: (518) 455-4100

# THE FIRST 100 DAYS OF TRUMP/PENCE/RY/

#### 100 Days of Activism in 100 Words

On Groundhog Day, blasted by a chill wind, I met a friend who held out her hand, pulling me into the activist world: signs, megaphones and fellow resisters. We met a man, who while telling us his story, gave us each an art piece, a ceramic resist symbol.

A week later, I asked a favor of a stranger. She gave me the hat off her head; the pussy hat she'd worn in the Women's March in DC where she'd marched with almost a million people. I want to reach out to a million people and pull them into this amazing world of wonderful activists.

-Diana Ryan

#### The Blarney Stone

I returned to NYS last summer after long stints mostly in red states. I knew I was home when CNY Solidarity called for a demonstration at Katko's fundraiser at the Blarney Stone in early March. I didn't know what to expect as we approached him when he arrived. It was good to see that he decided not to ignore us this time. Best of all, he said one thing about Trump's income taxes, but voted the opposite way soon thereafter, getting a negative response from the local paper.

That was what democracy looked like and was a great Welcome Back.

-John Sheridan

#### **Anger to Resistance**

My very first public protest of anything was January 21, 2017. Walking toward the Federal building that morning was a rush. To so publicly proclaim that what is happening does not have your permission or willing participation is to feel the American dream. This freedom, this constitutional right, is instrumental to democracy. When one is gathered with thousands of others that share similar concerns and anger, a greater emotion is born: hope.

My anger subsided enough to channel it into a better cause: resistance. The CNY Solidarity Coalition was new, but grew multiple times over that day. It's a public service for the people in this community that feel disenfranchised, angry and scared. It's a forum for voices and questions, an education on how to express oneself legally, and offers specific actions to take to counter the helplessness so many have felt in the wake of the Great Trumping of American Civil Rights.

-Gabrielle Mineau

CNY Solidarity Coalition is a grassroots coalition of organizations and individuals determined to protect the larger community from the dangers of the Trump-Pence-Ryan administration's policies, appointees and rhetoric. The first seeds were sown at a vigil organized by SPC the day after Trump's election. Since then the Coalition has grown many, many times over. We thank the Coalition members who shared their stories. -editors

#### **Using My Voice**

I am an old lady. It shouldn't matter to me how this all turns out. But when I saw the treatment of our first African American President, I had to use my only weapon—my functioning brain. I began pouring my feelings into blog posts, and learning. Some in Congress spoke of unfortunate Americans as deadbeats and said they intended to take away social programs and more. I became really alarmed. Then the US elected a man, the absolute antithesis of President Obama, and here I am, trying to make our voices heard, to tap back into a more compassionate America.

-Nancy Brisson

#### We Are Being Heard

I first attended a Solidarity meeting in January. The room was overflowing and the energy exciting. The next Sunday, hundreds of us went to the airport to protest the Trump Muslim ban, along with thousands of others across the country. Since then I have been involved in protest marches (Where's Katko?), a Town Hall attended by 400 people, and several small meetings with State legislators, the Syracuse Mayor, and with representatives of our Senators.

Becoming involved in CNY Solidarity and working with a growing group of committed people has been a truly empowering experience for me. Even though it is an uphill battle against the racism and exploitive capitalism that characterizes the Trump regime, we know that our legislators are listening and responding to our concerns.

-Peter McCarthy

#### You Can Do It Too!

I interviewed many famous people when I edited the *Syracuse New Times*. But when it's personal, I hesitate about contacting a politician. I felt so strongly about the effort to repeal the ACA, however, that I took a deep breath and called John Katko's office.

"I'm calling to urge the representative to vote no on the healthcare bill," I said to the office worker. "He is voting no," she replied. "Would you like to speak to him?"

We spoke and had a pleasant conversation. He assured me he was voting no, I thanked him, and we hung up.

My point? If I can muster the nerve to call a politician, anyone can. Representatives are (supposed to be) responsive to their constituents. Once the winner is in office, he/she has a duty to listen to his/her constituents.

It's the American way.

-Molly English-Bowers

# AN/BANNON: THE RESISTANCE SKYROCKETS

#### **Getting Hope**

This resistance movement has been transformational for me. The despair I felt after the election was crushing and seemingly unsolvable.

I was slightly too young to protest during the Viet Nam era, and so my very first protest ever was the Sister Women's march on January 21, 2017 at the Syracuse Federal Building. I've been to every CNY Solidarity Coalition meeting since.

What feels weird, in a good way, is that it is such a revelation to me when somebody shares my opinion on a particular issue. This means that I am not alone, and I am grateful to each and every coalition member for giving me hope.

-Anonymous



#### My First Political Rally

1/21/16. One day after the Trumpocalypse started. It's 10am, and I'm in the same hopeless state I've been in since the election. Despite this I decided to attend my first political rally, mostly out of desperation. And so gay, autistic, vaguely Muslim and socially phobic me heads downtown to the Syracuse Womens' March. I have no sign, no friends and no idea what to expect. What I find is a kaleidoscope of people, all ages, races, genders, religions, sexual orientations and causes, united in solidarity and opposition. I also find, for the first time in months, hope.

-Kevin Edward Brown

#### A Time for Courage

As morning dawned on November 9, I, like so many, awoke feeling despondent and afraid. But I knew I must not wallow in despair. It was a time for courage. Time to get to work in support of my adult children—afraid they would lose their health coverage; of my students—afraid their parents may be deported, afraid they would be required to register; of my daughter and her friends—afraid that their rights and their very personal reproductive decisions would be taken from them; of my colleagues and the next generation—afraid that public education would be sold to the highest bidder; and most frighteningly for my country—that the very values, and institutions, indeed, democracy itself were in danger.

Luckily, CNY Solidarity Coalition was a step ahead. They had already begun to organize, strategize, agitate and activate. Joining hands in the January sunshine with over 2,000 of my neighbors, I was overcome with emotion. This is why I am a member of the coalition—because there is strength in numbers; because this is not normal; because WE THE PEOPLE!

-Donna Oppedisano

#### Canvassing or What the Hell Am I Doing Here?

Feeling like a child in a candy store, I could not decide which sub-committee I should sit in on at my second CNY Solidarity meeting. For selfish reasons I chose the canvassing group. I desperately hoped that opening a dialogue with others may lead to peace of mind and some understanding of how others could see things so differently than I did in this election. Knocking on doors was difficult and out of my comfort zone. At the third house we were greeted warmly and welcomed. I began to ask a few questions: "On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate the performance of the present administration?" The polite young man answered, "I guess about a 3 or 4." When the first thought that popped in my head was, "Do you mean a negative 3 or 4?" I knew I had plenty more work to do before I reached any level of peace or understanding.

-Kelly Ward

#### **Connect to Resist**

The community outreach and defense committee drew me from the beginning. Weirdly. See, I typically avoid meeting strangers. I waver between fighting and appeasing. I had no business joining this committee. But I'd done anti-war protests. Picketed in solidarity with workers. Marched against police brutality. It seemed time for a new strategy. So I met Cjala at the mosque and worked with Herve from Black Lives Matter. Annabel had us over to chat in Westcott. We began to plot. Soon, a new circle of people formed at the Dunbar Center. People asked, "Where've you been? This is long overdue." Connect to Resist.

-Maureen Curtin

#### **Fighting Back**

After Trump was elected, I had such a feeling of doom, that the democratic country I loved would be destroyed by Trump's stated policies and divisive and abusive language. How would we fight back? Then I found out about CNY Solidarity—I went to my first meeting. Thinking I would be one of only a few, it almost brought me to tears to see the number of people there. They just kept pouring in until the room was packed. I no longer felt alone —I found out there were so many others ready to resist. From then until now, it is clear that this effort to fight back is growing and not going away. I keep John Katko on speed dial.

-Emily Garrett

#### PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE NEXT 100 DAYS (& BEYOND)

CNY Solidarity Coalition www.cnysolidarity.org c/o (315) 472-5478 (SPC)

# **SOMALIA AND THE WEST: A COMPLEX HISTORY**

By Kip Hargrave

For 20 years I coordinated a team at Catholic Charities that helped refugees resettle themselves in Syracuse. In order to help refugees acclimate to life in the United States, it is very important to learn both their national and personal histories. One refugee who I got to know very well was a Somali woman named Marian Gedow who arrived here in 2000 with five children and her mother. I would like to introduce her and her country to you, the progressives of Syracuse.

In one sense her experiences were extraordinary for a Somali woman. She came here with a Master's degree in Economics from the University of Rome, as well as a fluency in Somali, Italian and English. In another sense, she was like the majority of Somalis. She was fleeing a political and social situation that she found intolerable and had almost no resources to make a new home here. To understand what happened to Marian, her family and to thousands of present day Somalis who flow into our country, we must understand something of modern Somali history. And as people who live in the US, we must understand the US/ Western roles in creating the conditions which force citizens to become refugees.

#### The Colonization of Somalia

Before the Second World War, Somalia had been divided into two protectorates -one for the British in the north and another for the Italians in the south. Somalia, like almost all of Africa, had been "settled" (i.e., colonized) by the European powers. The result was a country invented by Europeans for their good and not for the good of the African people who inhabited the region. After WW II, the British ceded control of all of Somalia (except for the Ogaden province which was given to Ethiopia) to the Italians. The British, although victors in the war, realized that the prosperous and better educated Somali citizens felt more comfortable with Italy than with England. Ten years later, in 1959, Somalia was granted independence.

Kip was the Coordinator of Refugee Services of Catholic Charities for 20 years.

In 1969, the democratically elected government was overthrown in a military coup by Siad Barre. In 1977, Barre invaded the contested Ogaden province with the help of the Soviet Union. However, the Soviets eventually reassessed their commitment, deciding to support Ethiopia and abandoned the poorer and weaker Somalia.

After his defeat in the Ogadan War, Barre convinced the United States to help him fight his Ethiopian /Soviet adversary. The US donated money but was reluctant to give military aid. The country was desperately poor—perhaps the poorest in Africa—and in the midst of a devastating drought and famine. The US aid could have made a difference, but President Barre put most of the money into his own pocket or used it to defeat his internal political enemies.

The President realized that the greatest threat to his power, his most powerful political enemy, was the tribal loyalty of his people. People identified not as Somalis but as Benadeer, Bantu, Hawije or a host of other clans and super clans.

Most of Barre's tenure in office was spent trying to force people to throw off the bonds of tribalism and accept him as the sole ruler of the land. It never worked.

Mr. Barre was deposed in 1991, but the United States was so bound up in the country and its battle with the Soviet Union/ Cuba/China that it felt that it couldn't leave. In December 1992, the United Nations convinced the George H.W. Bush administration to send troops to Somalia to defend the UN effort to supply humanitarian

aid to starving villagers. In early 1993, the newly elected Clinton administration expanded this commitment to include destroying the clan-based warlords. It

was decided to send in a well-armed contingent of US soldiers and capture or kill the warlords. But in October 1993, American helicopters were shot down over the streets of Mogadishu and some 20 US soldiers were killed in the controversial "Black Hawk Down" incident, in retaliation for US aggression in the region. The United States pulled out of the country soon after, and by 1995 so had the United Nations. For all intents and purposes there was no national authority left in the country. It was ruled by warlords and their clans.

#### Marian's History

It is in the midst of this chaos that Marian and her family escaped. Upon returning from graduate school in Italy, she had begun working with NGOs that were interested in empowering and educating women. The conservative clan leaders could not accept this, and Marian escaped when her house was destroyed and her life threatened. She went first to Djibouti and then to Pakistan. In Pakistan, she found an office of the United



Nations High Commission on Refugees and after more than a year of paperwork and interviews was given refugee status. A year later she was informed that the

#### Somalia, continued from previous page

family could go to the United States, but she refused. She would not leave unless all her Somali friends in Pakistan could go with her. Another year passed and finally the State Department agreed to allow the entire Somali community of Islamabad into the US refugee program. Marian and her family were the last to leave because she wanted to make sure that all got out safely.

Marian did get a job with us at Catholic Charities where she worked as a case manager for 14 years. Her children all went to college and became successful professionals. They bought a house in Liverpool. What more could you ask? Unfortunately the story doesn't end here.

Marian contracted ALS in 2010. Slowly and agonizingly she lost the use of her feet, then her legs, her hands and arms, and finally her ability to talk. She is still alive today, and Somalis still go to her house to ask for advice and to pay tribute to the person they feel is one of the greatest Somalis to have ever lived.

#### The US Role

As for Somalia, it is still tied up with clan warfare, the colonial split between the English-speaking North and Italian South, excruciating poverty, lack of education, and most recently another devastating drought and famine. There is also the issue of the war between the United States and Al Qaeda. Al Qaeda had been in Somalia since well before 9/11/2001. After the attack on New York and Washington, DC, President G.W. Bush authorized US forces to find and kill its leaders. He began to pay warlords to track down and kill anyone associated with Al Qaeda. This strategy only strengthened the warlords and weakened any semblance of a national government. In 2006 a radical Islamist group called the Islamic Courts Union (ICU) went to war against the warlords and tried to unite the country under its terrorist banner. In response the United States funded an Ethiopian invasion of the country. The Ethiopians were successful in defeating the ICU but at a terrible cost in innocent lives. The result was the birth of an Al Qaeda offshoot called Al Shabab.

Al Shabab, although constantly on the run from American drones and African Union troops, has been very successful in creating havoc throughout Somalia and Kenya. As of early 2017, the United States has 200-300 troops in the country and it coordinates hundreds of airstrikes and counter insurgence attacks a year. Twenty-two thousand African Union troops are also stationed in strongholds throughout Somalia.



Marian Gedow

On March 31 of this year, the *New York Times* reported that the Trump Administration is building on the Obama Administration's military intervention strategy for Yemen, Syria and Somalia. In Somalia, Trump is relaxing rules to protect civilians in order to "lay the groundwork for an escalating campaign against Islamic militants in the Horn of Africa." This will certainly result in more refugees leaving Somalia. Ironically, Mr. Trump has reduced the cap on the number of refugees arriving in the US

in 2017 from110,000 to 50,000, so most will probably not come here. Already the slow down is evident. In Syracuse, we have resettled 66 Somalis since the beginning of 2017 but only a trickle since Mr. Trump's executive orders.

Although important, resettling refugees is not as important as resolving the conflict in the region. The real issue is how to help the region deal with poverty, famine and tribalism as well as religious extremism and terrorism. This is the question that many Somali refugees are asking. They have strong allegiances to both of their countries and would like to work with us non-Somali Americans to avoid the mistakes of the past.

This is where we can get involved. Most Somalis I know are convinced that neither a total reliance on armed intervention, nor total withdrawal from the conflict will keep their beloved Somalia safe and let it prosper. They also understand that neither armed intervention nor withdrawal will be good for the US. They believe the answer for the challenges of the Middle East and Northern Africa lie in patience and understanding. We in the West must be willing to stand with our brothers and sisters in Somalia, Syria, Yemen and other conflicted areas of that part of the world long enough for them to get on their own feet. It will certainly cost a lot of dollars and perhaps even some US lives, but it can and must be done. Crucial to this will be the depth of understanding that people like you and me bring to the situation. This is our role: to read, to listen to Somali refugees and to make our voices heard in Congress.

#### NEW AMERICANS WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

The New Americans Women Empowerment (NAWE) program aims to create a support system that breaks the glass-ceiling limiting the new American women's potential in education, employment and various sectors. Our goal is to help empower these women, ourselves and society. Our vision is to change the perceptions in our school systems—the beliefs about Muslim women, Somali women and the overall view of the refugee community. The traditional woman is perceived to be a woman whose work is to stay at home and take care of the kids. We intend to create a safe and productive environment where women can express their fears, ideas and concerns, and learn various topics about their daily life and how to make it even better.

-Khadijo Abdulkadir works with NAWE, and is a SU student and a Somali refugee.





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#### White Nationalism, from Cover

Trump and a substantial proportion of his followers seem animated by a divisive politics of white nationalism.

#### White Nationalism

At the core of contemporary white nationalism are three closely related beliefs: (1) people's political identity is based most fundamentally on their ascribed racial identity; (2) "America" as defined by white nationalists has been and should continue to be a nation based on white supremacy and European cultural traditions; and (3) white Americans are increasingly dispossessed of this birthright because of the political power of "the liberal establishment" and their allies among traditional racial minorities, along with their ideologies of cosmopolitan openness to the world, multiculturalism, and "political correctness." Contemporary white nationalism depicts white Americans as both entitled to a secure position of superiority in this country, and victims of forces conspiring to deprive them of that birthright.

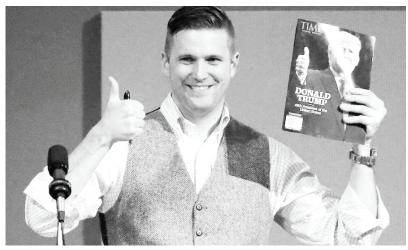
Author David Neiwert summarizes Trump's racialized appeal by reference to "producerism," a populist ideology that upholds "ordinary Americans"

—hard-working, tax-paying, law-abiding—as pillars of the republic, beleaguered by liberals and their clients among the "undeserving" poor: "The ideology that is identifiable through [Trump's] braggadocious and at times incoherent speaking style is the 'producerist' narrative, which pits ordinary white working people against both liberals—who are cast as an oppressive class of elites—aand the poor and immigrants, who are denigrated as parasites." This form of populist political narrative lends itself to racialized interpretations in which the unproductive poor and burdensome immigrants are presumed to be people of color, dragging down "real Americans."

Survey evidence indicates that persons with these kinds of beliefs were drawn to the Trump campaign from the outset. A Washington Post—ABC News poll from March 2016 asked whether "whites losing out because of preferences for Blacks and Hispanics" was a bigger problem in America today than "Blacks and Hispanics losing out because of preferences for whites." While only a plurality of Ted Cruz supporters (37%) and Marco Rubio voters (35%) subscribed to this narrative of white dispossession, a clear majority of Trump supporters did (54%). Other researchers analyzed data from the January 2016 American National Election Survey using an index of multiple questions designed to measure indirectly whether respondents had high or low levels of racial resentment. They found that an overwhelming majority (81%) of white Trump supporters had high levels of racial resentment as measured by this index.

Klansmen, neo-nazis, and their fellow travelers in the Alt-Right—many of whom share a fear of demographic displacement they equate with "white genocide"—rode the Trump train. Leading White Nationalist Jared Taylor endorsed

Trump because "he is not on his knees before Mexico and Mexican immigrants. Americans, real Americans, have been dreaming of a candidate who says the obvious, that illegal immigrants from Mexico are a low-rent bunch that includes



White nativist leader Richard Spencer, speaking at Texas A&M in December 2016 celebrating Trump's presidency. Photo: AP Credit, David J. Phillip

rapists and murderers." Andrew Anglin, editor of the neo-nazi *Daily Stormer* web site, framed Trump's victory in terms of anti-Semitic conspiracy theories which are a staple of the racist right: "This was not a presidential election. It was a referendum on the international Jewish agenda. And the biggest part of that agenda is multiculturalism." Richard Spencer, one of the leading figures of the Alt-Right, celebrated Trump's election by shouting "Hail Trump, Hail our People, Hail Victory" while supporters in the audience threw up Nazi salutes.

#### Processes reshaping US society

To understand the context of this white nationalist resurgence, we need to take a step back from electoral politics and look at some longer-term processes that are reshaping this country. In the decades between World War II and the 1970s, real wages (corrected for inflation, so as to reflect the actual standard of living those wages can buy) for most US workers grew steadily. During these years, an unprecedented number of (mostly, but not exclusively, white and male) workers could gain access to the "American Dream" and the "middle class" standard of living that is associated with it. Many workers could reasonably expect their own prosperity to grow year-by-year, and for their children to enjoy even more material abundance than did their own generation.

Increasing affluence in exchange for hard work might then begin to seem to like a birthright. But for a complex set of reasons that I believe had mostly to do with a shifting balance of power between capital and labor, this "productivity bargain," in which workers could expect greater output to be rewarded with greater income, came to an end. Since the 1970s, real wages have

Mark Rupert teaches political science at SU and is currently involved with the CNY Solidarity Coalition and rovingteachin.org.

continued on next page

#### continued from previous page

stagnated for most US workers. This, I think, lies at the root of what many Americans experience as a crisis of the American Dream, a birthright denied.

In recent decades, this economic malaise has coincided with a demographic transition that can be described as the browning of the country. Due to increases in immigration (especially from Latin America and Asia) and differential birth rates among various segments of the US population, white US citizens of European heritage are going to find themselves in a minority by mid-century. The confluence of these two processes, demographic and economic, has made it possible for white nationalists to depict the two as cause and effect. "Ordinary Americans" (implicitly white) are being deprived of their birthright by globalization, immigration, and increasingly assertive racial minorities who will soon make America their own, transform its European culture into something unrecognizable, and marginalize white Americans in "their own country." This, I believe, is the dark fear that has driven much, if surely not all, support for the Presidency of Donald Trump.

White supremacy and racism have been part of American life since Columbus first set foot in the "new world." In more recent times, social movements and political forces have been able to push back against it, delegitimize it, and limit some of its effects. But white supremacy remains an underlying element of our society. And sometimes it steps out of the shadows, openly claims that the nation belongs to white Americans, and attacks their perceived enemies. As Ian Haney-Lopez demonstrated in

his important book, *Dog Whistle Politics*, since at least the 1960s the GOP has deliberately played to the anxieties of white voters with messages of racial backlash. The election of America's first African-American president sharpened these fears of white racial dispossession and intensified the political backlash, paving the way for Trump's overtly white nationalist politics. So while racism is nothing new, I believe the election of Donald Trump marks the culmination of a period of increasingly militant white nationalism in US politics.

#### **Contradictions and Possibilities**

Trump's White House includes a number of advisers like Stephen Bannon—an ethno-cultural nationalist who sees Western Christian civilization as under threat of extinction due to global demographic trends and massive influxes of non-Christians and people of color. But Trump has had to broaden his coalition to include other GOP constituencies—business conservatives, traditionalists, and the religious right, each with its own priorities and demands. And Trump's family also holds considerable sway in this White House. There are real tensions among these sectors, and it is far from clear whether Trump will be able to manage these contradictions. Meanwhile a massive nationwide wave of resistance has arisen to challenge the administration's divisive politics and to articulate a more inclusive and democratic vision of what this country could be. The current situation, then, presents us with reasons for hope as well as profound concern.



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#### THE ISRAEL LOBBY AND AMERICAN POLICY CONFERENCE

A contingent of three from Justice for Palestine headed to DC on March 24 for The Israel Lobby and American Policy, a conference on Israel/US relations. Noted speakers included Hanan Ashrawi, foremost female legislator for the Palestinian National Council and peace negotiator, Ilan Pappe, Israeli historian and author of books including *The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine*, two former US Senators, and John Meirsheimer, co-author of *The Israeli Lobby*. We were honored to be present, along with Palestinian and international activists, politicians, journalists, filmmakers and academics. Topics included the influence of AIPAC (the American Israel Public Affairs Committee) on our government officials, and the campaign for Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS).

We also participated in a march from the White House to the site of the AIPAC convention. Despite violence by Israel supporters and the blockading of the door by linked Jewish pro-Palestinian human rights activists, the event received



little press. Unlike the tree that falls in the forest with no one to hear, we will not be silenced by their inattention. You can count on us to be back there next year.

#### **WELCOME TO MARLON**

We are excited to welcome Marlon Calliste as the newest member of our staff collective. A quick learner, Marlon previously performed admirably as an intern at SPC, working on the *Peace Newsletter* and in the office. He is a graduating senior at SUNY Oswego, majoring in public justice and English. Marlon hopes to pursue his devotion to justice through his work at SPC. Marlon is also a soccer player and coach.

#### **CNY SOLIDARITY COALITION**

The Coalition, which formed within the week after the election, has been prolific and massive. A multitude of teams have formed to work on all levels and many areas of legislative action, multiple approaches to outreach, sanctuary, the #May1Strike and more. The Coalition has had success in pressuring Senate Democrats not to vote for Supreme Court nominee Gorsuch, drawing attention to Katko's inaccessibility to the public, expanding sanctuary and helping people

find their political voices (see article on pages 8-9).

SPC continues to play a significant role in the CNY Solidarity Coalition. With our new joint working group (see page 3), SPC's staff being part of the Coalition's Coordinating Committee, and our role in coordinating data entry and providing spaces, equipment, and infrastructure for the Coalition, SPC members are well represented. To get involved, go to www. cnysolidarity.org.

#### THANK YOUS...

#### To Jessica Maxwell

We want to thank Jessica Maxwell for her unparalleled work at SPC in a period that was difficult for more than one reason. From staff changes to the results of the November election, Jess was an anchor for the Peace Council as she filled in while we searched for a new staff member. Jess is a former SPC staff organizer of many years and has more recently worked in urban agriculture in Syracuse. A calm voice amidst the political storm of the last half year, Jess brought her great quantity of experience and organizing expertise to the office and recently was instrumental in bringing Phyllis Bennis to Syracuse.

#### To Interns Hannah and Rumana

We were lucky to have two wonderful interns since January. Hannah Mosier is a senior at SU where she studies public relations and women and gender studies. She joined the *PNL* Committee. She did a superb job organizing a war tax resistance event and Phyllis Bennis' visit, while keeping office systems up to date.

Syeda Rumana Mehdi is a junior at Bennington College, studying conflict resolution. She contributed her political poetry to a number of e-newsletters and events and did outreach for SPC through the CNY Solidarity Coalition. It was great to see interns hit it off, which Hannah and Rumana did right away.

# Activist Appreciation: Michaela Czerkies

Michaela started volunteering with SPC in Fall, 2016, uploading content to our website. While a student at SUNY Albany she had been active with their Peace Action student chapter. She dove into anti-war and social justice work upon coming to SPC, including being a driving force in starting the new SPC/CNY Solidarity Coalition working group. Trained by Peace Action, Michaela is a talented organizer and brings new perspectives to SPC's anti-war work. We are so glad that she has joined us and look forward to ways the organization can support her amazing work.

ACTS Pre-K Mtg. 7-9pm. Jowonio School, 3049 E Genesee St. 416-6363. Queering Indian Society. 12:30- 1:30pm. By Pushpesh Kumar, visiting Assoc Prof. 341 Eggers Hall, S.U. 443-9248.	29 IS ITHCAN RICHARD A	i Nuclear Free World Comm. Mtg. 6:30pm. 114 Milnor Ave. Diane, 391-4484.  ACTS Research & Action Mtg. 7-9pm. Temple Concord, 910 Madison St. 416-6363.	i Annual Palestinian Nakba ("Catastrophe") Commemoration. 7-9pm. ArtRage, 505 Hawley Ave. SUN Westside Coalition. 7pm. Brown Memorial, 228 Davis St. 476-7475.	MAY 8  i Hiroshima/Nagasaki event planning first mtg. 7pm. SPC.  Loving (movie). 6:30-8:45pm. Interracial couple battled legality of their marriage up to Supreme Court. Liverpool Pub Lib. 310 Tulip St, Liverpool, NY. 457-0310.  Votes For Women! @ NOPL. 6-7:30pm. Monthly book/discussion. 100 Trolley Barn Lane, North Syr. 458-6184.  Votes For Women! in Auburn. May 22 6:30-8pm. Seymour Lib. 176 Genesee St, Auburn. NY.
i Street Heat. 4:15–5pm. Hancock Air Base main entrance, E. Molloy Rd., between Thompson and Townline Rds. 478–4571. EVERY TUE. Rough Times Live (Media Unit). 8pm. Time Warner Cable Ch. 98. 478-8648.	30  NY 24th District Town Hall Mtg. 7-9pm. Issues affecting women & children. ASL interpretation provided. Camillus Middle School,	i Street Heat 4:15-5pm, E Genesee St & Erie Blvd. (same, May 30) MOST TUE. CNY Solidarity Coalition Outreach Committee Mtg 7-9pm. 2013 E Genesee St. Confirm first: 471-2636.	16 i Street Heat. 4:15–5pm. Hancock Air Base main entrance. 478-4571. i SPC Steering Comm. Mtg. 6:30pm. Open to SPC supporters. 472-5478. SPC.	i Street Heat 4:15-5pm. E Genesee St & Erie Blvd. i NOON Steering Comm Mtg. 7pm. 2013 E. Genesee St., 2nd Fl. Carol, 472-5478. ACTS Criminal Justice Task Force Mtg. 5:15-6:45pm. Grace Episcopal, 819 Madison St. 416-6363. SUN Southside & SW Action Council. 7pm. Brady Faith Ctr, 404 South Ave. 476-7475.
ACTS Community Violence & Youth Task Force Mtg. 7-8:30pm; SW Comm Ctr. 401 South Ave. 416-6363.  BLACK LIVES MATTER	31  Friends of Dorothy Dinner. 5-7pm. Bishop Harrison Center, 1342 Lancaster Ave. Sliding scale donation \$0-whatever.	24 MUELGA!	17  SUN Skunk City Neighborhood Assn. 6:30pm. Mundy Library, 1204 S. Geddes St. 476-7475.	10  Thru June 30. From The Earth: Contemporary Haudenosaunee Clay & Stone. Sun, Wed-Fri 12-5, Sat 10-5. Everson Museum of Art, 401 Harrison St. \$8. 474-6064.  Thru May 20. At All Costs: Photos of American Workers by Earl Dotter. Wed-Fri 2-7, Sat 12-4. ArtRage, 505 Hawley Ave. 218-5711.  Food Chains (movie and discussion). 7-9pm. ArtRage, 505 Hawley Ave. 218-5711.
Events marked with a  ** are Syracuse Peace Council related events. peacecouncil.net 315-472-5478 Events are Syracuse, 315 area code unless noted.	JUNE 1  Citywide TNT Strategic Planning Process Session #3 (of 3). 5-7:30pm. Dinner at 5pm. Meeting 5:30-7:30pm. Institute of	25 ACTS Board Mtg. 5:30-7pm. Temple Concord, 910 Madison St. 416-6363. Welcome to Shelbyville (movie). 6:30pm. Immigration in a small	Don't Blame Youth	11  ACTS Community Violence & Youth Task Force Mtg. 7-8:30pm. Southwest Community Center, 401 South Ave. 416-6363.  Is It Real or Is It Fake News. 7-8pm. Discussion. Liverpool Pub Lib, 310 Tulip St, Liverpool, NY.  EVERY THU. Talk to a Lawyer. 6-8pm. Westcott Comm Ctr, 2nd Fir. 826 Euclid Ave. 471-3409. FREE. EVERY THU. Other Voices, Other Choices. 7:30-8:30pm. TW Cable Ch. 98. othervoicesotherchoices. blogspot.com.
	DON'T BUY	SYRACUS SYRACUS COUNCI	Youth Voices Matter - Speak Out. 6:30- 8:30pm. Open mic for youth. Southwest Community Center, 401 South Ave.	i Rally: Invest in Our Communities! No \$54 Billion More For War. 4-5:30pm. 441 S. Salina St. Contact SPC at 472-5478.  May 10 Thru May 27, in Auburn. Inside Standing Rock: Photos by Alex Hamer. Cayuga Museum of History and Art, 203 Genesee St. Auburn, NY. \$6. 253-8051.
Duck Race to End Racism. Noon-4pm. Syr Inner Harbor.  17 (upcoming)  • Pride Parade & Fest • Plazapalooza • Juneteenth	Thru July 15. The Power of the Poster: From Civil Rights & Anti Viet-Nam War to BLM & Climate Justice. ArtRage, 505 Hawley Ave. 218-5711.	COMMUNITY CALENDAR MAY/JUNE 2017	EVERY 1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> SAT. NAN General Membership Mtg. 10am. Foundation of Life Church, 700 South Ave.	i EVERY SAT. Street Heat. 9-9-4-Sam. Regional Market main entrance. EVERY SAT. Westside Walks Community Service. 11am- 12:30pm. Volunteers clean the neighborhood. 610 Gifford St. Call 308-1372. EVERY 2nd SAT (May 13, June 10). National Action Network (NAN) Action Saturday. 10am. Foundation of Life Church, 700 South Ave.
NO CNY Solidarity Coalition Mtg. Plan: Mtg on 6/12, 6/13, or 6/14; check www.cnysolidarity.org.  Nat'l LGBT March in DC. 10am.  Buses: See May 14 above.  Summer Solstice Concert: Would You Harbor Me? 4-7pm. St. Paul's Cathedral, 220 E. Fayette St.	4 CNY Solidarity Coalition Mtg. 3-5pm. Bishop Harrison Center, 1342 Lancaster Ave. www. cnysolidarity.org.	NO CNY Solidarity Coalition Mtg.	CNY Solidarity Coalition Mtg. 3-5pm. Bishop Harrison Center, 1342 Lancaster Ave. www. crysolidarity.org. Re-Cycling History. 9am-2pm. Bike ride fundraiser. \$25. ArtRage. artragegallery.org.	Mother's Day  NO CNY Solidarity Coalition Mtg. Plan: Mtg on 5/15 or 5/16; check online calendar at www. cnysolidarity.org  MOST SUN 1:30 pm. Anti-War Mtg. Bishop Harrison Center. Confirm first. 391-4484. Pay by May 15: June 11 National LGBT March in Washington, DC. 10am. Bus: \$100. 254-2386 or info@cnypride.org.