



Political poster by Nazareth Youth Movement expressing Palestinian Muslim and Christian solidarity on Jerusalem.
Photo: Julia Ganson

WITNESS IN PALESTINE: TRUMP RECOGNIZES JERUSALEM AS ISRAEL'S CAPITAL

by Julia Ganson

Thanks to Julia, a US-born Fulbright scholar who has been living in the West Bank city of Ramallah for the past four months, for sharing her firsthand account of some immediate effects of Trump's announcement. Ramallah and Jerusalem are only 10 miles apart, but the travel times are long due to the Separation Wall (an Israeli-built wall in Occupied Palestine), checkpoints, apartheid roads, and the divisions into areas which are controlled differently.

The first impact of the announcement on me directly happened even before it was officially made on December 7. The US Consulate in Jerusalem that monitors the safety of US citizens in the West Bank contacted me 24 hours beforehand and directed me to stay away from the campus where I work, warning that "Birzeit University students are known to be highly politicized." The consulate officer told me to cancel my appointments the next afternoon in Ramallah, and ideally to

stay home for at least the next few days. I reminded them that I planned to travel to Nazareth in the Galilee, Israel the following day to attend the annual conference on the *Legal Status of the Arab Community in Israel*. They said we would have to see about that. It took me a few hours to realize that these US Department of State workers were afraid that US citizens would be targeted.

By early the next day, things remained quiet, and I got the go-ahead for the trip to Nazareth. This involved a taxi ride into the center of Ramallah, a short walk, the 1.5 hour bus ride from Ramallah to Jerusalem (less than 10 miles, but through a checkpoint at the Wall), another walk, and finally, the bus ride to Nazareth.

My wake-up call was the group taxi driver's loud, angry rant in Arabic during our 10-minute ride. I turned to the person

continued on next page

Palestine, continued from previous page

sitting next to me and asked, "He's talking about Trump?" He simply nodded. I felt the emotion conveyed, but I did not feel afraid or that it was directed at me. The walk through the center of Ramallah revealed a general strike in progress (all shops were closed) and a large peaceful demonstration with Palestinian flags, banners, and music.

I was the only non-Palestinian aboard a half-full bus to Jerusalem. When we got to the southern edge of Ramallah and were nearing a checkpoint, I could see a large group of teenage boys in the street, building a barricade with a dumpster and piles of construction materials and burning tires. It took the bus about 10 minutes to slowly maneuver around the obstacles. I moved away from the window into an aisle seat when stones were thrown at the bus. That made no sense to me since the bus was full of Palestinians, but it could have been in protest of public transportation in operation when a general strike had been called.

The queue was longer than usual at the checkpoint, and Israeli soldiers boarded the bus to check identity papers and passports, but this is often done. After arriving in East Jerusalem, I walked past Damascus Gate towards Central Bus Station. Hundreds of Palestinian men were gathered outside the gate; a little further were Israeli police and soldiers with full military gear. But no confrontation had taken place and no violence as yet.

In Nazareth, an "Arab city" in Israel, the responses to Trump's announcement were not encoded in public protests or demonstrations. The conference was meant to focus on the current Jewish Nation-State bill in the Knesset and its implications for democracy, human rights, and the Middle East Peace Process. Emotions ran high during the panel discussions, as speakers expressed frustration over Arab political party differences and lack of influence of Palestinian representation. The underlying tension was clearly the Trump announcement two days before; on occasion this was specifically referred to as the latest setback.

All around Nazareth appeared political posters by the local youth movement of a photo of Jerusalem along with some Arabic script. The photo is from an unusual angle that includes the most important mosque and the most significant church in the city. The message that it means to convey is that Palestinians will not be divided by religion over Jerusalem; Muslims and Christians agree that it is a holy city for everyone. And, the writing below was translated as "The US Empire will soon end."

Julia is a member of SPC's Justice for Palestine Committee and the joint Beyond War and Militarism Committee. She is currently teaching at Birzeit University in the West Bank.



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STREET HEAT IN WINTER

Please join us the **first Tuesday of the month from 4:15-5pm** at Hancock Airbase (E. Molloy Rd.) for our public presence calling for an end to attacks by weaponized drones at Hancock, and to the militarism and racism dominating US foreign and domestic policy.

All are welcome—signs are provided. Call Ann or Ed, (315) 478-4571. Next dates are **February 6 and March 6**.

When Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, he was building the Poor People's Campaign—a multiracial endeavor challenging the US' persistent class divide. His death left the campaign unfinished, and the class divide has worsened.

Today's Poor People's Campaign is a national grassroots effort to challenge the evils of systemic racism, poverty, the war economy, ecological devastation and the nation's distorted morality. Its broad goals are to shift awareness from a narrative that blames the poor for poverty to one that acknowledges the systemic causes—and to build an anti-poverty movement led by poor people. SPC is participating.

To build the Poor People's Campaign in Central New York, local organizers are planning a Truth Commission on Poverty. This is part of a series of events across the state that aim to shine a light on ongoing injustices in NY communities, both their root causes and potential solutions; to develop collaboration/solidarity among anti-poverty leaders in across our state; and to support existing local efforts to organize and advocate against poverty. To learn more and get involved, visit www.poorpeoplescampaign.org.

—Ursula Rozum



SPC BIRTHDAY DINNER IN MARCH



SPC's annual birthday dinner will be held in **late March** (date TBA) and will feature black lesbian feminist activist, author and former Albany city councilor, Barbara Smith.

Barbara got her start as a youth activist with school desegregation and the civil rights movement. Feeling frustrated with the patriarchal nature of many Black Nationalist groups of the time, she became active within black feminist movements. She helped form the radical Combahee River Collective in Boston, which issued a manifesto in 1977 that became a defining statement for black feminism.

Barbara is serving on the NYS Truth Commission on Poverty as part of the national Poor People's Campaign, which SPC is participating in.

—Jessica Maxwell

5 WAYS TO BE PART OF SPC

Data entry. We have over 1,000 petition signatures and want to keep signers updated on what we are doing with the petitions.

E-newsletter. Our weekly e-newsletter has been coming out less often because we need more help. We provide the information and you type it up.

Try out a committee. Look at the list on page 3, read the committee descriptions and try one. If you're unsure, contact Carol (carol@peacecouncil.net, 315-472-

5478) to meet over coffee or tea to learn more.

Make treats for events. It's so welcoming to have food at our educational events. Can you help out with that?

Help with our upcoming Birthday Dinner. We're really excited about our upcoming dinner with speaker Barbara Smith and will need lots of help! Contact Carol to learn more.

—Carol Baum

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SPC, continued from previous page

INTRODUCING BEYOND WAR AND MILITARISM

Beyond War and Militarism is a joint committee of the Syracuse Peace Council and the CNY Solidarity Coalition. We are dedicated to non-violence as we seek to eliminate:

- US wars
- nuclear weapons and weaponized drones
- the enormity of the so-called “defense” budget that robs resources from domestic needs
- the pervasive infiltration of militarism into our culture
- the unjust, corrupting and dangerous activities of the corporate state, that is the primary beneficiary and supporter of militarism

The committee meets monthly and also presents a series of educational events at ArtRage Gallery.

—Barry Gordon



The Beyond War and Militarism Committee organized a standing-room only event on "Exploring the Intimate Link Between War and Racism." Speakers were community activists Herve Comeau (attorney with the Volunteer Lawyers Project), Rebecca Fuentes (lead organizer with the Workers' Center of CNY) and Aly Wane (organizer with Black Immigration Network and SPC). Photo: Jessica Maxwell

CAROL BAUM: SUPER STAFFER!

It's a bird! It's a plane! It's Carol Baum, the super-staffer!

The PNL often recognizes the contributions of individuals when we are saying a bittersweet goodbye, but this time it is for the opposite occasion. We are recognizing Carol for her incredible steadfastness as a staffer for the past 16 years. She especially deserves recognition for being a constant over the past two years of tumultuous staffing, not to mention the political climate!

We appreciate and recognize you, Carol, not just for your skill and experience, hundreds of hours of unpaid time, and thorough thinking (for which you are well-known), but also for your playfulness, your deeply radical politics, your commitment to the movement, and your kind attention to your friends and comrades. It's been a stressful couple of years. We've got your back, just like you've had ours. Thank you.

—Amelia Lefevre

NUCLEAR FREE WORLD ACTIONS

Here's how you can participate:

Help reach our goal of a second 1,000 signatures on the Markey-Lieu "No Nuclear First Strike" petition. Last fall we presented 1,000 signatures to our Congressional representatives and are well on our way to the second thousand. Please download and circulate: <https://tinyurl.com/ya4226tz>.

Become informed regarding North Korea. On Monday, **February 19, at 7pm** at ArtRage Gallery (505 Hawley Ave.), George Kallander, SU professor, director of the East Asia Center and an expert on North Korea, will share a historically grounded view of the current situation. We'll discuss how to get involved with national actions aimed at preventing nuclear war with Korea.

Nominate a young activist. The Youth Award 2018 will go to high school students dedicated to peace, justice and the environment. Nominate a young activist who demonstrates passion in addressing these issues. Find the application at www.peacecouncil.net and watch for the date in late spring to celebrate the recipient(s).

—Diane Swords

JUSTICE FOR PALESTINE

The Justice for Palestine Committee is involved with several campaigns to build support for Palestinian human rights and the movement to end US support for the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

In December, we joined the Islamic Society for a national day of action to speak out against US recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

Coming up, we are supporting the *Promoting Human Rights by Ending Israeli Military Detention of Palestinian Children Act* introduced by Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN). It would prevent US aid to Israel from being used to detain, interrogate, ill-treat and imprison Palestinian children in its separate-and-unequal military courts, and is the first bill of its kind focused specifically on Palestinian human rights. Please help with this campaign.

We're also co-hosting (with Jewish Voice for Peace), a screening of *Occupation of the American Mind* on **February 5 at 7pm** at ArtRage (505 Hawley Ave.). The film explores how the Israeli and US governments, and the pro-Israel lobby have joined forces to shape American media coverage of the conflict in Israel's favor.

—Ursula Rozum

continued on page 8

GETTING BEYOND WAR AND MILITARISM: THE “TO-DO” LIST

This piece, written by Ed Kinane on behalf of the Beyond War and Militarism Committee, is the Committee's working paper. We see this as a living document to stimulate discussion and action, and it evolves as our conversations evolve. Please join in.

Violence begets violence. War profits only the few, the rich, the powerful—the 1%. As moral beings and tax paying citizens we must vigorously oppose war. Especially those wars of aggression perpetrated by the US and its allies and proxies. These mostly occur in or near the Islamic oil lands (Gaza, Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen).

If we are to live authentically, we must oppose resource war and war for corporate profit. War industry lobbying (Lockheed Martin) and election buying corrupt our Congress, our Executive Branch and any legitimate defense force. War dehumanizes the “other.” It dehumanizes and disempowers us as well.

War diverts unimaginably vast federal tax funds from their most worthy function: meeting human needs—feeding, housing, schooling, healthcare, infrastructure. And disaster relief—these days so criminally paltry (Puerto Rico).

War solves no legitimate problem; war spawns problems. War impoverishes, erodes democracy, undermines law. War targets civilians, creates refugees and triggers ethnic cleansing. War encourages rape, maims bodies and minds (veterans' PTSD), cheapens life. War spurs environmental devastation (Viet Nam) and climate disaster. Nuclear war risks nuclear winter and, with it, the extinction of the human species.

Not only must we oppose war, we must oppose militarism: the incessant search for enemies, the incessant preparation for war, the saturation of our economy and culture with martial values and vested interests in war.

Our ultimate mission: “achieving just peace globally by abolishing war and militarism.” Okay, we're unlikely to achieve that utopian goal. But work on these “can-do” campaigns has a

huge payoff: reducing human suffering, plus empowering ourselves and others. We can't do everything, but we can do something. Each of us needs to do what we can, with what we have, where we are.

What more authentic way to live our lives than that?

We welcome you to join the conversation—contact Carol at carol@peacecouncil.net to be part of a coffee/tea/conversation date with committee members.



What Must Be Done (personally and policy-wise)

1. *replace toxic with renewable energy.*
2. *avoid dependence on the war economy.*
3. *expose the Main Stream Media's unholy alliance with militarism. The corporate media reflexively align with military policy. The MSM generate fear, normalize violence, villainize rival powers, gloss over war crime.*
4. *“take a knee” against nationalism/exceptionalism—major enablers of war.*
5. *stamp out racism—also a major enabler of war (end the “new Jim Crow,” de-militarize the police, abolish the prison/industrial complex).*
6. *resist the Islamophobia that enables invasions and genocide (Yemen).*
7. *end US military aid and exports to any invading nation or entity (Saudi Arabia/Yemen, Israel/Palestine).*
8. *abolish nuclear weapons.*

9. *abolish weaponized drones.*
10. *stop deploying mercenaries.*
11. *negotiate in good faith with adversaries.*
12. *expose the phony “war on terrorism”—that war of terrorism (a.k.a. state terrorism)—cynically keeping the pot boiling.*
13. *withdraw US and NATO forces from Iraq, Afghanistan and Eastern Europe.*
14. *withdraw clandestine US special forces—officially 70,000 in about 80 countries—from the continents they infest (Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America).*
15. *dismantle US military bases menacing rival economic systems (Venezuela, Russia, China, Iran, North Korea).*
16. *dismantle the myriad, redundant domestic military bases not necessary for defending our borders.*
17. *finance the reconstruction of those nations that US bombs destroyed; compensate the victims (1950s North Korea, Viet Nam north and south, Laos, Iraq, Libya).*
18. *avoid lifestyle pitfalls (addictions, distractions, consumerism, co-optation, debt). These impede our capacity to speak out, to take risks, to ratchet up our resistance.*
19. *build solidarity with kindred—and sometimes not so kindred—spirits. Get beyond our bubbles, our turfs, our silos.*
20. *cultivate and promote critical thinking. Overcome obliviousness and compartmentalization. The compartmentalized mind is a colonized mind. People of good will here often bemoan the lack of federal funding for domestic needs. Yet many refuse to acknowledge—much less oppose—the elephantine impact US military spending has at home. Such needs, if addressed, would provide more employment and security than high-tech war industries do.*
21. *overhaul corporate campaign spending regulations. Slash the Pentagon budget. Doing so will boost most of the foregoing initiatives. Doing so will impede this nation's mounting decay and insolvency.*
22. *become a war tax resister.*

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LEARNING FROM AND REMEMBERING CHIEF IRVING POWLESS JR.

Chief Irving Powless Jr. passed away on December 1, 2017. He was a member of the Onondaga Nation Council of Chiefs, an expert on traditional law, history and treaties. Irv was also a Navy veteran, a long-time railroad worker, an author, a Hall of Fame lacrosse player, father, husband, and storyteller with a powerful message.

Irv brilliantly turned our minds toward looking in the mirror, to understand our own culture. He loved to tease us, teach us, and he wanted us to learn but not to take. Non-Native peoples have a way of appropriating sacred practices, studying our neighbors, wanting to feel better by being of help. Irv turned this on its head. He was a genius in the anthropological study of us, the dominant culture. He had scores of anecdotes, some funny, some sad, that made us understand how our culture's ways of thinking and our history have led us to the global crisis we are in today.

A favorite of his many stories was how when Haudenosaunee people observed our ancestors' behavior they knew something was very wrong—because the newcomers would go into the woods to be “alone.” To the Haudenosaunee this idea of getting

solitude in the forest is preposterous. We're surrounded by a multitude of tree beings, animal beings, flower beings and water beings all carrying out their responsibilities, from whom we can learn. The story that came down to Irv was that to newcomers to Turtle Island, only humans mattered very much, and the only relation to earth's abundance was one of commercial opportunity. His common refrain ultimately became the name of his last book: *Who are these people, anyway?*

Irv wanted us to remember our treaty obligations. One of his proudest accomplishments was negotiating the return of wampum belts being held against the will of the Onondaga by the New York State museum.

One of the amazing facts about Irv and NOON was that despite everything, he loved us. He gave to us his time, his knowledge and especially his humor. After all that had happened to his people and to him, his generosity toward us was amazing. I hope and trust that we can meet his expectations of us, as we move forward in this project called Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation.



Irv and Jack with a very old maple. Photo: Cindy Squillace

For further learning, read *Who Are These People, Anyway?* available whenever NOON tables and from Syracuse University press, and watch *The Onondaga Nation Encounters European Settlers* on the Syracuse Peace Council's YouTube channel.

—Jack Manno has been a friend and colleague of Irv's for 25 years. Jack's longer piece can be found at www.peacecouncil.net/noon.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY ORGANIZING

Last October, Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation (NOON) launched a campaign to change Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day in Syracuse and Onondaga County.

We are circulating a petition (download it from www.peacecouncil.net/noon/ipd; there is also an online petition). In addition, NOON is calling for public dialogues with the Italian community to address concerns about the name change. This campaign hopes to follow the success of Syracuse University students in effecting the name change at SU, as well as Syracuse city school district students who are currently advocating for the name change in the district.

Native American activists have advocated for decades for the abolition of Columbus Day, which became a US federal holiday in 1937. Advocates state that Columbus did not “discover” the Americas in 1492, but instead began the colonization of it—a legacy which continues to impact indigenous people today. For example—in 1493 the Papal Bull *Inter Cetera* was written specifically to grant land rights in the Americas to the nations of the European explorers if no Christian king had yet claimed them. Known as the “Doctrine of Discovery,” this law was used in 2005 in a dismissal of the Oneida land claim.

South Dakota officially began celebrating Native American Day in place of Columbus Day in 1990. A few years later Berkeley, CA coined the holiday Indigenous Peoples' Day to replace Columbus Day, and later that year, the UN voted to name October 9th World's Indigenous Peoples' Day. The past 20 years have seen an increasing trend in renaming the October 9th holiday with upwards of three states, 50 cities, and many more universities across the US adopting Indigenous Peoples' Day.

Of course, renaming a holiday does not make up for past or current sins of colonization, exploitation and violence toward Indigenous peoples in the Americas, but it is one of many necessary steps toward a new narrative for the future. We must begin by dismantling the artifacts that have built up this colonial lie that continues to hurt and marginalize populations in the Americas to this day. How can you help with the campaign? Contact NOON and help distribute petitions, spread the word and get involved with future events and dialogues.

—Annie Windholz is on the PNL Editorial Team and a member of NOON

FAREWELL TO NINA

Farewell and thank you to Nina Wickett, our bookkeeper extraordinaire of the last 10 years, as she retires in January! Nina's dedication to the Peace Council is outstanding; she worked diligently year after year as our finances became more complicated, while hugely discounting her regular fees. We have relied on her attention to detail, her willingness to adapt, and her warmth and humor. The staff always looked forward to their "Nina fix" on Fridays when she came in; it is hard to imagine upcoming Fridays without her.

Nina's contribution to SPC cannot be overstated. Bookkeeping is a role that is often overlooked, but it is bedrock support for an active organization. Nina is a passionate political activist who cares deeply about changing the world—and does everything she can to "feed people," both literally and figuratively.

Thank you, Nina, for everything you've done. We are happy that you are about to have the adventure of a well-deserved retirement, even while we are sad to lose you as the SPC bookkeeper. We look forward to continuing to see you regularly, albeit in a different role.

—Chris Riley and Carol Baum

NOON

Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation invites you to help:

Witness to Injustice 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 what is now known as the US. Will you host us? Contact Cindy at cindysquillace@gmail.com.

Sign our petition to Commemorate Indigenous Peoples' Day, Not Columbus Day. We currently have over 700 signatures and need more. Please go to www.peacecouncil.net/noon/ipd to download the paper petition or to sign online.

Let your County Legislators know you support the return of land at Onondaga Lake to the Onondaga Nation. They have promised to do this, but need to be held accountable to it.

—Lindsay Speer

SPC'S MEMBERSHIP MEETING

On January 21, SPC welcomed new and seasoned organizers to our first Membership and Visioning Meeting. We started the event on a high note by celebrating recent successes of SPC and the tireless work of our committees. We then held an exciting World Café dialogue where we discussed SPC's anti-racist allyship, how to use the 2018 elections as an organizing opportunity, how we can effectively address the excessive US military budget, and lessons from the Poor People's Campaign. The event was a first step toward pulling our energies together to develop a shared organizing vision for SPC.

—Michaela Czerkies

PLOWSHARES 2017

As we approach a half century of Plowshares Festivals, the 2017 version was blessed with excellent weather—and a wonderful crowd of shoppers, eager to support approximately 110 artisans of paint, jewelry, glass, fabric, wood and many other media.

Stepping gently into the 21st century, ATM access was offered for the first time and proved to be a service appreciated by the patrons. Also happening for the first time was participation by Nottingham High School students, something we hope to turn into a trend in future years.

The offences of the present administration were everywhere in the air, and was clearly an invigorating and bonding force for the 3,000 people who shopped, networked, and renewed old friendships, bringing joy to the dark days of December.

—Lanny Freshman

CNY SOLIDARITY COALITION

The CNY Solidarity Coalition is a grassroots coalition of organizations and individuals dedicated to truth, justice and democracy. We are committed to protecting all Central New Yorkers who are likely to be targeted in these uncertain times.

Join us in this work by visiting www.cnysolidarity.org to sign up for weekly action alerts. Attend our monthly meetings and join one of our active committees focusing on federal or state legislation, community outreach and defense, worker and immigrant rights, war and militarism, and climate justice. Priorities for 2018 include working to replace John Katko with a progressive representative, promoting the Community Grid I-81 option, NYS voting rights reform, and working to end poverty in Syracuse. Our next general meeting is **Sunday, February 11 from 3-4pm**; check the website for location.

—Peter McCarthy

SOME HANCOCK DRONE CHARGES DISMISSED

On January 18 in the De Witt, NY town court Cathy, Jonathan, and Maura, our three *pro bono* attorneys, argued motions for three different Hancock AFB anti-weaponized drone civil resistance actions:

- Jan. 28, 2016 "Jerry Berrigan" action—all charges dismissed with finality.
- April 14, 2017 "Good Friday" action—Judge Gideon is taking "under advisement" whether to dismiss charges on speedy trial grounds.
- Sept 25, 2017 "Bloody Dollar Sign" action—Judge Jokl has dismissed all charges.

However the prosecution, by filing amended papers, may still re-charge the defendants.

For more about the persistent Hancock anti-weaponized drone campaign go to www.upstatedroneaction.org.

—Ed Kinane, edkinane340@gmail.com