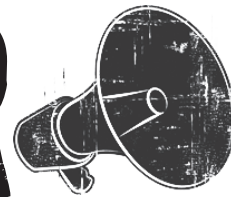


PEACE NEWSLETTER



CNY VOICES FOR PEACE & SOCIAL JUSTICE • #861 JULY/AUGUST 2018 • PEACECOUNCIL.NET • FREE



Korean supporters joined author Diane Swords (right) at the Poor People's Campaign Mass Rally in Washington, DC, with signs opposing US joint military exercises in South Korea and Japan. USFK stands for United States Forces Korea; PDP is the People's Democratic Party. Photo: Askar Salikhov

NUCLEAR PROGRESS? NUCLEAR ACTION

By Diane Swords, Peter Swords and Michaela Czerkies

Can we possibly approach the commemoration of the 73rd anniversary of the most violent act in history, the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, with any signs of progress toward abolishing these weapons?

There are some real glimmers. Last July, 122 nations signed the UN Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty initiated by the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN); the US was not among them. Then in December,

ICAN won the Nobel Peace Prize! When 50 of those 122 countries ratify the Treaty, it will come into force.

Also, South Korea President Moon Jae-in is happy with the Singapore summit, say members of the Korea Peace Network, a coalition working for a diplomatic solution to the situation in Korea. At least some South Korean citizens agree. What should that mean to us in the peace and anti-nuclear movement?

Trump seems to have stumbled on a plan to halt provocative war exercises

with South Korea. Supporters of this move (and one *can* support the suspension without supporting Trump) see the move as building confidence toward the North's denuclearization. Beatrice Fihn, executive director of ICAN, said that when the US and South Korea "send a nuclear bomber on a 'dry run,' they are practicing the indiscriminate mass murder of North Koreans...It is time to unravel the anachronistic security framework of the constant threat of mass extinction."

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SPC Statement of purpose

The Syracuse Peace Council (SPC), founded in 1936, is an antiwar/social justice organization. We are community-based, autonomous and funded by the contributions of our supporters.

SPC educates, agitates and organizes for a world where war, violence and exploitation in any form will no longer exist. We challenge the existing unjust power relationships among nations, among people and between ourselves and the environment. As members, we work to replace inequality, hierarchy, domination and powerlessness with mutual respect, personal empowerment, cooperation and a sense of community.

Present social injustices cannot be understood in isolation from each other nor can they be overcome without recognizing their economic and militaristic roots. SPC stresses a strategy that makes these connections clear. We initiate and support activities that help build this sense of community and help tear down the walls of oppression. A fundamental basis for peace and justice is an economic system that places human need above monetary profit. We establish relationships among people based on cooperation rather than competition or the threat of destruction.

Our political values and personal lives shape and reflect each other. In both we are committed to nonviolent means of conflict resolution and to a process of decision-making that responds to the needs of us all.

educate • agitate • organize > SPC in Action

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SPC AT ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR

At the last minute, SPC was able to get a booth at the Downtown Arts and Crafts fair, which is July 27-29. Now need to make it happen! We'll need a lot of help—people to staff the booth, set it up and take it down, and help get the materials together. Contact Michaela.

HIROSHIMA DAY: PARTICIPATE IN A PEACEFUL WORLD

The Nuclear Free World Committee is planning our annual Hiroshima Day memorial procession and picnic. On Hiroshima Day, August 6, we will gather behind City Hall Commons at 11:30; the procession steps off at noon. For this to be an impactful and striking event, we need 50-60 community members to walk with us, carrying props and banners. The intent is to remember the horrors of nuclear war and disaster, while advocating for the peace and beauty that is possible. Contact Michaela.



Hiroshima Day procession 2014. Photo: Diane Lansing

The picnic takes place at the end of August at Thornden Park. Each year, we remember Sadako Sasaki by folding paper cranes and floating lanterns on the pond. She was two years old when the US bombed Hiroshima, and died of leukemia due to radiation exposure when she was

twelve. While in the hospital, she folded over 1,000 paper cranes to pray for personal healing and world peace, following the Japanese legend that a person who does that will have their wish granted.

— Hilary-Anne Coppola

NOON'S EDUCATIONAL WORK CONTINUES

Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation hosted two highly successful events this spring. On May 24 about 70 people attended a panel presentation of NOON activists and Onondaga leaders titled "How to Be an Ally to Indigenous Peoples." Drawing on NOON's work over the past 15+ years, the discussion only scratched the surface of this important issue. Look for followup.

On June 10, NOON organized a day-long training on conducting the Witness to Injustice workshop, an experiential educational program teaching about the history of the European invasion of the

Americas. A good mix of allies and native people learned together about how to conduct this powerful workshop. It was led by two experienced facilitators from KAIROS Canada, a group who created the initial teaching tool. It was heartening to hear that the model of collaboration they observed between NOON and the Onondaga was exactly the kind of connection they're seeking to develop in communities across North America. NOON is looking for venues to share the workshop, contact Cindy Squillace, 315-415-5508.

— Andy Mager

JOIN THE STATE FAIR PETITION TEAMS

The NY State Fair bursts onto the Syracuse scene from August 22—September 3 (Labor Day). The State Fair is an incredible petitioning opportunity and we plan to make good use of it. We invite you to join one of our petitioning teams outside the Fair's main entrance. There are several options for petitions, the

foci will be on nuclear weapons, drones and militarism, and Palestinian human rights. Last year hundreds of people could hardly wait to sign a petition to keep Trump's finger off the nuclear trigger. Contact Carol for dates and times.

— Carol Baum

continued on next page

BEYOND WAR & MILITARISM

Much of the June activism of the Beyond War and Militarism committee focused on the Poor People's Campaign, with members participating in each of the six weekly events in Albany and the June 23 rally in Washington, DC. We will continue to be involved as the campaign enters its next phase.

"Don't Bank on the Bomb" on June 26 was the most recent installment of the Committee's Alternative Education series. The primary focus was divestment from financial institutions and funds that provide resources for companies that manufacture and provide service for nuclear weapons and nuclear energy production. Representatives from Hansen's Advisory Services and Cooperative Federal discussed alternative choices for socially responsible investing (see page 12).

Noted war resister Kathy Kelly's talk on July 16, "Let Yemenis Live: Ending US Complicity in the War Against Yemen" was a powerful major event.

— Barry Gordon

GARAGE SALE IN SEPTEMBER



It's not too late to do your spring cleaning! Reduce—get rid of unwanted stuff. Reuse—your unwanted stuff is my treasure. Recycle—down with planned obsolescence. And support SPC at the same time.

This year's garage sale is **Saturday, September 8 from 9 am-5 pm** at 401 Scotchholm Blvd., Syracuse.

Donations are eagerly accepted from **Wednesday-Friday, September 5-7 from noon-8pm each day**. Items can be left outside the garage at the sale location.

Wanted: household and sporting goods, books, DVDs, games, toys, furniture, linens, tools, plants, art, jewelry, lamps, holiday items, appliances and more. Please NO clothing, old electronics, things that don't work or other miscellaneous junk.

Helpers are especially welcome for Friday set-up. Food provided. Questions? Call Rae, 315-445-2840.

— Rae Kramer

BUILDING SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS IN CNY

On May 15, the Justice for Palestine committee organized a demonstration outside the Syracuse Federal Building to commemorate the Nakba. Over 60 people called on Senators Schumer and Gillibrand to denounce the killing of dozens of nonviolent protestors in Gaza. In addition to heartfelt speeches from members of Jewish Voice for Peace, Veterans for Peace, and the local Palestinian community, the event closed with traditional "dabke" dancing to celebrate Palestinian culture and resistance.



Reading names of Palestinians killed by Israeli military fire during protests in Gaza on May 14. Photo: Michaela Czerkies

On July 12, we hosted an ice cream to benefit the Middle East Children's Alliance (which provides aid to families in Gaza) and the Boat to Gaza. This comes on the heels of the Presbyterian Church (USA), which represents nearly 1.5 million people in the US, voting *overwhelmingly* in support of justice for Palestinians.

In the coming months, we are asking CNY activists to help build support for the McCollum bill (HR 4391), which calls for an end to Israel's detention of minors and the separate-and-unequal military court system for Palestinian children living under occupation. Please contact Congressional candidates and ask them to support this bill—Dana Balter (dana@electdanabalter.com) and John Katko (John.KatkoNY24@mail.house.gov). For more information, contact Ursula (ursula.rozum@gmail.com).

— Ursula Rozum

STREET HEAT

It is critical to be on the streets—not only to assert our right to be there, but also to stand publicly for what we believe. What Street Heat offers is a little different from demonstrations and rallies—it is a *regular* public presence at locations selected for their high visibility, including Hancock Airbase (home of the 174th *Attack* Wing of reaper drones).

Please give it a try! Go a few times this summer and see what you think—if you're going to the Saturday Regional Market anyhow, stop by Street Heat first. Make a sign of your own or use one of ours. Contact Ann or Ed, 315-478-4571.

Tuesdays: 4-5:15pm:

July 24 Adams and Almond Sts. (Rt. 81 underpass)

August 7 and 21 Hancock Air Base (6001 E. Molloy Rd.)

August 14 and 28 South end of Northern Lights Mall in Mattydale

September 4 and 18 Hancock Air Base

September 14 and 28 Erie Blvd. East and E. Genesee St., Dewitt

Saturdays 9-9:45am: Regional Market main entrance (Park St.)

PLOWSHARES CRAFTSFAIR – SAVE THE DATE

It's hot now, but in just four-and-a-half months, Plowshares will be here. It's **Saturday December 1 from 10-5pm and Sunday December 2 from 11-5pm.**

continued on page 15

TRAGIC AND PREVENTABLE: THE DEATH OF SELENA

by Carly Fox and Ben Kuebrick

“My daughter and my grandson were my life, she was my first born and I feel like a piece of my heart is gone.”

– Estela Calderon, mother of Selena Hidalgo Calderon

We grieve alongside Estela for the loss of her 18-year-old daughter, Selena Hidalgo Calderon. Selena was killed in late May, 2018. Selena’s one-year-old son Owen is still missing.

Selena came to the United States seeking asylum and worked in New York State farms. The suspect in custody for Selena’s murder was her boyfriend, who Selena lived with. Selena’s death and Owen’s status as missing are tragic and painful for all of us who work with farmworkers, immigrant families, and who know Selena’s family personally.

While we grieve and try our best to support Selena’s family, we also continue the work of making local conditions better for immigrant communities in general and farmworker women in particular. What happened to Selena is preventable with improved and consistent policies.

Farmworkers Deserve Equal Access to Safety



One farmworker woman knew at least 8 farmworker women who went to police with domestic abuse complaints and were put in deportation proceedings.

our kids, but in this case, it’s more because of the laws. We come from countries where we’ve been victims of violence and we seek refuge here in the US hoping it will be better for us here. But when we arrive, we don’t know our rights, we don’t know if we will be protected. The laws don’t allow us the freedom to leave, to be open about what we are going through because we know that what will happen if we call for help is that we’ll just be sent back to our country.

Sadly, in this country, 55 percent of murdered women are killed by their boyfriend or husband. Selena survived domestic violence before her murder.

Carly spoke with a farmworker woman from Wayne county who is also a survivor of domestic violence:

I think what happened with Selena is a result of what we are living right now with immigration. It’s so hard because she isn’t the only one who is in a situation like this. Often someone who is in a violent relationship won’t act, maybe it’s because of

Those of us who have experienced domestic violence are feeling what happened to Selena so deeply. I hope that we can finally get laws that help and protect women, that women have the strength to speak up. No woman should ever have to go through this. I’ve heard on the news about her case when they tell us: if you’ve gone through this, you can call the authorities and that the police are there to help the community. But in so many situations your call doesn’t just go to the local police, it ends up in the hands of federal authorities and so who is going to take that risk to reach out if they don’t have legal immigration status? If I don’t have status, I’m so scared they will deport me to my country where I went through the same situation. So this was such a blow to so many us, this has been so painful.

Instead of being offered help in situations of domestic violence, many local farmworker women have been threatened with deportation. Carly spoke with another farmworker woman who has spent roughly twelve years working in New York State. She said that of the women who called local law enforcement to report domestic abuse, she knows of at least eight who ended up in the hands of Border Patrol or Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE.). This practice silences survivors of domestic abuse.

In this moment of anti-immigrant federal policies, and baseless, racist attacks coming from the highest offices, local law enforcement around the country are trying to gain the trust of immigrant communities. This trust must be earned through the delinking of federal immigration enforcement from local policing.

In this regard we are thankful that the Wayne County Sheriff’s department has a policy to serve the immigrant community regardless of immigration status. Local community organizing has pushed for local law enforcement, like state troopers, to stop doing the work of federal immigration agents.

ICE & Border Patrol Make Our Communities Unsafe

It is unconscionable that local ICE field director Thomas Feely has attempted to use Selena’s death to justify their immoral and terroristic policies. Feely said that her death “illustrates the real dangers to our communities” and that ICE “is determined to seek out and locate illegal aliens in New York.”

But facts matter. Every study that looks at the link between immigration and crime shows that immigrants commit less crime than US-born citizens, and places with more immigrants are safer than places with less immigrants. *Immigrants make communities safer.*

ICE and Border Patrol agents, on the other hand, have a documented history of abusing, sexually assaulting, and raping women and children in their detention facilities.

Carly is a Worker Rights Advocate with the Worker Justice Center of NY—a legal service organization that pursues justice for those denied human rights. Ben is a volunteer with the Workers’ Center of CNY.

continued on page 6

Tragic, continued from previous page

As the “me too” movement has so clearly demonstrated within the past year, men who commit egregious acts of violence against women are found throughout many different spheres of society—including the Syracuse Police Department, the NY State Attorney’s office, and the White House. The problem is not undocumented workers, the problem is patriarchy, and a legal system that consistently protects people with gender, race, and class privilege.

Equal Access to a Driver’s License

One tangible way for farmworker women to access basic services and leave dangerous situations is the ability to obtain a driver’s license.

In twelve states, people can receive a driver’s license regardless of immigration status. Unfortunately, New York State is not one of these states, limiting the ability of undocumented workers to access necessities for themselves and their families. The Workers’ Center is collaborating with organizations across the state to make driver’s licenses available to all as part of the Green Light Campaign. Currently, NY A10273, which has 28 co-sponsors in the New York Assembly, would allow the state to issue standard licenses to qualified state residents regardless of immigration status.

“Too often, our immigrant communities find themselves in precarious working conditions and/or violent environments,” said Fabiola Ortiz, an organizer with the New York Immigration Coalition. “Having a driver’s license would increase the chances of reporting the crimes that immigrant women are victims of. Driver’s licenses are not a privilege, but a necessity, and sometimes can make the difference between life and death,” said Ortiz.

For more information about the Green Light campaign, like our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/GreenLightNY.

Resources

- “Detained, Then Violated: 1,224 Complaints Reveal a Staggering Pattern of Sexual Abuse in Immigration Detention. Half of Those Accused Worked for ICE,” *The Intercept*. <https://goo.gl/Fo6SFy>
- “ACLU Obtains Documents Showing Widespread Abuse of Child Immigrants in U.S. Custody,” *ACLU*. <https://goo.gl/yR8nQ4>
- “The Myth of the Criminal Immigrant,” *New York Times*. <https://goo.gl/wL2AF7>
- “Special Report: The Criminalization of Immigrants in the United States,” *American Immigration Council*. <https://goo.gl/SXPogi> ♻️



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“A Taste of Zen” Open House at Zen Center of Syracuse Hoen-Ji Sunday, August 26th, 1-4 pm

- 1 pm: Picnic lunch begins
- 1-2:30: Yoga on the Lawn with Dick Molitor
- 1:30, 2:30, 3:30: Introduction to meditation
- 2 pm: Tour the historic Joshua Forman house, built in 1810 by the first president of Syracuse village
- 3 pm: Tea and conversation with Abbot Shinge Roshi
- Bring your family and friends for outdoor programs in our urban woodland along Onondaga Creek throughout the afternoon

www.zencenterofsyracuse.org (315) 492-9773
266 W. Seneca Turnpike, Syracuse, NY 13207

BORDERS AND BELIEF

by Hilary-Anne Coppola

Religion is supposed to guide us to a better state of being. When your followed faith leads you astray from what your soul knows to be true, what is your next step? We are standing at a moment in history when we must act on behalf of people seeking refuge. There are now thousands of families separated without the promise of being reunited. The Supreme Court has upheld a ban against immigrants due to their religion, dashing the hopes of families that have been waiting for years to be united again.

Religious leaders of all sorts are soundly denouncing this administration's policy of family separation at US borders, including Pope Francis and Billy Graham. Whether you are a member of a religious organization or not, your inner understanding of love can guide the collective practice of ethical and moral choice throughout your community. You have a voice to use with your fellow practitioners; you can write letters and make phone calls to your leaders, and you can reach out to people of other religious backgrounds to problem solve.

I recently became a follower of the Buddha, and in doing so I had to commit myself to a few core religious tenets, including to confront suffering, open myself to oneness, and try to be always mindful. Good reminders of this practice come in a Sunday teisho (non-dualistic "sermon") by our Roshi (zen spiritual leader) at the Zen Center of Syracuse. She recently spoke on our country's active injustice and terror against foreign migrant and refugee families:

"These brothers and sisters have not been greeted with welcome. This is a dire time. I am not speaking from some political standpoint, but rather from fundamental oneness of being. These people... who do not look like us... are us... How can we respond in any way that will be of any help to anyone?"

Roshi had some good answers to this question, including civil disobedience
Hilary-Anne is an environmental educator and a summer intern with SPC serving the Hiroshima Day, PNL, and NOON committees.

and active witness, but she started with a koan—a paradox used to goad us towards enlightenment. "The most difficult koan we can take up from our breaking hearts is 'Every day is a good day'."

For me, this is an infuriating, depressing idea; I think of thousands of children as though they are my fourteen nieces and nephews, screaming and crying or lying silently with wide eyes, some which will never see their parents again. The very thought of all that suffering is enough to make someone turn their head away and focus on "better" things.

people that bind themselves to a firm belief in otherness, attempting to create a boundary between their hearts and the suffering of others so that they do not feel their own deep pain. We have families, neighbors, friends, coworkers that do not express compassion for these "other" families, because they have made a border in their hearts. The love is there, but they hide it with a wall made of their own suffering. We must not be frightened of these people, for they are also us.

I encourage you to reach out, with faith in your heart, remembering that we are



At the close of the Families Together and Free demonstration in downtown Syracuse on June 30, the group marched to I.C.E.'s parking lot entrance at the back of the building and transformed that border into a place of protest and hope. Photo: Kristin Mosher

"We are not allowed to have the luxury of doubt, passivity... It is step after step, no matter how you feel. You may say 'I can't squarely face what is going on.' We must be honest. It is good we notice 'I can't do this'; 'Whatever, I'm not involved, I'm far away'. But without walking through the door of pain, we are going to be ineffectual." Without observing our own apathy, or discomfort, you cannot begin to change ourselves for the sake of everyone.

Buddhism is not about obsessing over individual suffering, but in order to help others you must confront that pain in yourself. There are still many

all one, no matter your chosen creed or place of origin. If you cannot be on the front lines of the battle, then you must tell yourself still, "this is a good day", and join in anyway. You cannot avoid the responsibility you have as a human being by turning away or casting your eyes downward. "We respond by having true faith in the way, however our lives are asking us to participate." Whether you are a religious person or not, you can enact change. The opportunity is there every day.

To watch Roshi's live teisho "Where is the Border" and other videos, please visit www.facebook.com/zencenterofsyracuse.



ITALIAN HERITAGE PERSPECTIVES ON COLUMBUS DAY

Christopher Columbus has been held up as true hero for many years in this country. These two pieces confront the issue with Columbus Day: that he actually was no hero of Italians or anyone else living in what is now the US. Using him to celebrate Italian-American heritage is a disservice to us all. His actions against Indigenous Peoples were more horrific than many people can bear to think about.

People of Italian heritage are encouraged to contact Cindy at cindysquillace@gmail.com for further conversation.

Indigenous Peoples Day Forces Us to Confront Truth About Columbus

by Cindy Squillace

This piece was originally published in syracuse.com, April 2, 2018

The Syracuse City School Board recently held a public forum to hear opinions about changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day. There were people who spoke about the pros and cons of doing this and I would like to share my viewpoint.

I recently retired as a student assistance counselor for high school students in the SCSD. I worked at both Corcoran and ITC. I am a 40-year resident of the City of Syracuse, parent of three now grown children who attended city schools from k-12th grade, and currently have relatives attending city schools.

I am also a proud person of Italian descent, as is my husband. I write to you today wearing all of these hats, each important in shaping my beliefs and values.

As a licensed mental health counselor, a mentor and a mom, I strongly believe that our young people should be taught the full history of the settlement of our country.

Through my school-based programs, I spoke with many students who arrived in the US with refugee status. Many were healing from horrible violence and sometimes the attempted genocide of their people, which led their families to seek shelter here in the United States. They questioned me about the founding of this country. When learning history, they could read between the lines, and many identified with what happened to the native people here and all over the Americas with racism, forced assimilation and genocide. This began with Christopher Columbus. His own journals speak of the cruelty, violence and racism with which he met the friendly Arawak people of the Caribbean Islands, where he first landed. It is estimated that within two years after Columbus' arrival, through murder, mutilation and suicide, nearly half of the Arawak people on Haiti were dead.



Cindy Squillace speaking at the Celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day, Not Columbus Day event in Columbus Circle, downtown Syracuse in 2018. The banner behind her states, "Columbus didn't discover anything. 1000's of Native nations were already here." Photo: Julio Urrutia

Having been raised with the myth and idealized version of Columbus, it is hard to face the truth. But it is better for all of us to be taught the truth and find ways to repair the damage than to pretend it didn't happen or that it was too long ago to do anything about it. The story does not have to end there!

We can take a step, a small step, toward repairing the wounds, a step that over 50 other cities and school boards have taken.

By changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day on the school calendar, we can take this step to acknowledge the wrongs and honor the considerable contributions our neighbors, the people of the Onondaga Nation and many other indigenous peoples have given to all of us.

Imagine the pain our many native students and their families in the Syracuse school district face every year when our school district celebrates the man whose arrival brought about such devastation.

My grandparents came here from Calabria, Italy, to escape poverty and tyranny. I have many, many things to cherish and celebrate about my Italian heritage -- great artists, music, philosophy and, of course, great food and the love of life! My family and I do not celebrate Columbus as a great Italian hero. Rather we see him as just a man, an adventurous man, in the paid service of royalty; royalty who expected him to bring back riches at any cost. And what a cost there was.

This is not a man or a history I want to celebrate for my Italian heritage or in my wonderful Syracuse community! ☮

*Cindy is an Italian Heritage, long-time resident of Syracuse, grateful to share friendships and actions toward a better world with neighbors from the Onondaga Nation. Jack is a long-time SPC member, especially with Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation, and a poet and maker of blessings. He is Emeritus Professor of Environmental Studies at SUNY ESF and the author of *Arming the Heavens*, *the Hidden Military Agenda in Space*; *Privileged Goods: Commoditization and Its impact on Environment and Society*; and co-author of *Ending the Fossil Era*.*

When You Ask Italians to Give Up Columbus

by Jack P. Manno

Island people (Sicilians, Irish) are vulnerable to looters, conquerors,
Storms, imperial schemes, thugs.
Its an old story for our people; it breaks our heart
And compromises our integrity, more; our souls.

When you ask Italians to give up Columbus
You need to know how we lost our soil and our souls.
We were tough people: small in stature and bent by work and the fear
Of the padrones, the landowners,
and their Mafioso who kept us all in check by terror.

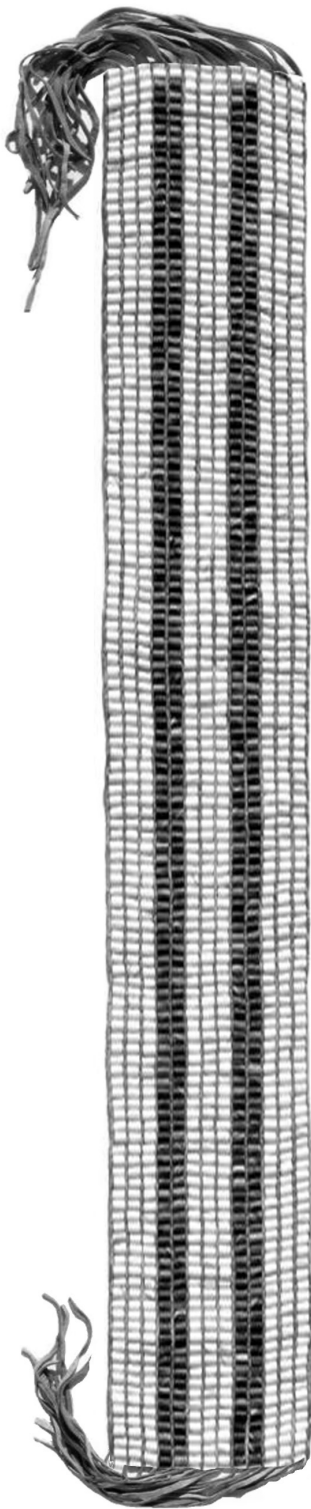
A very long time ago the Roman empire went on a conquering spree
(It's always the empires and their want-to-be's)
against Native Italians (Sicels, Elymians, Apuani, Ligurians, Celts and many more).
In order to survive, we made a desperate pact with the empire's thugs.
Let my child live, let me take care of my family, our land, I won't ask much more.
I'll forget. I'll pray.

For a long time, Italians of the south, Calabrese, Siciliani
managed as farmworkers and fishermen, paying "protection" to stay alive.
Crop failure, diseases, land grabs and globalization put them over the edge.
Millions left for America. They were not often welcomed.
Most shunned them, even the unions. They came poor and would stay poor unless:

They organized. One such effort became The Knights of Columbus;
a mutual aid society; A form of health and life insurance for the poor.
It was started by An Irish priest, the eldest of 13 children, 6 who had died in infancy
or childhood, a father whose illness and death left them paupers.
The Knights of Columbus took its name in the 19th century when Non-Native
Americans bought the lie that Columbus was a brave and brilliant hero
and Italians said, "look, he's one of us,"
We saw it as an entryway into the American dream. To becoming fully "White."

Which eventually meant: losing awareness, compromising our intelligence,
Denying the Holocaust on this Land, Ignoring Columbus the rapist who set it off,
Forgetting our connection to the earth and each other. And to the Creator.
Joining a global catastrophe rampantly destroying the only home we have together.
NO! Let us Remember.

Let us celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day together
Let us break bread: Fry Bread and Pizza Frite.
Let us look at the Columbus Legacy with a good mind and a healing heart
Let us share our stories of oppression and resistance.
Let us remember the Peacemaker and Francis of Assisi.
Brother Sun, Sister Moon, Elder Brother Sun, Grandmother Moon.....



Pictured is the Two Row Wampum, the first treaty between the Haudenosaunee and the Europeans. The two rows represent the separate but equal paths of two sovereign nations.

TEEN SOLIDARITY AGAINST THE MERCHANTS OF DEATH

by Kathy Kelly

Here in Kabul, as the rising sun begins to warm our chilly rooms, I hear excited laughter from downstairs. Rosemary Morrow, a renowned Australian permaculture expert, has begun teaching thirty-five young students in a month-long course on low-resource farming.

In war-torn Afghanistan, there's a desperate need to rebuild agricultural infrastructure and help people grow their own food. People verging on despair feel encouraged by possibilities of replenishing and repairing their soil.

The night before, over dinner, one of the students discussed news from his home town in Afghanistan's Wardak province about US aerial attacks. "The blasts have become so frequent," he said, "that people can't find spaces to bury their dead."

During breaks in the class, I tell some of the Afghan Peace Volunteer students about the school shootings in the United States, and the remarkable determination of teenagers from Florida to demand that lawmakers take action on gun control.

These Afghan students have also heard about Black Lives Matter activists who have been tear gassed and beaten when they've demonstrated against police brutality. The Afghan teens identify with the activists facing danger, but still standing up to insist on change.

I asked if they thought that the US media and government would heed Afghan young people raising their voices asserting their anguish and fear regarding US aerial attacks and drone assassinations.

"You're dreaming," said Hamid. He flashed me a warm smile and shook his head, saying, "no one will ever listen to us."

The outrage now directed toward the National Rifle Association should also challenge all assaults made by the US military.

Kathy is a three-time Nobel Peace Prize-nominated peace activist who co-coordinates the Voices for Creative Nonviolence campaign to end US military warfare and has worked extensively in Iraq and Afghanistan. This piece appeared in the March 1, 2018 edition of The Progressive.



Masoumah, an Afghan Peace Volunteers, leads a parent meeting where mothers express their worries about everyday life. Despite their veils and niqabs, Masoumah recognizes and acknowledges everyone by their name and the names of their children. Kathy Kelly is seated her left.

Nasir, a third-year university student who majors in mapping technology, tells me he thinks teens in the United States have a chance to be heard. Like Habib, he doubts that the same is true for Afghan voices seeking to end the sixteen-year-old war.

But Zainab, a high schooler in the permaculture class, added that she thinks it would be great to record a vigil of teenagers in Kabul sending their support for US teenagers who've survived school shootings in the US and who've begun shaming the adult world into action on the issue of gun violence.

People often tell me they believe the US military remains in Afghanistan because it wants to eventually control mineral wealth and other resources. But right now, weapon manufacturers like General Atomics and Boeing—which supply the US base in Kandahar with drones, missiles and bombs—are profiting from the perpetuation of war. This profit gives them common cause with arms manufacturers like Sturm Ruger and Sig Sauer earning millions from equipping US police forces as well as deranged killers in US classrooms.

Yesterday, I read about US aviation brigades training in Colorado's Fort Carson for possible Afghan deployment:

2,000 troops, part of an exercise called "Eagle Strike," are preparing for attacks with ground-pounding weapons. The Kandahar base in Afghanistan now has three squadron's worth of MQ-9 Reaper drones. Costing \$65 million each, these drones are outfitted to carry 560-pound GPS laser-guided bombs as well as Hellfire missiles.

Why fill the landscape of any country with craters and graves? What could we possibly hope to harvest?

Zainab tells me she thinks the teenage generation is changing and that more young people believe in training individuals and nations to avoid killing.

"Why can't we devise sustainable ways to bring about peace?" she asks.

I consider the idea that international teen solidarity could challenge both the US military and the National Rifle Association to end assaults on human life. "Our goal must be to demand that every person around the world agree to stop producing and using weapons," says Nasir.

I sit with them, and reflect on these courageous, clear-eyed Afghan and US youth working in both countries to sow seeds that bear needed fruit, hoping they can change the adults as well. ♻️

A RESPONSE TO THE AFGHAN PEACE VOLUNTEERS FROM SYRACUSE STUDENTS FOR CHANGE

The Syracuse Students for Change is a student activist organization that first organized after the Parkland school shooting in the March For Our Lives rally. They work with the local community to spread the awareness of gun violence, as they have by organizing the Die-In protest in front of Congressman Katko's office and hosting the Democratic Primary Debate prior to the July 26 election. Follow them on Facebook for their latest updates: www.facebook.com/syracusestudents/

This June, the US government passed a bill with broad bipartisan support that expanded US military spending to \$716 billion. Additionally, the president decided to pull out of the UN Human Rights Council, alleging its bias. In a society where injustice is rampant, our government's actions are just one example of the problems that we're facing, but it is scary and saddening to see parallels between the fights our group has taken on, as young people in the US, and the ones in Afghanistan.

We hear too often that teenagers can't change the world, and often, we aren't taken seriously by our older peers—yet we still push for change. There are even more youth groups who have been pushed to act, like the Afghan Peace Volunteers. They have stood up to the actions of the US military, even facing serious opposition. They have seen injustice, and they have raised their voices instead of letting it pass by.

As young people across the world are saying: now is the time. Now is the time for those in power to hand over the wheel and listen to us, because for too long we have been silenced and ignored. Some people say that young people don't know how the world works, but when the world that we do know is so often mired in injustice, we must work to change it.

But at the same time, we must acknowledge our hypocrisy. How can we in the US, in our rallies, chant that guns belong to the military, when those


statements normalize the brutality against not only Afghan civilians, but many other Middle Eastern and Asian lives? If we ignore US military actions, if we only focus on our own problems, we are complicit in the deaths of innocent civilians around the world. If we can restrict both the production of weapons and military spending, we can create a better world where both Americans and Afghans can live in peace.

In Afghanistan, youth haven't grown up in a world untarnished by hate and militarism, just like youth in this country. But in both places, we're standing up against them. We all have our own struggles—devastation of war, gun violence, discrimination—but it is important to remember that we are in this fight together, as young people, and fundamentally as humans. ☮

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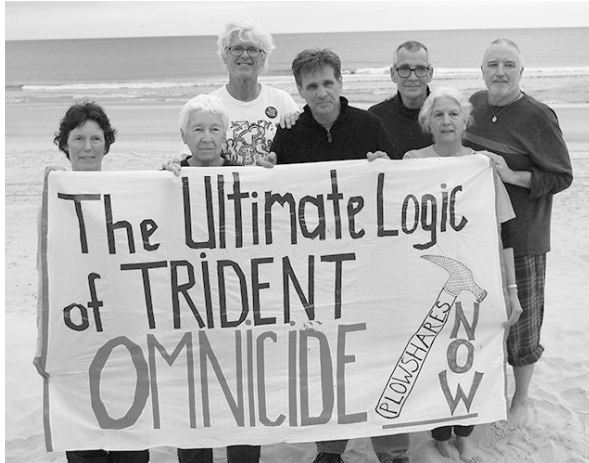
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The Kings Bay Plowshares: Clare Grady, Elizabeth McAllister, Patrick O'Neill, Carmen Trotta, Stephen Kelly SJ, Martha Hennessy, Mark Colville.

Opponents of suspending war exercises claim we're abandoning South Korea. The US media repeats the latter claim *ad nauseam*, but many signals from South Korea contradict that. South Koreans know that no cheating by North Korea would in any way shift the balance of power. According to Korean News Agency *Yonhap*, "Following close cooperation, South Korea and the US decided to suspend all planning activities for the UFG [Ulchi Freedom Guardian], the defensive exercise slated for August... The South and the US plan to continue consultations over additional measures."

Though many are critical of the theatrics and greed of the current administration, we should support anything positive that comes out of these "denuclearization" talks, even if positive change seems accidental or has ulterior motives. In countering critique of the cancellation of some of the war games, Fihn says, "There is no weakness in giving up something that the majority of nations have decided is illegal."

As Professor Emeritus and author Larry Wittner says, the US president's

Diane, Peter and Michaela work for nuclear abolition with SPC's Nuclear Free World Committee. Diane facilitates Intergroup Dialogue at Syracuse University and beyond. Peter (aka "Papi" to 2 grandkids) does social work with kids, and wants an end to child poverty and the war budget. Michaela is the local chapter liaison to Peace Acton NYS and a staff organizer at SPC.

"recent love fest with Kim Jong Un does have the potential to reduce the dangers posed by nuclear weapons on the Korean peninsula." Kevin Martin, president of national Peace Action, notes that the "Singapore summit, while thin on specifics, puts us in a better place than we were just a few months ago."

According to members of the Korea Peace Network, a grassroots coalition of peace activists, scholars and Korean-American leaders, "North Korea has provided all the assurances up to this point and has always seen

the exercises as provocative. It's a logical step at this point, we've done it in the past, and South Korea is accepting of the idea."

This progress made by the Singapore Summit, however, is by no means the end of the story. Wittner reminds us of what the media is not covering: that "Trump—assisted by his military and civilian advisors—is busy getting the United States ready for nuclear war." So far, the Trump administration has augmented Obama's plan to rebuild the entire nuclear infrastructure, doubling the cost and focusing on so-called "low-yield nuclear weapons," which have the potential to facilitate nuclear war. "Low-yield" nuclear weapons are said to be more "usable," a "gateway drug" for nuclear war.

One possible motive for the administration's sudden change of direction, says Wittner, could be that Iran hawk and National Security Adviser John Bolton wants "a quick deal with North Korea in order to focus on war with Iran." We must resist this at every step.

Take Action:

There are many ways to participate in the movement to resist the proliferation and use of nuclear weapons:

Don't Bank on the Bomb. For decades, the weapons industries have had seemingly unbreakable links to our tax dollars via their lobbying power, so Congress has resisted any steps toward peace.

But now every individual has a real opportunity to promote the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty by participating in the ICAN project "Don't Bank on the Bomb." This project identified 204 of the 329 major financial institutions that invest in nuclear weapons as North American-based, and the top 10 investors in their "Hall of Shame" are all based in the US. Nuclear weapons industries depend on banks for loans, shares of stocks and bonds, or other lines of credit to keep production going.

Simply, each person with a bank account, retirement fund, insurance policy or any type of investment can pressure the US by divesting from banks and companies that invest in or produce nuclear weapons. The Nuclear Free World Committee is organizing workshops on divestment (see list for local branches of banks that invest in nuclear weapons companies). Influence by individuals is small, but by entire investors (e.g. NYS Retirement Fund) the effects will be strong.

For the complete list of financial institutions and how much they each invest, see www.dontbankonthebomb.com.

State Fair Petitioning. We continue to push our legislators to support diplomatic solutions to conflict and to "keep Trump's finger off the nuclear trigger." Nuclear Free World will cover a day at the Fair. Let us know when you can help petition!

Educate yourselves and others. This fall, the Beyond War and Militarism Committee will present an alternative education program on current political developments in North Korea with Syracuse University professor Fred Carriere. Stay tuned for more info to come as we get closer!

Join us for our annual Hiroshima Day procession through downtown Syracuse! We have many props, banners, and flags, light and heavy, for people to carry as we march to remember the horrors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and demand a world without nuclear weapons. Call the SPC office or e-mail michaela@peacecouncil.net to get involved; see page 3 for more details.

continued on next page

SYRACUSE

DOES YOUR BANK INVEST IN NUCLEAR WEAPONS?

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CHASE	\$29.7B
CITIZENS FINANCIAL	\$115M
BANK OF AMERICA	\$25.8B
CITIBANK	\$16.5B
NORTHWESTERN	\$1B
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MORGAN STANLEY	\$9.8B
NORTHWESTERN	\$1B
NATIONWIDE	\$834 M

Poster: Taylor Gould, information from dontbankonthebomb.com.

REFLECTION BY LIZ MCALISTER

Liz McAlister's reflection below appeared in the April 11, 2018 Nuclear Resister magazine (www.nukeresister.org). Liz, a

long-time Plowshares protester, was jailed with six other activists, including Clare Grady of Ithaca, last April. In obedience to the prophet Isaiah's command to "beat swords into plowshares" they entered Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base in Georgia, the largest nuclear submarine base in the world, to hammer and pour blood on nuclear weapons. The action was on the 50th anniversary of the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who devoted his life to addressing the "triple evils of militarism, racism and materialism."

Modest Hopes is the title of one of the more than fifty books by my late brother-in-law Daniel Berrigan (RIP and Presente!). It might be fair to say that we came to Kings Bay Submarine Base animated by the absurd conviction that we could make some impact on slowing, if not ending, the mad rush to the devastation of our magnificent planet. And this is no extreme overstatement. The six Trident submarines that consider Kings Bay their homeport carry enough destructive power to destroy all life on Earth. What difference can seven aging activists make?

We come with hammers to imprint the pristine coat of the weapon. Knowing a bit about how important image is in the military, the weapons so scarred may be trashed.

We come with blood (our own) to mark the weapons' purpose as the spilling of blood and yes,

We come with bolt cutters to violate the fences that protect the weapons that spell death to all life.

But, above all, we come with our voices and our lives. We raise our voices in a cry to dismantle the weapons—all of them and we risk life and limb and our future hopes to make this plea: "dismantle the weapons."

Admirals at Kings Bay, you must know as well or better than we, that the payload of your six Tridents is more than enough to obliterate all life on Earth (cf. Daniel Ellsberg's book *Doomsday Machine: Confessions of a Nuclear War Planner*, Bloomsbury, 2017, to learn more).

We plead with you to examine your priorities. Is this really what you want to be about? ☸

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THE SECRET IN CANVASSING

by Samantha McCormick

We are all told from a young age that it is what's on the inside that counts. We are told that our inner beauty is all that matters. Sadly, in the real world that isn't true.

For a short time, I was a canvasser - I went door to door asking for donations and letters to local representatives for four hours a day, five days a week. My job was to talk about environmental issues and ask for donations to help fix them. We called the people we spoke with "contacts" so as not to seem like sales people, but at the end of the day that's really what we were. To keep my job, I had to make a weekly goal for fundraising and letters. It was not until my second week that I saw how much my appearance impacted my job performance. I decided to vary my looks on different days and see just how much my looks affected my job. I did the training for the first week of the job to get the feel for it, and then I started the experiment on my second week.

The second week, I wore pants and no make-up, and had short hair. My numbers went up, but I still didn't reach the goal. One day, I wore an LGBT supporting t-shirt. One lady wouldn't even talk to me; she said that the shirt was inappropriate to wear to work, and not everyone is as liberal as me. I was a lesbian woman walking alone in conservative areas; in this day and age that is a calling card for an issue. In the small talk I had with the contacts, I never talked about my sexual orientation or my girlfriend- I was afraid of not getting a donation, and what could be said or done to me because of who I am.

There were rainy days where no one invited me inside. I had every conversation with a contact outside in the rain or bitter cold. I suspected I was being treated like a second class citizen because I appeared "butch"-lesbian. I would get nasty looks from people that opened the door. I was made to feel very unwelcome.

The next week I changed my clothing and style up. I wore make-up, fashionable sandals, and dresses. I also started wearing

jewelry. I knocked on every door with the same smile as the week before, but there was a difference this week.

I got larger donations. I received more letters. It wasn't just the quotas I was meeting; people were more conversational. On a windy, rainy day, I was invited inside houses. I was offered water, soda, food, even an umbrella by many different people. This was the theme of the whole week. One day I wore a light blue breezy dress, a pair of white sandals, red lipstick, and used a name brand purse. I was asked out on dates by at least four contacts, the women that would answer the door asked if I was walking alone, and if I was, to please be safe. This was a huge turnaround from the week before. It made me angry that because I look more girly, I was now treated like a person.

Now, why is this? It was clear to me that my appearance affected my job. I felt that I had to dress and act a particular way in order to pay my rent and bills. If I looked more like what some would say a stereotypical butch lesbian would look, I was not treated well and earned less money. If I dressed "girly," I was at times treated like a helpless sex symbol and earned more.

I thought about what this says about our society as a whole. If someone looks a little out of the norm, they are treated with less respect and dignity. If a woman looks feminine, that is interpreted as both an invitation to be hit on and as cause for concern for her safety.

We have a lot of work to do. Let's take a look at what is going on right now in places like Starbucks. They called the cops on two African American men just for sitting there. A young African American boy had the cops called on him for mowing lawns for money. A baker refused to make a cake for a gay couple, and the state said that it is legal. Little kids are being put in cages just for not being American citizens. History stops repeating itself with change, and I think it's time we all make that change. We all need to learn to accept the diverse people, and not treat them like animals. Reach out to someone different then yourself, and let them know they are welcome, and not alone. Let it be known that hate ends here. ♻️

Samantha is an activist from Liverpool, NY and graduated from Le Moyne College with a degree in English. She is on the PNL Editorial Committee.

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POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN



Part of the Syracuse contingent who bussed down to Washington, DC for the Poor People's Campaign rally and march.

"Somebody's hurtin' my people and we won't be silent anymore" is a theme of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call to Moral Revival. The 40 days from Mothers Day until June 23 were national days of action, learning and arts, and launching the movement around the country. "Moral fusion non-violent direct action" took place in Albany and 40 other state capitals every Monday of the 40 days, with many participants from Syracuse, some of whom were arrested for their actions. This phase of the campaign culminated in Washington, DC on June 23 with a huge rally and march. Rev. Dr. William Barber and Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharris led, while many people affected by the four evils of racism, poverty, militarism and environmental destruction passionately inspired national action to "fight poverty, not the poor."

Follow-up meetings will plan the next phase locally. See CNY Poor People's Campaign on Facebook for how you can help build "a new and unsettling force to save the soul of our nation!"

— *Diane Swords and Peter Swords*

THREE MORE WAYS TO BE A PART OF SPC

Help plan the Peace Picnic. We preparing for a Peace Picnic, to be in late August. It usually involves a variety of activities (dancing, yoga, etc.), music, craft-making and of course, food! Help make this a fun community gathering—contact Michaela to help.

Develop Workshops. Do you have organizing skills to offer? SPC members are always looking to learn and grow, and we welcome those with practical knowledge in grassroots organizing tactics, strategies, or best practices to connect with us.

Distribute the PNL. Help us ensure the Peace Newsletter is available all across Syracuse. Wonderful volunteers distribute the PNL in different neighborhoods, and we are looking for people to take routes on the Westside and Marshall St.

— *Michaela Czerkies*

THANKS TO OUR SUMMER INTERNS

We have three wonderful individuals interning with us this summer. Hilary-Anne Coppola is an experienced activity coordinator and environmental educator, and is helping with NOON's free literature and preparation for Hiroshima Day. Taylor Gould, a LeMoyné student, has been lending her knack for art and materials organizing to developing graphics, organizing our vast array of posters and producing the e-newsletter. Askar Salikhov, a soon-to-be graduate student at Syracuse University, is on several committees and has taken on research and photography projects. All three interns have joined the PNL Editorial Committee in creating this issue! We're so happy they are working with SPC this summer.

It's not too early to think about interning with SPC in the fall!

— *Michaela Czerkies*



All Youth Peace Award honorees together at the June 4 ceremony. Photo: Askar Salikhov

HONORING YOUNG COMMUNITY ACTIVISTS

On June 4, the Nuclear Free World Committee presented its annual Youth Peace Award. The cash awards, generously sponsored every year by Jack Mannion, Stephanie Miner and others, are presented to local high school students who promote peace and social justice in their schools and communities. This year we awarded Grace Getman of Christian Brothers Academy, Hussein Hassan of Henninger High School, and the group Syracuse Students for Change.

Grace has advocated for women's rights, worked to support immigrants in our community, and is a dedicated environmental activist. Hussein came to the US from Ethiopia in 2014. He has become a leader in the refugee community, working against racism and discrimination. Syracuse Students for Change is an organization of students who came together after the tragedies at high schools like their own. They organized the Syracuse March for Our Lives and hosted a congressional candidate forum. Mahkai Josiah Bailey (aka Truth Speaker), a senior at Henninger High School, gave a riveting spoken word performance.

— *Margrit Diehl*

continued on next page

ACTIVIST APPRECIATION: BARRY GORDON



Barry at the Families Belong Together and Free event June 30. He is working as a legal observer, Photo: Carol Baum

Many of us know Barry from his years at Eureka Crafts and/or as the “Spoon Man” at Plowshares Craftsair—the crafty creator of functional utensils worthy of artistic display. Those of us at the Beyond War and Militarism Committee have also enjoyed and benefited from his equally skillful analysis of social justice issues, enlightened by his knowledge of cultural geography.

He personifies the notion of a Thinker and Doer. Often entertaining and always informative, his contributions, whether political, economic or climate-related, continually encourage us to “connect the dots.” As our “elder” scribe he dependably reports on our activities and his editing artistry immensely improves and advances our work. His gentle manner and regular expressions of gratitude to others lead us by example and contribute to our cooperative, supportive labors. He walks the walk, a tireless committee member and proud owner of an electric Volt that he uses to get to rallies and marches, often transporting others.

We are all enriched by his studious involvement and inspired by his role as “Deliberator-in-Chief.”

– Ron Van Norstrand

CNY SOLIDARITY

SPC was a founder of the CNY Solidarity Coalition in November, 2016. This affiliation has been valuable for both organizations. CNYSC’s committees address a wide range of issues from federal legislation to climate justice to “Beyond War and Militarism” (a crossover project between SPC and CNYSC) to state and local legislation.

As a developing organization CNY Solidarity struggles with matters of privilege, which we are addressing vigorously. Having been organized to oppose the Trump agenda, CNYSC is integrally involved with the growing local coalition fighting Trump’s immigration policies. An energized community is committed to turning back the inhumane and racist “no tolerance” policy and the unresolved scandal of family separation. One of our early members, Dana Balter, is the Democratic candidate for the Congressional seat currently shamefully occupied by John Katko.

Our next meeting is Sunday July 29, from 3–5pm at the North Side Learning Center (501 Park St., Syracuse). Join us! For more information, check cnysolidarity.org or Facebook.

– Paul Weichselbaum



The CNY Workers' Center led off the march from downtown Syracuse's Perseverance Park to the ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) office at 401 S. Salina St. we hung a banner stating, “I.C.>E. Kidnaps Migrants Here, Abolish I.C.E.” Photo: Julio Urrutia

FAMILIES BELONG TOGETHER AND FREE

On June 30, over 500 people rallied in downtown Syracuse against the Trump administration’s deportation machine. We marched to the ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) office on 401 S. Salina St., where we hung the banner, “ICE Kidnaps Migrants Here.” We concluded at the parking parking lot exit ramp where ICE agents leave the building with immigrants they want to deport and attached messages to the gate.

The CNY Workers’ Center did much of the heavy lifting for the rally (with significant help from the International Socialist Organization’s local branch) and almost 30 other local groups (including SPC) co-sponsored it. The rally’s demands were: remove Border Patrol agents from the Regional Transportation Center; give all NY residents a change to get a driver’s license regardless of citizenship status, don’t renew the lease on the ICE office in Syracuse or give them a lease anywhere; and make Syracuse a sanctuary city.

– Carol Baum