

SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL'S

PEACE NEWSLETTER



CNY VOICES FOR PEACE & SOCIAL JUSTICE • #862 SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2018 • PEACECOUNCIL.NET • FREE



Photo by Chris Thomas

GRASSROOTS RESISTANCE IN OAXACA: The Power of Revolt.
June 13 to August 15, 2009. Photo by Chris Thomas



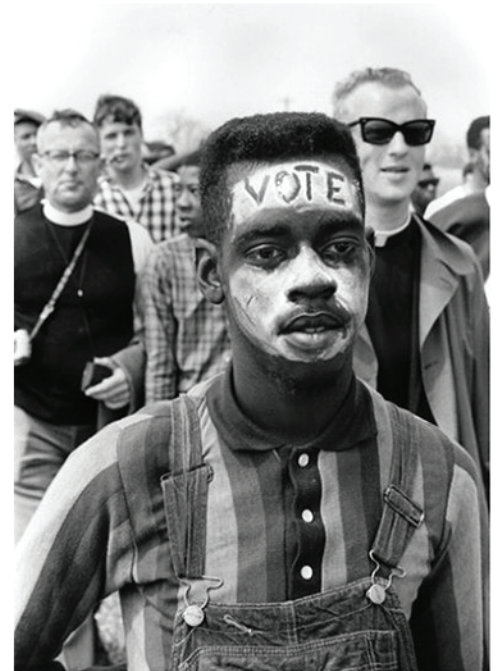
A TENDER RECORD: Marjory Wilkins, Early B&W Photographs.
May 1 to May 27, 2010



REMNANTS OF A SECRET WAR:
Photographs by Michael Greenlar.
June 1 to July, 2013

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF ARTRAGE GALLERY

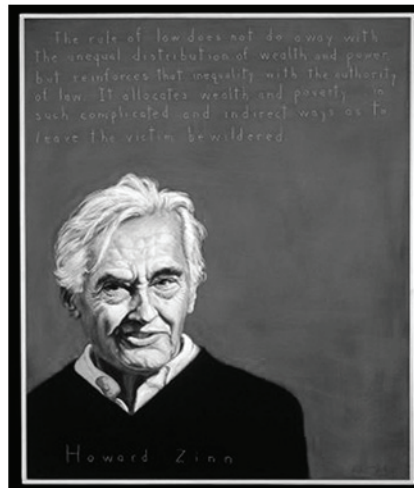
Since opening in 2008, ArtRage has held 53 exhibitions and hosted over 58,000 visitors.



SELMA TO MONTGOMERY MARCH AT 50:
Civil Rights Photographs by Matt Herron.
February 7 to March 28, 2015



100 YEARS OF WOMEN ROCKIN' THE WORLD:
Medussa-Ellen Blalock. March 5 to April 23, 2011



AMERICANS WHO TELL THE TRUTH:
Howard Zinn, Paintings of Robert Shetterly.
September 11 to October 23, 2010

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CNY Solidarity Coalition

Upstate Coalition to Ground the Drones and End the Wars

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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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KEEP TRUMP'S FINGER OFF THE NUCLEAR TRIGGER



One of the many banners carried in this year's Hiroshima Day Procession. Photo: Julio Urrutia.

SPC's Nuclear Free World Committee (NFW) is redoubling efforts for Senator Schumer's support on the Markey-Lieu bill to prevent Trump from launching a nuclear first strike. We have petitioned at numerous events, including the State Fair, and plan to continue. Contact Diane Swords, 315-391-4484, to help.

With the Beyond War and Militarism Committee, NFW will present Emeritus Professor **Frederick Carriere on October 9 at 7pm at ArtRage Gallery** (505 Hawley Ave., Syracuse). Prof. Carriere will share the latest developments on North Korea and how ordinary people can promote diplomacy and prevent nuclear disaster.

Frederick is a political scientist and director of the Korean Peninsula Affairs Center at Syracuse University's Maxwell School and calls the situation between the US and North Korea a "moving target." He sees the possibility of a significant deal, but also greater peril, as the mid-term election approaches and the "limited rational policy-solving 'bandwidth' of our political system is maximally strained."

Our August 6 Hiroshima procession magnified the alarm that Trump and his advisors are preparing the US for nuclear war. It also celebrated the hope brought by the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (brokered by the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons) and the Nobel Peace Prize ICAN received for the Treaty. At our August 27 potluck at Thornden Park, we floated lanterns to remember all those who have died in the nuclear age and re-committed ourselves to abolish nuclear weapons.

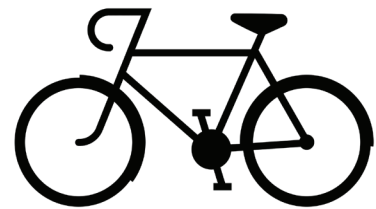
— Diane Swords

SPC BIKE RAFFLE

When my bike chain rusted, the rest of my old bike began falling apart too. Are you in a similar situation, or looking to decrease your carbon footprint? Maybe you'd like to get some exercise, save money on gas, never worry about parking? Win a new Jamis Citizen bike from Mello Velo in SPC's summer Bike Raffle fundraiser! Raffle tickets can be purchased at the SPC office, Syracuse Real Food Co-op, Mello Velo, ArtRage Gallery, Syracuse Cultural Workers, and Cazenovia's Pewter Spoon Café. Tickets are 1 for \$2, 3 for \$5, and

7 for \$10. **The drawing is September 23 at the Westcott Street Cultural Fair.** To help with selling raffle tickets, please contact Michaela at 315-472-5478.

— Taylor Gould



JUSTICE FOR PALESTINE'S FALL ACTIVITIES

On September 16, the Justice for Palestine committee hosted an informal presentation and dinner discussion entitled, "No Good Morning, No Good Night," with SPC activists Julia Ganson, Julia Fuleihan, Mary Kuhn and Ron Van Norstrand at the Pewter Spoon Café in Cazenovia. We heard about their

recent visit to the West Bank and their account of occupation, oppression and popular resistance to the ongoing Nakba ("catastrophe") in Palestine.

Meanwhile, as Palestinians' protests along the Gaza-Israel border have continued, following their "Great March of

Return" protests this past spring, we stand in solidarity with them every **1st and 3rd Thursday of the month from 4:30-5:15pm at the corner of E. Genesee St. and Erie Blvd** in DeWitt. Join us!

— Michaela Czerkies

continued on next page

BEYOND WAR AND MILITARISM

Beyond War and Militarism (BWaM) is a joint committee of the SPC and the CNY Solidarity Coalition. It draws resources from both parent organizations and enhances their interrelationship.

A monthly Alternative Education Series offers perspectives on militarism not covered by corporate media. In July, noted anti-war activist Kathy Kelly made a rousing presentation to 90 people at All Saints Church. She spoke eloquently about the tragic situation in Yemen and expressed general concern about increasing US militarism. In September, Greta Zarro, organizing director of World BEYOND War, spoke on “The Social and Ecological Imperatives of War Abolition.” We look forward to a talk by Professor Frederick Carriere on North Korea on October 9 (see “Keep Trump’s Finger off the Nuclear Trigger!,” page 3).

In several hours in late August at the entrance to the NY State Fair, BWaM garnered over 230 signatures on a petition to Senators Schumer and Gillibrand. It urged them to do everything in their



Participant at the August 31 Lockheed Martin demonstration, organized by CodePink, SPC, and the CNY Solidarity Coalition to bring attention to Lockheed Martin's complicity in the death of 40 Yemeni school children killed when the Saudis dropped a bomb made by Lockheed on their bus. Photo: Max Mimaroglu.

power to “support a negotiated settlement [in Yemen] and to insist that the United States stop providing Saudi Arabia with logistical support, drones and other weapons.”

– BWaM Members

THREE MORE WAYS TO BE A PART OF SPC

This issue’s focus is on things we need, that you might have and be willing to part with.

• **IPad 5+ or Android 5.0+ tablet.** SPC is joining the 2000s with a new way to easily offer credit card options when we sell merchandise or event tickets. A tablet will make it work even better.

• **Color printer or access to color copying.** Help us upgrade the appeal of our written materials—either by printing on your own color printer, or one you have access to. We’re happy to supply the paper.

• **A small light-weight table, with small, light-weight chairs.** Petitioning at the State Fair (and elsewhere) is often more effective when there is a small table for the petitions, information, etc.. But it needs to be easy to carry from the car or bus to wherever the petitioning site might be.

– Carol Baum

NOON IS BURSTING WITH ENERGY

Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation is reprinting our *Neighbor to Neighbor, Nation to Nation* 80-page booklet, as we are almost out of the 10,000 copies originally printed. We hope to revise and update it in the next few years.

NOON sponsored a facilitator training hosted at the Firebarn at the Onondaga Nation for the Witness to Injustice KAIROS Blanket Exercise. Thirty people attended, representing communities in several regions in NYS as well as representatives from the Onondaga Nation. This two-hour group exercise uses participatory education to help participants experience the impacts of European colonization in what is now known as the US. To schedule the Witness to Injustice KAIROS Blanket Exercise for your group or organization contact Cindy Squillace at cindysquillace@gmail.com.

Indigenous Peoples Day will again be celebrated in Syracuse on Monday, October 8 at 4:30pm at Columbus Circle, downtown Syracuse. Stay tuned for more details.

NOON continues to support the Onondaga Nation in its goal to have those responsible clean up Onondaga Lake and return at least part of the land surrounding the lake to its rightful stewards, the Onondaga people. We are pursuing creative ways to help to achieve this goal.

– Cindy Squillace

STREET HEAT—SPEAK OUT, STAND UP

September and October are our last months of twice-a-week Street Heat, our regular public presence against war and for social justice. In the colder months of November through March, we’re out only on the first Tuesday of the month (at Hancock Airbase). So please join us! Make a sign yourself or use one of ours. Contact Ann or Ed, 315-478-4571.

Tuesdays: 4-5:15pm:

September 28 Erie Blvd. E. and E. Genesee St., DeWitt

October 2 Hancock Airbase (6001 E. Molloy Rd.)

October 9 Adams and Almond Sts., Syracuse

October 16 Hancock Airbase (6001 E. Molloy Rd.)

October 23 Adams and Almond Sts., Syracuse

October 30 Adams and Almond Sts., Syracuse

Saturdays 9-9:45am, through October 27:

Regional Market main entrance (Park St.)

November through March:

First Tuesday of the month only, 4-5:15pm at Hancock Airbase (note: we skip January 1).

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THE 70TH YEAR OF THE *NAKBA* FOR PALESTINIANS

by Julia Ganson

The military occupation of what is called “the West Bank” (from a Jordanian perspective) continues. The move of the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem was implemented in May on the day commemorating the *Nakba* (“Catastrophe”). The siege, blockade, and “de-development” of Gaza continues apace, as does the IDF (Israel Defense Forces) killings of Gazans and internationals engaging in popular nonviolent resistance, including participation in the Great March of Return which started on Palestinian Land Day, March 30. Palestinian citizens of Israel continue to be treated as second class citizens in their own land, and this summer their lack of rights and exclusion in supposedly “the only democracy in the Middle East” has been confirmed through the passage of the Nation-State Bill by the Israeli Knesset. Over seven million Palestinian refugees still cannot return to their family lands, their homes, or their country. The Palestinian *Nakba* of 1948 goes on to the present day.



Graffiti and painting of a young martyr on a wall in Dheisheh Refugee Camp, Bethlehem, Occupied Palestine. Photo: Julia Ganson.

Last year I lived in Ramallah in “the West Bank,” teaching and doing research at Birzeit University on a Fulbright fellowship. I traveled extensively in both Palestine and Israel. Trips to Jerusalem and to Israel required a trip through the Qalandia Checkpoint, which meant interacting with 18-year-old IDF soldiers with assault weapons, and the requisite showing of identity papers and travel permits by Palestinians and passports by internationals. Although only 12 miles down the road, the trip to Jerusalem could take anywhere from 1 to 2.5 hours. The checkpoints restrict movement, making it nearly impossible for Palestinians to be consistently punctual at their workplaces or agricultural fields or anywhere else. Checkpoints are a constant source of power displays for Israeli soldiers, humiliation for Palestinians, and a reminder of military occupation.

Julia is a sociologist and an activist in CNY. She spent last year as a Fulbright Scholar in Occupied Palestine, bearing witness to the occupation and writing about Palestinian popular resistance.

The 70-year oppression of Palestinians continued in 2017-18, as do the fears and sense of injustice of many Israeli Jews. I asked many Palestinians in the West Bank, and both Arab and leftist Jewish Israelis, what they thought I should do as a US citizen to help end the *Nakba*. The vast majority responded with the same idea: First they thanked me for coming and witnessing the occupation (usually expressed as “You are welcome in Palestine!”). Then they said, “Go home and talk to other US citizens about what you have seen and experienced here. Most importantly, talk to your political leaders. This occupation couldn’t last for a week without your taxpayer dollars funding it.”

While staying in Bethlehem with three Peace Council friends, we visited the family of Ahmed Hmeedat, a Palestinian law student and artist we knew from Syracuse University. Ahmed grew up in Dheisheh refugee camp, where during the Second Intifada he experienced months-long curfews as a young teen. He and his friends found a coping mechanism and potent expression through art. Ahmed gave a presentation of some of his murals and artwork at Dheisheh for the Palestinian Land Day event at ArtRage in 2016. The four of us from Syracuse had Arabic coffee and cake with Ahmed’s mother, brother, sister, and cousin Omar, who all live there, and toured the camp with its murals and graffiti. “No Good Morning, No Good Night” appeared on a wall in a narrow street of the camp, next to many paintings of those young men from the camp called “martyrs” because they were killed by Israeli soldiers. Along with depictions of martyrs and commentary like “No Good Morning, No Good Night,” walls are filled with the familiar cartoon character Handala, created by Palestinian artist Naji Al-Ali. Handala is the beloved child character who always appears with his back to us and his hands clasped together.

Now we have all returned to Syracuse and are trying to follow the advice of those Palestinians and progressive Israelis who we met. We are talking to many people here in the US about our experiences in Palestine. Along with growing numbers of people in the US, we put pressure on our own government to stop funding and otherwise supporting the military occupation and oppression of Palestinians. The Justice for Palestine Committee is holding vigils on the first and third Thursdays of the month to protest the violent response of the Israeli military to the peaceful demonstrators of the Great March of Return at the Gaza border. Soon after I returned in late June, eyewitness reports came of IDF soldiers killing a 15-year-old boy when they raided Dheisheh camp (see www.mondoweiss.net/2018/07/tale-two-rehearsals). The likelihood of the soldiers being held accountable for the boy’s death is very small. Ahed Tamimi, another Palestinian teenager, was jailed in December 2017 for slapping an IDF soldier who tried to invade her house, after her cousin had been shot and gravely wounded. She was finally released after nearly eight months and much international outcry. Support from transnational activists and media attention does make a difference for Palestinians struggling to end the *Nakba*. US citizens especially should put pressure on our government in raising our voices and using tax resistance: “Not in our name and not with our money.” ♪

A VOTER'S GUIDE FOR NY STATE ELECTIONS

by Paul Weichselbaum, with contributors Elaine Denton, Ruth Kutz, Peter McCarthy, Doug Wolf, and Elaine Wolf

With all of the attention paid to the national and international damages from the Trump regime, it is critical to see how important state and local concerns and resistance are. What we do in New York State can be a barrier to the Washington reactionary government and can also be beneficial to New Yorkers. This review highlights major issues that state and local governments should address and for which diverse progressive communities are mobilizing.

State Issues

Immigrant Rights & Protections

In NY, 2.8 million immigrants make up more than a quarter of the labor force. These immigrants contributed over \$26.5 billion in federal taxes and \$15.9 billion in state and local taxes in 2014. About 17% of them are undocumented.

Documented and undocumented immigrants both face obstacles and exploitation which include unlawful profiling, detention and deportation; unsafe and unfair working conditions (including theft of wages and sexual harassment); and lack of official identification that driver's licenses provide. The "Green Light" law would afford undocumented immigrants access to driver's licenses. Creating the "Green Light" license category would cost very little and would net NYS more money from fees and significant savings from more drivers having insurance. "Green Light" legislation was introduced, but did not pass, in the last few sessions of the state legislature.

Local efforts are pending to make Onondaga County a sanctuary county—a safe haven for immigrants where the local government would restrict the presence of Border Patrol agents in the Regional Transportation Center and not ask immigration status on any sheriff's calls.

Voting Rights

The NYS Senate blocked passage of voting reform legislation in 2018. The Assembly passed two bills that were stalled in the Senate Rules Committee. One was the Voter Empowerment Act of New York, an omnibus law that facilitates the registration process. The second would have established early voting along with the start-up funds to implement it. Other

voting access reforms would have provided for no-excuse absentee ballots and holding all primaries on a single date each year.

Medicare for All on the State Level

The New York Health Act (NYHA) would establish universal coverage single-payer health insurance for New Yorkers. A recent comprehensive analysis of this proposal indicates that the act would increase total spending on healthcare services, but would more than offset those increases with reduced administrative costs; on balance healthcare costs would go down. The NYHA has passed the State Assembly several times but has not gotten a hearing or vote in the State Senate. Voters in the 2018 state legislative elections could change this if they cast votes in accordance with candidates' stated views on the NYHA. In the US as a whole, recent polls indicate that a slight majority of the population favors single-payer health coverage. The NYHA, if passed, would put NY in the vanguard of a major positive change in Americans' access to health services.

Providing Court-ordered Funding to Urban Schools

The governor and the state legislature have persistently short-changed the Syracuse City School District and all of the other urban schools in NY. It's time to hold Gov. Cuomo, our State Senators, and our Assembly Members accountable for failing our city's children.

Women's Reproductive Rights

The Assembly has passed the Reproductive Health Act and the Comprehensive Contraception Coverage Act several times, with the Senate blocking even a

hearing. It is likely that a US Supreme Court with Brett Kavanaugh will continue to chip away at Roe v. Wade, potentially exposing NY women and families to obstacles to obtaining abortion and other procedures. This is especially important because since 1973 NY has never updated its abortion law, which has numerous flaws and inherent problems for women.

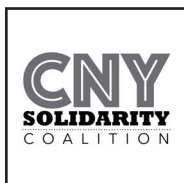
Criminal Justice Reform

On any given day, 25,000 New Yorkers are locked up, many before trial, in county jails across our state. We need to demand an end to cash bail, a TRUE speedy trial law as well as a discovery law that is transparent, prompt, mandatory and enforced. To learn more details about these critical criminal justice reforms, please visit <http://bit.ly/jlusa-freenewyork>.

New York State and Local Races

Your participation in the CNY Solidarity Coalition and other activist organizations brings attention to these and other critical concerns and mobilizes people to take effective action. Interest in this year's elections focuses on the Balter vs. Katko race for the 24th Congressional District, along with the Brindisi vs. Tenney race for the 22nd District. But there are many state and local races that merit your close attention.

Let's push forward candidates that will pass progressive legislation and set an example for the rest of the country. In order for NY to lead, we need to clean up Albany and make our state work for all of us. Educate others on the issues we are fighting for and ask candidates where they stand on these issues, then vote on November 6th to make your voice heard.



CNY Solidarity Coalition's State Legislation Action Team (SLAT) uses advocacy to achieve progressive legislation, policies, and practices on the state and local levels. SLAT functions for CNY Solidarity to help defend New York State against the Trump regime's actions. Visit www.cnysolidarity.org to learn more and get involved.

To Find Your Polling Location and Candidate Information visit:

my.lww.org/new-york-state

A non-partisan voter guide by the League of Women Voters of NYS.

53rd State Senate: Rachel May defeated incumbent Dave Valesky in the Democratic primary on September 13, pending tabulation of absentee ballots. Valesky is on other ballot lines and hasn't said whether he will continue to campaign. Rachel May is running as a principled, comprehensive progressive, spurred to challenge Valesky in part because of his long-time participation in the Independent Democratic Caucus (IDC), which facilitated Republican control of the Senate during the last seven years. Janet Burman, the Republican candidate, has done nothing to distance herself from the multiple horrors of the Trump government.

50th State Senate: Democrat John Mannion and Republican Bob Antonacci will face off in November in a bid to replace the retiring John DeFrancisco. Mannion presents himself as a progressive with strong experience as a union leader. Like most local Republicans, Antonacci also has done nothing to separate himself from the Trump government.

127th Assembly District: Democrat Al Stirpe has been a thoroughly independent assemblyperson on issues such as supporting the Community Grid, despite getting pushback from some vocal people in his district. His Republican opponent Nicholas Paro is making opposition to the Community Grid a signature issue, with apparent dog whistle racism implicit in his attitude to the City of Syracuse, as well as reference to debunked concerns about emergency response times. Stirpe, in the meantime, needs readers from his district to speak up in support of immigrant protections (like Green Light) and voting access reforms, so that he will be convinced to vote for progressive legislation in 2019.

128th Assembly: Democrat Pam Hunter has no opponent. She greatly appreciates readers contacting her in support of progressive positions.

129th Assembly District: Democrat William Magnarelli is opposed by Republican Edward Ott and Conservative Michael Hunter in what is normally a lopsided race.

Attorney General: Letitia James won the Democratic primary against several other progressive candidates. She will face off against Republican Keith Wolford. This may be the most important statewide race. The NY Attorney General has been a leader of states filing lawsuits to defeat or delay many parts of the Trump agenda. The NY AG is currently suing the Trump Foundation for violations of NY laws, which may become an especially relevant strategy if Special Counsel Robert Mueller is dismissed and his report buried.

Governor: Andrew Cuomo won the Democratic primary against the very progressive Cynthia Nixon. Both will be on the ballot in November, although it's not known whether Nixon will continue her campaign as a third party candidate. Cuomo will definitely face Syracuse's own Howie Hawkins (Green Party) and Stephanie Miner (Serve America Movement), as well as Republican Marc Molinaro. Progressive voters will hear about the lesser of two evils. Is it better to vote for highly favored Cuomo to make sure Molinaro doesn't win? Progressive voters have a choice to make.

Onondaga County Sheriff: Rarely has there been a starker contrast in a local race that should be surprisingly competitive. Democrat Mike Montes has spoken with progressive groups about comprehensive improvements to the Justice Center, gun safety and gun control, minimal cooperation with Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Protection, and training for law enforcement on racism and police accountability. Republican Gerry Conway will continue status quo practices that profile people of color and facilitate ICE and CBP to arrest law-abiding long-time resident immigrants who lack documents. ♻️

NY 24th Congressional Race

Below are Dana Balter's responses from the Peace Action New York Candidate Survey:

What are your general views on US foreign policy and the role of diplomacy, the UN, and war in addressing today's complex emergencies?

US Foreign policy should be one of diplomacy. The US should use every avenue of diplomacy to come to a peaceful resolution with hostile countries. Engagement in military conflict should always be the last and final resort. There is no reason to put the men and women in this country and military at risk if the crisis can be solved peacefully.

The hollowing out of the State department by the Trump Administration is causing the US to take a back seat on world affairs. It's allowing others to dictate the course of action on international policy. We must fully fund the State Department and reassert our leadership on world policy.

✓ Support ✗ Oppose

- ✓ Iran Deal.
- ✓ UN Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty.
- ✗ Modernizing the US nuclear weapons arsenal, with 1.7 trillion in costs over the next 30 years.
- ✓ Repeal of the 2001 Authorization for the Use of Military Force.
- ✓ US providing funding for the reconstruction of Iraq, which has requested \$88 B for post-conflict reconstruction.
- ✗ US provision of military support to the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen.
- ✓ H.R. 4391, the Promoting Human Rights by Ending Israeli Military Detention of Palestinian Children Act, which would prohibit US funding from being used to support the detention of Palestinian minors in Israel.
- ✓ Reform of gun laws, including universal background checks and bans on semi-automatic weapons sales.
- ✗ Israel Anti-Boycott Act, and similar legislation that would restrict state funding (including on university campuses) to activists/organizations supporting the BDS movement.



YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE.

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF ARTRAGE



Photo by Carmen Viviano-Crafts

TONTO REVISITED: Native American Stereotypes Collection of Tom Huff. November 6 to December 18, 2010

Welcome to ArtRage

Opened in 2008, ArtRage Gallery has hosted 53 exhibitions that combine visual appeal and discuss various issues, including civil rights, effects of war, and notions of community.

ArtRage has displayed photos by Milton Rogovin and Marjorie Wilkins. Many of Milton's images documented Buffalo neighborhoods, while Marjorie's work was on Syracuse's 15th Ward, a predominantly African-American neighborhood devastated by urban renewal and Route 81. A third show featured Lida Suchy's portraits of Syracuse Community Choir members, celebrating this vibrant community organization.

The link is clear between Matt Herron's documentary-style photos of three 1965 Selma-to-Montgomery civil-rights marches and Keith Morris Washington's haunting landscape paintings of lynching locations. Herron's exhibit provided historical context, but also acknowledged that civil-rights issues were not all resolved during the 1960s. Washington emphasized the continuing impact of lynchings in our nation.

"Global Citizen," featuring Marlena Buczek Smith's drawings, referenced human rights, environmental threats, and

other issues. "Remnants of a Secret War" presented Mike Greenlar's photographs of day-to-day life in Hmong communities in Laos still dealing with bombs and ordinances from the Viet Nam War. Mexican communities resisting globalization were the focus of "The Power of Revolt: Grassroots Resistance in Oaxaca."

ArtRage reflects flexibility in working with artists from Syracuse and around the nation that consistently fulfill two objectives: displaying socially conscious work and organizing shows with lots of eye appeal.

—Carl Mellor

Dik Cool and Rose Viviano co-founded the ArtRage Gallery as a space devoted to activist art exhibitions and programming on the social issues related to each exhibition. Renovations to 505 Hawley Ave. (the gallery's current location) began in 2007 with a generous donation from Ruth Putter for that purpose. The gallery is staffed by Kimberley McCoy as CEO (Community Engagement Organizer) and Rose



ArtRage Gallery Founders: Dik Cool, Ruth Putter, Rose Viviano



COMBAT PAPER: Drew Cameron—Iraq Veterans Against the War. October 8 to November 1, 2008

Viviano as Director, along with dozens of volunteers, including a 12 member Board of Directors from the Syracuse community. Since opening in 2008, ArtRage has held 53 exhibitions and hosted over 58,000 visitors.

—Rose Viviano

Reflections

ArtRage, maybe uniquely in the US, has redefined what it means to be a gallery and what art itself may mean and be in our minds. ArtRage is so much more than its diverse and outstanding exhibits. We especially remember its very first exhibit back in 2008—the veterans' paper project. That event set the high standard that has us returning to ArtRage time and again. Not just for the unique and conscious art, but for the rich assortment of films and dramatic presentations. Who can forget those live and startling productions of "Project Unspeakable" and "The Vagina Monologues" or talks by so many activists and creative artists? Besides the consistently remarkable events, ArtRage is unique in hospitality. The space is available for our meetings and celebrations, open to every progressive cause—a true community asset. Viva Kim! Viva Rose!

—Ed Kinane and Ann Tiffany

Among the most enlightening ArtRage exhibits I've seen were Tom Huff's collection of kitschy American Indian images from pop culture, eye-opening photographs of family and social occasions in Germany during the Third Reich, and Dick Ford's piano performance demonstrating how "Coon Songs" influenced American pop music in the early-20th Century. Thanks ArtRage!

—Russ Tarby



STILL THE ONE: Douglas Lloyd Makes Portraits of Women Making Change the Old-Fashioned Way. November 4, 2017 to January 19, 2018

How could I not have high praise for "Still The One: Douglas Lloyd Makes Portraits of Women Making Change the Old Fashioned Way" and Max Ginsburg's "The Realities of Our Times?"

—Mary Ann Zeppetello

This past year I was particularly affected by "We All Fall Down," which reminded us that animals are our relations. I appreciate the suggested reading list related to each show that ArtRage has been offering.

—Aggie Lane

Much like the Peace Council, ArtRage often represents a viewpoint not otherwise available in our community. You don't always agree, but often the work opens your eyes and ears to a perspective that you never considered... and that is a good thing.

—Lanny Freshman

The huge accomplishment of ArtRage is not only its survival, but also improvements over the years in mounting the exhibits, finding artists, and hosting excellent programs. A high quality takeaway is also the catalog which accompanies each exhibit, serving not only the community but the artist as well. ArtRage has grown into a first-rate art gallery to be taken seriously.

—Nancy Rhodes

My favorite show that ArtRage has put on is "Still the One." The opening reception was overflowing with people of all ages, so much so that there was a line out the door. The focus of the evening wasn't just the work, but on the women themselves—special attention paid to the 26 local women 80 years and older who had made such a profound impact on the community and on the people gathered in the room. Many of them were in attendance that evening. I walked from photograph to photograph nearly speechless, in wonder at both the presentation of the portraits and the accomplishments of the women themselves. It was awe-inspiring.

—Stasya Erickson

ArtRage gallery is among the most beautiful public spaces in all of Syracuse



ArtRage Community Engagement Organizer, Kim McCoy and ArtRage Director, Rose Viviano.

and a place where I have a profound experience at each exhibit. The work inspires me, makes me grieve, laugh, and think deeply. This is a result of the partnerships between the powerfully creative artists whose work is shown at the gallery, and our gifted staff—Rose and Kim—who are so skilled and conscientious in the way they display and contextualize each show. The work is always treated with great care, both aesthetically and politically, in a way that highlights the content and media, and how the two intertwine. Thank you ArtRage! Happy 10th anniversary!

—Julie Gozan



PROUD QUEERS AND FRIENDS AT ARTRAGE: Protesting Anti-Gay vandalism at the gallery. July, 2009.

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DEFINING OUR SPACES FOR OURSELVES — UNAPOLOGETICALLY BLACKCUSE PRIDE

By LoriKim Alexander & Rahzie Seals

You know that feeling you get when you walk into a space and feel immediately unwanted and uncomfortable? Think about what that feels like for every space you encounter when trying to find a safe community, especially within a community that is supposed to be for you.

BlackCuse Pride is run by co-directors LoriKim Alexander and Serena “Rahzie” Seals. We exist for those of us who sit on the margins, and hold space for folks in the intersection of lived realities. We stand in stark opposition to the whitewashing of the truths of the lives of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersexed, Two-Spirit and Gender-nonconforming peoples of color. We adhere to the radical notion that QTPOC (Queer & Trans People Of Color) are entitled to freedom and joy in all ways possible. We affirm that the chains of white supremacist capitalist patriarchy cannot pull us under nor hold us back and so we exist in the midst of contention and opposition to bring folks the love they deserve.



LoriKim and Rahzie at the NYS Fair Pride Day Parade, 2017. Photo: Barrie Gewanter.

Listen to the story. Serena “Rahzie” Seals was born and raised in Syracuse, NY and studied communications in Rochester, NY. She has been active in community organizing in both cities, working with Black Lives Matter Syracuse and many other organizations. Rahzie recently ran for the Syracuse 4th District Common Council, bringing visibility and inspiration to QTPOC communities in the area, as she is the first out, Black lesbian to run for office in the history of the city.

She started throwing house parties for queer Black folks back in 2010. With a car, a laptop, speakers and her friends, she traveled to houses around the city. Parties like these were the only spaces that Black folks who identify as LGBTQ+ could be with each other safely. This has been the truth in Syracuse

for Black people in general for decades, but especially Black LGBTQ+ peoples. Black entertainment venues have sprung up, but have been routinely shut down by racist landlords and trumped up legal charges. We are continually pushed out and crunched under.

In the face of this, Rahzie started *From Tha Bottom Entertainment* in 2013 as a party promotion business to expand the house parties to public venues across the city. Run with no financial backing, the parties were few and far between, but had a good following. Seeing the need for more than just entertainment opportunities, Rahzie planned to expand the business to include mental health, life-skills and educational support for queer Black youth. These services would be extended to the entire Black LGBTQ+ community since these opportunities are not afforded us here in this segregated town. The party promotion company morphed into BlackCuse Pride. Opportunities of this kind, when offered to Black people are not intersectional or multi-faceted in their approach. When LGBTQ+ communities are considered, opportunities for education focus primarily on HIV/AIDS prevention. While absolutely necessary, this is not enough. But, how would BlackCuse Pride move from a business to an organization?

Enter LoriKim Alexander. Rahzie and LoriKim met in 2015. After being in the area less than a year, LoriKim saw the needs and was excited to hear that someone had a plan to do something about it. The two have been working to make BlackCuse Pride the organization it is today. Born and raised in Kingston, Jamaica, where laws still permit her to be jailed for being her out, lesbian self, LoriKim has dedicated her life to working for social and environmental justice, organizing around these issues for over 25 years. Her specific focus has been on justice for people of color communities, especially LGBTQ+ communities of color, and working towards conservation initiatives while fighting environmental racism. An organismal biologist and naturalist, she is deeply committed to increasing environmental education for Black and brown peoples with an emphasis on honoring, preserving, and cultivating indigenous ecological knowledge.

While the organization was started in response to the lack of resources for Black peoples in Syracuse, we have expanded to include people of color of all backgrounds and abilities as we realized that this niche has never been filled here. There has never been an organization in this city dedicated to the empowerment of QTPOC specifically. Since our inception we have held several events and have moved to QTPOC-only gatherings to ensure that space is held for us in ways that cannot be co-opted or undermined. We also hold space in basic, practical ways. In our office space we have toiletries and food stuffs for those in need, when funds are available; we are still a fully grassroots organization working mainly off of personal funds.

We continue to get push-back from white people for holding QTPOC-only spaces, even though white-run venues and larger

LoriKim and Rahzie are co-directors of BlackCuse pride.

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events purporting to be for everyone routinely do discriminate against us and lack inclusion. Finding locations in the city to hold our events is difficult. Finding community in LGBTQ+ spaces here is even harder.

When seeking a venue we are routinely met with statements like, "we don't play your type of music" which is as thinly veiled a racist statement as, "we don't allow your kind here." When trying to frequent these establishments, we are often met with racism and homophobia from patrons and staff alike; racism and homophobia in the straight spaces, racism and transphobia in the queer spaces. Microaggressions run high, but other larger bigoted actions also overshadow any attempts for a good time out. Even the Syracuse Pride event is held on the same day as Juneteenth (an issue we have been working to rectify with the event organizers for years now and getting much resistance). QTPOC representation at that event is low to non-existent. The reality is that queer and trans people of color are the most marginalized peoples on this planet, and these dismissals are acts of violence. QTPOC communities suffer from the most violence at the hands of citizens and the state. So when you won't let us in your spaces, how can you have issues when queer and trans peoples of color hold space for themselves? White people are centered in every other space. QTPOC-only spaces are necessary as they are the only places where we are truly centered. These are spaces free from white guilt, free from the misconceptions of white

allyship (pro tip: taking up space in our spaces is the opposite of being an ally), free from the otherness created by viewing us as racialized people in contrast to whiteness. These are spaces for us to also work through the issues we have within and between our people of color communities. These conversations can only happen between us and away from white noise.

BlackCuse Pride sits unapologetically at the intersections of our collective realities while honoring the uniqueness of each of our experiences. This is why we stress the plurality of the words peoples and communities, because QTPOC have routinely been lumped into a convenient, homogenous identity of otherness that is neither useful nor fair. We are dedicated to the liberation of all peoples, but committed to lifting up the most marginalized of us in this liberation. We exist not as a social justice organization, but as a community resource with social justice in mind. Our peoples have fallen through the cracks for too long. We are here to lift QTPOC Syracuse up in all ways possible with generosity of spirit, love and respect. We see you shining and thriving. ♡

Want to help?

Please consider donating to BlackCuse Pride by visiting our GoFundMe page: <https://www.gofundme.com/blackcuse-pride-operational-fund>. QTPOC folks who want information or to be involved please email us at blackcusepride@gmail.com or send us a message on Facebook. You can also visit us at 2013 E. Genesee Street, Suite 3, Syracuse NY 13210.



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THE COMMUNITY'S VOICE: POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY IN SYRACUSE

by Coran Klaver

The Syracuse Police Accountability and Reform Coalition (SPAARC) came together in October, 2017 with representatives of the National Action Network, NY Civil Liberties Union and Legal Services of CNY to address issues of policing in the city of Syracuse. These were issues that each of these organizations was already working on independently and at times in coalition with one another; however, there was not a platform for sustained, systematic engagement with the issues of local policing similar to organizations in peer cities, such as the Rochester Coalition for Police Reform and “Enough Is Enough” (also in Rochester).

The fall, 2017 Syracuse mayoral race catalyzed members of these groups to come together, knowing that the new mayor would be responsible for hiring a new police chief and negotiating a new contract with the local police union.

Because the group has been exploratory, we have relied on the coalition groups and word of mouth for our membership. After initial meetings, the group settled on two main foci: 1) police accountability and transparency, particularly (though not exclusively) in terms of the Syracuse Police Department’s (SPD) cooperation with the Citizen’s Review Board (CRB) and the effectiveness of that board itself; and 2) the school-to-prison pipeline, including using SROs (school resource officers) in city schools and suspending students of color and students with disabilities.

Our first priority as a coalition was that the new police chief be chosen through a national—not internal—search process, increasing the likelihood that the new chief would come from outside the ranks of the current police force. This was because any officer who had been promoted through the ranks of the SPD would have 1) been acculturated to its racial biases and its tactics of over-policing city residents of color and 2) developed loyalties to individuals and groups within the ranks of the SPD that would make reform difficult.

SPAARC addressed this concern at then Mayor-Elect Walsh’s community transition meetings and were pleased at his announcement that his administration would conduct a national search. His administration was also responsive to our request for community input on this process. We organized to ensure that we had representatives at all of the mayor’s community conversations about the new police chief, reiterating a message of the need for a chief a) with a proven track record of cooperating with a citizen’s review board, b) who had a commitment to training culturally responsive policing and in de-escalation, and c) who would reject the current, militarized, us-versus-them models of SPD policing in high-poverty neighborhoods.

Up to this point, the coalition has largely acted as individuals and through coalition partners, because of the power of these



SPAARC called for “Counselors, Not Cops” at a Syracuse City School District Community Engagement Forum in May, 2018.

agents and out of a sense of need to protect the nascent organizational structure of the coalition. Behind the scenes, however, SPAARC has been meeting regularly to create strategies, talking points and concrete plans. Members and coalition partners of SPAARC were recently involved with other community groups in successfully calling for the removal of Officer Vallon Smith as an SRO from Nottingham High School after the CRB found that he had used excessive force in an incident leading to the fracturing of a 14-year-old student’s elbow. We have begun to renew community engagement at the CRB’s public meetings, including a mass showing at a CRB meeting at which a SPAARC member demanded that the CRB take its watchdog role more seriously. We played a key role in organizing over 70 community members to show up at a Syracuse City School District Community Engagement Forum in May calling for “Counselors Not Cops” in the city schools. The Coalition responded to the city’s plan to begin using 100 new body cameras by showing up at the public forums with a clear and consistent message of what a department body camera policy should include. There have also been letter writing campaigns, meetings with city officials, and other less visible advocacy and lobbying actions.

SPAARC now needs to bring in a broader base of community participation. One of our next big challenges will be trying to serve as the community’s voice as the mayor’s office goes into contract negotiations with the Policemen’s Benevolent Association. These contracts have been a key site of the erosion of police accountability and transparency in the last 20 years. One of the reasons is that all the pressure in these negotiations has come from one direction—the police union. SPAARC is working to change that in Syracuse, joining the work on the national level of the ACLU, Campaign Zero and others.

To join our efforts or for more information, contact: Coran Klaver at ccklaver@gmail.com or Andrew Croom at acroom@lscny.org 📧

Coran is one of the convening members of the Syracuse Police Accountability and Reform Coalition (SPAARC).

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND HUMAN HEALTH

by Hilary-Anne Coppola

As a country, the US' greatest privilege has always been the land it occupies. The vastness and diversity of ecosystems creates boundless opportunity for travel, cultural development, food security, and natural beauty. However, the history of the US is also filled with exploitative incidents of genocide, environmental destruction, and suffering of the vulnerable.

Our current government administration seeks to continue our traditions of eco-murder and xenophobia with extra fervor—see current immigration policies and the rollbacks on the endangered species act, air pollution regulations, and protections for national areas from mining and drilling. We are the second leading country in fossil fuel pollution, releasing over 5 million CO₂ emissions (kilotons) to China's almost 11 million. But our emission per capita (tons) is 16.1 to China's 7.7. The US leads the way to the destruction of our planet and ourselves.

Signs that the earth is warming are all around us in our immediate environment here in CNY: decreasing winter snows and higher winter temperatures leading to drier springs; pollinators and flowers emerging out-of-sync, resulting in lower crop yields; intense storms causing crop loss; parched ground leading to floods; and unpredictable weather patterns that reduce our economic stability. For some people, however, environmental illness is not enough of a sign or a reason to change. Consider, then, specific climate-related problems that have extreme human health and environmental impacts: "factory" and monoculture farming.

In intensive animal farming facilities, animals raised and used for meat not only suffer, but the meat is unhealthy due to prevalence of disease caused by little space, little sunlight, high stress, compromised diet, and overuse of medications. Humans

can develop serious medical conditions due to consuming this tainted meat. Not only is it dangerous to consumers, but the factory laborers are susceptible to illnesses such as lung disease and tuberculosis. Incarcerated populations are used to work in meat processing plants, where they risk injury and death. In addition to these atrocities, communities populated by people of color are often victims of unjust zoning regulations, which allow facilities to operate so close to residential areas that people are poisoned by pesticides and waste, mostly through soil and water. The results are respiratory disease, neurological issues, and mental illness symptoms.

Monoculture crops consist of one or a few plant species that take large amounts of acreage. This land naturally belongs as



To see full infographic visit <http://www.health-science-degree.com/food-poisoning>.

part of a complete and complex ecosystem. Low botanical diversity is not able to support soil health. Pesticides reduce the number of beneficial insects (did you know that 35% of all our food crops depend on insects?) surrounding the monoculture operation. When we eat this food, we ingest chemicals that cause respiratory disease, asthma, anxiety, depression, and cancers, among other illnesses. Farmers using monoculture methods often do not receive a reasonable return on investment

for their time, labor, and money, as with intensive animal farmers. Topsoil is depleted through these farming practices, and food quality is reduced. It is also projected that nutritional quality of crops such as rice will decrease as the global temperature continues to increase. Rice supplies about 25% of our food calories—three billion people worldwide rely on it as their main food source. The implications are catastrophic for human health.

The decisions we make about food are some of the most essential choices we have in trying to enact a positive change in our current system. The way we produce and process food in this country is a human rights issue. If we have the privileges of money, time, and opportunity, we should use them to make very deliberate decisions about the food we consume.

Four actions you can take, and encourage those around you to engage in (for their health!):

- Eat less meat, dairy, and eggs. This is a controversial recommendation, but one of the best ways to reduce your carbon footprint, reduce suffering, induce change in our food systems, decrease environmental pollution and degradation, and decrease human disease.
- Buy your food from local sources. There are many local farmers markets in the Syracuse area throughout the week, and CSA (community-supported agriculture) programs as well.
- Avoid packaged foods, especially those with more than five ingredients.
- Feed the hungry. Support charities like Heifer International, donate food from your garden to local charitable organizations, buy long-distance products from companies with ethical practices, get involved with local food production, etc.

Suggested Reading:

- *Deep Economy* by Bill McKibben
- *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle* by Barbara Kingsolver
- *In Defense of Food* by Michael Pollan
- *You Can Farm* by Joel Salatin
- *Diet for a Hot Planet* by Anna Lappe ♻️

Hilary-Anne Coppola is a trained natural history interpreter and is a 4-H Environmental Educator with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County. She currently is on the PNL and NOON committees at SPC.

JOHN BRULÉ !PRESENTE!

by Andy Mager

Perhaps it was no coincidence that longtime Syracuse Peace Council member John Brulé passed away on August 6, Hiroshima Day. John had been a consistent presence in SPC's processions to mourn this first use of nuclear weapons and recommit ourselves to the abolition of all weapons of mass destruction. He was an SPC activist for nearly five decades, gracing us with his wit, sweet smile, keen thinking and fierce commitment.

A few months after moving to Syracuse in the early 1980s, I was invited to a party at John and Sally Brulé's home even though I didn't know them, and was warmly welcomed as an SPC activist. As I continued to work with John and Sally, I understood that this was an expression of their generous spirits and sense of community. A year later, I found myself on the opposite side of John's advocacy for computerization of SPC's mailing list. Over the years we consistently joked about my Luddite tendencies being completely overrun by the digital age.

John joined SPC in the late 1960s after returning to Syracuse from the Philippines where he was a visiting engineering professor. John and Sally were involved in racial justice work through Catholic organizations, but as war in Viet Nam escalated, they made the connections between war, racism and economic exploitation, and found a political home

Andy is a former SPC staff organizer.



John speaking at a June, 2012 demonstration protesting then-President Obama's "Kill List," a list of individuals that the President decides to assassinate with reaper drones. This was in front of the Federal Building in downtown Syracuse. Photo: Carol Baum.


at SPC. John served on SPC's Steering Committee several times, Sally eventually joined the SPC Staff Collective, and their children became involved. During the war, John organized some 35 SU engineering and physics faculty to refuse to work on any military research projects. John was active in SPC when our tax exempt status was taken away during the Nixon regime as a result of our support of war tax resistance. Looking back on that time in 2005, John appreciated SPC's decision not to seek reinstatement of that status, noting, "We're going to be free

of that and do what we want." Working with other organizations, John saw the self limitations on action that usually accompany tax exempt status.

The Brulés returned to the Philippines several times (with John sharing computer technology and eventually email) and helped educate Central New Yorkers about the brutal Marcos regime and its cozy relationship with the US. John was also active with the ACLU and played a key role in the passage of a 2003 Syracuse Common Council resolution condemning the USA Patriot Act and other efforts to spy on, racially profile and intimidate residents of our community. In the late 2000s, John was one of the "three Johns"—Brulé, Oldfield and Jureller—who first understood the horror posed by the drone aircraft coming to Hancock Field. Their persistence in educating SPC members about this danger resulted in SPC's ongoing anti-weaponized drone activism. John participated in "Street Heat" and other anti-drone actions until he was no longer able to do so.

A few years after Sally's passing in 1998, John reconnected with Dolores Morgan, with whom he had worked in the Catholic Interracial Council in the mid 1960s. John and Dolores married and found ways to blend their diverse families until John's recent passing.

We say "John Brulé Presente," to say John is gone, but still with us, that his spirit lives on in the struggles that played such a central part in his long and productive life. ☮



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SPC, continued from page 4

TRUMP IS “WELCOMED” TO UPSTATE NY

As Air Force One set down in Central NY, the jester-in-chief was met by hundreds of voices in opposition to his administration. SEIU Local 1199 initiated a demonstration in Watertown and Indivisible Mohawk Valley initiated one in Utica. Members of the Syracuse Peace Council and the CNY Solidarity Coalition joined both actions to express their resistance. Both groups organized carpooling to the protests.

In Watertown, the opposition focused on healthcare with the prominent sign “Trump Care = No Care.” Speakers, including numerous veterans, contended that the tax money should be spent on the needs of the residents of Watertown and Jefferson County.

The Utica rally was large (estimated 500-2,000) and highly spirited. Demonstrators focused on a wide range of concerns as expressed with many creative signs and banners.

– Ron Van Norstrand

HEALTHCARE NOT WARFARE

On July 30, SPC joined the CNY AFL-CIO (Syracuse), Democratic Socialists of America, the CNY Alliance of Retired Americans, 1199SEIU and Physicians for a National Health Program CNY Chapter to celebrate the 53rd anniversary of Medicare and Medicaid. The rally called attention to the impact of Republican tax cuts for the rich on funding for Medicare and Medicaid.

SPC summer intern Askar Salikov spoke on behalf of the Peace Council about the need to cut the military budget and invest in universal healthcare. Other speakers shared personal stories about rising health insurance premiums and how Medicaid and Medicare had helped their families.

SPC is one of hundreds of organizations supporting the Campaign for New York Health, a statewide effort to pass and implement universal, single-payer healthcare in NYS. Learn more at www.nyhcampaing.org.

– Ursula Rozum

UJTF AND ALLIES STOOD UP FOR JOBS

On August 21, the Urban Jobs Task Force and its allies (SPC is a member) showed up for two SIDA (Syracuse Industrial Development Agency) hearings regarding the tax benefits requested by two developers. One was VIP Structures for its \$31 million redevelopment of the Post-Standard building, and the other was Gerharz Equipment for its \$5 million consolidation at 222 Teall Ave. of its two business locations.

In return for these tax benefits we asked the developers to include city residents on their projects. A week before the SIDA hearings, we contacted VIP Structures. The day before the hearing VIP met with us and committed to work with us again as it did on the South Ave. PriceRite build. That 2016/2017 collaboration resulted in 30% city residents and 30% minorities building the grocery store. We asked Gerharz to follow VIP's example.

– Aggie Lane

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SPC, continued from previous page

CNY SOLIDARITY COALITION

Since its infancy, the CNY Solidarity Coalition has had two main goals—to provide legislative momentum to counteract the harmful Trump era agenda and to promote connection and outreach to communities. Ideally, the work of outreach serves to inform the legislative work. This requires continued effort to learn from and understand local communities.

Recent community-centered Coalition meetings have focused on understanding impacted communities’ needs and on learning about the organizing and advocacy already occurring there. We met at the Northside Learning Center and learned about the services provided and the inspiring work of the New Americans Forum. At another meeting, Workers Center members spoke about the impacts of not having drivers’ licenses on local immigrant communities. The Coalition is working to be responsive to communities’ expressed needs.

In addition to a weekly legislative action alert, the Coalition publishes a weekly community outreach event calendar where community events, political education, meetings and fundraisers are shared. Learn more at www.cnysolidarity.org. and sign up to receive our alerts and meeting schedule.

– Marianna Kaufman

ALLIANCE FOR A GREEN ECONOMY

Alliance for a Green Economy (AGREE) works for a carbon-free, nuclear-free, energy-efficient future. Currently we’re:

- Working to save community solar by fighting “Darth VDER,” the complicated and discriminatory Value of Distributed Energy Resources policy that’s thwarting community solar in many parts of NY. VDER has caused hundreds of community and commercial solar projects across NY to come to a halt. Stay tuned!

- Drawing attention to the Cuomo administration’s nuclear bailout and making a strong case for building renewables instead of propping up last century’s problematic energy sources. (www.tinyurl.com/ycqxsm2). Sign on to support choosing 100% New York renewable energy instead of paying nuclear subsidies at www.allianceforagreeneconomy.org/100NYGreen.

- The people who brought you Solarize team up to bring you NYSERDA’s program for heating (and cooling) buildings using ground-source or air-source heat pumps! Check out www.HeatSmartCNY.org for upcoming events.

SPC is represented on AGREE’s Steering Committee.

– Andra Leimanis

ACTIVIST APPRECIATION: CAROLINE KIM TIHANYI



Caroline (l.) and Ursula Rozum at the Pre-Eid Bazaar held by the Islamic Society of CNY in August, 2018.

Since joining SPC through her work with immigrants’ rights, Caroline has been a diligent member of the Steering Committee for two years and a constant supportive presence at rallies and protests. She played an important part in creating our first Membership and Visioning Meeting in January, helping coordinate an uplifting event. This summer, we were thrilled that she joined in organizing our annual Hiroshima Day Procession. She connected this year’s procession with the local refugee community by facilitating a party for kids in the Northside CYO summer

program to make paper dove props to carry in the procession, and was phenomenal as our media spokesperson.

Caroline always brings an aura of warmth and mindfulness, keeping our spirits up during times of political turmoil. A strong advocate for immigrants and refugees and a dedicated proponent for peace, we thank Caroline for her efforts and energy!

– Michaela Czerkies

A CALL FOR INTERNS

The new school year is here, and we are looking for eager, self-motivated interns to join our SPC team this fall. We are seeking applicants who have a passion for peace and social justice, and are interested in advocacy, activism, public outreach, collaborative governance and more. As a previous SPC intern, this summer has been one of the most formative times of my life, where I could educate myself on a panoply of local and global social issues, create lifelong bonds with local activists and community members, and develop

administrative and organizational skills that will help me move toward a career in international relations.

Start dates and work hours are flexible, although we do require interns to work 5-10 hours a week. Applicants from all fields are encouraged to apply. For more information visit www.peacecouncil.net/ intern or contact the office.

– Askar Salikhov

Askar with the Trump Chicken at the protest in Watertown (see page 14). Photo: Carol Baum.

