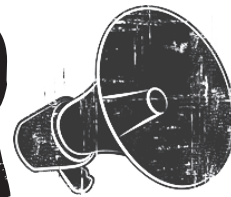


PEACE NEWSLETTER



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One has not only a legal, but a moral responsibility to obey just laws. Conversely, one has a moral responsibility to disobey unjust laws. — MLK

PEACE AND JUSTICE ACTIVISTS ON TRIAL

by Julia Ganson

Kings Bay Plowshares 7—Nuclear Action by Catholic Workers

Ithaca local Clare Grady is facing charges in the US District Court in Brunswick, Georgia, for participation in the Kings Bay Plowshares Nuclear Disarmament case. Clare and six co-defendants, all longtime Catholic Workers, were arrested at the Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base on the Georgia coast on April 4, 2018 after entering the nuclear submarine base and pouring their own blood on a bunker housing nuclear warheads. This base is the homeport to at least six Trident nuclear submarines, each of which is armed with thermonuclear weapons, carrying multiple warheads which

have 7 to 25 times the explosive power of the weapon that destroyed Hiroshima in 1945.

Their aim was to call attention to the horror of nuclear weapons and the grave danger the world is in due to the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Acting upon their Catholic faith, they were following the command of the prophet Isaiah to “beat swords into plowshares,” symbolically disarming the nuclear weapons. In their indictment against the US Government, they asserted their right and duty to civil resistance against the use and development of nuclear weapons. As Mark Colville, one of the defendants, declared in an affidavit previously submitted to the court: “Nuclearism doesn’t simply stand apart from Christianity. It refutes all of the basic tenets of Christian faith....”

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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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JUSTICE FOR PALESTINE 2019 CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF

At Plowshares 2018, Justice for Palestine (JfP) continued its tradition of having a table with information on human rights issues and bottles of Palestinian olive oil for sale. Also in December, one member attended a conference sponsored by American Friends Service Committee called "What Would Justice Look Like: Moving Towards a Just Peace in Palestine and Israel," which focused on two current national campaigns: "Israeli Military Detention: No Way to Treat a Child" and "Gaza Unlocked."

JfP held an event titled "Palestine: Behind the Wall" on January 22 to discuss Palestinian rights issues and opportunities for action, and to kick off our local campaign petitioning Congressional representatives to co-sponsor the Promoting Human Rights by Ending Israeli Military Detention of Palestinian Children Act. We'll need volunteers to help with peti-



Graphic: American Friends Service Committee

tioning, data-entry, outreach calls and more. To get involved, contact michaela@peacecouncil.net.

– Julia Ganson

COMMUNITY FOR THE GRID

SPC supports the Community Grid option for replacing the I-81 viaduct through downtown Syracuse (see the November/December 2018 *PNL*; also, rethink81.org has a lot of great information). The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is coming out soon, which means now is the time for focused organizing.

How can you help?

Sign a postcard for the grid (communityforthegrid.com); call Gov. Cuomo (518-474-8390) and the NYS Depart-

ment of Transportation (855-481-8255); attend an I-81 information session and ask questions; participate in weekly canvassing (see facebook.com/communitygrid for dates and locations of the info sessions and canvassing). Once the DEIS is out, there will be a 45-day comment period. Be sure to comment—it is critical that Syracusans and suburban allies show their support for the grid.

For more information, contact Misse at 8764598@gmail.com.

– Carol Baum

GET INVOLVED WITH SPC!

We've experienced numerous foreign and domestic policy disasters during these past two years of the Trump administration and Republican-controlled Congress, from ever-increasing military spending, to Trump's withdrawal from the Iran Deal, to the US embassy in Israel moving to Jerusalem. But in every instance, SPC organizers have responded with action!

As we begin a new year, there are new organizing opportunities for peace and justice. There are many ways to get involved with SPC—if you like working in groups, try out a committee. If you like talking politics with people, participate in petitioning efforts. If you're artistic, help us develop creative content and

promotional materials. If you like easy busy work, do a little data-entry.

Every small piece of our organizing efforts is an essential part of our larger political goals. If you're looking for a way to take action, there's something here at SPC for everyone.

– Michaela Czerkies

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NEIGHBORS OF THE ONONDAGA NATION

We are busy with a few different ongoing projects.

Supporting Friends of the Onondaga Lake Bald Eagles. This group grew out of resistance of the Onondaga County chapter of the Audubon Society to the County's plans to build a trail on Murphy's Island. This site is host to 43 eagles, and some are showing signs related to nesting. We are petitioning to protect the bald eagles of Murphy's Island. For more information, contact Richelle Brown at 703-946-6804 or richellecbrown@gmail.com, or visit the Friends of OL Bald Eagles on Facebook.

Reprinting our Neighbor to Neighbor booklet on paper and digitally. The Pomeroy Foundation has made a generous contribution to our reprinting project. We thank Phil Arnold and Adam Brett for their expertise, which will result in a digitally available copy.

Witness to Injustice workshops. NOON has facilitated workshops for numerous groups, including at Le Moyne College, the Skä•noñh Center, the Gandhi Center in Rochester, Syracuse University, and several local churches. We will offer a workshop during ArtRage Gallery's upcoming exhibition, "Kokom Lena of the First Nation Algonquin," photos by Michael Greenlar. It's **Sunday, February 12, 1-4 pm at ArtRage**. Then on **Thursday evening, March 21** we will present "How to be an Ally to Indigenous People," also at ArtRage.



Witness to Injustice Workshop at the Skä•noñh Center on Onondaga Lake. Photo: Kristin Mosher

Columbus Day. NOON members have participated in a city-supported dialogue circle on Columbus Day. There will be four more circles, and we encourage people to participate. Contact Cindy (cindysquillace@gmail.com), Jack (jpmanno@esf.edu), or Interfaith Works directly (info@interfaithworkscny.org).

– Hilary-Anne Coppola

NEW YEAR'S EVE VIGIL



Julienne Oldfield and Geoff Oldfield braving the rain with their message at the New Year's Eve Vigil. Photo: Sophie Oldfield

Despite the heavy downpour on New Year's Eve, approximately 25 of us held the annual Peace Council Vigil at Clinton Square in downtown Syracuse. We held signs that reflected our efforts in 2018; e.g., to end the war and consequent devastation in Yemen, end the apartheid in Palestine and end the militarization of our culture and the consequent waste of our resources.

We also sought to bolster each other for the critical struggles ahead. Ann Tiffany said it best, as she referenced Chris Hedges' comment that "sometimes it feels like a mouse squeaking against an avalanche, but squeak we must." So, we held our signs in the rain, not knowing with any certainty that we were effective, embodying Ann's new mantra: "I have to keep squeaking!"

– Ron Van Norstrand

THE HOT ACTIVISM OF STREET HEAT

In spite of the cold, we continue to be out on the streets once a month at the main entrance to Hancock Air Base (home of the 174th Attack Wing of reaper drones, 6000 E. Molloy Rd., DeWitt) on the **first Tuesday of the month from 4:15-5pm**. Come April we'll be out again every week.

Please join us—bring a sign or use one of ours. Contact Ann Tiffany or Ed Kinane at 315-478-4571.

CNY SOLIDARITY

In the post-election world, CNY Solidarity Coalition will continue to align with the Indivisible network to promote progressive change at national, state and local levels. Highly recommended reading are the two new papers put out by Indivisible, available on their website: *Indivisible on Offense* (how to use our constituent power to go on offense) and *Indivisible States* (for organizing at the state level).

We also continue to focus on understanding and addressing issues of privilege, poverty and the struggles of marginalized groups in our community. In addition to our close relationships with our member organizations, we actively support our members' involvement with a number of community groups. We are learning from those who are doing this critical work. Through these efforts we hope to increasingly become authentic allies in a common effort to advance the cause of social justice.

Info and sign-ups for Action Alerts at cnysolidarity.org.

– Peter McCarthy

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DIVEST FROM WAR CRIMES AND MIGRANT DEATHS

by Ursula Rozum



Gaza has been under a land and sea blockade by Israel and Egypt since 2007. The two million people living in this 7-mile-long area are facing a humanitarian crisis. Medicines are close to running out. 95% of the water is unfit for drinking.

Since March 30, 2018, Israel has killed 250 Palestinians involved in the Great Return March protests—those killed include journalists wearing “PRESS” and medics like 20-year-old Rouzan Al-Najjar, whose murder the *New York Times* referred to as “possibly a war crime.” Protesters have been gathering weekly at the border to demand their internationally recognized right to return to their families’ lands—from which they were expelled in 1948—and an end to the blockade that makes Gaza unlivable.

The people of Gaza face continuous assaults from the Israeli military, which treats the territory as a laboratory for testing weapons. These weapons are

then marketed abroad as “battle tested” and “combat proven.” In 2014, a 51-day bombing campaign on Gaza killed over 2000 civilians, including at least 550 children. Less than a month after the massacre, Israel hosted its annual drone expo to showcase the weaponry that had been “battlefield proven.”

Elbit Systems is Israel’s largest weapons company and has helped make Israel the world’s leading exporter of military and surveillance drones. Elbit’s weaponized drones are involved in all of Israel’s major offensives on Gaza. Presently, Elbit surveillance drones guide the Israeli snipers who kill Palestinian protestors involved in the Great Return March. Outside of Gaza, Elbit provides surveillance technology for Israel’s apartheid wall in the West Bank, a structure which the International Court of Justice declared as illegal.

Israel maintains its occupation and repression of the Palestinian people largely through the military aid and diplomatic support provided by the United States. The Obama administration approved \$38 billion in US military aid to Israel over the course of 10 years (roughly \$10

million every day in US taxpayer dollars). 1% of this military aid must be spent with US weapons manufacturers Lockheed Martin, Raytheon, Boeing and Northrup Grumman. This tight-knit relationship is reciprocal and benefits Israeli weapons companies. Elbit is a top recipient of US Department of Homeland Security contracts for surveillance along the US-Mexico Border.

In 2004, Hermes drones (manufactured by Israel’s Elbit Systems) were the first unmanned aerial surveillance vehicles deployed at the US southern border. US Customs and Border protection contracted with Elbit Systems in 2014 for sensors, cameras, radars and “integrated fixed towers” in the desert along the Arizona border. The towers are based on the technology used by Elbit in the construction of Israel’s apartheid wall in the West Bank, which separates Palestinians from their ancestral lands and families. The towers in the Arizona borderlands, like the border itself, are an assault on the lands of the indigenous people of the area, the Tohono O’odam, many of whom actively oppose the construction of these structures on their land.

The Elbit surveillance towers in southeast Arizona are intentionally positioned in the desert miles away from the border wall to track migrants once they have crossed. According to testimony from migrants, when Border Patrol locates groups of people who have crossed, they fly their helicopters close to the ground. This tactic purposely scares and scatters groups, separating them in the desert and decreasing chances of survival.

The Arizona Elbit towers are rooted in a sinister 1994 Clinton-era strategy of “Prevention Through Deterrence” which aimed to prevent illegal immigration by sealing off urban entry points into the US such as those in San Diego and El Paso. The intention was to funnel migrants through wilderness routes where they risk injury, dehydration, heat stroke, exhaustion and hypothermia. Rather than decrease migration, the policy only

continued on next page

Ursula works with CODEPINK as the Palestine Campaigns Coordinator. In November 2018, she visited the Arizona borderlands to learn about the impact of Elbit surveillance towers. She can be reached at ursula@codepink.org.

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increased migrant deaths. According to Border Patrol, over 6,000 people have died trying to cross the desert since the 1990s. Volunteers from organizations like No More Deaths hike the trails and leave water, food, socks, blankets and other supplies. In unnecessary acts of cruelty, Border Patrol agents are known to destroy the water pitchers. Meanwhile, volunteers from No More Deaths currently face federal felony charges for providing aid to undocumented migrants.

In October 2017, when camera crews gathered in San Diego, California for the unveiling of President Donald Trump's border wall prototypes, the only foreign contractor on display was ELTA, a subsidiary of Israel Aerospace Industries. US and Israeli military contractors are making billions in profits for their investors from a system that activists have come to call "border imperialism." A term coined by anthropologist Harsha Walia, border imperialism conceptualizes how capitalism and racism manifest in the form of militarized border enforcement to control land, maintain inequality and oppression, and reinforce white European cultural dominance. This is the case

in Israel, where Elbit and US military contractors allow Israel to maintain and expand its occupation of Palestinian lands. Border imperialism is on full display in the Americas as politically imposed borders are increasingly militarized, migration is criminalized, and corporations like Elbit and the for-profit prison company Core Civic reap profits.

The borderlands migrant justice movement has shined a light on the presence of Israeli military contractors there since they first arrived. Elbit Systems has factories and university partnerships throughout the United States and donates money to Congressional campaigns every year in order to maintain access to US government contracts. The movement to divest from war and repression is growing. Recently, after a successful campaign by UK activists, HSBC bank announced that it would divest from Elbit Systems, citing concerns over human rights. Swedish and Norwegian pension funds divested from Elbit in 2009, and over the last decade activists worldwide have pushed universities and banks to follow suit.

In the US, CODEPINK is launching a campaign to push the investment

firm Bank of NY Mellon to divest from Elbit Systems. BNY Mellon claims to be committed to socially responsible investment and UN Sustainable Development goals, yet holds shares in Elbit Systems. Israel is able to maintain its occupation and repression of Palestinian people through technology from companies like Elbit, and through military aid and diplomatic support from the United States. Support for Palestinian rights is on the rise in the US, as is opposition to unconditional support for Israel. While the US Congress is unlikely to approve sanctions against Israel, banks divesting from Elbit Systems is a piece of eroding the institutional and economic support that allows Israel to commit war crimes with impunity.

In the Spring, CODEPINK and partners around the country will be organizing rallies at BNY Mellon branches across the country, including in Syracuse and New York State. Learn more and join the fight to divest from war and Elbit Systems at codepink.org/stoppelbit.





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SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY IS COMPLICIT IN THE WAR ON YEMEN

by Jamie Gagliano and Anthony Walker

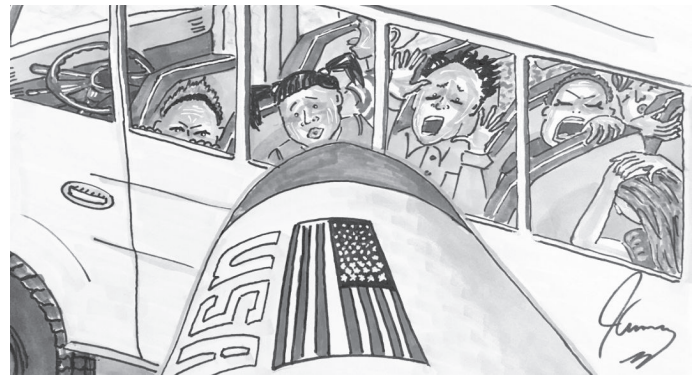
In August, a bomb was deployed against a school bus killing 40 children in Yemen. On a surface level, this may not appear to have any connection with our community here in Syracuse. However, as CNN reported, the “weapon that left dozens of children dead on August 9 was a 500-pound laser-guided MK 82 bomb made by Lockheed Martin,” a US arms manufacturer that has a plant in Syracuse’s neighboring suburb Salina. Yet Lockheed Martin continues to evade widespread scrutiny in part because of its relationship with Syracuse University, another major Syracuse employer.

Lockheed Martin has played a significant role in the nearly four year conflict in Yemen perpetuated by a US-backed Saudi-led coalition of Gulf states. This conflict has generated a grave humanitarian crisis. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights estimates that Saudi-led coalition air strikes and shelling have caused nearly two-thirds of civilian deaths in Yemen. The coalition is exacerbating famine conditions by securing blockades of Yemen’s seaports. Much of the weaponry supplied to the coalition comes from US defense contractors, including recent \$481 million deals for Lockheed Martin. Lockheed has been awarded multiple contracts that include missile defense systems, long-lead materials, and Saudi naval expansion.

The brutal murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi and the August school bus bombing galvanized the US Senate to vote to withdraw US military support of Saudi Arabia’s conflict in Yemen. However, this may remain a largely symbolic act. While a ceasefire was negotiated in early December for the central port city of Hodeida, it is incredibly fragile. Even if it holds, the conflict is far from over; the Saudi coalition continues bombing the capital, Sanaa. The tenuous ceasefire and the Senate’s weak symbolism highlight the need for action that targets the profit motives fueling international conflict—actions which should include rupturing the long-standing connection between Lockheed Martin and Syracuse University.

Lockheed Martin has developed a clear relationship with Syracuse University (SU) through the Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVFM). In 2013, Lockheed Martin donated \$500,000 to IVFM programs that assist veterans and families transition into post-service life; in 2016, they donated \$1,000,000 to a program that encourages business ownership amongst veterans. The IVFM’s advisory board includes representatives from JP Morgan Chase & Co., Verizon Entertainment—and Lockheed Martin. Financial ties also extend beyond the IVFM. In 2006, Lockheed Martin gave \$250,000 to Smith College of Engineering and Computer Science to attract “the highest caliber of engineering students.”

Jamie and Anthony are masters students and teaching assistants in the geography department at Syracuse University. They are committed to anti-imperialist and intersectional working-class solidarity. They are also members of Syracuse Graduate Employees United, a labor union for SU graduate workers.



Graphic: twitter.com/JimCarrey. He wrote, “40 innocent children killed on a bus in Yemen. Our ally. Our missile. Our crime.”

SU’s relationship to Lockheed Martin is particularly troubling since one of the six themes of its Academic Strategic Plan is “Commitment to Veterans” with the goal to “distinguish Syracuse as the premier university for veterans, military-connected students, and families.” While this is an admirable goal and the above programs may deserve to be financed, it is contradictory that such an ambitious effort at veteran support is funded in part by a defense contractor that profits from putting these people in the context of war to begin with. Rather than representing a spirit of generosity, these donations are an active investment on the part of the company. They may, for example, secure influence over IVFM programming, including programs that connect veterans directly to Lockheed Martin. More insidiously, donations generate for Lockheed Martin a benevolent image of good-will while they profit at the expense of the lives of veterans, military families, and Yemenis. If SU truly wants to distinguish itself as a supportive environment for veterans and military families, its programs should be solely accountable to those directly impacted by the traumas of war.

More importantly, SU cannot in good conscience maintain relationships with Lockheed Martin as Lockheed continues to profit off indiscriminate killing. The Syracuse community should draw inspiration from protests against Saudi connections to Harvard, Yale, and MIT, and remember its legacy of anti-war activism, including shutting down the campus in the spring of 1970 to protest the US war in Vietnam and invasion of Cambodia. While the Yemen war continues today, we cannot remain silent. As dissident Saudi academic Madawi Al Rasheed recently urged on Democracy Now: “Americans should ask themselves this question: Is America just an arms dealer, a manufacturer of heavy armament to be sold to dictatorships around the world, or is there something else that America stands for?”

Please see the online version of this article to access the many links included: <https://peacecouncil.net/programs/peace-newsletter>.

THE PROGRESSIVE NEW YORK STATE AGENDA

We Be People

of New York have elected a true blue state government. For the first time since 2010, Democrats now control the Assembly, Senate and Governorship. In 2019 we have the potential to pass progressive legislation that has been stuck in limbo due to a Republican-controlled Senate. New York has the power to strengthen women's reproductive rights, establish a universal health care system, reform voting rights, fix our broken criminal justice system and pass immigration rights. 2019 is a year for progressive empowerment to grow our communities. Please take the time to understand the issues progressive groups are mobilizing for and help advocate for a New York we can be proud of.

WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

By passing the Reproductive Health Act and Comprehensive Contraception Coverage Act, New York would finally decriminalize abortion, protecting a woman's rights regardless of potential challenges to Roe v. Wade at Federal Level. If we pass the RHA in 2019, New York State would treat abortion as health care, not a criminal act. Abortion would be regulated under public health law rather than the criminal code. For more information visit www.rhavote.com.

VOTER EMPOWERMENT

Democracy only works when citizens vote. In the 2018 election, we saw long lines at polls, and some voters were purged. We need to update New York's antiquated voting laws to provide additional opportunities for all individuals to vote. We are the only state with two primary elections. By consolidating these primaries, we can save millions of dollars every two years. First steps to voting reform include early voting, automatic voter registration, flexibility to change parties and restoring voting rights for people on parole. As we empower everyone to vote, we can continue to work towards rank choice voting and fair redistricting to ensure every New Yorker's vote is heard. Join Fair Elections for New York on February 12, 2019 in Albany for a day of action. www.fairelectionsny.org/day-of-action.

FULLY FUNDED EDUCATION

To date, Governor Cuomo has refused to address inequality in public education resulting in New York having the second highest funding inequality between wealthy and poor school districts across the nation. It is time for our elected state senators and assembly members to hold him accountable to ensure all schools are fully funded, including the persistently shorted Syracuse City School District. We need to provide equal opportunity to all children and stop the school-to-prison pipeline. Visit www.agency.org to join the fight for education.

CLIMATE JUSTICE

Scientists have concluded that climate change is impacting us now. New York needs to take action in 2019 to ensure New York's land, water and air are clean for us and the next generation. We need the Governor to commit to 100% renewable energy usage, pass the Climate and Community Protection Act in tandem with stopping all new development of fossil fuel infrastructure and holding polluters accountable will create

How a Bill Becomes a Law



Elected Official has a new policy idea or share your ideas with them.



The idea is drafted into a bill.



Bill undergoes committee process.



Senate and Assembly pass bill.



Bill is signed by Governor.



Your Role

Find your state representatives at:

SENATOR

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

Twenty-five thousand New Yorkers are held in county jail, many before trial. In 2019 we need to end cash bail and provide transparent, prompt trials to all individuals. We also need to call our representatives to support the Less Is More: Community Supervision Revocation Reform Act which can reduce jail and prison populations, support people in the reentry process, and promote safety and justice for families and communities. Join Unchained and Katal in the #LessIsMoreNY campaign to get this bill passed!

GUN SAFETY

New Yorkers need strong gun safety laws to ensure our places of education, worship and business are safe for all of us. Outlawing weapons assembled from 3D printers or parts obtained online, enforcing a 10-day waiting period and passing Red Flag laws will enable New Yorkers to exercise their 2nd amendment rights while providing safety to our communities. www.momsdemandaction.org

UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE

Healthcare should and can be a universal right. The New York Health Act would establish universal coverage with a single-payer health insurance. Passing the NYHA will take the first steps to providing every New Yorker with access to healthcare with no co-pays or deductibles. 89% of New Yorkers can reduce their health care costs, and we can provide access to the over one million New Yorkers currently uninsured. Visit www.nyhcampaign.org to sign their petition, canvass and to share your healthcare story.

IMMIGRATION RIGHTS & PROTECTION

In New York, one in five people are immigrants. To ensure that everyone in our communities is protected from tyranny we need to stop anti-immigration policies. We need to ensure our justice system works for all by taking legal action to keep ICE out of courthouses. The Liberty Act bill needs to be passed to make New York a true sanctuary state prohibiting state and local agencies from passing New Yorkers to ICE agents. The DREAM Act and Green Light NY bills need to be passed to allow access to higher education and driver's licenses for increased opportunity and involvement in our communities. To advocate for immigrant rights visit www.workerscnyc.org and www.nycic.org for more information.

ENDING CORRUPTION

The power of government needs to be returned to all New Yorkers, not influenced or controlled by corporations with money. Empower the Attorney General to investigate public corruption at all levels. Ban "Pay-to-Play" donations and donations to and from political appointees. New York needs real campaign reform including greater donor transparency, limits to outside income, closing the LLC loophole and enacting a fully publicly financed state election.

AWAKENING DEMOCRACY

The New York State Legislative Session runs from January 9th through June 19th. Over this period there are 60 days when the assembly and senate are in session. In 2018 we turned NY blue; 2019 calls for continued action to ensure our elected state representatives act to pass progressive legislation. Your state representatives need to hear from you as much as possible. Call their offices, schedule appointments with them and their staff, write letters to the editor of your local papers on bills and issues you want to see passed and why they benefit you, your community and all New Yorkers.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER
<https://www.nyasembly.gov/mem/search/>

Call your representatives and schedule meetings to advocate for the bills and issues you support.

Example: Hi, I'm calling to voice my support the NY Health Act because I believe health care is a human right. My zip code is _____. Thank you.

Governor :
Andrew Cuomo
1-518-474-8390

Attorney General:
Letitia James
1-800-771-7755

53rd State Senate:
Rachel May
315-478-8745 | 518-455-2838

50th State Senate:
Bob Antonacci
315-428-7632 | 518-455-3511

127th Assembly District:
Al Stirpe
315-452-1115 | 518-455-4505

128th Assembly District:
Pam Hunter
315-449-9536 | 518-455-5383

129th Assembly District:
William Magnarelli
315-428-9651 | 518-455-4826

At her recent presentation at Syracuse's All Saints Church on January 6, Clare told the story of the non-violent direct actions of the "Kings Bay Plowshares 7" and focused on her own inspirational journey of non-violent resistance. The seven arrested are charged with conspiracy, destruction of property on a naval station, depredation of government property, and trespass. If found guilty, they face up to 25 years in federal prison.

Clare and her co-defendants have countered the charges with an indictment of their own, citing the US government with war crimes. She and her co-defendants argue that on the basis of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) the charges against them should be significantly reduced or dismissed. The standard established by RFRA requires the federal government to use "the least restrictive means" to limit religious practices. This defense has been used in cases where Native Americans have been charged with the use of hallucinogenic drugs in traditional ceremonies, and in a suit supporting a community of Catholic nuns who protested a gas pipeline being imposed on their property.

Clare and four others were released with electronic surveillance ankle devices; two others remain in prison in Georgia. They asked the court to dismiss these prosecutions because nuclear weapons are illegal under US law, illegal under US Treaty Law, and illegal under international law. The US Magistrate will rule on the pre-trial motions, including whether religious beliefs of activists can be used as a defense, after which the trials will begin (most likely in February).

Water Protectors

Indigenous and non-native activists around the country continue to act in nonviolent direct opposition against oil and gas pipelines and facilities that threaten water sources. There have been 838 cases in North Dakota of activists being arrested at Standing Rock, most recently during the mandated cleanup

closing of the camps. Seventeen have resulted in convictions.

Several Lakota water protectors are currently serving prison sentences since summer 2018: Michael "Little Feather" Giron is serving 36 months and Red Faron Fallis is serving 57 months, both having entered "non-cooperative plea agreements" for actions. Another water protector, Michael "Rattler" Marcus—an Oglala Lakota, a descendant of Chief Red Cloud and a Marine veteran—entered a non-cooperative plea in September 2018 and is serving 36 months in federal prison.

In September 2018, Dennis Lehmann of Freeman, South Dakota was found guilty of Class A misdemeanor charges of physical obstruction of a government function. The judge sentenced him to 90 days of unsupervised probation and ordered him to pay court fines. A member of Mennonite Disaster Service, a relief group that cleans up after major catastrophes, Lehmann was at Oceti Sakowin to help clean up the camp, load trailers, and salvage valuable materials. Similar to the Kings Bay Plowshares 7, Lehmann's stance was informed by his faith.

Water Protector Legal Collective (WPLC) is the on-the-ground legal team for the Dakota Access Pipeline resistance at Standing Rock. They continue to maintain a presence in North Dakota and provide legal advocacy, jail and court support, criminal defense, and civil and human rights protection to the Native peoples and their allies who gathered at the ceremonial resistance camps. (See waterprotectorlegal.org for updates on the legal cases of water protectors, including a newsletter started by WPLC in December 2018.)

Direct nonviolent actions continue across the US, which draw attention to people's rights to clean, safe water as a basic human right. Three water protectors were arrested in Fond du Lac, Minnesota last summer, after erecting a tipi to block entrance to an illegal pipeline construction site by the Enbridge Corporation.

Border/Immigration

In December, 2018, thirty-two religious leaders and justice activists were arrested

at the border fence in San Diego and near Tijuana, Mexico for non-violent civil disobedience. The action was organized by American Friends Service Committee and included 300 participants, many of whom were leaders from churches, synagogues, mosques and indigenous communities who were showing support for immigrants at the border by "standing in love," as the Unitarian-Universalist motto advocates. Thirty-one individuals were arrested for suspicion of trespassing, and for assaulting a border agent.

ICE Eviction Protest in Syracuse

Last July 31 a group of several hundred protesters marched to the former Dey Brothers Building, the downtown Syracuse home of the Syracuse ICE (US Immigration and Customs Enforcement) office. This office is where immigrants are taken and shipped to detention centers, where families are separated. Demonstrators ask for ICE to be evicted from CNY and hope that others will join in the cause of making CNY safer for immigrants.

Once the demonstrators arrived, nine "Evict ICE" protesters stood with arms linked to block entry to the ICE offices while not affecting the other businesses in the building. Syracuse police arrested ten people—nine protesters and a bystander. They were charged with trespassing and held for about ten hours. After many court appearances, their trial is scheduled for Friday, February 1.

Upstate Drone Action



Hancock drone protest arrestees from a July 2018 demonstration have their next Dewitt court appearance on Wednesday, February 13 at 3pm before Judge Jokl for motions in response to their charges. Supporters are welcome and are encouraged to join anti-drone activists in their first Tuesday of the month protests in front of the airbase and drone pilot training facility (see Street Heat, page 4). ☯

Julia is a local activist and works with the DC whistleblower protection and advocacy organization Government Accountability Project. She is currently on a trip to the Mexican border.

FROM PANTHER 21 TO 21ST CENTURY REVOLUTIONS

by Latoya Lee

In 1966 in Oakland, California, Black community college students Bobby Seale and Huey Newton armed themselves, began patrolling the police and promised to end police brutality within Black neighborhoods in cities throughout the nation. Eventually, this revolutionary movement would become the Black Panther Party (BPP), a community-based organization that would position itself as an official challenge to American imperialism, with chapters in 68 cities and powerful allies around the world.

In commemoration of the 52nd anniversary of the founding of the BPP, we invite you to explore its history and politics as well as its connection to present-day social/political activism at an open forum panel discussion. Given the present climate involving police violence within inner city communities and the organization of the Black Lives Matter movement, this history takes on increased relevance.

Speakers include **Sekou Odinga**, a founding member of the Black Panther Party (Harlem Chapter) who has continued to build awareness of and advocate for the release of Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War; **dequi kioni-sadiki**, a Black feminist, educator for Liberation, artist, poet, chair of the Malcolm X Commemoration Committee, as well as prisoner and human rights activist who focuses on issues of political/mass imprisonment; and **Matt Meyer**, a Senior Research Scholar at the University of Massachusetts/Amherst Resistance Studies Initiative with a life-long pursuit of bridging gaps between academics and activists.

The event is February 23 from 6-9pm at ArtRage Gallery (505 Hawley Ave., Syracuse). All are welcome to this free event.

The three are speaking across the country. They are also promoting a book, *Look for Me in the Whirlwind: From the Panther 21 to 21st Century Revolutions*, edited by dequi kioni-sadiki, Matt Meyer and Cyril "Bullwhip" Innis Jr., with essays by Sekou Odinga and others. It is a history of the Panther 21, with new commentary and insights for today.

About the Book

In the era of Black Lives Matter, this chronicle of the Black Panther 21—the group charged in 1969 with conspiracy to commit violent acts in what became the longest trial in New York history—is more relevant than ever.

In the tumultuous year of 1969, amid music festivals and moon landings, assassinations and million-person antiwar mobilizations, 21 members of the militant New York branch of the BPP were rounded up and indicted on multiple charges of violent acts and conspiracies. They were charged with plans to blow up a variety of sites—from a police station in Manhattan to the Queens offices of the Board of Education to the Bronx Botanical Gardens. Though some among the NY Panther 21 had hardly even met one another, the group was gathered together as an obvious

attempt by the FBI, in cooperation with city and state authorities, to discredit, disrupt, and destroy the organization which was attracting so many young people across the world. In the ensuing preparation for a trial that would become the longest and most expensive in New York's history at the time, information came out about the FBI's illegal Counterintelligence Program



Panther 21 member Sekou Odinga is one of the speakers at an event on February 23 from 6-9pm to be held at ArtRage Gallery.

(COINTELPRO), as members of the BPP were assassinated, forced into exile, framed, and set against each other.

More About the Speakers

Sekou Odinga was a member of Malcolm X's Organization of Afro-American Unity, a founding member of the Black Panther International Section, and a member of the NY Panther 21. A citizen of the Republic of New Afrika and combatant of the Black Liberation Army, Sekou was captured in October 1981, spending 33 years behind bars. He was convicted in 1984 of charges related to his alleged involvement in the escape of Assata Shakur from prison and a Brink's armored car robbery. Since his release in November 2014, he has remained a stalwart fighter for justice and for the release of all political prisoners.

dequi kioni-sadiki is the chair of the Malcolm X Commemoration Committee and was a leader of the Sekou Odinga Defense Committee, which waged a successful campaign for the release of her husband. A tireless coalition-builder and organizer, dequi produces "Where We Live" on WBAI-Radio, Pacifica, is an educator with the NYC Department of Education and is a member of the Jericho Movement to Free All Political Prisoners.

Matt Meyer, an educator, activist and author, is the War Resisters International Africa Support Network Coordinator, and a United Nations/ECOSOC representative of the International Peace Research Association. Matt continues the fight for marginalized groups through the founding of a research delegation on the re-integration and treatment of child soldiers in West and Central Africa. ☯

Latoya is a sociology professor at SUNY Oswego and has been active in bringing these speakers to Central New York.

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DREAMERS MUST BE PROTECTED—AS INDIGENOUS PEOPLES WERE NOT

by Betty Lyons

Editors' note: This article was originally printed in the March 3, 2018 online version of The Guardian in response to the possible expiration of the legal immigration status of the Dreamers—those who came to the US as children and fell under Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals status, or DACA.

We as citizens of the original Indigenous Nations of this continent have been watching closely.

We have dealt with these issues ever since the first Europeans crossed the Atlantic and “discovered” lands you call the Americas, known to us for millennia as the Great Turtle Island or Abya Yala. Since the United States was founded on our lands in 1776, these policies and practices have had a devastating impact on the territories and rights of the Original Nations and our relatives from both north and the south of US borders.

For us, DACA is not an immigration crisis. It is a human rights crisis. And human rights cannot be deferred. Every day approximately 122 people lose DACA protection. This cruel policy immorally punishes and traumatizes innocent young people and their families.

As Indigenous Peoples, we know our history and we know our relatives. Many so-called “undocumented” people are in fact Indigenous Peoples, children of Original Nations with a millennial history of travel across the continent to trade and engage in ceremonial obligations at sacred sites of their traditional territories before the US existed.

The US-Mexico border is not an indigenous border. Similarly, to citizens of the Onondaga Nation—part of the Six Nation Haudenosaunee Confederacy, what you call the Iroquois—the US-Canadian border runs through traditional lands that we view as one inseparable nation.

Dividing families is something we cannot imagine doing to others, because we

have been through this pain many times at the hands of the same government. That is why we as Indigenous Peoples support immediate passage of a “clean” Dream Act, and it should definitely not be linked to funding a wall along the US-Mexico border that Indigenous Nations never consented to in the first place. A wall will exacerbate human rights violations and bring horrendous environmental destruction to the land.

When European colonists arrived and were hungry, we fed them. When they were cold we clothed them, and when they needed a place to stay we offered hospitality on our lands. And when they moved toward independence in confederation as a country, we instructed them in our Great Law of Peace.

If we are to truly discuss US immigration, we should start in 1493 with the “Doctrine of Discovery”, a series of papal bulls declaring lands not occupied by Christians could be claimed in the name of the explorers’ European sovereigns. Far from ancient history, the doctrine to this day underlies the law and policy related to Indigenous land rights and human rights in US courts and across the world. The lingering racism underpinned by the doctrine is the real “constitutional crisis” unfolding before us daily, a symptom of the underlying crisis of self-definition of the US body politic that lies at the root of the tree of the American “experiment” in democracy.

While the US constitution says that treaties—such as the 1794 Treaty of Canandaigua with the Haudenosaunee, signed by George Washington for the United States—are the supreme law of the land, the United States failed to enforce the promised recognition and protection of our lands from illegal invasion by settlers. As we have sought justice in the US courts for this illegal theft of our land, the courts refused to hear the case, citing the Doctrine of Discovery and claiming “it would be too disruptive” to the “justified expectations” of non-native people now living on our lands.

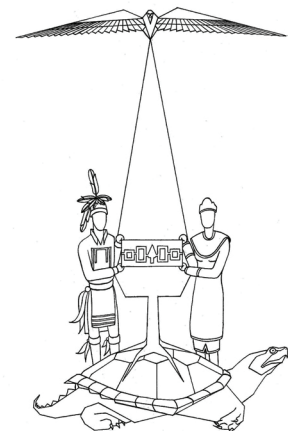
To be clear, the Onondaga Nation explicitly stated we do not want to “deport” people from our lands, the way we have been displaced historically. Yet while the US claimed it feared disrupting our non-native neighbors, they would hypocritically deport young Dreamers who have grown up in the US, with no regard for disrupting their lives and families.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) proclaims: “Indigenous peoples, in particular those divided by international borders, have the right to maintain and develop contacts, relations and cooperation, including activities for spiritual, cultural, political, economic and social purposes, with their own members as well as other peoples across borders.”

In the spirit of responsibility for caretaking the land for future generations, we call upon leadership from all sectors of society to live up to the ideals of democracy and decency, of human rights and justice and act immediately to protect Dreamers and their families, and to recognize, respect and guarantee basic dignity and inherent human rights of all peoples, including Indigenous Peoples’ equal right of self-determination.

No one is illegal. Human rights cannot be deferred. ☸

AMERICAN INDIAN LAW ALLIANCE



Graphic: www.aila.ngo

Betty, a citizen of the Onondaga Nation, is president of the American Indian Law Alliance.

TOXIC INSTIGATORS OF WAR: US MILITARY BASES AROUND THE WORLD

by Greta Zarro

Farmers in Washington State are concerned about the long-term viability of their land. Groundwater contamination and jet noise loud enough to cause hearing loss are just a few of the growing harms caused by the expansion of Navy training activities on Whidbey Island, Washington. Across the Pacific Ocean, the people of Okinawa, Japan never agreed to the development of foreign military bases on their land, yet it has been occupied by the US military since WWII. Currently, US bases cover 20% of the main island. Despite years of grassroots protest and resistance there, the US is in fact expanding its presence with a new Marine Corps Air Base at Henoko in northern Okinawa. Ongoing construction is decimating the habitat of the endangered dugong species and destroying precious coral reefs in Oura Bay.

Military bases dot the world's landscape. Today, the US has 150,000 troops deployed on more than 800 military bases in 80 countries. That's 95% of all foreign military bases worldwide. Bases cause enormous social and environmental damage. Communities living near bases often experience high levels of rape committed by foreign soldiers, other violent crimes, loss of land and livelihood, and pollution and other health hazards caused by everyday base operations as well as weapons testing. In many countries, the bilateral governmental agreement that permits the bases also grants immunity to foreign soldiers who commit crimes. Although local communities and international civil society have long called for the closure of these bases and an end to the occupation of these lands, there has been little success.

Greta is the Organizing Director of World BEYOND War (WBW). Prior to her work with WBW, she was a New York Organizer for Food & Water Watch on issues of fracking, pipelines, water privatization, and GMO labeling. Reach her at greta@worldbeyondwar.org.

However, 2018 was a pivotal year in the work to abolish military bases, with the growth of a unified, worldwide base closure movement. World BEYOND War was one of 17 organizations that founded the Coalition Against US Foreign Military Bases in January 2018. In November in Dublin, Ireland, the Coalition held the first International Conference Against US/NATO Military Bases. The Conference brought together over 300 activists from 35 countries to share struggles and successes, and to strategize campaign tactics for movement-building. The schedule and videos of the conference are at nounsato-bases.org. World BEYOND War is also a member of the newly launched US-based transpartisan Overseas Base Realignment and Closure Coalition (overseasbases.net), a collection of academics, consultants, veterans and former Congressmembers who are working to influence Congress and the Trump administration.

At the Dublin conference, World BEYOND War Director David Swanson remarked:

"A tiny fraction of what just the United States spends on foreign bases could end starvation, the lack of clean water, and various diseases. Instead we get these bases, these toxic instigators of war... War and preparations for war are the top destroyers of our natural environment. They are a top cause of death and injury and destruction. War is the top source of the erosion of liberties. The top justification for government secrecy. The top creator of refugees. The top saboteur of the rule of law. The top facilitator of xenophobia and bigotry. The top reason we are at risk of



Graphic: wagingpeacetoday.blogspot.com/2011/06/lockheed-martin-developing-ninja-robots.html.

nuclear apocalypse. War is not necessary, not just, not survivable, not glorious. We need to leave the entire institution of war behind us. We need to create a world beyond war."

Pat Elder, a member of World BEYOND War's Coordinating Committee, spoke at the conference about the severe groundwater contamination that is sickening communities near US military bases worldwide.

"Perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) are the active ingredients in the fire-fighting foam routinely used to train soldiers to extinguish aircraft fires at US military bases around the world. The toxic chemicals are allowed to leach into surrounding soil to poison groundwater. The result is one of the greatest water contamination epidemics in human history... The health effects of exposure to these chemicals include frequent miscarriages and other severe pregnancy complications, like long-term fertility issues. They contaminate human breast milk and sicken breast-feeding babies. PFOS and PFOA contribute to liver damage, kidney cancer, high cholesterol, decreased response to vaccines, an increased risk of thyroid disease, along with testicular cancer, micro-penis, and low sperm count in males."

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Pat's investigative work about this massive public health threat bolsters the call for closure of all military bases both here and abroad.

One focus at the Dublin conference was the campaign urging Ireland to comply with its policy of neutrality and cease the US military's use of Irish airports. Currently, the US military funnels tens of thousands of troops through Ireland's airports on their way to bases in the Middle East. Save the date for World BEYOND

War's #NoWar2019 Conference from October 3-5 in Limerick, Ireland, which will include a nonviolent demonstration at Shannon Airport.

To learn more and get involved in World BEYOND War's base closure campaign, you do not have to live near a military base (though we'd be surprised if you don't). We work to build alliances between local communities impacted by military bases and those who live near centers of governmental and military

power. Through diverse coalition-building and international networking, we help strengthen the collective voice of peace-makers to demand policies that value people and the planet over military might. See what we are working for at worldbeyondwar.org/bases.

The Beyond War and Militarism Committee, a joint committee of the Peace Council and the CNY Solidarity Coalition, is affiliated with World BEYOND War. ☸

SPC, continued from page 4

OUR PLANET IS ON FIRE

Join us in building community, collectively reducing emissions, and organizing to win the right and resources to do more. Alliance for a Green Economy (AllianceforaGreenEconomy.org) works for a just transition to a carbon-free, nuclear-free energy system and educates the public about alternatives that can revitalize the economy and safeguard public and environmental health.

Our new HeatSmart CNY initiative is helping people across CNY find out what it would take to get buildings off fossil fuels. Learn about building envelope improvements, cold-climate air source, geothermal, and hot water heat pumps. Attend open houses and workshops (event list at HeatSmartCNY.org) to connect with vetted installers and receive information about grants and credits. If you can afford to, switch now to



renewable heating; if you can't afford it, plan now to get off fossil fuels next time you replace a heating system.

— Andra Leimanis

ACTIVIST APPRECIATION: HILARY-ANNE COPPOLA

Hilary came to SPC as a summer intern with a strong commitment to environmental education and activism, a special interest in Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation (NOON) and the *Peace Newsletter* (PNL), and a willingness to try anything. She quickly became integral to our organizing, and we were thrilled that she decided to continue with SPC.

Hilary was one of the main organizers of NOON's "Celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day, Not Columbus Day" event in October, and has accepted major responsibility for editing PNL articles, in-

cluding writing articles herself. She has cheerfully taken on some of the "grunt" work that helps make things happen—taking minutes, setting up meetings and making phone calls.

Her "doing" of the work comes with an exceptional spirit. She deeply feels the human element of every political action, piece of writing and conversation, and acts with both her head and heart.

Thank you, Hilary. We are grateful for your presence and your work.

— Carol Baum

NUCLEAR FREE WORLD

The Nuclear Free World (NFW) Committee is excited to announce that, with Beyond War and Militarism, we are organizing a talk with Dr. Ira Helfand for March. Ira co-chairs Physicians for Social Responsibility's Nuclear Weapons Abolition Committee, and also is co-president of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW). He is on the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)'s International Steering Committee. Both IPPNW and ICAN are Nobel Peace Prize recipients.

NFW is taking part in the NY Campaign for Peace in Korea, a group of inter-generational Korean Americans and allies whose mission is to help bring an end to the nearly 70-year-old Korean War. Ending the war is a key step towards normalizing US relations with North Korea. Our part here in Syracuse is to meet with our representatives to promote this goal.

As part of the Reinvestment Alliance, NFW is keeping nuclear weapons a central issue. Reinvest CNY extends the "Don't Bank on the Bomb" campaign, which guides divestment individually and institutionally from banks and companies profiting from nuclear weapons. To learn more, see reinvestcny.com.

We continue to meet with our Senators' aides to support the Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act and to address the failed Pentagon audit.

We are accepting applications for the annual Peace Youth Award. Application and instructions available at peacecouncil.net/youthpeaceaward.

— Margrit Diehl and Diane Swords

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THE 48TH ANNUAL PLOWSHARES FESTIVAL IS NOW IN THE BOOKS



Plowshares Committee member Jonathan Trier organized large-scale composting for Plowshares this year. Photo: Carol Baum

Both Saturday and Sunday broke all existing records for attendance. 124 booths were staffed by community activists, painters, woodworkers, soap makers, ceramicists, fabric artists and others too numerous to mention. An expanded Silent Auction added to the fun and was an opportunity to support the work of the Peace Council. Wonderful food helped stimulate lively conversation amongst old friends and new acquaintances.

Two days of entertainment, highlighted by our very first and very well-received string quartet closed out Sunday afternoon.

In an attempt to minimize our footprint, bottles and cans were returned, and everything except coffee cup tops was composted.

An ancient proverb states, "If you stand in one place at Plowshares, everyone you have ever met in Syracuse will pass by you...and they will all be smiling."

If you think that you would like to help keep Plowshares moving into its second half century, please e-mail Lanny at senex401@gmail.com.

— Lanny Freshman

JOIN SPC'S STEERING COMMITTEE

As the leadership body of the Peace Council, the Steering Committee is responsible for the organization's structural and financial sustainability, as well as its overall political direction. We meet monthly to discuss and make decisions on these issues, working to ensure that SPC members can effectively carry out our Statement of Purpose (page 2). The Steering Committee currently has 11 members and is looking to welcome more! To read our members' bios and learn more about our Member Agreements and Qualities, visit peacecouncil.net/steering-committee.

If interested in joining, please e-mail Aly Wane at aly@peacecouncil.net.

— Michaela Czerkies

BEYOND WAR AND MILITARISM

A pair of well-known, long-time anti-war activists recently appeared in Syracuse as a result of co-sponsorship by the Beyond War and Militarism Committee (BWaM). In November, Ann Wright spoke about the footprint of militarism in countries she recently visited. In January, Clare Grady spoke about the personal journey that led to her participation in the Kings Bay Plowshares action directed at the nuclear submarine base in Georgia.

In coordination with the national Veterans for Peace campaign to restore the original meaning of Armistice Day, BWaM member Ron Van Norstrand organized an event at Billings Park in Syracuse that attracted more than 25 people. This event received considerable notice and is expected to gain momentum in future years.

A Reinvest presentation was held in November and at the end of the month, members participated in the New Years Eve vigil.

BWaM holds the unique status of being a joint committee of the SPC and the CNY Solidarity Coalition. In an effort to further integrate BWaM into the Coalition, the committee has made the commitment to hold one workshop or meeting per month at Coalition meetings. The first of these workshops will be "Ending Militarism: Central to Ending Racism and Poverty" at a date to be announced.

— Barry Gordon

SHOW UP, SPEAK UP ON I-81

For years our region has been preparing for the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on the I-81 Viaduct Project—the time we must all "Show Up, Speak Up" about the project's four big issues: options, jobs, mitigation and real estate.

The Urban Jobs Task Force's focus is on jobs, in particular, the prevailing wage construction jobs for city residents and people of color.

Many of you have signed our petition, which has 1800 signatures, asking the NYS Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) not to grant a Project Labor Agreement to the trade unions unless the trades diversify their membership. Now is the time the UJTF NEEDS YOU! Stand with us this winter when NYSDOT releases the DEIS, asking us for comment. Along with the petition your presence will speak volumes!

Follow us on facebook.com/SyracuseUrbanJobs.

— Aggie Lane

THANKS FOR DONATING

Thanks to all for contributing to SPC's recent fund appeal. As a community group, SPC is funded by you. We stretch each dollar to the best of our ability in our joint work for peace and social justice. And it's not too late to contribute if you haven't quite gotten around to it yet! Thanks again. ☺