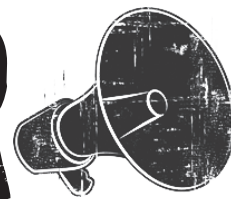


PEACE NEWSLETTER



CNY VOICES FOR PEACE & SOCIAL JUSTICE • #865 MARCH/APRIL 2019 • PEACECOUNCIL.NET • FREE



Top: Ann Wright at a Veterans For Peace march.
Bottom: Ann Wright on a Gaza Freedom Flotilla.



Ann Wright protesting drones piloted from Syracuse at the Federal Building in downtown Syracuse. Photo: Carol Baum.

ANN WRIGHT: A TRUE VOICE OF CONSCIENCE

by Ron VanNorstrand

Those who attended Ann Wright's presentation "Insights on Peace and War from Recent Trips to Pakistan, Turkey, Thailand, Spain, Ireland and Germany" at ArtRage Gallery on November 27, 2018 are aware of Ann's distinguished and extensive military and diplomatic careers. Those who attended the next evening's opening of Robert Shetterly's "Americans Who Tell the Truth" exhibit at Syracuse University are aware of Ann's resignation from the Department of State in protest of the Iraq War and her subsequent distinguished and extensive efforts on behalf of peace and justice worldwide. While Ann was in town, Julia Ganson and I had an opportunity to meet with her to discuss her multiple careers and the values that drove the choices she has made. What follows are notes from our discussion.

Growing Up and Getting Out

Ann grew up in lily-white Bentonville, Arkansas, the home of Walmart! Many of her classmates who took entry level jobs with the company instead of attending college are now executives. Her mom was a teacher, and her dad was a banker. Her one sister grew up to be a right-wing Republican. After completing undergraduate studies at the University of Arkansas, she decided she needed to get out and see the world, in particular Europe, so she entered the Army as a second lieutenant. Her first year was at the Presidio in San Francisco, and then she spent two years with the NATO command in the Netherlands. Having completed her active duty hitch and achieving her goal of getting to Europe, she transferred to the Army Reserves and spent the next three years exploring Europe.

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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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BRITTANY RAMOS DEBARROS TO KEYNOTE SPC 83RD BIRTHDAY DINNER MARCH 30

This may be the first-time an active-duty captain in the US army reserve has celebrated SPC's Birthday Dinner. Under the hashtag #DroptheMIC, Brittany Ramos DeBarros demands an end to the Military Industrial Complex (the "MIC"), exposes injustice and brings support to the group About Face: Veterans Against the War (aboutfaceveterans.org).

We first met Brittany at the Poor People's Campaign (PPC) sit-in at the War Room in NYS' Capitol last summer. A key spokesperson for the PPC, she was also a primary organizer of the action.

Brittany stated at a Washington, DC rally last year, "I'm a woman, I'm White, I'm Latina, I'm Black, I'm Queer, and I'm a combat veteran. As a person existing at the intersection of these identities, I carry a grave conviction in my core that there can be no economic, racial or gender liberation without addressing the militarism that is strangling the empathy and morality out of our society."

Brittany uses her intersecting identities and experience of state terrorism while deployed in Afghanistan to protest the immorality, racism, (hetero)sexism and environmental threats of the US military.

Brittany's timely message supports and unifies all our struggles at SPC.

The dinner is **Saturday, March 30** at University United Methodist Church



Brittany Ramos DeBarros. Photo: Summer/Fall 2018
CUSLAR Newsletter

(324 University Ave., Syracuse). Doors open at 5:30, dinner starts at 6:00, and the program starts at 7:30. The suggested donation is \$30, with a sliding scale of \$10–60, but no one is turned away for lack of funds. You may come for the program only; please donate what you can.

This year SPC is experimenting with having a meat option for dinner. The idea of offering meat grew from a desire to be more welcoming towards a diversity of people, which can mean a diversity of palates. The main course is lasagna—with meat, vegetarian or vegan (which is also gluten free).

Make your reservations by calling 315-472-5478, filling out the form at tinyurl.com/yyl34mcz, or mailing your check to the SPC office. All details are on SPC's website and Facebook event page.

– Peter Swords

THREE WAYS TO GET INVOLVED WITH SPC

Help at the Birthday Dinner. SPC's 83rd Birthday Dinner is coming up on **March 30**, featuring speaker Brittany DeBarros (see above). We're looking for table hosts, cooks, and plenty of volunteers to help with set-up and clean-up.

Join the Fundraising Committee. SPC is independently funded through individual

donations and fundraising events. We haven't had a Fundraising Committee to coordinate and expand upon these efforts in several years, and we'd like to convene one! No prior experience required (but it would be helpful)—if you're an innovative thinker and/or simply have an ability to follow through, consider participating.

Work with Social Media. With so many social media platforms to use, who can keep up with them all? If you're creative and social media savvy, help develop some original content for us to further engage with our supporters, members and the local social justice community.

– Michaela Czerkies

continued on next page

SPC STATEMENT ON RECENT ACCUSATIONS OF ANTI-SEMITISM

It has come to the attention of SPC's Steering Committee that accusations of anti-semitism are being circulated about the Peace Council. To be perfectly clear:

- There are many forms of oppression designed to prevent solidarity among different groups as well as provide more power and wealth to other groups. Anti-semitism is one of those forms.

- SPC condemns anti-semitism, as it does all forms of oppression.

- SPC criticizes the US government along with many other governments across the globe. There are those who believe that any form of criticism of

the government of Israel is by its nature anti-semitic. SPC does not believe that.

- SPC is committed to nonviolence as an operating principle and that is a central element of our vision for the world we work to create. We discuss that and our relationship to liberation struggles at peacecouncil.net/statements.

- SPC believes that BDS (boycott, divestment and sanctions) as a tactic in putting pressure on a government to change its policies is a nonviolent tactic.

– SPC Steering Committee and the Justice for Palestine Committee

DR. IRA HELFAND SPEAKS—MARCH 18

On **Monday, March 18**, Dr. Ira Helfand will speak on “Moving Back from the Brink: Countering the Growing Threat from Nuclear War,” at ArtRage Gallery (505 Hawley Ave., Syracuse) from 7-9pm. His free talk is on Physicians for Social Responsibility's (PSR) “Back from the Brink” project to abolish nuclear weapons.

Currently, Ira co-chairs PSR'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) International Steering Committee. Both IPPNW and ICAN are Nobel Peace Prize recipients.

The talk is a collaboration of the Beyond War and Militarism and the Nuclear Free World Committees.



Dr. Ira Helfand presents at the NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security on the horror of nuclear war. Photo: @IPPNW, October, 2018

CNY SOLIDARITY COALITION

CNY Solidarity works on issues that impact our community. New state legislators were sworn in this past January, giving NYS a Democratic majority in both the Assembly and the Senate. Solidarity's State Legislative Action Team (SLAT) is mobilizing support for a more progressive platform at the state and local levels. Issues that have seen little movement now have a chance to move forward. Repro-

ductive health care, sensible gun control legislation and voting reform have all passed the state legislature in the past month. SLAT members have been active in LET NY Vote lobbying efforts, going to Albany for workshops and calling legislators. We look forward to working on the Green Light Campaign, the NYS DREAM Act and the NYS Health Act. However, the majority of our recent effort

WHY WHITE PEOPLE DON'T TALK ABOUT RACISM

ACTS' (Alliance of Communities Transforming Syracuse) March 25 Race Matters Book Club (open to the public) will discuss *White Fragility* by Robin Diangelo. She notes white folks get charged up around racial discussions, mainly because we want to be known as good, moral people. I will be facilitating a discussion potentially filled with denial, anger, guilt and defensiveness. I'm prepared, though I long for the day when we will sufficiently educate ourselves to understand our participation in racial separation and inequality to help us effectively address this oppression.

2019 marks the 20th anniversary of ACTS—multi-faith advocacy to help achieve racial and social justice. 2019 also marks the 400th year since the first slaves were sold into bondage in what is now known as the US. The US has never undertaken a truth and reconciliation commission around this codified inequality and structural oppression. Without that, a good first step is understanding how the white dominant/supremacy culture was built and how whites benefit while others are harmed. Then we can effectively work on dismantling it to create an equitable future for EVERYONE.

Please join us for ACTS' April 9 Spring Banquet: “People Have the Power” with keynote speaker Bishop Royster, National Political and NE Regional Director for Faith-In-Action. Tickets are available at acts-syracuse.org.

– Linda Malik, ACTS community organizer, acts.cny@gmail.com

has focused on supporting the Community Grid for I-81.

Sign up at cnysolidarity.org to receive weekly Action Alerts, which recommend actions to take on specific legislation before the House, Senate and NYS legislature. Check the website for our meeting schedule. Please join us.

– Kelli Ward *continued on page 15*

DO UNTO OTHERS: EMPATHY AS A TOOL FOR CHANGE

by Hilary-Anne Coppola



The golden rule isn't as simple as it first appears. What you may wish for another person to do for you is often not the same as their needs. There are many forms of this teaching in various religions, cultures, and eras that incorporate values of compassion, doing no harm, and being respectful.

Here's an old biblical instruction relevant to our age: "The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as one of your citizens; you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt." That's Leviticus (Old Testament.) Then it is proclaimed as a god-given command with "I the Lord am your God". Jesus of Nazareth gave us a slightly different version, as well.

The Yoruba people of Nigeria and Benin have a proverb that aims to reduce suffering, increase experiential knowledge, and create compassion: "One who is going to take a pointed stick to pinch a baby bird should first try it on himself to feel how it hurts."

Siddhartha Buddha is attributed to have said that a follower must "Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful." Buddhism is a spiritual path which aims to reduce suffering through dialectic practice, and behaving in "right ways" is emphasized.

A biological term for this pattern of behavior is reciprocal altruism. Do unto others as they would be done by, for you would want them to do as you would want. It is expected that both compromise in the short term but benefit in the long term.

Hilary-Anne is a member of NOON and the PNL editorial committee. She is resident staff at Zen Center of Syracuse Hoen-ji, volunteers at Kindred Kingdoms Wildlife Rehab, and helps animals in need during her free time.

We often see ourselves as being on one side of a war when it comes to our values and beliefs. The division of viewpoints is stark on social media platforms where discussion threads are popular. But these types of polarized interactions regarding economics, politics, government, resource use, social behavior, religion, etc., are not only unproductive—they are counterproductive. How is it possible to grow in our ability to create change by interacting with someone we believe is a threat to us, or our loved ones, or our values? I believe the answer lies in the practice of empathy.

In *Think Humanism*, Maria MacLachlan says that "Trying to live according to the Golden Rule means trying to empathise with other people, including those who may be very different from us. Empathy is at the root of kindness, compassion, understanding and respect—qualities that we all appreciate being shown... And although it isn't possible to know what it really feels like to be a different person or live in different circumstances and have different life experiences, it isn't difficult for most of us to imagine what would cause us suffering and to try to avoid causing suffering to others. For this reason many people find the Golden Rule's corollary—"do not treat people in a way you would not wish to be treated yourself"—more pragmatic.

Empathy is not easy, and not everyone comes by it naturally. Even if you are an empathic person, it takes practice to strengthen and use empathy to help others. A strong practice of empathy includes productive communication, creating positive experiences in a painful or uncomfortable situation, ability to tolerate interpersonal distress, self-improvement, and loving ties to other, different, human beings.

A few steps to improve empathy skills for conflict situations:

1. **A short period of daily meditation** to focus on breathing, allowing the opportunity for your expectations, beliefs, needs, etc., to fall away from your true nature. This will help you be less reactive in high-stress interactions, especially when conflict resolution skills are needed.

2. **Practice listening without interrupting.** This is easier with people whose views do not go against the core of your values, so start there. Work your way up to listening to those who incite strong painful emotions as a reaction.

3. **Ask questions** to encourage the person whom you disagree with to think critically and so you can better understand their values, needs, and fears. Be compassionate; engage with love. Do not fight against the person—the struggle is for what is right.

4. **Reflect** on your interaction when you have a disagreement with an "enemy." Shouting matches and personal attacks often cause the other party to hold their ideological stance even more firmly than before. Conflict resolution techniques can bring about productive experiences that encourage positive growth.

To have the power of empathy is a privilege, and compassion is a gift you can give. By sharing this power with those who are "against you," you have another opportunity to create change for good. ☸

FOR EVERY \$100 YOU PAY IN TAXES, WHERE DOES IT GO?

MILITARY: \$47

NON-MILITARY: \$53

CURRENT MILITARY

\$27

- Military Personnel
- Operation & Maintenance
- Procurement
- Research & Development
- Construction
- Family Housing
- Supplemental & Adjunct
- Retiree Pay & Healthcare
- Nuke Weapons & Clean-up
- International Security Asst.
- State Department (partial)
- FBI Military
- Other

PAST MILITARY

\$20

- Veterans' Benefits
- Interest on National Debt (80% estimated to be created by military spending)

HUMAN RESOURCES

\$43

- Health & Human Services
- Social Security Administration
- Education Department
- Food & Nutrition Programs
- Housing & Urban Development
- Labor Department
- Earned Income & Child Credits
- Health Insurance Credits
- Other Human Resources

PHYSICAL RESOURCES

\$4

- Treasury, including 20% interest on debt (\$112 Billion)
- Government Personnel
- Justice Department
- State Department (partial)
- Homeland Security (partial)
- Judicial
- Legislative
- Allowances (proposals)
- Other General Government

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

\$6

- Agriculture
- Interior
- Transportation
- Homeland Security (partial)
- HUD
- Commerce
- Energy (non-military)
- NASA (50%)
- National Science Foundation
- Army Corps Engineers
- Federal Comm. Commission
- Other Physical Resources

How These Figures were Determined

"Current military" includes Dept. of Defense and the military portion from other departments as noted in current military box above. "Past military" represents veterans' benefits plus 80% of the interest on the debt.* For further explanation, please go to warresisters.org.

These figures are from an analysis of detailed tables in the *Analytical Perspectives* book of the *Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2019*. The figures are Federal funds — such as Social Security — that are raised and spent separately from income taxes.

This chart adapted from the War Resisters League pie chart flyer covers the US fiscal year 2019 (October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019). The new edition of the War Resisters League's "pie chart" flyer, *Where Your Income Tax Money Really Goes*, analyzes the Federal Fiscal Year 2020 Budget will be published in late March 2019. Visit warresisters.org and nationalpriorities.org for more resources.

**Analysts differ on how much of the debt stems from the military; other groups estimate 50% to 60%. We use 80% because we believe if there had been no military spending most of the national debt would have been eliminated.*

WAR RESISTERS LEAGUE



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resist.war

LAS NOTICIAS DEL CENTRO DE TRABAJADORES

by Rebecca Fuentes and Kayla Kelechian

Green Light NY Driving Together Campaign

The Workers' Center of CNY (WCCNY) is part of the Green Light NY Driving Together Coalition which is fighting to get driver's licenses for all, including immigrants regardless of their immigration status. We started the year with legislative visits to Assembly Members Pamela Hunter, Bill Magnarelli, Al Stirpe and Senator Rachel May, as well as Syracuse Mayor Ben Walsh. We have also been very busy educating the community about why we need driver's licenses in New York. Make sure that you visit the Workers' Center Facebook page and also the Green Light NY Driving Together Facebook page for updates. To support our efforts, please call your representative and tell them that you care about immigrants in New York and that you support NY State Senate bill S1747 and NY State Assembly bill A3675.



Syracuse Mayor Ben Walsh supports our Green Light NY campaign to allow all immigrants to get driver's licenses. El alcalde de Syracuse, Ben Walsh, apoya la campaña Luz Verde NY, que busca acceso a licencias de conducir para inmigrantes.

traducido por Deb Orieta

Campaña Luz Verde NY: Conduciendo Juntos

El centro de Trabajadores de CNY (WCCNY) es parte de la coalición "Luz Verde NY: Conduciendo Juntos" (Green Light NY Driving Together Coalition), que está luchando para que todos los residentes de NY, incluyendo inmigrantes, tengan acceso a licencias de conducir. Empezamos el año con visitas a legisladores, entre ellos miembros de la asamblea Pamela Hunter, Bill Magnarelli, y Al Stirpe, Senadora Rachel May, y alcalde de Syracuse Ben Walsh. También hemos estado ocupados educando a la comunidad sobre por qué necesitamos licencias en Nueva York. Asegúrense de visitar la página de Facebook del Centro de Trabajadores (Workers Center CNY), y la de Green Light NY Driving Together Coalition para mantenerse al día. Para apoyar nuestros esfuerzos, llame a sus representantes y díganle que apoya a los inmigrantes de Nueva York y al NY State Senate bill S1747 y NY State Assembly bill A3675.

Chobani Meeting

Chobani is a major player in the NY dairy industry. In 2017, we released our report, MILKED, about the working conditions of immigrant dairy farmworkers in NYS. We delivered our report at one of Chobani's SOHO stores in NYC, and we have been in communication with Chobani since then.

Last September we presented to Chobani a memorandum of understanding asking them to agree to the very basic principle of freedom of association in their food chain. On February 1, Workers' Center members and organizers had a meeting with representatives of Chobani. Chobani has not signed our memorandum of understanding. At our February 15 general assembly, members agreed to continue to put pressure on Chobani. As this campaign develops we will share steps for the community to hold Chobani responsible.

Right to Organize Lawsuit

On February 11, The Workers' Center, the Worker Justice Center and our organizer Crispin Hernandez were in court in Albany to challenge a Jim Crow-era NY law that denies farmworkers the right to organize without fear of retaliation. We are seeking an end to exclusion of farmworkers from the State Employment Relations Act which protects the labor rights of virtually all other private sector workers.

The Workers' Center of CNY, www.workerscny.org, is a grassroots organization focused on workplace and economic justice, located at 2013 E. Genesee St, Syracuse. Call them at 315-218-5708.

Reunión con Chobani

Chobani es un actor principal en la industria lechera de NY. En 2017, publicamos nuestro informe MILKED, sobre las condiciones laborales de inmigrantes trabajando en la industria lechera de NYS. Llevamos nuestro informe a uno de los locales de Chobani en SOHO, y desde entonces hemos estado en contacto con ellos.

El pasado Septiembre le presentamos un memorándum a Chobani, pidiéndoles que apoyen el principio de libre asociación en su cadena alimenticia. El primero de febrero, miembros del Centro de trabajadores y otros organizadores se reunieron con representantes de Chobani. Chobani no ha firmado el memorándum de entendimiento. En nuestra asamblea general del 15 de Febrero convenimos a seguir presionando a Chobani. A medida que desarrollemos la campaña compartiremos pasos para que la comunidad pueda responsabilizar a Chobani.

Demanda Judicial por Derecho de Sindicación

El 11 de febrero, el Centro de Trabajadores, el Centro de Justicia de los Trabajadores y nuestro organizador Crispin Hernandez estuvieron en la corte en Albany para retar una ley de la era de Jim Crow que le niega a los trabajadores el derecho a organizarse sin retaliación. Estamos buscando un fin a la exclusión de los trabajadores agrícolas de la Ley de Relaciones de Empleo del Estado, que protege los derechos laborales de prácticamente todos los demás trabajadores del sector privado.

continued on next page

Crispin had been working 12-hour shifts for six days a week at one of NY's largest dairy farms, Marks Farms LLC in Lowville. After work hours and at a worker's home, he and co-workers met with an organizer from the WCCNY to discuss workplace conditions. His employer saw this and fired him. Farmworkers deserve the same rights as anyone else.

Friends of Farmworkers House Capital Campaign

Friends of Farmworkers is an ad hoc group made up of people from the WCCNY, Friends of Dorothy House and other concerned individuals. We recently purchased a house to provide temporary housing for immigrant farm workers who are WCCNY members, such as injured workers who need a safe, reliable place to stay; workers who are between jobs or who are negotiating jobs; or workers with other emergencies. The price of the house was \$30,000, and with associated costs it came to \$32,000.

We are asking that community members come together to help us raise the money for the purchase of the house itself. If 300 people pledge to donate \$100 each, the house will be paid for! Any amount, big or small, is appreciated. If you would like to donate through check or cash, checks can be made out to Friends of Farmworkers and sent or dropped off to Friends of Dorothy, 212 Wayne St., Syracuse, NY 13203, or to the Workers' Center of Central New York at 2013 E. Genesee St., Syracuse, NY 13201. Donations will go to Friends of Farmworkers, LLC, the legal entity created to hold the property.

Activist Appreciation: Jordan Krick

We want to recognize the essential work of Jordan Krick. They have been very important in the creation of Syracuse Immigrant and Refugee Defense Network (SIRDN), coordinating trainings and responding to immigrants and their allies when they have emergencies and need to go to court. Jordan has also taken a leadership role, and they make sure that our rallies are safe places, including via their contribution as a medic. We appreciate their commitment to social justice, and we are lucky to have them in the movement. They are a true friend of the workers.

Groups

Syracuse Immigrant and Refugee Defense Network (SIRDN) has been organizing our community to defend and protect immigrant workers from aggressive action by ICE.

Crispín llevaba trabajando turnos de 12 horas, seis días a la semana, en una de las granjas lecheras más grandes de Nueva York, Marks Farms LLC en Lowville. Después del trabajo, en la casa de otro empleado, él y sus colegas se reunieron con unx organizadorx de WCCNY para discutir sus condiciones laborales. Su empleado vio la reunión y lo despidió. Los trabajadores agrícolas merecen los mismos derechos que otros empleados.

Campaña de Recaudación Para la Casa de Friends of Farmworkers

Friends of Farmworkers es un grupo ad hoc formado por personas de WCCNY, Friends of Dorothy House y otras personas interesadas. Recientemente compramos una casa para proporcionar vivienda temporal a trabajadores agrícolas inmigrantes que son miembros de WCCNY, como los trabajadores lesionados que necesitan un lugar seguro y confiable para quedarse; trabajadores que están entre trabajos o que están negociando trabajos; o trabajadores con otras emergencias. El precio de la casa era de \$30,000 y, con los costos asociados, ascendió a \$32,000.

Pedimos que los miembros de la comunidad se unan para ayudarnos a recaudar el dinero para la compra de la casa en sí. Si 300 personas se comprometen a donar \$ 100 cada una, ¡se pagará la casa! Cualquier cantidad, grande o pequeña, es apreciada. Si desea donar con cheque o en efectivo, los cheques pueden hacerse a nombre de Friends of Farmworkers y enviados o dejados en Friends of Dorothy, 212 Wayne St., Syracuse, NY 13203, o al Workers' Center of Central New York en 2013 E. Genesee St., Syracuse, NY

13201. Las donaciones se destinarán a Friends of Farmworkers, LLC, la entidad legal creada para mantener la propiedad.

Apreciación de Activista: Jordan Krick

Queremos reconocer la labor esencial de Jordan Krick. Ellxs han sido de gran importancia en la creación de la Red de Defensa de Refugiados e Inmigrantes de Syracuse (SIRDN, por sus siglas en Inglés), en la coordinación de entrenamientos, y en responder a inmigrantes y sus aliados cuando tienen emergencias y necesitan acudir a la corte. Jordan también se ha demostrado líder, y se asegura de que nuestras manifestaciones permanezcan lugares seguros para los participantes, incluso en su rol como médicx. Apreciamos su compromiso a la justicia social, y somos afortunadxs de tenerle en el movimiento. Jordan es unx verdaderx amigx de lxs trabajadorxs.

Grupos

Red de Defensa de Refugiados e Inmigrantes de Syracuse (Syracuse Immigrant and Refugee Defense Network; SIRDN) ha estado organizando en nuestra comunidad para defender y proteger a trabajadores inmigrantes de acciones agresivas por ICE. Porfavor contacte a SIRDN para más detalles sobre sus



Organizers, workers and allies at the Workers' Center of CNY February 15, 2019 General Assembly. Organizadores, trabajadores y aliados en la asamblea general del centro de Trabajadores, el 15 de febrero, 2019.

Please contact SIRDN for their April meeting date and time. Call (315) 218-5708 or visit fb.me/SyracuseIRDN.

Urban Workers' Group is for workers who have had or are having problems at the workplace. The meetings introduce the Workers' Center and help workers exchange stories of struggles for workplace and economic justice, and of demanding better working conditions. The goal is for workers to know their rights and learn how to improve their working conditions, mainly by organizing the workers so they can collectively demand their rights.

Monthly meetings are on Thursdays 6-7pm at WCCNY (2013 E Genesee St). The next two meetings are April 18 and May 16.

There will also be a free Belly dancing class for workers on Saturday, March 30, in honor of Women's History Month. Location to be announced. Please call Rahzie at 315-863-4539 to register.

April 26: Workers' Memorial Day Unity Breakfast

Unity Breakfast is organized by WCCNY, together with the AFL-CIO and Occupational Health Clinic Center, and others. Every year we observe Workers' Memorial Day to remember those who have suffered and died on the job, and to renew our commitment to workers' health and safety. As Mother Jones had said, this is a time to "Mourn for the dead. Fight like hell for the living."

The breakfast Buffet is at 8am, with the program from 8:30-10am, both at the Holiday Inn, 441 Electronics Parkway, Liverpool, NY.

Tickets are \$25 per person and \$160 for a table of eight. The deadline to reserve and get tickets (as well as place ads) is April 11. Please contact the Occupational Health Clinic Center at (315) 432-8899.

This year, SIRDN (see above) will receive an award.

May 1: International Workers' Day!

The Workers' Center and other social justice groups often organize a rally and a teach-in on May Day. Stay tuned for this year's program! ☎

reuniones en Abril. Llame a (315) 218-5708 o visite fb.me/SyracuseIRDN.

Grupo de Trabajadores Urbanos (Urban Workers' Group) es para aquellos trabajados que han tenido o están teniendo problemas laborales. Las reuniones introducen al centro de Trabajadores y facilitan que los trabajadores puedan compartir historias de su lucha por justicia económica y laboral, y sus demandas para mejores condiciones de trabajo. La meta es que los trabajadores se familiaricen con sus derechos laborales y puedan mejorar sus condiciones de trabajo, principalmente organizando a los trabajadores para que puedan reclamar colectivamente sus derechos.

El grupo se reúne mensualmente los jueves de 6-7 pm en WCCNY (2013 E. Genesee St.) Las próximas dos reuniones serán en Abril 18 y Mayo 16.

Habrà también una clase de belly dancing gratis para los trabajadores, el 30 de Marzo, en honor del Mes de Historia de la Mujer. El local será anunciado. Favor de llamar a Rahzie al 315-863-4539 para registrarse.

26 de Abril: Día de Conmemoración de los Trabajadores: Desayuno de Unidad

Unity Breakfast está organizado por WCCNY, junto con AFL-CIO y Occupational Health Clinic Center, y otros. Cada año observamos el Día de conmemoración de los trabajadores para recordar a los que sufrieron y murieron en el trabajo y para renovar nuestro compromiso con la salud y la seguridad de los trabajadores. Como dijo Mother Jones, este es un momento para "llorar por los muertos y luchar como los infiernos por los vivos".

El desayuno buffet es a las 8 am, con el programa de 8:30-10 am, en el Holiday Inn, 441 Electronics Parkway, Liverpool, NY. Los boletos cuestan \$ 25 por persona y \$ 160 por una mesa de ocho. La fecha límite para reservar y obtener boletos (así como para colocar anuncios) es el 11 de abril. Comuníquese con el Centro Clínico de Salud Ocupacional al (315) 432-8899.

Este año, SIRDN (ver arriba) recibirá un premio.

1 de Mayo: ¡Día Internacional de los Trabajadores!

El Centro de Trabajadores y otros grupos de justicia social a menudo organizan una manifestación y una reunión el 1 de mayo. ¡Estén atentos para el programa de este año! ☎

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SHARE THE AIR: BEING FRAGRANCE FREE MATTERS TO US ALL

by Maddie Bohrer

If you've visited the Syracuse Center for Peace and Social Justice lately you may have noticed the doors now have signs posted about our building becoming fragrance free. These signs are not to keep you out, but rather allow more people to come in! In becoming fragrance free, the Center becomes more accessible and opens its doors to all.

Almost 20% percent of today's population suffers from some type of fragrance sensitivity or adverse reaction to scents. Strong odors can cause sneezing, severe headaches, breathing difficulty, dizziness and nausea, which for some people can make it nearly impossible to attend school or work. This is not question of comfort, but rather a serious accessibility issue that needs to be addressed. Therefore, we at the Center encourage you to consider the chemicals in the products you use, as scents can be potentially harmful to those around you.

Although the idea of becoming scent-free may seem daunting, it need not be difficult. One simple way to ease into becoming fragrance free is to avoid cologne or perfume when at work or in enclosed spaces. This one small step can have a significant impact.

Other products that offer a scent-free alternative include personal care items such as deodorants, laundry detergents,

fabric softeners and lotions. When looking for deodorant choose a natural fragrance-free version or use home remedies such as baking soda or lemon juice. Alternative brands for laundry detergents include Seventh Generation, Dr. Bronner's, BioKleen, Planet, Sun & Earth Laundry, and Green Shield Organic. Dryer sheets made by Mrs. Meyers and Maddocks are also a good alternative. Any product with a lingering smell can be potentially harmful.

Check the labels of products and keep an eye out for words like "parfum" and "fragrance." Keep in mind that even products that claim to be "unscented" may still have a "masking scent" to cover the smell of other ingredients.

Creating fragrance-free spaces is not only for those who suffer from intense sensitivity. Others in fragrance-free workplaces often report feeling a significant increase in clarity and a decrease in the frequency of headaches and sinus irritations.

What is fragrant to some may be creating problems for others. So please, be conscious of others, and consider taking the necessary steps to become fragrance free.

For more information go to <http://tinyurl.com/yyy6cxrz>.

Maddie is an Onondaga Community College student interning with SPC.



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WHY THE NATION STATE LAW IS BAD FOR MINORITIES IN ISRAEL

by Zachary Field

The recent passage of Israel's new Basic Law: Israel as the Nation State of the Jewish People (or the "Nation-State Law" as it is often called), has codified the character of Jewish nationhood with constitutional status in Israeli law, but has conspicuously omitted any reference to democracy or equality. Palestinian and Druze Knesset members have variously described the law as "spitting in our face," "a law of Jewish supremacy" and "an apartheid ... racist law," and tens of thousands gathered to protest the legislation in demonstrations organized by the Druze and Palestinian communities.

The bill has been roundly criticized for including several provisions which discriminate against Palestinian citizens of Israel and other national and ethnic minorities, including clauses which downgrade the status of Arabic from an official language, encourage and promote Jewish settlement as a national value, and declare Jewish citizens to be the unique possessors of the right to exercise national self-determination in the state. All peoples have the right to self-determination, and self-determination is a core principle of international law. According to Israeli Law professor Tamar Hostovsky Brandeis "the Law may hinder the recognition of any form of collective rights of the Arab-Palestinian minority in Israel" and "may also be used to justify inequality in state funding of initiatives and activities related to such pursuit."

Broad dissatisfaction with these provisions has triggered opposition from notable leaders in the North American mainstream Jewish establishment including the President of the Jewish Federations of North America, the CEO of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, the Union for Reform Judaism, and the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association

Zachary is a recent graduate of Binghamton University where he majored in geography and Israel studies. He is also an alumnus of the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies in Southern Israel and interned with the Justice for Palestine Committee in 2015.



Tens of thousands of protesters joined the Druze community in rejecting the Jewish Nation-State Law at Rabin Square in Tel Aviv on August 5, 2018. Photo: Oren Ziv/Activestills.org.

along with the American Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation League, who have all criticized aspects of the law for its undemocratic and discriminatory character.

Supporters of the law assert that its contents are either not unusual among the constitutions of other liberal democracies or claim that the Basic Law is merely composed of symbolic declarations, enshrining into law longstanding holidays and symbols of state such as the flag and national anthem. Such arguments not only exhibit a callous disregard for the clearly articulated objections of Israel's minority groups, they are also dismissive of the very real power that symbols hold in shaping national identity and group membership in ways which may exclude non-Jewish minorities. Arguments in favor of the Basic Law also fail to acknowledge the legal ramifications associated with the law and the context in which the bill was passed.

The law weakens the protections of individuals by introducing new legal hurdles to surmount when attempting to challenge prejudicial laws. According to Israeli law professors Eyal Benvenisti and

Doreen Lustig, "Attempts to challenge discriminatory legislation would be answered by invoking the new Basic Law as conveying the 'values of the State of Israel.'" The Jewish Settlement clause, itself evolved from previous iterations of the law, which would have sanctioned housing discrimination and segregation, has Israeli legal experts warning that the law "paves the way for acts of exclusion and racism against the Arab minority." This provision compounds with existing discriminatory legislation such as the Admissions Committee Law, in affect since 2011, which permits housing discrimination in small communities.

The passage of the Nation State Law coincides with other proposals which would undermine the independence of Israel's judiciary and allow Israel's parliament to overturn Supreme Court decisions, as well as other recent legislative efforts to appropriate privately owned Palestinian land and apply the Israeli legal system directly into the West Bank, territory held under Israel military occupation since 1967. Taken together, these actions constitute a policy of creeping

continued on next page

de-facto annexation of Palestinian lands that would effectively deny the Palestinian people a right to self-determination amidst an ongoing illiberal assault on anti-occupation and Pro-Palestinian activists and civil society.

Recent events leading up to Israeli elections have culminated in a mainstreaming of positions among the ruling Likud party that advocate for annexation of most of the West Bank. Of great concern is the political alliance Netanyahu forged with an extremist far right party whose leader is barred from entering the US for his affiliation with the Kach party, banned in Israel and designated a foreign terrorist organization by the US Department of State. In a bid to protect his ruling coalition,

Netanyahu has engineered an agreement with the extremist Otzma Yehudit party, a reincarnation of the banned Kach party, to run on a single list with two other rightwing parties to ensure they pass the electoral threshold and serve in Israel's legislative body, the Knesset. Virtually every member of Netanyahu's Likud party has now declared their support for annexation of the West Bank, and the Israeli Prime Minister actively empowers racist extremists, engineering their political ascent and embracing them as coalition partners. In addition to its support for annexation of the West Bank and Gaza, Otzma Yehudit's platform calls "to remove the enemies of Israel from [the] country," which one of its senior leaders

went on to clarify meant "the majority" of Israel's Arab citizens.

Such events provide necessary context for understanding the political climate in which the controversial Nation State Law passed by slim majority into Israeli law. It is no coincidence that those who drafted the law ignored repeated calls to include references to equality, and such facts confirm that the basic law should appropriately be viewed as an attempt to subordinate Israel's minorities and obstruct their collective rights in a way which is fundamentally inconsistent with democratic principles.

Note that this article with its links to references is available at peacecouncil.net. ☯




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Ann Wright at the People's Summit 2012. Photo: Debra Sweet, via Flickr Creative Commons.

Civil Affairs—Organizing to Help Refugees

Upon her return to the States she joined the Civil Affairs unit of the Army Reserves, which proved to be a perfect fit for the “organizer” in Ann. During this period, in the mid-70s, the US treated immigrants far differently than today. Three hundred thousand refugees from Indochina were “resettled” in the US in one year. Essentially the government couldn’t “camouflage” the fact, as they do today, that our imperial war directly resulted in the refugee surge. Currently, our military and intelligence services, with the active support of the mass media, obscure and deny our history of overt and covert actions in Central America, resulting in the mass migration on our southern border.

To help address this resettlement need, Ann returned to active duty at Fort Chaffee in Arkansas. She played a key role in the logistics challenge of resettling thousands—a role she enjoyed immensely because it was a positive use of military resources. One day, the commander called her into the office and tasked her with obtaining clothing for the thousands of families being brought to Fort Chaffee, and directed her to prepare a price list by the end of the following day. After unsuccessful attempts to obtain this incredibly large order of clothing from retail stores such as Sears and JC Penney, Ann was able to procure the clothing for thousands through the Armed Forces PX Headquarters in Dallas Texas, and in a timely fashion.

Teaching the Application of the Geneva Convention to Soldiers

Ann eventually returned to the Army Reserves and obtained her law degree. She returned to active duty as an instructor at the Special Operations Division at Fort Bragg, NC. When no one else showed an interest, Ann volunteered to teach the critical course on the requisite application of the Geneva Convention. The importance and relevance of the course became glaringly evident during the US occupation of Grenada. The military

command expressed concern that the troops were not in compliance with the Geneva Convention, so Ann was sent to enlighten them.

US Department of State Diplomat Abroad

In 1981, Ann left the military and joined the State Department Diplomatic Corps. For 16 years she served in the US embassies in Grenada, Nicaragua, Uzbekistan, Somalia, Sierra Leone, Micronesia, Afghanistan and Mongolia. In December 2001, Ann was part of the diplomatic contingent that reopened the US Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan after being closed for 12 years. Flying through a snowstorm in a C-130 transport plane from Islamabad, Pakistan to Basra Air Base outside of Kabul, the team arrived to find the embassy covered with layers of dust and cobwebs. They knew they only had a small window of opportunity to establish a positive relationship with the newly-formed Afghan government, and there was an immense need for funding for education and health facilities and for infrastructure projects. As Ann recounts, it was very frustrating and disheartening that their appeals to Washington generated very little response.

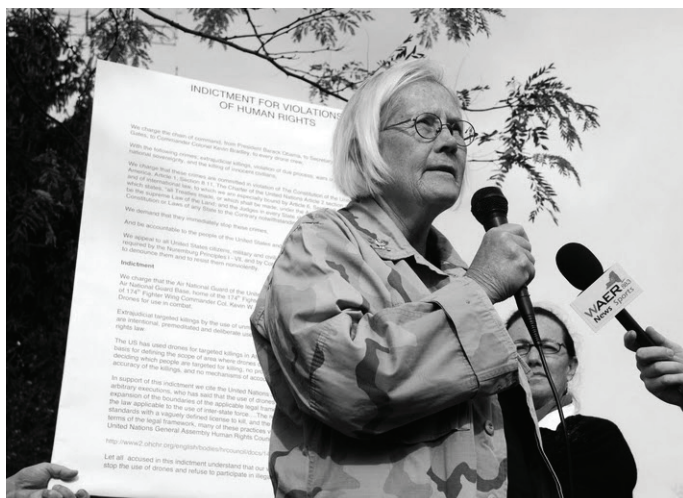
Responding to the Invasion of Iraq

In April 2002, Ann moved to the embassy in Mongolia as Deputy Ambassador, where she began to formulate a clearer picture of what was going on in US foreign policy and practice. It became clear that the US military buildup in Kuwait and Qatar was not intended for Afghanistan; it was headed to Iraq. Ann began to seriously question what her country was doing. For nearly a year she recorded her questions and concerns in her nightly journal. She, as well as many embassy personnel, knew that the US military had already inflicted devastation upon Iraq. It was known that, for ten years, the US had maintained a quarantine around and an air cover over Iraq. Approximately 440,000 flights had been conducted over the country, bombing military installations, power plants, bridges and numerous civil infrastructures. The US knew what went in and out of Iraq and that no weapons of mass destruction had been found. For many agonizing weeks, Ann reflected on whether she could, in good conscience, continue to serve her country under the Bush administration. The final straw for her came with the invasion of Iraq.

After thirty years of service to her country, Ann submitted her resignation. She explained, in what is reputed to be the longest letter of resignation ever submitted, that her decision was based on her disagreement with the Bush Administration’s foreign policies. She disagreed with its policies on Iraq, its lack of effort in resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, its lack of policy on North Korea and its unnecessary curtailment of rights at home. The curt response from the administration was: “Where do we send your stuff?” Ann’s strong disagreement and objections made her believe she must speak out. Her only option was to resign. Without a real plan, and to the surprise of many of her colleagues, she determined that she could not go silently into the night.

Ron is a local retired civil rights attorney and a member of Veterans for Peace and the Beyond War and Militarism Committee.

continued on next page



Ann Wright at a press conference protesting drones in Syracuse. Photo: Carol Baum.

Finding Her Peeps: In Solidarity with Veterans for Peace and Anti-war Activists

Ann realized that she actually knew more foreign nationals around the world involved in peace and social justice issues than she did US citizens doing the same back home. However, the first enthusiastic response to her resignation came from a US Veterans for Peace (VFP) member she met on a beach in Santa Barbara. While visiting friends she went to the beach to view the VFP installation of crosses for all the people, military and civilian, killed in Iraq. When Ann explained her recent resignation, the VFP member exclaimed, "You are one of us!" Ann attended the VFP convention later that fall where she received numerous speaking invitations and made many contacts; and this helped to define her latest career as a peace activist.

Ann has become a leading anti-war activist. She travels and lectures on foreign policy issues, but she also "walks the walk." She worked with Cindy Sheehan to organize Camp Casey and appeared in the documentary "Uncovered: The Truth about the Iraq War." She has traveled to Afghanistan, Pakistan and Yemen to talk with families whose members have been killed by US assassin drones. She was a delegate on the 2015 Women Cross the DMZ, which featured peace conferences in both North and South Korea. In 2015 she traveled to El Salvador and Chile with

School of the Americas Watch to ask their governments to stop sending their militaries to the US Army School of the Americas where their soldiers were trained and then returned home to participate in killing their fellow citizens. In 2016 she was at Standing Rock, ND in solidarity with the water protectors attempting to stop the Dakota Access pipeline.

Locally, she was one of the initial 38 activists arrested for resisting the drone operation at Hancock Air Base. On the international scene, she has played a key role in bringing international attention to the horror being inflicted upon the people of Gaza. In 2009 she traveled to Gaza numerous times following the Israel attack on Gaza that killed 1,440 and wounded 5,000. She was an organizer for the 2009 Gaza Freedom March that brought 1,350 persons from 44 countries to Cairo, Egypt in solidarity with the people of Gaza. In 2010 Ann was on the Gaza Flotilla attacked by the Israeli military, was an organizer of the 2011 US Boat to Gaza, *The Audacity of Hope*, and was a boat leader for the 2015 Gaza Freedom Flotilla.

The Gaza Freedom Flotilla and Its 2019 North American Educational Campaign

Ann's commitment to ending the blockade of Gaza was a prominent issue in our discussion with her here in Syracuse. She is helping to organize a North American flotilla for Gaza as an educational vehicle in the summer of 2019, to support the 2020 Gaza Freedom Flotilla. The US Boats to Gaza and the Canadian Boats to Gaza groups are planning to have a "flotilla" in Turtle Island/North American waters to educate people in both countries about the illegal Israeli blockade on Gaza and its horrific effects on the people there. The goal is to persuade more North Americans that support for Palestine is an important cause deserving of their personal involvement and political will. The educational "flotilla," joined by others in the community, will sail into the major cities of the Great Lakes and then into Central New York waterways, down the Hudson River, stopping in communities along the way to New York City. Local Palestinian support groups and their allies will be asked to host the boat while she is in port and arrange educational speaking events and fundraisers for the 2020 Gaza Freedom Flotilla. This ambitious endeavor is now being planned; anyone interested in working on this campaign may contact me at ron@vannorstrandlaw.com or Julia at juliag@whistleblower.org. ☮



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NUCLEAR FREE WORLD COMMITTEE

We're excited to be co-hosting a talk by Dr. Ira Helfand on Monday, March 18 with the Beyond War and Militarism Committee. See page 4 for details.

NFW is also networking with NYS Code Pink to promote their pledge to "Divest from the War Machine" and initiated a collaboration between them and the Reinvestment Alliance. This local effort encourages individuals and groups to remove resources from banks and investments that are harmful to society and then reinvest them in credit unions, community banks and companies that are socially responsible.

We met with Senate staff to promote the Code Pink divestment pledge to refuse money from weapons makers, and also S. 3667, Prevention of Arms Race Act of 2018, to maintain nuclear treaties and oppose modernization

Nominations for the 2019 Peace Youth Award are due April 15. Nominate high school students in Onondaga County who have been working toward peace, justice and protecting the environment. Go to peacecouncil.net for an application form.

—Margrit Diehl

ACTIVIST BLING FOR THE COMMUNITY GRID



Community Grid activists Kerin Rigney, Elaine Denton, Diana and Maddie Bohrer hard at work in SPC's office making buttons and signs in support of the Community Grid option for I-81. Pick up buttons and flyers at SPC. Go to communityforthegrid.com to sign a petition and rethink81.org for great information. Photo: Carol Baum.

ACTIVIST APPRECIATION—JOHN CARROLL

John came to SPC last Fall with an extensive background in cooperative living, and started out by helping at the office in various ways—uploading previous *PNL*s to our website, participating in *PNL* mailing parties, and compiling our bi-weekly e-newsletter. John's been intimately involved in our exploration of various database and website upgrade options, using his computer knowledge and sharp attention to detail to research and test various programs. This ongoing project has required a lot of time and energy, and his diligent efforts have been extremely helpful in evaluating what might be the best fit for SPC.

He's also known as an amazing fermenter and cook, and can often be found generously sharing varieties of his homemade sushi at meetings. John has been a friendly face around the office, approaching our work with humor, dedication, and patience. We're grateful for his kind and generous spirit, and his contributions to peace and justice!

—Michaela Czerkies

SPRING INTO STREET HEAT

Starting in April, there are more opportunities to be out in the streets with messages of peace and social justice. Please join us—bring a sign or use one of ours. Contact Ann Tiffany or Ed Kinane at 315-478-4571.

Tuesdays: 4:15-5pm

April 2 – Hancock Air Base (6000 E. Molloy Rd.)

April 9 – Adams and Almond (Rt. 81 underpass)

April 16 – Hancock Air Base

April 23 – Adams and Almond

April 30 – Adams and Almond

May 7 – Hancock Air Base

May 14 – E. Genesee St. and Erie Blvd. East

Every Saturday 9-9:45am:

Regional Market main entrance (Park St.)

BEYOND WAR AND MILITARISM

Our small committee continues to be active. We participated in the vigorous cold-weather protest against Trump's emergency power grab for his wall, and in the demonstration urging the US to cease its aggression towards Venezuela.

We continued our Alternative Education series with an excellent presentation by former *teleSUR English* journalist Richard Gaunt in February. He provided a valuable historical perspective to help us understand the situation in Venezuela and why the US is hostile towards it. Also, Diane and Peter Swords offered a workshop on "Ending Militarism: Central to Ending Poverty and Racism" at the recent teach-in organized by CNY Solidarity Coalition.

Our next Alternative Education series event is a **Monday, March 18** talk by Dr. Ira Helfand (see page 4), organized jointly with the Nuclear Free World Committee.

—Barry Gordon

continued on page 16

FORMER BLACK PANTHER 21 MEMBER SPEAKS IN SYRACUSE



Sekou, déqui and Matt joined SPC activists and friends for lunch. Photo: Matt Meyer.

On February 23, SPC co-sponsored, ArtRage Gallery hosted, and Gwen Chaffin, Dr. LaToya Lee and Rahzie Seals organized a terrific panel: “From Panther 21 to 21st Century Revolutions” featuring Sekou Odinga (a Panther 21 on probation after decades in Marion supermax prison), déqui kioni-sadiki (radio producer and Sekou’s partner), and Matt Meyer (long-time activist with Fellowship of Reconciliation and War Resisters League).

Here were three quietly impassioned speakers who described the relentlessly prosecuted Black Panthers’ path-breaking social programs. These included free breakfast for black school children and other initiatives that later spread throughout the land.

Sekou revealed that the terms of his parole forbade him from discussing certain themes. And, answering a question about what it was like to finally be “free,” Sekou responded that upon his release what really took him aback was how little solidarity he found among many activists on the outside.

To learn more, see Latoya Lee’s article in the Jan/Feb 2019 PNL.

– Ed Kinane

AGREE’S WORK NEVER STOPS

Alliance for a Green Economy (AGREE) fights for clean, sustainable, renewable, equitable, accountable and local energy for all NYers. We’re partnering on the HeatSmartCNY.org campaign to promote renewable heating options for our 5-county CNY region (for workshops and open houses, check HeatSmartCNY.org). We’re intervening in utility rate cases and other regulatory proceedings to win regulatory support for energy efficiency and renewable energy. The work never stops, and neither do we. Please join our mailing list at AllianceforaGreenEconomy.org to receive action alerts so you can help us win!

– Andra Leimanis

BUILD YOUR ORGANIZING SKILLS— SATURDAY, APRIL 13

RiseUp for Social Action, in conjunction with a number of community organizations, including SPC, is offering a day-long conference on skill-building for community organizers and activists on **Saturday, April 13**, 9am-3:30pm at Bishop Harrison Center, 1342 Lancaster Ave., Syracuse.

The day will include three workshop sessions (with multiple choices during each session) and a keynote talk on addressing poverty, featuring an organizer from PUSH Buffalo.

Workshops will be lead by a diverse group of community organizers and will include Working as an Ally to a Targeted Group, Facilitating Effective Meetings, Understanding Privilege/Confronting Oppression, Communication Tools for Effective Organizing, The Work that Reconnects—Exploring Sacred Activism, Role of Nonviolent Direct Action in Social Movements, Meeting with Public Officials, Defining Your Issue, Using Power Analysis for your Campaign, Creative Arts for Social Change, Fundraising for Grassroots Organizing, Research for Activists, Working with Mainstream Media and Social Media for Organizing.

There is a sliding scale fee of \$0 to \$25 to attend. Support for this project has been provided by a “What If...” mini-grant from the Gifford Foundation. The fee includes lunch. Childcare will be available, as well as Spanish translation for the keynote and some workshops. Register online at: actionnetwork.org/groups/RiseUp. To learn more, email RiseUpCNYTraining@gmail.com.

– Andy Mager

NEIGHBORS OF THE ONONDAGA NATION

Cindy Squillace and team continue to put much effort into Witness to Injustice workshops. There continues to be high demand for the workshops in the area.

The Skä•noh Great Law of Peace Center is currently working on a Friends of Skä•noh volunteer organization to help with programming, outreach, and fundraising needs. If you are interested in helping to create this organization, please contact Jack Manno at jpmanno@esf.edu.

The Law Office of Joe Heath is circulating a sign-on letter to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and the Department of the Interior urging them to provide adequate warnings at all new fishing access points at Onondaga Lake and its immediate tributaries. The letter also asks them to fund outreach on fish consumption advisories and a study of the effectiveness of signage and outreach. NOON has signed on. If your organization is interested, email adelaide.lee.rosa@gmail.com or alma.lowry@gmail.com.

We’re also happy to say that our initial run of 10,000 *Neighbor to Neighbor, Nation to Nation* booklets has almost run out. A reprint will be ready in the near future. ☘

– Hilary-Anne Coppola