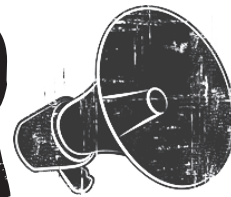
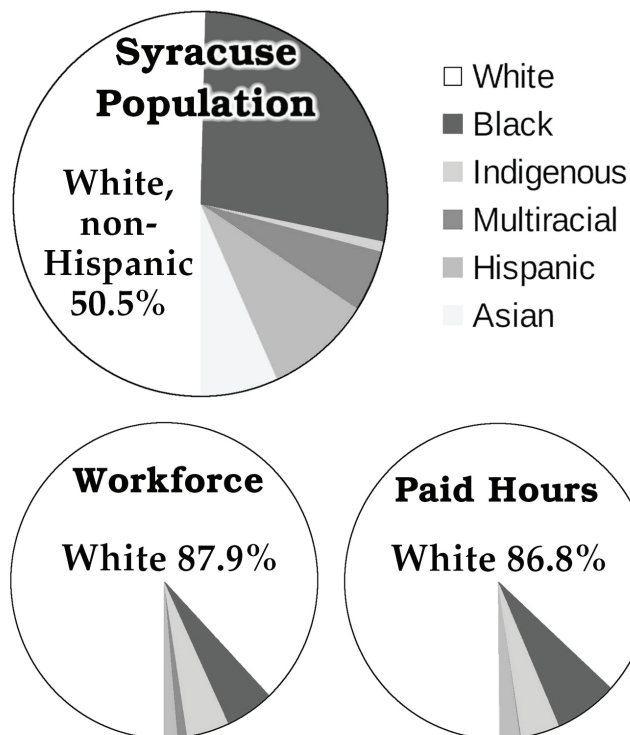
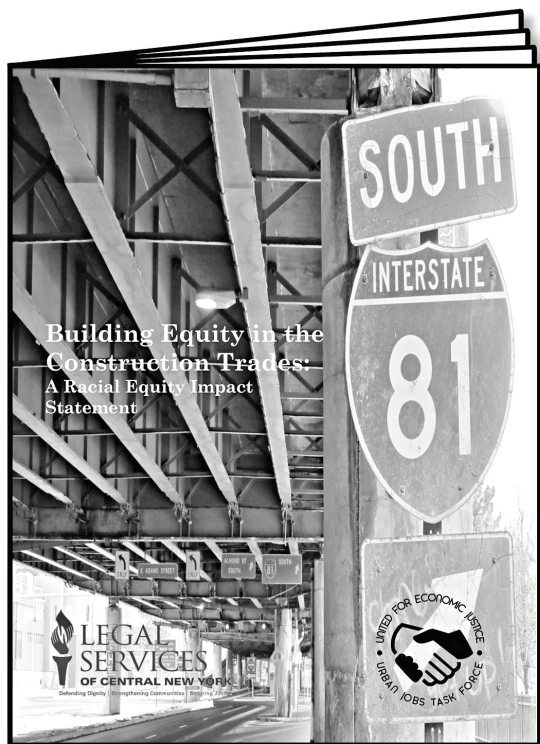


PEACE NEWSLETTER



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The 154-page Racial Equity Impact Statement (REIS) report gives a detailed analysis of imbalance in the building/construction workforce in various recent projects in Syracuse. This report is available online at www.ujtf.org.

The Hancock Airport, Lakeview Amphitheater and I-690 construction projects had 87.9% of the workforce white (823 of 936 employees), and 86.8% of paid hours going to white workers, 50.5% of the City of Syracuse's population is non-Hispanic white (and 55% is white including the white Hispanic population).

JOIN THE FIGHT FOR I-81 JOBS! SPEAK UP FOR RACIAL EQUITY IN THE BUILDING TRADES!

by Aggie Lane

Do you drive by Syracuse construction sites, craning your neck to check out who's working, to see how many are black and brown faces, to see how many are women? I do. Urban Jobs Task Force (UJTF) members do, too. Our take: there's mainly white men "on site." And we have reason to believe most of them aren't Syracusans. If we are correct, then the I-81 Viaduct Project with its thousands of construction jobs won't employ city residents, especially

minorities living in the Viaduct's shadow and struggling daily with concentrated poverty.

Since 2012, the UJTF has been advocating, and mobilizing residents, to demand an inclusive construction industry and to push for local hiring goals on publicly-funded construction projects. Two of our successes have been the city's 2016 Resident Employment Ordinance and the current \$300 million city school renovation project. Both the city ordinance and

the school renovation have a 20% city resident hiring goal. So, why not demand a local city resident hiring goal for the Viaduct project with its good-paying highway construction jobs?

Unfortunately, the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) stipulates that there cannot be any local hiring goals, when it funds any portion of a highway project. Since the USDOT will be funding 80% of the I-81 Project, this stipulation will significantly narrow construction job

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Advertising:

peacecouncil.net/pnl/advertise or (315) 472-5478

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Check the web for issue deadlines as they become available.

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Alliance for a Green Economy (AGREE)

Alliance of Communities Transforming Syracuse

CNY Solidarity Coalition

Upstate Coalition to Ground the Drones and End the Wars

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SPC Statement of purpose

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

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

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

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

<educate • agitate • organize> SPC in Action

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JOIN IN WITH SPC'S SUMMER ACTIVISM

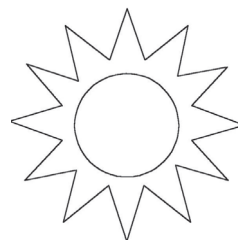
Summer is a great time to be out in the streets! Here are a few key projects where SPC activists are doing just that. Please join us.

Our annual Hiroshima Day dramatic procession through downtown Syracuse (**August 6**) is one of our largest summer events, and we'll need all hands on deck to make it a strong statement for peace. This year's procession will kick-off our participation in Physician for Social Responsibility's "Back from the Brink" campaign (see Youth Peace Award piece, page 4). We'll need help with outreach, making and fixing props, developing a leaflet and participating in the procession itself. To help, contact carol@peacecouncil.net or call the office.

Another big project is SPC's booth at the downtown Syracuse Arts and Crafts Fair, **July 26-28**. We'll need people to create engaging display(s), set up and clean up, petition at and staff the booth, and more. Contact michaela@peacecouncil.net or the office.

Also, for many years we have had a presence outside the main entrance of the NYS Fair at the **end of August**. Contact carol@peacecouncil.net to help make that happen.

— Michaela Czerkies



NOON—20 YEARS OF SOLIDARITY

Twenty years ago local activists came together to discuss how we might offer solidarity with our neighbors of the Onondaga Nation. We gathered at a time when other Central New Yorkers actively and viciously opposed land claims by the Cayuga and Oneida Nations. We expected that the Onondaga Nation would pursue a similar legal case to address the illegal theft of their land over 200 years ago.

We knew that if we organized effectively, the response in Onondaga territory could be different—and it has been. When Onondaga filed their historic Land Rights Action in March 2005, the public reaction was open-minded and largely supportive.

Since that time Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation (NOON) has continu-

ously sought to educate ourselves and the broader community about the history of relations between our peoples and how we might begin to repay the debt that we owe the Onondaga Nation and people. NOON's work is based on our responsibility to uphold the treaty obligations to which our nation committed ourselves and our ethical responsibility to act justly.

Although the US courts have so far denied justice to the Onondaga, our work continues to grow and expand, including extensive work on environmental issues of concern to the Onondaga. NOON meets the second Tuesday of every month and is always looking for new folks to join our work. Contact Jack or Sue (see "SPC Program Committees" on left).

— Andy Mager

THANKS TO OUR STUDENT ACTIVISTS

Three exceptional student activists worked with SPC last semester. Maddie Bohrer (OCC) and Laith Abdalla (OCC) interned with us, and Marni Libby (SU) was a service learning student.

They came ready to work and learn. Maddie's focus on SPC's Birthday Dinner was invaluable. She arranged ads, did

publicity, got food donations and basically did some of everything. Laith worked on a range of research projects essential to Justice for Palestine's campaign against Israeli military detention of Palestinian children, while always willing to help with other needs. Marni researched newspaper articles from across the country surround-

ing the adoption of Indigenous Peoples' Day and presented her findings to Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation.

We're grateful for their work, and are thrilled that Maddie and Marni plan to continue working with us.

— Carol Baum and Michaela Czerkies

continued on next page

BEYOND WAR AND MILITARISM

The Beyond War and Militarism Committee (BWaM) continued our Alternative Education series with a talk by Physicians for Social Responsibility past President Dr. Ira Helfand on March 18 (for more on PSR's "Back from the Brink" campaign, see "Peace Award," below). Then on April 29, World Beyond War's Gretta Zarro made an encore appearance, this time to identify and analyze myths that typically accompany the concept of war. She presented fundamental truths that are almost always absent in mainstream discussion of international relations. (See worldbeyondwar.org/inevitable for information about the myths.)

Our next program will be **July 23** with long-time Veterans for Peace and anti-war organizer John Amidon. He will have recently returned from the Nevada Desert Experience Sacred Peace Walk, during which he and others brought "The Peoples Indictment of the Nevada National Security Site" to the site and were arrested. He will speak on "Calling Out the Department of Energy." Watch for details.

We hit the streets on a cold and windy Tax Day, standing about fifty feet apart on E. Genesee St., Syracuse, each holding a sign, "Burma-Shave" style (for those old enough to remember). Each sign was similar with a statement reflecting the "Money for War OR Money for [something good]" theme. We received



Tax Day Action. Thanks to Ann Tiffany for making the signs. Photo: Carol Baum

many positive responses from drivers, indicating support for the message and the effectiveness of this form of protest.

As a joint committee of SPC and the CNY Solidarity Coalition, BWaM has provided reports during Coalition meetings, always emphasizing the connections between the resources taken from us by the War Budget and how those funds could be used at home.

— Barry Gordon

YOUTH PEACE AWARD—JUNE 10

The Nuclear Free World (NFW) Committee will present the 2019 Youth Peace Award on **June 10 at 7pm** at ArtRage Gallery (505 Hawley Ave., Syracuse). Award recipients are Maria Phillips, a senior at the Public Service Leadership Academy at Fowler High School, and Martine Dosa, a freshman at Nottingham High School. Please come hear what young peace activists are doing in our community.

In March, the NFW and the Beyond War and Militarism Committees hosted a talk by Dr. Ira Helfand, co-founder and past President of Physicians for Social Responsibility, on the national "Back from the Brink" campaign (preventnuclearwar.org). This campaign calls on the US to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war by:

- 1) Renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first.
- 2) Ending the sole, unchecked authority of any president to launch a nuclear attack.
- 3) Taking US nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert.
- 4) Cancelling the plan to replace the US' entire nuclear arsenal with nuclear weapons with enhanced capabilities.
- 5) Actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals.

— Margrit Diehl

JUSTICE FOR PALESTINE COMMEMORATES 71ST NAKBA ANNIVERSARY

Justice for Palestine Committee (JfP) members are continuing to focus on "No Way to Treat a Child," an international campaign sponsored by American Friends Service Committee and Defense for Children International, and endorsed by Jewish Voice for Peace and US Campaign for Palestinian Rights. We invite people to gather petition signatures for the recently re-introduced House bill HR 2407, the "Promoting Human Rights for Palestinian Children Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act" by Rep. Betty McCollum (Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, MN) and to assist in organizing local educational events. Keep an eye out for our summer activities!

On May 15, JfP hosted the annual *Nakba* commemoration and community gathering (*Nakba*, or "catastrophe" in Arabic, refers to the violent expulsion of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from their homeland to establish the state of Israel). Batoul Mufreh, an SU International Law student from Jerusalem, spoke on housing discrimination and displacement in East Jerusalem, followed by discussion. As this year's event fell during the holy month of Ramadan, food was served and the fast broken together after sunset.

— Julia Ganson

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THE PRIMARY IS THE ELECTION

by Annabel Hine Otts and Elaine Denton

In Central New York and across the county, political candidates from communities most impacted by inequality and racism are stepping up, running for office, and winning. These are candidates who can champion the voices and needs of those suffering under the status quo.

Locally, we've seen the incredible power our community can put behind candidates, and we've celebrated some big wins in our midterm election. Now we must get back to work and actively support these candidates as they run for office. We can't vote for change if we don't help the change makers canvass, fundraise, and get people out to vote in the primary.

Party designees and incumbents have resources other candidates don't, including teams of people to walk neighborhoods. This puts many of our progressive candidates at an immediate disadvantage, as they do not automatically have the same support and infrastructure. If you support fair elections and a robust primary accessible to all people who want to run, volunteer for candidates you support, and bring your friends!

In Central New York, where registered Democrats far outnumber Republicans (4 to 1 in the City of Syracuse, and by 25% in Onondaga County), primary elections afford us the opportunity to hash out nuances between candidates—and support the best progressive policies. Voters are much more likely to vote party line in the November election.

Primary season 2019 is a potential game changer for Central New York, as our movement produces an ever-increasing number of progressive local candidates.

We have compiled some information to encourage you to take action. For more details visit www.cnysolidarity.com.

Important Dates:

Friday, May 31: Last day to postmark an application or register in person to be eligible to vote in the primary.

You must be registered in a party to vote in a primary election in NYS. If you are not registered in a party, you can still help candidates by donating and volunteering your time.

Tuesday, June 25: Primary election. Polls open 12pm - 9pm.



	Do you support:	Public Broadband?	Community Grid?	100% Clean Energy?
Onondaga County / 2 year term / \$29,430				
7 th District	Joey Chiarenza		Did not respond.	Did not respond.
	Mary Kuhn	✓	Yes, this is an opportunity for us all to work towards, racial, economic and social justice.	I support getting our region to 100% clean energy.
15 th District	Misse Ross	✓	Yes. The community grid is the best choice from an environmental, social justice and financial perspective.	Yes, by 2035.
	Bill Kinne		Did not respond.	Did not respond.
16 th District	Charles Garland		Did not respond.	Did not respond.
	Vernon Williams Jr	✓	Yes, best option that gives the city and county residents the chance for economic growth and development.	Yes, create a bold plan to be 100% clean energy within 5 years.
City of Syracuse / \$21,224				
At-Large 4 year term (vote for 2)	Steven Thompson	✓	Yes, voted twice for resolutions to the state in support. I believe it will be a bridge to the future for the city.	Yes, but I don't see it occurring in the next 20 years.
	Michael Greene	✗	Yes, It is the best quality of life option for those that live immediately adjacent to I-81.	Yes, our best option is to enroll in Community Choice Aggregation.
	Rita Paniagua	✓	Yes, The community grid will bring economic development to our area, safety and healthier solution.	Yes, in favor of a program that is progressive, efficient, and realistic.
3 rd District 2 year term (vote for 1)	Chol Majok	✓	Yes, it is the better choice for our community's health and economy.	As soon as possible or no later than 2050.
	Emad Rahim	✓	Yes, to create an inclusive city, build stronger community, reduce health risk & create opportunities for local residents.	Yes, within a realistic time frame dependent upon many factors.
	Byrn Lovejoy-Grinnell	✓	Yes. It will create economic reinvestment opportunities, bridge the divide, better access and reduce air pollution.	Yes
Syracuse City School Board - Commissioner of Education (vote for 4) 4 year term / \$7,500				
Dan Romeo 		Twiggy Billue 	Tamica Chachee Barnett 	Katie Sojewicz
				Mark Muhammad

Incumbent Endorsed by Onondaga County Democratic Committee Endorsed by Working Families Party

Annabel Hine Otts and Elaine Denton are members of the CNY Solidarity Coalition.

Editors' note: We decided to include in this issue three articles on the interrelated topics of antisemitism and Islamophobia. We rarely commit three articles in a single issue to exploring one set of topics but felt it was critical to more fully explore these complex and often contentious types of racism.

We have done so partially in response to recent accusations of antisemitism from external sources and discussions within the Peace Council, which resulted in SPC's Statement

on Recent Accusations of Antisemitism (March/April 2019 PNL, also peacecouncil.net/statements). We also do so because these experiences have led us to recommit to firmly-held values that have existed for many years: standing against racism of all types and against war, and using nonviolence to fight for a world with justice and equality for all.

The three articles can be read separately or together, in any order, and understood on their own, with multiple interpretations and

meaning, as always. We believe that the pieces "speak to each other" about racism, bigotry and ideology, and how political ideology can be used as a weapon in our current political milieu. May this trio produce more discussion and debate within our SPC community!

We wish to sincerely thank our authors for these three perspectives and approaches to difficult topics—Elliott Bazzano, Carole Resnick and Julie Gozan, and Ariel Gold and Elijah Gold.

DIAGNOSING AND CONFRONTING ISLAMOPHOBIA IN 2019: SOME PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

by Elliott Bazzano

In November 2018, two female Muslims, for the first time ever, were elected to the US Congress: Rashida Tlaib (D-Michigan) and Ilhan Omar (D-Minnesota). Tlaib was born in Detroit and boasts Palestinian roots. Omar is an immigrant/refugee from Somalia, who also wears a traditional Islamic head covering (*hijab*). Given the ideals of religious diversity that define the United States—contrasted with the proportional lack of diversity in Congress—their elections are nothing less than historic, especially in a post-9/11 Islamophobic world. Both women were sworn in on copies of the Qur'an. (Tlaib, incidentally, used Thomas Jefferson's copy.) Notably, both have faced various degrees of Islamophobic backlash from fellow members of Congress, and I expect this backlash to continue.

As a college professor who regularly engages with students, media outlets, activists and other academics, their elections give me hope that a more public and visible marriage between government service and US Muslims will assuage some of the ignorance and fear that so many Americans hold toward Muslims. But at the same time, the current moment could also amplify Islamophobia. Certainly, there are no easy solutions to overcoming hate and ignorance, but baby steps are meaningful

Elliott is an associate professor of religious studies at Le Moyne College and also serves as co-chair for the Study of Islam steering committee in the American Academy of Religion.

all the same. I'd like to now recount some of my own experiences with encountering Islamophobia and then offer some modest solutions that almost anyone can apply.



About a decade ago, I was flying out of the New Haven airport on my way back from a graduate student Islamic studies conference. While waiting for my plane to board, two unmarked FBI agents approached me, and asked me to follow them to a back room for questioning. I was taken aback, but I had been on a "random" security-screening list for the past two years whenever I flew, ever since I returned from Yemen on a US Department of State-sponsored scholarship to study Arabic (I never learned the specifics as to why I was placed on an airport security list). So, I wasn't entirely surprised

that these gentlemen wished to have a word with me about something.

The agents asked me about my business in New Haven as well as my trip to Yemen. "Why did you go to Yemen?" they asked me. "Because the government sent me there," I replied. In a callous tone, one of the men replied back, "Oh, geez, you'd think they would have sent you somewhere less backwards." I don't think I engaged that particular comment, but I noted what was said and how it was said, and that it was coming from a government official. After boring the officers with details of graduate student life for a few more minutes, they finally let me on my way, but before I left, I asked why today was special: "What spurred you to approach me today, specifically, to ask me questions?" They said that the airport called them, and the agents alleged that they couldn't be sure what the reason was, but offered, "Do you have any books about Islam or anything in your luggage?" I was traveling for an Islamic studies conference as a graduate student. Of course I had books about Islam in my luggage.

Even as a white guy whose native language is English, I have many more stories of first-hand accounts of Islamophobic behavior and rhetoric that have affected me directly. More troubling, I know a myriad of stories from friends and colleagues—many of whom don't match my demographic description—and it's often hard to know if things are getting better or not. Today, for example, we have a president who has said "Islam hates us." And he supports banning Muslims,

specifically, from entering the US. But, I also have the privilege of guiding students through the complexities and nuances of Islam and the lives of Muslims, and I watch people change their minds all the time because education can do that, so I remain optimistic.

Lots of polls suggest that most US citizens have never knowingly met a Muslim. Incidentally, although Muslims make up only about 2% of the US population, about 10% of US-based physicians are Muslims. So, lots of Americans have likely met Muslims in a medical context, and others, even if they aren't aware. Also according to polls, unsurprisingly, people that have personal relationships with Muslims are more likely to hold positive views of Muslims more broadly. Why is it, then, that so many people who have never met Muslims have such strongly held negative opinions against people they know about, not from personal relationships, but instead from third-party

(both liberal and conservative) media? To paraphrase Islamic studies scholar Ingrid Mattson, media consumption is a public health crisis.

Because I work with students, primarily in courses I teach about Islam, I think about Islamophobia often and encounter a range of informed, uninformed and misinformed points of view. My students routinely report, however, that the most impactful experiences that they have involve meeting Muslims, attending mosque services, and having sustained conversations with rooms full of diverse students who can constructively engage and challenge one another. By and large, my students regularly tell me that they enter our classes together with any number of biases but are able to move past them as they learn to humanize Muslims by taking in-depth looks at history, society, and intellectual debates. I also know that beyond the walls of the university, similar principles apply. My advice: Meet

Muslims, learn about other cultures, and consume media with great caution. And assist your friends, family, neighbors and colleagues to do the same. Easier said than done, yet these things are within reach of the average person.

It is currently the month of Ramadan according to the Islamic calendar. This means that Muslims around the world, and in Syracuse, are fasting from food and water from dawn until sunset, as a spiritual practice designed to cultivate patience, gratitude and compassion. Later this month the 3rd annual Syracuse Ramadan Dinner will take place at Syracuse University in the Manley Field House. It's free and open to the public, and you can register here: <http://tinyurl.com/y39c7unt>. Tell your friends. Come for the food. Come for community. People literally want to give you free delicious food, as a means to make the world a more peaceful and understanding place. ☺

WHAT IS ANTISEMITISM?

by Carole Resnick and Julie Gozan

Jewish communities around the world have had various experiences with discrimination, bigotry and violence throughout history. The most well-known examples are the Spanish Inquisition and expulsion of Jews from Spain in 1492, the massacre and persecution of Jews in the pogroms of Russia in the 19th and 20th centuries, and the genocide of six million Jews in the Nazi Holocaust of the 1940s. Contemporary antisemitism has been revealed harshly in the current upsurge of violence perpetrated against Jews in the US and Europe.

Definitions of antisemitism are generally straightforward regardless of the source. Most recognize a core meaning apart from beliefs about Israel and Palestine, in spite of some also falsely characterizing criticism of Israel as antisemitic. For example:

- *Webster's Dictionary*: Hostility toward or discrimination against Jews as a religious, ethnic, or racial group.

Carole and Julie are Syracuse activists, members of Congregation Tikun v'Or in Ithaca, members of Jewish Voice for Peace, and committed to working for the liberation of the Palestinian people.

- Anti-Defamation League: Belief or behavior hostile toward Jews ... It may take the form of religious teachings that proclaim the inferiority of Jews ... political efforts to isolate, oppress, or otherwise injure them [or] prejudiced or stereotyped views about Jews.

- International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and US State Department: A certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred, directed toward individuals or Jewish community institutions and religious facilities. [C]riticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic.

To discuss and expand on these definitions, we have borrowed liberally from the 2016 essay "JVP's Understanding of Antisemitism in the United States," by the national organization Jewish Voice for Peace. We also draw from Judith Butler's introduction to JVP's 2017 book, *On*



Antisemitism. For further background, we strongly recommend the "Countering Anti-Jewish Oppression Resource List," compiled by Showing Up for Racial Justice, found at www.showingupforracialjustice.org/surj-faith.html.

Racial antisemitism, and the term "antisemitism" itself, emerged from pseudo-scientific theories of race in 19th-century Europe that placed categories of people into a racial hierarchy. This racist logic has had institutional and governmental support, including in the US, where historically, Jewish refugees were ghettoized and discriminated against along with other immigrant groups. European Jews in the

continued on next page

US have largely been racialized as white over time. Even as the Trump administration emboldens anti-Jewish speech and violence, antisemitism is not currently reinforced by state institutions in the same ways that racism and Islamophobia are, through structural barriers to opportunity, surveillance, policing practices and more. Non-European Jews and Jews of Color in the US have their own histories and experiences of both racism and antisemitism.

Religious antisemitism includes the everyday and pervasive dominance of Christianity in US culture in ways that impact all religious minorities. While many Christian communities practice liberation theologies and work towards justice for all people, some use antisemitic misreading of doctrine and treat Judaism as inferior to Christianity. Christian Zionism, which encourages Jewish return to Israel as a means to achieve Christian redemption, is founded on antisemitic interpretations of scripture.

Contemporary expressions of antisemitism include treating Jews as a monolithic group, stereotyping Jews as rich or greedy, or demonizing Jews as secretly in control of political events. These tropes are evident when the US-Israel relationship is blamed solely on Jewish power, exempting the US government from its responsibility for unconditional support of Israel. Indeed, the alt-right staunchly supports Israel even as it disseminates antisemitic myths of Jewish dominance. Some on the

left claim that hate crimes are just a response to the oppression of Palestinians and Jewish support for Israeli policies; in fact, most of the antisemites in the US who commit anti-Jewish hate crimes are also profoundly anti-Muslim and support Palestinian dispossession. Antisemitic incidents are on the rise and should not be minimized from the right or the left.

A surge in nationalism around the world has brought neo-Nazi ideologies back into the mainstream, and right-wing parties with antisemitic agendas have made electoral gains. The Jobbik party in Hungary, whose leaders have claimed that Jews are a threat to national security, won representation in the national assembly in 2018. Golden Dawn in Greece rallies anti-Roma, anti-refugee, and anti-Jewish sentiment and maintains alliances with far-right groups in the UK, Poland, Slovakia, Croatia and Bulgaria. Austria's vice chancellor Heinz-Christian Strache has been photographed participating in paramilitary exercises with Nazi groups. This year on Good Friday, the town of Pruchnik, Poland enacted a ritual beating of an effigy of Judas caricatured as an Orthodox Jew.

Hate crimes in the US against Muslims, African-Americans, Latinxs and Jews swelled immediately following Trump's election and have continued. Synagogues, cemeteries, and college campuses have been desecrated by swastikas and anti-Jewish epithets; at the time of this writing,

these were found newly spray-painted on schools, museums and a Democratic Party headquarters in Oklahoma. Two 2018 studies show an increase in antisemitic posts on social media. In New York City, antisemitic crimes in 2018 were up 22% compared with 2017, and 55 hate crimes, two-thirds of them antisemitic, were reported in the first six weeks of 2019. In August 2017, the individuals who rallied as part of Unite the Right in Charlottesville chanted "Jews will not replace us." In March 2019 in Manhattan, Polish nationalists and Holocaust deniers, rallying to protest a bill seeking recovery of property confiscated from victims of Nazism, waved dollar bills in the faces of Jewish counter-protestors. In October 2018 a terrorist killed 11 people in the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh. On April 27, 2019 a gunman with an automatic rifle attacked a synagogue in Poway, CA during services to observe Shabbat and the last day of Passover, resulting in one death and multiple injuries.

These examples show that we need to call out resurging forms of fascism forcefully and clearly. When the charge of antisemitism becomes a tactic to suppress open criticism and debate about the State of Israel, we lose the power to accurately name and oppose antisemitism and its toxic effects. We welcome this discussion in the PNL and hope it brings clarity and renewed purpose. ☸

ANTISEMITISM AND ISLAMOPHOBIA: TWO SIDES OF THE SAME BIGOTRY COIN

by Ariel Gold and Elijah Gold

Last month it happened again. On April 27, during Shabbat and the Jewish holiday of Passover, a man walked into a US synagogue and opened fire. One person was killed and three people, including an eight-year-old girl, were injured. It was less than six months since a man had walked into the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh and massacred 11 Jewish-

Americans. There is no denying the near historic levels of antisemitism being witnessed right now in the US and across the world.

Neither the Poway Chabad synagogue nor the Tree of Life synagogue shooters were supporters of the boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) movement. Neither of them were friends of Women's March co-chair and Muslim-American activist Linda Sarsour or fans of Congresswoman Ilhan Omar, but you wouldn't know this from so many of the responses to the Chabad murders, which

blamed Muslims for an attack carried out by a white nationalist.

For example, Trump Jr. retweeted Joel Fisher, the Vice Chairman for Social Affairs of Kings County GOP's tweet reading: "If you're blaming Trump [rather than blaming Muslims and/or the Left] for the actions in Poway, CA, you need to re-evaluate your life."

Morton Klein, the Director of the Zionist Organization of America tweeted, "What about condemning the Islamic Muslim antisemites who attack Jews

Ariel is the national co-director for CODEPINK. Elijah is a senior at Lehman Alternative Community School in Ithaca, NY.

every day in Israel as well as in France, Germany, Belgium, etc.”

Shoshanna Keats Jaskoll, who writes for *Times of Israel*, *Forward*, and *The Jerusalem Post*, took to Twitter saying, “If you [Rep. Omar] overly criticize the funding/influence of Jews/Israel, it’s antisemitic.”

Not mentioning Muslims, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu called on the international community to “step up the struggle against antisemitism.” But what does the world struggle against antisemitism look like? Are all things labeled as antisemitism really antisemitic? And what is the price of false accusations of antisemitism, who pays, and when are accusations of antisemitism acts of Islamophobia?

The most widely used definition of antisemitism—adopted by 44 countries, including Germany, France, UK, the U.S. State Department—is from the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) laid out as being: “a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.” Examples from the IHRA include such things as symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism, holocaust denial, accusing Jews of dual loyalty, and “denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination.”

Some of these are portrayals of Jews as hook-nosed, greedy, and unclean, or are about Holocaust denial, for example, and are vile and obvious forms of bigotry and hatred that should be condemned by all. Others, such as defining anti-zionism—the belief that the political movement of Zionism utilized in order to establish Israel has played out historically through such things as removing hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from their homes and lands, and is today a practice of settler-colonialism, illegal military occupation, and apartheid—as antisemitism and the accusation of dual loyalty act to silence debate on Israel and can result in bigotry against other groups.

In February 2019 Congresswoman Ilhan Omar tweeted, “It’s all about the Benjamins baby” (a song by hip hop artist Puff Daddy) in response to attacks she and fellow Muslim congresswoman

Rashida Tlaib experienced for criticizing Israel. A short time later at a town hall, she expanded, saying, “I want to talk about the political influence in this country that says it is ok for people to push for allegiance to a foreign country. And I want to ask, why is it ok for me to talk about the influence of the NRA, of fossil fuel industries, or Big Pharma, and not talk about a powerful lobby that is influencing policy?”

Black scholars and activists, including Angela Davis, Marc Lamont Hill, and Michelle Alexander, have all found themselves heavily targeted, and in some cases paid the price of losing their jobs, speaking out on behalf of Palestinian rights.

As we face a dangerous tide of rising antisemitism—two synagogue shootings within a six month period—and the dangerous rising tide of Islamophobia, we



Photo: Brian Quinn at the Wellsville (NY) Daily Reporter

All hell broke loose. President Trump, Mike Pence, and a number of GOP members called for Rep. Omar to resign either from Congress entirely or at least from her position on the Foreign Affairs Committee, and Omar’s own party introduced a resolution condemning antisemitism that, while not specifically mentioning her name, was clearly an accusation that she was trafficking in antisemitism.

What Rep. Omar said on Twitter and at the Town Hall was neither untrue nor antisemitic, but the consequences faced by the first black, hijab-wearing, Muslim woman in Congress were dangerous and Islamophobic, causing Rep. Omar to face attacks because of her Muslim faith. Found at the West Virginia statehouse, during a Republican-sponsored public gathering, was a poster associating Rep. Omar with the September 11 attacks. The assertion of the poster was that because Rep. Omar is a Muslim, she is more likely to support violence. Months later, a man arrested for death threats against Omar was found to be in possession of a cache of over 1,000 bullets and illegal guns.

And the false accusations of antisemitism haven’t just been against Rep. Omar.

must build and strengthen our joint inter-sectional movement to reject all forms of hatred and bigotry and protect each other. As Rep. Omar recently said: “When we are talking about antisemitism, we must also talk about Islamophobia; it’s two sides of the same coin of bigotry.” She added. “Just this week, when we’ve had the attack in California on a synagogue, it’s the same person who’s accused of attempting to bomb a mosque. So I can’t ever speak of Islamophobia and fight for Muslims if I am not willing to fight against antisemitism.” What Rep. Omar’s quote referred to is the Poway synagogue shooter’s manifesto where he laid clear his hatred for Muslims and Jews alike and admitted that prior to entering Poway Chabad synagogue he had attempted to bomb a mosque in the area.

If we want to achieve safety for Jews in this time of rising antisemitism, we must do so by at the same time achieving safety for Muslims and all the other groups currently subject to hatred and bigotry. It is through solidarity that we can find safety for all. ☯



The UJTF Racial Equity Impact Statement (REIS) team. Left to right: Andrew Croom, Athena Last, Peter King, Jamison Crawford, Paul Ciavarri, Aggie Lane, Deka Dancil. Photo: Libby Croom

opportunities for Syracusans. What can be done to ensure that impacted city neighborhoods benefit from the good I-81 jobs in their backyard? The UJTF's response is a three-pronged strategy: organizing the community, documenting the lack of diversity in construction trades, and recommending solutions.

First, we have educated and rallied Syracusans, and even county residents, to petition the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) in charge of the I-81 Viaduct Project to not grant a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) to the construction trade unions unless these unions diversify their membership with capable city residents. (Note: A PLA is a contract between a lead agency and the building trade unions, guaranteeing that most of the project's work goes to their members. So, if Syracusans were union members and the project is governed by a PLA, they would have a chance to work on the project.)

Second, we created a Racial Equity Impact Statement (REIS), addressing disparities in the local construction trades—both union and non-union—which we intend to present at the I-81 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) hearing. The 150-page REIS was a joint effort of the UJTF and Legal Services of CNY, a non-profit agency dedicated to social justice. Our 16-month long effort confirmed our hypothesis that the local construction industry is mainly a rural/suburban white man's bastion. We examined data from five large, local, publicly-funded construction projects governed by PLAs. We tabulated and graphed the project data showing who worked, by race and gender, how many hours were worked, how much in wages were paid and how many workers came from the city. We held 30 interviews with politicians, academics, community leaders, construction company executives, minority construction workers, workforce developers, and trade union representatives.

But that's not all. We also researched the history of Syracuse's racial segregation: redlining, Urban Renewal, the 1960s

Aggie is UJTF's (Urban Job Task Force) treasurer and co-chair of its policy committee. The UJTF is a Syracuse-based, volunteer-led, non-profit working for local economic justice. For more information, please visit www.ujtf.org.

construction of I-81 through Syracuse, and the destruction of the 9th and 15th Wards. We created a profile of Syracuse today, its demographics, its poverty, and its low-wage workforce. We marshaled demographic data to demonstrate that the trades are overwhelmingly white. We explored the reasons for the racial disparities in the trades and what prevented minorities from pursuing a trades career, including systemic racism and concentrated poverty. We showed how PLAs, when stipulating minority and women workforce goals, can help diversify construction worksites, although not always. For example, on federally-funded highway projects such goals set in the 1970s are very low: the minority workforce goal is 3.8% and the women workforce goal, 6.9%.

Regarding "our take" on who's working: the REIS's project data shows that on average 87% of the workers employed on the three municipal projects we studied in-depth were white. Two projects gave us worker's home zip codes—and these showed that 2% and 7% of the white workers, respectively, lived in Syracuse. Of the two dozen blacks who worked on these projects, over half lived in the city.

This past March 14 at the Marriott, the former Hotel Syracuse, with research in hand and with funding from UJTF member Greater Syracuse Works, Legal Services and UJTF invited 100 dinner guests to the "unveiling" of the REIS. Our guests were UJTF members, community and political leaders, and those who we had interviewed. UJTF president Deka Dancil along with Legal Services staff attorney and REIS team leader Andrew Croom presented an AV overview of our study. To personalize the data we listened to "stories" from four minority Syracusans, all hoping for a trades career. Finally, Lamar Middleton, president of Hope for Us Housing Corp., which trains city minorities in the building trades, challenged our guests, asking them "to make a difference." He said doing nothing would feed the despair that many city residents trapped in poverty feel.

Along with the REIS's Executive Summary, we distributed to our guests the UJTF recommendations, which encompass three main areas. The first deals with barriers preventing city people from completing a trade training program. Such barriers include transportation, child care and the need "to pay the bills." We suggest a shuttle service or bus routes to training worksites. During construction training, we recommend child care subsidies and program stipends.

The second area addresses trades training and construction jobs for city residents. Citing the case of the Colorado Central 70 highway project, where USDOT granted \$400,000 in construction training funds, we see an encouraging precedent for the I-81 Viaduct project and recommend a \$450,000 USDOT workforce grant. We recommend that training programs introduce their graduates to unions and construction contractors. Funding a centralized, city-wide database could be another way to connect city resident construction workers to job opportunities.

The third area concerns the mechanism to make equity a reality by convening a "Big Table," a monitoring and enforcement device used in some cities. The table should include trade union leaders, community workforce developers, employment equity advocates, relevant federal, state and local political leaders, and the UJTF as a resource and watchdog of community interests.

Besides petitioning and creating the REIS and its follow-up recommendations, the UJTF has been pressuring the city to get going on Syracuse Build. Mayor Ben Walsh announced this initiative upon taking office in 2018. Its inspiration and model is San Francisco's City Build, in place since 2006. We are frustrated with Syracuse Build's slow start, and we are also concerned the Mayor's initiative will not offer in-depth training, thereby preventing many city residents from becoming electricians, carpenters, masons, ironworkers, plumbers, welders, or equipment operators.

We are demanding that the city not repeat Syracuse's recent history of construction training programs which prepare city residents to merely be laborers. We've researched how other cities have created effective and accessible trades programs for residents coming out of prison or otherwise trapped in poverty. Currently, we are pushing for a local Big Table so the trainers, funders, trade unions, political leaders and equity advocates, such as the UJTF, can design Syracuse Build together.

So what can you do to ensure that Syracusans, and especially city minorities, benefit from the good-paying I-81 jobs?

- Go to www.ujtf.org and sign our petition, or download a blank copy and ask for signatures. Make it a goal to get a full sheet, or more, filled out. People don't need to be city residents to sign, just Onondaga County residents. We will deliver them at the DEIS hearing.
- You can download and read the REIS report and our recommendations at: www.ujtf.org/REIS.

- Come to the DEIS hearing, and speak up for I-81 jobs for city residents. Wear a UJTF t-shirt or hold up one of our signs.
- Answer a UJTF call to contact our elected representatives.
- Become a UJTF member.

The powers-that-be must hear that "business as usual" is not acceptable, as that will only perpetuate the racial disparities in the building trades and intensify the city's already notorious poverty. Our federal representatives should push for raising the USDOT's minority and women workforce goals each to 10%, reflecting the city's workforce goals. The NYSDOT must make rules that create job opportunities for those in trade apprenticeships. According to our REIS, apprentices on the I-690 Teall Avenue Interchange Project got only 4% of the total available work. And minority apprentices got less than 1%. What is particularly disappointing is that the I-690 PLA had a section encouraging apprentice utilization. If the city trains workers for I-81, rules employing apprentices must be stronger and enforceable. Otherwise, even if *city-resident* apprentices are in the union, they may get little of the I-81 work. Getting rules that create an inclusive project will occur only if every one of our political leaders hears the demand. We need you to help them realize that they are morally obliged to make it happen.

Los Angeles county supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas said it beautifully:

An investment in our physical infrastructure is incomplete without a similar investment in our human capital. Anything less is not only economically unsound, it is immoral. ♡



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CITIZEN-LED POLICE OVERSIGHT IN SYRACUSE: CUAPB AND THE ORIGINS OF THE CITIZEN REVIEW BOARD

by Members of SPAARC (Syracuse Police Accountability And Reform Coalition)

In 2018, a new group called Syracuse Police Accountability And Reform Coalition (SPAARC) was formed to bring forward the work begun by CUAPB (Citizens United Against Police Brutality), the New York Civil Liberties Union, and others. SPAARC's organizational focus is driven by community concerns related to police misconduct and a lack of trust between the Syracuse Police Department and the many communities they serve. This focus drives three key efforts related to the use of excessive force:

1) Strengthening the Citizen Review Board's authority to investigate police misconduct.

2) Improving oversight and legal accountability for School Resource Officers.

3) Providing critical evaluation of developing police policy including the use of force, police union contract provisions, and the use of body-worn cameras (BWCs).

SPAARC is focused on elevating citizen demands for police transparency and accountability in ways that build stronger community relationships for all local residents.

The rest of this article relates some history of the citizen oversight movement in Syracuse. For updates and current actions, watch for future articles.

Citizen demands for police accountability and transparency have existed in Syracuse, New York for many years. Most often, residents were concerned with the daily police actions they believed would lead to a fatal encounter, including the use of force and racially discriminatory police practices while conducting stops, searches, and seizures.

1970. Police Shoots in the Back and Kills Jeremiah Mitchell, 18.

On the night of August 18, 1970, these fears crystallized into an enduring public conversation about police accountability when Jeremiah Mitchell, an 18-year-old Black male Syracuse resident, was shot in the back and killed by Syracuse Police Officer Paul Larkin. A group of youth were involved in an attempted mugging, and Larkin and his partner reported that they were actively looking for suspects. After a grand jury found Officer Larkin's actions "absolutely and unequivocally justifiable," the Chairman of the Human Rights Commission of Syracuse and Onondaga County Raymond Gantter responded that in light of the 84 pages of testimony and statements, these findings equaled a "travesty of justice" (*Post-Standard* 1970).

SPAARC is a grassroots collective committed to transformational, citizen-led police reform. Contact SPAARC at spaarc315@gmail.com.

Mitchell's mother brought a civil action arguing that her son's death "was caused by acts of negligence and excessive use of force on the part of Officer Paul Larkin, and by negligence on the part of the City of Syracuse and its police force in hiring and training Larkin" (*Herring v. City of Syracuse* 1975). On April 21, 1976 a six-person jury cleared Larkin of any civil responsibility and wrongdoing in young Jeremiah Mitchell's death.

1979. Dennis Collins, 19, Beaten, Hospitalized for Six Days; Camera Destroyed.

On March 25, 1979, public conversation regarding police negligence and unwarranted use of force was revived. This occurred after the beating of a Black male Syracuse resident and photographer for a local paper, 19-year-old Dennis Collins. After retrieving his camera to document police behavior, Collins was beaten, and his camera destroyed. At this point, Collins ran from the police and was chased. Collins stopped running and put up his hands to demonstrate that he was surrendering. The police apprehended him and then continued to beat Collins so severely that he was hospitalized for six days.

Residents gathered together almost immediately to formalize their collective experiences into a grassroots organization.



Dennis Collins in the hospital after the beating. This was the cover of the CUAPB brochure. Photo: Alan Rosenthal archives.

The first formal meeting was held on May 16, 1979. By the second meeting two weeks later, the collective came to be known as Citizens United Against Police Brutality (CUAPB). At this meeting, organizers discussed Collins' decision to take pictures as an appropriate engagement of his First Amendment

right to document police behavior. They also noted that Collins' beating took place outside, in the middle of a street, and in front of several witnesses. Organizers concluded that, "the police are getting bolder and bolder, and think they can get away with it anywhere at any time" (CUAPB May 16 Meeting Minutes 1979).

Collins refused a plea bargain on the police charges against him for disorderly conduct and resisting arrest. Collins was expected to stand trial for these charges. As he prepared to do so, Collins and CUAPB framed this day in court as a mobilizing moment for the greater community. Collins requested that the community join and stand with him on the platform of a much larger community trial—that of the police, brought to stand and be held accountable for perceived injustices in the community.

CUAPB had two express demands in the fall of 1979: to have all charges against Collins dropped and to obtain "community control of police." A march took place on September 8, 1979, a warm Saturday afternoon, to raise awareness on behalf of these issues. Personal photographs from community members show a large crowd making their way from King School to the County Courthouse carrying homemade signs and banners. This set of photographs show a predominantly Black crowd with notable race and age diversity. There is also a visual prioritization of the Spanish language in organizing materials.

1980. Raul Mora, Beaten By Police, Dies.

CUAPB organizing continued to spark critical conversations, both about the role of police as an institution and the behaviors and tactics of police as social actors. This collective voice gained significant momentum with each new case of police violence in their community. On September 8, 1980, four Syracuse Police Department officers beat an unarmed man in the parking lot of a downtown hospital. Witnesses at the scene reported that officers brutally beat Raul Mora, a local Mexican-American man, and arrested him for allegedly breaking into vehicles. Mora later died after being taken off life-support. CUAPB rallied with several community organizations to pressure the District Attorney to fully investigate the



CUAPB demonstration at the Onondaga County Courthouse. Photo: Alan Rosenthal archives.

Syracuse Police Department, and "for the first time in the history of Syracuse, police officers were indicted by an Onondaga County Grand Jury for their brutality"—an accomplishment that CUAPB stressed "was a step forward for community control of the police."

CUAPB Leads Push For Citizen Oversight of Police.

Mora's death spurred the collective to fully invest themselves in legal research and the creation of public policy. It was clear to members that community grievances could not depend on the assistance of the District Attorney, the police department, grand juries, and even local trial juries. The CUAPB Steering Committee facilitated the creation of several research projects including the first draft of a citizen-led police oversight agency in Syracuse.

As early as October 1980, CUAPB wrote to elected officials requesting that they take a stand on issues of police violence, arguing that the continued policy of "police policing themselves... [has] proved ineffectual...[and] may have grave consequences on municipal liability." Local residents began to clearly link their concerns about racial discrimination against Black and Brown community members to the economic well-being of the city itself.

CUAPB founders had stated this link a year prior in their founding statement, suggesting that "police brutality, like its counterparts; racism and discrimination, is as much a part of the American scene of this urban community as poverty, ghettos, and inflation—all of which pose a serious threat to the economic and political vitality of all people" (CUAPB Statement 1981). In the year that followed Dennis Collins' beating, CUAPB focused on the political significance of their work and now they fully embraced the economic dimensions of their plight as well.

Over the next four months, CUAPB organizing built several integral partnerships with local clergy and organizations invested in civic engagement such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), National Lawyers Guild – Syracuse Chapter, State Conference for Lesbians and Gays, Syracuse University College of Law, the New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU), Spanish Action League, and the Urban League. Given what the collective understood to be a troubling pattern of injustice for minorities that experience police violence in Syracuse, CUAPB decided "that the only recourse is to come together as a committee, and in mass to defend the basic human rights of all minorities" irrespective of race, color, class, age, national origin, religion, sex, and sexual orientation (CUAPB Founding Document, 1979).

1991-93. City Creates The Citizen Review Board.

In the Fall of 1991, a Task Force on Police Community Relations was formed, with City Councilor Charles Anderson as Chair. Representatives from many of the above organizations were included. The Task Force recommended that the City create a Citizen Review Board to provide citizen oversight of the Syracuse Police Department. The CRB was established by the Common Council's approval of Local Law 11 in 1993. The law was modified in 2011 and is the basis for today's Citizen Review Board. The CRB accepts complaints about misconduct of SPD officers, investigates, conducts hearings, and conveys its findings to the Chief of Police. It also makes recommendations for changes in SPD policy and procedures based on the cases it reviews. ☯

MARIE SUMMERWOOD ¡PRESENTE!



Marie (center) and the rest of the cooks at a SPC Birthday Dinner. Photo: Carol Baum

On January 17, 2019 the SPC community and so many others mourned the death of our dear friend, sister and fierce lover of life, Marie Summerwood.

Marie was a maker and a healer, a creative force in our world. Her knowledge of the human body and of herbal medicines was extensive. She was quick to help a neighbor, friend or family member with therapeutic massage, herbs, her famous vinegars and chutney. Many of us experienced her love of the divine feminine and sacred activism through the songs, chants, rituals and teachings she created and shared widely.

Marie played many roles in the Syracuse Peace Council and the peace community in general. She served on SPC's Plowshares Craftsfair Committee for many years (and also had a booth there), often coordinated food and cooking for SPC's Birthday Dinner, and offered creative ideas for making demonstrations and protests more meaningful. She supported many other efforts toward peace and social justice, including volunteering regularly at ArtRage Gallery and working at the Syracuse Cultural Workers for 12 years.

As Marie's illness progressed more rapidly than she or any of us could absorb, it became clear how many lives she had impacted over the years. People near and far were wanting now

to help care for her. Circles formed around her—women's circles, singing circles, healing circles, family circles, community circles and more. She relished all of it, all of us, continuing to teach us and learn herself about gratitude, vulnerability, fear, love and humor as she transitioned through the end of her life, surrounded by song, prayer, care and love...as it should be.

I had a dream a few nights ago that I was in Marie's bedroom, her bed covered with a white bedspread. I began to pull the bedspread off, starting from the pillows. As I pulled, I could see underneath a shimmering quilt of many colors, a "crazy quilt" of different shapes and luminous colors, getting more and more beautiful as I removed more of the bedspread. This is Marie's legacy—many luminous communities of belonging, different shapes, colors, textures. We will continue to discover all the myriad parts of her life and loves as time goes on.

Merry meet and merry part and merry meet again Marie.*

*This is a frequent parting remark Wiccan's make to each other as they take leave of a gathering or ritual.

— Cindy Squillace, friend and neighbor of Marie's.

"¡Presente!" is Latin American Spanish indicating the spirit of the deceased remains alive among us. ☸



Marie in her booth at the Plowshares Craftsfair. Who can forget her garlic honey, the CDs of chants she wrote, her tinctures? Photo: Carol Baum

Dance Salsa

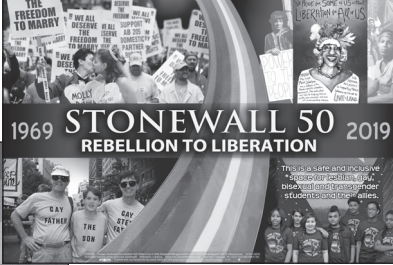
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SPC, continued from page 4

ACTIVIST APPRECIATION: JULIA GANSON

Julia Ganson is a delight to organize with—which is fortunate because her vision and activism include many issues that might seem unconnected to some, but are deeply interwoven to her.

She is especially passionate about Palestine solidarity (becoming a mainstay in Justice for Palestine), and also works with Beyond War and Militarism. A frequent contributor to the *Peace Newsletter* (with a focus on Palestine, where she spent a year as a Fulbright Scholar), she joined the editorial committee and is the primary editor of this issue's section on Islamophobia and antisemitism (pages 6-9). As the *PNL* goes to press, Julia is preparing to spend two weeks volunteering with an immigrant support group at the US border with Mexico.

Julia brings her good humor, patience, openness and political savvy to her organizing. An excellent communicator, she is gifted as both a speaker and a listener. She is happy to discuss ideas that are different from hers and learn from them. She is comfortable trying the new—be it a job, community, volunteer work, or idea.



Julia speaking at SPC's 83rd Birthday Dinner. Photo: Julio Urrutia

A sociologist-activist, she currently works for a whistleblower support organization.

Thank you Julia, for who you are and what you do.

— Carol Baum and Michaela Czerkies

AGREE

Alliance for a Green Economy (AllianceforaGreenEconomy.org) invites you to join our Community of Climate Responders as we build awareness of solutions, work together to reduce emissions, and organize to win the right and resources to accelerate a just transition to renewable energy.

AGREE congratulates our staff member Lindsay Speer, Campaign Manager of the HeatSmartCNY program, on her "Sustaining Our Communities" award from GreeningUSA this month! Lindsay invites everyone in the 5-county CNY region to enroll in HeatSmartCNY (HeatSmartCNY.org/enroll or call 833-315-HEAT). Simply have a no-cost, no-obligation consultation to learn how your building could decrease or eliminate the use of fossil fuels for heating and cooling. Some enrollees are just getting information about non-fossil options for the next time their building's heating and cooling or water heating system needs to be replaced, while others are taking their buildings off fossil fuels.

— Andra Leimanis

continued on next page

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SPC, continued from previous page

STREET HEAT

There are so many opportunities to stand up for what you believe in! Bring your own signs or use one of ours. Tuesdays' focus is on anti-war messages; Saturdays, all progressive signs are welcome. Contact Ann Tiffany or Ed Kinane at 315-478-4571.

Tuesday: 4:15-5pm—focus is anti-war messages

May 28 – E. Genesee St. and Erie Blvd. E. (Dewitt)

June 4 – Hancock Air Base (6000 E. Molloy Rd.)

June 11 – South end of Northern Lights Mall (Mattydale), opposite Rt. 81 off ramp

June 18 – Hancock Air Base

June 25 – Northern Lights Mall (Mattydale)

July 2 – Hancock Air Base

July 9 – Corner of S. Salina and Seneca Trnpg.

July 16 – Hancock Air Base

Every Saturday 9-9:45am—all progressive signs welcome

Regional Market main entrance (Park St.)



"No US Intervention in Venezuela!" was the focus of a special Street Heat. Meanwhile two SPC activists joined the Venezuelan Embassy protectors in Washington, DC, for a few days. This was part of a campaign to prevent a US-sponsored coup in Venezuela. Photo: Peter Sinatra

SPC'S BIRTHDAY DINNER A SUCCESS



Keynote speaker Brittany Ramos DeBarros making a point at our recent Birthday Dinner. Photo: Julio Urrutia

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped with our 83rd Birthday Dinner on March 30! We had a full house at University United Methodist Church, complete with great food and company. Our keynote speaker, Brittany Ramos DeBarros, is an organizer with the NYS Poor People's Campaign, as well as co-director of About Face: Vets Against the War's "Drop the M.I.C." campaign (M.I.C. = Military Industrial Complex). She spoke powerfully as a younger, intersectional anti-war activist.

Special thanks to head cook Ted Finlayson-Schueler and the rest of the cooks, organizing committee member Diane Swords, the table hosts, set-up and clean-up crews, our videographer and photographer, publicity people and everyone else who joined in. It takes a community to put on an SPC dinner.

– Michaela Czerkies

CNY SOLIDARITY COALITION

CNY Solidarity Coalition continues our work on both national and state/local issues. Some of this is accomplished in collaboration with our member organizations: SPC, Urban Jobs Task Force, the Workers' Center of CNY, the CNY Labor Federation, and Syracuse Cultural Workers. Our members are also involved with many other community groups.

On April 13, we cosponsored a training day with Riseup for Social Action, with sessions on understanding privilege, social media, working with allies, power analysis, and other skills for social change.

Now that a recommendation has been made to move forward with the Community Grid as the replacement to I-81, we are increasing our focus on the effects it will have on local jobs, housing and equity of opportunity.

Recently we identified our critical issues: Climate Community Protection Act, NY Health Act, 81/Community Grid, Green Light Campaign (drivers' licenses for all), voting rights, and war and militarism.

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

– Peter McCarthy