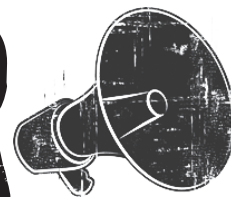
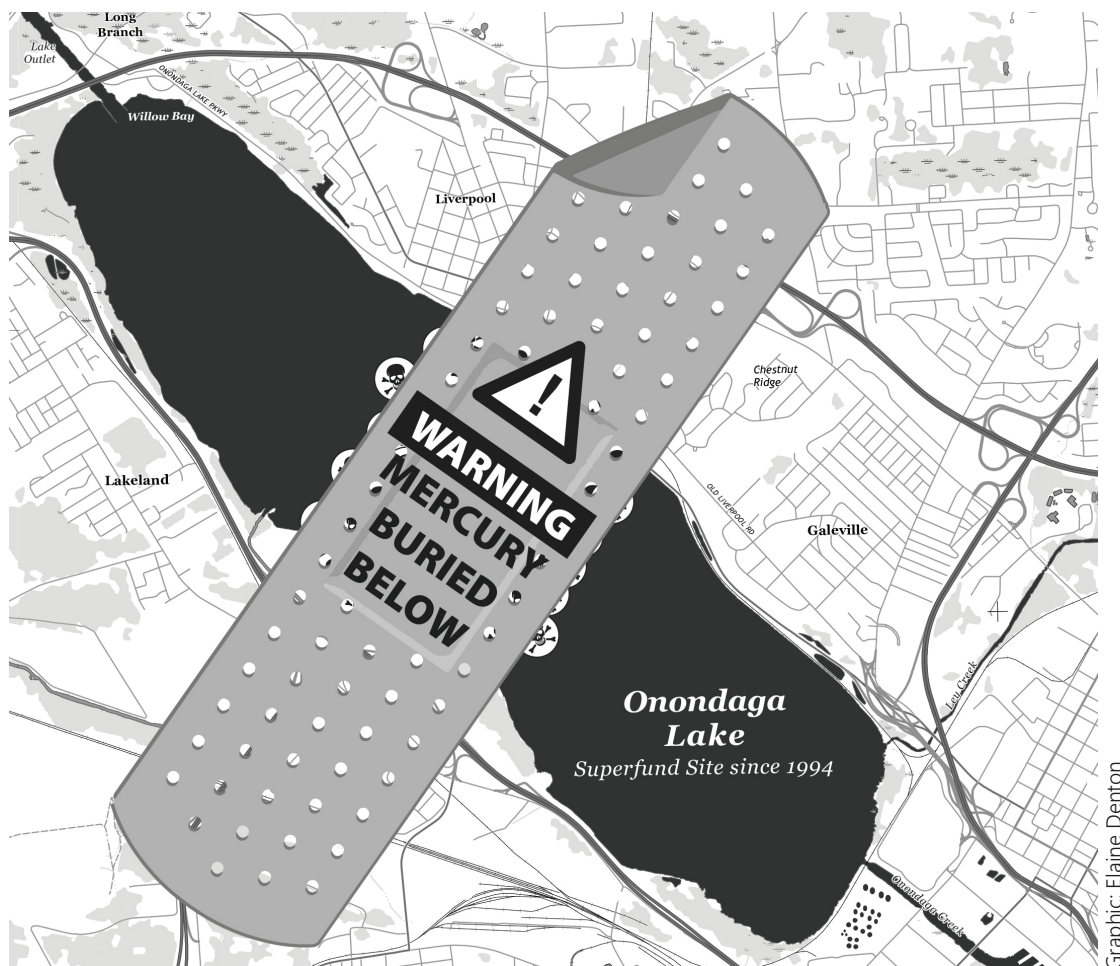


PEACE NEWSLETTER



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WOULD YOU SWIM IN ONONDAGA LAKE?

by Richelle Brown

On June 26, the Onondaga County Office of the Environment held the second of three meetings to report progress of a feasibility study on a swimming beach on Onondaga Lake. Held at the Lakeview Amphitheater, an inconvenient and inaccessible location (it is not near the center of any community area, and there is no public transportation outside of entertainment events), the meeting was sparsely attended by fewer than 30 people. The \$330,000 feasibility study, funded with a grant from New York State's Local Waterfront Revitalization Program, will produce conclusions about the desirability of a beach as well as suggest a site, a shovel-ready design, and draft construction contracts. At the

June meeting, the county government announced Willow Bay (near the outlet to the Seneca River at the northern end of the lake) as the recommended site. Contractors also presented the results of an unscientific, non-randomized, and leading online survey from January, which they claimed represented the "likelihood" of the proposed beach's public use.

The county government does not seem to be interested in gathering or considering information which demonstrates that the promotion of widespread use of the lake endangers public health. Government officials are, in fact, encouraging a swimming beach on the edge of a closed industrial landfill.

The fact that the lake is a closed industrial landfill may be surprising, since there have been years of public discussion

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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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HIROSHIMA DAY—AUGUST 6



"Olivia," the dove in the Hiroshima procession, needs people to hold her. Photo: Julio Urrutia

On **Tuesday, August 6**, SPC's Nuclear Free World Committee will hold its annual Hiroshima Day dramatic procession through downtown Syracuse. We will meet behind City Hall Commons (Washington and Warren Sts.) at **11:30am to get set up, and then step off at noon**. This procession marks the 74th year since the US' devastating use of the atom bomb on Hiroshima. We will commemorate the attack three days later on Nagasaki on **Friday, August 9 with a pot-**

luck peace picnic and lantern floating at the Thornden Park lily pond starting at 5:30pm. There will be crafts, games and a lantern floating.

Many people are needed for the procession to be as powerful as possible. Please contact Michaela (michaela@peacecouncil.net) to help out.

This year's procession also marks the beginning of our participation in "Back from the Brink," a well thought-out campaign initiated by the Union of Concerned Scientists and Physicians for Social Responsibility. With the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists Doomsday Clock set this year at two minutes to midnight, we are redoubling our efforts to prevent nuclear war. For more details on the campaign, see article on page 9.

It all starts on August 6—join us downtown for this gathering of remembrance and hope.

— James Erdman

NUCLEAR FREE WORLD HONORS YOUNG ACTIVISTS

In June the Nuclear Free World Committee of SPC presented the 2019 Youth Peace Award to Maria Phillips, a senior at the Public Service Leadership Academy at Fowler High School, and to Martine Dosa, a freshman at Nottingham. Maria works on initiatives to address poverty and violence in our community, and Martine is a strong advocate for gender equality as well as disability rights and inclusivity. To read more about their incredible work

in the community, visit peacecouncil.net/programs/nuclear-free-world-committee.

At the celebration we paid tribute to Jack Mannion, who died on May 25, 2019. For many years with his wife, Stephanie Miner, Jack sponsored the Youth Award. He was a fervent advocate for peace and justice in our community and will be greatly missed.

— Margrit Diehl

SPC GARAGE SALE—DONATE AND/OR VOLUNTEER!



It's not too late to do your spring cleaning! Reduce—get rid of unwanted stuff. Reuse—your unwanted stuff is my treasure. Recycle—

down with planned obsolescence. And support SPC at the same time.

This year's **garage sale is Saturday, September 7 from 9am-4:30pm** at 401 Scottholm Blvd., Syracuse. **Donations are eagerly accepted from Wednesday-Friday, September 4-6, anytime from 10am onward each day.** Items can be left outside the garage at the sale location.

Wanted: household and sporting goods, books, DVDs, games, toys, furniture,

linens, tools, plants, art, jewelry, lamps, holiday items, appliances and more. Please **NO** clothing, old electronics, things that don't work or other miscellaneous junk.

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

— Rae Kramer

continued on next page



SPAARC's press conference. Photo: Carol Baum

COMMUNITY CONTROL OF THE POLICE

On June 21 the Syracuse Police Accountability and Reform Coalition (SPAARC) held a "Community Control of the Police" press conference to respond to the trend of excessive use of force by the Syracuse Police Department in recent weeks and years. SPAARC proposed legislation to create accountability for police officers through greater power for the Citizen Review Board (which investigates police misconduct), requirements for officers to wear body cameras, and a mandate for officers to exercise de-escalation instead of empowering them to respond with disproportionate force with no repercussions. To listen to the speakers at the press conference, go to SPAARC's Facebook page. (SPC participated in the press conference.)

On June 28, many community members attended the "Community Discussion on the Use of Force," hosted by the Mayor's Office and the Syracuse Police Department (SPD). Directly affected people courageously took over the microphone to demand that their concerns be addressed. Much more work needs to be done, and we must all keep the pressure up on the Mayor and the police. To read the SPD's current "Use of Force Policy," go to tinyurl.com/yxjoqzr7. For a model "Use of Force Policy," go to tinyurl.com/y2j4avmy.

— Carol Baum

DAHR JAMAIL TO SPEAK

The Beyond War and Militarism Committee's (BWaM) next educational program on **Monday, August 19 at 7pm** is a not-to-be-missed opportunity to hear from one of our finest journalists. Dahr Jamail, a *Truthout* staff reporter, is the author of *The End of Ice: Bearing Witness and Finding Meaning in the Path of Climate Disruption* and *Beyond the Green Zone: Dispatches from an Unembedded Journalist in Occupied Iraq*. Dahr reported from Iraq for more than a year, as well as from Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Turkey over the last 10 years. He will present on the intersection of climate disruption and militarism. The program is free and is held at ArtRage Gallery (505 Hawley Ave., Syracuse).

At our July 23 program we heard a first-hand account of the April 2019 Nevada Desert Experience Sacred Peace Walk, from John Amidon, a member of Upstate Drone Action and Veterans for Peace, and singer songwriter Sheri Bauer.

BWaM is a joint committee of SPC and the CNY Solidarity Coalition and reports during Coalition meetings.

— Ron Van Norstrand

SUMMER STREET HEAT

There are so many opportunities to stand up for what you believe in! Bring your own signs or use one of ours. Contact Ann Tiffany or Ed Kinane at 315-478-4571.

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

July 30 – Corner of S. Salina and Seneca Turnpike

August 6 – Hancock Air Base (6000 E. Molloy Rd.)

August 13 – Corner of Geddes St. and W. Genesee St.

August 20 – Hancock Air Base

August 27 – Corner of Geddes St. and W. Genesee St.

September 3 – Hancock Air Base

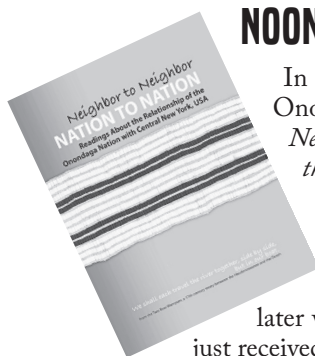
September 10 – Eried Blvd. E. and E. Genesee St. (Dewitt)

September 17 – Hancock Air Base

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

Regional Market main entrance (Park St.)

NOON BOOKLET REPRINTED (AND MORE)



In 2014, SPC's Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation published *Neighbor to Neighbor, Nation to Nation: Readings About the Relationship of the Onondaga Nation with Central New York, USA*, a much-expanded version of an earlier booklet.

10,000 copies of the now 80-page booklet were printed and five years later we ran out. But there's good news—we just received 3,000 more from the printer!

The Witness to Injustice (WTI) workshop continues to go strong. This interactive workshop is designed to help participants understand both intellectually and emotionally some of what

Indigenous peoples have gone through since Europeans first colonized this continent. Contact Cindy (cindysquillace@gmail.com) to set one up for your group. NOON will hold a **WTI facilitator training August 10-11** for people who could help facilitate 7th grade school groups during weekdays in the Fall. Contact Sue (rsue@twcnr.com).

NOON has also joined with others to organize against the proposed beach at Onondaga Lake (see cover article). The group is planning a forum on the lake for late September—the lake, while improved, is not yet swimmable. There is still time to make an impact on decision-making. Contact Marianna (marianna.kaufman@gmail.com).

— Carol Baum

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LAS NOTICIAS DEL CENTRO DE TRABAJADORES

by Workers' Center staff; compiled by Kanat Bolazar

The Workers' Center of CNY (WCCNY), after years of fighting for immigrant and farmworker rights, won three major legal victories in May and June 2019! We are grateful for the support of our community. Thank you!

Green Light NY Coalition and Campaign



Claudia from Adams, NY: "Right now I have to go three times a week to the hospital to receive dialysis. If I don't go, my life is in danger."

Alejandro from Watertown, NY was detained for not having a driver's license, even though he was just a passenger and not driving at the time.

Beatriz from Williamson, NY: "If the person who gives me a ride is not working, I lose a day of work... There is no public transit where I live, so I cannot go to the doctor, and I have to look for someone to bring me to Walmart to get food. There are people who will take you, but you have to pay at least \$20 or \$40."

WCCNY has been fighting for undocumented immigrants to have the right to drive to their work on the Green Light Campaign for years. Inability to drive to work, hospital, and other places is a major hardship for farmworkers who feed us.

On May 1, International Worker's Day, WCCNY members who are immigrant dairy workers from three farms in Upstate NY risked their livelihood by wearing their Green Light t-shirts to work to show unity and solidarity with the campaign.

On May 21st, WCCNY members and allies, including people from Rochester, filled a bus and went to Albany. While at the capitol, 15 people, including three WCCNY organizers and two allies (Ursula Rozum and Beth Metcalf) blocked the doors to the senate chambers in an act of civil disobedience.

The Green Light Campaign has strong support from various community groups, from elected representatives, and from community leaders, including 1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East, NY State Assembly Member Bill Magnarelli, and Syracuse Mayor Ben Walsh, to name a few.

On June 6, Reverend Al Sharpton, a Harlem preacher, civil rights activist, and the head of the National Action Network, made this very accurate and poignant observation:

"When routine traffic stops regularly lead to arrests and deportations of Black and Brown New Yorkers, something has to give. That's why the Green Light Bill is not just a public safety issue—it's a civil rights concern."

The Workers' Center of CNY, www.workerscny.org, is a grassroots organization focused on workplace and economic justice, located at 2013 E. Genesee St. Call them at 315-218-5708. Kanat Bolazar is a PNL editor, activist, and a Salsa teacher living at the Bread & Roses Collective House.

El Centro de Trabajadores de Nueva York Central (WCCNY), después de años de luchar por los derechos de inmigrantes y trabajadores de agricultura, lograron tres éxitos in mayo y junio 2019! Se agradece el apoyo de nuestra comunidad. Mil gracias!

Coalición y Campaña de la Luz Verde NY

Claudia de Adams, NY: "Ahora tengo que ir tres veces cada semana al hospital a recibir dialysis. Si no voy, mi vida estará en peligro."

Alejandro de Watertown NY fue detenido al no tener la licencia de manejar, aunque solo fue pasajero y no manejaba en el momento.

Beatriz de Williamson, NY: Si la persona quien me lleva no trabaja algún día, pierdo un día de trabajo... No hay transporte public donde vivo, así que no puedo ir al médico y tengo que buscar a quien me pueda llevar al Walmart a comprar comida. Hay gente que te pueda llevar, but hay que pagar por lo menos \$20 o \$40.



WCCNY ha luchado para que los inmigrantes indocumentados tengan el derecho de manejar, a través de su trabajo desde hace años en la Campaña Luz Verde. La incapacidad de manejar al trabajo, hospital y otros lugares es una privación para los trabajadores de agricultura quienes nos alimentan a través de su trabajo.

El 1 de Mayo, el Día Internacional del Trabajador, trabajadores de tres granjas lecheras en el area norteña de Nueva York, quienes pertenecen al WCCNY, se arriesgaron al llevar puestos sus camisetas de Luz Verde para demostrar su solidaridad con la Campaña de Luz Verde.

El 21 mayo, miembros y aliados del WCCNY, incluyendo gente de Rochester, llenaron un bus y viajaron a Albany. Mientras en el Capitol, 15 personas, que incluían 3 organizadores de WCCNY y dos aliadas (Ursula Rozum y Beth Metcalf) bloquearon las puertas a la cámara del Senado en un acto de desobediencia civil.

La Campaña de Luz Verde ha gozado apoyo fuerte de varios grupos comunitarios, de representantes elegidos, y de lideres de la comunidad, incluyendo a 1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East, al miembro de la Asamblea del Estado de Nueva York Bill Magnarelli, y Alcalde Ben Walsh, para nombrar algunos.

El 6 junio, el Pastor Al Sharpton, un pastor de Harlem, activista para los derechos civiles, y el líder del Red de Acción Nacional, hizo esta observación preciso y conmovedora:

"Cuando paros de tráfico rutinos frecuentemente conllevan a la detención y deportación de neorquinos de color, algo tiene que cambiar. Por esto la propuesta ley de Luz Verde no es simplemente un asunto de seguridad publica – es un asunto de derechos civiles."

continued on next page

June 17, 2019: Green Light Bill Becomes Law!

On June 17, the NY Senate approved the "Green Light Bill", and Gov. Cuomo signed the bill into law. This makes NYS the 13th state in the US to allow undocumented immigrants to obtain driver's licenses.

Public Perception

This is a huge legal win, but it does not mean that public opinion has changed overnight. A recent poll by Siena College showed that more than 50% of New Yorkers surveyed were against allowing undocumented immigrants to get driver's licenses. NYS Assembly Democrats from Long Island, Western NY, and conservative districts generally voted against the bill.

We still need to educate the general public on the hardships caused by this issue on undocumented immigrants, and dispel exaggerated fears and worries about undocumented immigrants who are contributing members of our communities.

Next Steps for Immigrants

The law will go into effect after December 14th, 180 days from the time it was enacted. Until then, you cannot obtain a license without a valid social security number. The New York State Department of Motor Vehicles will be creating new regulations in compliance with the Green Light law.

Over the next few months, the Green Light NY Coalition will work to educate the community about the new DMV rules and how newly eligible drivers can prepare to obtain a license.

In the meantime, be wary of fraud schemes and do not give your money to anyone claiming they can help you obtain a driver's license before December 2019.

The Farm Worker's Right to Organize

In the summer of 2015, then dairy farmworker Crispin Hernandez was fired from his job for attempting to organize fellow workers to improve the living and working conditions at the farm.

On May 23 of this year, an appellate court in Albany agreed with Hernandez and decided that the exclusion of

17 de Junio de 2019: ¡Campaña de la Luz Verde de NY se Convierte en Ley!

El 17 de junio, el Senado de Nueva York aprobó el Proyecto de ley de Luz Verde, y Cuomo lo promulgó. NY es el 13 ° estado en el país a ofrecer a inmigrantes indocumentados licencias de conducir.

Reacción Pública

Esta es una gran victoria legal, pero no significa que la opinión pública haya cambiado de la noche a la mañana. Una encuesta reciente realizada por el "Siena College" mostró que más del 50% de los neoyorquinos encuestados estaban en contra de permitir que los inmigrantes indocumentados obtengan licencias de conducir. Los demócratas de la Asamblea de Nueva York de Long Island, el oeste de Nueva York y los distritos conservadores generalmente votaron en contra del proyecto de ley.

Todavía tenemos que educar al público en general sobre las dificultades causadas por este problema a los inmigrantes indocumentados y disipar los temores y preocupaciones exagerados sobre los inmigrantes indocumentados que son miembros contribuyentes de nuestras comunidades.

Próximos Pasos Para Los Inmigrantes

La ley entrará en vigencia después del 14 de diciembre, 180 días a partir de la fecha de su promulgación. Hasta entonces, no se puede obtener una licencia sin un número de seguro social válido. El Departamento de Vehículos Motorizados del Estado de NY creará nuevas regulaciones de conformidad con la ley de Luz Verde.

Durante los próximos meses, la Coalición de la Luz Verde trabajará para educar a la comunidad sobre las nuevas reglas del DMV y cómo los conductores elegibles se pueden preparar para obtener una licencia.

Mientras tanto, desconfíe de los planes de fraude y no dé su dinero a nadie que diga que puede ayudarlo a obtener una licencia de conducir antes de diciembre de 2019.

El Derecho de los Trabajadores Agrícolas a Organizar

En el verano de 2015, el trabajador agrícola lechero Crispin Hernández fue despedido de su trabajo por intentar organizar a compañeros de trabajo a mejorar las condiciones de vida y de trabajo en una granja.

El 23 de mayo, una corte de apelaciones en Albany estuvo de acuerdo con Hernández y decidió que la exclusión de los trabajadores agrícolas de una ley estatal que protege el derecho de los trabajadores



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EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT: PALESTINIAN CHILDREN LIVING UNDER OCCUPATION

by Michaela Czerkies

“Welcome to Hebron,” a young boy named Ahmed said to me and shook my hand. He showed me beautiful ceramic bowls, tiles and dishware in his family’s shop, where members of our delegation were browsing before embarking on a guided tour of the city. Ahmed and several other young children joined us along the way. Walking through Hebron we saw cages, nets and sheet metal above us, put there by Palestinian residents, covering the streets as protection from the garbage, excrement and even acid that settlers throw down at Palestinians below. There were Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) soldiers with bulletproof vests and assault rifles on almost every street corner, ready to protect the notoriously violent Israeli settlers of Hebron and enforce the military occupation of Palestine.

Walking past countless Israeli soldiers and military installations with the children, I was brought back to a few days earlier, when our group visited the former al-Fara’a prison in the West Bank. The prison had been used by the Israeli military to detain, intimidate and torture Palestinian political prisoners, many of them arrested for participating in demonstrations or throwing stones during the early 1980s. As representatives from Defense for Children International-Palestine (DCI-P, <https://nwtac.dci-palestine.org>) showed us around the complex and its cells, they told us that many of the prisoners had been children and detailed the cruel methods of physical and psychological torture used.

Although this particular prison is no longer in use, Israeli soldiers’ night raids and detention, imprisonment and abuse of Palestinian children does remain a widespread and systematic problem today. The story of Ahed Tamimi made international headlines last year: the 17-year-old Palestinian girl who was arrested for slapping and kicking an Israeli

soldier at the door of her family’s home shortly after another soldier had shot her cousin in the face with a rubber-coated bullet. She was interrogated without a lawyer, family member, or female officer present, and her interrogators threatened to detain her entire family if she did not confess to assault. Her trial in the Israeli military court system resulted in convictions of assault, incitement and obstructing Israeli soldiers. She served eight months in an Israeli military prison.



A Palestinian girl walking with us through Hebron, near a former Palestinian market street now closed off with gates and barbed wire, filled with trash. Photo: Naylee Farjad

Ahed’s treatment is not unique. According to DCI-P, Israel is the only country in the world that automatically prosecutes children in military courts. The Israeli military arrests and prosecutes between 500-700 Palestinian children each year. The most common reason for the initial arrest is stone-throwing. Upon arrest, three out of four Palestinian children are subjected to physical abuse by Israeli soldiers, usually being slapped, punched, kicked or struck with a soldier’s helmet or rifle. They are not properly informed of their rights, and 88% of them are arrested without either them or their

parents being informed of the reason. They are then bound, blindfolded and forced into a military vehicle without being told where they are being taken. Once they arrive at a police station or interrogation center, they are subject to mentally and physically coercive interrogation techniques, including intimidation and violent threats to themselves, family members and friends. In a few cases, children who maintain their innocence are subjected to solitary confinement or stress positions. Most children are denied access to legal counsel or a parent during interrogation.

After our walk through al-Fara’a prison, our group met with members of the Tamimi family in the village of Nabi Saleh. Bassem Tamimi, Ahed’s father, told us about the raids regularly conducted in the village by IDF soldiers and the necessity of resistance. Sitting with a group of delegates from the US—organizers, educators, artists, students—he told us that the most important thing we could do was to appeal to our representatives, the people with the power to shift US policy toward supporting Palestinian human rights.

In April 2019, Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN-04) introduced HR 2407, the Promoting Human Rights for Palestinian Children Living Under Israeli Occupation Act. The bill would prohibit any US military aid from being used to support the military detention and ill-treatment of children by any country, including Israel. SPC’s Justice for Palestine committee is actively campaigning for representatives to co-sponsor this legislation, especially in NY districts 22 and 24. We call on supporters of human rights to take action, and get involved in the campaign! Call your representative, help gather petition signatures, join us at Town Halls, write a Letter to the Editor. We are especially looking for community organizations and faith groups to sign on to our resolution of support for the bill. If you are part of a group that may be interested, please get in touch! Contact michaela@peacecouncil.net or call (315)472-5478. ☎

Michaela is a Staff Organizer with SPC and recently participated in a delegation to the West Bank with Eyewitness Palestine.

ACTION FOR A SAFE CLIMATE

by Peter Michel

"At least for the foreseeable future, winning the battle against climate change characteristically will depend less on scientific advancement and more on political activism."—Michael Bloomberg, introducing the Beyond Carbon project with a \$500 million investment

Eight of the hottest years on record have been in the last 10 years. This global warming trend—largely the result of using fossil fuels—will eventually make our planet uninhabitable. Climate scientists agree that there is a short window of time to act before we reach a tipping point that puts the climate crisis out of our control.

The enormity of what we are facing together may create feelings of despair and hopelessness. There is no guarantee that aggressive action will stop the climate crisis, but if we don't commit to it, the possibility of success is zero.

Renowned climate communicator and atmospheric scientist Katherine Hayhoe says the best thing we can do is to talk about this. Representative Ocasio-Cortez and the Sunrise movement have brought the conversation into the public space with the Green New Deal. As climate activists our challenge is to create a critical mass of people who will effectively persuade our politicians to legislate for aggressive government policy that will mitigate the crisis. As an example, NY Renews along with its 178 member coalition worked to pass the **NY Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act**, the nation's strongest climate legislation.

There are five immediate actions that you and I can take to mitigate the climate crisis:

Our Community's Response to the Climate Crisis: A Call to Action

Sunday, August 25, 3:00 to 5:30 pm
at CNY Rise, 275 W. Seneca Turnpike
Free and Open to Everyone!

Panel Discussion with:

Mark Lowery, Asst Dir, DEC's Office of Climate Change;
Freida Jacques, indigenous leader and educator;
Jim D'Aloisio, climate change awareness educator & activist;
Lucia Olivia Hennelly, climate advocacy professional;
Rhea Jezer, env. educator, policy and green energy expert.

Organized by the Zen Center of Syracuse; co-sponsored by the
SPC/NOON, Skä•noñh Center, and InterfaithWorks

Peter volunteers with Climate Change Awareness and Action (a 350.org affiliated group), the Citizens' Climate Lobby, and the Onondaga Earth Corps. His website has many great resources (see article).

1) Educate ourselves about the climate crisis and solutions which exist.

- Read *Drawdown—the Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming*.
- Participate in a workshop by Climate Change Awareness and Action (a 350.org affiliated group), such as "Introduction to Drawdown," a 2-hour workshop from the Pachamama Alliance (creates programs integrating indigenous wisdom with modern knowledge).
- Check out books, videos, articles, websites, films: resources at www.petermichel.com/ClimateCrisis.html.

2) Support local organizations or local chapters of national organizations. Send money, join and/or volunteer:

- Onondaga Earth Corps (works with inner city youth to plant 1000's of trees)
- Citizens' Climate Lobby
- Sierra Club's 100% renewable program
- HeatSmart CNY (makes geothermal heating & cooling more available)
- Alliance for a Green Economy (campaigns for renewable energy)
- NY Climate Smart Communities/Clean Energy Communities Program

3) Make our voices heard—speak out.

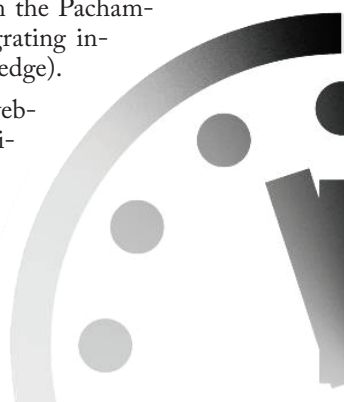
- Ask your congressperson to cosponsor and support **The Energy Innovation and Dividend Act, HR 763** to put a fee on carbon and return the proceeds to all citizens. Jim Hansen, a climatology researcher who testified before Congress on climate change in 1988, says this is the most effective action to combat climate change short term.
- Write a Letter to the Editor.
- Talk to your friends and family, coworkers and members of organizations you belong to.
- Arrange for speakers from the above organizations to present solutions to your groups.

4) Reduce your carbon footprint.

- For suggestions see: www.petermichel.com/What-Can-An-Individual-Do--7-01-18.pdf

5) Divest from fossil fuels.

- The Reinvestment Alliance of CNY promotes divesting from fossil fuels and using our finances in socially responsible ways.



**"Humanity now faces
existential threats
and climate change
of civilization in ext"**

— *The Bulletin of the Atomic
Doomsday Clock to two mi*

STEPPING BACK FROM THE NUCLEAR BRINK

by Diane Swords and James Erdman

Maintaining nuclear weapons, especially when kept on hair-trigger alert, is an unacceptable threat to our world.

Since the US devastated Hiroshima, Japan with an atomic bomb on August 6, 1945, all humanity has been in increasing peril. Current stockpiles are estimated at about 14,000 weapons globally, fewer than at the height of the Cold War, yet still enough to trigger nuclear winter, decimating life on earth.

The reduction shows we *can* reduce arsenals. The danger insists we *must*.

Experts say limited nuclear war is extremely unlikely. Unfortunately, that's not because these weapons won't be used, but because use of a single bomb would almost surely escalate, spreading destruction across the globe as countries respond. Daniel Ellsberg, prominent government whistleblower and former nuclear war planner, says even though nuclear weapons were not exploded in war since 1945, the US government uses them like a gun pointed at someone's head, even when not fired. President Trump's 2017 threat to unleash "fire and fury" on North Korea is a recent instance. These threats by the nuclear giant cause heightened tensions, increasing chances of accidental usage.

Nuclear annihilation sounds too huge and hopeless to think about. Like climate change, it seems distant, while other issues are more immediate.

But the ultimate nature and current hostilities around the world make it essential to address. There is a way to do so. SPC is joining the Back from the Brink Campaign, initiated by Physicians for Social Responsibility and the Union of Concerned Scientists and supported by organizations and governments globally. This international campaign combines many nuclear abolition efforts in a comprehensive package, providing a common strategy to bring local organizations and governments together to pressure national governments to:

1) Renounce the option of using nuclear weapons first. By advertising a right to use nuclear weapons first, the US increases chances that other countries will initiate nuclear war to use their weapons before they are destroyed.

2) End the unchecked authority of any US president to launch a nuclear attack. Checks and balances are basic to US government, but in this one area, there are no constraints on the President, who is not required to answer to or consult

with anyone before launching a nuclear attack. The absurdity of giving one person unchecked control over thousands of nuclear weapons is clearer than ever with the current president. But no one should hold unilateral power to destroy humanity.

3) Take US nuclear weapons off hair trigger alert. Weapons are now on high alert, greatly increasing the risk of accidents and close calls, of which there have been many. One example is the false alert in Hawaii in January, 2018. A false alert could trigger "retaliation" and initiate conflagration.

4) Cancel the plan to replace the entire nuclear arsenal with "enhanced" weapons. The US currently plans to replace the entire nuclear arsenal with updated, "more usable" nuclear weapons, at the cost of \$1.7 trillion over the next 30 years. Producing new weapons that are claimed to be "usable" (that is, smaller and less destructive) is dangerous and provocative, signaling other countries to arm. It is also absurdly wasteful, taking resources from all our other national needs.

5) Actively pursue a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals. Support the ban treaty for which the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons was recognized with a Nobel Peace Prize in 2017. This treaty is already approved by 122 nations. Rather than blocking this treaty, all nuclear nations, especially the US, should lead this popular effort.

How You Can Help

The plan of the ambitious Back from the Brink Campaign is to first build grassroots support for the call by gathering endorsements from community groups. This will enable us to lobby local and then federal officials, including candidates for office. The Syracuse Peace Council's Nuclear Free World Committee has already begun to approach community groups. Here's how to help:

1) Go to preventnuclearwar.org to learn more and endorse the campaign individually. The site also has incredible resources, including links to a TED Talk by Dr. Ira Helfand, co-president of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, and an interactive "Wheel of Near Misfortune" of real-life tales of nuclear close calls and screw ups.

2) Know an organization that might sign on? We're happy to make a presentation to your group. Contact drswords@gmail.com or margrit.diehl@gmail.com.

3) Help with our Hiroshima Procession (August 6) and Peace Picnic and lantern floating on Nagasaki Day (August 9). These are days to remember, but also look forward with hope. Help carry the large "Step Back From the Brink" banner that will debut at the procession.

4) Contact Michaela at SPC (315-472-5478, Michaela@peacecouncil.net) to help.

Nuclear abolition is possible if we all work together!

James is a student at Syracuse University and a summer intern at the Peace Council. Diane is a longtime anti-nuclear organizer and facilitator of inter-group dialogue.

continued from front cover

led by county government, the State, and Honeywell of a lake “clean-up” under the Superfund program. However, the goal of the plan that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) supervised was toxic containment, not a clean-up. This is true not only for the lake bottom, but for the several sites around the lake that still contain toxic chemicals. Dredging some two million cubic yards of contaminated sediment sounds impressive, until you learn that 80-90% of the contamination is left in place. Toxic levels of mercury, chlorinated benzenes, benzene, toluene, coal tar, chlorinated dioxins, PCBs, and many other hazardous chemicals remain in and around Onondaga Lake. This makes the idea of creating a swimming beach on the shore of such a polluted lake reckless. Building a beach, and thus inviting people to wade into and swim in the lake, is a threat to public health.

The main objective of the dredging was not to eliminate pollution in the lake. Instead, its goal was to make room for a cover, or cap, over some of the most contaminated areas. This cover encompasses about 1/7 of the lakebed and consists of several inches to 4.25 feet of sand, gravel, and soil. While it was designed to last a thousand years, it has failed at least three times already between 2012 and 2014, releasing mercury into the water.

Two of the four samples taken on the northern shore of the lake in 1992 had levels of chromium, cadmium and mercury that exceeded the criteria set by the DEC for evaluating lake and wetland contamination. Additional sampling in the northeastern part of the lake has been inadequate for the purposes of assessing any contamination present, and was not done with regard to human recreation. The Onondaga Lake Monitoring and Maintenance Plan, under which Honeywell is required to monitor the status of the lake and the remediation measures, does not include any further sediment sampling in the Willow Bay area. Without such sampling, it is

impossible to determine what chemicals would be churned up by people walking and playing on the lake bottom. Members of the public would have no way of knowing what health risks they would be taking by using the beach.



SPC summer intern James Erdman with the signs he made for the press conference preceding the County's June 26 forum. Photo: Carol Baum

In their pronouncements about the cleanliness of the lake, public officials and Honeywell representatives often consider increased diversity of plant and animal species and greater water clarity to be indicators of recovery. The main reason for the increase in diversity is upgrades to Onondaga County's sewage treatment plant and some of the stormwater infrastructure, which were performed after a 1998 federal court decree that showed Onondaga County was in violation of the Clean Water Act. The sewage system released phosphorus, ammonia and fecal bacteria into the lake in levels high enough to create algae blooms that reduced dissolved oxygen, making it impossible for several fish species to live.

But the claim that the lake has “recovered” conveniently confuses the results of better wastewater management with the containment strategy required by the Superfund process. In fact, the largest increase in species diversity was observed in 2004 and 2005, long before Honeywell performed dredging and covering in 2012.

Another example of this “confusion” is the claim of a safe swimming environment in the northern part of the lake. Onondaga County government and state agency proclamations that those waters

are swimmable are based on criteria that do not account for all potential threats to human health. They test clarity, the amount of fecal coliform and other bacteria, toxic algae, and chemicals that cause acute symptoms such as immediate eye or skin irritation. They do not consider the health impacts of cumulative exposure to contaminants in the sediments.

The Onondaga County government wishes to portray Onondaga Lake as clean for a number of reasons. Officials want to suggest that the remedial actions required under the Superfund process were an unqualified success. They hope to erase the legacy of a century of toxic dumping and Onondaga County's own history of massive sewage discharges by depicting the lake as a healthy, thriving ecosystem, suitable for recreation of all kinds. They have built trails, fishing access sites, and an amphitheater without fully informing the public about the increased risks of contamination exposure at those recreation areas.

In addition to being misleading, this message encourages a vision of the lake's future in which human demands continue to drive our interactions with it. It recognizes neither the lake's much deeper past as a sacred site nor the Onondaga Nation's Vision for a Clean Onondaga Lake as a source of wisdom and guidance in the ways we relate to it. Onondaga Lake needs time and continuing care to heal from centuries of abuse. Acting with the values of respect, transparency, responsibility and careful consideration of the consequences of our decisions, we must envision and realize a better future for Onondaga Lake and the many living beings that rely upon it, including ourselves.

The Syracuse community has begun fighting against the misguided and premature plan to develop a recreational swimming beach at Willow Bay. Please contact Marianna Kaufman (marianna.kaufman@gmail.com) to join in demanding that DEC, Honeywell and Onondaga County do better for the health of the lake and the health of the people who love it. Look for an announcement of a community forum on Onondaga Lake for late September. For an easy-to-share factsheet, go to <https://tinyurl.com/y3a4wlm1>. ☎

Richelle is the Community Organizer in the Law Office of Joe Heath, General Counsel for the Onondaga Nation. She has been involved in grassroots organizing on environmental justice issues since 2011.

farmworkers from a state law that protects workers' right to organize without fear of retaliation is unconstitutional. You can read the ruling here:

<http://decisions.courts.state.ny.us/ad3/Decisions/2019/526866.pdf>

Farmworkers are the backbone of NY's massive agricultural industry. Without organizing, farmworkers have no group power.

Even though the NYS Constitution gives all workers the right to organize and collectively bargain, the farm lobby influenced a state law which creates an exemption from this right for farmworkers.

The appellate court's recent decision is a big win for farmworkers, who are essential members of the NYS economy and our communities; especially for food production, inter-community exchange, and economic stimulation.

Other than collective bargaining, this decision also grants farmworkers the rights other hourly workers have: overtime pay, a day of rest, and workers' compensation when injured on the job.

These rights can significantly improve the working conditions for farmworkers. Without these rights the farm owners may treat them as expendable objects of labor.

NYS Farm Workers' Fair Labor Practices Act (FFLPA)

Crispin Hernández' appellate court case and our documentary *Milked* have argued the need for farmworkers' right to organize. On April 25th, Crispin Hernández and Rebecca Fuentes from the WCCNY were present at a public hearing organized by upstate senators at Morrisville College, where Crispin Hernández spoke about the retaliation he experienced for trying to organize farm workers in one of the biggest farms in Upstate NY.

The Farmworkers Fair Labor Practices Act in the NYS Legislature (S2837/A2750) was created to clearly codify aforementioned protections for farmworkers.

On June 19, 2019, the NYS Legislature passed the Farmworker Fair Labor Practices Act.

WCCNY applauds the passing of this law, which grants organizing and collective bargaining rights, a day of rest per week, and new sanitary standards to be enforced at farm housing, where the living conditions have often been horrible.

In exchange for not granting the right to strike, this law provides other tools, namely employer neutrality and arbitration, to make it easier for farmworkers to organize and bargain with the farm owners.

a organizarse sin temor a represalias es inconstitucional. Abajo está el fallo:

<http://decisions.courts.state.ny.us/ad3/Decisions/2019/526866.pdf>

Los trabajadores agrícolas son la parte central de la industria agrícola masiva de Nueva York. Sin organizarse, los trabajadores agrícolas no tienen poder grupal.

Aunque la Constitución de Nueva York otorga a todos los trabajadores el derecho a organizarse y negociar colectivamente, el lobby de la granja influyó una ley estatal que crea una exención de este derecho para los trabajadores agrícolas.

La reciente decisión de la corte de apelaciones es una gran victoria para los trabajadores agrícolas, que son miembros esenciales de la economía del NYS y nuestras comunidades; especialmente para la producción de alimentos, el intercambio intercomunitario y la estimulación económica.

Además de la negociación colectiva, esta decisión también otorga a los trabajadores agrícolas los derechos que tienen otros trabajadores por hora: pago por horas extraordinarias, un día de descanso y compensación a los trabajadores cuando se lesionan en el trabajo.

Estos derechos pueden mejorar significativamente las condiciones de trabajo para los trabajadores agrícolas. Sin estos derechos, los propietarios de las fincas pueden tratarlos como objetos de trabajo prescindibles.

Ley de Prácticas Laborales Justas de los Trabajadores Agrícolas del Estado de NY (FFLPA)

El caso de la corte de apelaciones de Crispin Hernández y nuestro documental "Ordeñados", han argumentado la necesidad del derecho de sindicación de los trabajadores agrícolas. El 25 de abril, Crispin Hernández y Rebecca Fuentes de WCCNY asistieron a una audiencia pública organizada por los senadores del estado de Morrisville College, en la cuál Crispin Hernández habló sobre las represalias que tuvo al tratar de organizar trabajadores agrícolas en una de las granjas más grandes de Nueva York.

La Ley de Prácticas Laborales Justas para Trabajadores Agrícolas en la Legislatura del Estado de Nueva York (S2837 / A2750) fue creada para codificar claramente las protecciones mencionadas anteriormente para trabajadores agrícolas.

El 19 de junio de 2019, la Legislatura del Estado de NY aprobó la Ley de Prácticas Laborales Justas para Trabajadores Agrícolas.

WCCNY aplaude la aprobación de esta ley, que otorga derechos de organización y negociación colectiva, un día de descanso por semana, y el cumplimiento de nuevos estándares sanitarios en las viviendas de las granjas, donde las condiciones a menudo han sido horribles.

A cambio de no otorgar el derecho de huelga, esta ley proporciona otras herramientas, a saber, la neutralidad del empleador y el arbitraje, para facilitar la organización y la negociación con los propietarios de las granjas.



Crispin Hernández won in the appellate court; farmworkers will no longer be exempted from labor laws and rights that govern all other workers in NYS.

Crispin Hernández ganó en la corte de apelaciones; los trabajadores agrícolas ya no estarán exentos de las leyes y derechos laborales que rigen a todos los demás trabajadores en el estado de Nueva York.

Workers' Center, continued from previous page

The farm lobby has been fighting against this law for many decades. We appreciate that this law was passed without further watering down due to pressure from the Farm lobby.

WCCNY will continue to fight for farmworkers' right to strike, and insist that the wage board created by the law act quickly in lowering the threshold for farmworkers to receive overtime pay. Currently, this threshold is at 60 hours per week.

WCCNY In Action

April 1. WCCNY held a rally outside the federal building for the census to count everyone. This is necessary for public assistance funds to be properly distributed. New York State allocated \$20 million for organizations to perform census outreach so that everyone may be counted.

May 5. WCCNY and Urban Jobs Task Force lobbied in Albany for a more diverse workforce for the I-81 project.

June 10. A Rapid Response Training had 10 attendants from the community defense network.

June 22. WCCNY attended Pride Festival. We distributed fliers about sexual harassment and GENDA, The Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act, passed this year.

Join The Fight! Support WCCNY!

Urban Workers Group at WCCNY is focused on housing and living conditions, and tenants' rights. For rental disputes, a tenant should be able to use local courts rather than having to go to another city. We meet monthly. Tenants having problems are encouraged to reach out to us.

Friends of Farm Workers House needs your support. This house exists to provide support for farmworkers if they get injured, lose their housing because of organizing, or are in terrible farm housing conditions. WCCNY has so far paid one third of the \$32,000 cost of this building. Please support us by donating \$100 (or another amount) if you can.

Support WCCNY's work! Donate money online at www.workerscny.org or drop off food or gift cards from stores for Friends of Farm Workers' House. WCCNY's office is located at 2013 E. Genesee St., Syracuse. ☎

El lobby de la granja ha estado luchando contra esta ley por muchas décadas. Somos conscientes de que esta ley fue aprobada sin más postergamiento debido a la presión del sector agrícola.

WCCNY continuará luchando por el derecho de huelga de los trabajadores agrícolas e insistirá en que la junta salarial creada por la ley actúe rápidamente para reducir el umbral para que los trabajadores agrícolas obtengan horas extras. Actualmente, este umbral es de 60 horas por semana.

WCCNY En Acción

1 de abril. WCCNY realizó un mitin afuera del edificio federal para que el censo contara a todos. Esto es necesario para que los fondos de asistencia pública se distribuyan adecuadamente. El estado de Nueva York asignó \$ 20 millones para que las organizaciones realicen actividades de extensión del censo para que todos puedan ser contados.

5 de mayo. WCCNY y Grupo de Trabajo Urbanos presionó en Albany por una fuerza laboral más diversa para el proyecto I-81.

10 de junio. Uno Entrenamiento de Respuesta Rápida tuvo 10 participantes de la red de defensa comunitaria.

22 de junio. WCCNY asistió al Festival del Orgullo. Distribuimos folletos sobre el acoso sexual y GENDA, Ley de no discriminación por expresión de género, aprobada este año.

¡Únete a la Lucha! Apoyo WCCNY!

El grupo de trabajadores urbanos en WCCNY se centra en las condiciones de vivienda y de vida, y los derechos de los inquilinos.

Para disputas de alquiler, un inquilino debe poder usar los tribunales locales en lugar de tener que ir a otra ciudad. Nos reunimos mensualmente. Se anima a los inquilinos que tienen problemas a comunicarse con nosotros.

"Friends of Farmworkers House" necesita su apoyo. Esta casa existe para brindar apoyo a los trabajadores agrícolas si se lesionan, pierden su vivienda debido a la organización o están en terribles condiciones de vivienda.

WCCNY ha pagado hasta ahora un tercio del costo de \$ 32,000 de este edificio. Por favor, ayúdenos con una donación de \$ 100 (o otra cantidad) si pueden.

Apoyo el trabajo de WCCNY! Done dinero en línea en www.workerscny.org o entregue alimentos o tarjetas de regalo de las tiendas para Friends of Farmworkers' House. La oficina de WCCNY está ubicada en 2013 E. Genesee St., Syracuse. ☎



WCCNY supporters protesting living conditions of dairy farmworkers. Partidarios de WCCNY que protestan por las condiciones de vivienda de los trabajadores en una granja lechera.

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RECENT SPC STATEMENTS

The US has been in a continual state of crisis. Many issues bubble quietly for a while. Then something explodes which reminds us that that the forces of US imperialism and racism are alive and well, and the question is which country or particular group of people is being most affected.

Internationally the most visible crises SPC has responded to recently have bounced among Korea, Venezuela and Iran. In today's news cycle they get barely a mention, but that could change quickly. What follows are SPC's statements on Venezuela and Iran, written in May, 2019 (some details are slightly dated). A version of the Venezuela statement was printed on Syracuse.com; both statements were widely circulated on social media. Reading them together highlights the common themes. Thanks to Marianna Kaufman for shepherding them through SPC's process.

Statement on Venezuela

The Syracuse Peace Council opposes the opportunistic efforts of the US government to intervene in the domestic politics of the country of Venezuela for economic gain.

Despite the humanitarian rhetoric from Washington, it is clear that the Trump administration has been and continues to orchestrate a coup d'état in order to further its economic interests in the oil-rich nation. We condemn the heavy economic sanctions by the Trump administration in Venezuela, which a recent analysis by the Center for Economic Research has found to have cost the lives of at least 40,000 Venezuelans in the year spanning 2017-2018 alone.

While we fully acknowledge reports of corruption, and civil and human rights abuses of the Maduro government, such as aggressive and deadly anti-protest measures during the 2017 protests and of suspicious and possibly fraudulent 2018 elections, we continue to stand with the majority of Venezuelans in opposing the oppression of the Maduro government while also rejecting foreign military intervention and a US-backed coup.

We know that for over one hundred years following the Monroe Doctrine, the US has successfully overthrown governments or suppressed popular uprisings no less than 41 times in order to further its economic interests. We reject the ongoing US imperialism of Latin America, which has destabilized countries and created a severe and protracted refugee crisis. We respect the right of sovereign nations in Latin America to govern themselves without the threat of US military intervention.

We call on elected leaders to educate themselves regarding the harmful consequences of US interventionism in Latin America, to have the courage to stand apart from the corporate war elite, to support HR 1004 (introduced by Rep. Cicilline) that would prohibit US troops from intervening in Venezuela without congressional approval, and to speak out against the harmful economic sanctions.

Statement on Iran

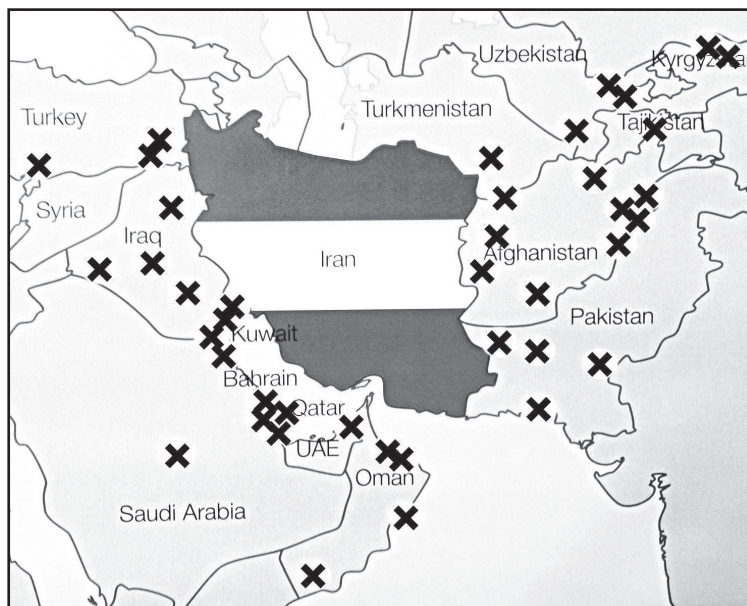
The Syracuse Peace Council condemns the escalation of tensions by the Trump administration with regard to Iran.

We have grave concern over the provocative speech and military maneuvers fostered by John Bolton in a reprise of his disastrous role prior to the United States' invasion of Iraq. On May 14, 2019 British General Ghika stated, "There's been no increased threat from Iranian backed forces", but, once again Bolton, now an influential part of the Trump administration, seeks to escalate tensions in an attempt to create justification for war.

We reject the onerous sanctions on Iran applied by the United States, despite evidence that Iran has remained in compliance with the landmark 2015 nuclear deal. We demand that the Trump administration cease the provocations, lift the debilitating sanctions affecting 80,000,000 Iranian civilians, and employ diplomacy in its relations with Iran and other countries.

We will not stand for another manufactured war in the Middle East. Such a war would subject untold numbers of Iranians to physical harm or death, and destabilize the country and region. It would cause further international tensions, waste material resources, and accelerate the climate crisis towards which the United States military is already the largest single contributor.

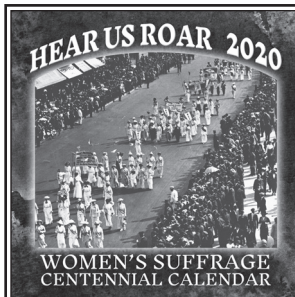
This cannot be allowed to happen simply to satisfy bizarre visions harbored by members of the Trump administration. We call on our members of Congress to co-sponsor The Prevention of Unconstitutional War with Iran Act of 2019, S 1039 (introduced by Sen. Udall) and HR 2354 (introduced by Rep. Eshoo). The bill explicitly denies Trump the authority to start a war with Iran without congressional approval. We call on our congressional leaders to continue to use diplomacy. ☮



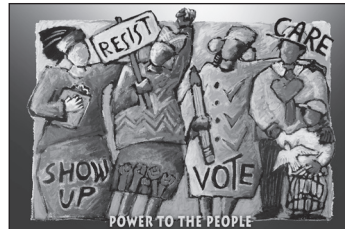
This is a map of US military bases surrounding Iran. Who is actually threatening whom? Graphic: Adapted by Kanat Bolazar from maps on the web

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ACTIVIST APPRECIATION: ELAINE DENTON

Elaine Denton is a mom, political candidate, graphic designer, meticulous researcher and tenacious organizer. She was first a member of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, and then became active with the CNY Solidarity Coalition, serving on its coordinating committee. She joined the *Peace Newsletter* editorial committee a little over a year ago, originally to “just” help with layout, but wrote several of the articles on state and local politics.

Elaine has a very kind and cooperative heart. She gives her all to issues she is passionate about and is good at encouraging others to join with her. She has donated her myriad skills in support of the Community Grid, fighting the proposed beach at Onondaga Lake, writing and laying out the *PNL*, and to state and local political activism. She has courage, and is an inspiring example of what one person can do. Elaine is a pleasure to work with; we are so grateful she has chosen to share her compassion and talents with SPC.

– Carol Baum



Elaine (middle) making Community for the Grid buttons. It was her design (which became a *PNL* cover). She also brought the hearts to paint. Photo: Carol Baum

AGREE WORKS FOR ENERGY TRANSITION

This is a Climate Emergency, and ALL of us are needed to help make a rapid transition from fossil fuels and nuclear energy to a carbon-free, nuclear-free 100% renewable energy system! Alliance for a Green Economy (AGREE) advocates for safe, affordable energy and the development of a green economy. This summer you can help by signing up for the AGREE email alert list (AgreeNewYork.org) and by checking in with our HeatSmart CNY campaign (HeatSmartCNY.org).

HeatSmart CNY is a community campaign making it easier and more affordable to install modern, clean heating and cooling solutions that don't involve onsite fossil fuel combustion. We host free workshops and open houses to help everyone learn about how heat pumps work, and how you can be more comfortable, save money and save the planet by installing a heat pump in your home or business. Thinking of buying an air conditioner? Wait! Call us first (315-480-1515). Replacing an aging oil or propane heating system and wondering if you should get a fracked (“natural”) gas system? Wait! Call us first. The planet thanks you. And so do we!

– Andra Leimanis

INTERIM HARASSMENT PROTOCOL APPROVED

SPC's Steering Committee recently approved an “Interim Protocol for Reporting and Responding to Incidents of Harassment” for our organization. The Peace Council does not tolerate harassment of any kind. This document defines harassment and empowers a Review Committee to hear complaints, and take action to repair the situation and provide accountability. The protocol and short bios of Review Committee members can be found at peacecouncil.net/harassment-protocol.

The approval of this protocol is a step toward developing a comprehensive Code of Conduct and a permanent policy and protocol for dealing with harassment or inappropriate behavior of any kind. Feedback or questions about the interim protocol can be directed to protocolcomments@peacecouncil.net (or call the SPC office). This feedback will be collected to inform the drafting of the permanent policy, and there will be a formal and public period seeking input from SPC supporters when there is a draft permanent policy.

– Amelia Lefevre

SOLIDARITY FOR THE GRID

CNY Solidarity Coalition has advocated for the Community Grid option to replace the I-81 viaduct. The NYS Department of Transportation has recommended the Grid option. A final decision will be made after a Public Hearing and Public Comment Period, sometime this fall. This project will have huge effects on the region, with major impacts on housing, transportation and jobs for the least privileged sectors of our community.

Two other major programs affecting the same area are planned: Syracuse Surge is an initiative including technology, housing, educational and employment

initiatives. Blueprint 15 will focus on development of mixed-income housing. We will be watching our local, state, and federal decision makers as these projects develop. To stay informed, please check:

- Urban Jobs Task Force: www.ujtf.org
- New York Civil Liberties Union: www.nyclu.org/en/campaigns/i-81-story
- NYS Department of Transportation: www.dot.ny.gov/i81opportunities
- Blueprint 15: www.blueprint15.org
- CNY Solidarity Coalition: www.facebook.com/cnysolidarity

– Peter McCarthy

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The message anti-drone activists brought to Hancock AFB. Photo: Heriberto Rodriguez

RELENTLESS PERSISTENCE AT HANCOCK KILLER DRONE BASE

For about two hours on the rainy morning of June 20, as the latest in a decade-long series of nonviolent direct action tableaux at Hancock AFB, eight of us Upstate Drone Action activists blocked the main entrance of this Reaper drone hub. Our 8x3 foot banner, flanked by mourning mothers in hijab, declared: “Drones Fly, Children Die— Our Hearts Are Breaking.”

When we appeared, unannounced, at the base we provided the guards at the gate with our letter to Hancock personnel urging them to honor their oath to obey the US Constitution and not obey their officers’ illegal orders to perpetrate drone terrorism.

We were eventually arrested, cuffed, transported to the downtown Syracuse “Justice Center,” booked, and held for about 12 hours before being released in our own recognizance—charged with trespass, disorderly conduct (both violations) and obstruction of government administration, a misdemeanor. This OGA charge carries a maximum sentence of one year, and, if it isn’t dropped, will allow us a jury trial. The defendants: Dan Burgevin, Mark Scibilia-Carver and Tom Joyce (Ithaca area), Ann Tiffany, Ed Kinane, Julianne Oldfield, Lester Billips, and Rae Kramer (Syracuse).

Thanks to our videography team, the next morning brief footage of the action appeared on *Democracy Now*—with its international audience of millions. For more footage: www.upstatedroneaction.org.

– Ed Kinane

LIGHTS FOR LIBERTY VIGIL

On Friday July 12, over 15 community groups (including SPC) and hundreds of community members came together to demand an end to the migrant detention centers in the US (which many have called out as concentration camps) and the deplorable, inhumane conditions which asylum seekers in the camps experience. Donations to two local organizations that support immigrants, Friends of Farmworkers and Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition, were collected. If you haven’t already, please call your Congressional representatives to demand they take action to close the camps.

– Michaela Czerkies

JUSTICE FOR PALESTINE

Justice for Palestine (JfP) continues our **weekly Friday vigils for Gaza from 4:30-5:15pm** at the intersection of E. Genesee St. and Erie Blvd. East in DeWitt. Join us!

The committee has developed a “Resolution/Memo of Support for Congressional Representatives” to co-sponsor HR 2407, the “Promoting Human Rights for Palestinian Children Living Under Israeli Occupation Act.” JfP is looking for faith groups and community organizations interested in signing on and/or would like to host an event with us about military detention of Palestinian children for their congregations and constituencies. Contact michaela@peacecouncil.net if your group may be interested!

As part of our “No Way to Treat a Child Campaign,” JfP will screen the documentary *Gaza: Still Alive* on **Monday, July 29 at 7pm** at ArtRage Gallery (505 Hawley Ave). The video highlights the ongoing and inescapable trauma of children living in rapidly deteriorating conditions under the 10+ years of Israel’s blockade and siege of Gaza, through interviews with mental health community workers, doctors from Physicians for Human Rights, and Palestinian children themselves.

– Julia Ganson

SABBATICAL FOR STAFF ORGANIZER

SPC will be short-staffed for two months starting in mid August when I (long-time SPC staff organizer Carol Baum) will be taking a sabbatical. So if you have been tempted to get more involved with SPC but haven’t gotten around to it, now is an especially good time to make that contact!

The last three years have been especially difficult for us all. Trump’s election, while it didn’t change the essential nature of US capitalism, racism, sexism, militarism, heterosexism, etc., was an engine that pushed these isms to even more extreme positions. SPC activists have been amazing throughout all of this—dedicated, supportive, hard-working and often overwhelmed themselves. Everyone occasionally needs a break to recharge, and I am grateful for this opportunity.

– Carol Baum



Hundreds of people lit candles after listening to powerful speakers and musicians. Photo: Michaela Czerkies