

# SPC Highlights! fall 2008



SPC was out in the streets this summer, provoking responses that ranged from anger to laughter to appreciation. One of the most visible efforts was during the NYS Fair. On several days, during high traffic hours, the Iraq affinity group and Iraq Organizing Committee staged a tableau (above) on the US occupation of Iraq outside the main entrance. On Labor Day, Ed Kinane and Rae Kramer walked through the fair with a strong visual message to close Guantánamo (below). Both efforts and Ed's arrest during the action generated discussion on the letters page in the *Post-Standard* and a flurry of public support for free speech. Watch the *PNL* for updates on Ed's trial.

Photos: Carol Baum, Paul Weichselbaum



Dozens of SPC activists staffed booths at local events this summer and fall, including the Downtown Arts and Crafts Festival, the Westcott Street Cultural Fair, and volunteer fairs at Syracuse University, SUNY Environmental School of Forestry and Le Moyne College. Above Carole Resnick staffs a Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation (NOON) table at the Haudenosaunee Festival.

Photo: Andy Mager



Reverend Billy and the Church of Stop Shopping (left) brought their gospel message to Syracuse in September to stop the "shopocalypse" and "exorcise" Destiny. About 40 local people joined in, gathering on Park Street and then marching through the Carousel Mall parking lot to save Syracuse from the evils of consumerism.

Photos: Andy Mager



As part of this year's commemoration of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings (organized by SPC, American Friends Service Committee, Pax Christi, Peace Action and Syracuse Solidarity Network), an interfaith peace gathering was held at the Syracuse Zen Center. Dozens of paper lanterns were floated down Onondaga Creek (middle). The annual dramatic procession also took place through downtown Syracuse on Hiroshima Day (below).

Photos: Kristin Mosher



SPC's 2008 birthday celebration "Persistent Peacemakers" featured veterans from three wars speaking out against militarism and for full care for returning veterans (above). Long-time SPC activists Sam Feld, a World War II bomber, and Joe Heath, a former Navy officer discharged as a conscientious objector during Viet Nam, were joined by Camillus native Bryan Casler. Bryan became active with Iraq Veterans Against the War after attending the September 29, 2007 regional antiwar demonstration "Civilians and Soldiers Speak Out" held in Syracuse. He served two tours of duty with the Marines in Iraq and one in Afghanistan, and helped to organize the recent Northeast Winter Soldier Hearings in Rochester.

Photo: Paul Pearce



Local blues musician Miss E both organized and performed at the Bands Against Bombs fundraiser for SPC in July (above). The event, which also featured Colleen Kattau, Ashley Cox and others, was energizing and raised much needed funds for SPC during our summer dry time. Michelle Feak also rose to the challenge, hosting a garden party to benefit SPC at her North Syracuse home (right). SPC regulars Bob Skellan and Susan Lewis were among those who came to admire the summer blooms.

Photos: Andy Mager, Carol Baum