



Dear Friends,

This year the Syracuse Peace Council community celebrates the 50th anniversary of Plowshares Craftsfair and Peace Festival. Of course, we could have never imagined a year ago that the 50th Plowshares would take place entirely online. The Plowshares Committee has done a fantastic job of creating a virtual version of our beloved celebration. Many thanks to the committee (see photo, page 2) and others who have worked so hard to bring the spirit of Plowshares online. Please check it out if you haven't already. It's open through January 31 at www.plowsharescraftsfair.org.

Plowshares sustains SPC through celebration, raising funds, and propelling our work.

As amazing a job as the committee has done, we are worried about the fundraising piece of a virtual Plowshares. The expenses are lower, but we anticipate the income to be lower too. A typical Plowshares accounts for about 1/3 of SPC's annual budget and nets about \$40,000 a year. We know many people have contributed recently already, and we offer you a hearty and deeply appreciative "Thank You." For those who haven't, or who can offer more, please help us weather the gap in Plowshares fundraising.

- Visit www.plowsharescraftsfair.org today through January 31. Invite your friends, families, and co-workers both near and far – it's virtual!
- Explore the SPC Marketplace whose vendors are donating a percentage of sales (and 100% of Syracuse Cultural Workers calendar sales!),
- Consider making a special donation* to the Peace Council by year's end (see enclosed coupon). Payroll for our two part-time staff organizers and a few hours a month for our bookkeeper is the largest expense, and we very much want to protect these positions.
- Becoming a regular pledger is very beneficial to SPC. Contact Michaela@peacecouncil.net.

Plowshares celebrates our accomplishments. It encourages visitors to learn more and get involved (see the virtual Peace Council Table on the Plowshares website). Here are a few highlights from the past few months:

- The Nuclear Free World committee commemorated the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki with a press conference announcing Syracuse's endorsement of the Back from the Brink Campaign to Prevent Nuclear War. A short film created by SPC members (Don Hughes, Rashid Mamun and Peter Swords) entitled "A Future Without Nuclear Weapons" was featured internationally. See <https://youtu.be/Gfvo4EiE0I023>.
- Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation (NOON) has adapted its powerful Witness to Injustice workshops to the online environment to very positive responses. The workshops help participants understand, on an emotional level, the devastation that Native peoples have experienced since Columbus arrived, and their resilience. NOON has been a major player supporting removing the Columbus statue and the re-visioning Columbus Circle in downtown Syracuse.
- The Justice for Palestine committee continues its support of the "No Way to Treat a Child" campaign to end US funding for Israeli military detention of Palestinian children. They regularly demonstrate in support of Palestinians in Gaza.

- Beyond War and Militarism, a joint committee of SPC and CNY Solidarity Coalition, worked with Veterans for Peace for the third annual commemoration of Armistice Day as a day dedicated to world peace. They facilitated a proclamation by Syracuse’s mayor declaring November 11th as Armistice Day. BWaM continues weekly Street Heat protests of drone warfare (on a winter schedule).
- SPC does much work in coalition, including protecting democracy, from election day through the Inauguration, as a major part of Choose Democracy CNY; resisting police violence with Syracuse Police Accountability and Reform Coalition; and advocating for a clean and just environment as part of Alliance for a Green Economy. SPC is also a member group of the Urban Jobs Task Force and ACTS (Alliance of Communities Transforming Syracuse).
- Since the pandemic began, we have redoubled our efforts to communicate, providing an online e-newsletter every week, filled with articles, resources, events, and organizing ideas.

Plowshares helps propel our work forward. All of these projects will continue in the coming months. Critical challenges face us all, despite the change of administration. To keep up this essential work, we need your support – through participation and financially. To learn more about how to join in, contact carol@peacecouncil.net or michaela@peacecouncil.net.

Thank you for any help you can offer to ensure that, together, we will continue to educate, agitate, and organize for peace and social justice as SPC has done since 1936.

In gratitude,

Syracuse Peace Council Steering Committee:

Aly Wane, Amelia Lefevre, Carol Baum, Caroline Tihanyi, Diane Swords,
Julio Urrutia, Lleni Pach, Marianna Kaufman, Michaela Czerkies

**Note: We currently cannot offer a way to make tax deductible contributions to SPC. However, due to the tax law changes that began in 2018, many people no longer actually deduct contributions on their tax returns anyway. Please make all checks payable to Syracuse Peace Council. Or if you prefer, you can make online donations via your credit card or PayPal through the Donation button on the SPC website www.peacecouncil.net or on the Plowshares website.*



Plowshares Committee at one of their many zoom meetings. From top, left to right: Beth Mosely, Mara Hogan, Carol Baum, Barb Floch, Rae Kramer, Lanny Freshman, Carmen Viviano-Crafts, Andy Molloy, Jonathan Trier, Michaela Czerkies, Amanda Hogan, Karen Kerney. Not pictured: Art Bragman