

←educate • agitate • organize→ SPC in Action

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JUSTICE FOR PALESTINE 2019 CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF

At Plowshares 2018, Justice for Palestine (JfP) continued its tradition of having a table with information on human rights issues and bottles of Palestinian olive oil for sale. Also in December, one member attended a conference sponsored by American Friends Service Committee called "What Would Justice Look Like: Moving Towards a Just Peace in Palestine and Israel," which focused on two current national campaigns: "Israeli Military Detention: No Way to Treat a Child" and "Gaza Unlocked."

JfP held an event titled "Palestine: Behind the Wall" on January 22 to discuss Palestinian rights issues and opportunities for action, and to kick off our local campaign petitioning Congressional representatives to co-sponsor the Promoting Human Rights by Ending Israeli Military Detention of Palestinian Children Act. We'll need volunteers to help with peti-



Graphic: American Friends Service Committee

tioning, data-entry, outreach calls and more. To get involved, contact michaela@peacecouncil.net.

– Julia Ganson

COMMUNITY FOR THE GRID

SPC supports the Community Grid option for replacing the I-81 viaduct through downtown Syracuse (see the November/December 2018 *PNL*; also, rethink81.org has a lot of great information). The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is coming out soon, which means now is the time for focused organizing.

How can you help?

Sign a postcard for the grid (communityforthegrid.com); call Gov. Cuomo (518-474-8390) and the NYS Depart-

ment of Transportation (855-481-8255); attend an I-81 information session and ask questions; participate in weekly canvassing (see facebook.com/communitygrid for dates and locations of the info sessions and canvassing). Once the DEIS is out, there will be a 45-day comment period. Be sure to comment—it is critical that Syracusans and suburban allies show their support for the grid.

For more information, contact Misse at 8764598@gmail.com.

– Carol Baum

GET INVOLVED WITH SPC!

We've experienced numerous foreign and domestic policy disasters during these past two years of the Trump administration and Republican-controlled Congress, from ever-increasing military spending, to Trump's withdrawal from the Iran Deal, to the US embassy in Israel moving to Jerusalem. But in every instance, SPC organizers have responded with action!

As we begin a new year, there are new organizing opportunities for peace and justice. There are many ways to get involved with SPC—if you like working in groups, try out a committee. If you like talking politics with people, participate in petitioning efforts. If you're artistic, help us develop creative content and

promotional materials. If you like easy busy work, do a little data-entry.

Every small piece of our organizing efforts is an essential part of our larger political goals. If you're looking for a way to take action, there's something here at SPC for everyone.

– Michaela Czerkies

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NEIGHBORS OF THE ONONDAGA NATION

We are busy with a few different ongoing projects.

Supporting Friends of the Onondaga Lake Bald Eagles. This group grew out of resistance of the Onondaga County chapter of the Audobon Society to the County's plans to build a trail on Murphy's Island. This site is host to 43 eagles, and some are showing signs related to nesting. We are petitioning to protect the bald eagles of Murphy's Island. For more information, contact Richelle Brown at 703-946-6804 or richellecbrown@gmail.com, or visit the Friends of OL Bald Eagles on Facebook.

Reprinting our Neighbor to Neighbor booklet on paper and digitally. The Pomeroy Foundation has made a generous contribution to our reprinting project. We thank Phil Arnold and Adam Brett for their expertise, which will result in a digitally available copy.

Witness to Injustice workshops. NOON has facilitated workshops for numerous groups, including at Le Moyne College, the Skä•noñh Center, the Gandhi Center in Rochester, Syracuse University, and several local churches. We will offer a workshop during ArtRage Gallery's upcoming exhibition, "Kokom Lena of the First Nation Algonquin," photos by Michael Greenlar. It's **Sunday, February 12, 1-4 pm at ArtRage.** Then on **Thursday evening, March 21** we will present "How to be an Ally to Indigenous People," also at ArtRage.



Witness to Injustice Workshop at the Skä•noñh Center on Onondaga Lake. Photo: Kristin Mosher

Columbus Day. NOON members have participated in a city-supported dialogue circle on Columbus Day. There will be four more circles, and we encourage people to participate. Contact Cindy (cindysquillace@gmail.com), Jack (jpmanno@esf.edu), or Interfaith Works directly (info@interfaithworkscny.org).

– Hilary-Anne Coppola

NEW YEAR'S EVE VIGIL



Julienne Oldfield and Geoff Oldfield braving the rain with their message at the New Year's Eve Vigil. Photo: Sophie Oldfield

Despite the heavy downpour on New Year's Eve, approximately 25 of us held the annual Peace Council Vigil at Clinton Square in downtown Syracuse. We held signs that reflected our efforts in 2018; e.g., to end the war and consequent devastation in Yemen, end the apartheid in Palestine and end the militarization of our culture and the consequent waste of our resources.

We also sought to bolster each other for the critical struggles ahead. Ann Tiffany said it best, as she referenced Chris Hedges' comment that "sometimes it feels like a mouse squeaking against an avalanche, but squeak we must." So, we held our signs in the rain, not knowing with any certainty that we were effective, embodying Ann's new mantra: "I have to keep squeaking!"

– Ron Van Norstrand

THE HOT ACTIVISM OF STREET HEAT

In spite of the cold, we continue to be out on the streets once a month at the main entrance to Hancock Air Base (home of the 174th Attack Wing of reaper drones, 6000 E. Molloy Rd., DeWitt) on the **first Tuesday of the month from 4:15-5pm.** Come April we'll be out again every week.

Please join us—bring a sign or use one of ours. Contact Ann Tiffany or Ed Kinane at 315-478-4571.

CNY SOLIDARITY

In the post-election world, CNY Solidarity Coalition will continue to align with the Indivisible network to promote progressive change at national, state and local levels. Highly recommended reading are the two new papers put out by Indivisible, available on their website: *Indivisible on Offense* (how to use our constituent power to go on offense) and *Indivisible States* (for organizing at the state level).

We also continue to focus on understanding and addressing issues of privilege, poverty and the struggles of marginalized groups in our community. In addition to our close relationships with our member organizations, we actively support our members' involvement with a number of community groups. We are learning from those who are doing this critical work. Through these efforts we hope to increasingly become authentic allies in a common effort to advance the cause of social justice.

Info and sign-ups for Action Alerts at cny solidarity.org.

– Peter McCarthy

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Pat's investigative work about this massive public health threat bolsters the call for closure of all military bases both here and abroad.

One focus at the Dublin conference was the campaign urging Ireland to comply with its policy of neutrality and cease the US military's use of Irish airports. Currently, the US military funnels tens of thousands of troops through Ireland's airports on their way to bases in the Middle East. Save the date for World BEYOND

War's #NoWar2019 Conference from October 3-5 in Limerick, Ireland, which will include a nonviolent demonstration at Shannon Airport.

To learn more and get involved in World BEYOND War's base closure campaign, you do not have to live near a military base (though we'd be surprised if you don't). We work to build alliances between local communities impacted by military bases and those who live near centers of governmental and military

power. Through diverse coalition-building and international networking, we help strengthen the collective voice of peacemakers to demand policies that value people and the planet over military might. See what we are working for at worldbeyonddwar.org/bases.

The Beyond War and Militarism Committee, a joint committee of the Peace Council and the CNY Solidarity Coalition, is affiliated with World BEYOND War. ♻️

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OUR PLANET IS ON FIRE

Join us in building community, collectively reducing emissions, and organizing to win the right and resources to do more. Alliance for a Green Economy (AllianceforaGreenEconomy.org) works for a just transition to a carbon-free, nuclear-free energy system and educates the public about alternatives that can revitalize the economy and safeguard public and environmental health.

Our new HeatSmart CNY initiative is helping people across CNY find out what it would take to get buildings off fossil fuels. Learn about building envelope improvements, cold-climate air source, geothermal, and hot water heat pumps. Attend open houses and workshops (event list at HeatSmartCNY.org) to connect with vetted installers and receive information about grants and credits. If you can afford to, switch now to



renewable heating; if you can't afford it, plan now to get off fossil fuels next time you replace a heating system.

— Andra Leimanis

ACTIVIST APPRECIATION: HILARY-ANNE COPPOLA

Hilary came to SPC as a summer intern with a strong commitment to environmental education and activism, a special interest in Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation (NOON) and the *Peace Newsletter (PNL)*, and a willingness to try anything. She quickly became integral to our organizing, and we were thrilled that she decided to continue with SPC.

Hilary was one of the main organizers of NOON's "Celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day, Not Columbus Day" event in October, and has accepted major responsibility for editing *PNL* articles, in-

cluding writing articles herself. She has cheerfully taken on some of the "grunt" work that helps make things happen—taking minutes, setting up meetings and making phone calls.

Her "doing" of the work comes with an exceptional spirit. She deeply feels the human element of every political action, piece of writing and conversation, and acts with both her head and heart.

Thank you, Hilary. We are grateful for your presence and your work.

— Carol Baum

NUCLEAR FREE WORLD

The Nuclear Free World (NFW) Committee is excited to announce that, with Beyond War and Militarism, we are organizing a talk with Dr. Ira Helfand for March. Ira co-chairs Physicians for Social Responsibility's Nuclear Weapons Abolition Committee, and also is co-president of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War. (IPPNW). He is on the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)'s International Steering Committee. Both IPPNW and ICAN are Nobel Peace Prize recipients.

NFW is taking part in the NY Campaign for Peace in Korea, a group of intergenerational Korean Americans and allies whose mission is to help bring an end to the nearly 70-year-old Korean War. Ending the war is a key step towards normalizing US relations with North Korea. Our part here in Syracuse is to meet with our representatives to promote this goal.

As part of the Reinvestment Alliance, NFW is keeping nuclear weapons a central issue. Reinvest CNY extends the "Don't Bank on the Bomb" campaign, which guides divestment individually and institutionally from banks and companies profiting from nuclear weapons. To learn more, see reinvestcny.com.

We continue to meet with our Senators' aides to support the Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act and to address the failed Pentagon audit.

We are accepting applications for the annual Peace Youth Award. Application and instructions available at peacecouncil.net/youthpeaceaward.

— Margrit Diehl and Diane Swords

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THE 48TH ANNUAL PLOWSHARES FESTIVAL IS NOW IN THE BOOKS



Plowshares Committee member Jonathan Trier organized large-scale composting for Plowshares this year. Photo: Carol Baum

Both Saturday and Sunday broke all existing records for attendance. 124 booths were staffed by community activists, painters, woodworkers, soap makers, ceramicists, fabric artists and others too numerous to mention. An expanded Silent Auction added to the fun and was an opportunity to support the work of the Peace Council. Wonderful food helped stimulate lively conversation amongst old friends and new acquaintances.

Two days of entertainment, highlighted by our very first and very well-received string quartet closed out Sunday afternoon.

In an attempt to minimize our footprint, bottles and cans were returned, and everything except coffee cup tops was composted.

An ancient proverb states, “If you stand in one place at Plowshares, everyone you have ever met in Syracuse will pass by you...and they will all be smiling.”

If you think that you would like to help keep Plowshares moving into its second half century, please e-mail Lanny at senex401@gmail.com.

– Lanny Freshman

JOIN SPC'S STEERING COMMITTEE

As the leadership body of the Peace Council, the Steering Committee is responsible for the organization's structural and financial sustainability, as well as its overall political direction. We meet monthly to discuss and make decisions on these issues, working to ensure that SPC members can effectively carry out our Statement of Purpose (page 2). The Steering Committee currently has 11 members and is looking to welcome more! To read our members' bios and learn more about our Member Agreements and Qualities, visit peacecouncil.net/steering-committee.

If interested in joining, please e-mail Aly Wane at aly@peacecouncil.net.

– Michaela Czerkies

BEYOND WAR AND MILITARISM

A pair of well-known, long-time anti-war activists recently appeared in Syracuse as a result of co-sponsorship by the Beyond War and Militarism Committee (BWaM). In November, Ann Wright spoke about the footprint of militarism in countries she recently visited. In January, Clare Grady spoke about the personal journey that led to her participation in the Kings Bay Plowshares action directed at the nuclear submarine base in Georgia.

In coordination with the national Veterans for Peace campaign to restore the original meaning of Armistice Day, BWaM member Ron Van Norstrand organized an event at Billings Park in Syracuse that attracted more than 25 people. This event received considerable notice and is expected to gain momentum in future years.

A Reinvest presentation was held in November and at the end of the month, members participated in the New Years Eve vigil.

BWaM holds the unique status of being a joint committee of the SPC and the CNY Solidarity Coalition. In an effort to further integrate BWaM into the Coalition, the committee has made the commitment to hold one workshop or meeting per month at Coalition meetings. The first of these workshops will be “Ending Militarism: Central to Ending Racism and Poverty” at a date to be announced.

– Barry Gordon

SHOW UP, SPEAK UP ON I-81!

For years our region has been preparing for the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on the I-81 Viaduct Project—the time we must all “Show Up, Speak Up” about the project's four big issues: options, jobs, mitigation and real estate.

The Urban Jobs Task Force's focus is on jobs, in particular, the prevailing wage construction jobs for city residents and people of color.

Many of you have signed our petition, which has 1800 signatures, asking the NYS Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) not to grant a Project Labor Agreement to the trade unions unless the trades diversify their membership. Now is the time the UJTF NEEDS YOU! Stand with us this winter when NYSDOT releases the DEIS, asking us for comment. Along with the petition your presence will speak volumes!

Follow us on [facebook.com/SyracuseUrbanJobs](https://www.facebook.com/SyracuseUrbanJobs).

– Aggie Lane

THANKS FOR DONATING

Thanks to all for contributing to SPC's recent fund appeal. As a community group, SPC is funded by you. We stretch each dollar to the best of our ability in our joint work for peace and social justice. And it's not too late to contribute if you haven't quite gotten around to it yet! Thanks again. ☺