



peace & justice news

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The Trans-Pacific Partnership: an Assault on Workers

By *Alissa Boochever, PJC Intern*

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) continues to be secretly negotiated among certain members of the US Congress and 11 countries including Australia, Brunei, Canada, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam. A major agreement affecting a third of all world trade, those participating in the TPP negotiations have kept its contents a close secret.

Although publicized as a free trade agreement, only five of the 29 chapters have to do with trade issues. The real concern comes with the knowledge that over 600 corporate officials have been given access to the document, yet it remains hidden from the public and the majority of Congress. The other 24 articles of the agreement are statutes that would protect corporate interests. These include allowing corporations to avoid domestic laws, accessing land without government oversight, extending copyrights on brand name medicines, banning Buy America and Buy Local preferences that invest in US economy, and restricting internet freedom.

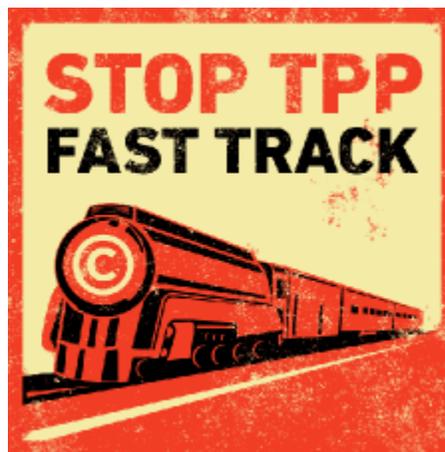
The impending impact on global and local workers' rights illustrates the true discrepancy between fair trade and free trade. The TPP pushes the free trade

agenda of lowering tariffs, quotas, labor principles, and environmental standards in order to loosely trade between nations without constraint. Of the countries currently negotiating the TPP, Vietnam, Mexico, Malaysia, Singapore, and Brunei

have been notorious violators of labor rights with the abysmal minimum wages – translating to roughly \$1.27/hour in Malaysia, .59/hour in Mexico, and a meager .28/hour in Vietnam.

The TPP echoes NAFTA in its two-pronged attack on workers both on US soil and abroad. It will increase the

competition between desperate workers accepting low wage jobs out of necessity and unionized US laborers who cost more to companies. In 1994, former President Clinton claimed, "NAFTA means jobs. American jobs, and good paying American Jobs." Yet we now know that NAFTA had the opposite effect. According to Lori Wallach of Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch, US government data show that the average annual growth of our trade deficit has been 45% higher with Canada and Mexico than with countries not included in the NAFTA agreement. If the US enters into a NAFTA-style agreement



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PJC MISSION

Our mission is to create a just and peaceful world. To this end, we work on the interconnected issues of economic and racial justice, peace, and human rights through education, advocacy, training and non-violent activism, and community organizing, since 1979.



From the Center

Board and Staff Changes

We are excited to welcome Beverly Little Thunder to the Board of Directors. Beverly is an enrolled member of the Standing Rock Lakota Band from North Dakota. She has been both a Sundancer and Inipi Ceremony Water Pourer for over 40 years. Her home is Kunki Keya Tamakoce, 100+ acres of natural beauty, the site of year round Lakota ceremonial activities. Along with leading events on the land and providing guidance for individuals and families in life's transitions, Beverly travels widely to speak and share her traditions. She speaks about traditional beliefs and ceremonies, community-building and personal empowerment, breaking the cycle of violence against women and children, LGBTQA peoples, and undoing racism and other forms of oppression through practicing the values of inclusivity and respect that come from understanding our place in the interconnected web of life.



Beverly Little Thunder

She is a teacher, activist, author, "two spirit" woman, mother of five, grandmother of many, and community leader and teacher for many more. We are especially excited about Beverly's enthusiasm for and support of our programs. She has an ability to show compassion while articulating truth and maintaining diligence with regard to people on every stage of un-learning prejudice. She brings with her a wealth of experience in peace-building and anti-oppression activism, and has a true devotion to our mission.

We are going to miss Krista Panosian, our Assistant Store Manager and Volunteer Coordinator, who is moving to Washington D.C. at the end of July. Krista started at the PJC as the Store Intern during spring semester in 2013. Last summer she was hired in her staff position as she finished her double major in Community & International Development and Community Entrepreneurship at UVM. She hopes to continue her education in the Masters International Program of the Peace Corps. She has done a fantastic job setting into place systems that will make the job easier for the incoming employee and make the organization function better as a whole. Her attention to detail and ability to follow through made her an asset to the PJC. Krista's open mind, honesty and curiosity are sure to bring her on many exciting adventures. We look forward to hearing about them!



Krista Panosian

Rachel Siegel
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It's official! The University of Vermont will become affiliated with the Worker's Rights Consortium (WRC) on July 1, 2014.

The Peace & Justice Center worked with Fair Trade Burlington Network, and student groups Vermont Students Toward Environmental Protection, Amnesty International, and the Fashion Club, to urge UVM to partner with the WRC. The WRC is an independent monitoring organization, founded by United Students Against Sweatshops, that corporations can pay to ensure factories producing apparel bearing their logo are not violating worker's rights. This means that UVM's collegiate branded apparel will be more ethically sourced and where their clothing is made will become transparent. To see a list of factories where UVM merchandise is made (after July first) visit www.workersrights.org.



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with not just two but 11 other countries, the effect will likely be just as extreme if not more.

Senator Bernie Sanders has voiced his concern saying, “trade is a good thing, but what we must begin doing is negotiating fair trade agreements that reflect the interests of working families in America, working families in other countries, and not just large multinational corporations and CEOs who help write these trade agreements.” We have already seen the effects that free trade agreements like NAFTA have had on worker rights including sweatshops which not only abuse the rights of foreign workers, but decrease the number of those jobs for American workers, just so companies can maximize profit.

As opposed to free trade, fair trade emphasizes creating economic opportunity for marginalized laborers instead of increasing profits for multinational corporations, more direct trade, livable wages for producers, higher environmental standards, and a focus on empowering people to improve the quality of their lives. We need to support small producers, local jobs, and people-to-people interactions, not secret deals like the TPP which support powerful profit-maximizing international corporations.

If you would like to get involved, or have the Peace & Justice Fair Trade Campaign present on the Trans-Pacific Partnership or fair trade in general at your community group or school, contact Carmen at carmen@pjcvt.org or (802) 863-2345 x3.

- Thank Senator Sanders for his outspoken opposition to the TPP by contacting him: 1 Church St, 3rd Floor, Burlington VT 05401 or 802-862-0697.

- Thank Senator Leahy for his concerns surrounding fast track and the TPP and ask that he openly oppose the agreement: 199 Main St, 4th Floor, Burlington VT 05401 or 802-863-2525.

- Thank Representative Welch for his concerns surrounding the potential affects to the dairy industry as well as the dangers of fast track, and ask that he openly oppose the agreement: 128 Lakeside Ave, Suite 235, Burlington VT 05401 or 802-652-2450. ☪

Fight for the Light!

*A response to the film *Shadows of Liberty**

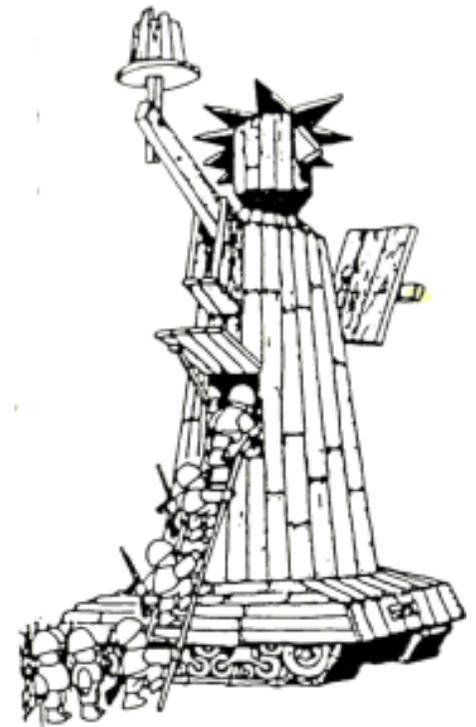
By Rob Williams, board president of the Action Coalition for Media Education and 2VR publisher

I had the good fortune to attend a recent screening of *Shadows of Liberty* at the PJC. This new documentary film, featuring some of the world’s foremost media scholars and indy journalists, takes a hard look at the abysmal state of our mainstream corporate commercial culture of “news” (and I use the term loosely). Quick summary, and no surprise: In this new digital age, we’ve witnessed a journalistic culture of objectivity giving way to sensationalism, infotainment, advertorials, and crass commercialism of the most sordid kind.

While *Shadows of Liberty* largely ignores the rise of our “Surveillance Economy,” it does a fine job of reminding us what the purpose of real news is - to ask hard questions of those in power, to give voice to the voiceless, and to present multiple perspectives on the important stories of the day. Instead, what we often get, thanks to corporate commercial consolidation and the arrival of the Lords of the Cloud (Facebook, Amazon, Google, and Apple) is a “news” world in which hyper-narcissism meets civic disengagement, a culture in which “selfies” trump community activism and civic responsibility far too often.

Our PJC attendees had a lively post-film discussion focused on the question “so what can we do?” Fortunately, solutions are wide-ranging. First, promote cradle-to-grave media literacy education in every classroom and community; every thinking citizen must be taught how to “read and write” across multiple media platforms, in keeping with the most enlightened of the Framers’ emphasis on public education and the importance of virtuous citizenship. Students should know how to use a video camera as well as a pencil, and a blog platform as easily as a textbook.

Second, work for both media justice and media reform - a world in which a robust media culture driven by democracy, diversity, and decentralism chal-



lenge corporate commercial consolidation every step of the way, catalyzed by a growing citizens’ movement in which everyone with an authentic story and Internet access has the capacity to be an indy journalist. Stay informed through alternative media news sources such as *Democracy Now*, *Truth-Out* and *End the Lie*.

Finally, fight for Net Neutrality – a free and unfettered Internet in which everyone, regardless of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, creed, caste, or color, enjoys the same access to our 21st century world of information.

For more media-rich information and resources, please visit the Action Coalition for Media Education (ACME) @ www.smartmediaeducation.net, and of course, support the PJC! ☪

***Shadows of Liberty* is available for viewing in the PJC Community Library. For more information on the film go to www.shadowsofliberty.org**

Opening the White Curtains

By *Andréa Martin, PJC Intern*

Part of why I am so proud to call myself a Vermonter is because my state has always been a progressive leader. In July of 1777, we became the first colony to outlaw slavery. But was racial justice really addressed then and is it addressed today? Nearly 240 years later, why is it that I have only just begun to realize that racism still exists?

It was only two years ago when I was able to recognize racism for the first time. I became involved in a *The Edible Peace Patch Project* in St. Petersburg, FL, a non-profit that aims to “eliminate poverty as a factor in educational success and diet-related health issues”

(peacepatch.org). Driving to my volunteer shifts, I remember looking out the car window at the dark-skinned women sitting on the cracked sidewalks and at the black men bent over the hood of a rusting car, and feeling conscious of my white skin for probably the first time.

The racial segregation was especially clear when my fellow volunteer and I were often the only white people around until we returned to our primarily white campus. As the semester progressed and my involvement in the Peace Patch continued, I began to realize that poverty,

quality education, and access to healthy food are disproportionately burdensome on the black community of St. Petersburg. I, like many, had assumed that the lack of diversity back home and on my college campus was an excuse for disregarding the presence of racism. Volunteering in the South sparked my initial awareness of racism in today’s world, however it was my return home that deepened my understanding of racism.

When I came back to Vermont for the summer, I challenged myself to see the racism I was conditioned to from growing up here and had been unaware of. One evening, a friend was venting about a conflict she had with man about a parking space adding at the end in a hushed tone that he was black. My reply was dismissive of the conflict, however I brewed over what she had said at the end. Was the fact that he is black part of her supporting argument as to why she was right about the parking space? Why else did she feel she had to point this out? Considering her comment was an important aspect in my ability to recognize that racism is embedded in every aspect of our society. It manifests in our conversations, educational systems, access to resources

and opportunities, jobs, housing, income, healthcare, etc. Though my personal awareness has grown, this institutional marginalization still goes unnoticed in the eye of the privileged majority because racism is so often “slipped in at the end in a hushed tone”. It is time to admit to ourselves that although racism doesn’t look like the blatant segregation in St. Pete, we are dealing with the issue on the psychological and systemic level in Vermont.

True racial equality will never be reached if we continue to view the issue of racism from behind a white curtain. Growing up, my indifference for racial justice stemmed from misunderstanding that racism is ubiquitous, regardless of the presence of racial diversity. I wish my exploration of the issue began at an earlier age with a holistic approach in which both home and school taught me the historic context of racial bias, awareness of current manifestations of racism, and inclusive cultural competency. Let us not get caught up in praising how far we have come, but instead let us continue to reexamine ourselves with clarity in the present in order to welcome and work towards true equality for the future. ☪

The Haunted in Waziristan

By *Michaela Herrmann, PJC Intern*

The documentary *Wounds of Waziristan* reveals the damage caused by American drones.

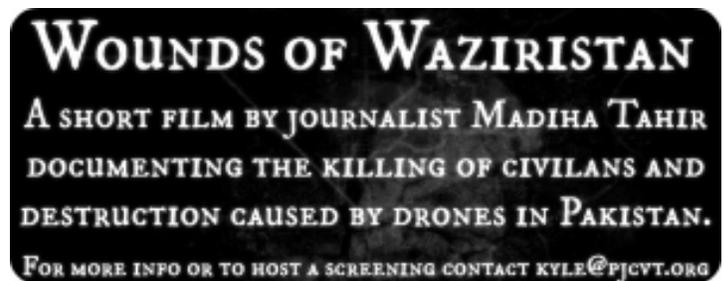
Waziristan is a federally administered tribal area in Pakistan. This area has a long history of being bombed by US drone strikes. Many believe that force is necessary in Waziristan because there is no real law. In the film, one schoolboy speaks about how a US drone struck his house and killed his sister-in-law and baby niece in 2010. He told Madiha Tahir, the film’s director, that he feels guilty about being alive and is tired of innocent people being killed by US drones.

Obama admits that, “It is a hard fact

that US strikes have resulted in civilian casualties...those deaths will haunt us for as long as we live”. After each strike the media reports how many people died. Noor Behram, a Waziristan journalist featured in the documentary, argues that people can’t tell how many have died in a drone strike because random body parts are the only evidence left behind. Kareem Khan expresses how he believes Bush and Obama are the greatest terrorist, because there is

nobody worse than someone who could send drones into the homes of innocent people.

I highly recommend watching, *Wounds of Waziristan* because it’s our drones that haunt the people of Waziristan and it’s time we take responsibility for our actions. ☪



Reflections on Vermont's First Loving Day and Growing up Multiracial

By *Samantha Grise, PJC Intern*

On June 7, 2014, something truly beautiful occurred. I was moved and excited by the birth of a new celebration for Vermonters to revel in. I joined with members of our community as Vermont celebrated its first ever Loving Day. Loving Day is a national celebration of the 1967 court hearing *Loving v. Virginia* which made it illegal for states to have or enforce laws banning interracial marriage.

Growing up multiracial in Chittenden County, Vermont you do not see many other individuals of mixed race ancestry. This means that you do not regularly, if at all, see other people who look like you, or with whom you can easily identify. Add to this the fact that from a young age we are taught how to compare and contrast different items. A red ball is different than a blue ball. A square is not a circle. I watched people struggle to categorize me or place me within their own mental lists as they regarded my face.

In elementary school I remember staring for five minutes at test forms that asked me to identify my “race” and having to choose one category. I remember with a flushed face asking a teacher what to do and being told to “pick one,” like the choice would be easy, as I watched my peers breeze through the forms. Should I pick white or Asian and ignore my other heritage? If I did this was I putting a hierarchy to my own genetics? This was an inner turmoil of my childhood, until the day in middle school when I was given the option of picking two categories, a moment I will never forget. I remember being elated and at the same time feeling heartbroken that I had had to choose for so many years.

At grocery stores people would occasionally not believe my mother was my mother. Once, on a train ride with our parents, my sister and I were shaken awake by border patrol before they even checked our parents IDs. They did not think that we were a family or thought that my sister and I might be trafficked.



I was often misidentified or questioned about my heritage. I heard questions like “What are you?” or “Where are you from?” The former question often became a guessing game of my background. Was I Spanish, Hawaiian, Native American, any Asian nationality, Native Alaskan? These questions did not and do not dissuade me from being comfortable with myself as an individual, but being asked these questions year after year as I grow older I am forced to think about these perceived lines that mankind has drawn throughout history and how those lines apply to me and others.

I do not mind answering these queries, I understand the innate curiosity of people and I am exceedingly proud of my mixed heritage, but I have found that most of the discourse on this specific subject stems from people trying to understand my heritage or the heritage of other individuals. Not enough discussion occurs in the mainstream. People are usually too afraid or too polite to touch on the subject of race. However not talking about it does not make racial issues go away. Do not be afraid to enter the discussion. We as a global community need to keep up persistent conversations about important issues.

All this made the Loving Day event especially close to my heart. It was a wonderful chance for many different people to discuss “race” in a safe public

forum. The amount and quality of discussion was delightful. With conversations stemming from the speeches given by three wonderful speakers: Phyl Newbeck, Nikki Khanna, and Melinda Mills, we as a group considered topics such as how growing up multiracial affects children, how multiracial individuals identify themselves, how is it different to date being multiracial, and how the

world perceives multiracial individuals. We even had the great fortune to explore other topics, like how do disabilities manifest themselves within the rights of marriage, why does the constitution not better protect the right to love, and same sex marriage in light of *Loving v. Virginia*.

Some great stories and experiences were shared that I hope to never forget. I look forward to the next Loving Day event in Vermont. I hope it is magnified tenfold, so that more people can join in on this great celebration and discussion of love and acceptance. 🌟

The New Jim Crow Book Study Group

Monday, Sept 22 & Wednesday, Sept 24

5:30 -7:30 Free for PJC members and open to public for \$25 (includes book). Facilitated by Beverly Little Thunder (see p 2). Racial profiling, disenfranchisement, and mass incarceration of African Americans and other people of color constitute today's legal system for institutionalized racism, discrimination, and exclusion. Join this discussion of Michelle Alexander's book *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. Contact kyle@pjcvt.org



Robin's Nest

Vermonters at the Left Forum 2014

By Robin Lloyd

Now that the triumvirate of public intellectuals from Burlington has passed on – Murray Bookchin, Will Miller and Garry Davis – who will replace them? Who has the ego and the vision, and is driven enough to be willing to take to the virtual soapbox, day after day, to convince people of the dire threats to participatory democracy and justice and freedom in our country and the world?

It's a hard act to follow. Nevertheless, one place to look is amongst the Vermonters who got themselves to the Left Forum in NYC in June.

What is the Left Forum? Each spring the Left Forum convenes the largest gathering in North America of the US and international Left. According to their website, "For the US and the world, revitalizing an American Left has never been more urgent; the Left Forum has a critical role to play in that undertaking." This year's forum was titled *Reform and/or Revolution: Imagining a World with Transformative Justice*.

Sandy Baird, Burlington College professor, was critical of this year's forum, implying it might better be titled the Left out Forum. She was shocked that there were almost no workshops on war. "They were mainly on the politics of identity and economics. Nothing about the surveillance state or violence against women, constitutional issues, civil liberties, or the Glenn Greenwald NSA scandals. For example, who really, is Al Queda? The US is fomenting riots around the world. The 1% will not allow any alternative power to arise in the Middle East. Meanwhile, the Left Forum has no analysis of US foreign policy." Pointing to the lack of ANY workshop on the disastrous situation in Iraq, she asked, "Will Americans have to leave Iraq clinging to the bottoms of helicopters?"

Fred Magdoff is an editor and writer with *Monthly Review*, an independent Socialist magazine, whose father, Harry Magdoff, co-edited *the magazine* from 1969 until 2006. He pointed out that the

Forum is made up of workshops proposed and created by the participants themselves. He admitted that 'it's a grab bag:' it originated out of the Socialist Scholars Conference, thus it has inherited an academic slant. He took part in two panels on Venezuela, a country that, he said, is facing "an uprising of the wealthy." Regarding the political situation in the US, his opinion is that "things have become more clear. We don't have fascism yet, but everything is in place. Surplus weapons from the wars in the Middle East are being given away to our police departments. There is an increasingly low threshold of tolerance for dissent. The Occupy movement was



disrupted. And, they're reading everything" we write. Magdoff himself is reading *The Iron Heel* by Jack London, a book that George Orwell called "a very remarkable prophecy of the rise of fascism."

Other Vermonters were more positive. Social ecologist **Brian Tokar** of Montpelier, who spoke on three panels: 'the Venezuelan revolution and Climate Change;' 'Challenging GMOs;' and 'the Radical DeCentrist Politics of Murray Bookchin,' felt this year's Forum "was an excellent gathering. People approached issues from a whole range of positions." He was pleased to note that the organization that Bookchin helped to found, the Institute for Social Ecology in Plainfield Vt. will be celebrating its 40th anniversary this summer (see calendar). The discussion on the legacy of Murray Bookchin, he said, was very stimulating. It was organized by Vermonters **Joe** (son) and

Bea Bookchin (former wife) and moderated by **Debbie** (daughter). "Murray," he said, "was a genuinely original and prescient thinker who was grappling with problems that we still face today – and proposing solutions for them – before most people realized those problems existed." Joe is currently producing a film on Bookchin's legacy.

Ashley Smith is a member of the editorial board of the *International Socialist Review* (ISR), and a lead organizer in Burlington of the *International Socialist Organization* (ISO). "The Left Forum is a wonderful smorgasbord of the American left," he said, "an event that shows the potential but also the very early stages of rebuilding it as a force in American politics." He participated in several environmental activist panels where people discussed why capitalism and the existing state system cannot solve the climate crisis. "We talked about how to mobilize for the upcoming People's Climate March in September in New York City." One of the highlights for him was Kshama Sawant's attendance. "Her election as an open socialist to Seattle's City Council showed us that Socialism is not only not a dirty word but an alternative that people are looking for."

The Vermont-based progressive media website *Toward Freedom* (TF) sponsored three workshops. On a panel called "Where is Labor's Voice?" Burlington video journalist **Sam Mayfield** showed her feature documentary *Wisconsin Rising*. Mayfield spent seven months in Wisconsin, covering the popular uprising against legislation gutting basic workers rights. Although the protest failed to win a recall of reactionary Governor Scott Walker, the struggle is not over. She says that the response of labor groups to the film has been very positive. Evaluating the Forum's plenary sessions, she said they seemed 'predictable;' as one of her friends noted, even the black male participants are always the same: Cornell West and Harry Belafonte.

John Summa, Economics professor at UVM, led a workshop on 'Justice for Victor Jara.' Justice is moving forward at a glacial pace in the case of the singer-songwriter of Chile who was killed by military officers in 1973 after the overthrow of democratically-elected president

Salvador Allende. His alleged killer is a naturalized US citizen living in Florida, awaiting resolution of an extradition request by the Chilean justice system. An attorney and co-counsel working with the Center for Justice and Accountability described new developments in the civil case. Summa's long awaited film on Jara will be released by the end of the year.

The third TF workshop was organized by **Juan Carlos Vallejo**, a Colombian human rights activist living in Burlington since 2003. He too is hopeful: the title of his workshop was 'Colombian Peace Talks: the Flame of Hope is back again.' Members of the FARC (the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) negotiation team joined him to talk about the current peace talks in Cuba that have recently received a boost due to the reelection of peace supporter Juan Manuel Santos as president of Colombia. J-C claimed that this was the first time since the FARC was founded 50 years ago, that official representatives appeared live on a panel

in the US. They responded openly to all questions. Vallejo reported that the session was videotaped by two cameras: "One from TeleSur, a Latin American TV network, and the other from...I don't know...the FBI?"

Finally, I was there. I tried to organize a WILPF panel on the global war against women, but it fell through. I attended a fascinating workshop on Revolutionary Animism (e-mail me if you'd like a copy of my notes), and another on Conflicts and Peace Building in Africa, where I met Horace Campbell, a scholar and author on the liberation struggles of Africa who spoke in Burlington last year. He handed me his latest book – *Global NATO and the Catastrophic Failure in Libya* - and asked "when will the progressive community invite me back to Burlington? There's a lot to talk about."

With all the insights gained in NYC, we could hold our own Left Forum here in Burlington, and include everything that's been Left out. ☺

D&F at PJC

By *Sussanah Tuminelli, PJC Intern*

As a new Development and Fundraising Intern at the Peace & Justice Center, I am keeping busy with several projects. We are reaching out to different businesses and restaurants to form partnerships and gain donations. In the past, we've worked with local businesses such as City Market, receiving five-cent donations for every bag a customer brings in to use.

We are very excited about partnering with Creative Habitat, a locally-owned arts and crafts store who will be featuring us as their charity of the month in July [see below].

We are currently looking for more businesses and restaurants to collaborate with. If you have a business (or know someone who does) that can work with us to mutually promote each other or help PJC raise money please let us know!

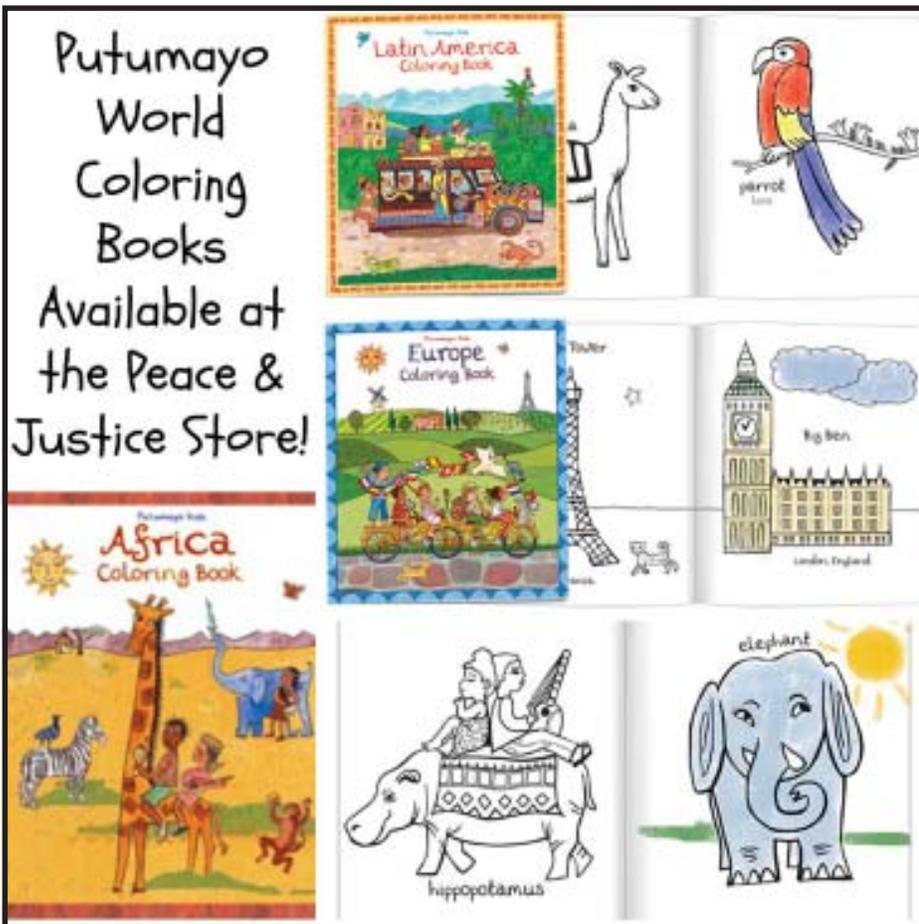
Donations are so important to the Peace & Justice Center since we are truly a grassroots organization. Members have the greatest power, and through your contributions, we are able to work on projects that reflect our mission: promoting peace and justice everywhere.

■ Creative Habitat

For the month of July, the Peace & Justice Center is featured as the non-profit of the month at Creative Habitat, a locally owned arts and crafts store in South Burlington. For each competitor's coupon customers bring in, \$1 will be donated to us. We are very excited to be collaborating with Creative Habitat!

■ Lake Monsters

We are also pleased to partner with the Vermont Lake Monsters to raise money for the PJC. In August (date TBA), join us at Centennial Field for a Lake Monsters Game! Discounted tickets will be sold for \$6.00, half of which will be donated to us, and are available at the store or through email at info@pjcv.org. Tickets can also be exchanged for a different date and will still support PJC! ☺



Powerful Motivator: Greenpeace Non-Violent Direct Action Camp

By *Lucy Gluck*

In March of this year, I travelled to Arizona to take part in an action camp sponsored by Greenpeace (an independent global environmental organization). After my application was accepted, I was responsible for paying my travel costs, but Greenpeace covered all the food, lodging and training. The camp was inspiring, fun, and life-changing!

■ Goals of the Action Camp

The training was designed for motivated activists to build skills in non-violent direct action techniques. There were six options for the week: research methods, arts in action, blockade techniques, rope climbing, inflatable boat driving skills, and airship/hot air balloon deployment. Wow! They wanted us to take everything we learned back home for our own local actions (not necessarily Greenpeace related).

I spent the week in a training called “**Arts in Action**” learning from five creative artists/trainers about making signs & large banners, action props, street theater techniques, silk screening, wheat pasting, stenciling and more... What a blast! I am ready to try out some of these new techniques here in Vermont.

Along with the strong focus on technical skills, there was also a huge emphasis on learning about how systemic, group, and individual power and privilege impacts our social and environmental work. There were intense group exercises and discussions about how to include anti-oppression work within our activism. I learned about building bridges with diverse activists and connecting our collective struggles. One example of this is the importance of connecting with the local community where the action will take place and including a broad scope of ideas and input. I am now asking: How can we collaborate with our Abenaki

neighbors, refugee populations and others in Vermont as we plan our direct actions?

The Greenpeace organizers also wanted us to have the opportunity to connect with diverse activists from all over the country (plus Canada & Argentina). There were a large number of Native American (from several tribes), African American, and Mexican American participants and trainers. There was also a good balance of older and younger women, men and transgender folks. This made for a very rich and sometimes challenging experience.

We also had sessions on the history & philosophy of non-violent direct action and some legal training. On the last night, we had party time to celebrate our week

quarters and loud snoring meant not much sleep. Picture me climbing down from a top bunk two - three times each night to put on a sweater, grab my flashlight and go to the bathroom in another building. The clear stars above the camp were stupendous. After a few nights, I talked a younger camper into letting me switch to a lower bunk. That change combined with taking some melatonin helped me get more sleep.

It was chilly at night (in the 30s) and 60-70 in the daytime. The sun was strong and there were some very windy days. We had both indoor and outside work spaces for our trainings and meetings. Each morning started with an all-camp circle for announcements and large group activities. We also met in pairs and small groups to discuss direct action strategies and issues of diversity and inclusiveness. I loved watching the huge Greenpeace air ship floating above the camp as they practiced steering overhead. They use these hot air

balloons for actions with big signs attached to the side.

Each day and evening was packed with training and activities. The trainers were very skilled and had great direct action experiences to share with us. I especially loved the artists who led our training group and the many ways they shared their creativity in action.

Unfortunately, a bunch of campers got sick mid-week (sore throats and fevers), but I managed to stay healthy. The food was so yummy and all made from scratch — vegetarian with vegan and gluten free options at every meal. I wanted to bring the cooks home with me!

I left Arizona with new hope for the future and our collective ability to take action to defend the planet. The activist fire in my belly is burning HOT!!!

Please contact me if you want to know more about this camp:
Lgluck123@gmail.com 



with a bonfire, funny skits, music and dancing!

■ Camp Setting

I fell in love with the desert. The rural location was one hour north of Phoenix, Arizona (near Mayer). There were 150 of us (including the 60 staff, cooks & trainers) living in close community for a week. We stayed at a funky YMCA camp with cabins and a big main hall for meeting and eating. The desert around us was beautiful (cool cactii) and we had some green trees nearby from a river flowing underground. The cottonwoods were shedding their white fluffy seeds so it looked like snow falling around us. Horses and cows were grazing nearby and I saw a huge bull snake - gorgeous and a bit scary. No sign of scorpions, but some people camped in tents and they were warned to shake out their boots.

I stayed in a rustic cabin with 14 other women in bunk beds. YIKES! Tight

Simple Actions Create Positive Change

In March of this year, we submitted a letter to the Board of Trustees [see PJ NEWS April/May/June, page 30]. After further consideration, we amended the initial request to change the name of Perkins Hall to the request below. We were surprised and delighted by the rapid and positive response of the Trustees. Simple action created results. What an affirming experience for us as activists and organizers. We are deeply appreciative of the Trustees' agreement with our assessment that we need to continue to educate people on all aspects of our history – including, and perhaps especially, the parts we regret.



5/1/14

Board of Trustees
University of Vermont
Re: Perkins Hall, history, naming, and public awareness

Trustees,

You have in hand a letter sent by the Peace & Justice Center dated March 24, 2014 expressing great concern for the legacy of Henry Perkins, and for the implication that the name Perkins Hall (though named for George and not Henry) may confer esteem on Henry's work in Eugenics through simple confusion by the casual passer-by or student.

We write now after further reflection with the following addendum to which we ask that you give your attention.

It is clear that The University has been supportive of scholarly examinations of the history of Henry Perkins' work, and has, through the comprehensive documentation available on UVM's website, provided a platform for public access to information.

With this appreciation we withdraw our request that UVM rename Perkins Hall and suggest the following:

In the interest of education and transparency we propose that UVM install a permanent display – a plaque, perhaps – on Perkins Hall, clarifying that the Hall honors George, and introducing the reader to the legacy of Henry Perkins in a way that makes clear enlightened understandings of Eugenics as a failed pursuit with destructive outcomes here in Vermont. In this way retaining the name of the Hall will enhance understanding, rather than confuse and alienate some viewers.

Please advise us of your deliberations and whether we may add our perspective or that of our constituents at any point in your process. We await news of a positive outcome.

Respectfully,

Nathan Suter
Board of Directors
Peace & Justice Center



The University of Vermont

May 29, 2014

Mr. Nathan Suter
Board of Directors
Peace & Justice Center
60 Lake Street
Burlington VT 05401

Dear Mr. Suter:

Thank you for your letter dated May 10, 2014 regarding Perkins Hall. I would like to provide you with an update on the steps we are taking.

1) The sign outside of Perkins Hall is being changed to now read: George H. Perkins Hall, to clarify the intended naming.

2) Inside the building will be an informational plaque with further information about George Perkins, as well as a referenced website that will provide further information for those interested. We are working on the precise wording of the plaque and will have it installed by the start of the Fall, 2014 semester.

I hope this addresses your concerns. Thanks again for expressing your thoughts to us.

Sincerely,

Tom Sullivan
President

cc: Board of Trustees
Linda Seavey, Campus Planning

Feel free to email the trustees to share your appreciation of this important change: trustees@uvm.edu

CALENDAR

July 6, Sunday

• 1-5pm The Peace & Justice Center is working with Brattleboro-based B4 Peace Team and the Will Miller Chapter of Veterans for Peace to co-create an event on Church St, Burlington that asks community members to **put price tags to the various Costs of War**. Join in this community art project that looks at the impact of US military spending (over one trillion dollars) and its effect on all of us.

July 8, Tuesday

• 6-7pm, A participatory reading of **Fredrick Douglass' speech: The Meaning of the 4th of July for the Negro** on the 162nd anniversary (July 5, 1852) on the steps of City Hall, Church St, Burlington. We invite you to reconsider the meaning of freedom and racial justice through a historical lens as we celebrate our nation's Independence Day. Copies of the speech will be provided and audience members are encouraged to partake in the shared reading of this influential speech. More information: Andréa at 863-2345 ext 6 or program@pjcv.org.

July 10, Thursday

• 6:30pm Join **Women's International League of Peace & Freedom** at Friends Meeting House, 173 N. Prospect for an intergenerational meeting with UVM students. A screening of *Orgasm Inc* will be followed by discussion. Refreshments will be served.

July 12, Saturday

• 11-1pm **802 Co-op** meeting: Do I qualify and how do I apply for a therapeutic marijuana registry card? With Larry Phillips at the PJC. info@vermontcompassioncenters.net

July 14, Monday

• 6pm: **Vermonters for a Just Peace in Palestine/Israel** meeting at PJC. Also 8/11 and 9/8.

• 6-7:30pm **Drones IOI Presentation and Screening of Wounds of Waziristan** at the Aldrich Public Library, 6 Washington St, Barre. Join Central Vermont WILPF and the PJC for an evening of education and discussion on drones as a political and moral issue. Learn about the legal controversies surrounding drones internationally and domestically. The film, *Wounds of Waziristan* by journalist, Madiha Tahir will be followed by a discussion of what actions can be taken to spread awareness and help prevent more transgressions. Medea Benjamin from CODEPINK will join via Skype for the discussion. FREE. More information: Kyle at 802-863-2345 x6 or kyle@pjcv.org

July 19, Saturday

• 1pm: **Veterans for Peace**, Will Miller Green Mountain Chapter meets monthly in Montpelier's Kellogg-Hubbard Library. Usually the third Saturday, but check with President Adrienne Knapp at adriennej@hotmail.com. Also 8/16 and 9/20.

July 26, Saturday

• 11-1pm **802 Co-op** meeting: How to qualify and apply for a medical marijuana card. With Larry Phillips at the PJC. info@vermontcompassioncenters.net

• 4pm **Kite Making Day**: right after PJC Kids Club, in preparation for 8/2.

August 2, Saturday

• 2pm **Fly Kites Not Drones** on Burlington's Waterfront. The event, which is designed in solidarity with Afghan Peace Volunteers, celebrates the Afghani tradition of kite fighting. The event highlights the rich culture that has remained resilient throughout the war.

August 5, Tuesday

• 6pm: **Peace & Popcorn** at PJC. A casual series of peace and social justice films from the PJC's library, chosen by night-of participants on the first Tuesday of every month. Good films and good company. All are welcome!!! Free.

August 6, Wednesday

• 7pm **Songs of Hope: remembering Hiroshima & Nagasaki**. Folks songs and candleboat float, Burlington Waterfront.

August 14, Thursday

• 5pm: **Women's International League of Peace & Freedom** at PJC.. Also 9/11.

August 15-17, Friday-Sunday

• Celebrate 40 years of radical education, community organizing, land-based learning, and revolutionary visions of the future with the **Institute for Social Ecology**. Marshfield & Plainfield, Vt. Sliding scale of \$150-\$250 for the weekend, or whatever you can afford.

September 2, Tuesday

• 6pm: **Peace & Popcorn** at PJC. A casual series of peace and social justice films from the PJC's library, chosen by night-of participants on the first Tuesday of every month. Good films and good company. All are welcome!!! Free.

September 21-27, Sunday-Saturday

• **Campaign Nonviolence Days of Action**: The Peace & Justice Center is planning an action in solidarity with hundreds of cities across the US in the spirit of nonviolence to speak out publicly for an end to war, poverty, and environmental destruction—and to begin to build a new culture of peace and nonviolence. More info: Kyle at 802-863-2345 x6 or kyle@pjcv.org

September 22 & 24, Monday & Wednesday

5:30 to 7:30 Racial profiling, disenfranchisement, & mass incarceration constitute today's legal system for institutionalized racism, discrimination, & exclusion. Join this discussion of Michelle Alexander's book **The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness**. Contact kyle@pjcv.org. See box on page 5.

Peace & Justice Film Series

THE BLOCK GALLERY
& COFFEEHOUSE

Documentaries, drinks,
and conversation at
1 E Allen St., Winooski

WHERE
SOLDIERS
COME
FROM

Tuesday
7/17 at 7pm

7/29
at 7pm

the
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UNMANNED: AMERICA'S
DRONE
WARS

8/12
at 7pm

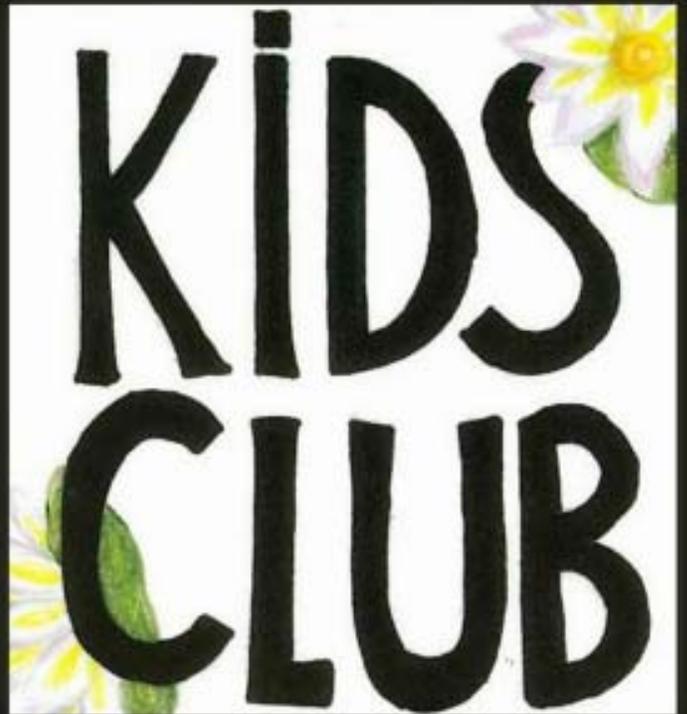
8/26
at 7pm

SPIES
OF MISSISSIPPI
THE STATE-SPONSORED CAMPAIGN TO DEFEAT CIVIL RIGHTS

WOUNDS OF WAZIRISTAN

9/16
at 7pm

9/30 at 7pm
Film TBA



KIDS CLUB

Saturdays
2pm-4pm

July 12th:
The Americas

July 26th: Africa

August 9th:
Europe

August 23rd: Asia

peace & justice | library

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peace & justice center

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I/we wish to make a contribution.

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- \$15 fixed income
- other _____

Make tax-deductible checks payable and mail to:
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 60 Lake St #1C, Burlington, VT 05401

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I want to volunteer; please contact me.

