



peace & justice news

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Aug 31 - Sept 2: The People's Convention. The Future of Fair Trade.

Bill McKibben to Speak on Environmental Cost of War

The Peace & Justice Center's Cost of War Series will host a speaking event featuring Bill McKibben on September 22. Our Cost of War Series examines the amount of damage war costs all countries involved. Besides the obvious cost in lives and money, war causes a vast amount of environmental damage, both short term and long term. War further deteriorates our planet and our resources.



Bill McKibben is an American environmentalist, author, and journalist. He is the Schumann Distinguished Scholar at Middlebury College. In 2010, the *Boston Globe* called him "probably the nation's leading environmentalist" and *Time* magazine described him as "the world's best green journalist."

In 2009, he led the organization of 350.org, which organized what *Foreign Policy* magazine called "the largest ever global coordinated rally of any kind," with 5,200 simultaneous demonstrations in 181 countries. The magazine named him to its inaugural list of the 100 most important global thinkers, and MSN named him one of the dozen most influential men of 2009.

In 2010, McKibben and 350.org

conceived the 10/10/10 Global Work Party, which convened more than 7,000 events in 188 countries as he had told a large gathering at Warren Wilson College shortly before the event. In December 2010, 350.org coordinated a planet-scale art project, with many of the 20 works visible from satellites. In 2011 and 2012 he led the massive environmental fight against the proposed Keystone XL pipeline project and spent three days in jail in Washington D.C. as leader of one of the largest civil disobedience actions in America for decades.

This event will be part of the Book Festival on Saturday, September 22, 11am, Performing Arts Center, 60 Lake St, Burlington. ☺





FROM THE BOARD OR DIRECTORS

As our members have seen from our recent e-newsletters, and as you will see elsewhere in this issue, the program work of the Peace & Justice Center is continuing to expand its scope and vibrancy. The very successful Cost of War film and speaker series has a strong line-up for the fall, beginning with the Songs for Hope Concert and presentations by environmentalist Bill McKibben (on the effect of war on the environment) and Leah Bolger (president of Veterans for Peace). This series has been made possible through the financial support of our members, the Block Foundation, and many collaborating organizations, as well as the excellent organizational work of Colleen Deignan. We are now seeking additional financial support to ensure the continuation of the series in 2013.

Programming is central to fulfilling the mission of the Center—creating a just and peaceful world. For much of the past year Gaby Brenneman has held the positions of Program Director and Store Manager simultaneously. In order to strengthen both programming and the store, we are now seeking a part time Program Manager. Gaby plans to take a leave of absence during the month of August and return in September to focus on the store and building support for the fair trade movement in Vermont. She will continue her work with local organizations like the Burlington Fair Trade Network and colleges in the region committed to this cause. Our assistant store manager, Jake Schumann, plans to work for three weeks in Kenya with Volunteers for Peace, so he will be bringing back some first-hand knowledge of peace and justice efforts in Africa. We are fortunate that Kyle Silliman-Smith, who has had a long and close affiliation with the Center, will be managing the store in Jake and Gaby's absence.

We are grateful to our loyal store patrons and financial supporters who are helping us to gradually increase the financial health of the Peace & Justice Center. Under the watchful eye of founder Wendy Coe, we have managed to stay in the black for this entire fiscal year. Along with the hard work of our excellent staff, this is the key to increasing the impact of the important work we are carrying out. Thank you for your role in helping us to move forward.

Spencer Putnam

For the Board of Directors

Gus D'Ari ~ 1923-2012

Gus set up the Peace & Justice Center's first library in the late 1980's. Many people were donating books and lucky for us, Gus came along to organize them into categories and sub-categories – something usable so that people could search and find a book they were interested in. When we moved to a new location in 1991, Gus packed up the books, keeping them in order, and then set up our new library on beautiful new wooden shelves. This was in the days before people went online to find information. We had quite a unique little library, thanks to Gus. The University of Vermont Debate Team members used to frequent our shelves. We still have a library, though much smaller, but they still have the stickers on them from the categories Gus created.

We truly appreciate all the work that Gus has done and the help he's given us over the years. We also appreciate those who donated to the PJC in his honor. He will be missed.

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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.



Vets for Peace National President Leah Bolger to Speak in Burlington

By *Tavish MacLeod, PJC Intern*

The peace movement made a rare appearance in national main stream media headlines at the Chicago North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) summit in May with veterans hurling their medals towards the meeting of NATO countries(1). This protest sparked questions regarding how the United States is engaged in the longest war in its history (2) and yet large protests across the country have focused solely on economic disparity with no major emphasis on ending the war in Afghanistan.

One prominent leader of the antiwar movement sees the two causes as intertwined. Leah Bolger, the first female president of the organization Veterans For Peace (VFP) sees the Occupy Movement and the anti-war movement as complements. She spent time living at an Occupy encampment in D.C. and was encouraged by the activism she saw there. As she sees it, one of prerogatives of the peace movement is exposing how connected segments of the economy are to government military spending and the Occupy movement should focus greater attention on shifting resources from a militarized economy to more socially equitable one.

Veterans for Peace is a 27-year-old organization dedicated to international peace and post-conflict healing. The latest protest in Chicago featured VFP members and was organized by Iraq Veterans for Peace, a group formed out of a VFP summit. Ms. Bolger explained the genesis of the unique protest as originating from 1970s protests against the Vietnam War where veterans threw medals awarded from the war at the White House. In Chicago, VFP provided crowd control for the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans who spoke briefly on their reasons for returning their medals in a ceremony that Leah described as “cathartic.” She viewed the action as an emotional release for those veterans who felt “guilt and shame about what they did in war” and wanted to reject commendations

given for those acts. Despite reports to the contrary, (3) Leah saw no issues with police during this nonviolent action and found a kinship with local officers who like military veterans because they both “put themselves in harms way to protect others.”

The election of Leah Bolger to head Veterans For Peace seems a prescient move for the organization as women’s issues within the armed forces continue to enter the national dialogue. Recently, the Peace & Justice Center held a screening of “The Invisible War,” a documentary film by Kirby Dick exploring the exorbitant rates of sexual assault within the military (estimates of 20% and higher of female service members) (4). Leah assisted Helen Benedict (a PJC Cost of War Series speaker) in identifying victims of sexual assault for her articles that inspired the film.

As an officer for 20 years in the Navy, Leah Bolger herself experienced harassment from another service member. While playing a game of basketball, a fellow soldier made several physical and inappropriate advances. She reported the incident to her commander and the behavior stopped. However, Ms. Bolger is quick to point out that as an officer, her complaints carried more weight than an enlisted person within the military chain of command. She knew of several instances of female soldiers reporting rape to superior officers and being ignored. She even knew of other incidents where the rapist was actually the superior officer. The problem, Leah explains, is not that laws do not exist but



Leah Bolger

rather laws are not being enforced within the military. Since leaving the military 12 years ago, she believes more attention has been paid to this issue recently, but there is still a large amount of work to be done in order to ensure the safety of all US service members.

The issues that Veterans For Peace work on all have the undercurrent of peace and justice with hopes for greater improvements in American society. Leah Bolger views the future of the antiwar movement and the Occupy movement with hope. She explains that the results of these national protests ensure that people will not regress to ignoring the problems but allow for greater thought and discussion about what kind of society we want to create.

The Peace & Justice Center and the Will Miller Green Mountain Chapter of Vets for Peace are bringing Leah Bolger to speak at 101 Cheray Hall, St. Michael’s College on October 11 at 7pm. Call 863-2345 x 8 for more information. Special thanks to the St. Mike’s P&J Club and the Will Miller Social Justice Lecture Series.



■ Endnotes

- 1) Stephen C. Webster, “Nearly 50 U.S. Veterans return service medals at NATO protests,” *Raw Story*, 21 May 2012, <http://www.rawstory.com/rs/2012/05/21/nearly-50-u-s-veterans-return-service-medals-at-nato-protest/>.
- 2) Rick Hampson, “Afghanistan: America’s Longest War,” *USA Today*, 28 May 2010, http://www.usatoday.com/news/military/2010-05-27-longest-war-afghanistan_N.htm
- 3) Annie Gowan, “Outside NATO Summit in Chicago, protestors in violent clashes with police.” *Washington Post*, 20 May 2012, http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/peace-protesters-gather-in-chicago-for-nato-summit/2012/05/20/gIQAj7WWdU_story.html.
- 4) Mary Elizabeth Williams, “Ending Military Rape: The Crusade of ‘The Invisible War,’” *Salon.com*, 27 Jun 2012, http://www.salon.com/2012/06/27/ending_military_rape_the_crusade_of_the_invisible_war/

Vessels of Change

By Kelsey Steele, PJC Intern

The most sustainable fair trade organizations are those that have been started and led by the people selling the goods. They have invested their talents in creating beautiful artwork that benefits their families and community members. By creating sustainable jobs, these families can send their children to school and keep them in school. With the power of education, their children then have a greater chance of breaking out of poverty. They can avoid human trafficking, remain healthy and safe and create their own livelihoods. These children will then be able to help their children get an education and continue a new cycle out of poverty.

The Peace & Justice Store carries artwork created by sustainable fair trade organizations. These organizations were started by hundreds of different people, all with different backgrounds, skills, and talents. They share a vision of a more just and peaceful world. Here are the stories of three organizations that contribute to the Peace & Justice Store and who are working to create this vision of a more just world, may they be an inspiration for change.

■ Denur Crafts

It is difficult to focus on education when your children are hungry and without clothing. It is difficult to come up with the \$150 to send your children to school for a year when you are unemployed and your husband makes \$1 a day or less. This is the reality that many Kenyan women face every day. This cycle is impossible to break when you are uneducated and have no resources.

But according to Leah Mitula, one of the founders of Denur Crafts, “the universe is looking for a solution.” In the early 1990’s Mitula was approached by several women asking for help in sending their children to school. After a while, word got around that Mitula was someone to reach out to if you were in need. Mitula could not financially keep lending out money to everyone who asked for it so in 1994, Mitula taught four women how to make beaded jewelry.

These four women then spread the word to other mothers who were struggling to send their children to school. Today, Denur Crafts has 38 members and is helping 78 children attend school. Each member is responsible for creating their own jewelry designs and then making them from raw materials found locally in Kenya. The children in the program are supported by members like Mitula when their illiterate families cannot help them. The children who have gone through the program and have graduated either high school or college often help the next generation of children who are being helped by Denur Crafts.

In order to become a member of Denur Crafts a person must:

- Have school age children
- Have skills to work by hand and need extra income.
- Be able to work in their own home environment
- Live in Nairobi or one of the surrounding villages

40% of the profits from the jewelry go towards the children’s education, another 40% is reinvested in the business, and 20% serves as income to the organization’s members. The organization sells their handmade necklaces, earrings, rings, and wooden animal figures throughout Europe, Australia, Africa, and North America. They have most recently started selling at the Peace & Justice Store where



you can see and purchase their beautiful products. Every time you wear this jewelry, you can know that you are helping a child go to school.

■ NAWOU

(National Association of Women’s Organizations in Uganda)

Uganda has been getting recent publicity because of the Kony 2012



campaign. The country has suffered with severe cases of human exploitation, most involving women and children. The NAWOU aims to empower women so that they can help themselves to become independent.

The organization is a collection of 70 women’s organizations based in Uganda. The organization helps these groups and cooperatives market and sell their products internationally. The profits from their crafts help the women to gain independence, so they do not have to rely on men for food, shelter, health, and education for their children. When these women bring income into their communities it also means that they gain more respect from the community and from within their own family, so they have more of a say in their local government.

In addition to helping to sell artwork, the organization promotes networking among members and civic education. They have developed and advocated campaigns against domestic violence, children sexual abuse, and for women leadership.

■ Altipano

25 years ago, Vermonters John Von Wodlke and Shari Zarin were enchanted by the beauty and culture of Guatemala and the Mayan people that lived there. Today they are working with 100’s of Guatemalan artists, families, and community members to create handbags, scarves, jewelry, hats, and belts. Each piece of artwork was designed by Shari who uses Mayan culture, nature, and love as inspiration.

The organization is beneficial to many Guatemalan people including women because it gives them the ability to stay at home and care for their children while

Vessels continued on page 5

Super PACs, Not Quite So Super

By Sydney Groth, PJC Intern

Super PACs came into existence in July of 2010, following two key federal decisions that found limitations on both corporate and individual contributions that were deemed unlawful violations of the First Amendment. The two cases were, *SpeechNow.org v. Federal Election Commission*, and *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*. Both cases found restrictions on individual contribu-

Vessels continued from page 4

also earning financial independence. Today, 75% of the population in Guatemala lives below the poverty line. And 41% of school aged children in Guatemala do not go to school because they have to help their families earn money. When the families can support themselves through organizations like Altipano, children have



a higher chance of getting an education and breaking out of poverty.

■ You can make a difference

The Peace & Justice Store carries products from these three organizations as well as many others. We hope you will visit the store and see the beautiful crafts created by women looking to help themselves and their children. When you purchase their products, you are starting a series of ripples that can affect future generations of women and children. ☺

tions to independent organizations that sought to influence elections deemed in an “unconstitutional” manner (2).

A super PAC, also known as a political action committee, is allowed to raise and spend unlimited amounts of money from corporations, unions, individuals, and associations (2). The ultimate goal and function of these super PACs is to economically advocate for a specific candidate for election or federal office through purchasing television, radio, print advertisements, and other media.

The role of the super PAC is similar to the previous traditional political action committee; however the dissimilarity is that super PACs can raise as much money from corporations, unions, and associations as they please and then spend an unlimited amount advocating for the election or defeat of a specific candidate of their choice. The super PACs ultimately contributes a significant amount of economic support for the possible future success of candidates.

However, the most important restriction of super PACs is they are prohibited to work in conjunction with the candidates they are supporting. To clarify, super PACs cannot spend money “in concert or cooperation with, or at the request or suggestion of, a candidate, the candidate’s campaign or a political party” (2).

Since their creation in 2010, super PACs have been considered highly controversial in both the political and public worlds. Critics who believe money corrupts the political process say court rulings and the creation of the super PACs opened the floodgates to “widespread corruption.” In 2012, John McCain warned, “I guarantee there will be scandal, there is too much money washing up around politics, and it’s making the campaigns irrelevant,” (2).

Footnotes:

1. <http://www.commondreams.org/headline/2012/04/19-0>
2. <http://uspolitics.about.com/od/firstamendment/a/What-Is-A-Super-Pac.htm>
3. <http://nbcpolitics.msnbc.msn.com/news/2012/05/17/11748012-from-presidential-race-to-house-primaries-super-pacs-having-wide-impact?lite>

McCain believes super PACs allow wealthy corporations and unions to have an unfair advantage in electing candidates to federal office. Similarly, according to Rep. Keith Ellison, Co-Chair of Congressional Progressive Caucus (CPC), “The influence of money in politics is the single biggest threat to our democracy, and in this election cycle alone, super PACs have raised almost \$160 million and spent close to \$90 million. And we still have six months until the election.” His critical point being, “Corporations are not people. And in America, democracy should never, ever be for sale,” (2).

To provide some frame of reference, here are the super PACs for two of the Presidential candidates: *Restore our Future*, conservative super PAC supporting Republican Presidential hopeful, Mitt Romney, and *Priorities USA Action*, liberal super PAC to support President Barack Obama’s re-election bid (2).

Because 2012 is an election year, the importance and effects of super PACs are more prominent now, than ever. In this year’s campaign there have been endless discussion about the role of super PACs and their contributions to both the Democratic and Republican parties. Simply put, all it takes for an obscure super PAC to become a big player is for one wealthy person to decide he wants to influence the race. According to Democratic consultant David DiMartino, “There’s unlimited money floating into these races, making unsubstantiated claims and blanket attacks on candidates on both sides.” (3). With the rising popularity of super PACs, presence in the media and the continuing support of super PAC donors has become imperative for candidates. And as Election Day grows nearer, there will no doubt be an increase in tempo for the super PACs activity.

To sum it up, CPC Co-Chair Rep, Raúl M. Grijalva stated, “This isn’t just about elections, it’s about the principle that America is run by the people, not just the rich and powerful” (1).

Grandma Marmete ~ Eulogy

By Erin Bray Gibson, June 22, 2012

When I asked people how they would describe my grandmother, Marmete Hayes, many words were offered: peace activist, community organizer, justice and human rights advocate, devotee of Jesus and his teachings, as well as devoted wife, mother, sister, aunt, grandmother and friend. Within our family she was most certainly the keeper of traditions and our benevolent and loving matriarch. Though I can hear her protest at that last description, saying, “Erin, dear, ‘Beloved Matriarch?’ Well, that makes me sound like Queen Elizabeth!” Well, Grandma, I hear you even now, but I get to say it today, because to us you were, and will always be, our most beloved Queen.

Looking around at everyone gathered here today, I am touched by the many beautiful faces I see, people I know well, and those I have never met, all of whom touched my grandmother’s life and were touched by hers. Each of you should know that you were loved and so very appreciated for your various gifts and talents, your strengths and weaknesses, your foibles and eccentricities, your kindnesses shown, friendship and love offered and accepted. Grandma Marmete loved life; she adored her family and cherished her friends. I know it would give her great joy to see all of us seated here together, in the sanctuary of this church that she loved so much. Thank you all for being here today.

When thinking about what I wished to say today, so many things came to mind as Marmete Hayes was not only my grandmother, but one of my dearest friends. I know that my sister and cousins feel the same way. Therefore, I’d like to share some of the things that made my grandmother so special to us. Of course, she always lamented that she had never been a “traditional” grandmother. And it’s true, instead of homemade pies (or, really, homemade anything!), we usually had tuna fish sandwiches with extra pickles, low fat cheese and Pepperidge Farm cookies. But sitting in her kitchen, she made us feel so loved, special and

understood, that no gourmet feast could have improved on the experience.

And instead of nursery rhymes, we heard chronicles of Champ, the Lake Champlain Monster, and myths of the Greek Gods and how their images came to be forever displayed in constellations in the night sky.



Marmete Hayes 1924-2012

Instead of lullabies, we sang Advent songs, chanted peace march slogans such as, “Money for jobs, not for war, US out of El Salvador!,” and were inspired by the lives of her heroes, such as Oscar Romero and Dorothy Day.

Instead of bedtime stories by Dr. Seuss, we grew up with tales from *Up the Chimney Down*, a children’s book she wrote, and went to sleep imagining the adventures of Butler Bear, Nanny Nut the Squirrel, Harry the Hare and Ozrol the Owl, and the winter they spent together in Tuckaway Cottage on Butler Island.

Instead of trips to the playground, we joined her to march for peace on the streets of Burlington, Montpelier and Boston, and to stand in silent vigil to protest the devastating consequences of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Instead of hearing about vacations in sunny climates, we heard about her yearly trips to Fort Benning, Georgia, to speak out against the human rights violations perpetuated in Latin America by many graduates of the School of the Americas.

No, a traditional grandmother she was not. But she was inspiring, fascinating,

passionate, interesting and surely unique. And I’ve yet to meet anyone else who can say that their grandmother was arrested along with Martin Sheen for standing up for what she believed in.

Grandma Marmete had a way of making things magical. Holidays had special meaning as she shared with us the mystery and mysticism of Christianity and explained the symbols and traditions that imbued each celebration with history and beauty. Her home was a child-friendly museum, filled with a stunning collection of dolls and crosses from around the world, and more recently with her striking stone work depicting mosaics of early Christian symbols and scenes from the life of Jesus Christ. Tuckaway Cottage on Butler Island was a haven of treasures, items gathered on the island over the years, each with its tale of discovery, and memory of good times. So often we would drive by in the boat and look up to see her flag flapping in the wind and Grandma waving vigorously from the cliff, a feather from the beach tucked in her hair.

The magic was not reserved solely for those of us in her family, but was shared with all children, and especially with the dearly loved children of Butler Island. Each summer she organized a star party on the beach on Gravelly Point during the mid-summer meteor showers. In preparation she would have each of us create star books, using black construction paper and metallic star stickers to make images of the constellations and learn to identify them in the sky. We would take walks and hear stories of her childhood days on the island, of adventures on Eagle’s Bluff, Sand Beach and a particular afternoon escapade that led to the naming of Yellow Sock Cove. She brought such experiences to life for all of us with her creative imagination, her childlike enthusiasm, and her engaging spunk. And we adored her for it.

Grandma Marmete was committed to preserving knowledge of the history of Butler Island and to preserving traditions there, as well as our family traditions beyond the island. She was also committed to a crusade for peace and human rights, an end to war and to raising social awareness about the fight against injustice around the world. It was her

ardent wish that these traditions and activities would survive her, that they would be embraced, shared and passed down so as to continue long after she was gone.

I was asked to speak about my grandmother's legacy – no small task given the richness of the life she lived. In writing down my thoughts, I realized that she was not interested in simply bequeathing us a legacy of past projects accomplished, marches marched, honors bestowed, or memories cherished. If asked, she would have hoped, I am certain, for a legacy of action – for the continuity of well-loved traditions and the creation of new ones, for inspired and ongoing work for peace and justice, for the strengthening of ties between family and friends. Her ongoing presence in our lives will be felt when we delight with a child in the discovery of a fallen eagle feather or experience the power of a march on Washington. It will be felt when we welcome a new baby, celebrate the milestones of family and friends, when we take a stand for what we believe in, when we seek out the stars. We will honor her by loving and accepting each other, by finding compassion and forgiveness, by rejoicing in laughter, by finding magic in every day, by striving for a life well lived.

As I say goodbye, Grandma, knowing you are at peace and with those whom you loved who passed before you, I wish to offer you the blessing that you so often gave to me: "God bless you and keep you, in all places whither thou goest." Grandma Marmete, you will be dearly missed. But, Oh! What a life! 



Robin's Nest

A Life of Devotion

By Robin Lloyd

One of the last occasions I spent time with my friend Marmete Hayes was when I was invited by her and Sister Miriam Ward to attend the 30th anniversary of Pax Christi in the basement of St. Joseph's church. They had prepared soup and bread and butter, and we sat around long tables and talked and ate. The formal part of the evening was the story of the founding of Pax Christi International and PC USA. As a Quaker, I found these stories fascinating.

I have broken bread and wept with these women during the worst times of the Reagan administration, when US trained and supported soldiers were killing women and children – and whole villages – in El Salvador with guns made here in Burlington, VT. During this terrible time the Sisters of Mercy and Catholic lay people – mainly women – were steadfast in their opposition. After all, the Salvadoran army supported by the US were gunning down their people, the rural catechists and liberation theology preachers who taught that Jesus supports those who work for justice. We wrote letters, they held masses, we did demonstrations together. What I noticed is that they didn't have the angst, the hopelessness that I always had to fight down. They had faith; faith in the afterlife, and faith that God wanted them to do what they were doing despite their lack of success, and that indeed he would protect them because they were doing his work. This was amazing to me, something I could not accept, try as I might: they believed in a benevolent personal God.

Some of my most intense political/spiritual moments have been spent with Pax Christi activists. We went to the School of Americas Watch (SOAW) protests in Columbus Georgia each November for several years. This is the school where soldiers from Latin American countries learn counterinsurgency tactics. Most LA dictators and soldiers facing human rights abuses have been trained there. The ritual at this annual

gathering is powerful: Catholic and universal at the same time. We walk in a long circle, sometimes 20,000 strong, squeezed into the street in front of the gate to the School of the Americas (now called WHINSEC: Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation: but we call it the School of Assassins). We carry crosses, stars of David, Muslim symbols. Singers from different faiths chant the names of the dead from the killing fields of Latin America, and we respond, "Presente" You are here. "Oscar Romero, presente!" "Clara Alvarez, 6 years old, Presente!" Old, young, important, unknown, all are remembered and sorrowed after. We remember you. You did not die in vain.

Both Miriam and Marmete were devoted to this pilgrimage. Miriam went even after she had knee replacement surgery.

Marmete was the archivist of Pax Christi Burlington. She carefully maintained the scrapbooks of PC history, and she and Miriam had been talking with Burlington College about developing a Peace & Justice community room honoring her and other Burlington area activists, a place where the archives could be made available to a new generation.

But she didn't focus on that during her last few months. She was determined to complete the art project of her life: a series of three dimensional devotional plaques that she created from stones she gathered at her beloved Butler Island in Lake Champlain. The primitive simplicity that results from assembling small pebbles together to create images of the cross or Jesus, or St Francis, is very powerful.

She confided that the only part of the art work that did not come from the island was the halo behind the saint's head, "Can you guess where that comes from?" I couldn't and she said, "it's from a hunk of macadam thrown by the side of the road: the part with the yellow stripe down the center". She relished transforming the humblest of materials into the light of God.

Burlington College hopes to display Marmete's mosaics at the college gallery at the end of October. 



In the News

The Pipeline and the People

By Paulina Essunger

An October 4 deadline looms for the decision on yet another application to tap the tar sands. At first glance, this application seems modest: it only involves a single segment of a pipeline, and it runs entirely inside Canada. No US Presidential Permits seem to come into play, no buses to DC, no White House sit-in.

But on both sides of the border, people are connecting the dots. To the west, the segment meets up with a line that has already been pumping tar sands liquids eastward for years. This is the line that put bitumen spills on the wider map back in 2010, when Enbridge pumped over a million gallons of tar sands bitumen through a pipe rupture and into the Kalamazoo River in Michigan. Known as the Dilbit Disaster (dilbit is diluted bitumen), this spill demonstrated that while conventional oil spills can be

catastrophic, responding to bitumen spills is much harder.

Before the spill, Enbridge was planning on reconstructing that line, to be able to pump higher volumes. Enbridge was planning on reversing the flow in the segment mentioned above, so that it would connect with the spill line and bring its tar sands streams further eastward. In fact, Enbridge planned to reverse the flow in the whole line of which that segment is a part, all the way to Montreal. And before the spill, Enbridge was working with the operators of the Portland-Montreal Pipe Line (PMPL) to reverse *its* flow, to create one long connected pipeline project, known as Trailbreaker. Tar sands liquids arriving in the Chicago area would be pumped eastward through Trailbreaker: via Michigan, Ontario, and Quebec. Part of

the flow would then turn south in Montreal, through Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine, to Portland, and out onto the global market.

After the spill, the project appears to be proceeding fairly steadily, but Enbridge downplays the fact that they are currently expanding the spill line, preferring the term “restoring”; downplays plans to

reverse the flow on the whole of the line from the spill line to Montreal, calling the segment reversal a “stand-alone” project; and denies any plans still exist for crossing the border at all, even though their project partners applied for a permit (recently denied) for a pumping station. A station like that would be needed to push heavy tar sands liquids through the line in reverse, pumping it south, from Montreal to Maine.

The line they have in mind using was constructed in 1950. The first pipe along that route was laid a decade earlier, during World War II. It allowed tankers to dock and unload in Portland rather than having to face the submarines in the Gulf of St. Lawrence in order to bring oil to the refineries in Montreal.

In the late eighties, a company leased the 1950 line and reversed its flow to bring Canadian natural gas to New England. A decade later, the line reverted back to pumping oil northwest, from Maine to Montreal. Each change required a Presidential Permit. From the Tar Sands Action on Keystone XL, we know that the State Department handles the review for “crude oil” pipelines (at least to the extent that they don’t outsource the assessment process to the pipeline operators themselves). But bitumen and diluted bitumen aren’t actually a kind of crude oil (the IRS actually relieves tar sands streams from some taxes for this very reason), they’re a different beast altogether, as the spill responders at the Kalamazoo River learned the hard way.

A State Department report notes the original plans for flow reversal on the PMPL were shelved already in 2009 because local groups objected to using the pipeline for tar sands liquids.

Well, we’re “objecting”, again. Suppose the movement against pumping tar sands liquids through Vermont and for a Tar Sands Free Vermont and New England proves too strong for Enbridge and PMPL operators. Suppose we “win.” Suppose, for instance, a Presidential Permit for flow reversal on the PMPL depended on it only carrying actual crude oil?

Well, it would be a start. But Enbridge and the PMPL operators could profitably choose to reverse the flow “simply” to ship fracked light crude from Bakken,



In response to the 2010 Kalamazoo River pipeline rupture and spill, Enbridge is expanding that line and reversing the flow in a connecting line, which will support expansion of the Alberta tar sands and Bakken oil fields in North Dakota. But what happens at the other end of a fossil fuel’s life? There’s no atmospheric or oceanic “pipeline” for the waste streams, no alarm bells going off (if only to be ignored, like Enbridge ignored its own alarm bells in 2010), no option to expand “capacity.” Yet every time the fossil fuel industry expands its “assets”, the atmosphere and oceans, and we, are supposed to just take it. That’s how the market works. The “capacities” of the atmosphere and ocean are just about maxed out, but the fossil fuel industry already has assets “worth” more than five times the remaining capacity in terms of CO₂, and that’s without even counting most of the tar sands, or the gas and oil fracking “boom”, and the industry is only looking to add more assets of course, to grow. When will we burst at *our* seams with the moral outrage this embodies?

Photo: National Transportation Safety Board.

North Dakota. As bad as that is in and of itself, by freeing other capacity, this, too, would actually support expansion of the Alberta tar sands.

The State Department report notes: “The continuing and rapid growth... from the Bakken... is changing the situation [regarding the PMPL and tar sands streams]... Carriage of light conventional crude would presumably meet with less opposition than oil sand streams.” In other words, industry is setting itself up to make carrying Bakken light crude (or maybe tar sands syncrude, just not dilbit) look like the “rational middle ground,” should the Tar Sands Free movement prove powerful enough to delay or block flow reversal projects focused on the tar sands, even though any line that frees capacity in that region serves to expand the tar sands as well as hydrofracking for oil in the Bakken, i.e., is very far indeed from any “rational middle ground.”

Here’s the deal: the physical properties of pipelines, hazardous liquids, and spills are obviously important, but when we focus mainly on these, we risk missing the fossil forest for the trees. The fossil fuel industry already has enough proven fossil fuel reserves on the books to take us up to the internationally agreed upon global average temperature increase limit of 2°C – **five times over**. Governments profess to agree with this limit, saying, in effect: “We seek no larger carbon budget, no higher temperature, no wider war on climate.” And yet instead of focusing on deploying infrastructure that can actually solve the problem, here we are planning and constructing infrastructure that serves to expand our on-the-books fossil fuel reserves **beyond** five times as much as the amount we have agreed to limit ourselves to burning.

If you share a fundamental moral outrage over this absurdity, join us this summer and beyond as we use organizing, nonviolent direct action, divestment campaigns, and transformative pilot projects to stop new fossil fuel projects, shut down old ones, and build our future at the human scale, with human values, instead.

Join with us at 350.org and 350Vermont.org. 

Voter ID Laws: A civil rights issue masked by political motivations

By *Emma Eddy, PJC Intern*

One of the biggest issues surrounding the upcoming election in November is the institution of voter identification laws. The controversy raises questions about ways to prevent fraudulent voting but also presents a possible civil rights violation. Unfortunately the entire situation is getting lost beneath a more publicized struggle: the competition between the United States’ two largest political parties and the presidential election in November.

The 10th amendment of the Constitution states, “Each state retains its sovereignty, freedom, and independence, and every power, jurisdiction, and right, which is not by this Confederation expressly delegated to the United States, in Congress assembled.” The determination of voting rights therefore, is reserved for each individual state to decide independently. This is why many states choose to institute voter identification laws, and others do not. Recently questions have been raised about whether or not these laws violate a citizens civil rights.

Requiring identification to vote has been a touchy subject lately, with some states such as Tennessee, Kansas, and Georgia enforcing strict laws of ID requirement, and others like Maine, Hawaii, and our own Green Mountain State steering clear of them entirely. Because identification can be difficult and costly to obtain, it impedes the path to the polls for many voters. In fact, 11% of eligible voters in the United States do not have identification. The populations least likely to have identification are minorities, the impoverished, student voters, and the elderly. States with voter identification laws boast the elimination of voter fraud while their opponents claim that the count of fraudulent votes in the United States is nearly non-existent.

Now that the argument has been outlined, the issue sparking more recent

debate has revolved around the upcoming presidential elections. The two largest political parties have voiced their opinions on voter ID laws, but facts suggest that the protection of civil rights may not be their primary motivation.

In the 2008 election, African-American and student votes largely contributed to President Obama’s success. There were 2.4 million more African-American votes than the 2004 election. Another fact about these constituencies is that they are the two largest groups of voters most likely not to have identification. 20% of eligible college voters and 25% of eligible African American voters lack proper identification.

It would be no surprise to then hear that many republicans, including presidential candidate Mitt Romney, have supported voter identification laws. Claiming that their intentions are solely to eliminate voter fraud may seem questionable when the laws have the ability to also eliminate their competition. This is not to say the republicans are the only party with the alternative agenda. It would be naive to think the Democratic Party’s opposition to voter identification laws does not have similar motive.

Now it is inevitable that the United States’ two major political parties will fight for their votes, and certainly with the upcoming election only months away. But more importantly is the voters’ ability to separate the election from the underlying problem. Acquiring identification requires many citizens to pay fees for a license or ID card, is this different than charging a citizen to vote? If more than 10% of our eligible voter population can’t voice their opinions in the election is our country still a democracy? Where do we draw the line? 

CALENDAR

August 2012

[5] Sunday

• 12-1 Vets for Peace live call-in show on Channel 15. Will Miller Green Mountain Chapter Veterans For Peace lunch meeting in Montpelier, 4th or 5th Saturday of the month, at Angelinos Restaurant, 2pm. New members or observers welcome. Check with Bert Thompson for exact date and directions: itsbert2@comcast.net

[6] Monday

• 8-8:30am Hiroshima Day silent vigil. Corner of Main St & South Prospect St, Burlington. Bring signs.

• 6:15pm Burlington-Bethlehem-Arad Sister City Committee meeting at Burlington College.

[8] Wednesday

• 5-6:30pm Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) meeting at the Peace & Justice Center. 862-4929.

[9] Thursday

• 11am Vigil on the 67th Anniversary of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki, Japan. At the Bell Tower, Catholic Cathedral, corner of St. Paul & Cherry Streets, Burlington. All are welcome. For information: 872-9272

[13] Monday

• 6-8pm Vermonters for a Just Peace in Palestine/Israel meeting at PJC.

[31] Friday - [2] Sunday

• People's Convention for Human Rights. See p. 11.

September 2012

[2] Sunday

• 12-1 Vets for Peace live call-in show on Channel 15.

[3] Monday

• 6:15pm Burlington-Bethlehem-Arad Sister City Committee meeting at Burlington College.

[10] Monday

• 6-8pm Vermonters for a Just Peace in Palestine/Israel meeting at PJC.

[12] Wednesday

• 5-6:30pm Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) meeting at the Peace & Justice Center. 862-4929.

*Check out our online calendar at
www.pjcv.org*

October 2012

[1] Monday

• 6:15pm Burlington-Bethlehem-Arad Sister City Committee meeting at Burlington College.

[7] Sunday

• 12-1 Vets for Peace live call-in show on Channel 15.

[8] Monday

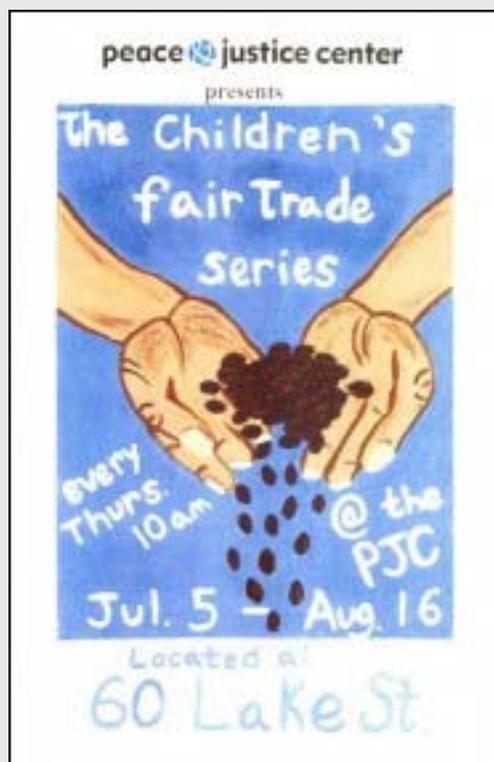
• 6-8pm Vermonters for a Just Peace in Palestine/Israel meeting at PJC.

[10] Wednesday

• 5-6:30pm Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) meeting at the Peace & Justice Center. 862-4929.

[11] Thursday

7pm Leah Bolger, president of the national Veterans For Peace, will speak at 101 Chera Hall, St. Michael's College.. Call 863-2345 x 8 for more information.





The Future of Fair Trade

By *Sandy Wynne*

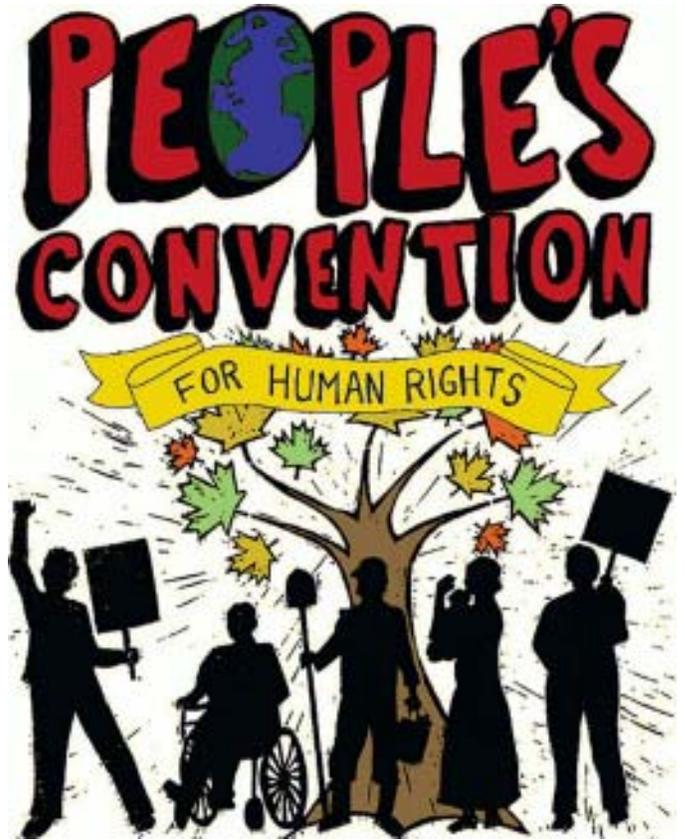
The fair trade world is experiencing some growing pains. As your source of information on all things fair trade, we want to share with you some of the issues being discussed.

In April 2012, many concerned parties in the fair trade movement gathered for the North American Fair Trade Stakeholders Council just met in Minneapolis. I was proud to represent Fair Trade Burlington Network in this incredibly important debate/discussion about dealing with the challenges faced by the Fair Trade movement, at the national and international level.

This meeting was the beginning of strengthening the movement and clarifying the roles of certifiers. The goal is to raise the bar for everyone, to reinforce the Fair Trade principles, especially transparency and democratic ideals, and to include the voices of all the stakeholders, especially the small producers and workers in the supply chain. Since the Summit, articles have been popping up and we want to share some of the ones we have found to be most helpful in explaining the problem and encouraging dialogue.

This is only the beginning of change within the movement. We will continue to keep you informed and we want you to know that we are available to discuss any of your concerns. Given the current crisis in the US Fair Trade movement, we are hopeful that, in the end, we will have a stronger and healthier movement.

For more information go to fairtradeburlington.wordpress.com or call Gaby at the Peace & Justice Store 863-2345 x2. 



The Vermont Workers Center invites you to help make history. Last year began with the Arab Spring and the Wisconsin Uprising and ended with the birth of the Occupy Wall Street/99% protests, which dramatically changed the political landscape in our country and the world. Vermont's breakthrough for universal healthcare has inspired people across the country. Now, we believe Vermont can catalyze change nationwide by leading the country in a broad movement for human rights and sustainable communities.

Through a unified campaign that we call "Put People First: One Movement for People and the Planet," we can build the people power that will be necessary to realize the first universal healthcare system in the country, to take the boldest actions possible in addressing the climate crisis, to build resilient community-based food systems which meet the needs of the people and the land, to expand workers' rights, disability rights and to obtain social justice for immigrants. We will be able to create public policy that puts people first and meets the needs of our communities. Most of all, we will establish the kind of real democracy that we will need to meet any challenge that we face.

You can help make the creation of this powerful social movement happen. By working together, in a coordinated, unified effort, we multiply our power. Please join us and sign up for Aug 31 - Sept 2: The People's Convention: One Movement for People & the Planet

More info: www.vtpeoplesconvention.org or www.workerscenter.org 



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