



# peace & justice news

A P U B L I C A T I O N O F T H E P E A C E & J U S T I C E C E N T E R

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## Cost of War Series 2013

By Colleen Deignan

**T**he Peace & Justice Center is pleased to announce that we will continue our Cost of War Speaker and Film series throughout 2013. The Harris and Frances Block Foundation has generously agreed to sponsor our series for its second year, and is joined by the Vermont Community Foundation, the Anne Slade Frey Charitable Trust, the Sisters of Mercy Peace Initiative, and all of our generous donors. We sincerely thank these foundations; the Cost of War Series would not be possible without their support.

We hope you can make it to our 2013 events!

### AN INTIMATE CONVERSATION ON IRAQ

New Vermonter, Omar Al-masshadani, will discuss his life in Iraq, customs, experiences and artwork; an excellent way to build cross-cultural understanding and bring world issues back to a local level. Wednesday, January 23, 7pm, Fletcher Room (2nd Floor), Fletcher Free Library, Burlington.

### SCREENING OF THE INVISIBLE WAR

A groundbreaking investigative documentary about one of America's most shameful and best kept secrets: the epidemic of rape within the US military. Wednesday, January 30, 7pm, Cheray 101, Saint Michael's College.

### KATHLEEN BARRY: UNMAKING WAR, REMAKING MEN

Overcoming a Culture of Violence: How Empathy Can Reshape Our Politics, Our Soldiers and Ourselves. Why do we value human lives in everyday moments, but

accept the killing in war as inevitable? February 15 at 7pm. Location TBA.

### CHRIS HEDGES

An award winning foreign correspondent for nearly two decades in Central America, the Middle East, Africa and the Balkans, Hedges has reported from more than 50 countries. He has worked for many publications, including *The New York Times*, for which he was a foreign correspondent for 15 years.

Wednesday, March 20, 7pm, Ira Allen Chapel, University of Vermont. Tickets: \$10 general public (\$15 day of event); UVM Students are free with student ID. Tickets are available at the Peace & Justice Center. Other ticket locations are listed on page 4.

Plans are in the works to bring Medea Benjamin (co-founder of CODE PINK) in either April or September to talk about *Drone Warfare* and Matt Kennard (author of *Irregular Army*) in May. In August we will hold our *Second Annual Songs of Hope Concert*.

We are also pleased that the Will Miller Green Mountain Veterans for Peace will be joining us again as co-sponsors. Vets for Peace is a national organization that works to expose the true costs of war, end the arms race, seek justice for veterans and victims, abolish war as an instrument of national policy, and restrain our government from intervening, overtly and covertly, in the internal affairs of other nations. On a local level, the Will

**Cost of War** continued on page 4



## Dear Friends,

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Wendy Coe  
Robin Lloyd

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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.

External events have challenged us in two areas important to the work of the Peace & Justice Center. The announcement in November 2012 that Skinny Pancake had been awarded the franchise to provide restaurant service at the Burlington Airport was welcome news in that it means that wholesome, locally produced food will be offered to the tourism trade. It was troubling, however, to hear that Skinny Pancake had been given an exemption from Burlington's Livable Wage Ordinance. We issued a statement (p. 3) calling on the City of Burlington "to collaborate with local businesses to implement the livable wage ordinance while ensuring business success." Meanwhile we are planning a public forum to explore this issue further, which will take place at 7:00 pm on Thursday, January 31 at Contois Auditorium in Burlington City Hall.

In response to the tragic mass shooting at the Sandy Hook School in Newtown, Connecticut we released a strong statement (p. 3) urging action to move our country in the direction of a "culture of empathy." We support stronger and more effective controls on weapons and ammunition, including a complete ban on semi-automatic assault weapons. In addition we ask Americans to "examine the message of manhood we are giving to our youth," and we advocate "easier access to mental health services for all people." The Peace & Justice Center will be holding a series of workshops on nonviolent communication and nonviolent action techniques to help our community develop the tools to build a more peaceful world.

On a more positive note, your board of directors is delighted to welcome two new members. Please see the profiles below, of Andrea Swan and Judith Yarnall, who joined the board in October and November, respectively.

As mentioned in our fall newsletter your board of directors made an increased commitment to strengthening the programming efforts of the Peace & Justice Center by adding the part time position of Program Manager to our staff. We were pleased to be able to hire Kyle Silliman-Smith, a long-time supporter and volunteer for the PJC, in this new position. We also increased the hours of Colleen Deignan, our Assistant Program Manager, who has done so much for our programs (especially the Cost of War Series) while working largely on her own. As you will see elsewhere in this newsletter our program reach continues to expand. We can also report that the team of Kyle and Colleen has had renewed success in attracting grant support for our efforts.

Gaby Ochoa Brennamen and Carmen Solari guided our store to a strong finish for the year in December, putting us in a good position to weather the slow months between now and summer. Under the watchful fiscal eye of Wendy Coe, we will strive to continue expanding our program outreach while keeping our financial house in order. For all this we remain dependent upon and grateful for the generous support of you, our faithful members. And for those of you who aren't members yet and would like to keep the Center and its programs going, see the form on page 12 or you may donate online at [www.pjcv.org](http://www.pjcv.org).

### *Spencer Putnam*

For the Board of Directors

### ■ New Board Member Profiles

**Andrea Swan** lives Hinesburg with her husband, Mac. There she takes great pride in caring for their two young children as a stay-at-home mother. She also enjoys empowering women and their partners as they transition into parenthood through personalized birth planning and birth doula support. She is currently a member of a local feminist group, Fed Up. Over the past year she has volunteered on a regular basis at the Peace and Justice Center. She is committed to creating positive and lasting change for generations to come.

**Judith Yarnall** joined the board after retiring from Johnson State College, where she had taught American literature for many years. At JSC she co-developed and taught a required, interdisciplinary course called Peace and War, on the roots of violence and possibilities for nonviolence. Her activism goes back to the Nuclear Freeze movement and march in 1982. She has been a member of many peace organizations and has participated in many peace vigils and other activism. Nonviolence has always been extremely important to her. Judy lives in Burlington with her husband, Victor Swenson. ☺



## PJC Statement on Gun Control

**L**ike all Americans committed to the creation of a more just and peaceful world, we at the Peace & Justice Center are saddened and appalled by the tragedy at Sandy Hook elementary school. We will work to make the legacy of the children killed there a transition from a gun culture to a culture of empathy in this country.

To this end, we call upon Congress—and in particular the Vermont Congressional delegation—to support and pass, promptly, a law which stringently controls the sale and ownership of guns and which bans the civilian use of semi-automatic weapons such as the ones employed in Tucson, Aurora, Portland, and Newtown. We call for legislation which will reinstate the assault weapons ban, eliminate sales of high capacity magazines, and adopt effective waiting periods and background checks for all gun sales, including private and gun show sales. We also, having learned from the strict and effective Australian gun laws enacted after the Port Arthur massacre, support the buy-back of semi-automatic rifles and handguns.

To ensure a true culture of empathy, we ask all Americans to examine the messages of manhood we are giving to our youth. Masculinity, violence, dominance, and respect are being dangerously combined.

We advocate easier access to mental health services for all people, and in particular troubled young men suffering from a sense of isolation. Beyond any laws and regulations, we hope that we ourselves will extend to them an alert and friendly interest in their lives. ☺

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***“Every act we perform today must reflect the kind of human relationships we are fighting to establish tomorrow.”***

***– Dave Dellinger***

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## Livable Wage Forum

January 31st at 7:00pm, City Hall, Burlington

### ■ Panelists :

**Emma Mulvaney-Stanak** directed the Vermont Livable Wage Campaign at the Peace & Justice Center for four years and served on the ordinance committee of the Burlington City Council and did work on the actual livable wage ordinance.

**Sharon Bushor** is a current Burlington City Councilor and one of the original sponsors of the Livable Wage Ordinance. She sits on the finance & ordinance committees both of which work on this issue.

**Dan Holtz** is the “Maverick CEO” of Liz Lovely Cookies, based in Waitsfield, this artisan bakery prides itself on prioritizing people and the planet over profits.

**Doug Hoffer** is the author of the Peace & Justice Center’s *Vermont Job Gap Study* and the person responsible for updating the livable wage numbers each year. He is Vermont’s newly elected State Auditor.

### ■ PJC Position Statement on Livable Wage:

The Peace & Justice Center works toward social justice and has focused on economic justice issues as a core factor in addressing social injustice. The Center’s Vermont Livable Wage Campaign successfully reframed the debate on how to address the income gap in Vermont from incremental increases to the minimum wage to a livable wage – enough for a person to meet his/her basic needs. Without a livable wage, many workers go without a basic need like health insurance or are forced to rely on government assistance – a cost that all taxpayers absorb, an indirect subsidy for employers who do not pay a livable wage.

The PJC led the campaign for a Livable Wage for all Vermonters from 1997 till 2010. The PJC funded and published the ten phases of the *Vermont Job Gap Study* and partnered with VBSR to create the *Livable Jobs Toolkit* during that time. These resources became valuable tools used by employers in figuring out how to provide livable wage jobs. Livable wages can be part of a sustainable business model and the PJC commends those businesses who have led the way towards balancing profits and costs in order to be fair to workers.

The City of Burlington has been a leader in adopting a livable wage ordinance. We support the current ordinance and any attempts to further strengthen its provisions. PJC also recognizes that consistent and fair application of the ordinance is critical when the City partners with any business at the airport or in other service-based contracts.

The Peace & Justice Center supports local businesses and believes that reinvesting revenue in Vermont businesses makes our economy stronger. Partnering with local entrepreneurs who source their goods and services here should be a priority for Burlington.

We call on the City of Burlington to collaborate with local businesses to implement the livable wage ordinance while ensuring business success. ☺



**Cost of War** continued from page 1

Miller Green Mountain chapter of Veterans for Peace is composed of passionate peace activists who can be found at rallies, sit-ins, marches, and on their live call-in show on VCAM (channel 15) at 12pm on the first Sunday of every month. You can also join them at their meetings on the 3rd Saturday of every month (with the exception of January - they'll be meeting on the 2nd Saturday) in Montpelier at the Kellogg-Hubbard Library at 10am. 

## Chris Hedges Ticket Outlets

Peace & Justice Center - Burlington VT  
Crow Books - Burlington VT  
Ebeneze Bookstore - Johnson VT  
Bear Pond Books - Monpelier VT  
Vermont Book Shop - Middlebury VT

## Phon-a-thon 2013

*We'd love to talk with you...*

...but, we know that finding a convenient time to talk about Peace & Justice Center membership can be difficult for many folks. The PJC's **Annual Phon-a-thon** will take place on **February 17, 18, 19 and March 17, 18, 19**. If you have not renewed your membership and would like to skip our call, please call 863-2345 ext. 1 or clip the membership form on page 12 and send in your renewal today. ***We especially invite you to join our growing numbers of monthly donors!***

Our volunteers have a lot of fun making the calls or doing the admin work each evening. We have a delicious bit to eat to get started. If you would like to help us (6-9pm), call Wendy to sign up, 863-2345 ext. 1 or email [wcoe@pjcv.org](mailto:wcoe@pjcv.org). 

## Peace is Possible *A 3 session series to inspire hope.*

Would you like to think peace is possible, but just don't see how it can be? Have trouble thinking about world peace when it feels overwhelming just to get through the day, and keep your relationships in order? Discouraged by the seemingly endless violence in the news, and wonder how it can ever end? Looking for new ideas in your desire to make the world more just and peaceful?

You are invited to gain a fresh perspective on the things that make for peace across many aspects of the human experience. Join us for these lively multimedia and interactive sessions with Dr. John Reuwer as he shares his experience with medicine, nonviolent communication, and nonviolent action to give hope that we can live more peacefully with ourselves, others, and even our enemies.

The Peace & Justice Center is offering three 90 minute sessions/workshops covering:

I. Peace from A to Z. in this session participants will learn about:

- A simple model for understanding conflict and conflict management
- Defining peace, violence and nonviolence
- A glimpse of tools for making make peace with:
- Your body – physical wellness
- Your mind – mental wellness
- Your family and community
- Engaging your enemies

II. An introduction to nonviolent communication (NVC), a language of peace)

- Applying it to ourselves for physical and mental health
- Applying it to our relationships with others

III. An introduction to nonviolent action (NVA)- peace and justice in a world of physical violence

- Presentation: Nonviolence around the globe: what makes it powerful?
- Real world conflicts – what does active nonviolence look like?
- Imagining security without violence in real life situations

### ■ Dr. John Reuwer

Dr. Reuwer has been studying and teaching alternatives to violence for 30 years. He is an emergency physician currently practicing urgent care and correctional medicine. He was a founder of the Grand Rapids, Michigan chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility, and a long time member of the Fellowship of Reconciliation. ( He was a charter member of Christian Peacemaker Teams, a project of the Mennonite, Brethren, and Quaker congregations, and served in Haiti, the Middle East, Washington DC, Colombia, and most recently Israel/Palestine. His latest work involves learning Nonviolent Communication for the prevention of conflict, and teaching those skills both overseas and in Vermont. He is also applying its concepts clinically to treat patients with depression and anxiety. He serves as faculty for the National Peace Academy, and on the board of Kids4Peace Vermont.

### ■ Details for Registration

The dates are February 7, Thursday; 13, Wednesday; and 21, Thursday. 6:30-8:00pm. The cost is \$20 per workshop or \$50 for the entire series. Scholarships are available. Space is limited so you will need to reserve your spot in advance by calling Kyle Silliman-Smith at 863-2345 x6 or emailing [kyle@pjcv.org](mailto:kyle@pjcv.org). 



## Racial Justice

The Peace & Justice Center is working in coalition with CORN (Conversations On Race Now), WILPF and other individuals who have been working on race issues for many years. They are organizing some workshops on White Privilege. The *Making Whiteness Visible* workshop on April 7th at 1:00pm is at Brownell Public Library in Essex Junction and on April 8th at UVM. These are open to the public. To sign up, please email Kyle Silliman-Smith at [kyle@pjcv.org](mailto:kyle@pjcv.org) or call 863-2345 x6.

# Making Whiteness Visible

By Sha'an Moulert

There are many coalitions of white people committed to ending racism. White activists, who continue to strive towards developing and practicing accountable equitable anti-racist behaviors, have a distinct role in teaching, supporting, and encouraging other white people to step into the journey of abandoning individual, institutional, and cultural racism. The film I use in my workshops, *'Making Whiteness Visible'*, provides insights into this critical social justice movement. *'Making Whiteness Visible'* shows the processes by which white activists are coming into consciousness and working intentionally with other white people, as well as people of color, to build a more equitable society.

*'Making Whiteness Visible'* features the up close and personal stories of white activists and their ongoing journeys of transformation. Participants talk about being unconscious about their learned and internalized sense of white supremacy. They share what was required – what actions they took – to move through the common first stages of denial, defensiveness, guilt, fear, and shame into making solid commitments towards ending racism. In addition to creating an informative social media piece that catalyzes powerful dialogue and

supports learning and change for all people, the film also provides harbor for white people to begin or continue the internal transformation that white allies must undertake to undo race-based oppression.

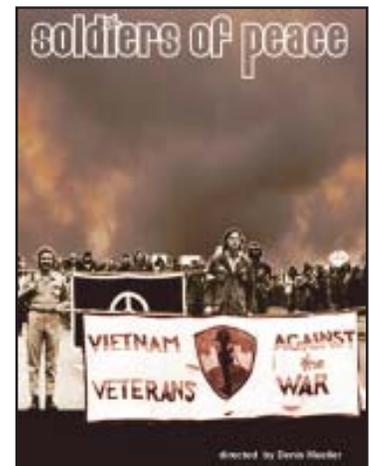
*'Making Whiteness Visible'* weaves together the experiences and stories of white women and men – of various ages and backgrounds – who have worked to gain clarity and understanding of what it means to be white and still challenge notions of racism and white supremacy in the United States. The film uses art, theater, movement, photographs, and music to amplify stories that share richly varied experiences and life processes informed by deep reflection and social justice action. The individuals' interviews are also enhanced by historical sources, spoken word, photographs, and video archives, which will serve to address systemic racist oppression. The result is a richly textured journey into the pitfalls, fears, and successes of:

- 1) Defining "Whiteness";
- 2) Power and privilege;
- 3) Whiteness and culture;
- 4) Whiteness institutionalized; and
- 5) Moving towards consciousness and healing. ☺

## Soldiers of Peace

DVD available at the Peace & Justice Store. This story of veterans, who courageously opposed wars ranging from Vietnam to Iraq, is a counter narrative that includes Dewey Canyon III and the Miami GOP 1972 Convention demonstrations led by the Vietnam Veterans Against the War. This riveting film explores the metamorphosis of veterans from fighters to passionate critics against our unnecessary wars.

The film includes interviews and footage spanning over four decades. Directed by award winning VT filmmaker, Denis Mueller, *Soldiers of Peace* covers three different wars and their aftermath. This is an amazing historical tour de force to go among his many acclaimed films,



among them: *Howard Zinn: You Can't be Neutral on a Moving Train*. (co-produced and co-directed with Deb Ellis)

We are also pleased to say that Deb Ellis and Denis Mueller are nearing completion for their follow up to the Howard Zinn film. *Peace has No Borders*. A classic David vs. Goliath story, *Peace has No Borders* follows US Iraq and Afghan War resisters and their fight to seek refuge in Canada. Ellis and Mueller follow this complex story, weaving the resisters' personal struggles against the backdrop of an increasingly conservative Canada and the United States government's determination to punish them. It shows how one decision of conscience can affect the course of the rest of your life. Stay tuned for more. ☺





Robin's Nest

# Predictions for the Next Five Years of Hope and Struggle

By Robin Lloyd

It seems the world has survived the Mayan calendar 'galactic' shift that took place December 21. But will humanity survive the relentless and reckless pursuit of resources and wealth that capitalism continues to foist upon us? Or will the yearning for change represented by the Occupy movement and the Mayan 'New Age' of renewal, help us make the 'evolutionary leap' to a new path for humanity? As we enter the new year, we hope so.

In the run up to the big day, Toward Freedom and friends held a 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary End of the World Party, at my home in Burlington. Conviviality, tinged by anxiety, and aided and abetted by a delicious Mayan Punch, was the mood of the evening.

We gathered in the salon to share our predictions for the next five years.

**Editor Ben Dangl** reminded us that the Mayan people did not predict the End of the World but foresaw, through their astronomical calculations, the galactic shift from one cycle to another. **PREDICTION:** In Guatemala, made up largely of Mayan people who endured a devastating genocide from 1960 until the peace accords of 1996, an indigenous-led political party will take power through elections, getting rid of current corrupt President Molina. They will start an unprecedented court procedure to investigate the crimes of the genocide, which will implicate the Democratic and Republican political parties in the US, leading to their dissolution. This will bring in an era of justice in the US and the election of a progressive president!

**Laurie Larson** pointed to her open palm and said "This is our galaxy spinning. Here," pointing to her little finger, "is planet earth. Our solar system makes a shift across the equator of the galaxy every 26,000 years. This astronomical event is happening more or less now. Tesla and Einstein, etc. said that 'the field

is the thing', and the field we will be immersed in will be reversing (if it didn't already around 1998)."

She joked: "Everyone should be 'outstanding in a field' on the 21st.

Hopefully, consciousness is the Ur-ground of matter, and we can change our collective consciousness toward freedom (and peace), thereby changing reality." **PREDICTION:** "What's male is/will be female, what's white is/will be black. Mark my word; touch the earth."

**Greg Guma:** Economic inequality will continue to increase. That means more social protest. One form will be a new urban squatter movement. Foreclosed property and even abandoned office buildings will become fair game. We'll also have more extreme weather. As a result, we'll need to modernize the federal government for the new War on Weather – which is what it will be called on Fox news.

The forecast also calls for heat waves, droughts and heavy downpours. We can expect increasing hurricane wind speeds, intense rainfall and higher storm surge levels. Basically we'll see more extreme winter weather and – in a plus for surfers – extreme wave heights.

Crowding and competition for land will increase the threat of war. As global warming depletes resources, small countries will battle for territory and resources. On the other hand, climate change will also uncover new habitable areas, particularly in the Arctic, and set off a new rush to exploit untapped resources.

What will be happening politically?

When Hillary Clinton doesn't run for president in 2016 the Democrats will have a primary season that looks like the 2012 Republican clown show. Result: Chris Christie becomes president. But Christie has a heart attack after getting angry at a press conference and dies. As a result South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley becomes the first woman president – and also the first Indian-American who attends both Sikh and Methodist services on Sundays.

However, as a result of her positions on social issues she will be defeated in her 2020 re-election bid by... Senator Elizabeth Warren.



**Genevieve Jacobs** led us in a song from 10,000 years before the birth of Christ. Ommmmmm.

**April Howard** read a poem by Joy Harjo: *Perhaps with world ends here [at our kitchen table]*. She continued: In a mobile society the concept of home and tradition happens at the kitchen table. It is a safe place where living happens. **PREDICTION:** The kitchen table will continue to be our community, even if we are in this very mobile society where home is a relative thing that changes from generation to generation. Yes, our community is our kitchen table.



**Dian Mueller:** Having gone from Christianity to paganism thru the new age movement, I remember that when talk of the Global Convergence 2012 got started there was lots of fear mongering but also dialogue and research. We're coming to a total new age. According to Hinduism, we are in the depths of the three ages when people are the most divided. When we finally let ourselves enter the Golden Age, we will realize that we are each part of one another and we will live in peace and harmony for the next 5200 years.

**Charlotte Dennett:** There's a lot of really bad stuff going on and a lot of pushing back. All the horrible things that the Bush administration pushed through are beginning to see justice on a global level. We are now seeing dictators put on trial for their crimes, in ways that couldn't be conceived 20 years ago. **PREDICTION:** The day will come when Bush will be put on trial for murder.



The typhoon in the Philippines changed consciousness at the climate talks at Doha. I see a beginning of a movement: Oil, tar sands, pipelines: consciousness is growing and people now understand the cause of global warming. The Arab spring...something is happening in the world. We thought we were going to have the election stolen; now it is the right wing who is shocked and scared. Obama won but we have to push him. Consciousness is the new paradigm. Freedom evolves; a meme called freedom may get us there. **PREDICTION:** There will be Occupy study groups on the one percent. Young people will experience a change in consciousness and lead the revolution.

**Peggy Luhrs:** Expectations cause events. I expect the end of patriarchy, of wargasms, of the weaponization of space and the war on weather. Its more and more about connecting. **PREDICTION:** Amidst the insanity of disconnection and birthing of war, women will continue to rise.

**Jerry Colby:** The One Percenters don't need any of us any more, not even as consumers. They've got China rising and India rising. That is the explanation for the reversal of all the reforms that we've known, and for the attack on the New Deal coalition. **PREDICTION:** In Vermont we have a real opportunity with the tar sands pipeline. We will send a message to the rest of the country that its possible to stand up to these people. We will name them. We're on the line. We're heading for a big struggle.

**Will Bennington:** Our brothers and sisters and comrades from Mexico, Guatemala and other parts of Latin America who live in VT, and who work tirelessly to provide us with food, will see justice and will have the benefit of the full rights that Vermont citizens have access to:

they will have the right to transportation, to dignified work, to feed themselves and to move freely through our society regardless of their documentation status. Migrant justice will see huge victories, and coalitions of farm workers across the state will see huge victories that will ripple across the nation to places like Arizona and Florida.

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change will be called out for the complete farce that it is and for its complete inability to solve the global climate crisis. Programs like REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) will be realized for the false solutions that they are and for perpetuating a green capitalism that

will only kill the planet quicker than the current model of capitalism.

Genetically engineered trees will be defeated. We will never see them. We will never see them because of the work of organizations like La Via Campesina, Indigenous Environmental Network and Global Justice Ecology Project. Furthermore the UN will realize that the only solution to climate crisis is small farms, like peasant farms in Latin America and Tamarack Hollow Farm in VT.

The VT Workers Center will see the realization of its Declaration of Human Rights. All Vermonters will be able to be guided by the principles of universality, equity, transparency, participation and accountability. All state policies will abide by these five principles. Rising Tide VT and the people of Addison County will stop the Addison County pipe line from traveling under Lake Champlain and will realize that this is a false solution that is inhibiting VT's ability to make drastic real change by focusing on energy sovereignty and community rights to energy and the ability of low income Vermonters to heat their homes in ways that are sustainable for all.

And then we will see the fall of global capitalism. And the US will not be the leader: it will come from the south and we will follow in their footsteps.

**Danilo Lopez:** I come from Chiapas, Mexico. In five years there will be an important change: my companeros will leave fear behind. In my state we will have a better democracy so people won't have to migrate. The indigenous community will not be harassed by government but will be able to live in peace.

**Robin Lloyd:** Anger over the continual drone bombing of Pakistan leads to an uprising and the overthrow of the government. Amidst the ensuing heightened nuclear confrontation between India and Pakistan, the global anti-nuclear movement intervenes and brings them both to the negotiating table. In a spirit of global good will, Israel and Iran agree to a Middle East nuclear weapons free zone. ☸



Peace &amp; Justice Store

## Amor La Vida

By Dan Maxon

The Peace & Justice Store is proud to offer a fine selection of winter knitted wear and Tagua nut jewelry from Amor a la Vida (love for life) from Ecuador, a company that not only has quality products, but an uplifting story behind each one. The hats (mittens, too), knit in thick woolen yarn in earthtone colors, are produced by a community in Carabuela, about two hours north of Quito, the capital of Ecuador.

By selling the hats and jewelry, the Peace & Justice Store is supporting a fair trade relationship that benefits the individual families who work to produce these items and the foundation that supports the resource-poor community with education, cultural development and heritage preservation.

The connection between the Ecuadorean community and The P&J Store occurred thanks to the efforts of Smugglers' Notch employee, Dan Maxon. For years, Dan's sister Amy Johnstone has operated a specialty shop in Saranac Lake, New York, and she recently became interested in offering fair trade products. When she heard of Amor a la Vida, Amy went to Ecuador to talk to the community about producing hats for sale in her shop.



After that initial visit, she has gone back twice yearly, usually traveling with a friend to help carry the hats back to the United States. In 2010 she asked Dan to accompany her, and he returned again in 2011 and 2012.

The community members who work on the hats are getting paid 10 times or more than they would in a factory. They are earning a livable wage, and since the knitting and finish work can be done at home, they do not need to look for child care. The community is paid at the outset for the wool for the yarn. The men of the community do the knitting, and the women take care of the finishing work, such as adding tassels or stitching in the fleece lining.

Amor a la Vida also works with tagua. Tagua is a sustainably harvested "nut" from the rain forest floors of Colombia

and Ecuador. Also known as vegetable ivory, its collection and artisanal uses provide economic and social benefits to the indigenous peoples of South America.

In addition to improved wages and working conditions, the work of Amor La Vida has brought a number of educational and economic opportunities to the community. The kids in school now are the first generation to have widespread access to public education. Dan's friend Segundo Santacruz is about 40 years old and well educated, while his father is in his 60's (looks like 80s) and speaks only Quichua. His generation was denied educational and economic opportunities. Segundo is the president of the *Amor a la Vida* Foundation. The foundation receives money and support from both the government and non-governmental organizations.

Segundo works tirelessly for the people of his village. The school building he built through the foundation also serves as a meetinghouse for community events. The Foundation has helped the local farmers develop sustainable, organic farming techniques. The foundation provides education, developmental growth, and food to over 40 small boys and girls weekly in Carabuela. It also provides micro-loans, even outright grants to indigenous people of the area, who might otherwise not have access to money for farming or business ventures. For some, the grants are all that stand between a family and dire hunger.

Dan and Amy have contributed to the community during their trips, donating money and their own labor to build a small school, providing materials such as cinder blocks and rebar for its construction, and purchasing a stove and propane for meals at the school. They bring duffels of children's clothing down to the village, and they've talked about expanding the trips to serve as volunteer working vacations that would allow volunteers to support the foundation and see Ecuador's beautiful countryside.

If you are interested in learning more about the fair trade project with Carabuela's residents, please contact Dan Maxon at [el.billete.imports@gmail.com](mailto:el.billete.imports@gmail.com) or visit the Facebook page at Amor a la Vida Saranac Lake, NY. ☺





# Fair Trade Split

By Taylor Dorn, PJC Intern

Today, the popular media likes to make endorsements of a philanthropic nature, and one of the more fashionable trends is advocating for societal equality by supporting the fair trade movement. It has become so popular that the United States capitalist system has naturally begun to profit off of it. The dispute being put into question is Fair Trade USA's (FTUSA) objectives for their recent split from Fairtrade Labeling Organization (FLO) label and endorsement standards.

FTUSA's new proposed certification standards allow endorsing large plantations into the fair trade market, where the now overshadowed smaller fair trade co-ops are unable to compete. Not only does this new FTUSA label undermine the credibility of fair trade certification, but it also negatively affects small farmers and their co-ops who desperately rely on the Fair trade endorsement in order to be competitive in the monopolistic global market.

The objective of fair trade, as defined by Equal Exchange (a leader in the fair trade movement), is to "remove the exploitation from international trade and build a system to ensure fairness and market access for small scale farmers and workers." The founding of Fairtrade International united fair trade organizations and created a standard to which the fair trade label was applied.

Furthermore, it established guidelines to ensure that the producers would always receive a minimum price despite market fluctuations as well as a premium payment which the producers would use to invest in improving their communities. As many as 1.4 million people in more than 70 countries are estimated to be directly participating in fair trade and are now threatened by FTUSA's new certification standards.

The mission statement of the World Fair Trade Organization (WFTO) dictates that "The interests of the producers, especially small farmers and artisans, should be the main focus in all the policies, governance, structures and



decision making within the WFTO." Initially, FTUSA was part of the umbrella organization of FLO and abided by their certification standards. But effective December 31, 2011, they announced that they would break away from the organization and establish their own standards. These standards include giving fair trade certifications to larger plantations that were previously denied a label in favor of supporting small farms and upholding the principals of the fair trade movement.

When explaining FTUSA's decision to split, Paul Rice, Chief Executive of FTUSA, claimed that "The more we grow volume, the more we can increase the impact of fair trade." When asked to justify his actions, he dodged the answer by posing the question "do we want it to be small and pure or do we want it to be fair trade for all?"

While this may seem like a truly altruistic response, many people disagree that this will result in "fair trade for all" but will instead favor the buyers and corporations at the expense of the small scale producers. As a result, the measure of this system's success is no longer based on the welfare of the producers, but instead is measured by the sale of their products. In response to these

changing ideologies, the WFTO stated that "This action seems more to satisfy and enrich the very people whose actions caused Fair Trade to be established in the first place." The WFTO explained that "The Fair Trade supply chain should be relational in nature, with equal input and ownership by all parties, the changes proposed by FTUSA would reduce this to a conventional supply chain with a price premium that will concentrate all the power at the top."

The shifting priorities of FTUSA can easily be explained through economic incentive. The economic impact of the fair trade movement is substantial, with the sale of fair trade products totaling \$1.3 billion in the US and \$5.8 billion worldwide in 2010 alone. FTUSA is fiscally encouraged to certify larger plantations because they will have to pay more in licensing fees.

Fair trade coffee for instance is highly disputed because it is the largest market of fair trade produce. Seth Goldman, the co-founder of Honest Tea, stated that in the first 10 months of this year, the company paid \$51,000 in premiums that went directly back to the farmers co-op, but that they also paid \$37,000 in licensing fees to FTUSA. He expressed his wish that he would like to see more of that money "go to help farmers and less to pay administrative and auditing costs."

The fact of the matter is that many of the corporations that FTUSA is endorsing in order to make "fair trade for all" don't need help competing in the global market. FTUSA is working with Starbucks, Wal-Mart, Coca-Cola, and other hegemonic superpowers in order to promote their "fair trade products."

Its time to lift the smokescreen that FTUSA has created and expose the truth. FTUSA's new standards benefit themselves and big corporations at the expense of small independent co-ops while hiding behind the title of "fair trade". It's important that we as consumers differentiate between the FTUSA logo and the fair trade movement. Let's make a socially responsible choice that will have a positive impact for our global society and will benefit all as opposed to an elite few. ☺

## CALENDAR

## January 2013

## [16] Wednesday

- 7pm **The Road to Iraq: Origins and Evolution of US Interests in the Middle East**, a lecture by UVM Professor Emeritus Mark Stoler. The Middle East was of marginal interest to the US prior to WWII. Stoler explains how and why that changed so dramatically during the 1940's and 1950's, and how events since then have resulted in the present war. City Hall, Burlington.

## [23] Wednesday

- 7pm **An Intimate Conversation on Iraq** with Omar Almashhadani, a new Vermonter, recently moved here from Iraq. Fletcher Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> flr, Fletcher Free Library, Burlington. Colleen, 863-2345 x8 or program@pjcv.org.

## [24] Thursday

- 7pm Conversations On Race Now (CORN) will be leading a FREE event co-sponsored by the Peace & Justice Center in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. We will watch **MLK's "I Have a Dream"** speech followed by each participant taking turns to read parts of the speech aloud. Speaking King's words is a powerful and emotionally provoking way to experience this historic speech. The discussion leaders will then open up the conversation. Questions -- contact Kyle at kyle@pjcv.org or 863-2345 x6.

## [30] Wednesday

- 7pm **The Invisible War** documentary film about the epidemic of rape in the US military. St. Michael's College, Chera y 101.

## [31] Thursday

- **Livable Wage Forum**. See page 3.

## February 2013

## [3] Sunday

- 12-1 **Will Miller Green Mountain Chapter of Vets for Peace** live call-in show on Channel 15.

## [4] Monday

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

- 6:30pm **Iran Teach-In** to gain an understanding of war, nuclear weapons, and sanctions in Iran. Four panelists will discuss the religious, economic, political and historical aspects of this topic. Q&A to follow. 207 Lafayette Hall, UVM. Co-sponsored by the PJC.

## [5] Tuesday

- 6:30 **Peace & Popcorn** on the first Tuesday of every month. A casual screening of peace and social justice films from the PJC's library, chosen by the group that night. Join us for a good film and good company. All welcome. Kyle@pjcv.org or 863-2345 x6.

## [11] Monday

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

## [14] Thursday

- 5pm **One Billion Rising**: join dancers, artists, women, men, WILPF, FED UP, and the Firefly Gallery in a dance/march, gathering at 5pm in front of Burlington City Hall. For more information contact Kimberley at the Firefly: 802.559.1795, or Robin at 862-4929.

## [16] Saturday

- 10am **Vets For Peace** meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat. of the month at the Kellogg Hubbard Library, Montpelier.

## March 2013

## [3] Sunday

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

## [4] Monday

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

## [5] Tuesday

- 6:30 **Peace & Popcorn** on the first Tuesday of every month. A casual screening of peace and social justice films from the PJC's library, chosen by the group that night. Join us for a good film and good company. All welcome. Kyle@pjcv.org or 863-2345 x6.

## [6] Wednesday

- 7pm **Giants: The Parallel Lives of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln**. Douglass and Lincoln – one born a slave, the other born dirt poor – became respectively one of the nation's greatest orators and one of its greatest presidents. Harvard professor and Civil War scholar John Stauffer examines their friendship, the similarities in their lives, and their legacies. Brooks Memorial Library, Brattleboro VT

## [11] Monday

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

## [14] Thursday

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

## [16] Saturday

- 10am **Vets For Peace** meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat. of the month at the Kellogg Hubbard Library, Montpelier.



# Time Stands Still

**JANUARY 30, WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 18, MONDAY**

*Time Stands Still*, a play written by Donald Margulies and directed by Gregory Ramos. A photojournalist who captures images of the Iraq war returns home injured from her most recent foray into the fray. As she and her reporter partner try to put their lives back together they are confronted with the decision to return to the battlefield or to settle down, leaving behind the dangerous and chaotic life they have always loved. From Pulitzer Prize-winner Donald Margulies, *Time Stands Still* is a witty drama that discusses the sacrifices people are willing to make for their passions, their country, and their own well-being. FlynnSpace. 7:30pm Wed. - Sat. ; 2pm matinees Sat. and Sun. .

## Idle No More

"A new campaign for indigenous rights and environmental justice is spreading across Canada. The "Idle No More" movement began as a series of protests against a controversial government budget bill, but has since expanded into a nationwide movement for political transformation. Aboriginal and environmental activists are calling on Prime Minister Stephen Harper to honor treaties with aborigines; open dialogue with environmentalists; and reject tar sands pipelines that would infiltrate First Nation territories." – Democracy Now

### ■ To the creators and nurturers of Idle No More from FED UP VT. Endorsed by Burlington WILPF:

We commend your courage. We, Fed Up Vermont, are a grassroots feminist group fighting for reproductive rights, economic equality and freedom from gender based violence. We are allied with everyone who works to end domination in all its forms. We commend the activists of Idle No More for their bravery fighting the industrial and patriarchal Colonizers who are destroying all life on Earth. Theirs is a civilization founded on fear and on domination of the Earth and of women. People around the world are joining together to regain control of their lives and their earth. We make solid connections in the struggle for women to regain bodily autonomy to the fight of First Nation people to regain control of their stolen land.

We, FedUp Vermont, acknowledge that we are living on stolen land, members of an colonizing culture that continues to dispossess and destroy Native cultures. This culture's commodification of the Earth poisons our air and water, destroys our soil and impoverishes our children, just as its commodification of women's bodies leads to sexual violence and reproductive tyranny. We reject this culture. Our connections are not made of oil or gold. Our connections are made of blood and spirit. Our struggles are one.

Water, soil and air are more important than any nonrenewable resource, and any government that doesn't recognize this is insane. The lifeways of indigenous cultures, especially indigenous women and their leadership, are crucial to reconnecting us to the earth. We look to Nina Wilson, Sylvia McAdam, Jessica Gordon, Sheelah McLean, Theresa Spence, and everyone involved in Idle No More as our allies, and we extend our hands, hearts, minds, and numbers in this struggle to offer all of our support, love, and solidarity.

Stay strong, we are with you. [To read the Idle No More Manifesto: <http://www.facebook.com/IdleNoMoreCommunity?ref=ts&fref=ts>]



## Join One Billion Rising on Valentine's Day

**ONE IN THREE WOMEN ON THE PLANET WILL BE RAPED OR BEATEN IN HER LIFETIME.  
ONE BILLION WOMEN VIOLATED IS AN ATROCITY  
ONE BILLION WOMEN DANCING IS A REVOLUTION**

Founder Eve Ensler has issued a call: On V-Day's 15th Anniversary, 2/14/13, we are inviting ONE BILLION women and those who love them to WALK OUT, DANCE, RISE UP, and DEMAND an end to this violence. ONE BILLION RISING will move the earth, activating women and men across every country. V-Day wants the world to see our collective strength, our numbers, our solidarity across borders.

In Burlington, numerous risings are planned for Thursday, February 14.

1) The UVM Women's Center is issuing a call to DANCE in support of One Billion Rising from 12 noon to 2pm at the UVM Davis Center Atrium & Bailey-Howe Green .

2) The Firefly Gallery (200 Main St., Suite 9) and artists are sponsoring a Day of Community-Based Art and Education with workshops, films, a march, performances, a community meal hosted by Food Not Bombs, and a discussion of women's issues and a dance party to boot! Starting at noon. Host Lyndsay Love. Contact: [Thefireflyvt@gmail.com](mailto:Thefireflyvt@gmail.com).

3) All groups, including WILPF (Women's Intl League for Peace and Freedom) and FED UP, will converge for a dance/march at 5pm in front of Burlington City Hall. Join in this act of solidarity, demonstrating with women and men the commonality of our struggles and our power in numbers! More info: 862-4929.

For more info: <http://www.onebillionrising.org/page/event/detail/startarising/ww9>

On Friday, Feb. 15, feminist author Kathleen Barry will speak at 7pm on *Overcoming a Culture of Violence*, sponsored by WILPF, FED UP and the PJC. Watch for location. 🌐



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I want to volunteer; please contact me.

