



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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Campaign to End Forced Child Labor in the Cocoa Industry

By *Lesley Bristol, Intern, PJC*

Since this past July I have had the opportunity to intern at the PJC and help develop and launch a new campaign in collaboration with Burlington Fair Trade Network that focuses on ending the practice of trafficking and forced child labor in the cocoa industry. Chocolate is a treat that is loved by many around the world and is a multi-billion dollar industry. In 2009, the United States chocolate industry imported 1.17 million tons of cocoa and generated retail sales of \$16.9 billion in chocolate confectionary products (1).

Of course, chocolate does not begin its life as a sweet confectionary. It originates as a seedpod called cacao. Cacao is grown on plantations in tropical regions of the world. At harvest time, the cacao seedpods are gathered and broken open. It takes multiple blows with a hammer to open the pod. The beans within the pod, which will eventually be processed into cocoa, are collected. There are 20-50 beans per cacao pod, and it takes approximately 400 beans to make one pound of chocolate (2).

Up to 70% of cacao is grown in West Africa, particularly in the countries of Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire (3). 20% of Cote d'Ivoire's Gross Domestic Product is from cacao exports (1). The industry has the potential to be a viable source of labor and income for households and communities in these countries. Under appropriate conditions, children can provide financial support for their families by harvesting cacao. Unfortunately, there is a serious lack of regulation and protection from

labor abuse on cacao plantations in this region. This issue most severely affects children.

It is estimated that 200,000 children are trafficked each year from neighboring countries into C d'Ivoire and Ghana to work on cacao plantations. These children are as young as five (4). Children working on these plantations are often subjected to the "worst forms of child labor," as defined by International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention 182. This definition includes, but is not limited to, trafficking, slavery, debt bondage, and exposure to a work environment that harms the health and safety of a child (5). The US Department of Labor estimates that more than 100,000 children in Cote d'Ivoire alone experience the worst forms of child labor while working in the cacao industry. A recent INTERPOL raid on cacao plantations in Cote d'Ivoire found that children were working 12-hour days, were frequently beaten, and received no pay or compensation for their work (4). Children on plantations are exposed to pesticides, carry heavy loads for hours, and clear land with fire and machetes (4). These children are victims of their vulnerability, working in conditions equivalent to modern-day slavery. When representatives of chocolate companies are asked about this, they either feign ignorance or do not wish to acknowledge this treatment of children in order to turn a profit (4).

**Peace & Justice
Center
Annual Meeting
November 9, 2011
7-8:30pm
Community Room,
Fletcher Free Library,
Burlington VT**

Cocoa continued on page 4



Message from the Board

Your board of directors has been working hard with the staff over the summer months to build on the strengths of the Peace & Justice Center and to ensure the continuation of its important work towards a peace economy. The board, functioning in place of an executive director, and the staff continue to focus on the most effective use of our limited resources to pursue our Mission. For example, our store has been continuing our program work of providing education about Fair Trade, organic products, and local sourcing. All of these are integrated with our efforts in promoting economic and racial justice, peace, and human rights.

Gaby Brenneman, our Program Director, continues to merge our store activities with our programming work. She has brought new focus to our support of ethnic minorities and women who are involved in Fair Trade as well as local artisans and producers who adhere to similar principles. She has also undertaken outreach in area schools, the Church Street Marketplace, and elsewhere to spread the word about Fair Trade, particularly the cocoa trade. [To invite Gaby to speak to your class/group, in either English or Spanish, email her at gaby@pjcv.org.] She continues to manage the store as well, but is able to focus more on program work since the hiring of Jake Schumann as Assistant Store Manager last month.

Colleen Deignan, our Program & Development Coordinator, has increased her time commitment to the Center. Communications, social media, networking and grant writing are among the many tasks she performs to support the programming work of the Center. Wendy Coe has steadily kept our organization on track administratively. Each of our staff members continue to demonstrate extraordinary dedication, imagination, and resourcefulness. We are also grateful to the many volunteers who have donated their time in every facet of our activities.

The mainstay of our financial support this year has been our store, and the Center ended our fiscal year (on September 30) in the black. We hope in the coming months to be able to give the store the financial support it needs (including increased advertising) to spread the message of Fair Trade, organic production, and local sourcing to a wider audience as well as to stock a richer variety of these goods in support of that message, those vendors, and our Mission. We are also working diligently to increase funding to allow our other programming work to expand. This will include specific peace-related initiatives.

Grant funding, historically an important part of our support, has been elusive. We are concerned that individual memberships are down significantly, as is income from most other sources. However, we are buoyed by the fact that support from major donors showed an increase over the past year. The Center was able to end the year on a positive note only because of sharp reductions in expenditures, most notably in staffing.

As we look forward to fiscal year 2012, the Board will be working on the foundation that has been laid during this difficult year to increase our capacity to carry out our Mission. Shortly our members will be receiving our annual fall funding appeal. We are grateful for your past support and urge you to respond as generously as you can to help ensure the future of this most valuable institution.

In solidarity,

Autumn Barnett and fellow board members

■ Board and Staff Transitions

We welcome Jake Schumann, who joined us last month as Assistant Store Manager, as well as interns Lesley Bristol, Alice McGinty, and Molly Schumacher and volunteers Andrea Luxenberg, Nina Mosle, Erika Scott, Cheryl Parrott, Deb MacDonough, and Megan Frick. We wish Anna Guyton and Heather Deal the best as they move on from their work with the PJC to other challenges. Eric Hoke has left the board of directors due to a move out of state. Many thanks for your service, Eric, Anna, and Heather! ☺

EDITORS

Wendy Coe
Robin Lloyd

CIRCULATION
1,200

The opinions expressed in the articles, including those by staff, are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the peace & justice center.

peace & justice
center | store | library

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Colleen Deignan
Jake Schumann

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.

C.O.R.N. (*Conversation on Race Now*)

(*promoting dialogue between people,
emphasizing respectful and courteous interaction*)

**Invites you to join an evening of
conversation exploring the question:**

**“ How do you feel today,
November 10, 2011, about
racism/race in Vermont?”**

With special guest Keynote Speaker/Panelist:

Dr. Wanda Heading-Grant, Ed.D., Chief Diversity Officer and
Special Assistant to the President for Multicultural Initiatives, UVM

DATE: Thursday, November 10, 2011

TIME: 7:15-9:30 pm

PLACE: Ohavi Zedek Synagogue, 188 N. Prospect St, Burlington, VT.

Dessert Bar and Beverages Provided

Welcoming and Inviting the Community

Facilitator:

Dr. Sherwood E. Smith, Ed.D., Director, Center for Cultural
Pluralism and Lecturer, Department of Leadership and Development
Sciences, UVM

Guest Panelists:

Robert Appel, Executive Director, Vermont Human Rights
Commission

Donna Bailey, Executive Director, Addison County Parent/Child
Center

Dr. Laura Fishman, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology, Emerita, UVM

Dr. Wanda Heading-Grant, Ed.D., Chief Diversity Officer, UVM

Major Jackson, M.F.A., Professor of English, UVM, nationally
renowned poet

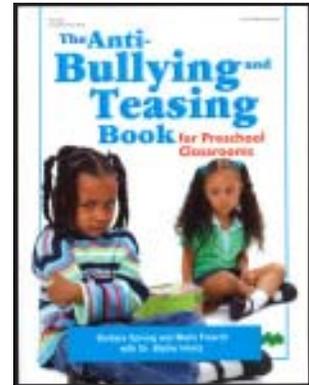
CORN expresses gratitude and appreciation to Ohavi Zedek’s Social
Action Committee for welcoming us this evening and supporting
our community dialogue.

Contact Information: vhm84@hotmail.com Vivian Mason

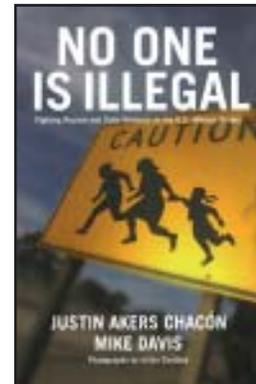
hskl47@myfairpoint.net Susan Linskey

“it is not how we have done it before...it is how we do it from this moment on...”

PEACE & JUSTICE STORE



Teasing and bullying can affect a child’s learning, physical health, and emotional wellbeing. *The Anti-Bullying and Teasing Book* uses activities, the classroom environment, and family involvement to develop empathy in children and create a climate of mutual respect in the classroom. With over 40 activities that focus on controlling teasing and bullying by cultivating friendship, community, and positive feelings, teachers of young children can create an environment in which all children feel safe, comfortable, and welcome.



In *No One Is Illegal* Mike Davis and Justin Akers Chacon expose the racism of anti-immigration vigilantes and put a human face on the immigrants who daily risk their lives to cross the border to work in the US. Countering the mounting chorus of anti-immigrant voices, *No One Is Illegal* debunks the leading ideas behind the often violent right-wing backlash against immigrants, revealing their deep roots in US history, and documents the new civil rights movement that has mounted protests around the country to demand justice and dignity for immigrants.

Cocoa continued from page 1

Despite the depressing statistics about this abuse in the cocoa industry, there have been advocates for these children. Two US legislators, Senator Tom Harkin and Representative Eliot Engel, developed the Harkin-Engel Protocol to end the horrible treatment against children in the cocoa industry. The Protocol specifically notes that cocoa beans and products should be grown and processed in a manner that complies with ILO C.182 to end the worst forms of child labor (6).

The Protocol was signed by politicians of the United States, the Ambassador of Cote d'Ivoire, members of the ILO, human and children's rights advocates, and most importantly, the Presidents and CEOs of major chocolate corporations: M & M/Mars, Archer Daniels Midland, Nestle, Hershey, and others. Despite the signed commitment of these corporations, there has been a serious lag in progress to end forced child labor and provide remediation for such abuses in these cocoa-growing communities of West Africa.

September 19, 2011, was the 10-year anniversary of the Protocol. Chocolate corporations are not fulfilling their commitments. Children are still being trafficked and working under the worst forms of child labor. Our chocolate is still not child-slave free.

Exploitation of the most vulnerable has no place in the 21st century. The chocolate industry made a written commitment to improve the working conditions for these children, yet their efforts are far from noble. It is time to hold these corporations accountable for their inability to self-regulate and their penchant for greed at the expense of young

children's suffering. There are feasible solutions to this problem, and we believe it is possible to shift this detrimental paradigm of the exploitative cocoa supply chain. The PJC campaign is part of this activism.

Our overarching goal is to do whatever we can to enlist the chocolate companies in Vermont in our effort to stop large cocoa corporations from



<http://www.globalexchange.org/blogs/fairtrade/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/childlaborercocoa.jpg>

ignoring the trafficking and the worst forms of child labor in the cocoa plantations. Vermont has an enduring reputation as an advocate for social justice. We believe that the state of Vermont could serve as a catalyst to launch a nation wide movement that will end trafficking and forced child labor in the cocoa industry. By changing consumption patterns, increasing awareness, and working with Vermont chocolate retailers, we can set the precedent for the United States.

Europe is already pioneering this issue with the 10 campaign (10 campaign.com). We have been collaborating with other organizations such as Raise the Bar, and now the 10 Campaign, to hold big chocolate companies accountable. We have also reached out to the community through tabling on Church Street, developed mini-campaigns that focus on consumer awareness, and screened the documentary "The Dark Side of Chocolate" in college classrooms. We are planning a business forum with the goal of having all Vermont chocolate retailers and other players in the chocolate

industry come together and develop practical solutions to end the purchase of child-slave chocolate, such as by finding reasonably priced cocoa wholesalers that are either Fair Trade or child-slave free.

The amount of political, social, and environmental injustices in our world is vastly overwhelming and complex. Sometimes, working for peace and justice seems like an insurmountable task. Why did we choose this particular issue to challenge? The answer to this question can be simply answered with another... would you let your own children suffer as these ones do? Would you let corporations continue to put profits over people and oppress the vulnerable?

While we are making great strides on this campaign, we need your support in order to be as effective as possible in achieving our goal. We truly believe this issue is one that can be resolved. No child deserves to suffer at someone else's monetary or personal gain. We hope you will support us in our work. Thank you and Peace.

■ What you can do

- As a consumer you endorse a product by purchasing it. Don't endorse trafficking and forced child labor in the cocoa industry.
- Purchase chocolate bars and cocoa products that are certified child slave free. Look and ask for the Fair Trade, Rain Forest or Utz certification in your products.
- Host a screening of the *Dark Side of Chocolate* documentary at your school or community group. Write a letter to your Senator asking to implement legislation that will hold the chocolate corporations accountable for violations of human rights in other countries through their business in the cocoa industry. Contact us for sample letters.
- Consider volunteering or making a donation for this campaign. For more information contact Gaby Ochoa Brennaman at gaby@pjcv.org

■ Footnotes

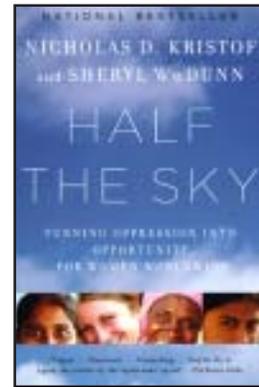
1. Economic Profile of the US Chocolate Industry. World Cocoa Foundation. 2009. <http://www.worldcocoaoundation.org/learn-about-cocoa/documents/>



EconomicProfileoftheUSChocolateIndustry2009.pdf.
 2. Handling the Harvest. World Cocoa Foundation. 2011. <http://www.worldcocoafoundation.org/learn-about-cocoa/tree-to-table/handling-the-harvest.asp>.
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 4. Film, "The Dark Side of Chocolate." Produced by Miki Mistrati and U. Roberto Romano. <http://thedarksideofchocolate.org/>.

5. Convention 182 Worst Forms of Child Labor. International Labor Organization. 1999. <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/convde.pl?C182>.
 6. Protocol for the Growing and Processing Cocoa Beans and their Derivative Products in a Manner that Complies with ILO Convention 182 Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor. E. Engel & T. Harkin. 2001. http://www.childlabor-payson.org/meetings/Ghana_Consultative_Meeting_2010/Documents3.html.

PEACE & JUSTICE STORE



Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide. Through inspiring stories of extraordinary women, Kristof and WuDunn show that the most effective way to fight global poverty is to unleash the potential of women.



As a veteran war correspondent, Chris Hedges has survived ambushes in Central America, imprisonment in Sudan, and a beating by Saudi military police. He has seen children murdered for sport in Gaza and petty thugs elevated into war heroes in the Balkans. Hedges, has seen war at its worst and knows too well that to those who pass through it, war can be exhilarating and even additive. Mixing hard-nosed realism with profound moral and philosophical insight, *War Is A Force That Gives Us Meaning* is a work of terrible power and redemptive clarity whose truths have never been more necessary.

PJC Campaign to End Forced Child Labor in Cocoa Industry

Goals:

1. Start a grassroots movement in Vermont through education and awareness for people demanding child slave free chocolate and social accountability from the chocolate industry.
2. Enlist all the chocolate companies in VT to purchase only wholesale cocoa that is produced without child labor. Their commitment will serve as a model for a nationwide movement. Vermont as a state with ethical business will not support trafficking, forced child labor and the worst forms of child labor through their purchases in the cocoa industry.

Objectives:

1. Increase consumer and student awareness about forced child labor in the cocoa industry.
2. Collaborate with other campaigns working towards similar goal.
3. Contact Vermont chocolate/cocoa business owners about campaign.
4. Plan and facilitate a business forum for business owners to develop a feasible and sustainable purchasing solution for wholesale cocoa that is produced without forced child labor. Hold a panel discussion featuring speakers from various groups e.g. political, cocoa, business to address challenges of the cocoa supply chain.
5. Research wholesale cocoa that is produced without forced child labor.

Deliverables to Date:

1. Sent a survey to 22 Vermont chocolate companies to gain more information about their challenges as a business and to get a sense of their awareness about Fair Trade cocoa products.
2. Sent letter of intent to Vermont chocolate companies describing our campaign and inviting them to the future business forum.
3. Have networked with the Raise the Bar Campaign and 10 Campaign, both of which are working to end injustices in the cocoa industry.
4. Have contacted faculty at St. Michael's College and the University of Vermont to screen the documentary film "The Dark Side of Chocolate" to increase student awareness; have planned dates to screen the film.
5. Developed a mini-campaign to increase consumer awareness about chocolate made with forced child labor in accordance with Halloween's increase in the purchase of candy.
6. Have tabled on Church Street in Burlington to increase the campaign's outreach in the community; more tabling dates are planned .
7. Created an educational presentation for community and academic outreach.
8. Created a petition demanding child-slave free chocolate.



Robin's Nest

There is Hope

By Robin Lloyd

■ Occupy Wall Street and DC

As I write in early October, two waves of protest are building across the country: one, Occupy Wall Street, against corporations and economic inequality, the other, in Washington DC's Liberty Square, against the continued war in Afghanistan.

I hope, in the days ahead, that these two waves will join to create a perfect storm of peaceful change.

Vermonters are participating in both of them. I wish I could go: this seems truly the beginning of something big.

How curious the way the mainstream media observes anniversaries. On 9/11 they drenched the public with commentaries and recitation of the names of the dead. Yet, what lamentably followed less than a month later – the counter attack on Afghanistan – is not given playtime in the press.

Curiously, the word “war” wasn't mentioned in the official statement of Occupy Wall Street on Oct 5. The closest they came to it was at the end of a long list of corporate crimes: “They [corporations] continue to create weapons of mass destruction in order to receive government contracts.”

That should read, in my opinion, “They continue to lobby for war in order to receive government military contracts.”

Both mobilizations are in the process of figuring out how to link the issues. Medea Benjamin of Code Pink tweeted “Occupy wallSt. Get ready to #occupydc on Oct6... Let's get this revolution started!!!”

Will these two waves merge, persist and lead to a political tsunami that can't be ignored? Could it actually happen that people start to think – yes! – maybe there is something that I could change?!?

Betsy Reed of the Nation calls “Occupy Wall Street,” a ‘spark’. “...as an idea and an action, it is a stroke of brilliance. It's not poll-tested or focus-grouped, but it expresses perfectly the outrage that is the appropriate response

to the maddening political situation we find ourselves in today. It succeeds as symbolic politics: taking back the square is just what we need to do. And it's wonderful that unions and community groups that have been working in the trenches will be linking arms with the denizens of OWS...”

Unlike OWS, the DC occupation has demands. “We demand that our resources are invested in human needs and environmental protection instead of war and exploitation. We can do this together. We will be the beginning.”

Let us move ahead together!

OWS Websites:

<http://occupywallst.org/>

<http://www.occupytogether.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/occupyvermont>

■ In memory of Wangari Maathai

We're sad at hearing of the death of Wangari Maathai on September 25 at the age of 71. She was a brave and inspiring leader of the the Green Belt movement in Kenya, leading women in an environmental crusade to plant trees, combat deforestation and defend human rights. She never came to Burlington, although event producer Patrick Brown tried mightily to get her here. But two Vermonters have had a significant relationship with her: filmmakers Lisa Merton and Alan Dater made the most widely viewed documentary of her life TAKING ROOT: The Vision of Wangari Maathai. I met her, briefly, at the Beijing Women's Conference of 1995:

As a camerawoman, filming at the UN Fourth World Conference on Women was a surfeit of memorable moments. One feared, nevertheless, not being at the right place at the right time.

One afternoon a group of Women in Black gathered. They formed a large circle holding candles. We camera women were able to enter the circle and take long slow



tracking shots from face to face – the strongest and most passionate I have ever seen – their suffering and determination etched in deep lines on their faces. And then, I don't know how it happened, I was at the right place at the right time, crouching right in front of Wangari Maathai as she made a spontaneous declaration. Shooting from that angle, she was majestic. Her words were majestic, too. Holding her candle up, as if to salute a rising sun, she said:

“There is hope. No matter how subjugated we feel, no matter how hopeless we feel...especially in my region when we remember Rwanda, and remember Sudan and Somalia, and all the places where slaughter goes on all the time... We speak against the arms trade. Guns are being sold to poor Africans to kill each other so that they may remain poor, underprivileged and marginalized.

But we cannot lose hope. Here in Beijing, in the midst of all of you, we feel that the sun shall rise...”

Wangari's evocation of the goals of the women's movement for peace and justice became the high point of our film *Peace Train to Beijing* made by and for the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

I lift a candle to her now: bigger than life; majestic. ☺

Official Statement from Occupy Wall Street

Official Statement from Occupy Wall Street – this statement was voted on and approved by the general assembly of protesters at Liberty Square: Declaration of the Occupation of New York City, Wednesday, October 5, 2011.

As we gather together in solidarity to express a feeling of mass injustice, we must not lose sight of what brought us together. We write so that all people who feel wronged by the corporate forces of the world can know that we are your allies.

As one people, united, we acknowledge the reality: that the future of the human race requires the cooperation of its members; that our system must protect our rights, and upon corruption of that system, it is up to the individuals to protect their own rights, and those of their neighbors; that a democratic government derives its just power from the people, but corporations do not seek consent to extract wealth from the people and the Earth; and that no true democracy is attainable when the process is determined by economic power. We come to you at a time when corporations, which place profit over people, self-interest over justice and oppression over equality, run our governments. We have peaceably assembled here, as is our right, to let these facts be known.

They have taken our houses through an illegal foreclosure process, despite not having the original mortgage.
 They have taken bailouts from taxpayers with impunity, and continue to give Executives exorbitant bonuses.
 They have perpetuated inequality and discrimination in the workplace based on age, the color of one's skin, sex, gender identity and sexual orientation.
 They have poisoned the food supply through negligence, and undermined the farming system through monopolization.
 They have profited off of the torture, confinement, and cruel treatment of countless nonhuman animals, and actively hide these practices.
 They have continuously sought to strip employees of the right to negotiate for better pay and safer working conditions.
 They have held students hostage with tens of thousands of dollars of debt on education, which is itself a human right.
 They have consistently outsourced labor and used that outsourcing as leverage to cut workers' healthcare and pay.
 They have influenced the courts to achieve the same rights as people, with none of the culpability or responsibility.
 They have spent millions of dollars on legal teams that look for ways to get them out of contracts in regards to health insurance.
 They have sold our privacy as a commodity.
 They have used the military and police force to prevent freedom of the press.
 They have deliberately declined to recall faulty products endangering lives in pursuit of profit.
 They determine economic policy, despite the catastrophic failures their policies have produced and continue to produce.
 They have donated large sums of money to politicians supposed to be regulating them.
 They continue to block alternate forms of energy to keep us dependent on oil.
 They continue to block generic forms of medicine that could save people's lives in order to protect investments that have already turned a substantive profit.
 They have purposely covered up oil spills, accidents, faulty bookkeeping, and inactive ingredients in pursuit of profit.
 They purposefully keep people misinformed and fearful through their control of the media.
 They have accepted private contracts to murder prisoners even when presented with serious doubts about their guilt.
 They have perpetuated colonialism at home and abroad.
 They have participated in the torture and murder of innocent civilians overseas.
 They continue to create weapons of mass destruction in order to receive government contracts.*
 To the people of the world,

We, the New York City General Assembly occupying Wall Street in Liberty Square, urge you to assert your power. Exercise your right to peaceably assemble; occupy public space; create a process to address the problems we face, and generate solutions accessible to everyone.

To all communities that take action and form groups in the spirit of direct democracy, we offer support, documentation, and all of the resources at our disposal.

Join us and make your voices heard!

**These grievances are not all-inclusive.*



October 4, 1981 to October 4, 2011

30th Anniversary of Pax Christi Burlington



By *Marmete Hayes*

■ Beginnings

It all started with prayer. Three women, Janet Rogan, Kay Lavoie and I met at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in August of 1981 to pray for Nuclear Disarmament. We were soon joined by Isabel Schumacher, Mary McGinley and Sr. Miriam Ward.

In September I wrote a mission statement for the formation of a possible peace group. I thought it was pretty good and presented it to the group. When I finished, there was a lot of silence and sort of a yawn. Then an outburst. Janet Rogan came out with, "Well! I don't see why we just don't join Pax Christi USA!"

Of course Janet was right! We all agreed wholeheartedly. Why hadn't we thought of that? Janet agreed to call Eileen Egan, a founder of Pax Christi USA, to get the information on becoming a chapter. Thus was born Pax Christi Burlington. Father Holland, the rector of the Cathedral, welcomed our meetings.

Our first event was a Silent Vigil for World Peace before the New Year's Eve Mass in the Cathedral foyer. Poster designed by John Lavoie, Kay's son. Attendance: more than 65!

■ Nuclear Issue

Nuclear Disarmament was in the air. And now that we had an organization, we could begin to act.

The National Ribbon Campaign against nuclear weapons saw our Isabel Schumacher taking center stage distributing purple ribbons up and down Church Street. We called her "the purple ribbon lady."

August came – Hiroshima, We joined the AFSC Silent Vigil in memory of that fateful day in history. Over the years PCB

members continue to join David Conrad and Sally and others at 8:15 a.m. on the corner of Main and South Prospect St.

Nagasaki – three days later – PCB's first big event – Pray and Protest. Beginning with a short prayer service under the Bell Tower of the Catholic Cathedral people processed with candles down Cheery Street, over Pine and up Pearl Street to the Federal Building where 87 letters to Pres. Ronald Reagan were signed pleading for the abolition of nuclear weapons

Thirty years later we are still vigiling on August 9th under the Bell Tower at 11 a.m. the moment the bomb dropped. And Hank Lambert still leads Dan Berrigan's prayer, *Free Us From Bondage to Violence*.

In 1985 we ran a full-page ad in the Vermont Catholic Tribune expressing Profound Sorrow for the Massacre of Civilians at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, signed by Vermont Catholics.

Then a big moment came! The US Catholic Bishops wrote a pastoral letter entitled "The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response." An Amazing document back then, Again we turned to prayer – a vigil in the Cathedral. A Mailogram was sent to Archbishop Joseph Bernadine in Washington, D.C. with the words, "It is our hope and prayer that your denunciation of nuclear weapons will be bold and prophetic." 602 letters from Vermonters followed.

Then the Europeans cried "NO!" to the deployment of Cruise Missiles in Europe and Pax Christi stepped up to the plate with a huge demonstration at the Federal Building following a Mass for Peace at the Cathedral at the end of which Father Lavalley said, "Pax Christi members are leaving the altar to go out into the marketplace!" And almost 200 citizens joined us wrapping themselves around the Federal Building on Pearl St.

Marmete continued on page 10





October 4, 1981 to October 4, 2011

History of Pax Christi Burlington



By *Miriam Ward*

■ Central America

Human rights violations were rampant in Central America. The assassination of Archbishop Romero, followed by the brutal rape and murder of 4 US Church women in December in 1980, drew world attention to the massacres and atrocities against the peasant population and to the US Government involvement in mostly military aid.

Pax Christi Burlington held an annual Mass in memory of Archbishop Romero through the 80s. At the end of the first Mass, Father Charlie Davignon threw up his hands and said, "Saint Oscar Romero, Pray for Us!" We worked with the Interreligious Task Force on Central America and Christ Church Presbyterian. From then on we conducted vigils, presented documentaries, gave public talks to raise awareness of the horrible Central America situation.

PCB arranged a press conference in City Hall for Ambassador Robert White, who had resigned in protest of then President Ronald Reagan's Central America policies. He was a St. Mike's grad and personal friend of the assassinated church women.

In 1986, I was privileged to represent Pax Christi Burlington in a Vermont Human Rights delegation to El Salvador and Honduras. We met with the Catholic Archdiocesan Human Rights Commission, doctors, social workers, Mothers of the Disappeared, union leaders, students and others who risked their lives just to talk with us.

We had a long interview with Father Martin Baro, one of the six Jesuits at Catholic University in San Salvador who would be murdered 3 years later along

with their housekeeper and her daughter. Fr. Martin Baro described the basic issue as "the US govt—both parties—Jimmy Carter and then Ronald Reagan— trying to make the problem in Central America an "East-West" rather than a "North-South" one. The fear of Communism taking over Central America was so great that the US government supported armies which were killing and making disappeared their own people, who were trying to liberate themselves from abject poverty. What these priests all had in common was they stood with the poor, the marginalized—they took literally, the Central American bishops' Option for the Poor and for that they were brutally murdered.

The military were getting training at the School of the Americas in Ft. Benning, Georgia. This is where Father Roy Bourgois, founder of School of the Americas Watch, comes in. The SOA Watch documented the killers of the churchwomen, Archbishop Romero, the many massacres of Salvadorans, the murder of the Jesuits and thousands of

disappeared as graduates of the School of the Americas.

Pax Christi Burlington is fortunate to have had a personal friend of Archbishop Romero, Prof. Marta Umanzor, until her retirement from St. Michael's and return to El Salvador, lead us in the annual walk and Presente Ceremony on Church Street in solidarity with the thousands who gather at the gates of Ft. Benning. This year it will be Saturday, November 19.

Seven Pax Christi Burlington members have crossed the line into Ft. Benning, been detained and released. Robin Lloyd, has served 3 months in federal prison for going under the fence onto the fort.

Through the years, Pax Christi has sponsored Fr. Roy at Trinity College, St. Michael's, Middlebury, and UVM. We have shown the film Romero at Merrill's Theater, Roses in December and Shut Down the School of Assassins innumerable times at Trinity and St. Michael's.

Miriam continued on page 10



Pax Christi Burlington's 30th Anniversary: Kay Lavoie, Mary McGinley, Marmete Hayes and Miriam Ward rsm.

Marmete continued from page 8

Pax Christi is still working against nuclear weapons. Just two weeks ago we sponsored “The Forgotten Bomb” and its director Bud Ryan at St. Michael’s College. Laurie Gagne, director of the college’s Peace and Justice Program provided the venue and The Sisters of Mercy provided the funds through their Peace Initiatives Grant.

■ Nonviolence

Nonviolence is at the heart of Pax Christi. From our beginning we have studied nonviolence, some members taking the Vow of Nonviolence – Sue Roland and Hank Lambert being the first.

Then in 2002 we took on a big endeavor with the co-sponsorship of other groups – a two-day ecumenical retreat with the eminent pacifist, Father Emmanuel Charles McCarthy. Held at Trinity College, it attracted more than 80. It was titled “Gospel Nonviolence: The great Failure, The Only Hope.”

Because of her fervent pacifism, we have given attention to Dorothy Day with two events – the last being “A Day with Dorothy Day” in 2008, featuring the head of the Hartford, Conn., Catholic Worker and Dorothy’s granddaughter, Martha Hennessey.

The film “*Toward a Peaceful World*” presenting nonviolence and asking the questions: What is nonviolence? Can it Work? and Has it ever been used successfully? – was shown at various places.

■ War & Militarism

Pax Christi is first and foremost against war and the preparations for war plus human rights abuses.

The sanctions against Iraq that caused so much suffering to the Iraq people brought PCB members out into the Marketplace every Saturday noon for months back in the 90’s. We stood throughout a cold winter with AFSC and WILPF people handing out leaflets about the cruelty of those sanctions.

Pax Christi members not only have participated in anti-war protests but have initiated some of the demonstrations – to mention a few – During the NATO

bombing of Yugoslavia in 1999 PCB organized a most successful Walk through the city of Burlington in which people dressed in black carried loaves of bread in the silent procession. Bread Not Bombs and took place for many Saturdays. Then there was the Protest on the Bridge – the Winooski Bridge – on the 60th day of the bombing - another anti-war action initiated by PCB.

With the advent of wars against Afghanistan and Iraq, PCB members took part in the Monday through Friday 5 to 5:30 pm Vigil at the top of Church Street for over ten years.

Last spring we began a project educating youth on conscientious objection, its history and the life of Franz Jagerstatter as model in modern times. Joseph Gainza conducted classes at Rice High School and hopes to do so in 2012.

And now in 2011 we’ve been somewhat involved in the Lockheed Martin debacle, attending meetings and giving testimony. And two of the anti-air show letters in the Free Press were written by PC members, Mary McGinley and Roger Gibeault.

Then there was our six-session study of Catholic Social Teaching: War and Peace; Immigration; the death penalty under the direction of Peggy Brozicevic, with 80 people in attendance

There’s a lot more, of course, but I must mention Taize – Prayer for World Peace with the Music of the Taize Community for 5 years on First Night. Our gratitude to the Rev. Richard Hibbert of the First Methodist Church for his invaluable contributions to the success of one of our most meaningful events. And Kit Anderson and her harpist students who provided the music accompaniment.

In closing I will read from the Pax Christi USA statement of purpose:

“Pax Christi USA invites concerned Catholics to respond to the Church’s call to evaluate war in an entirely new attitude and to take an active role in making secure a peace based on justice and love.” As Pope Paul the Sixth said, “If you want justice, work for peace.” That is what we will do. We will remember. We will respond. We will resist. ☪

Miriam continued from page 9

Finally, we presented a resolution at the Vermont State House calling for Closing the School of the Americas. Robert White testified for us. We gave testimony at several committee meetings, but in the end the Chairman of the Committee “sat on it” so it never got to the entire House of Representatives.

■ Palestinian/Israeli Conflict

And now a few words on Pax Christi’s work on the Palestinian/Israeli Conflict. We have brought speakers such as Israeli Joseph Abileah, Archbishop Elias Chacour; Palestinians Dr. Salwa Najjab, Amal Jadou, Susan Atallah, Dr. Lamis Abu-Nahleh. More recently, we have co-sponsored with Vermonters for a Just Peace in Palestine/Israel many Israeli refuseniks who refuse to serve in the Israeli military in the Occupied territories, and American Jewish voices who see that it is in Israel’s interest to stop the theft of land and settlement building and stop the brutal military occupation. Again, our intent is to move people to dialogue and try to find ways to resolve this Rights versus Rights conflict.

■ The Death Penalty

With the effort to bring Donal Fell’s trial into Federal Court, the Death Penalty hit Vermont which has a ban on capital punishment. Pax Christi Burlington held vigils at the Federal Building, and worked with other groups to organize a press conference on Capital Punishment. Both retiring Bishop Angell and Bishop Matano testifies against the death penalty supporting the State of Vermont’s ban on it.

■ Closing

I will close with a special memento to our dear friend Isobel Schumacher. One day we were gathering on Church street after several weeks of being alerted to some really bad things happening. Isobel, in her quiet dignified manner, looked up at me and said, “And what are we protesting today?”

Yes, we have protested, but we are working for PEACE and RECONCILIATION. ☪

CALENDAR

October 2011

[21-22] Friday-Saturday

Conference: *Peace in Asia and the Pacific: Alternatives to Asia-Pacific Militarization*. Washington DC. This will be an important conference helping to bring the US peace movement into the Asia-Pacific century. More information and registration: <http://afsc.org/PeaceInAsiaPacific>.

[27] Thursday

• 4:30pm Saint Michael's College presents the annual Sutherland Lecture with **James K. Galbraith, Ph.D.**, Lloyd M. Bentsen Chair in Government and Business Relations and Professor of Economics at the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas, speaking on **"Inequality, Instability, and the Great Financial Crisis"** in the **McCarthy Arts Center**. Galbraith's latest book is *The Predator State: How Conservatives Abandoned the Free Market and Why Liberals Should Too* (2008). He is also author of *Balancing Acts: Technology, Finance and the American Future* (1989) and *Created Unequal: The Crisis in American Pay* (1998). He has co-authored two textbooks, *The Economic Problem* with the late Robert L. Heilbroner and *Macroeconomics* with William Darity, Jr.

November 2011

[2] Wednesday

• 7pm Saint Michael's College presents **"Slavery, Tomatoes and Social Justice on the Plate,"** a talk by award-winning investigative journalist **Barry Estabrook** in McCarthy Arts Center. Estabrook presents a case showing that eating winter tomatoes inadvertently supports migrant slavery. The modern tomato, he explains, has become "as devoid of plant nutrients as a pile of moon rocks." He is the author of the acclaimed book *Tomatoland*. His article for *Gourmet* on labor abuses in Florida's tomato fields received the 2010 James Beard Award for magazine feature writing.

[6] Sunday

• 12-1 **Vets for Peace** live call-in show on Channel 15.
2pm Vets for Peace meet at 28 Laurel Hill Dr., South Burlington.

[7] Monday

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

[9] Wednesday

• 5-6:30pm **Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)** meeting at the Peace & Justice Center. Info: 372-6117.

• 7-8:30pm **Peace & Justice Center Annual Meeting** in the Community Room, downstairs at the Fletcher Free Library.

[14] Monday

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

You've Been Served Rally @ The Gates

Demonstration at VT Yankee

Oct. 30, 12 to 3pm

Gates of VY nuclear reactor, 546 Governor Hunt Rd, Vernon, VT
Join us in demonstrating loudly, clearly and peaceably!
As Entergy Corporation prepares to refuel their aging, Mark I Boiling Vermont Yankee nuclear reactor...5 months before the scheduled closure date of March 21, 2012, citizens will gather en masse to communicate one thing: **Entergy, you've been served.**

The people of Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts will not allow the Vermont Yankee nuclear reactor to operate beyond its scheduled closure date.

Entergy, pay attention, it is time to close up and clean up. You're being evicted by the People.



Pictured are 15 women arrested at Vermont Yankee on June 30, 2011. All received citations to appear in court, but only six women who subsequently sat in on August 30 have been arraigned where they pled not guilty. They will face a pretrial conference on November 10, 2011.

Shut It Down Manifesto

WE ACT BECAUSE VERMONT YANKEE IS NOT SHUT DOWN.
VY risks the lives of those in the elementary school across the street.
VY poisons the air, the nearby agricultural lands, the Connecticut River, and the aquifers.
VY leaks radioactive isotopes and generates radioactive waste that will last thousands of years and can not be safely stored.
VY risks the lives of all living beings of VT, NH, and MA, even into future generations.
We act out of our sense of urgency to shut down VY.
We act because VY is politically, economically, socially, and environmentally dangerous.
We act because the state and federal govts have all failed to protect us.
We act because nonviolent direct action is just, powerful, and moral.
We act because no force is more powerful than truth.
We act because we must do the right action for the right reason as the right means to the right ends.
By acting, we have shut down VY.
Yet we must keep shutting down VY until VY is shut down for good.
– Drafted by Hattie Nestel in September, 2011 and adopted by the Shut It Down Affinity Group



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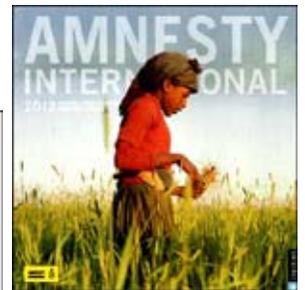
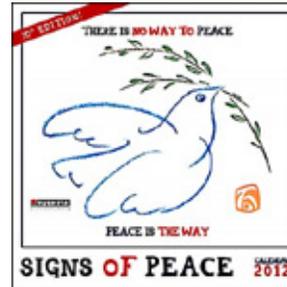
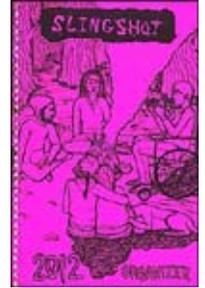
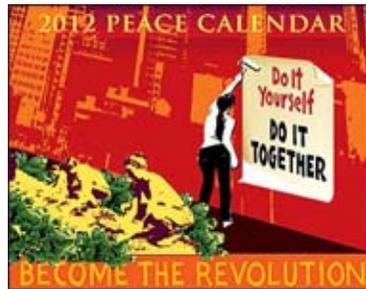
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