



peace & justice news

A PUBLICATION OF THE PEACE & JUSTICE CENTER

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The Quadracentennial Corridor of Amity Pilgrimage

By Kevin Dann

As his way of commemorating the 400th anniversaries of Henry Hudson's and Samuel de Champlain's deeds of discovery, Kevin Dann is making a pilgrimage from Montreal to Manhattan. By joyfully, mindfully walking the length of these two valleys, he hopes to knit together the residents of these regions who have in their heart a desire for new stories, new maps, new dreams. Instead of astro-labe and arquebus, he will be packing stories of amitié. Look for more of Kevin's story on his website www.corridorofamity.org

■ Trip Journal of May 23-28

The theme that has emerged so powerfully is the wisdom and the goodwill of everyone whom I meet and even without planning, I am being carried right into the arms of extraordinary peacemakers.

I went Saturday morning to interview Mary Conroy (it was her 98th birthday) in Point au Roche north of Plattsburgh. While eating breakfast at her grandson Simon's farm stand, Simon's father, Mary's son, John Conroy, came along to join a conversation I was having with

Richard Robbins, professor of anthropology at Plattsburgh State University.

John casually starts talking about attending a commemorative event in

Vietnam for the My Lai massacre, about serving in Vietnam, and as an embedded reporter in Iraq and Afghanistan for four years. He then speaks about the screenplay he wrote about the Phoenix Program that caught the interest of Oliver Stone, a friend of his, and how what he really wants to do is make a documentary about civilian deaths during the Vietnam war – a key episode in America's history of genocide.

He pointed over his shoulder at Route 9, and said: "I cannot believe that Americans are so oblivious to our occupation of the Iraqi people. Down that road in September 1814

came the same British troops who would later kick Napoleon's ass at Waterloo, to occupy the town of Plattsburgh. The local farmers – including the teenage Aiken boys – kicked their ass rather than be occupied. We think that we are so good, but the truth is quite different."



Peace Memorial: Veterans for Peace sign on John Conroy's farm.



War Memorial: "Near this spot Capt de Chazy, Soldier of France, was killed by Mohawk Indians, 1666"

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PJC MISSION

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



From the Desk of the Executive Director

Greetings!

As I sit down to write my very first message as the Peace & Justice Center's new executive director, I feel a wide range of emotions: Humbled yet proud, grateful and excited. To be chosen to guide the Peace & Justice Center into its next phase of existence is quite an honor. I look forward to my new role, which is evident by the insuppressible smile that continues to appear on my face.

I see my new post not only as a job and a challenge, but as something that will permeate my life...not in an unhealthy, obsessive way, but in a way that allows the language of peace and justice to become a part of me. I consider myself a very aware person. I never turn a blind eye to the suffering of others, but this job is calling me to take that awareness to the next level...to be forced on a day-to-day basis to see the interconnectedness of people, the economy, and the ripple effects of war and poverty. The humanness of this work is moving.

I am no stranger to humanity in the workplace. Since this is my first chance to address many of you, I want to give you a sense of some of the issues I have championed in the past. I helped the midwives of Vermont organize and have a voice at the State House, which culminated in passage of a midwives licensure bill. I worked to pass a medical marijuana law and helped set up the state registry, so that seriously ill Vermonters would have access to their medicine without fear of arrest and harassment. I rejuvenated an anti-domestic and sexual violence agency in Orange County to improve service delivery to victims.

It is humanity – humanness – and the championing of good, worthy, challenging (and not always popular) causes that are the common threads throughout my work. I am no stranger to fighting on behalf of the underdog. In fact, it is one of the things that I do best.

As executive director of the domestic violence agency, I saw firsthand what it meant for a portion of the population to live without peace or justice. The women we worked with lived in fear on a daily basis. Their oppression occurred at so many levels – psychological, physical, and economic. At the core of my being, I believe every person has the right to live free of violence and oppression. I know this is a lofty aim, but it is absolutely worth striving for.

Instead of taking the helm and changing course, my goal is to really listen and learn all I can about the Peace & Justice Center before diving into an agenda. The 30-year history of PJC is remarkable. I honor the founders and their vision. It is the shoulders of those founders on which we now stand. We must remember them as we forge a new path.

I extend my spirit of listening and learning, not only to the staff and board, but also to you, the membership. I welcome your comments, stories and passionate ideas. The pursuit of peace and justice in our state and in our world is not for the faint of heart. It cannot be attained by one person, or even a few people; it requires the work of many. I imagine us on this journey together. Close your eyes, and envision us on a march for peace together. Where to next?

I took the executive director position at PJC because I am a strong and passionate leader. I will competently lead, but you must provide the input. I welcome the possibilities before us and I look forward to what we will achieve together – the dedicated and intelligent staff; the committed, active and energized board; and the amazingly supportive members and our allies in the greater Vermont community. I believe everything we need to take the PJC to new heights is close at hand. I look forward to making it happen!

In celebration of Peace and Justice!

Nancy T. Lynch ☺



Nancy T. Lynch

Save the Date!

The 3rd Annual Peace & Justice Center Activist Awards and Celebration

August 29, Saturday, 6-10pm
Union Station, One Main St, Burlington

We are soliciting nominations for two awards:

■ The Ed Everts Award for Peace & Social Justice

Criteria:

- A long standing commitment to activism through volunteerism
- Understanding of the interconnectedness of the issues of economic and racial justice, peace, and human rights
- Educating the masses to issues that the media ignores
- Working collaboratively across sectors
- Inspiring others to action

■ The Up and Coming Social Justice Activist Award

(this award is for someone under 35)

Criteria:

- A commitment to activism through volunteerism
- Working collaboratively across sectors
- Inspiring others to action

Please send your suggestions for either award to Anise Richey at arichey@pjcv.org or mail to Anise at the PJC, 21 Church St, Burlington VT 05401 by **July 1st**. Please include their name and an explanation of why you are nominating them. ☺

Youth Activist Institute

In the last five years, we have seen a resurgence of high-school students becoming involved in the anti-war movement, as well as the struggle for economic justice and international human rights. There are also many students who are passionate about social justice and have not had the opportunity to learn the tools to engage in social movements.

As part of the Peace & Justice Center's mission statement, we strive for a more peaceful and just world through... Education. To this end, we are excited to announce the first Youth Activist Institute (YAI), sponsored by the New Visions Foundation and Seventh Generation.

YAI aims to engage high school aged youth in activism through community organizing and education. The goals of the Institute are to:

- Enhance peer-to-peer connections and peer-to-peer learning
- Build a community of youth activists that will sustain and support each other over time
- Cultivate tools and confidence for youth to go forward and build campaigns.

The YAI will be held June 26-28, at Castleton College, Castleton, VT.

The Institute is free of charge to 20 Vermont high school students. To date we have 17 high school students who will be attending, and an exciting list of prospective workshops to offer, including: media tactics, fair trade, current student social movements, local social movements, grassroots community organizing, challenging gender roles in activist communities, Theatre of the Oppressed, the legislative process, and more.

The program section is being developed with a Youth Advisory Council, comprised of youth activists and leaders in and around Chittenden County. We are also actively working with a high school intern through Linking Learning to Life at Essex High School, who is learning outreach, program development, and other skills at the PJC. For more information, visit our website:

<http://www.pjcv.org/youthactivistinstitute.htm> ☺



Let's turn up the heat!

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War is Not Healthy for Children and Other Living Things (nor our veterans or our economy)

By Jen Berger

When the House passed \$97 billion, and the Senate passed \$91.3 billion in “emergency” supplemental funding in mid-May, during an economic recession, for the continued US occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan, it brought new light to the discussion. The following is a partial list of what the funding approved by the Senate (including a \$5 billion International Monetary Fund request) aims to do:

- Fully fund current deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan and cover the addition of 21,000 troops in Afghanistan
- Appropriate \$700 million to the Department of Defense for transfer to executive agencies to expedite execution of those missions
- Provide \$2.5 billion in Special Transfer Authority
- Provide \$331.9 million to fund high priority intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance initiatives
- Provide an additional \$1.9 billion to cover identified military personnel shortfalls
- Provide \$73 billion for new non-emergency, discretionary spending authority for the Department of Defense for functions under the Defense Subcommittee’s jurisdiction
- \$18 million will: Provide pay and allowances for mobilized Reservists and Guardsmen and special pay and allowances for deployed active duty personnel
- Support required Pre- and Post-Mobilization Training for Reserve and Guard units.
- Fund the completion of Army and Marine Corps “grow the force” efforts.

(Source: US Senate Committee on Appropriations Press Release May 14, 2009)

With the US financial crisis, and the increasing healthcare crisis for veterans, we cannot afford these occupations anymore. The House vote passed 368-60. Massachusetts Democratic Congressman Jim McGovern was among the 60 ‘no’ votes. (As was Vermont Representative Peter Welch... Thank you Peter!) Not only did McGovern vote against the appropriations, he also introduced H.R. 2404, a house resolution requesting that President Obama provide an exit strategy for US military forces in Afghanistan by the end of the year. H.R. 2404 has 73 cosponsors and growing support of veterans who have served in Afghanistan. As the epidemic of veterans issues rises, theirs is a voice we need to listen to.

Jake Diliberto, a marine who served in Afghanistan in 2001, said, “Without an exit strategy, then the mission is doomed to fail.” In 2001 he strongly believed in the mission, but now states that the US presence has grown extremely unpopular among Afghans, as civilian casualties have increased.

Diliberto is among many service people who do not support these occupations. Specialist Victor Agosto of the US Army is refusing orders to deploy to Afghanistan. Agosto worked mostly in technology during his 13-month tour in Iraq, and does not claim to have had any traumatic experiences, yet acknowledges the guilt he experiences from his part in contributing to the human suffering of Iraqi civilians. His refusal to serve in Afghanistan is a moral decision. Just months short of completing his active duty, Agosto received stop-loss orders (stop-loss is the program the military uses to involuntarily keep soldiers enlisted beyond the terms of their contracts. Since September 11, 2001, more than 140,000 troops have received stop-loss orders. See the link on the PJC website, <http://www.pjcv.org/peacehr.htm>, to Channel 17’s program about Stop-Loss). He

replied in his correspondence with the military; “There is no way I will deploy to Afghanistan. The occupation is immoral and unjust. It does not make the American people any safer. It has the opposite effect.” And “I will not obey any orders I deem to be immoral or illegal.” He is unclear at this time what the repercussions will be, but a court martial and jail time appear imminent.

With a growing G.I. resistance movement and a growing unavailability of soldiers ready for combat, the military has been forced to instate the largest Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) recall since 2004. The IRR is sometimes called the Inactive Ready Reserve, and is composed of former military personnel who still have time remaining on their enlistment agreements but have returned to civilian life. They are eligible to be called up in “states of emergency”. The IRR resistance movement is also growing. (www.couragetoresist.org has specific information on resisting IRR for those who face this decision).

Continuing the occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan not only hurts our economy, it will continue to damage the lives of soldiers and marines. There is a dwindling pool of soldiers ready for deployment, according to the Pentagon. The number of soldiers that due to injury, are unavailable for combat, is the highest it has been since 2001. According to General Peter Chiarelli, the service’s vice chief of staff, about 20,000 soldiers are currently unavailable for combat because of wounds or injuries. Many of them are “trying to heal from past combat rotations. The most common health complaints are back and neck pains, in many cases from long periods of carrying heavy body armor, ammunition and weapons.” During the past two to three years, the number of soldiers held back from combat because of physical or emotional injuries has risen by 9% to 12%, according to Col. Debra Head, with

the Army's personnel management office.

Not only are veterans suffering wounds, injuries and other disabilities, active duty soldiers are suffering at a higher rate as well. In early May, a soldier waiting to be seen at a crisis clinic on his base in Iraq shot and killed five other soldiers in the clinic due to symptoms of PTSD.

Of the \$97 billion passed by the House, \$1.2 billion is allotted for defense health and programs to support military families. We cannot afford to attend to the health needs of our veterans now. How can we support 21,000 more soldiers, develop more weapons, and pay for more military contracts (Senator Leahy recently secured a \$37 million contract for General Dynamics in Burlington), if we cannot provide healthcare, housing and food for the citizens of this country? ☪



Events for August: Nuclear Free Future Month

AUGUST 6, THURSDAY

8am Hiroshima Silent Vigil, corner of Main St & S. Prospect St. Sponsored by the AFSC. Remembrance of the 64th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

Noon: Nuclear Disarmament Day observance, Burlington City Hall, Parade with Bread and Puppet's "We're All in the Same Boat" float plus food, speeches, music, peace crane folding, peace boats in Church Street fountain, videos at P&J Center. Artistic, Activists, Everyone Welcome. Guest Speaker TBA.

AUGUST 9, SUNDAY

11am Nagasaki Prayer Vigil. Place TBA. Sponsored by Pax Christi Burlington.

Noon to 4pm Nuclear Free Future activist event at Unitarian Universalist Society, food, and workshops on Vermont Yankee and depleted uranium. Lobbying workshop on both issues. Workshop leaders TBA.

For more info, please call Robin Lloyd at 802-862-4929 or robinlloyd@greenvalleymedia.org ☪



An Evening with Yakir Englander, Kids4Peace Jerusalem

Thursday June 11, 2009

7:00 - 8:30 pm

First Unitarian Universalist Society

152 Pearl St, Burlington

Yakir Englander will speak about interfaith dialogue and the profound effects of the recent war in Gaza on peacemaking efforts within the interfaith community. A veteran of the Israeli army and an Orthodox Jew, Mr. Englander will have many fascinating perspectives and stories on life in Israel/Palestine as it relates to the work, most particularly, of Kids4Peace Jerusalem. During the Gaza war, Jewish, Christian, and Muslim colleagues struggled to maintain their relationships, digging deep into their own traditions and how they were called to transcend their anger and continue to pursue peace as people of faith.

Mr. Englander is the Jerusalem Director of Kids4Peace 2009 Programs, and works together with Kids4Peace Vermont to bring interfaith dialogue to children in the midst of conflict.

Kids4Peace USA (www.kids4peaceusa.org) is a grassroots interfaith non-profit organization that will bring 36 11-12 year old Jewish, Muslim and Christian children – both Israelis and Palestinians from Jerusalem and the West Bank – to the States this summer. Kids4Peace Vermont (www.kids4peacevermont.org) will host and sponsor 12 of these children of Abraham, pairing them with Vermont "Peace Pals" of the same age, also of three faiths.

Kids4Peace Vermont is unique amongst the K4P USA chapters in that we gather American kids to be "Peace Pals" with their Jerusalem & West Bank counterparts. Together, the kids and their adult staff will have a transformative dialogue experience at a summer camp in Vermont in July and August this year.

Mr. Englander was born in Israel and raised in an orthodox Jewish family. He graduated from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and Hartmann Institute. He is working on his Ph.D. in Jewish Philosophy. Yakir has been a peace worker for Kids4Peace since 2004, and brings a depth of experience to the work of dialogue among the children of Abraham. ☪

Shopping for a Better World



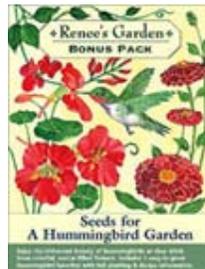
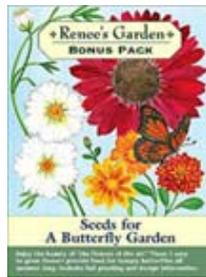
The Peace & Justice Store works to provide products that our customers can have confidence in by adhering to strict standards that ensure that our goods are Fair Trade, environmentally – friendly, educational, or inspire empowerment. In our campaign to challenge current injustices of international trade, we support and encourage companies that are attempting to provide fair access to the global market.

To purchase any of these items, come visit us or call 802-863-8326, ext. 2.

Gardening

■ **Renee's Garden:** vegetable and flower seeds \$2.79. Bonus Pack \$6.29

■ **Womenswork** garden hats \$35.50/\$37.50 and gloves \$24.95.



Made in Vermont Socks



■ **Solemate Socks.** These socks are knitted using recycled cotton yarns. These yarns are recovered from the production of other cotton products (mainly t-shirts), and rebled with other fibers and spun into yarns for Solemate Socks. Not only fun to wear, but American made and environmentally friendly!
\$19.50



Made in Vermont Bags



■ **Flashbags** was founded in 2006 and is based out of Burlington, VT. It started with one home sewing machine and one big idea and is growing by leaps and bounds. *Obama clutch* \$39.95. *Obama checkbook cover* \$27.95.



■ The making of **Monsoon Vermont's® Trashion™** heals the earth & helps alleviate poverty. Monsoon Vermont's Trashion™ is made from plastic trash that is collected from the environment by scavengers, triple washed, then artfully cut and collaged together by master tailors. *Small tote* \$29.95. *Wastebasket* \$27.95.



■ **Green Label Organic:** Sustainable Thread is a family owned and operated business located in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. \$33.50.

Organic T-Shirts



Flags



■ **Good Karma Flags** are inspired by Tibetan prayer flags. They support fair trade in their partnerships with the artisans and craftspeople they work with. All the batikers fix their own prices for their handicrafts. GKF strives to promote living wages, eco-friendly production, and fair policies with their workers. They make regular contributions to support Tibetan refugees in India and women-based charities around the world. \$46.00



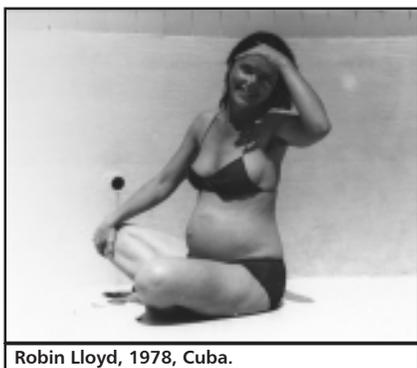
Robin's Nest

Flashback: Cuba, Ortega, and Me

By Robin Lloyd

I was pregnant in Cuba in 1978. A year later the Sandinistas gave birth to a revolution in Nicaragua.

What's the connection between these events? I pondered the personal and the political while visiting Cuba for 11 days this spring – checking in with four students in the Burlington College study abroad program, and hanging out with friends I made last year while resident manager of the program.



Robin Lloyd, 1978, Cuba.

My Cuba visit came right after President Obama loosened restrictions on Cuban-American travel, and also after the Trinidad-Tobago Summit of the Americas, where, as we all know, Obama shook hands with Hugo Chavez and accepted a gift from him, *The Open Veins of Latin America: Five Centuries of the Pillage of a Continent*, by Eduardo Galeano.

After the Summit Nicaraguan president, Daniel Ortega stopped in Cuba to debrief the country on what really happened. He spoke on the *Mesa Redonda*, or Round Table, Cuba's nightly news program. Hearing him carried me back to 1980, the first year of the Nicaraguan revolution. Ortega was a leading member of the Sandinistas, Vermont filmmakers and friends Jay Craven and Doreen Kraft were gathering equipment and funding to shoot *Dawn of the People: Nicaragua's Literacy Campaign*, and I traveled there for the first time.

But in 1978, in Cuba, I knew little about the storm brewing in Nicaragua. I was aware that the country was ruled by a dictator named Somoza, whose father had

been imposed on the country by the US, and that early on, the Somoza army had killed the revolutionary leader, Augusto Sandino. Maybe my new role as mother had distracted me from politics. Most people outside the Left and think tanks knew little about Latin American struggles in those days.

I asked Jay recently what sparked his interest in Nicaragua, and led him to make the film.

"During the summer of 1979," he wrote, "I participated in a terrific 'alternate cinema conference' at Bard College. The triumph of the Sandinistas occurred while we were there – and it was electrifying. I had been following the action, somewhat, especially the reports of ABC newsman Bill Stuart and his shooting by the Somoza guardsmen (on camera).

"But the spirit of the triumph moved through the conference like wildfire. It was a great event—politically charged and inspiring to action. So, I left with a sense that I wanted to be involved in some way."

During the winter of 1980, OXFAM invited Jay to join a delegation of journalists to Nicaragua. While there, he made contact with Fernando and Ernesto Cardinal, Miguel D'Escoto, and the Nicaraguan Film Institute, hoping to lay the groundwork for a documentary. "A student had told me about the literacy crusade and I read Paulo Freire's book *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*...so these were the combination of influences..."

I was still breast feeding, but I managed to join the film crew for two remarkable weeks, and accompanied some brigadistas (young literacy workers) into the mountains.

It was a time of hope, but hints of the gathering tragedy could be heard. In our film, completed in 1982, the grandmother of a brigadista says, "We worried for her safety because we had heard that some brigadistas had been raped on the northern border." These were of course

the Somoza guards who had reconstituted themselves in Honduras, and, with plentiful American funding during the Reagan administration, morphed into the Contras. Their guerrilla attacks on the northern and southern borders of Nicaragua deflected the energies of the new young government into war preparedness.

■ A Cat Can Look at a King

Daniel Ortega, a middle class militant jailed for seven years during the Somoza years for robbing a branch of the Bank of America to obtain money for the FSLN (Sandinista National Liberation Front), after leading the junta that took power in July, 1979, was elected president in 1984.



Daniel Ortega

He ran again and lost in 1990, 1996 and 2001.

After decades of crushed dreams and wrong turns – a revolution worn down by years of attrition, the Contra Wars, mistakes on the Atlantic Coast, three lost elections and 18 debilitating years of opposition, corruption and compromise, a long running lawsuit by his step-daughter accusing him of sexual abuse, and a recent alliance with a former enemy, the Catholic Church, to ban all abortions in Nicaragua – this scarred and battered ex-idealist finally got re-elected in 2008. At the Summit of the Americas, he delivered a 50 minute speech that Obama had to listen to. In a sense, the speech was an update of Galeano's book.

Ortega had a lot to get off his chest. He denounced US aggression in the region, focusing in particular on US support of dictator Anastasio Somoza and its "illegal" sponsorship of the Contras in the 1980s. He also criticized the embargo on Cuba and asked why the

Robin's Nest continued from page 8

island was not represented at the Summit.

In his interview a few days later, on the *Mesa Redonda*, he explained that in the late 70s and 80s he shook hands with Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan, and they continued their destabilization of his government. Obama, he declared, may be good at shaking hands, but he is "the head of an empire imprisoned by rules he can't change."

Ortega also exposed the hierarchical logistics of the Summit. On opening day, he noted, Latin American presidents arriving at the Trinidad-Tobago airport were stranded for three hours on the tarmac before disembarking. "There was a row of airplanes," he explained. "What happened is that we had to wait until the Emperor arrived." He and Presidents Michelle Bachelet of Chile, Evo Morales of Bolivia, Felipe Calderón of Mexico and Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva of Brazil, were basically held in airport limbo until Obama's plane landed. "That is a lack of respect," he said.

Concerning the length of his remarks at the Summit, Ortega clarified that, in a meeting before the Summit, the Central American states gave him their time for 10-minute introductory remarks so he would have sufficient opportunity to get his points across.

Ortega's speech was ridiculed by the US mainstream media. "A diatribe," "indulgent", "rambling," said Fox News. The Summit of the Americas has still not posted a transcript on its Website; they claim the Nicaraguan delegation has not provided one.

When asked what he thought of it, Obama reflected, "It was 50 minutes long: that's what I thought." Well, at least he sat through it. That is more than Bush would have done.

My son is now 30, and the Sandinistas will be embarking on their 30th anniversary, July 26. After many years out of power, and facing a changed world situation, will they be able to shed charges of corruption and infighting and improve the lives of the Nicaraguan people? Like Obama, Ortega has taken some positive steps, but faces a difficult road ahead. ☸

Pilgrimage continued from page 1

Last night I stayed with the McKay family in North Ferrisburgh, and after dinner I asked Rob McKay, who teaches philosophy at Norwich University, about his specialty in philosophy. He emerges with an obscure book about a 16th century Dutch philosopher, Hugo Grotius, who wrote masterfully about the concept of "just war."

Rob then speaks with deep scholarly knowledge about the history of pacifism and civil disobedience in America. It only reinforces my sense of the great gap between the history known to the academic world and public history, which remains conservatively wed to the main myths of American exceptionalism, leaving out the often painful history of the internal national struggles for justice.

I pass historical marker after marker, and of course, war memorial after war memorial, without a single memorial to creative conflict resolvers and fighters for social justice.

Today I am at Rokeby, home to generations of spirited and sensitive fighters for justice, and I feel so inspired by their stories, which I will share a little tonight with my "maps & dreams" show.

I am doing a peace meditation in all the forts and battlefields, and teaching it to as many young people as I can. ☸



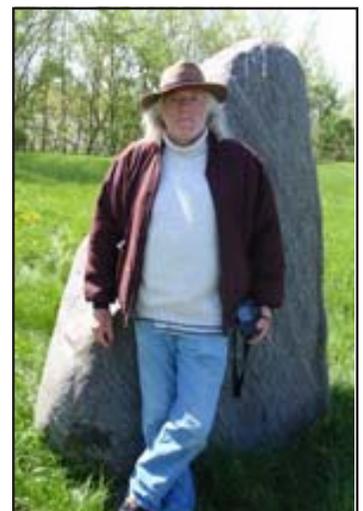
Doing the peace meditation in eurythmy with the 7th and 8th grade at the Lake Champlain Waldorf School.



Bob Gussner, who with Richard Deats, organized the first post-WW II peace march, from New Haven to New York City.



Shuleh "Sam" Pahl, who owns the Anchorage Motel in Rouse's Point, and gave me a room for the evening when he heard there was a pilgrim teaching at the high school over in Champlain. Sam spoke quite eloquently about his homeland's (India) tradition of hospitality, and the "WE." "I tell my children that with a clear heart and honesty you can go anywhere in the world," Sam said.



Denis Dugas, my host in Chamblay, who has done youth work all his life, having grown up in a bombed out neighborhood of London where he helped create "adventure playgrounds" after WW II.

CALENDAR

June 2009

[2] Tuesday

• 6:15pm **Burlington-Bethlehem-Arad Sister City** meeting at Burlington College, 95 North Ave., Burlington.

[7] Sunday

• 2pm **Vets for Peace** meet at PJC.

[8] Monday

• 7-9pm **Vermonters for a Just Peace in Palestine/Israel** meeting at PJC.

[10] Wednesday

• 6-8pm **Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)** meeting at the Peace & Justice Center. Info: 372-6117.

[11] Thursday

• 7pm An Evening with **Yakir Englander, Kids4Peace Jerusalem**. See p. 5.

[13] Saturday

• 7pm The First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington presents a live theatrical performance: **Clarence Darrow's Search for Justice** starring Gary Anderson, a nationally renowned Darrow portrayer. This is Darrow as a warrior, returning to engage our government and justice system in a presentation that trembles with inescapable timeliness. Darrow – the most hated and celebrated lawyer in American history. He fought creationism in public schools, racism, the death penalty, conspiracy laws, and attacks on civil liberties. Tickets \$10 advance; \$12 at the door. Tickets available at the UU Monday-Friday 8:30am-4pm. 862-5630 x24. (Attn: VT Attorneys. This show is on track to qualifying for CLE credit.)

[14] Sunday

• 6pm Black Sheep Books presents: **"Terrorizing Dissent"**, a report-back on the 2008 Republican National Convention protest and updates on the RNC 8 case. Following the screening there will be discussion about the implications of the case not just for mass mobilizations, but for all those organizing for social and economic justice. 5 State St, Montpelier, VT. <http://www.blacksheepbooks.org> 802-225-8906

[26-28] Friday-Sunday

• The PJC's **Youth Activist Institute** for high school aged youth at Castleton State College. See article on page 3. <http://www.pjcv.org/youthactivistinstitute.htm>

For more calendar events, join our email action alerts.

For Peace & Human Rights, email <peace@pjcv.org>

For The VT Livable Wage Campaign, email <livablewage@pjcv.org>



July 2009

[5] Sunday

• 2pm Vets for Peace meet at PJC.

[7] Tuesday

• 6:15pm **Burlington-Bethlehem-Arad Sister City** meeting at Burlington College, 95 North Ave., Burlington.

[8] Wednesday

• 6-8pm **Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)** meeting at the Peace & Justice Center. Info: 372-6117.

[9] Thursday

• 7pm **Carolyn Baker**, author and philosopher, will discuss her new book, *Sacred Demise: Walking the Spiritual Path of Industrial Civilization's Collapse* at the Friends' Meeting House, 173 N. Prospect St, Burlington. Come at 6pm for a potluck dinner.

[13] Monday

• 7-9pm **Vermonters for a Just Peace in Palestine/Israel** meeting at PJC.

[17-19] Friday-Sunday

• **6th Annual DemocracyFest**: a political festival for liberal/progressive activists which features trainings, speakers, and entertainment; teaching people how to make a difference and have fun doing it! Prior DemocracyFests have been held in MA, TX, CA, NH and VA. Over 4,000 activists have been trained to help on campaigns and make a difference in their communities. This year it will be in Burlington, VT. Democracy for Vermont is this year's host. For tabling and other information: Jessica at 802-483-4330 or jjem1999@yahoo.com.

[25] Saturday

• 10am-5pm **Pride Festival** in Battery Park, Burlington VT.

Vermont Peace Vigils

- Barton: 12-12:30pm Fridays on the Common
- Brattleboro: Saturday, 11-12, Post Office
- Bristol: 5-6pm Fridays, corner of Main & North Sts.
- Burlington: 5-5:30pm M-F: Top of Church St.
- Chester: Saturdays, 11-11:30am, Town Green
- Enosburg Falls: 5-5:30pm Saturdays, Main St. side of Lincoln Park
- Hardwick: 5-6pm Fridays, Peace Park
- Marshfield: Fridays; 4-5pm Rte 2
- Middlebury: 10:30-11am Saturdays, corner of Main & Merchant's Way
- Montpelier: 12-1pm Fridays, Federal Building
- Newport: 4-4:30pm Wednesdays in front of State Office Building
- Richmond: 5:30pm Thursdays, Congregational Church, Bridge St
- Rutland: 12-1pm, Fridays, Main St. Park, corner of West and Main
- St Johnsbury: Fri. 4-5pm, in front of the Main St. post office
- South Royalton: Thursdays, 4:30-5:30pm, on the bridge into town
- Vergennes: Saturdays, 10-11am, Vergennes City Green
- Williston: 5:15-5:45pm 1st Wednesdays, steps of Williston Federated Church

 Economic Justice

Livable Jobs Toolkit Workshop a Success

By *Colin Robinson*

Recognizing the unique challenges of the current economic crisis for both working Vermonters and businesses alike, we at the Peace & Justice Center and the Vermont Livable Wage Campaign, have been working in collaboration with VT Businesses for Social Responsibility (VBSR) on a plan to help all Vermonters meet their bottom line. To this end, on April 29th, the Peace & Justice Center in conjunction with VBSR and VT Human Resources Association hosted the first of several workshops, titled “Managing and Retaining Employees in Hard Economic Times: Using the Livable Jobs Toolkit” at Main Street Landing in Burlington. 24 businesses and non-profits, ranging from media outlets to local banks, turned out to learn about the Toolkit and to discuss how to continue to help employees meet their basic needs in the current economic climate.

The Livable Jobs Toolkit, as many of you know, was developed by VBSR in collaboration with the PJC when Ellen Kahler was Executive Director. The Toolkit was created as a guide for businesses striving to provide compensation for employees that will enhance their way of life, beyond just the benefits package. Based in the livable wage and basic needs budget methodology, the Toolkit helps employers move towards being able to ensure that all their employees are compensated enough to allow them to pay their bills. This unique resource offers three levels of “tools”, from no-cost or low-cost options to more complex investments, for employers to move towards providing livable jobs and wages to their employees. Workshop participants were fortunate to have two Toolkit experts, former VBSR Executive Director Spence Putnam and Ellen Kahler, on hand to lead the workshop.

Creative compensation was a big part of the discussion: introducing flex time, carpool compensation, employee loan programs, and child care co-ops. Benefits such as these can be added with little cost to a business, but greatly improve the well-being and productivity of employees. Justin Worthley from Rhino Foods was also present to discuss the innovative programs they have been using with their employees.

Overall the workshop was a great success, and WCAX was there to cover the event. The attendees left with their own Livable Jobs Toolkits, and a list of contacts to continue the discussion.

As we move through 2009 we plan to continue to build upon this partnership with VBSR and Vermont Human Resources Association and hope to bring this workshop to both Southern and Central Vermont in the coming months. If you know of any businesses, non-profits or other organizations that would like to participate in one of these workshops or to receive a copy of the Livable Jobs Toolkit, send us an email at livablewage@pjcv.org or call 802-863-2345 x8.

■ VLWC - Legislative Update 2009

The first half of the 2009-2010 legislative biennium was dominated by several big issues related to the economy: budget cuts, Vermont Yankee, renewable energy and marriage equality. The VLWC had hoped that the issue of guaranteed Paid Sick Days would move forward this half of the session, but with the introduction of H. 382 in late February it became clear that with the “big issues” on the table, it wasn’t going to move.

Therefore, we spent time working in coalition to help stop some of the most egregious state budget cuts, as part of the Save Our State coalition. Helping to mobilize Vermonters to attend rallies, contact their legislators and the governor we were able to help win some minor victories, helping to make clear that what we have is not a spending problem but a revenue problem. Though, as we write this the budget isn’t resolved, there has been a recognition that just cutting will not get Vermonters back on their feet.

In addition to helping shift the conversation on the budget cuts, at the beginning of the session it became clear that in 2009 we could see the Consumer Price Index (CPI) actually go down for the first time in decades. This economic measure is what the Vermont minimum wage is adjusted by, each January 1st. Realizing that there was no language in the minimum wage statute to prevent the minimum wage from being negatively adjusted if the CPI were to decline we helped to monitor the passage of language to make sure that the minimum wage will never decline. Passed within the huge Economic Development bill, this small adjustment will mean that the lowest paid Vermonters will not risk seeing their paychecks decline in January 2010.

As we look towards the second half of the 2009-2010 biennium we feel confident that we will be able to move H. 382, the paid sick days legislation, forward. In late May we held a very successful press conference, where with some strong support from our lead sponsors we launched Campaign 2010 – Paid Sick Days for Vermont – to push for passage by the end of 2010. With any luck and a lot of hard work and help from you all we can make this a reality. 

Bread & Puppet Museum & Theater

The Bread & Puppet Museum will celebrate its 34th season with an Open House on Sunday, June 7, from 1 to 4pm. Starting July 3 there will be evening performances every Friday at 8pm in the Paper-Mache Cathedral; and shows every Sunday afternoon in the Circus Field (weather permitting), all of July and August. The Bread & Puppet Museum is open 10am to 6pm daily June 1 to Nov. 1, and it is located on Rt. 122 (off Rt. 16) in Glover, VT. Admission is free, donations are welcome. For more information, call 802-525-3031 or check www.breadandpuppet.org. 





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