



HIGHLIGHTS

PAGE 2

■ **30th Anniversary Photos**

A collage of the day's events from the cake parade on Church St, to the the human timeline, to the hundreds of origami cranes.

PAGE 3

■ **Bailout People Not Banks**

April 4th march on Wall Street.

PAGE 4-5

■ **Economic Justice**

New Livable Wage figures. Save Our State: Not only is this the worst time to cut programs, but in these hard economic times we must be investing in Vermonters and their families more then ever.

PAGE 6-7

■ **Unified Economic Development Budget Report**

The report is supposed to provide the legislature with information about how much is spent for economic development, for what, and with what results.

PAGE 8-9

■ **Robin's Nest**

**The Vermont Movie.** A collaboration with 23 Vermont filmmakers for the Quadracentennial events this summer.

PAGE 10

■ **Calendar**

March 10: **"Rethinking Afghanistan,"** a lecture by peace scholar and advocate, Dr. George Lopez.  
 March 21: **March on the Pentagon.**

PAGE 11

■ **Green Mtn Film Festival**

Some of the films being shown in Montpelier.

# peace & justice news

A PUBLICATION OF THE PEACE & JUSTICE CENTER

## These Numbers Don't Add Up

By Jen Berger

President Obama just ordered an additional 17,000 US soldiers to be sent to Afghanistan. 12,000 combat troops received deployment orders, and additional 5,000 combat support units will deploy at a later date. The cost to deploy a single soldier to Iraq or Afghanistan, paid by us – the taxpayers, is \$775,000 per year, writes Paul Craig Roberts in an article posted on Counterpunch.

With our economy in crisis, it should be clear what the mission is, right? Well, according to an article posted on Bloomberg.com (a media site focused towards financial and business professionals), NBC asked military officials about the Afghanistan mission. "Frankly we don't have one... They're working on it" NBC reports was the response. The article also states "Speaking to House Democrats on Feb. 5, Obama admitted that the government does not know what its mission is in Afghanistan and that it needed to be clarified to avoid "mission creep without clear parameters." Well, at \$775,000 per soldier, and with an average of 800,000 Americans becoming unemployed monthly, I would hope they would have a clear plan how the money is being

spent.

Where are they getting the troops for these deployments? The Stop-loss policy (a military policy that involuntarily extends a term of service once the active duty portion of the contract is fulfilled) is still in effect. Soldiers who have served one to three tours are now being re-deployed to Afghanistan.

In addition to Stop-loss, the Army is undertaking the largest IRR recall since 2004. IRR, or Individual Ready Reserve, sometimes called the Inactive Ready Reserve, 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". Thousands of veterans are now challenged with the decision to reactivate and leave the lives they are just returning to. What most members of the IRR do not know is that the recall is not mandatory; they do not fall under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) until they report for re-activation. After being discharged by the military, veterans are under civilian law. For more information on the IRR, and how to resist, go to [www.couragetoresist.org/irr](http://www.couragetoresist.org/irr).

The military is also instituting a policy that will begin recruiting skilled immigrants, with temporary visas, promising them a chance to become citizens in as little as six months. Previously, immigrants with green cards have been eligible to enlist, but now anyone who is not 'illegal' can enlist. The military is stating shortages in medical care,

### VT BUS TO DC

March 2009 marks the start of the 7th year of the Iraq War and Occupation. There will be a national demonstration in Washington DC on March 21. The Peace & Justice Center has a bus going down, leaving Burlington at 9pm Friday, March 20, and stopping in Berlin, WRJ, and Brattleboro. Cost \$95.

# peace & justice news

## EDITORS

Wendy Coe  
Gene Bergman  
Robin Lloyd

## PUBLISHED

10/year  
(See form on page 12)

## CIRCULATION

1,600

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

21 Church Street  
Burlington, VT 05401  
802.863.2345  
fax: 802.863.2532  
www.pjcv.org  
wcoe@pjcv.org

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(alphabetical order)

Linda Ayer  
Gene Bergman  
Katina Cummings  
Stacy Graczyk  
Woody Keppel  
Hilary Martin-chair  
Tiffany Silliman  
Andy Snyder  
Wayne Turiansky-treas  
Ed Everts, *emeritus*

## STAFF

Jen Berger  
Kathy Bouton  
Wendy Coe  
Surbhi Godsay  
Jennifer Reay  
Anise Richey  
Colin Robinson

## 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.



PJC's 30th Anniversary Celebration  
1/30/09

**Numbers** continued from page 1

language interpretation and field intelligence analysis. It is a pilot program, states a Pentagon official, limited to 1,000 enlistees the first year. Pentagon officials also state that they are looking for native Arabic (among other languages) speakers to assist in operations in the Middle East. Spanish speakers need not apply.

“As casualties in Iraq mounted, the Army began luring new soldiers by increasing signing bonuses for recruits and accepting a greater number of people who had medical and criminal histories, who scored low on entrance exams and who failed to graduate from high school,” writes Lizette Alvarez in a New York Times article. “The recession has provided a jolt for the Army, which hopes to decrease its roster of less qualified applicants in the coming year”.

The US military has also seen a rise in recruits due to an increase in unemployment. Historically, when unemployment rates climb, so do military enlistments. On the average, the military has seen a 16% increase in recruits since November 2008. With high school graduates struggling to get financial aid for college and seeing less prospects post-college, and the change in age limit for the Army (it was changed from 35 to 42 in 2006 to increase possible enlistments) the military is looking like an option for more people.

While the military may promise economic security, health benefits and job skills, the US government is still unable to support the needs of its veterans. The Veterans Administration is still struggling for enough resources to meet the needs of veterans, and is still highly short staffed. In Vermont, we are facing unprecedented budget cuts, yet we are allowing 1,700, almost half of the Vermont National Guard to be deployed

to Afghanistan by the end of the year. According to the Bring the Guard Home Campaign ([www.bringtheguardhome.org](http://www.bringtheguardhome.org)), this is illegal. In addition, there has been a six-fold increase in Iraq war veteran suicides since last year. The numbers do not add up.

Call Washington DC at 202-456-1111 and tell the Administration that we want:

1. A reduction of troop levels in Afghanistan
2. Rapid withdrawal of all US troops from Afghanistan and Iraq
3. A commitment to diplomacy involving all major regional players, including major international peace-keeping bodies
4. Addressing the real needs of Afghans by funding development assistance for Afghanistan’s basic human needs -- health care, clean water, education, security, rights for women and girls -- through Afghani NGOs, using local labor and services

- Continue to join the Save our State (SOS) coalition at state-wide vigils and at the statehouse to testify against budget cuts.
- Contact the Vermont Military Affairs committee and demand that we not lose nearly half of our National Guard to deployment to Afghanistan.
- Support Rep. Michael Fisher in getting the Bring the Guard Home bill passed in the legislature. [mfisher@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:mfisher@leg.state.vt.us)  
Phone: (802) 828-2247
- Continue to educate about alternatives to military service.
- Invite the Recruiting for Peace Campaign to your local school, library, coffee shop or potluck to learn more. 863-2345 x5. ☎

**Bail Out People not Banks!**

**March on Wall Street April 4**

The Wall Street march will take place during the same week that the G20 countries are holding their second emergency global economic crisis summit meeting in London on April 2 and 3, which will be followed immediately by a 60th Anniversary of NATO summit meeting in Strasbourg, France on April 4. Both meetings will be the focus of strong protests against war and for economic justice.

The march on Wall Street has been planned to coincide with the anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. There are many reasons one could think of to do this. Just as Dr. King knew that the Civil Rights Movement would not be viable unless it was also part of the antiwar movement, he knew that freedom would never be possible until everyone had the right to a job with a living wage, or an income. This was the message that Dr. King spent the last year of his life trying to convey. And it’s a message that could hardly be more relevant today. Another important message from Dr. King reminds us of what is so fundamental to his legacy, “Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed.”

People have been waiting for the call for a National March on Wall Street that demands a Bail Out of the People, not the Banks. That call has been issued; support for it is growing. See [www.bailoutpeople.org](http://www.bailoutpeople.org) for more information.

The Peace & Justice Center has a bus going down, leaving Burlington, and stopping in Berlin, WRJ, and Brattleboro. Cost \$65. ☎

**Thanks!**

A big thank you to our Phonathon callers in February for volunteering their time and energy.  
A very special thanks to American Flatbread, Stone Soup and Ben & Jerry’s for generously providing food for our Phonathon callers in February.  
Thanks to Cheese ‘N Crust Souperstar Kiosk for donating food to the Vermont Peace Economy Coalition’s Campaign Development Summit.

**Thanks Again!**

Thank you for helping out with our 30th Anniversary Celebration: 34 cake bakers, Ben & Jerry’s, Boloco, Chittenden Bank, Champlain Orchards, Healthy Living, Hannaford’s, Office of the Mayor of Burlington, and the Starline Rhythm Boys!

Please support these local businesses who support Peace & Justice.



## Economic Justice

# Earning a Livable Wage

By Colin Robinson

**I**n January 2009 the VLWC received some very good press about the January 1st minimum wage increase, including articles in every major newspaper in the state, on Vermont Public Radio and on several television stations. Additionally, we ran an opinion piece that appeared in the Rutland Herald, Times Argus and the Burlington Free Press. Finally, with the new livable wage figures coming out, we were lucky enough to have the Brattleboro Reformer print an editorial based upon our information. To see any of the media coverage – visit the new media link on our website [www.vtlivablewage.org](http://www.vtlivablewage.org). What follows is the press release that was sent out on January 15<sup>th</sup> about the new livable wage numbers.

On Thursday, January 15, 2009 the Vermont Joint Fiscal Office released updated livable wage calculations within the 2009 Basic Needs Budgets Report. The Report contains six different family budgets that total the cost of basic needs such as food, housing, transportation, health care, child care, and personal



expenses. The livable wage is the hourly wage or annual income sufficient to meet an individual's or family's basic needs in Vermont. The 2009 Report reflects a combination of data on basic needs expenses from 2007 and 2008 by federal and state agencies and resources.

The 2009 livable wage figures as compared to 2007 increased (last year the Office released a similar report) on average by 18.11% for urban figures and by 13.31% for rural figures. In comparison, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) used to adjust the Vermont minimum wage in 2007 and 2008 was 2% and 5% respectively. CPI is one measure of the rate of inflation in the U.S. The Vermont Department of Labor uses the average CPI from the period from September 1 to August 31 for the annual minimum wage adjustment. The Vermont minimum wage increased on January 1, 2009 to \$8.06.

"Livable wage figures are the real indication of the cost of living in Vermont," said Colin Robinson, Director of the Peace & Justice Center's Vermont Livable Wage Campaign. "We continue to see a much larger increase in the livable wage from year to year because it is based on the cost of real basic needs that exist in Vermont. These figures reflect the increasing costs of housing, heating, transportation, health care and child care costs, to name a few. Vermont is certainly not becoming more affordable."

As one example, in 2009 a single parent with two children will need an average of \$29.98/hr to keep up with the costs of basic needs (assumes employer provided health insurance). The 2007 average livable wage figure was \$25.59/hour—a 17.2% increase. At Vermont's current minimum wage of \$8.06/hour, a single parent would need to work 3 full time (120/hrs a week) minimum wage jobs just to make ends meet.

Here are the average 2009 livable wage figures (rural and urban figures) with employer provided health insurance:

- **\$16.75/hr. (\$34,840/yr)** for a single person;
- **\$13.07/hr. each (\$54,371/yr total household income)** for two adults, no children
- **\$24.04/hr. (\$50,003/yr)** for a single parent with one child;
- **\$29.98/hr. (\$62,358/yr)** for a single parent with two children;
- **\$30.67/hr. (\$63,794/yr)** for a family with two parents and two children (one wage earner);
- **\$19.41/hr. each (\$80,746/yr total household income)** for a family with two children (two wage earners)

"Many working Vermonters are falling within the wage gap between the minimum wage and the livable wage," argues Robinson. "When 45% of all jobs in Vermont pay a median wage below the livable wage for a single person, there is a structural problem with the Vermont economy. If the primary purpose of the economy is to create jobs and opportunity, it is not working for many Vermonters. The state needs to do more to develop livable wage jobs to better support the existing workforce—this should be the central issue for strategic and sustainable economic development."

The assumptions and methodology used to calculate the 2009 Basic Needs Budget was reviewed in the summer and fall of 2008 by a committee of legislators and community members. The Legislature asked for the committee to be convened in an effort to ensure the numbers remained relevant to Vermont families and businesses and truly reflective of costs. The Vermont Livable Wage Campaign supported this review in an effort to ensure that these numbers continue to truly reflect the costs Vermonters face. Unlike the Federal Poverty Measure, which has not had a methodological reassessment is over five decades, the basic needs budget remains an effective tool for assessing the cost of living in Vermont.

"It is hoped that by reducing the costs of basic needs for working Vermonters and businesses alike," Robinson says, "as well as increasing wages, we can create an economy where everyone can make a livable wage and Vermont's businesses can thrive." ☺

# Continued Effort to Save our State

By Colin Robinson

As you all read in last month's newsletter and have been hearing in the media, Vermont, like most states, is running into some serious budget issues. There has been an outcry against them. The Save our State coalition (SOS), of which we are a leading member, has been helping to bring the budget cuts out of the dark and demanding that we find new revenue sources. As a coalition, we recognized that this is not a spending problem but a revenue problem, and only by finding new revenue sources can we truly find a sustainable solution to the problem.

Not only is this the worst time to cut programs, but in these hard economic times we must be investing in Vermonters and their families more than ever. We must be working to make health care more affordable for all; we must be expanding benefits. Fortunately, because of the participation of many of you our message is getting out, but the fight isn't over.

Many of you joined the very successful February 2<sup>nd</sup> SOS candlelight vigils that happened in 13 communities across the state. Over 700 Vermonters came out in every corner of the state from Bennington to Newport, to highlight the urgency and opposition to the budget cuts. The message was widely picked up by almost every major newspaper, radio and television station in the state. Building upon this statewide action, which all came together in two weeks, there were several hundred Vermonters who turned out on a weekday -- Tuesday February 10<sup>th</sup> -- on the State House lawn to rally against the budget cuts. The

participants gathered on the State House lawn, but also took their message inside directly to legislators.

The message is getting out and some legislators, like Rep. Mike Fisher, are taking bold action to introduce legislation that would do what Gov. Snelling did in 1990 and raise taxes, especially on the richest Vermonters. As town meeting recess approaches and our legislators come home, we all must make sure that our elected officials know that we need to raise new revenue and not cut programs for the most vulnerable Vermonters. We must make our voices loud and clear.

The buzz words of 2008 were "change" and "hope", but unfortunately, with the economic crisis the change that is happening is quickly crushing all hope. The true change that needs to happen is seizing this historic moment to rethink the role that government plays. We need to make sure our government is ensuring that every Vermonter can meet one's basic needs, that health care is a right and not a privilege, that housing is affordable, and that Vermonters can thrive. We can't just hope for this change to happen, because as we have seen, the reaction has been to try to cut the way out of a revenue problem. We must act, speak out and get involved.

During the month of March more actions and efforts will be made by the SOS coalition to make sure this doesn't happen, but it relies on your voice. Efforts are still being planned, but if you would like to get involved in helping Save our State give us a call at 802-863-2345 x8 or email [livablewage@pjcvt.org](mailto:livablewage@pjcvt.org).

## Don't Freak Out...

### "Meditation for World Peace"

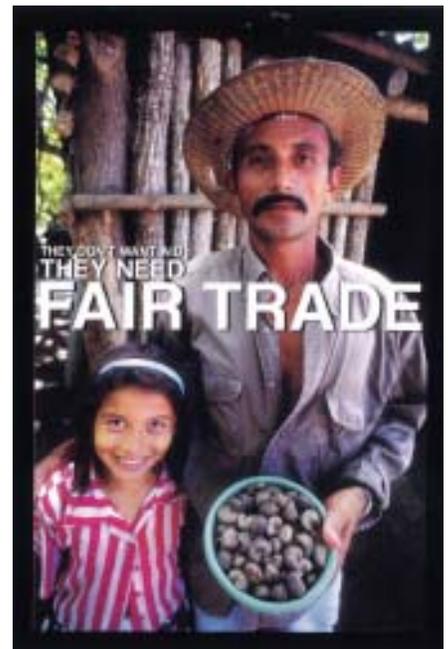
Right now we are all faced with fear and anxiety. It's difficult to stay calm. "Meditation for World Peace" is an hour of guided visualization to help you let go of worry and bring you to an experience of inner peace. We will then extend that energy as a gift to the world.

Meditation is the Art of Observation. Learning to observe your thoughts and feelings allows you to expand your awareness. Awareness allows the very real energy created by emotions and thoughts to transform. As our bodies release energy there is more room for what is called your Ch'i, your essence, your soul. As you get grounded and come back into your body, you calm down.

This Meditation Group is drop-in.  
Cost: Donation for the Food Bank.  
Second Sunday of every month. 5-6pm.  
March 8 and April 12.

Postcards available at the

**peace justice** | store



#### ■ VLWC on Vermont Public Television

As we mentioned in the January newsletter, on January 29<sup>th</sup> the VLWC appeared on the Vermont Public Television program *Public Square*. We were joined on the live call-in program by former PJC Executive Director Ellen Kahler, Kathy Brooks of Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, and Will Patten of Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility. The program provided a great platform to discuss the brand new livable wage figures that came out on January 15<sup>th</sup>. If you missed the program you can find a link to it on our website [www.vtlivablewage.org](http://www.vtlivablewage.org).

# 2009 Unified Economic Development Budget Report: 10 VSA §2

By Doug Hoffer

The Unified Economic Development Budget (UEDB) grew out of Phase 9 of the *Vermont Job Gap Study*. The intent is to provide the legislature with information about how much is spent for economic development (ED), for what, and with what results. The 2009 report answers the first two questions, but failed (again) to answer the third. In the absence of objective and reliable performance data, policy makers cannot make informed decisions about resource allocation.

For the third year in a row, the report noted *“a lack of clear and measurable goals for each initiative / program.”*

This is a disturbing admission since tens of millions of dollars are at stake. Notwithstanding the lack of detailed performance measures, the report could have reported readily available data on jobs.

For example, the graph below shows that Vermont’s job growth mirrors the national rate, although a bit lower. But after recovering the jobs lost during the last recession, Vermont’s growth rate flattened as the national economy continued to grow and the gap widened.

While this measure can’t tell us about individual programs, it gives us context about the broad goals of ED.

The report provides expenditure data beginning with July 2005. Since then, Vermont has lost 4,100 private sector jobs. [Note that the decline began in Dec. 2006, long before this current recession.] During that period, the state appropriated \$130 million and has spent over \$100 million.

Thus, we’ve spent **\$100 million** and have **4,100 fewer jobs today than**

## when we started.

The failure to present this type of information raises questions about the UEDB process and the willingness of the administration to take a hard look at the facts. Let’s look briefly at some of the other requirements of the statute.

### 1. *“A report of progress in developing consistent and measurable benchmarks of job creation.”*

The administration reported no progress whatsoever. This is what the administration said:

*“As recommended in the initial UEDB Report dated January 18, 2007, a [group of experts] should be created and authorized by the Legislature to develop a proposed definition of economic development for the State of Vermont ...and to create useful, achievable benchmarks and measurements for programs that do not have previously determined measures, and improving existing measures where appropriate.”*

This is a remarkable statement. Why –

after three years – has the administration not undertaken this work? And why should they need authorization from the legislature to instruct its staff to work together to solve a problem?

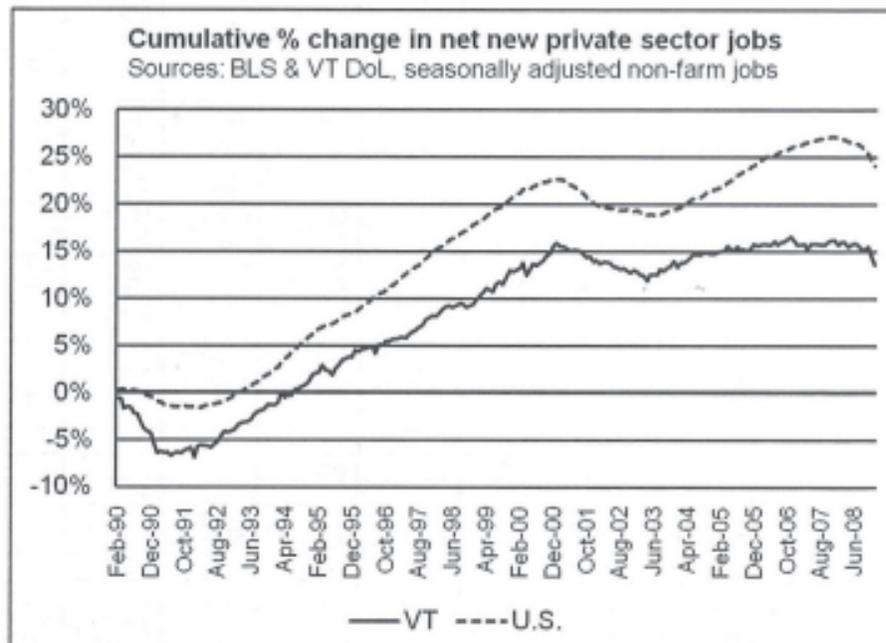
2. *“...the commissioner...shall review...10 V.S.A. §§ 2 and 7, and 32 V.S.A. § 307(c), and recommend how to consolidate and coordinate these reports... to enable continuing review and oversight by the general assembly.”*

This is important because the two statutes call for disclosure and performance reporting. They are both over ten years old. The Agency of Commerce has never complied with either one.

## ■ What’s missing?

● Last year’s UEDB discussed different types of ED spending and attempted to describe core, indirect, and other activities. But the 2009 report only included spending for “core” activities. This is a significant omission. “Indirect” activities is subjective, but I think most would agree that 1) higher education is critical (workforce development advocates think so);

2) affordable housing is widely recognized as an ED problem; 3) child care (quite apart from its many other social and educational merits) is essential for the labor market; as are 4) transportation; 5) land conservation; 6) energy efficiency, and so on. These activities are fairly characterized as dual purpose and should be covered in the UEDB. Together, they represent an additional \$100 - \$200 million per year.



● The data on tax expenditures did not include the 40% capital gains exclusion. It took effect in 2003. Through 2006 (latest data available), it has cost the state \$160 million. If it's intended to help promote investment in Vermont, that's ED and it should be included. If it's not about ED, then why do we do it?

**Thus, the total amount spent in the last four years is probably close to \$500 million; quite a bit more than the \$130 million reported.**

### ■ Performance data

The report included performance data from VT Economic Progress Council (VEPC), but it is not reliable. When calculating awards, the goal is to "incent" only incremental job growth. That is, jobs that would not normally be created based on the company's history. But VEPC uses the industry average growth rate instead of the company's actual historic growth. The Auditor found that the use of the industry average resulted in the state paying for some jobs that would have been created without the incentives. Thus, the VEPC data almost certainly overstates the jobs impact of the program.

### ■ Big Picture

As noted above, there is reason to question the efficacy of the strategies now employed. Not that all the money was wasted. Indeed, some may have helped prevent even greater job losses, although we can only speculate about that since it's impossible to measure what didn't happen.

What I'm saying is that the state has very little control over private sector job growth. The most significant factors are beyond our control: the business cycle, interest rates, trade agreements, currency exchange rates, and federal spending are the real drivers. We need an aggressive strategy. But what we're doing today is not sufficient to overcome the large forces at work. A few additional examples help reinforce this view.

### ■ Financial Services

The financial services tax credit program (sunsetted in '06) was supposed to create clean new jobs. But job growth was positive before the program and generally

continued with little change. Two of the three sectors grew during the market expansion in the late '90s but leveled off or declined with the recession.

Lessons? First, we didn't need the program since the industry was already growing. Second, if the jobs created are lost when times are bad, then tax "incentives" are not long-term investments. In the end, **we "spent" \$10 million in foregone revenues, but we have 32 fewer jobs now than before the last recession.**

### ■ Exports

The UEDB reported that the state spent \$855,000 to boost exports in the last four years (Global Trade Partnership & Agric. Exports). But the most recent available data shows that **Vermont exports have declined by 26% since 2005.** And what we sell overseas is only half the story. Data from the U.S. Dept. of Labor's Trade Adjustment Assistance program indicates that Vermont lost 2,384 jobs from 2003 to 2007 due to foreign competition or jobs moved offshore. So what did we get for the \$855,000?

### ■ Recruitment

The report noted that the state spent \$1.6 million on recruitment over the last four years. But the jobs impact of interstate business moves is a tiny portion of total job creation and destruction. What did we get for the money?

### ■ Where do we go from here?

The UEDB is a tool for policy makers. It's a reminder that decisions should be made based on research and analysis instead of anecdotes from self-interested parties. Unfortunately, a lack of staff and other resources combined with political expediency leads to the same outcome every year; greater reliance on wasteful tax "incentives".

At present, the legislature is following the old playbook. The desire to "do something" has once again triumphed over the need for a broader vision and careful deliberation.

A better approach is to invite a range of proposals. Estimate the costs and benefits of all of them so they can be compared fairly. Only then can legislators make informed decisions about how to allocate scarce resources.

Many thoughtful legislators acknowledge the problem. So why does nothing change? That could be the subject of another piece. For now, we're left with the only tool we have. Contact your legislators, especially those on the committees of jurisdiction. Tell them Trickle Down has failed and it's time to move on. Tell them to slow down. Tell them to insist on more research. Tell them to consider alternatives. Tell them not to be afraid. ☺

#### House Commerce Committee and House Ways & Means Committee members & e-mail addresses

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/lms/legdir/comms.asp?Body=H>  
<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/lms/legdir/alpha.asp?Body=H>

#### Senate Economic Development Committee and Senate Finance Committee members & e-mail addresses

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/lms/legdir/comms.asp?Body=S>  
<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/lms/legdir/alpha.asp?Body=S>

### Volunteers For Peace Scholarships

Volunteers For Peace (VFP) currently has two scholarship types available. VFP Scholarships are available to volunteers who would like to participate in either a US or an international voluntary service project. We currently have five basic scholarships (includes a waiver of the \$300 VFP Registration Fee) and three **Pierre Ceresole Memorial Scholarships** (includes a waiver of the \$300 VFP Registration Fee as well as a \$500 travel stipend) available. Applications must be received on or before March 16, 2009.

Please visit the **VFP Scholarship website** (<http://www.vfp.org/scholar.html>) for additional information including the scholarship requirements and application forms.



Robin's Nest

## The Vermont Movie

By Robin Lloyd

**F**reedom and Unity: Is our state founded on an oxymoron? These are two qualities that seem by definition to oppose each other, unless you look more deeply at their meaning. If unity is freely chosen, not imposed, then might it not be possible for the two to coexist in a kind of creative tension?

This is the theme running through Nora Jacobson's film project – a collaboration with some 23 Vermont filmmakers (including me) tentatively called The Vermont Movie. She has assembled not just filmmakers, but technical advisors and historians to help her flesh out the project for completion by the time of the Quadracentennial events this summer.

### ■ Covering the Quad

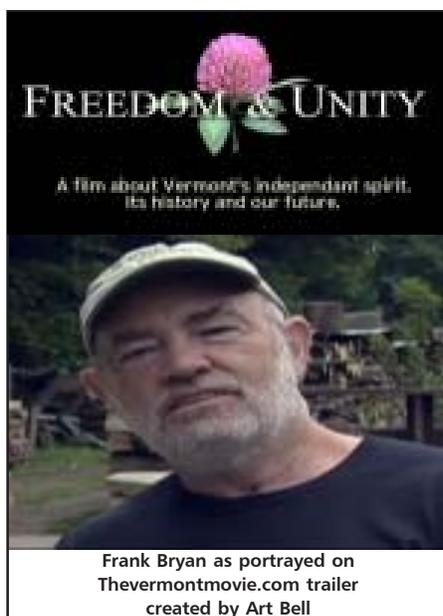
Vermont Life is covering the Lake's early history and tourism, Burlington City Arts will be presenting French and Quebec culture, and the Echo Center is devoting their space to 'Indigenous Expressions'. For many, the Lake is the focus; but Nora, and the rest of us, want to hold the state itself 'in the light'. This little bit of land called Vermont – split in half by a mountain range, drained by two watersheds; squabbled over at birth by its neighbors, colonized from the north by French fur traders and from the south by English farmers – does have a unique and independent history.

Professor and historian Frank Bryan thinks that the freedom and unity concept "expresses the essence of Vermont." Indeed, he has written in a letter supporting the project, "scholars all over America are continually befuddled by the way Vermont takes on the most important question of political history – from the Greeks to the present day: which is 'how to preserve individual liberty in the context of collective communal enterprise.'"

A half dozen retreats have taken place with filmmakers presenting works in progress for comment and discussion. Nora stresses that the film can only be collaborative if there is a cross-fertiliza-

tion of ideas.

One of the most stimulating discussions took place at a farm in central Vermont last June. The conversation circled around the idea of Vermont's "exceptionalism"; an issue that has come up continually as the film progresses. Nora asked: "Is Vermont exceptional? Is that why we are making this film? Even if



we feel personally, emotionally, that Vermont IS exceptional or unique, we must remember that probably every one feels their own state is exceptional and unique." Frank Bryan responded that very definitely we are exceptional, and pointed to all the contributions that Vermonters have made, for example, to industry. He was also quick to point out that part of his argument rests on a per capita measurement of innovation. Vermont is so small, that empirically we are exceptional.

Michael Sherman and others strongly disputed this notion, arguing that it has muted the investigation and understanding of the larger context in which Vermont has developed and will continue to act. Ideas, trends, technology, the spread of information, and all aspects of life in

Vermont, even when generated in a local context, extend to the national scene and beyond. And Vermont and Vermonters more often react to these developments than generate them.

The Vermont Movie's website likes to list Vermont's firsts: first state to outlaw slavery, to allow same sex civil unions, to call for the impeachment of president Richard M. Nixon, to protect the environment with Act 250, and to go for Obama in 2009!

Each of the some two dozen filmmakers is creating a segment on a subject that interests them. There will be no effort at being comprehensive, or even at being level headed, so the film risks the possibility of being an idiosyncratic collection of filmmaker's passions.

### ■ A few of the segments in production:

- The labor movement in Rutland area marble quarries (Dina Janis).
- An exploration into the lives of the two founders of AA, who hail from Vermont (Eleanor Lanahan and Orly Yadin)
- The celebrated educator, John Dewey, who came from Vermont and was the inspiration behind one of the most innovative institutions of higher education, Goddard College (Linda Leehman).
- The impact of the 60's on Vermont: Who are the utopian predecessors of the hippies? (Nora Jacobson).
- The secret behind Vermont's special brand of 'Republicanism'. (Rick Moulton)
- How an old family farm adapts to new ways of farming (Andy Reichsman and Kate Purdie)
- Can Vermont ever be independent again? (Rob Williams).

The segment I am doing with Greg Guma, will be a short docudrama of how the people of Vermont defeated the Green Mountain Parkway. This was a highway building project proposed by the Roosevelt administration at the depth of the depression. The plan was to build a 260 mile road along the ridges and mountainsides of the Green Mountains, to the Canadian border. Most important Vermonters – and the *Burlington Free*

*Press* – supported the idea, the *Rutland Herald* opposed it. Finally, it was voted down in town meetings across the state in 1936. Vermont remained largely isolated from the rest of the country until interstate 89 was built in the 60's.

This rejection of 'progress', and of the benefits of tourism that would have resulted from the road, is a early expression of the stubborn environmentalism that has come to characterize Vermonters' unique take on the world.

So look for The Vermont Movie sometime this summer. As the trailer on the [Thevermontmovie.com](http://Thevermontmovie.com) website – edited by Art Bell – declares: "This is going to be big!" 

# The First Encounter

By Robin Lloyd

400 years ago, the event that took place on July 30, 1609, following Samuel de Champlain first arrival at the Lake (called, up until then, Petenbowk), provides a powerful archetype for succeeding centuries of American conquest. It was an encounter enacted first with the arquebus (Champlain's handgun), later with the rifle, then the Gatling Gun, and now, highflying drones over Pakistan: using asymmetrical force against defenseless populations. At the time of this first encounter, the Indians on both sides of "the Waters in Between" used bows, arrows, and spears.

That day in July, tribes associated with the Iroquois Five Nations were involved in a somewhat ritualized encounter with Champlain's allies – the Montagnais-Huron-Algonkins. Champlain writes: "Our men put me at their head, until I was within about thirty paces of the enemy. They at once saw me and halted, looking at me, as I at them." According to one of his biographers, Samuel Morrison, Champlain, who was "clad in a plate corselet and wearing a steel helmet, loaded his arquebus with four bullets, drew a bead on the three chiefs, and fired. All three fell, two dead and the third mortally wounded." That evening his allies tortured to death 10 prisoners captured during the encounter.

Morrison says it is "folly to criticize Champlain for what he did" since estab-

lishing trade relations was the imperative: French merchants were making good money turning New World beaver pelts into felt hats.

Ultimately, the French and other Europeans shipped 100,000 pelts per year back to their homelands, causing further strife among the indigenous people as their resources were wiped out and they hunted farther afield to satisfy their customers' demands.

Today, we know what ruthless acts governments are willing to perform to obtain essential resources. As we look out through the sights of our weapons, are we seeing the unfairness of the situation any better than Champlain did?

At a recent Quadricentennial event in Chittenden County, an Abenaki "data warrior" pointed out that the imbalances caused by European intrusions into N'dakinna ("our homeland") – part of which is now Vermont – have yet to be righted. This anniversary year, he noted, is an opportunity for Natives and non-Natives to establish right relations, the balance that Abenakis see as the closest thing to "forgiveness" in European belief systems.

I wonder: Can we in the peace and justice community create a ceremony for this Quadricentennial commemoration to help with the healing? What part can we play in restoring balance for all who live in the place we now call home? 



Samuel de Champlain, self portrait, depicting his first encounter with indigenous people on the shores of Lake Petenbowk.

**MARCH 3 - 10, 2009**

## Women, War and Displacement

Series sponsored by Vermont Global Health Coalition, Edmundite Center for Peace and Justice, Student Global AIDS Campaign, Women's Center, Office of Multicultural Affairs, Saint Michael's College.

### TUESDAY, MARCH 3

7pm Screening of the film, "The Greatest Silence: Rape in the Congo," in the Hoehl Welcome Center.

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

7pm A talk on "Rape as a Weapon of War: Violence against Women in Eastern Congo," in the Hoehl Welcome Center. Jocelyn Kelly, research coordinator at the Harvard Humanitarian Initiatives, will speak about sexual violence against women in Eastern Congo, the Panzi Hospital, and the importance of advocacy for rape victims.

### THURSDAY, MARCH 5

7pm "Women, War and Displacement: Stories of Local Women," a panel of local refugees telling their stories, in St. Edmund's Hall Farrell Room (3<sup>rd</sup> floor).

### FRIDAY, MARCH 6

7pm Screening of the film, "Taxi to the Darkside," the story of Dilawar, a taxi driver who was detained in Afghanistan in 2002 and who died in American custody at the prison in Bagram a few months later, in the SMC Women's Center.

### SUNDAY, MARCH 8

4pm Community potluck welcoming our refugees. venue TBA. The community is invited to meet and greet some of the refugees in our community and people involved with refugee work in the greater Burlington Area.

## CALENDAR

## March 2009

**[1] Sunday**

- noon Vets for Peace broadcasts live on Channel 15. 2pm Vets for Peace meet at PJC.

**[2] Monday**

- 3pm Is Nuclear Power Dangerous to Your Health? With Dr. Winfrid Eisenberg in Rowell 103 at the UVM School of Nursing.

**[3] Tuesday**

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

**[4] Wednesday**

- 6-8pm Genocide in Armenia with Lisa Berbarian, Burlington College student. Institute for Civic Engagement at Burlington College. 862-9616. [www.burlington.edu](http://www.burlington.edu)

**[8] Sunday: International Women's Day**

- NYC Rally & March. A salute to Women's Resistance. Bail Out Women and their communities!. Assemble at Union Sq at 1pm. Initiated by Women's Fightback Network. 212-633-6646.

**[8-10] Sunday-Tuesday**

- PJC Phonathon. Volunteers needed. Call Anise at 863-2345 ext. 6.

**[10] Tuesday**

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

- 7pm "Rethinking Afghanistan," a lecture by peace scholar and advocate, Dr. George Lopez, in the McCarthy Arts Center, St Michael's College. Dr. Lopez holds the Rev. Theodore Hesburgh Chair in Peace Studies at the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame. His research focuses primarily on state violence and coercion, economic sanctions, violations of human rights and ethics, and the use of force. He has published widely in scholarly journals; he is co-editor of five books on repression and state terror, most notably, *Government Violence and Repression: An Agenda for Research* (1986), and he co-authored "Winning without War: Sensible Security Options for Dealing with Iraq" in 2002. This policy brief was called the most influential document for those favoring an alternative to war with Iraq.

**[11] Wednesday**

- 6:15pm Free Markets: Free Humans? With Michael Smith, Burlington College graduate and Libertarian. Institute for Civic Engagement at Burlington College. 862-9616. [www.burlington.edu](http://www.burlington.edu)

**[16] Monday**

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

**[18] Wednesday**

- 6:15pm Search & Seizure law here in the US and in Russia with Vladmia Stradnic, Burlington College student. Institute for Civic Engagement at Burlington College. 862-9616. [www.burlington.edu](http://www.burlington.edu)

- 7pm Vermont Workers Center to speak at the North Country Coalition for Justice & Peace monthly meeting at the North Congregational Church, St. Johnsbury VT.

**[19] Thursday**

- Anniversary of the Iraq War. Events TBA. 863-2345 x5.

**[21] Saturday**

- Anti-War demo in Washington DC. See p. 1

**[23] Monday**

- 6pm A panel discussion with women of color on their work in social justice, titled "Being the Change You Wish to See: Women of Color & Social Justice Advocacy," in St. Edmunds Hall Farrell Room (3<sup>rd</sup> floor), St Michael's College. Panelists are Jacqui Patterson of Action Aid and Health GAP, Mercedes Mack of Jubilee USA, and Siham Elhamoumi of Vermont Global Health Coalition.

## April 2009

**[4] Saturday**

- Bail Out People Not Banks March on Wall St, NYC. see p. 3.

**[23] Thursday**

- 7pm Afghanistan: Obama's Vietnam with Joseph Gerson, Director of AFSC Programs in New England. Gerson's recent work has focused on education, organizing, and mobilization to end the US war and occupation in Iraq, preventing nuclear war and advancing the struggle for nuclear weapons abolition, the establishing of the global "No Bases Network," and peaceful resolution of the US-DPRK and US-Iran nuclear confrontations. At the North Country Coalition for Justice & Peace monthly meeting at the No. Congregational Church, St. Johnsbury VT.

**May '09 Diplomacy Delegation**

Fellowship of Reconciliation, an interfaith peace organization committed to non-violent solutions, will bring a diplomacy delegation to Iran May 15-30, 2009. The purpose is for delegates to meet with civic and religious leaders, converse with average Iranians, and learn about Iranian culture and society. Upon returning, delegates will share what they've learned with their communities. Destinations include Tehran, Isfahan, Qom, Yazd, and Shiraz. \$4,000 fee includes international plane ticket, hotels, meals, and transportation. For more information, contact Leila Zand at 518-831-9500, Email: [lzand@forusa.org](mailto:lzand@forusa.org), or visit [www.forusa.org/programs/iran](http://www.forusa.org/programs/iran). **Application deadline is March 5, 2009.**

# Green Mountain Film Festival, Montpelier

## ALEXANDRA

**SAVOY THEATER, MON, 3/23, 8:30PM; WED, 3/25, NOON; THURS, 3/26, 6:00PM**

An elderly woman travels to the Chechen war zone to see her soldier grandson in Alexander Sokurov's powerful film. "A film of startling originality and beauty that feels like a communiqué from another time and another place." (Manohla Dargis, *The New York Times*)

## AT THE DEATH HOUSE DOOR

**CITY HALL ARTS CENTER, WED, 3/25, 8:15PM; THURS, 3/26, NOON**

The documentary from Steve James and Peter Gilbert (HOOP DREAMS) is a personal look at the death penalty through the eyes of Pastor Carroll Pickett, who served 15 years as the death house chaplain to the infamous "Walls" prison unit in Huntsville, Texas, presiding over 95 executions.

## THE BROTHER...

**CITY HALL ARTS CENTER, WED, 3/25, 6:00PM**

...Who Sent His Sister to the Electric Chair" is the full title of this documentary, produced for French television, which explores the role of the enigmatic David Greenglass, whose testimony sent his sister and brother-in-law, Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, to their deaths in 1953. Post-film event: Robert Meeropol, son of the Rosenbergs, will discuss the film and the latest developments in the case.

## CONSTANTINE'S SWORD

**CITY HALL ARTS CENTER, SAT, 3/21, 8:45PM; SUN, 3/22, NOON; FRI, 3/27, 2:00PM**

"At once enthralling and troubling, the film does about as good a job as you could hope of distilling a 750-page historical examination of religious zealotry and power into 95 swift minutes, while also telling the story of James Carroll's own journey from Jesuit priest to anti-war activist

and theological scholar." (Stephen Holden, *The New York Times*) Post-film event: Writer-director Oren Jacoby will discuss the film after the Saturday, March 21, and Sunday, March 22, shows.

## GOSPEL HILL

**CITY HALL ARTS CENTER, SAT, 3/28, 8:45PM; SUN, 3/29, 6:30PM**

In Giancarlo Esposito's directing debut, a small South Carolina town marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of a civil rights leader, summoning up unresolved issues of the past. *The Hollywood Reporter*: "This spare yet radiant film brims with the fears, frustrations and dreams of the town's individuals." With Danny Glover, Julia Stiles, Angela Bassett, and Esposito. Post-film event: Giancarlo Esposito will discuss the film after both shows.

## KATYN

**SAVOY THEATER, FRI, 3/20, 4:00PM; SAT, 3/21, 9:00PM; SUN, 3/22, 4:30PM; MON, 3/23, NOON**

For master director Andrzej Wajda (MAN OF IRON), the cinema can offer an alternative vision of events to counter the "official stories" of the Polish communist regime. Perhaps the biggest deception of all was the cover-up of the 1940 massacre of almost 15,000 Polish Army officers by the Soviet Red Army. Weaving together several stories of the victims and their families, *Katyn* is the remarkable culmination of Wajda's lifelong wish to make a feature film on the subject; his father was one of those murdered at Katyn.

## MOVING MIDWAY

**CITY HALL ARTS CENTER, MON, 3/23, 2:15PM; SAT, 3/28, 11:30AM; SUN, 3/29, 2:00PM**

Godfrey Cheshire's richly observed film about his family's Southern plantation - and the colossal feat of moving it to escape urban sprawl - is a thoughtful and witty look at the lingering remnants and still-powerful

mythology of plantation culture and the antebellum South. Post-film event: director Godfrey Cheshire will discuss the film at the Saturday, March 28, and Sunday, March 29, shows.

## THE SINGING REVOLUTION

**CITY HALL ARTS CENTER, FRI, 3/20, 4:00PM; WED, 3/25, NOON; FRI, 3/27, 8:45PM**

Most people don't think about singing when they think about revolution. But song was the weapon of choice when Estonians sought to free themselves from decades of Soviet occupation.

## TORTURING DEMOCRACY

**CITY HALL ARTS CENTER, MON, 3/23, NOON; FRI, 3/27, 4:00PM**

The film that many PBS stations were afraid to carry is a sweeping exposé of the Bush-Cheney administration's

torture policies. Joseph Gainza of the AFSC will discuss the film at the Monday, March 23, show; Allen Gilbert of the ACLU will discuss the film after the Friday, March 27, show.

## TRUMBO

**SAVOY THEATER, FRI, 3/27, 4:00PM; SAT, 3/28, 6:30PM; SUN, 3/29, 11:30AM**

"Peter Askin's stirring documentary gives you reasons to cheer but also to weep. It makes you lament the decline of the kind of language brandished with Shakespearean eloquence by Dalton Trumbo, the blacklisted Hollywood screenwriter, in his witty, impassioned letters excerpted in the movie." (Stephen Holden, *The New York Times*). Post-film event: Kate Lardner, daughter of "Hollywood 10" screenwriter Ring Lardner Jr., will discuss the film. 



## 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: 10:30-11 am Saturdays, corner of Main & Merchant's Way
- Montpelier: 12-1 pm Fridays, Federal Building
- Newport: 4-4:30pm Wednesdays in front of State Office Building
- Richmond: 5:30pm Thursdays, Congregational Church, Bridge St
- Rutland: 12-1 pm, 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, 10-11 am, Vergennes City Green
- Williston: 5:15-5:45pm 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays, steps of Williston Federated Church

**For more calendar events, join our email action alerts. For Peace & Human Rights, email [peace@pjcv.org](mailto:peace@pjcv.org). For The VT Livable Wage Campaign, email [livablewage@pjcv.org](mailto:livablewage@pjcv.org)**



**GET THE NEWS!**

**YES!** I / we would like to join the peace and justice community and receive a **free subscription** to *peace & justice news*.

- I / we wish to make a contribution.**
  - \$35 individual membership
  - \$60 family membership
  - \$100
  - \$250
  - \$500
  - \$15 fixed income
  - other \_\_\_\_\_

Make tax-deductible checks payable and mail to:

**peace & justice center**  
21 Church Street, Burlington, VT 05401

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Town: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

- I want to volunteer;** please contact me.
- Please call me to discuss:**
  - including the **peace & justice center** in my will
  - planned giving opportunities
  - donating stocks and securities
- Please sign me up as a monthly donor:**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month!  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 MasterCard    VISA    Discover  
 Account #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Expires: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*good things for good causes!*

**peace & justice** | store



**Celebrate Women's History Month!!  
Celebrate Spring!!**

- *Renee's Garden Seeds*
- *Womanswork Gloves & Hats*
- *Posters, books, and cards that celebrate women!*

Donate online at [www.pjcv.org](http://www.pjcv.org)!

21 Church Street  
Burlington, VT 05401-4417

**peace & justice** | center

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
BURLINGTON, VT  
PERMIT NO. 145

*Change Service Requested*