Youth Activism Rising!

By Rachel Siegel

You’ll read in this issue from and about high school- and college-aged youth that we’ve had the opportunity to work with. It is exciting for me as a middle-aged woman to work alongside such motivated and powerful people and to know that our efforts are already being broadened by the next generation.

We are so excited to be giving our annual Ed Everts Social Justice Activist Award to Isaiah Hines and to Muslim Girls Making Change!

We will honor and celebrate the work Isaiah did at South Burlington High School that was instrumental in getting the Rebel name changed. After the SBHS school board voted to keep the name in 2015, Isaiah co-founded the Student Diversity Union and was appointed as the student representative to the board. Through his tireless, patient, compelling, and informed efforts, the question was brought to the school board a second time and this time they decided to rid the school of the racist moniker. The backlash against this change, and against Isaiah personally, was intense. Isaiah's strength of character in the face of this violence, was inspiring. He has facilitated racial justice programs at South Burlington Middle School as well as for public programs with the PJC. Now a freshman at Columbia University in NYC, we are so excited to celebrate with him when he is home for spring break.

Kiran Waqar, Hawa Adam, Lena Ginawi, and Balkisa Abdikadir formed Muslim Girls Making Change (MGMC) in March, 2016. Initially involved with the Young Writers Project, they decided to make their work public in the form of performance poetry. They have inspired audiences throughout Vermont and beyond including at the Brave New Voices International Youth Poetry Slam Festival in Washington, DC, the Asian American and Pacific Islander Civil Rights Conference in Boston, Massachusetts, and the Northeast Amnesty International Conference in Albany, New York. They've been on NPR and VPR numerous times.

Now seniors at South Burlington High School and Burlington High School, they have several other activist side projects worth mentioning: Balkisa and Hawa helped form the new Social Justice Union at BHS; Hawa and Kiran founded and lead a local chapter of RESULTS, a national anti-poverty initiative; they have traveled the country to go to conferences to present keynote addresses and lead workshops on topics from Youth Leadership to Women's Rights; and Kiran, who was a Nation-
From the Director

On the anniversary of President Trump’s inauguration, join us at this youth-led event started by local activist Kiran Wagar. It is being held in multiple locations around the country! Join us in Montpelier.

A march & speakout for youth of all ages!

January 20, 2018 • Montpelier, VT
Meet at City Hall at 1:00 pm & march to the Statehouse lawn for speakout

MarchForOurFuture.com
PJC High School Internship

By Milena Stier

I applied for a high school internship at the Peace & Justice Center without much of an idea of what it would entail. I was simply inspired by their mission to inform and advocate for social justice issues.

On my first day as an intern, I joined a group of staff and other new interns for the weekly programming meeting. Friendly faces all around the table welcomed me to the team. During my first few weeks I did a lot of promotional tasks, creating flyers for events and posting to community calendars. And on one hot, humid September day I trudged up the hill to Church Street with the sun beating down on my shoulders, pinning flyers to community event boards around town.

I had the opportunity to attend a lot of great workshops about topics like fair trade, the cocoa and banana industries, and white fragility. I spent two afternoons each week in the office working on various projects.

Working with other interns, I helped to create three games featuring the topic of militarism, which we debuted at a community game night at the PJC. We put an educational spin on bingo, Jeopardy, and Jenga. 20 people participated and the games are being used by other groups now, too.

The focus of the final weeks of my time at the Peace & Justice Center was planning the High School Leaders Conference, which was an event to bring student activists together to address issues of discrimination in our communities. The conference took place on Saturday, December 2, and we had over twenty students from seven Vermont schools, including Milton High School, Woodstock Union High School, and Montpelier High School. It was great to build a collaborative environment for youth activists to work together.

In working on this project, the Peace & Justice Center provided the foundation upon which I could bring my ideas to life. Although I received support from the PJC, it was truly a youth-led event. We incorporated student input in planning the day and really made it a “for youth, by youth” structure. Organizing a conference was unfamiliar territory for me. Of course, I didn’t do it alone. A fellow intern and UVM student, Shreya Kontham, also worked really hard to bring it all together.

It was slightly nerve-wracking when I realized that I would actually be facilitating the event — standing at the front of the room, speaking, but the day went smoothly, and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to take a lead role on a project. I look forward to continuing my work with both the Peace & Justice Center and the group of students that came together for the conference. We plan to keep in touch and expand upon our ideas in the next few months.

The PJC plans to continue to support high school activism with perhaps a larger gathering in the future. Please contact us if you would like to help make this happen.

Join us on Thursday, March 15, at the ECHO Center, Burlington. Doors open at 6:00, buffet dinner served at 6:30, program at 7:00, dancing to follow! Ticket information info@pjcvt.org.

Milena Stier, Burlington High School Student

By Milena Stier

In working on this project, the Peace & Justice Center provided the foundation upon which I could bring my ideas to life. Although I received support from the PJC, it was truly a youth-led event. We incorporated student input in planning...
New PJC Board Members

We are so excited to welcome two more passionate and hardworking members to our Board! Anna and Song are making an impact already.

Anna Boesch

My background is in Nonprofit Leadership Studies, and I am currently the Assistant Director of Volunteer Services in the MOVE office at Saint Michael’s College. I enjoy working with groups to bridge passion, longevity in the community, and systemic change. At Saint Michael’s, I have the opportunity to engage with students in a service to justice model. I am able to work with passionate students, who desire to dig deeper into the roots of injustice. What I love most is when my presence is trusted in a moment of vulnerability and self-reflection. I appreciate spending time with folks who want to bring goodness into the world. I enter into all of my work believing in the words of Carolina De Robertis, “In a climate where bigotry is an explicit value of those in institutional power, speaking love is an act of dissent.”

Because there is rarely a chance that I am not my authentic self, a few more facts are to follow. I am a yoga novice, avid knitter, religious education teacher, wife, and dog-mom. I enjoy hiking and spending time with my family. Lastly, if I could have dinner with 4 people, it would be Eleanor Roosevelt, John Lewis, Michelle Obama, and my grandmother (Ba).

Song Nguyen

I was born and raised in Vermont by an immigrant mother and refugee father, so I was grateful for the opportunity to return home to work with the Vermont Department of Health after spending the past nine years in Washington, DC. During my most recent four years in DC, I worked with DC Public Schools managing HIV and STI prevention programming for 111 schools in the district. During this time, I quickly recognized that no article, textbook, or discussion can ever prepare someone for the pain and frustration evoked in the eyes of young people who live in a cycle of unmet needs. During my time working with students, parents, and staff across some of DC’s most under-resourced schools, it took an incredible measure of strength to not be completely disheartened by the injustices she witnessed daily. I met many young people along the way who possessed incredible internal strength and resiliency, but often lacked the skills, resources, and knowledge to advocate for their own, basic needs. Without the resources and voice to navigate through life’s challenges, so many are often left forgotten. I strongly believe in the power of utilizing one’s privilege, small or large, to advocate for those left in the shadows and to empower positive decision-making to combat disparities and injustices across our communities.

I have always had a passion to be connected to my community and have continued to develop a hunger for learning about health disparities that perpetuated across populations. This perspective has allowed me to work both domestically and internationally on public health issues including parent engagement programming for inner-city schools, minority health issues in higher education, and enhancing transportation and sexual health services in Uganda.

I received my BS in Human Development and Family Studies from the University of Vermont, and my MPH from The George Washington University. During my spare time I enjoy rock climbing, relearning parts of VT that I never truly explored, discovering new documentaries, and volunteering on Burlington’s Restorative Justice Panels for low-crime offenders. I also enjoy painting and recently illustrated my first children’s book, published in October 2017.

Migrant Justice met in December to celebrate their agreement with Ben & Jerry’s and to plan for the struggles ahead. As a result of persistent bargaining, dairy workers in Ben & Jerry’s supply chain have won higher wages, mandatory rest breaks and days off, paid vacation and sick days, health and safety protections, and dignified housing conditions. This program turns workers into front-line defenders of their human rights. Migrant Justice has joined with Florida tomato pickers and Bangladeshi garment workers to advance worker driven social responsibility. They need your help: migrantjustice.net.
Volunteer Highlight: Stefan Nickum

Greetings to the PJC community and members. It’s a pleasure to get to know the people behind such an important organization to Burlington and Vermont for so many years. I come to the PJC as a graduate student of Smith College’s Master of Social Work program where I’m being trained to serve the inherent power of individuals, their families, their culture, and the multiple identities we all hold. The Smith MSW program asks that its students serve at the macro, community organizing level in addition to the micro level clinical work that we do in our internships. So far, I’ve been struck by the way the PJC aligns itself with the social and economic justice values of those marginalized within oppressive systems of power, both at the state and local level, as well as the national. No US citizen goes untouched by these forces of oppression and power one conversation at a time. Masculinity! Let’s destabilize systems of Privilege! Toxic White Fragility Discussion Group,” or seeks to teach our children through “Talking With Kids about Race,” a complicated but essential part of bringing up a new generation of informed, empowered young people. I’m excited to support PJC events and programs wherever I can, and look forward to seeing you all in the store Monday afternoons! Let’s talk about race! Privilege! Masculinity! Let’s destabilize systems of oppression and power one conversation at a time.

Volunteer for the Peace & Justice Center

We need volunteers for a variety of tasks including: store clerks, data entry, general administrative duties, programming, button-making, cleaning, and much more!

We hold bimonthly orientations on Thursdays and Saturdays. Learn about the history of the Peace & Justice Center and our statewide projects and how you can use your skills and interests to help the PJC achieve its mission. Each orientation is accompanied by a presentation and discussion that relates to the our Educational Programs. Orientations may also be scheduled on an individual basis. Please contact Kristen Connors, the PJC Volunteer Coordinator, at volunteer@pjcvt.org with any questions. Monthly volunteer gatherings for current volunteers allow time to share experiences and learn together. And we have snacks!

In 2017, 19 New Volunteer Orientations helped us develop over 100 volunteers who worked over 4,000 hours. Additionally, we worked with 33 interns including both high school and college students who clocked a total of close to 3,000 hours. We couldn’t do it without you!

PJC Facilitators

- **Lauren Layn:** “After participating in several PJC workshops and discussions myself, I find that facilitating is one way I can continue working towards dismantling racism. Each program I’ve attended or facilitated has been very different and has highlighted ways racism harms everyone. To me, this reflects the complexities of racial oppression and the need for me, as a white person, to continually work towards progress.”

- **Hal Colston:** “If we are ever to heal from the wounds of racism, it will be because my white sisters and brothers have taken responsibility for ending racism. The Peace & Justice Center has courageously taken up this mantle.”

- **Ginny Sassaman:** “I am thrilled to marry two of my passions – my social justice activism and my work teaching meditation/mindfulness classes – in one lovely package, as a facilitator for the Peace & Justice Center’s “Mindfulness for Activist” workshops. I love teaching meditation because the science supporting the benefits of a regular practice is so strong. And who better to share this information with than my fellow activist peeps? All of us need to engage in self care to hang in there for these tough battles over the long haul. Another great aspect of the Mindfulness sessions, PJC-style, is that we can all learn from each other. All kinds of good! I am really grateful that PJC has taken me on as a facilitator.”
Whether it is Harriet Tubman encouraging you to follow your dreams, Champ offering words of wisdom to believe in yourself, or Marie Curie serving as an inspiration for your inner scientist, the Kamibashi string dolls are not just a cute decoration for your backpack, but offer insight and encouragement with their presence. Since first carrying the string dolls in 2016 at the Peace & Justice Store, the community’s love for the dolls have caused us to double our stock and to even create our very own Kamibashi – Champ.

Kamibashi string dolls are charming and collectible, and serve as a reminder to stay positive throughout the day. Plus, the proceeds of various string dolls go back to supporting a specific cause, like Susie Survivor which benefits the Pretty in Pink Foundation.

The community’s love for Kamibashi is not unwarranted. As a member of the Fair Trade Federation, this Thailand-based company operates on the ten fair trade principles. For most of the artisans, Kamibashi is their only job, making it critical that wages are fair and able to supply a reliable income. In addition, a portion of the proceeds circles back into reinvestments in the communities of Chiang Mai, a region of Northern Thailand where most of the Kamibashi artists are from.

Buying from a company that works so closely with its employees epitomizes the fair trade movement. A shortened supply chain signifies transparency, accountability, and the ability to know your employees, a key piece often overlooked by corporations.

We were so pleased that Kamibashi was receptive to our suggestion to make different “skin” tones for dolls that aren’t specific people but rather a librarian, snowboarder or ballerina, for example. You can now choose to get them with light, medium, or dark “skin.”

So next time you’re out shopping, look before you leap. Looking into the ethics of the companies you support is an easy way you can make change. Take the leap today and buy with purpose at the Peace & Justice Center!

### Products We Love: Kamibashi String Dolls

*By Alex Rose, Fair Trade Intern*

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**String Doll Artists**

Ms. Sophan Sriwichai, a.k.a. Noy, has been making string dolls for 8 years. Her favorite character is Super Teacher. Noy also farms for a living.

Mr. Surasak Romngen, a.k.a. Sak, has been accessorizing string dolls with their metal parts for 9 years. Sak is a full-time string doll artist.

Ms. Phatnarin Aumek, a.k.a. Nun, has been making string dolls for 9 years. Her favorite character is Shelly the mermaid. Nun also works as a seamstress.

Ms. Manthana Wongkaew, a.k.a. Mut, has been making string dolls for 9 years. Her favorite character is Clara the nurse. Mut also works as a shopkeeper.

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**Fair Trade Federation Principles**

- Create Opportunity for artisans and farmers in the Global South.
- Develop Transparent & Accountable Relationships.
- Build Capacity.
- Promote Fair Trade.
- Pay Promptly & Fairly.
- Support Safe & Empowering Working Conditions.
- Ensure the Rights of Children.
- Cultivate Environmental Stewardship.
- Respect Cultural Identity.

[fairtradefederation.org](http://fairtradefederation.org)
The summer of 2017 was definitely a transformative one for many communities across the country. With the national divide becoming larger and larger, it would be naive to think this wouldn’t also impact our beautiful Green Mountain State. Contrary to popular belief, ignorance-fueled hate can most certainly grow in the rocky soil of Vermont. While the issues and resulting programming in South Burlington, Montpelier, and Brattleboro have become well known across the social justice community, there is slightly less publicized work happening a little farther north as well.

On July 6, 2017, in response to the mishandling of several racially charged situations within the Milton Town School District, community members gathered to have their first “Community Dialogue on Race.” After a month of pleading with elected officials to lead the way towards much-needed racial reconciliation, it became clear that we could no longer “wait for someone else to do it.” So about 20 of us came together in the basement of the Cornerstone Community Church and had, in person, a conversation many of us had mostly only ever had online. Thus was born the Milton Inclusion & Diversity Initiative (MIDI).

Those dialogues, which continued through September at the rate of 1-3 per week, are one of several routes MIDI has taken to achieve its primary objectives of helping every area of the Milton community become truly inclusive for people of all backgrounds – beginning with people of races that are historically underrepresented in Vermont. Other efforts have included working with the Town Manager, librarians, educators, students, local Republican and Democratic political leaders, and the Milton Recreation Department, to collaborate on various ways of creating community spirit and understanding around the importance of inclusion, equity, and addressing racial disparities. We’ve also connected with various members of the statewide Social Justice Community to see how we can work together to make positive progress across all of Vermont.

Although these issues are complex and frequently difficult to address, talking about them as a community is our town’s way through. Coming together to talk about a problem we’ve finally admitted we have is the first step. The process is hard and time consuming, which is no surprise. We are putting in the work to make Milton a healthy place for people of all ethnic and social backgrounds to thrive. And it is our belief that if everyone stacks hands, #MiltonCan!

If you’d like to support us with your time, your skills, or your resources please visit us at midivt.org.

Social Justice Symposium

Saturday, April 14, 2018 at Burlington High School

The symposium will provide community members the chance to learn about local organizations and groups that are focused on social justice and ways they can get involved. Group members will have the opportunity to become more familiar with each other’s efforts to and potentially recruit new volunteers, members and collaborators.

Join us for a fun day to connect with other engaged community members.

Registration information at pjcvt.org or email program@pjcvt.org.
#yesICAN End Nuclear Weapons

By Robin Lloyd

It was thrilling to enter the live stream of the Nobel Peace Prize website at 7am on December 10, Human Right’s Day, as the first winter snow was falling outside. There was much pomp and circumstance built into the Norwegian rituals, but also joy through the room when the two representatives of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) rose to be awarded their gold coins. It was like something out of a Norse saga.

Thirty-five year old Swedish lawyer and former director of WILPF’s disarmament group Reaching Critical Will, Beatrice Fihn rose and turned to give a hand to 85 year old Hiroshima survivor Setsuko Thurlow. Arm in arm they received the prize.

Setsuko, who was 13 in 1945, when she survived a near death experience as her school collapsed only one mile from the bomb’s epicenter, said that her whole life has been devoted to ridding the world of nuclear weapons. “We Hibakusha have been waiting for the ban for 72 years. Let this be the beginning of the end of nuclear weapons.” The ban she is referring to is the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the first legally binding international agreement to comprehensively prohibit nuclear weapons with the goal to lead toward their total elimination. It was passed at the United Nations on July 7, 2017. The upstart organization ICAN, founded in 2007 and made up of 468 partner organizations in 101 countries, provided the genius, determination, and energy to bring the treaty to the point of ratification. It was passed at the United Nations on July 7, 2017. The upstart organization ICAN, founded in 2007 and made up of 468 partner organizations in 101 countries, provided the genius, determination, and energy to bring the treaty to the point of ratification. Setsuko is justifiably passionate about its goals. “All responsible leaders will sign this treaty. And history will judge harshly those who reject it. No longer shall their abstract theories mask the genocidal reality of their practices. No longer shall ‘deterrence’ be viewed as anything but a deterrent to disarmament. No longer shall we live under a mushroom cloud of fear.”

The treaty’s demands are radical. It begins, “1. Each State Party undertakes never under any circumstances to: (a) develop, test, produce, manufacture, otherwise acquire, possess or stockpile nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive device.”

To achieve such goals is daunting in the extreme. No nuclear nations have signed on as of yet. Look at how deeply embedded the nuclear business is in our country; an anti-nuclear watchdog group, All for Nuclear Accountability is revealing the way that money is flowing into the industry from Obama and Trump’s reckless splurging on “modernizing our nuclear arsenal,” which, over the next 30 years, will cost more than $1.2 trillion. How will we topple this trillion dollar nuclear edifice of violence and control?

ICAN refuses to accept such preparations for war as inevitable. Beatrice Fihn in her acceptance speech stated: “It is insanity to allow ourselves to be ruled by these weapons. Many critics of this movement suggest that we are the irrational ones, the idealists with no grounding in reality; that nuclear-armed states will never give up their weapons. But we represent the only rational choice. We represent those who refuse to accept nuclear weapons as a fixture in our world, those who refuse to have their fates bound up in a few lines of launch code.”

To great applause she said: “The only rational course of action is to cease living under the conditions where our mutual destruction is only one impulsive tantrum away. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons provides the pathway forward at a moment of great global crisis. It is a light in a dark time. And more than that, it provides a choice. A choice between the two endings: the end of nuclear weapons or the end of us.”

Activists can now use pressure, even shame, to demand an end to the nuclear era. “Nuclear weapons,” Rihn concluded, “like chemical weapons, biological weapons, cluster munitions, and land mines before them, are now illegal. Their existence is immoral. Their abolition is in our hands. This is the way forward. There is only one way to prevent the use of nuclear weapons: prohibit and eliminate them.”

The Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom has been a partner of ICAN from the beginning. Locally, WILPF-Burlington is working to implement the Treaty. We have approached Mayor Weinberger to renew our city’s commitment to the Mayor’s for Peace platform Vision 2020: Realization of a World Without Nuclear Weapons. With the guidance of Burlington resident and Peace Boat coordinator Maho Takahashi, we will bring the experience of the Hibakusha (nuclear bomb survivors) to the public and schools. Visit the inspiring website Hibakusha Stories and come to our planning session Thursday, Jan. 11, 5:30pm at the PJC or future meetings the second Thursday of te month.

To sign WILPF-US’s petition to the president and Congress requesting that they support the Treaty go to prop1.org and click Online Petition.
The Assassination Complex by Jeremy Scahill

By Oliver Ash, PJC Peacework Intern

What are you afraid of? A fairly simple question with any number of possible answers. If I asked every person who read this to make a list of their greatest fears, there are a few items that would appear repeatedly: heights, knives, blood, certain animals, etc.

But what about the crippling fear of a clear, sunny day?

This would not be an unusual response for a child living in Yemen or Somalia. For years the children there have been taught to fear the open air and cloudless days, because it is on those days that fire rains from an otherwise empty sky. The United States and its allies have advanced to a new level of warfare that began with the Bush administration and was kicked into high gear by former president Barack Obama: the extensive use of drone strikes to remove “dangerous individuals” from the face of this planet.

However, the waters of morality are far from clear. Jeremy Scahill exposes the truths that lay behind the mask of restricted information that the government has attempted to erect in his book *The Assassination Complex*. He explores the nature of drone warfare and questions the accuracy of the information that leads to human lives being snuffed out daily. The combination of in-depth journalism, high-level interviews, and leaked secret documents form a very convincing argument for greater transparency and oversight when it comes to our own government’s system of routine anonymous killing.

As Scahill points out, the criteria for who is targeted by drone strikes is far from concrete and defined: a person can be placed on a “kill list” (at which point they are referred to as an “objective”) simply for being associated with another individual on the list, who can in turn have been placed there for being associated with another individual, and so on ad nauseam. The reality is grim. Every day people are killed in other nations by US drones, some of them US citizens, each one without standing trial and with no attempts made to capture them nonviolently.

However, none of this information has to be taken on good faith from Scahill or “the source,” as numerous official documents are reprinted and copied into the pages themselves, along with translations of some of the harder-to-decipher pieces of military lingo. These documents are stamped with “TOP SECRET//NOFORN” across the top, and reveal information about the chain of command that is authorized to give the final verdict on human lives across the planet.

The government has defended their actions by citing the number of “EKIA” designations they have achieved, or “Enemies Killed In Action.” One drone strike may result in four or five EKIA, and the military considers this to be an incredible model of efficiency. The issue is that EKIA is the default designation for anyone killed by a drone strike, since all people standing near the “objective” are considered guilty by association (or, in this case, guilty by proximity). As the title of Scahill’s book indicates, these killings are not equivalent to the actions of a nation at war – they are assassinations, plain and simple. Even if we could guarantee that only target objectives were killed by drone strikes (which we cannot), the determination of guilt is one that is made hurriedly and without proper trial. Human beings, some of them American citizens, are having their right to due process revoked in order to expedite their deaths.

There are those who may be dismissive of these assassinations without trial, simply because they are happening a world away. However, the technology of the military always finds its way back home. Scahill explores the prevalence of military-grade surveillance equipment that has been purchased by the NYPD in recent years, and the pattern of increased suspicion surrounding Muslim-Americans living within the USA. When the roles of judge, jury, and executioner are all held by one secret organization that refuses to divulge its methods, every citizen of the world suddenly becomes involved. There is a definite sense of urgency in Scahill’s tone, but at no point does his writing (or the writing of the rest of the Intercept staff) dip into alarmism or extremism; they simply record the facts as they were revealed, and offer explanations to the reader so that the nigh-impenetrable military lingo can be understood and analyzed objectively.

Jeremy Scahill’s *The Assassination Complex* is a powerful exploration of the role that advanced technology plays in condemning innocent lives to execution. Scahill asks us to jump down the rabbit hole with him, with the caveat that it will be impossible to see things the same way once we are through. So the next time you step outside and breathe in the air of a clear summer day, take a look up and ask yourself if someone thousands of miles away is staring at the same sky with an entirely different feeling. Not everyone is so fortunate as to feel a sense of peace underneath the sun, and many around the planet feel something far more sinister lurking above their heads.
**CALENDAR**

**January 8, Monday**
6:30pm Vermonters for a Justice in Palestine monthly meeting at PJC. Also February 12 and March 12. VTJP is an Allied Group of the PJC.

**January 11, Thursday**
12 noon-1pm Toxic Whiteness Discussion Group at PJC. This space is held specifically to process how white supremacy culture is toxic to white people. The hope is that by joining this space, white people will be better able to allow for the emotional needs of people of color to take priority in multi-racial spaces. Free. Also February 8 and March 8.

5:30pm Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom monthly meeting at PJC. Also February 8 and March 8. WILPF-Burlington is an Allied Group of the PJC.

**January 11, 18, 25, Thursdays**
6:45-8:45pm Building Empathy and Addressing Racial Oppression at Grand Isle School Library, Grand Isle. The program gives participants the opportunity to build skills and knowledge to engage in undoing racism. The sessions focus on racism within self, community, and taking action. Led by Hal Colston and Lauren Layn. Fees vary. Register online. For more info, contact program@pjcvt.org or call 802-863-2345 x6.

**January 14, Sunday**
3pm Free Trade vs. Fair Trade at PJC. Learn the basic information about globalization and how policies & practices have paved the way for huge companies to profit at the expense of people and the planet. Shows how the Fair Trade movement & principles seek to, at a minimum, counterbalance these atrocities. Free. Arrive at 2:30pm to join the PJC New Volunteer Orientation.

**January 15, Monday**
Participatory Cesar Chavez Play for Kids at ECHO Center, Burlington. Time TBA. Celebrate MLK Day by learning and telling the story of Cesar Chavez, a leader who, like MLK, used nonviolence to organize and build power with oppressed people. There are roles for kids with different skill sets and of different ages. Free. For more information: program@pjcvt.org or call 802-863-2345 x6.

**January 20, Saturday**
11am-2pm March for our Future, Montpelier. Join us on the anniversary of the inauguration. marchforourfuture.com. See page 2. March from City Hall to the Statehouse for a rally led by youth.

**January 24, Wednesday**
6-8pm Film Screening of “13th,” at MMU High School Library, Jericho. The title of this documentary refers to the 13th Amendment of the US Constitution, which reads, “Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States…” The progression from that second qualifying clause to the current rate of mass criminalization and the state of the American prison industry is thoroughly laid out in this film. This event is being hosted in collaboration with MMU students, MMU’s After Dark Program, and the PJC. This is a free event thanks to a grant from the Ben & Jerry’s Foundation.

**January 27, Saturday**
12 noon Fair Trade Labels 101 at PJC. This presentation breaks down the differences between FT Certifications, FT Membership Organizations, and Direct Trade to help us better understand the Fair Trade Movement. Free. Arrive at 11:30am to join the PJC New Volunteer Orientation.

**January 28, Sunday**
The Peace & Justice Center’s 39th Anniversary!

**February 10, 17, 24, Saturdays**
11-1pm Talking with Kids About Racism in Randolph, exact location TBD. This discussion group is designed to help people discuss racism with children in meaningful and age-appropriate ways. Led by Zymora Davinchi and Jade Walker. Fees Vary. Register online.

**February 11, Sunday**
3pm Cocoa Campaign presentation focuses on the issue of child slavery and human trafficking in the cocoa industry. Designed to educate, brainstorm solutions and create tangible action steps. At PJC. Arrive at 2:30pm to join PJC New Volunteer Orientation.

**February 11 & 18, Sundays**
4-6pm Privilege & Accountability for Aspiring Allies, at Waitsfield United Church of Christ Village Meeting House in Waitsfield. This workshop is designed for participants to increase their skills in effectively building support with colleagues, neighbors, and other community members to address racial oppression. Participants will explore their own identities and practice taking action in addressing microaggressions and interrupting oppression in real time. Led by Ita Meno and Kyle Silliman-Smith. Fees Vary. Register online.

**February 13, Tuesday**
6-7:30pm Seeing and Disrupting Racism at MMU High School Library, Jericho. Developed for predominantly white audiences, we start by defining racism. We go over how white fragility perpetuates racism and ways to disrupt it. This event is being hosted in collaboration with MMU students, MMU’s After Dark Program, and the PJC. This is a free event thanks to a grant from the Ben & Jerry’s Foundation. Register online.

**February 19-23, Monday-Friday**
Evenings: Nuclear War and Weapons Film Series in Burlington Area including colleges and the PJC. 27 years since the end of the
Cold War, over 14,000 working nuclear warheads still remain. One film shown each night in a different venue. The films will delve into the dangers of nuclear weapons. Details online.

**February 24, Saturday**

12 noon Banana Industry Presentation at the PJC. Learn about this oppressive banana industry. Designed to educate, brainstorm solutions, and create tangible action steps. **Arrive at 11:30am to join the New Volunteer Orientation.**

**March 3, Saturday**

10am-12pm Understanding Free Trade Agreements at PJC. US Trade Agreements were intended to boost economies. However, the combination of corporate greed and developmental inequality, they have had a devastating effects on the Global South. Free. **Arrive at 11:30am to join the PJC New Volunteer Orientation.**

**March 8, Thursday**

International Women's Day. Contact us for details. Event will likely be on Saturday, March 10.

**March 11, Sunday**

3pm Seeing and Disrupting Racism at the PJC. Developed for predominantly white audiences, we start by defining racism and then we go over how white fragility perpetuates racism and ways to disrupt it. Free. **Arrive at 2:30pm to join the New Volunteer Orientation.**

**March 15, Thursday**

5:30-9pm Ed Evert's Social Justice Activist Award Ceremony and Celebration, ECHO Center, Burlington. Join us to honor the inspiring work of both Isaiah Hines and the Muslim Girls Making Change. Past Ed Evert’s Award recipients include Marmete Hayes, Ita Meno, Joseph Gainza, Migrant Justice, Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform, Eugene Jarecki, Rising Tide VT, and many more. See page 1 for more info about this year’s honorees.

6-7:30pm “Agents of Change” Film Screening at MMU Union High School Library, Jericho. Through accounts of students at the forefront of protests in the 1960s for the creation of Black and Ethnic Studies Programs, *Agents of Change* examines the untold story of the racial conditions on campuses and in the country that led to these protests. The film connects this history to today’s student-led movement. This event is being hosted in collaboration with MMU students, MMU’s After Dark Program, and the PJC. It will include a short facilitated discussion following the film. This is a free event thanks to a grant from the Ben & Jerry’s Foundation.

**March 24, Sunday**

12-1pm Understanding Free Trade Agreements at PJC. US Trade Agreements were intended to boost economies. However, the combination of corporate greed and developmental inequality, they have had a devastating effects on the Global South. Free. **Arrive at 11:30am to join the PJC New Volunteer Orientation.**

**March 24 & 25, Saturday & Sunday**

10am-5pm (Sat) and 9am-4pm (Sun) Nonviolence Training: Building the Nonviolence Movement. Burlington area, exact location TBD. The PJC is excited to host this weekend-long program from the Institute for the Study and Practice of Nonviolence (nonviolenceinstitute.org). Dive into the principles and practices of nonviolence developed by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Led by Sal Monteiro and PJ Fox. Fees vary. Register online.

**March 28 and April 4, Wednesdays**

6pm-8pm Mindfulness for Activists at the Unitarian Church, 130 Main St, Montpelier. Focuses on the need for self-care and on ways to utilize mindfulness for nonviolent social justice and peace work. Emphasis on developing skills in meditation and harnessing a fierce power within. Led by Ginny Sassaman. Fees vary. Register online.

**April 10, Tuesday**

6-8pm Nonviolent Engagement in Conflict, at Mount Mansfield Union High School Library, 211 Browns Trace Rd, Jericho. Explore how addressing conflict nonviolently can be a positive and effective way to grow and change individually, deepen relationships, and support social justice in all aspects of our lives. This event is being hosted as part of a series in collaboration with MMU students, MMU’s After Dark Program, and the PJC. This is a free event thanks to a grant from the Ben & Jerry’s Foundation. Register online.

**April 14, Saturday**

Social Justice Symposium. At Burlington High School. The symposium will provide community members the chance to learn about local organizations and groups that are focused on social justice and ways they can get involved. Group members will have the opportunity to become more familiar with each other’s efforts and potentially recruit new volunteers, members and collaborators.

**May 12, Saturday**

Building a World Beyond War Conference. Beata Tsosie-Peña is the keynote speaker. Beata Tsosie-Peña, is an active community organizer, advocate and educator, as well as a local dancer, slam poet, and artist. The realities of living next to a nuclear weapons production complex in New Mexico have called her to work with Tewa Women United (tewawomenunited.org). Vermont-focused speakers, workshops, panels, and actions will answer the question: What will it take to build a world beyond war? Hosted in collaboration with the Vermont Stands for a World Beyond War Coalition. Details at pjcvt.org/events.

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Many programs are free. For programs with a fee, no one will be turned away for lack of funds and people under 25 are not expected to contribute financially.
Don't want to volunteer, please condact me.

E-mail:
Phone:
Street:
City, State/Zip:

I want to volunteer; please contact me.

If I wish to make a contribution:
$35 fixed income
$70 Mover
$60 family membership
$25 individual membership
$100 Chambermaker
$1,000 Changemaker
other

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