The PJC recently organized a multi-week workshop in Montpelier on the topic of “How to Talk to Kids About Racism.” The simple title belies the complexities of a topic rooted in our history, fraught with layers of personal experience, and driven by our deeply troubled cultural context. Then add the challenge of meeting children where they are developmentally and building their knowledge, courage, and skills to address racism in their lives.

This inaugural workshop attracted parents and educators from broad backgrounds unified by one thing – the desire to address these issues with children in their lives. Led by Denise Dunbar, Director of Reading to End Racism and PJC’s Executive Director, Rachel Siegel, the group examined personal histories, contemporary writings, and offered real-life examples with which we had struggled. [This discussion group was repeated in Burlington with Traci Griffith co-facilitating.]

The role playing and collective problem solving in reaction to these scenarios were some of the most compelling moments of the workshop. Do we have the words ready to manage an interaction at the grocery store? Can we engage with someone who has said something offensive rather than condemn them? How can we process a school situation with our own child? Can our children become advocates for themselves and others with the ability to intervene in the moment? How, how, how can we do this?

Working with a collection of people committed to addressing these issues was inspiring, and we all left with more tools at the ready, but plenty of questions too. My greatest take-away was about urgency. If we don’t address the topics of race, racism and justice with our youth then the powerful combination of media, popular culture, and peers will shape the perceptions of our children for us. Those voices are constantly at work. If our voices – loving, honest, considered voices – are not present in conversation with children then we will miss the chance to make them agents of change, compassion and equality at the most malleable point in their lives.

Urgent: Take every opportunity – a TV show, a news story, a movie, a song, a confrontation, a chance comment overheard – to begin and continue the conversation about racism with children.

The next session of How to Talk to Kids About Racism facilitated discussion group will be held in September in Winooski. Call PJC for more info. 802-863-2345 x6.
Peace Education Programs

We all admire Aung San Suu Kyi, Ella Baker, Martin Luther King, Jr, Nelson Mandela and others – but it seems preposterous to imagine doing what they did. However, it is possible to practice the same nonviolence principles that they did. Can you imagine a world where each of us is truly committed to these beliefs? I’d like to live there!

Our dominant paradigm purports that peace is weak and violence is strong. At the PJC, we hold a different view and are excited to share it during our new Peace Education Programs.

This series includes programming for kids (PJC Kids Club: Learning about Nonviolence), teenagers (Nonviolent Action for Youth and Recruiting for Peace) and adults (Nonviolent Conflict Intervention, Recruiting for Peace, and Activism 101). We owe a big thank you to Kyle Silliman-Smith who has led this program development with a passion and proficiency unlike anyone I know.

Starting with mindfulness workshops that we held in June, the programs progress from our inner landscape to our external behaviors as we work for change – from the personal to the political. How do we bring a centered awareness of loving kindness to our activism when we are standing in opposition to systems of oppression and injustice? How can we engage respectfully with people who have been callous or even cruel? How do we build a campaign for change based on nonviolent principles? How do we help others to choose a path that does not include violence (toward oneself or toward others)? These questions and more are explored in our Peace Education Programs.

Whether you serve on the PTO or a nonprofit board; you have difficult neighbors or coworkers; your family is bringing out the worst in you; or you are organizing for environmental justice, women’s rights, food justice, or any other cause, nonviolence will increase your ability to “be the change you wish to see in the world.” [Mahatma Gandhi]

No matter if you are new to activism or fully immersed, if you are interested in creating a more peaceful world, please join us for one of these workshops!

If you do not live near Burlington and you are interested in these workshops, please be in touch so we can work together to bring the training to your community.

For more details, see the calendar listings on page 10-11 or contact Kyle at 802-863-2345 x6.
PJC Volunteers

“Volunteering with the P&J Center has become a lifelong mission for me and my entire family. When I first started volunteering, I only knew about the Fair Trade Store, and I was very much impressed by that commitment to economic justice, not only here in our beloved country, but also globally. As I started to learn about all the other programs, campaigns, petitions, seminars, workshops, community events/organizing, I was simply in awe, and could not believe that so much was being accomplished by so few, and how much they needed every input possible, to keep their mission alive and moving forward. As a mom raising little black children in our state, being part of an organization that not only recognized the struggles I am faced with every day, but actually does try to do something about it, in every possible way, made me so proud of our town and people. My children are now connected to the mission of the Center and are educating their friends about our human responsibilities, because they have learned so much, by volunteering at the Store and Center. I am very proud to be part of this grassroots Center, and movement.” – Francine Serwili-Ngunga, M.Ed. is the Americorps team leader in Burlington. She has added value to our current programs and is a ready and willing substitute store volunteer.

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“When I first set foot in the Peace & Justice Center, I was immediately struck by both the positive atmosphere and the variety of cool and artsy fair trade goods available at the store. It just seemed like a fun place with good people! And of course, it absolutely is. This is the main reason I enjoy my time volunteering here so much. The programs and mission of the PJC are inspiring and enlightening. It is a pleasure to be around such good, hardworking people who fight for important issues they care about. And I love everything we sell in the store – such good quality, interesting stuff! Also I’ve secretly always wanted to work a cash register.” – Nate Reit is a trombonist in Gang of Thieves and printed over 100 T-shirts for the PJC.

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“I love volunteering at the Peace & Justice Center! Applying my cashier and sales skills towards a meaningful cause (selling fair trade items) is so fulfilling. The environment is friendly, the location is gorgeous, and my fellow volunteers and supervisors couldn’t be more welcoming. The Peace & Justice Center has been a great way to round out my summer, I’m glad I chose to volunteer here!” – Ciera Lazarus is a student at Champlain College and has made some amazing displays for the Peace & Justice Store.

Vermont Drone Quilt

Thank you to the many people who have submitted blocks for our Vermont Drone Quilt. Each block has the name of a Pakistani drone victim. We have received 25 pieces from around the state. Haven’t made one yet? There is still time! We are hoping to gather at least another 15 before sending them along to the national Drone Quilt Project to be made into a quilt for the touring show. For more information and/or to receive a name of a drone victim contact us at program@pjcvt.org or 802-863-2345 x6.
Racial Justice

My Reality of the Champlain Area

By Mary Brown Guillory

As I sit at my computer I try to think of a world that is fair to every person; where access is considered a right for every person breathing. But when I’ve looked around our community for over 22 years, I know that fair treatment is a dream. Can this dream ever be reached? “Why can’t it?” I ask myself.

I was always taught to do unto others as you would have them do to you. A person should do their best, work hard for what they want, treat people with respect and fairness, leave things better than what you found them.

Well, in this lifetime, I have tried to do this, but then there is this reoccurring thing that raises its head. Some may know it as racism or discrimination, hatred or bias. These examples of negative treatment never go away in my daily life. There are times it presents its negative self in the treatment of others, there are times when a business in the Champlain Area will deny you access or to even purchase merchandise. There are so many times when others’ negative treatment of people of color is pushed down our throats. Someday I dream of a place where I can walk down the street and not hear the N-word shouted out of a passing car.

This is why we need a Champlain Area NAACP! If these incidents would only happen once a month, maybe we could understand, but every day someone discriminates and denies people of color some of their rights. Just this week I was denied service in a restaurant. Last week I tried to buy some sunglasses in a store downtown and the store clerk would not wait on me. A few weeks ago my friend’s son could not even get a haircut at a barber shop. I never pull into full service gas stations because of the negative treatment by the service people.

This is why we need a Champlain Area NAACP! If these incidents would only happen once a month, maybe we could understand, but every day someone discriminates and denies people of color some of their rights. Just this week I was denied service in a restaurant. Last week I tried to buy some sunglasses in a store downtown and the store clerk would not wait on me. A few weeks ago my friend’s son could not even get a haircut at a barber shop. I never pull into full service gas stations because of the negative treatment by the service people.

Why do we need the Champlain Area NAACP? We need to lobby for fair treatment of all people. Let us be judged by the content of our character. We need an organization that will stand for the rights of others and make sure that every person, young or old, gay or straight is treated fairly. We need volunteers that will stand united to fight for the unrepresented. We need to leave this world better than we found it.

As I look at the green mountains, I sometimes hear voices saying this is a nice place to live, we care, it is safe. But is it really safe for people of color? Is it really welcoming for everyone? Ask yourself, “What have I done to make the Champlain area safe and more inclusive?”

Please consider joining the movement to make the Champlain area more inclusive – become a member of the Champlain Area NAACP. Let us all stand to oppose the monsters of discrimination and make the Champlain area what it can be. Let’s make our communities beautiful and safe for everyone and a beautiful place for everyone.

Become a member online at http://tinyurl.com/k6kx6e4

The Champlain Area NAACP
6:30pm, 2nd Tuesday of the month
UVM Waterman Bldg, 427A.
Questions: 802-324-4522.

Burlington Restaurants Support PJC:

Bluebird Barbecue

Community Night
Wednesday, July 15
317 Riverside Ave, Burlington.
Bluebird Barbecue will be donating 10% of the entire evening’s sales to the Peace & Justice Center. Support us by making a reservation at Bluebird Barbecue at bluebirdbbq.com or call 802-448-3070.

Benefit Bake Night
Tuesday, August 4th
115 St, Paul Street, Burlington.
American Flatbread will donate $3.50 for each large flatbread and $1.75 for each small flatbread sold during the event to the PJC. Call to reserve a table on the day of the event: 802-861-2999.

Come break bread with us!
White Fragility

By Andi Harrington
PJC Americorps Volunteer

As you read this, over 1.5 million American black men are sitting in prison cells, missing from everyday life.¹ There are more people incarcerated in America today than during apartheid in South Afrique.² To put it in a different perspective, there are more people incarcerated now than during a time when a country openly advocated for the legal discrimination and cultural genocide. Yet despite these statistics, the illusion that we are living in a post-racial and colorblind world continues to be referenced by media, school education and throughout American society.

What is preventing us from acknowledging systems of oppression and developing sustainable policies that improve rather than destroy our communities? According to Dr. Robin DiAngelo, Associate Professor of Critical Multicultural & Social Justice at Westfield State University, the continued success of racist institutions can be routed down to one community: white folks.

According to her paper entitled White Fragility, Dr. DiAngelo argues that white communities are upholding systems of discrimination and, to make matters worse, they are completely unaware that they are doing it.

In her paper, DiAngelo argues that white people have created a fragile and isolated world, far removed from those of their brown and black brothers and sisters. She compares this world to a fort made from pillows. She writes, “This insulated environment of racial privilege builds white expectations for racial comfort, while at the same time lowering the ability to tolerate racial stress.” This lack of contact with reality makes simple conversations about racism feel overwhelming, anxiety-producing, and at its worst, life threatening to many white people.³

But what is making white people want to live in this overly-sensitive bubble? DiAngelo argues that white people are not taught to think about racism in a complex manner, do not consider the spiritual and financial drain of racism in their communities. She writes that white people are taught racism only as a personal, evil decision rather than a complex system of laws, historical trauma and implicit bias. She also argues that white people are kept separated from their brown brother and sisters through zoning and housing codes, and are taught not to miss them. For example, a “good” or “safe” neighborhood is often code for a white neighborhood, just as a “good” school implies a white-dominated community. ³

A racist person is thought of by people, especially white people, as an evil character rather than a product of centuries of discriminatory policies. Yet racism benefits white communities by creating an artificial sense of superiority. When white people are confronted with the realities that their lifestyles, even unintentionally, are continuing the policies of their racist ancestors many things start to happen.

DiAngelo writes, “Common white responses include anger, withdrawal, emotional incapacitation, guilt, argumentation, and cognitive dissonance (all of which reinforce the pressure to avoid directly addressing racism).”

As white people feel they have made a personal decision to be racist, they begin to focus on themselves in an attempt to improve the situation by focusing on themselves as a victim rather than a passive perpetrator and/or remove themselves entirely from the situation. This removal means that white people decide when and how to discuss racism and do so only when they feel “comfortable” or safe from judgement.

The act of avoiding emotional discomfort has led to the rise of “political correctness” or the desire to maintain equilibrium within white communities. Because white communities are intentionally kept isolated and are often too fragile to discuss racism, these conversations go silent. These uncomfortable discussions are critically needed to end institutionalized racism in America and when they are halted, the cycles of physical and cultural genocides in marginalized communities continue.

Knowing this, how might a white person stop the cycle? How can we make white communities strong enough to handle conversations about race without feelings of victimhood and/or shame? According to activist and educator Paul Kivel, the first step is to make mistakes. ⁴

How often do you have an opinion about race issues, and yet a fear of offending others silences you? How often do you think you know a group of people, and yet the only experience you have is based on news media? Political correctness is not polite, it is lethal. The silence it creates allows systems of protection (courts, hospitals, police stations, etc.) to become dangerous systems of oppression.

To quote historian Howard Zinn, “[The] point is not to grieve for the victims and denounce the executioners. Those tears, that anger, cast into the past, deplete our moral energy for the future.” ⁵ The time has come for white communities to see themselves as they really are: racist. And it is only through this brutal honesty, this painful recognition of truth that we can really begin to change ourselves and create a peaceful and just world.

Want more information on how to be a responsible white person? Email program@pjcvt.org to learn more about our racial justice workshops at the PJC.

**Footnotes:**

4. Kivel, Paul. Uprooting Racism. Pg.110
5. Zinn, Howard. A Peoples History. p 10
Women United to Stop War

By Robin Lloyd

The long awaited 100th anniversary commemoration of the founding of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom took place this April in The Hague, The Netherlands. The Women’s Power to Stop War: Uniting a Global Movement Conference attracted over 1000 participants: members of WILPF from sections around the world, Nobel Peace prize winners, human rights activists, lawyers, and women from the front lines of the many conflicts that afflict our planet. It was an intense and uplifting but sobering event. Women are suffering in increasing numbers as war, climate change and migration make us more vulnerable. We were inspired by the courage of those struggling in dire circumstances for justice and human rights, and for simple survival.

As we met for three days, new crises poured in upon us. A WILPF member from Nepal stood up and told us that her house had been destroyed in the earthquake and she did not know whether her family had survived. Later, at a plenary session, Amal Basha from Yemen delivered an impassioned plea for the end of violence in her country: she had left Yemen a week earlier and now found that she could not return: “I am homeless now. Sisters help me!” she cried. The WILPF Executive Committee responded with a letter that was taken to 10 embassies in The Hague the next day, outlining seven demands and saying, in part, “The world is failing Yemen. The world cannot be complicit. Yemen has been betrayed by the international community. Violence and war have been unleashed and fueled from the outside. The human cost is incalculable."

The three day conference was structured with a plenary session at the start of each day: The Movement starts Now: Engaging Men and Boys for Gender Justice; Root Causes: Power, War and Weapons; and Actions and Strategies for Change.

Amy Goodman led the first plenary session, and devoted two of her Democracy Now newscasts to interviews with conference participants. She said “We need a media that will cover these most violent times: What a responsibility! We will be sitting around this table for the next three days: not just sitting, but sitting like Rosa Parks did; sitting as part of action.”

An important thrust of the conference was outreach and collaboration with men. The idea that men suffer from patriarchy as do women, was brought out in the Day 1 session on “Engaging Men and Boys for Gender Equality, Peace and Social Justice.” Men from Burundi, South Africa and Nicaragua revealed their struggles to escape the heavy burden of violent masculinity. Dean Peacock of the Global Men Engage Alliance of South Africa stated it clearly: “Masculinities & patriarchy as they are constructed today are toxic to women, the planet, and to the vast majority of men.”

Cynthia Cockburn received special acclaim for her work writing the 18 page WILPF Manifesto 2015, the official document of WILPF’s intentions, views and work. Cockburn explained, “We are face to face with a hard truth. International mechanisms we’ve trusted, and indeed put a lot of our own effort into creating, are proving unable to end injustice and stop war. So we remember the ones in WILPF who never gave up on the word ‘revolution.’ We see that only radically transformative movements, inspired by feminist principles and led by the most excluded of women, are likely to bring equality, justice, love, and non-violence.”

Cynthia Enloe, an expert on demilitarization, spoke on the Root Causes panel. “Militarism appeals to women in their most conventional mode: to be protected: by brother, father, policeman. To be protected is engrained in patriarchal societies. We need to unlearn ‘what is protection?’ We need to look at our own intimate lives.”

It was thrilling to hear the voices of women from the Middle East, voices that are totally missing from mainstream reporting. Zahra Langhi is a Libyan activist and founder of the Libyan Women’s Platform for Peace. She asserts that the international community’s ‘blueprint’ for Libya, imposed in 2011, was a complete failure. Nevertheless, mainstream pundits still claim that the NATO invasion of Libya was a success and that “The UN fulfilled their obligation to support the civilian population in Libya in line with the principle of ‘Responsibility to Protect.’”

Zahra said that the international community was only interested in overthrowing the government, not creating democracy. “It’s a travesty to think of having democracy without arms control. We’re calling for demilitarization and an end of impunity.”

Twenty women from the Congo attended the conference. Marie-Claire Furay, a lawyer and Congolese woman living in England led a meeting on Human Rights in Africa. “Our governments write agreements with international organizations on our behalf without consulting us,” she said. “We wrote a 16 page declaration asking for Africa to be free, and for the European countries to stop supporting...”
dictators. We want a stop to the creation of new legal frameworks: we want the current ones to be implemented.”

Furay was joined by Marie-Lyse Numuhoza from the neighboring nation of Rwanda. She pointed out that “Four countries in the Great Lakes region have come to power with the gun. The UN has facilitated access to power through guns. Outside governments should put pressure on them. We need reconciliation. The Congo is a puppet of the UN. There needs to be inter-Rwandan dialogue. Truth and reconciliation is needed.” Referring to the corporate pirates that are stealing the minerals of the area, she said, “We need to hold to account the multinationals who are re-enslaving the population.”

They got specific on girls’ rights to education and about menstruation. “Women are discriminated against when they menstruate. Women don’t have pads. Every country has a Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) report; we need to look at what can be lobbied for. All women have the right to menstrual pads.”

Finally, Edith Ballantyne, the 93 year old former WILPF president and Secretary General brought age and urgency to the discussion. “After 100 years, things are worse than ever. We don’t have that much time. I miss the mass demonstrations. People are suffering. When I was a refugee, I was helped. Now? No! We have to be out in the street and screaming out – together!”

Women left the conference rejuvenated and planning to return to their communities to laugh, scream and work like hell to make change so that people can survive, with dignity.

Sisters of Mercy Peace Awards

By Laurie Gagne, Chair, Sisters of Mercy Peace Initiative Awards Committee and Director of the Edmundite Center for Peace and Justice at St. Michael’s College. 802-654-2205; 802-338-0551; lgagne@smcvt.edu.

Do you or your organization have a great idea for a peace-building project that just needs a little money to get off the ground? If so, the Sisters of Mercy Peace Initiative Awards Committee would like to hear from you. We are accepting applications from now until July 13 for our eighth funding cycle. As in the past, $30,000 will be disbursed this year in the form of small grants to Vermont-based individuals and groups working for peace and social justice.

The committee is looking for applications which reflect 1) a commitment to principles of non-violence; 2) democratic organization; and 3) diversity or a commitment to diversity. All proposals must involve the wider community and special attention will be given to projects which focus on youth. Recipients of previous grants include the Peace & Justice Center, Pax Christi Burlington, the Vermont Peace Academy, the Addison County Farmworker Coalition, the Vermont Ibutwa Initiative, and the Rural Women Leadership Institute of Vermont.

The grant application process has two stages. Initial application forms are due July 13 at which time the committee will designate second-round candidates. Final application forms will be due August 10 and recipients will be announced shortly afterwards. To receive an initial application form, interested individuals should email Laurie Gagne.

The Mercy Peace Awards were established in 2006 with some of the proceeds from the sale of Trinity College, which was owned and run by the Sisters of Mercy of Vermont until it closed in 2001. According to the mission statement, $30,000 is to be distributed annually to Vermont-based individuals and organizations working to create a more peaceful society.” Committee members are Dr. Laurie Gagne, Chair; Sister Susan Fortier; Joseph Gainza; Sister Lucille Bonvouloir and Jean Markey-Duncan.
In Vermont, Senate Bill 76 went into effect July 1, 2004, legalizing medical cannabis, provided certain conditions are met. Patients or their primary doctor were initially allowed to possess a maximum of two ounces of usable cannabis and a maximum of three cannabis plants, a maximum of which one could be mature.

Vermont Senate Bill 7 went into effect July 1, 2007 further defining which patients qualify for medical cannabis and how much they may possess without penalty of law at the state level. The amendment allows physicians licensed outside of Vermont to recommend medical cannabis for Vermont patients.

Vermont Senate Bill 7 increased the possession limits on a per patient/caregiver basis to the following:

“Possession limit” means the amount of marijuana collectively possessed between the registered patient and the patient’s registered caregiver. 18 V.S.A. Chapter 86 specifies the possession limit to be no more than two mature marijuana plants, seven immature plants, and two ounces of usable marijuana.

As of March of this year there are 1,754 patients registered with the Vermont Therapeutic Marijuana Registry program, and a mere 200 registered caregivers as of the same date. Since current statute directly limits one patient per caregiver, there currently are only 200 patients with a registered caregiver. On the registry of 1754 patients, that means some 1550 patients are solely legally responsible for obtaining their allowed amounts. And just qualifying for the registry is no small feat – these are patients with a serious condition, often long-term in nature, usually life-altering in terms of its effect on the individual patient and those around them, but additionally they are solely responsible for the legal procurement of their medical cannabis.

Vermont has four legal operating dispensaries, yet patients are registered in every county of the state, resulting in excessively long drives to get to the nearest dispensary, even for a healthy individual, but then imagine making that trip with a debilitating physical or mental condition.

However, to the credit of the people working out the details of implementing this program, home delivery is said to be high on the list of priorities. After all, these are people with at least one serious disability and many are housebound to various degrees, unable to travel for hours through the hills and valleys of the state and back again. Delivery, if done right, can literally be a life-saver.

For additional information visit us at website www.vermontcompassioncenters.net and join us for our free open discussion meetings held at 11:30am on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month at the Peace & Justice Center. Email consultation also available at no charge. NOTE – we are not lawyers or medical personnel, but we are registry patients with extensive experience in the industry.

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Nepal needs your help!

We are proud to announce that we are now carrying natural Tibetan incense from Lama Chodpa!

100% of the proceeds are being donated to Vermont for Nepal, an organization dedicated to relief for those affected by the earthquake in Nepal.

Show your support and come by the Peace & Justice Store today! For more information about Vermont for Nepal, we encourage you to check out their website: www.vermontfornepal.org
Will you help us cross the finish line?

Dear F-35 Activists,

I’m writing today to ask your help to cross the finish line and complete the job many of you started back in 2010 opposing the basing of the F-35A in the midst of our residential communities. We have been phenomenally successful and the end of our struggle is almost in sight.

While we were unable to convince our elected officials, we DID convince the U.S. Air Force. They were about to choose another base when Leahy forced them to select us. It is deplorable that despite overwhelming evidence that basing the F-35A in the Burlington area will result in grave harm to the people living near the airport, Senators Leahy and Sanders, and Representative Welch favored the military-industrial-political complex over the people of Vermont!

So, we took legal action – perhaps not the course most of us would have chosen – but it was the only viable option available to us. Fortunately, we have the highly respected lawyer Jim Dumont, who is working for us at a reduced rate. Jim has developed strong arguments and strategies. Our case is powerful, and we have a good chance of winning. Let me explain why.

We have two ongoing lawsuits. The first was filed against the City of Burlington for failing to have the F-35A basing reviewed under Vermont’s Act 250. Our case was appealed to the Vermont Supreme Court, where the judges ruled against us. But in an unprecedented move, one of the judges wrote a separate document saying (in lay-terms) that they sympathized with us, but had to rule against us, as they believe Federal government rights trump states rights, but that we have a good chance of winning a lawsuit if we sue under the Public Nuisance statute. [See link below.]

So, this loss was actually a win in that it gave us an incredible opportunity.

Jim Dumont was able to convince a prestigious Washington, DC legal firm, which specializes in arguing cases in front of the U.S. Supreme Court, to take our case – pro bono! WOW! It is hard to over-emphasize the significance of this. This firm routinely argues cases before the Supreme Court, and wins. Their legal fees for a typical case are in the $350,000 range.

And, while it is astounding that they are going to handle our case pro bono, equally amazing is the fact that legal firms of this high caliber don’t take cases pro bono unless they think they can win the case. DOUBLE WOW! It gets even better. Representing us before the U.S. Supreme Court is David Frederick – a former Assistant U.S. Solicitor General, an expert in federal preemption law, and someone who has tried over 40 cases before the U.S. Supreme Court. He will be assisted by a team of lawyers at the Supreme Court Clinic of the University of Texas Law School. Each of these lawyers has served as a clerk to a U.S. Supreme Court justice. To say the least, this represents an unusually high level of experience and expertise in matters before the Supreme Court.

Our second lawsuit against the Air Force is ongoing. Jim identified nine counts in which the Air Force in its Environmental Impact Statement violated requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. We expect the judge to rule on our case later this year. The City of Winooski to joined the lawsuit against the Air Force which will definitely help.

And, we’ve had more than just legal successes. A few months ago, over 45 members of our local clergy signed a letter and about 20 of them held a press conference, urging our elected officials to re-think their support for the F-35A basing.

But, wait... there’s more: we received more national media attention. In January, Al Jazeera America came to Burlington to cover our story, and they broadcast it on their “America Tonight” show on 14 May. “America Tonight” is a half-hour news program like 60 Minutes, during which they report on two or three stories. Our story led the broadcast, and took up half of the show that night. [See link below.]

All of the above is good news. And, the end is in sight, and it looks very promising for us...except for one thing -- we have run out of money!

To date we have raised over $75,000, predominately from individual donors like you, which has allowed us to pay all of our bills and legal fees...until now. Jim estimates that his costs for the rest of this year are between $25,000 and $35,000 depending on whether the U.S. Supreme Court decides to hear our case.

But everything will stop unless we continue paying him.

In order to complete what we have started, and win this struggle for justice in our community, we need everyone to donate now. Please give more than you have given in the past. I am donating $3,500. My friend is giving $35. I hope those who can afford it, will join us. And perhaps others can increase what they have contributed in the past. Donate at www.stoptheF35.com or send a check to the PJC.

You have done so much with your voices and letters and demonstrations. But, the time for that is over. What we need now is money. Victory is in front of us. We are approaching the finish line. Your dollars can help us cross it. Let’s stop the F-35 FOR GOOD!

Sincerely,

Colonel Rosanne M. Greco, USAF (ret.)


Link to the Vermont Supreme Court Decision: (“An Alarming Wake-up Call” about the F35 “Public Nuisance” https://www.dropbox.com/s/w38gstsIbw2wgl/Vermont%20Supreme%20Court%20F-35%20Decision%203-6-2015.pdf?dl=0

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Your dollars can help us cross it. Let’s stop the F-35 FOR GOOD!
### Calendar

#### July 2, Thursday
5:30-6:30pm Community Read of “The Meaning of the Fourth of July to the Negro,” City Hall, Burlington. In 1852, Frederick Douglass, one of our nation’s greatest orators and abolitionists, was asked to speak at an event commemorating the signing of the Declaration of Independence. In his provocative speech, Douglass said, “This Fourth of July is yours, not mine. You may rejoice, I must mourn.” And he asked, “Do you mean, citizens, to mock me, by asking me to speak today?” Douglass’s speech remains emotionally powerful and thought-provoking more than a century and a half after he gave it. The Vermont Humanities Council is supporting groups and communities statewide to organize public participatory readings of his compelling speech. To see the dates and locations of all twelve locations, please go to http://www.vermonthumanities.org/reading-frederick-douglass-events/ The Burlington event will be introduced by Denise Dunbar, Ph.D, Vermont Anti-Racist Action Team and Reading to End Racism Director, and is supported by the Peace & Justice Center, the VT Humanities Council, Partnership for Change, AALV, Young Writers Project, Community Change Inc., and PAUSE. For more information contact Kyle at 802-863-2345 X6.

#### July 5, Sunday
12-1pm Vets for Peace live call-in TV show, Ch. 15 VCAM. First Sunday every month.

#### July 6 & 20, Monday
6:30pm Save Open Space-Burlington meeting at PJC. Community group working to protect the land around Burlington College. First and third Mondays every month.

#### July 9, Thursday
5pm The Women’s International League of Peace and Freedom meeting at the PJC. All are welcome to attend. Second Thursday every month.

#### July 11, Saturday
2-5pm Nonviolent Action for Youth at the PJC. Do you have a passion for changing the world for the better? Many activists advocate for a particular cause or on behalf of a specific oppressed group. Examples include activism for the rights of indigenous people, racial justice, women’s rights, economic justice, animal rights, and environmental justice. Young people are an integral part of social justice movements now and have been in our history. In this workshop participants will learn just a few techniques of nonviolent action as well as some examples of youth-lead actions in peace and justice work. It is best suited for youth and young adults. Register online or call Kyle at 863-2345 x6.

#### July 13, Monday
6-8pm Vermonters for a Just Peace in Palestine/Israel monthly meeting at PJC. For more information, e-mail vtjp@vtjp.org. Second Monday every month.

#### July 14, Tuesday
6:30pm Champlain Area NAACP meets every 2nd Tuesday of the month at Waterman Building, UVM, Room 427A. Questions: 802-324-4522. Also 8/11 and 9/15.

#### July 18, Saturday
10am Vets for Peace monthly meeting in Montpelier’s Kellogg-Hubbard Library. Usually the third Saturday, but check with President Adrienne Knapp at adriennej@hotmail.com. Also 8/15 and 9/19.

#### August 1, Saturday
2-5pm Conflict Intervention Workshop covers the basic theory of nonviolence and how it can be actively applied in heated interpersonal conflicts. There will be a general discussion on conflict followed by skill-building. Learn strategies for how to behave in the face of direct violence and how to de-escalate heated conflicts. All who seek to further their conflict competence are welcome! At the PJC.

#### August 4, Tuesday
9-1:30pm Privilege and Accountability: Becoming an Ally. This workshop was developed for HR departments and staff trainings. The public is invited to join us for this pilot program at no cost and we welcome your feedback as we shape the program. We will learn about our personal and social identities; practice new vocabulary; develop skills to be a better ally; and leave with an understanding of what it means to honor our responsibilities as a conscience member of society. We hope participants will gain an understanding that real change starts within, with one’s own awakening. FREE.

#### August 6, Thursday
8-8:30am Hiroshima Day Morning Vigil. Silent vigil for nuclear disarmament and abolition of nuclear weapons on the corner of Main and So. Prospect Streets, Burlington. Evening time TBD, Songs of Hope, Burlington’s Waterfront Park. Join The PJC at our annual event in recognition of the bombing of Hiroshima 70 years ago. We will sing and float candle boats with hopes for a peaceful future.

#### August 8, Saturday
CALENDAR

August 15, Saturday
12-3pm Congo Luzingu, Contois Auditorium, Burlington City Hall. Come to this celebration of Congo Life in recognition of Congo’s Independence. The event is meant to strengthen mutual understanding between people from Congo-Brazzville who have settled in Vermont and the wider community. The festival will celebrate art, music, dance, poetry, geography, food and traditions from the Republic of the Congo and will include displays of artwork, sculpture, textiles and clothing; maps, images, and film of our people and geography; samples of Congolese “street food” such as ntoba mbori and mbake; and speeches, songs, folktales and poetry readings in French, Kituba, Lari, and Lingala, four of the national languages. For more information contact Goma Mabika at gomamabika@gmail.com.

September 12, Saturday
2-4pm Recruiting for Peace Training and Tea at the PJC. As part of the PJC’s Peace Campaign, we visit area high schools to encourage students to consider alternatives to the military and work in the field of social justice. In the past, we have talked to students who are involved in peace work in their community, those considering the military, and many with family and friends who have served or are currently serving. We are not anti-soldier in this campaign; we simply hope to encourage students to explore the full reality of their post-graduate decisions. We are always looking for volunteers to join us at our high school visits. If you are interested in this please join this training. Tea and desserts will be provided. For more information contact Kyle at 802-863-2345 x6.

September 14 & 15, Monday & Tuesday
6-8pm New Jim Crow Discussion Group, Aldrich Library, 6 Washington St, Barre. Join us for this two part book discussion facilitated by Beverly Little Thunder and Nathan Suter about Michelle Alexander’s book, “The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness.” This group gives participants a chance to express their thoughts and to analyze the book in a structured conversation. Participants are asked to read entire book and come to both sessions. The program is free for all, although new PJC members will receive a free copy of the book if they register by August 24.

September 22 & 24, Tuesday and Thursday
5:30-7:30pm, Activism 101, at PJC. Do you have a passion for changing the world for the better? Join this two part workshop as part of Campaign Nonviolence’s Week of Actions 2015. Many activists advocate for a particular cause or on behalf of a specific oppressed group. Working individually or in groups, they employ a wide variety of strategies. In this workshop participants will learn just a few techniques of nonviolent action and strategize about what to use when. Register online or call Kyle at 863-2345 x6.

Never Again Another Hiroshima or Nagasaki

“...I had been conscious of a feeling of depression and so I voiced to [Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson] my grave misgivings, first on the basis of my belief that Japan was already defeated and that dropping the bomb was completely unnecessary, and secondly because I thought our country should avoid shocking world opinion by the use of a weapon whose employment was, I thought, no longer mandatory as a measure to save American lives.”

–Dwight D. Eisenhower, General, US Army

“...[T]he use of this barbarous weapon at Hiroshima and Nagasaki was of no material assistance in our war against Japan...[I]n being the first to use it, we had adopted an ethical standard common to the barbarians of the Dark Ages. I was not taught to make war in that fashion, and wars cannot be won by destroying women and children.”

–William D. Leahy, Fleet Admiral, US Navy

“. [.I]t always appeared to us that, atomic bomb or no atomic bomb, the Japanese were already on the verge of collapse.”

–Henry H. Arnold, Commanding General, US Army Air Forces

“Careful scholarly treatment of the records and manuscripts opened over the past few years has greatly enhanced our understanding of why the Truman administration used atomic weapons against Japan. Experts continue to disagree on some issues, but critical questions have been answered. The consensus among scholars is that the bomb was not needed to avoid an invasion of Japan and to end the war within a relatively short time. It is clear that alternatives to the bomb existed and that Truman and his advisers knew it.”

–J. Samuel Walker, chief historian of the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission

We Can Rid the World of Nuclear Weapons

2015 is the 70th anniversary of the US bombing Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Quotes compiled by Pax Christi Burlington.
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