



peace & justice news

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Farm to Plate

Excerpted from the Interim Report to the Legislature

By Ellen Kahler, Executive Director of the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund

In 2009, the Legislature created the Farm to Plate Investment Program which directs the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund with the Vermont Sustainable Agriculture Council and other stakeholders to develop a 10-year strategic plan to strengthen Vermont's farm and food sector.

■ Creating a Strategic Plan for Vermont's Farm and Food Sectors

Vermont has a rich agricultural history. Yet there are both historic and recent threats to the future of agriculture in the state, including the loss of dairy farms, rising energy and feed costs, the volatility of commodity markets, and global competition. There are also many signs of expansion and opportunity, especially for diversified farm operations and organic dairies.

The explosion of interest in local food and the hundreds of organizations, programs and volunteer driven activities that now exist has led many to call for a coordinated statewide plan for making new, strategic investments in our farm and food sector. Many believe that farming and food production are already a vital and growing part of the state's economy, with even greater potential. In fact, jobs throughout the entire food system represent 20% (or 54,334) of all private sector jobs and are connected to 31% (or 9,166) of all private establishments. (VT Dept. of Labor (2007 QCEW) and the 2007 Census of Agriculture).

Building on what Secretary Roger Albee calls a "renaissance in Vermont agriculture," the Farm to Plate Investment Program (F2P) will create a strategic plan for agricultural economic development to achieve the overarching goals of strengthening our local food system and stimulating economic development in Vermont's farm and food sector. This will in turn create jobs in the farm and food economy, improve access to healthy local foods, and expand local and regional markets for Vermont products. A key component of F2P is to identify infrastructure investments and public policy recommendations which will support new and existing agricultural enterprises that increase local resiliency in today's changing economic and global times.

The primary deliverable for this program will be a comprehensive 10-year Strategic Plan for Agricultural Economic Development in Vermont which will contain, at a minimum, the following components:

■ Baseline/Existing Conditions, Trends, SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats)

- An inventory of Vermont's food system infrastructure by gathering existing data, studies, and analysis;
- In-depth research to identify of gaps in the infrastructure and distribution systems and ways to address these gaps

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PUBLISHED

10/year
(See form on page 12)

CIRCULATION

1,400

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

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PJC MISSION

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



From the Center

Greetings!

It feels like spring! We can see bare ground, fed by the rain and occasional sun. Folks are making plans for their gardens and starting to grow veggies from seeds in their homes. Meanwhile, we, at the PJC, are also germinating ideas, and are moving forward with our own exciting plans, promoting a new way forward for Vermont's economy. We have been working for over a decade providing research and advocacy on livable wages, economic development, and the benefit of supporting local economies and fair trade practices.

The research we conducted in our first nine *Vermont Job Gap Studies* and on the Livable Wage Campaign has informed our perspective on what makes a stable and sustainable economy. In Part 1 of our latest *Vermont Job Gap Study*, we offered alternative viewpoints regarding our state's economic climate, highlighting factors that positively affect economic development such as a high quality of life and strong and vibrant local, small businesses.

Spring brings various events and happenings – some sponsored by the PJC, some offered by other groups and organizations that we've aligned with and support in order to pursue a strong, stable, sustainable state with a high quality of life for all of its citizens. Many of these events are referenced in other sections of our newsletter, but I wanted to bring special attention to them because the organizations hosting these events have overlapping goals and priorities with the PJC.

- We're supporting the **Farm to Plate Investment Program**, an initiative of the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund and brainchild of former PJC executive director Ellen Kahler. This program bolsters Vermont's agricultural sector, food safety and sustainable, environmental practices. The Farm to Plate Statewide Food Summit is taking place on April 10 at Rutland Middle School. The keynote speaker will be Ken Meter, a premier food systems analyst.

- In honor of Earth Day – April 22 – we're supporting **350.org**, an international campaign dedicated to building a movement to unite the world around solutions to the climate crisis. 350.org was founded by Bill McKibben, a Middlebury professor and one of the first authors to tackle the subject of global warming.

- On April 24, PJC will host a Tea with **Ron Krupp** – a local author, farmer and gardener, who wrote *Lifting the Yoke: Local Solutions to America's Farm and Food Crisis*.

- The **Gross National Happiness** Conference will take place June 1-4 at Champlain College. The theme of the conference is "Changing What We Measure from Wealth to Well-Being." One of PJC's board members, Linda Wheatley, is at the heart of Gross National Happiness USA.

- PJC has joined the **Slow Money Alliance**, a group formed to encourage co-investment and provide technical assistance in sustainable agriculture, local economies, organic food, and small enterprises. The Slow Money Alliance will host a national gathering June 9-11 at Shelburne Farms. Bill McKibben is one of the featured speakers along with Will Raap, founder of Gardener's Supply.

As we move forward with releasing Parts 2 and 3 of Phase 10 of the *Vermont Job Gap Study*, we will be soliciting input from our members, the community, policy makers, and other stakeholders. We will be holding a conference on November 18, the culmination of months of research and collaboration. On that day, we'll be rolling out our legislative agenda for the next biennium and explain the ideas put forth in Part 3 of our latest *Vermont Job Gap Study*, "Toward a New Economy."

Mark your calendars now, so that you don't miss out on these exciting events, which promote positive collaboration with allies who support moving Vermont in the direction of a new economy that promotes all forms of healthy capital—natural, social, human, and financial. Please join us in these endeavors!

In celebration of Peace and Justice,

Nancy Lynch

YOUTH ACTIVIST INSTITUTE 2010

be the change you want
to see in the world
- mahatma gandhi

YAI

The Peace & Justice Center is proud to announce our 2nd Annual Youth Activist Institute, held at Vermont Technical College in Randolph from June 25th-27th.

■ What is it?

YAI is a grant funded project designed to engage high school aged youth in activism, and empower them to inspire others and make change. It is a weekend-long program filled with workshops, guest speakers and various activism-related activities. Our goals are to build a community of youth activists to sustain and support each other, as well as cultivate tools and confidence for youth to go forward and build campaigns.

■ Who can do it?

If you are a high school student in Vermont and you want to learn how to make a change, we want you! You don't have to have had extensive experience in activism or inspiring change, all you need is passion and a desire to learn about how to make change in your community – local or global. By working with esteemed professionals during informational workshops, you will get a first-hand view of how easy it is to make a difference.

■ How much does it cost?

If accepted, you will be asked to submit a \$25 deposit along with permission forms. The deposit will be returned to you upon arrival at the Institute. Deposit waivers are available. Essentially, if you commit to the Institute and you arrive as planned, the entire weekend is free.

■ How do I apply?

You can find the application at www.pjcv.org/what-we-do/youth-activist-institute/. Fill it out and e-mail it to Colin Robinson at crobinson@pjcv.org or mail it to:

Peace and Justice Center
Attn: Youth Activist Institute
60 Lake Street, 1C
Burlington, VT 05401

Make sure your application is in by Friday, April 16th!

■ What students have said about YAI in the past...

- “There was no time that I didn't enjoy and I feel as though every minute from the moment I arrived, I was learning new, useful things and having fun.”
- “I realized how much power I have as a youth, and that I can really change

things, because sometimes I feel like I'm not taken seriously.”

- “The most important thing I gained was inspiration. It gave me a lot of hope to know there are other teens with similar goals to mine and now that I have these skills and know these tactics, I feel like I'll get a lot more done.”

- “I have been so blessed to grow up in VT where so many people have empowered me. I want to pay that forward and continue to inspire youth to enact change.”

- “I will speak! I will share my experience and feelings and never believe a problem can't be fixed!”

- “[I learned that] in order to change the world you have to take it one step at a time.”

■ Have more questions?

You can e-mail Colin Robinson at crobinson@pjcv.org or call him at (802)863-2345 ex 8, or you can e-mail Amy Dunki-Jacobs at amydunki@yahoo.com or call her at (802)863-2345 ex 9. ☎



H. Zinn picture by F. Glow, artwork by S. Reyes

A Celebration of Howard Zinn

**Friday, April 23, 7pm,
Contois Auditorium, City Hall, Burlington.**

Film: *You Can't be Neutral on a Moving Train*, by Vermont filmmaker, Deb Ellis.

Matt Damon narrates this biographical portrait of historian and activist Howard Zinn, author of the pivotal *A People's History of the United States*, who's been at the forefront of progressive thought in America for decades. The documentary chronicles his commitment to social change through archival materials, commentary from Zinn and interviews with contemporaries Noam Chomsky, Daniel Ellsberg, Tom Hayden and Alice Walker, among others.

Followed by readings of Howard Zinn's work. \$10 to benefit the Peace & Justice Center



By *Bill McKibben & folks at 350*

The science is clear: global warming is happening faster than ever and humans are responsible. Global warming is caused by releasing what are called greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. The most common greenhouse gas is carbon dioxide. Many of the activities we do every day, like turn the lights on, cook food, or heat or cool our homes rely on the combustion of fossil fuels like coal and oil, which emit carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gases when burned. This is a major problem because global warming destabilizes the delicate balance that makes life on this planet possible. Just a few degrees in temperature can completely change the world as we know it, and threaten the lives of millions of people around the world.

350.org is an international campaign dedicated to building a movement to unite the world around solutions to the climate crisis – the solutions that science

and justice demand.

Our mission is to inspire the world to rise to the challenge of the climate crisis—to create a new sense of urgency and of possibility for our planet.

Our focus is on the number 350 – as in parts per million, the level scientists have identified as the safe upper limit for CO₂ in our atmosphere. But 350 is more than a number – it's a symbol of where we need to head as a planet. (We are at 387 now.)

In order to unite the public, media, and our political leaders behind the 350 goal, we harnessed the power of the internet to coordinate a planetary day of action on October 24, 2009. There were actions at thousands of iconic places around the world – 5,281 to be exact. People assembled all over the world – from the Himalayan peaks to the Great Barrier Reef to your community – to send a clear message to world leaders: the solutions to climate change must be equitable, they must be grounded in science, and they must meet the scale of the crisis.

We pushed on towards the UN Climate Summit in Copenhagen, and helped organize a massive mobilization on the weekend of December 12th, with candle-light vigils, marches, and local actions of all kinds.

Our slogan for 2010 is "**Get To Work.**" Get to work to start changing our communities, and get to work to make our leaders realize that they actually need to lead. We've sifted through thousands of emails from all over the world, and come up with an action plan for this year that may break the logjam and get us moving. But only, of course, if we act together to make it happen.

Mark your calendar: October 10. Working with our friends at the 10:10 campaign, we're going to make the tenth day of the tenth month of the millennium's tenth year a real starting point for concrete action. We're calling it the 10/10 Global Work Party, and in every corner of the world we hope communities will put up solar panels, insulate homes, erect windmills, plant trees, paint bike paths, launch or harvest local gardens. We'll make sure the world sees this huge day of effort – and **we'll use it to send a simple message to our leaders: "We're working – what about you?"** If we can cover the roof of the school with solar panels, surely you can pass the legislation or sign the treaty that will spread our work everywhere, and confront the climate crisis in time." 10/10/10 will take a snapshot of a clean energy future – the world of 350 ppm – and show people why it's worth fighting for. It's not too early to sign up at www.350.org/oct10.

Every nation is not created equal in this climate crisis, of course. If we can't get the biggest polluters and the biggest economies to change, then we'll never win. So we're going to focus some particular attention on China, the United States, and India with a **Great Power Race** – college and university campuses will compete to see who can come up with the most, and the most creative, climate solutions. We hope friendly competition will help governments see that they have a lot to gain by diving into clean energy – and a lot to lose by missing this opportunity.

Our theory of change is simple: if an international grassroots movement holds our leaders accountable to the latest climate science, we can start the global transformation we so desperately need.

Go to www.350.org to find out more about how you can be part of the solution to our global climate crisis! ☸

Kids4Peace

■ 1st Annual Interfaith Walk-4-Peace

Join us in our mission for interfaith peace on our WALK-4-PEACE.

Your donations will support Kids4Peace.

Goal: \$10,000 - or 100 walkers w/ 10 sponsors @\$10 each

Sunday, April 11, 2010 from 1-3pm

Where: St. Paul's Cathedral, Burlington

Register at www.kids4peacevermont.org or call Debbie @ 802-349-7222

■ Calling Campers for Kids4Peace Vermont

Kids4Peace joins 12 Israeli & Palestinian 11-13 year olds of Muslim, Jewish and Christian faiths with 12 Vermont kids of similar ages/faiths. This is a unique opportunity to learn about different faith traditions while enjoying the fun of a sleep-away camps at the Kids4Peace Camp on Lake Champlain.

Camp information:

July 23 - August 1st

Bishop Booth Conference Center on Lake Champlain

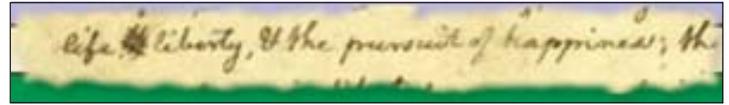
Cost: \$500

Application deadline May 1st, 2010

Please visit www.Kids4PeaceVermont.org for application forms and additional information or call Ronen Schechner 802-922-4487. ☸

Gross National Happiness

By Linda Wheatley



There is a new Vermont-based, non-profit organization whose mission is to support development and application of an expanded set of indicators that measures well-being and is applied to policy-making. Gross National Happiness USA, or “GNHUSA,” envisions a sustainable future, based on this comprehensive set of social progress indicators that reflects our American values and truly supports life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

The founders of GNHUSA are following the lead of a tiny, Himalayan country, Bhutan, where the king famously declared to an American journalist in the '70s that “Gross National Happiness is more important than Gross Domestic Product.” Bhutan, the world’s youngest democracy (first elections held in March 2008) has drafted its constitution and national five-year plan, and structured its entire government, around the four pillars of Gross National Happiness: good governance and democratization, the promotion of sustainable development, the preservation and promotion of cultural values, and the conservation of the natural environment. Intense research over the past decade to define the conditions of Bhutanese happiness has resulted in an extensive survey that gathers data on 72 measurable indicators grouped under nine principal domains – time use, living standards, good governance, psychological well-being, community vitality, culture, health, education, and ecology.

Economic data, like GDP and the flow of the Dow, do not necessarily reflect our well-being. Vermonters get this. The fourth annual international research conference on Gross National Happiness was held in Bhutan in November 2008. Of the 67 international guests, SIX were from Vermont, including Linda Wheatley, now the President of GNHUSA. Over the past year Linda has gathered a team of enthusiastic and knowledgeable movers and shakers around the idea of starting a GNH movement in the US, through the socially progressive gateway of Vermont.

The movement will launch on June 1-4, 2010 at Champlain College. A three-day conference, “GNH2010: Changing What We Measure from Wealth to Well-Being,” will be followed by a one-day GNH Ambassador Training. International guests from Bhutan, Brazil, and Canada, where GNH movements are underway, will set the GNH stage and bring Vermont up to speed. A powerful list of Vermonters, including Bill McKibben, Robert

Costanza and Con Hogan will help nearly 200 registered conference participants understand how this shift could transform how we think, live, and work together. Just imagine making happiness the centerpiece of our decision-making!

For more information about GNH2010 and the Ambassador Training, take a look at www.gnhusa.org. If you’d like to be involved, contact Linda Wheatley (802) 229-6932 or linda@gnhusa.org.



Slow Money Alliance Conference

■ June 9-11, Shelburne Farms, Shelburne VT

Slow Money Alliance was formed by Woody Tasch, along with some other, really forward thinkers, such as the amazing Jodie Evans, Co-Founder of CODEPINK, Vermont’s own Ian and Margo Baldwin, the co-founders of Chelsea Green Publishing, and many, many other very cool people and businesses.

■ The Principles of Slow Money

- 1) We must bring money back down to earth.
- 2) There is such a thing as money that is too fast, companies that are too big, finance that is too complex.
- 3) The 20th century buy low/sell high and wealth now, philanthropy later, is so last century. The 21st Century needs to be the era of “nurture” capital, built around the principles of carrying capacity, care of the commons, sense of place and non-violence.
- 4) We must learn to invest as if food, farms and fertility mattered. We must

connect investors to the places where they live, creating vital relationships and new sources of capital for small food enterprises.

5) Let us celebrate a new generation of entrepreneurs, consumers, and investors who are showing the way from Making a Killing to Making a Living!

6) Paul Newman said, “I just happen to think that in life we need to be a little like the farmer who puts back into the soil what he takes out. “ Recognizing the wisdom of these words, let us begin rebuilding our economy from the ground up, asking: What would the world look like if we invested 50% of our assets within 50 miles of where we live? What if there were a new generation of companies that gave away 50% of their profits? What if there were 50% more organic matter in our soil 50 years from now?

Sound good? Curious? Then register for the Slow Money Alliance National Gathering from June 9-11 and learn more about this important strategy for re-localizing our economies and working toward a better quality of life for us all! I’ll see you there! 



Robin's Nest

Oscar Romero and Vermont

By Robin Lloyd

“How Oscar Romero got disappeared by the Right wingers – for the second time.” – Jon Stewart on the Daily Show, explaining how Oscar Romero got dumped from US history books by the Texas School Board since “no one knew who he was.”

TS Eliot said April is the cruelest month. But if I had to choose the cruelest decade in recent memory, it would be the 1980s. Presided over by Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan, and bookended by the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero (March 24, 1980) and the cold blooded murder of six Jesuits at the University of El Salvador (November 16, 1989), most of the high profile murders that traumatized Central America during that decade took place in tiny El Salvador, the smallest country of Central America.

Around every anniversary of Romero's death, I've hoped to go to El Salvador to pay my respects to Romero and the Salvadoran people. His death propelled me into activism. This year School of Americas Watch (SOAW) was organizing a delegation that would take part in the 30th anniversary commemoration of the assassination, and also petition the government to cease sending soldiers to be trained at the School of the Americas. A new, potentially progressive president, had been elected, Mauricio Funes. SOAW founder Roy Bourgeois and Lisa Sullivan would lead the group. It was too good to be missed. I got the last available slot on the delegation.

Why was El Salvador the largest recipient of US military aid in Central America during the 80s? Looking back 30 years, and talking with fellow delegation members, I came to understand more deeply the US paranoia against communism, even under the “human rights presidency” of Jimmy Carter. As he and his advisers saw it, Cuba “going communist” back in 1959 was the first affront.

Then, twenty years later, leftists took over Nicaragua. Now El Salvador was on fire. The White House could not let revolutionary forces prevail in El Salvador. Three strikes and you're out. From their perspective, it was beginning to look like the domino theory from Vietnam was taking hold in Central America.

The person standing in the way of



increased US military aid to the undemocratic government of El Salvador was the Archbishop of San Salvador, Oscar Romero. In an act uncharacteristic of a Catholic leader, Romero sent Carter a letter asking him to end military aid to the Junta. Meanwhile, the White House was trying to convince the Pope to “muzzle” Romero. None of this worked.

As members of his congregation were killed in increasing numbers by death squads, Romero intensified his advocacy for the poor. “The Church in El Salvador seeks to fulfill its commitment to defend the poor,” he said, even though by doing so it risked sharing in its persecution. On March 23, 1980, he spoke his perhaps most famous homily: “I would like to make an appeal in a special way to the men of the army.... Brothers, you are part of our own people. You kill your own campesino brothers and sisters... In the name of God, and in the name of this suffering people, whose laments rise to heaven each day more tumultuous, I beg

you, I ask you, I order you in the name of God: Stop the repression.”

The next day he was killed by one bullet while saying mass in a small chapel in San Salvador.

I remember being awestruck that the blatant murder of an archbishop holding an important position in the hierarchy of the most powerful religious institution in the western hemisphere could take place, and nobody seemed to mind. The day after Romero's funeral, which itself was marred by violence when armed men in plainclothes fired into a crowd of mourners, Carter approved an increase in “non-lethal” US aid to the Salvadoran government, which included cargo trucks, radar, riot control gear, and night-vision tracking equipment. Three days before he left office, Carter lifted the ban on US arms sales to El Salvador.

These acts galvanized the Vermont peace movement. Progressive Catholics Marmete Hayes and Miriam Ward created the Burlington chapter of Pax Christi in 1981. In 1984 activists occupied the office of Robert Stafford (and renamed it “The Maura Clark and Oscar Romero Peace Center.”) because he was not willing to hold a public meeting with us to discuss military aid to Central America. (In our subsequent trial, called ‘The Winooski 44’, we argued that the necessity defense gave us the justification to break a law – occupying the offices – in order to bring attention to a larger crime – the war against the poor in Central America. We won!).

We held multiple demonstrations in front of the General Electric plant on Lakeview Ave. There, GE was manufacturing the dreadful rapid fire machine gun, called the gatling gun. Mounted on helicopters, it was used routinely in El Salvador, most dramatically during the Sumpul River massacre, where peasants fleeing the Salvadoran army tried to cross the Sumpul River to Honduras. The gunships swooped down and machine gunned women and children crossing the river holding on to a rope.

Every gun was tested at the Ethan Allen Testing Range in Jericho, Vermont. Sneaking in early one morning under cover of darkness, we built a few shacks

Robin's Nest continued on page 7

May 2: International Day of Action Against Nukes

By Joseph Gainza

An international festival, rally, and march against nuclear weapons is taking place in New York City on Sunday, May 2, 2010 when the UN is holding a historic review of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the most important disarmament treaty of the 20th century.

A bus of Vermont youth will be traveling to New York City to join young people and others from around the world in calling on the nations assembled at the UN to abolish all nukes. An opportunity for youth from Japan, Europe, and the US to network is being arranged for the day of the festival, rally, and march.

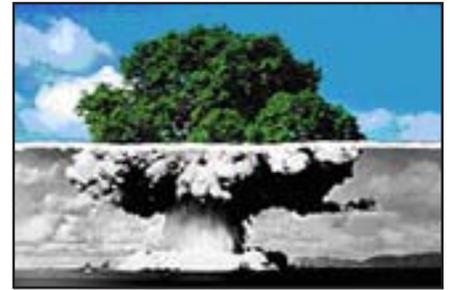
■ What's the big deal about nuclear weapons?

Nine countries maintain arsenals of nuclear weapons – all together, over 23,000 warheads – and more nations are trying to acquire them. The likelihood that

they will be used against population centers is increasing. These weapons can not only destroy life on our planet many times over, but they are also used as political weapons of terror, reinforcing global inequality, and threatening to pollute the earth with deadly radiation. Getting rid of these weapons will free up enormous resources to address climate change, other environmental damage, and mass poverty.

■ What can the UN meeting do?

Remove the threat to all life on earth posed by nuclear weapons with a treaty that stops the building, storing, and threat of use of nuclear weapons and eliminating those which presently exist. Nuclear weapons will never bring peace. They only bring more fear and hatred into the world and threaten our future.



■ Why do youth voices make a difference?

Young people will inherit the world. They must have a voice in abolishing these most destructive weapons and help insure a more just, peaceful and sustainable future. What the UN decides will affect our lives and the lives of generations to come. Whether there are future generations literally hangs in the balance. Join the peace-bus and ensure that the voices of VERMONT youth are heard.

Activities in New York include: meeting of youth from Japan, Europe, the US and elsewhere, Rally near Times Square, March across 42nd Street to the United Nations, and an International Peace & Music Festival in Dag Hammarskjold Plaza across from the UN. To learn more about the activities in New York: <http://peaceandjusticenow.org/>

■ Get on the Bus!

Leaving Burlington around midnight Saturday and leaving NYC around 7:30pm, arriving back in Vermont very early Monday morning. Stops in Burlington, Berlin, White River Junction, Brattleboro. To get a ticket for the bus, contact: VT Action for Peace (VTAFP): 802-522-2376; jgainza@vmlink.net. Youth under 18 must have written permission from parent or guardian; permission forms are available from VTAFP. Youth Scholarships reduce the cost to \$10.00 roundtrip. Others will pay a reduced fare (approx. \$30). ☺

Robin's Nest continued from page 6

representing the village Esperanza (Hope) a few hundred feet in front of the targets on the testing range. We succeeded in stopping the tests for a few hours, and no arrests were made.

Meanwhile, Peter Schumann of the Bread and Puppet Theater created a summer pageant featuring a two story high Romero puppet. Side events portrayed the terror imposed on the Central American people by the US. The next year, we at Green Valley Media turned the B&P production into a book: *Stories of Struggle and Faith from Central America*.

I took several copies with me to give to activists and libraries. It features on the cover a towering Romero puppet embracing his people, and, inside, a dramatization of his life complete with photos of cardboard death squads, white birds, and the immolation of evil in a giant bonfire.

Here in Vermont we have done our best to remind people of who Oscar



Father Roy Bourgeois, founder of School of Americas Watch, reads *Bread & Puppet: Stories of Struggle and Faith*.

Romero was. Perhaps I'll send a copy of *Stories of Struggle and Faith* to the Texas School board.

In the next issue of P&J News, I'll report on the huge 30th anniversary Romero march to the cathedral in San Salvador, and our meeting with the vice minister of defense. ☺

Farm to Plate continued from page 1

– e.g. food aggregation facilities, light processing, storage and new distribution models;

- In-depth research to identify opportunities for increasing food security and local food access for low-income Vermonters;
- Identification of all the organizations and their programs which serve the farm and food sector in Vermont.

■ Blueprint for the Next 10 Years

- Goals, objectives, and strategies for strengthening Vermont's farm and food system over the next ten years;
- A prioritized list of investments which, if made, would help implement goals and substantially strengthen Vermont's food system over the next 10 years;
- A list of policy changes needed to support the growth and development of Vermont's food system over the next 10 years;
- Suggestions for how to improve coordination and collaboration among stakeholder organizations;
- GIS based maps that visually depict basic demographic, land, infrastructure and related resource data, and the opportunities for infrastructure investment;
- A local food expansion plan (i.e. identify ways to further expand the availability of locally produced, affordable food).

■ Potential Impacts of Implementing This Plan and How to Measure Progress Over Time

- An economic impact analysis (using the REMI model) of the anticipated increase in the number of jobs and revenue that would result from fully implementing the strategic plan;
- An ecological services analysis of the anticipated improvements to air and water quality, soil health, etc. that would result from fully implementing the strategic plan (*planned if funding can be found*);
- A plan for how the Strategic Plan for Agricultural Economic Development in

Vermont will be monitored and evaluated over time, including indicators and other metrics, and identification of organizations who will be responsible for the ongoing monitoring and evaluation.

We believe that the final Strategic Plan for Agricultural Economic Development in Vermont will be a valuable roadmap for everyone interested in growing Vermont's farm and food sector. ☺

Farm to Plate Statewide Food Summit

Saturday, April 10, 2010 from 9:30am-4pm
Rutland Middle School, Rutland

Keynote Speaker: Ken Meter, President, Crossroads Resource Center (www.crcworks.org)
Meter is one of the most experienced food system analysts in the United States. His work integrates market analysis, business development, systems thinking, and social concerns. Ken's pioneering study of the farm and food economy of Southeast Minnesota, Finding Food in Farm Country, helped strengthen a collaborative of food producers and led to the creation of the Hiawatha Fund, a regional investment fund. Ken's work serves as a national model for analyzing rural economics and has been adopted by 45 regions in 20 states across the US and in one Canadian province.

The purpose of the summit is to bring together stakeholders from the whole state to review the draft goals and provide specific feedback to guide final drafting of the Farm to Plate strategic plan. An inspirational keynote by Ken Meter will begin the day, followed by breakout work sessions to seek feedback on draft goals. We are planning for a large gathering, up to 500 people. Registration required due to limited space at the school. Convened by: Farm to Plate Initiative, VT Sustainable Agriculture Council, and VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets.

REGISTRATION: Please contact Heather Pipino at heather@vsjf.org. \$10 registration fee to cover lunch—scholarships available. Send check to: Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund, ATTN: Farm to Plate Summit, 3 Pitkin Court, Suite 301E, Montpelier, VT 05602. Registration: 8:30-9:30am

PARKING: There is not a lot of on-site parking at the Rutland School. Participants are encouraged to carpool. On-street parking is available. Parking is also available in the Rutland City Parking Garage, which is a few blocks walk from the school.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: If you live in the Rutland area and would like to volunteer to help with the Statewide Food Summit, please send an email to Heather Pipino heather@vsjf.org.

Mow Down Pollution

4th Lawn Mower Exchange Sale

Saturday April 24, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Save **BIG** on Neuton Battery Powered Lawn Mowers

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WHERE YOUR INCOME TAX MONEY REALLY GOES

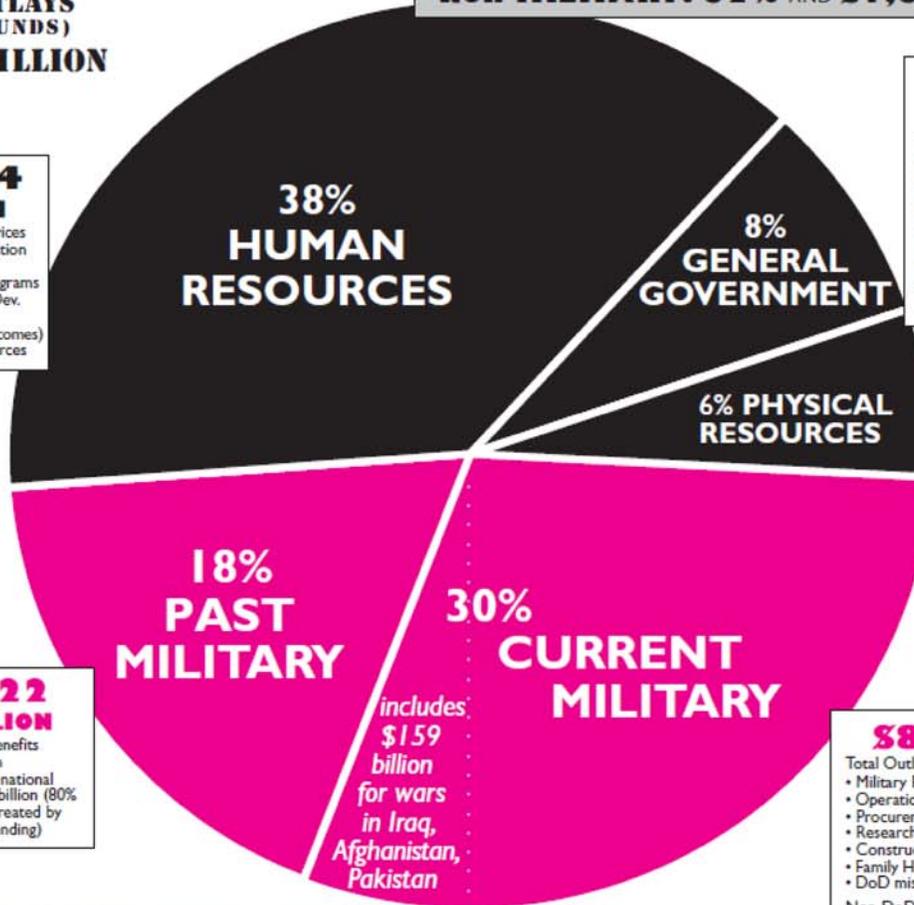
U.S. FEDERAL BUDGET 2011 FISCAL YEAR

TOTAL OUTLAYS (FEDERAL FUNDS) \$2,945 BILLION

Non-MILITARY: 52% AND \$1,547 BILLION

\$1,134 BILLION

- Health/Human Services
- Soc. Sec. Administration
- Education Dept.
- Food/Nutrition programs
- Housing & Urban Dev.
- Labor Dept.
- Tax Credits (lower incomes)
- other human resources



\$241 BILLION

- Treasury, incl. 20% Interest on debt (\$100B)
- Government personnel
- Justice Dept.
- State Dept. (partial)
- International Affairs
- NASA (50%)
- Judicial
- Legislative
- Allowances (proposals)
- other general govt.

\$171 BILLION

- Agriculture
- Interior
- Transportation
- Homeland Security (42%)
- HUD
- Commerce
- Energy (non-military)
- Environmental Protection
- Nat. Science Fdn.
- Army Corps Engineers
- Fed. Comm. Commission
- other physical resources

\$522 BILLION

- Veterans' Benefits \$123 billion
- Interest on national debt \$399 billion (80% est. to be created by military spending)

\$876 BILLION

Total Outlays DoD \$721 billion:

- Military Personnel \$159 billion
- Operation & Maint. \$319 billion
- Procurement \$141 billion
- Research & Dev. \$78 billion
- Construction \$19 billion
- Family Housing \$3 billion
- DoD misc. \$2 billion

Non-DoD military spending includes*:

- Retiree Pay/Healthcare \$65 billion
- DoE nuke weapons/clean up \$20 billion
- NASA (50%) \$9 billion
- International Security \$15 billion
- Homeland Secur. (defense) \$40 billion
- State Dept. (partial) \$7 billion
- FBI military \$4 billion
- Intrafund transfers -\$5 billion

*analysis includes non-DoD activity based on coding and on the military nature of the activity, such as armed agents on flights, border control, DoD space flights, etc.

MILITARY: 48% AND \$1,398 BILLION

HOW THESE FIGURES WERE DETERMINED

“Current military” includes Dept. of Defense (\$721 billion) and the military portion from other departments as noted in current military box above (\$155 billion). “Past military” represents veterans’ benefits plus 80% of the interest on the debt.* For further explanation, please go to www.warresisters.org.

These figures are from an analysis of detailed tables in the *Analytical Perspectives* book of the *Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2011*. The figures are federal funds, which do not include trust funds — such as Social Security — that are raised and spent separately from income taxes. What you pay (or don’t pay) by April 15, 2010, goes to the federal funds portion of the budget. The government practice of combining Trust and Federal funds began during the Vietnam War, thus making the

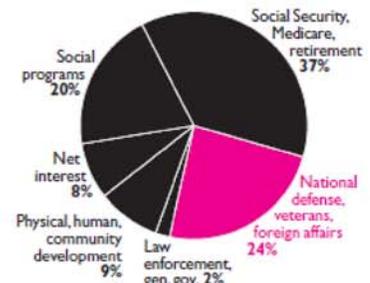
human needs portion of the budget seem larger and the military portion smaller.

*Analysts differ on how much of the debt stems from the military; other groups estimate 50% to 60%. We use 80% because we believe if there had been no military spending most (if not all) of the national debt would have been eliminated.

The Government's Deception

The pie chart (right) is the government view of the budget. This is a distortion of how our income tax dollars are spent because it includes Trust Funds (e.g., Social Security), and the expenses of past military spending are not distinguished from nonmilitary spending. For a more accurate representation of how your Federal income tax dollar is really spent, see the large graph.

Source: 1040 Forms and Instructions 2009, Federal Outlays for FY 2008



CALENDAR

April 2010

[4] Sunday

- 12-1 **Vets for Peace** live call-in show on Channel 15.
- 2pm **Vets for Peace** at Dave Ross' house: 28 Laurel Hill Dr., S. Burlington.

[5] Monday

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

[8] Thursday

- 11:30am-2:00pm **Managing and Retaining Employees in Hard Economic Times: Livable Jobs and Working Bridges** at World Learning (SIT), Rotch 108/109, Kipling Rd, Brattleboro. This interactive workshop is specifically geared towards Human Resource professionals and CEO/Presidents will provide participants with an introduction to the Livable Jobs Toolkit. The Toolkit provides innovative workplace practices that facilitate employee retention while finding alternative forms of compensation. The workshop will also look at the Working Bridges project as one example of utilizing innovative workplace practices to facilitate both employee and employer success. Cost \$10.00: includes lunch and Livable Jobs Toolkit.

[10] Saturday

- 9:30-4 **Farm to Plate Statewide Food Summit** at Rutland Middle School. See page 8.

[11] Sunday

- **Kids4Peace 1st Annual Interfaith Walk-4-Peace.** See p. 7.

[12] Monday

- 6-8pm **Vermonters for a Just Peace in Palestine/Israel** meeting at PJC.
- 7pm **Reckoning with Torture: Memos & Testimonies from the "War on Terror"** at Memorial Lounge, Waterman, UVM.

[14] Wednesday

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

[16] Friday

- **Deadline for Youth Activist Institute** applications. See page 3.

[23] Friday

- 7pm **A Celebration of Howard Zinn.** Film: *You can't be Neutral on a Moving Train.* Followed by readings of his work. \$10 to benefit the PJC. Contois Auditorium, City Hall, Burlington.

[24] Saturday

- 2-4pm **Author Ron Krupp will present a slide show and discuss his book *Lifting the Yoke: Local Solutions to America's Farm and Food Crisis.*** At the Peace & Justice Store. See p. 11.

[30] April – [1] May

International Conference for a Nuclear Free, Peaceful, Just and Sustainable World

- Join with thousands of people from around the world on the eve of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference at the United Nations, NYC. Hundreds of international organizations have come together to organize a weekend of action to bring pressure to bear on world leaders who will be attending the NPT conference to make nuclear abolition a reality "in our lifetimes!" We also understand that nuclear disarmament is interconnected with ending the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, funding human needs and environmental sustainability, so we will march together to call for: No Nukes, No Wars, Fund Human Needs, Protect the Earth!

May 2010

[1] Saturday

- **Green Up Day:** The Peace & Justice Center and Store is a site for getting your free bags for picking up trash. We will have them starting Wednesday, April 28.
- 11 am **VT Workers' Center: Healthcare Is A Human Right Rally.** Meet at Montpelier City Hall, 39 Main St. March to the Statehouse. 12noon, Rally w/Senator Bernie Sanders. Let's prove that Vermonters want real change. Bring everyone you can. Need a ride? Can give a ride? Want to help organize? Call 802-861-4892 or email info @ workerscenter.org

[2] Sunday

- 2:00pm **Disarm Now for Peace and Human Needs.** New York City. **Rally • March • Peace & Music Festival**

Get on the Bus! Leave Burlington around midnight Saturday, May 1, and leave NYC around 7:30pm Sunday Returning to Vermont very early Monday morning. Stops in Burlington, Berlin, White River Junction, Brattleboro. To get a ticket for the bus, contact: Vermont Action for Peace: 802-522-2376 or jgainza@vtlink.net. Youth under 18 must have written permission from parent or guardian; permission forms are available from VTAFP. **Youth Scholarships Reduce the Cost to \$10.00 Roundtrip. Others will pay reduced fare.** To learn more about the activities in New York: <http://peaceandjusticenow.org/>

[9] Sunday

- 3-5pm **Mother's Day Event: Intergenerational celebration of the origin of Mother's Day and Mother's Against War. Help us celebrate Mothers and Peace Activists Robin Lloyd and Wendy Coe,** the founding mothers of PJC and long time activists. Celebrate the mothers in your lives...Music, Fun, food, flowers for moms! Bring the family! Unitarian Universalist Society, Burlington!

Lifting the Yoke: Local Solutions to America's Farm & Food Crisis

- *The Globalization of Food and Farming*
- *The Battle of the Bulge*
- *Sustainable Markets and Regional Solutions*

By Ron Krupp, author of *The Woodchuck's Guide to Gardening*.

■ Foreword by Bill McKibben, Author and Activist, Ripton, VT

A few years ago, just before it became fashionable, I decided to spend a year feeding my family solely from the food grown in our Vermont valley. I hesitated at first, worried about bland and changeless dinners; but Otter Creek, our local brewery, had just started brewing beer made with wheat from the valley, so I decided to give it a shot.

It turns out it was one of the best eating years of our life – not just because the food was delicious but because the food meant something. We knew where it had come from, and by whose hands. We made dozens of new friends that year as we sought out cider and beef and bread. (And root vegetables. Lots of those.) It turns out we're not unique. A recent study found that shoppers at farmers markets had ten times as many conversations on average as shoppers at supermarkets.

In other words, the local food revolution that Ron Krupp describes so beautifully here, made so real that you can almost taste it, is also a social revolution, though a calm and gentle one. The process of rebuilding local food networks will be one of the key tasks in rebuilding working communities generally. After decades of relying on cheap fossil fuel, we need to start relying on neighbors again. This book shows how in practical terms, and in political terms too, because our leadership will need to spur this process.

Vermont, for instance, could be far further down this road already with real help from both Montpelier and Washington. We don't need ethanol. We need carrots, and cheese, and wheat. And beer. And Ron Krupp.

■ Meet Ron Krupp

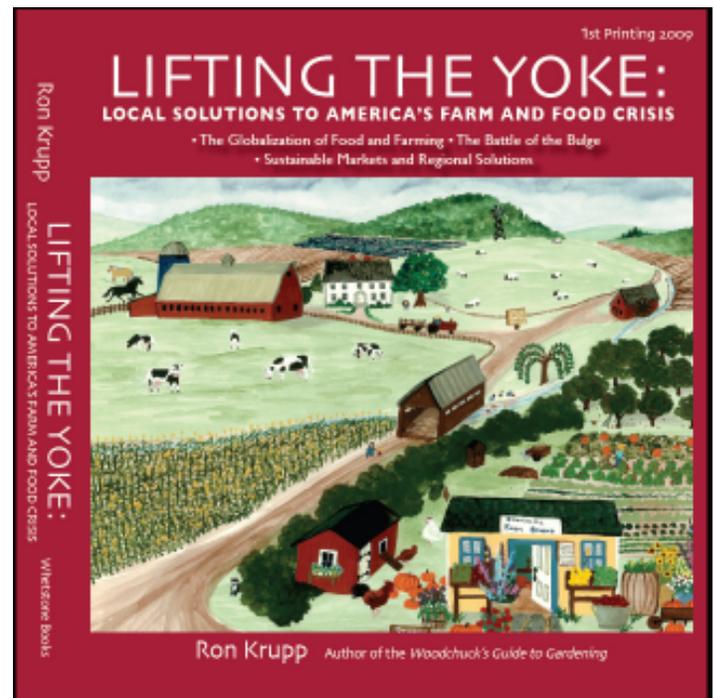
On April 24, 2-4pm, come to the Peace & Justice Store to meet Ron Krupp and to enjoy some tea (Love & Tea Co.) and goodies (Just Desserts). *Lifting the Yoke: Local Solutions to America's Farm and Food Crisis* is available at the Peace & Justice Store.

■ Testimonial:

"It is time to revitalize America's local food networks. Ron Krupp navigates the issues and provides exemplary stories of people doing just that. The grim tale of our global food system may leave you feeling powerless, but you are sure to find inspiration in this book, thick with examples of grassroots efforts focused on putting people, integrity, and real food back into America's food consciousness."

—Meghan Sheridan, Vermont Fresh Network

Ron Krupp has been involved with local farm and food issues in Vermont for 39 years. He started one of the first farmers' markets in the early 70s in Brattleboro. Twenty-nine years ago, Ron published *The Green Mountain Farmer*, a monthly Vermont newspaper dedicated to farm and food issues. He was a commercial organic/biodynamic vegetable grower for 10 years. He coordinated the 3-acre 165 plot Tommy Thompson Community Garden in the Intervale for 15 years. Ron currently teaches gardening to interns at Heartbeet, a farm community in Hardwick for adults with disabilities. Ron has been doing farm and garden commentaries on Vermont Public Radio for 12 years. He loves to tell stories and weave anecdotes as he did in his first book, *The Woodchuck's Guide to Gardening*. *Lifting the Yoke* is his second book. ☺



Rekoning with Torture: Memos & Testimonies from the "War on Terror"

Librarians, professors, students, lawyers, and others read from recently released secret documents – memos, declassified communications, and testimonies by detainees – in a public event to promote awareness of acts of torture and abuse carried out by the US since 9/11.

Monday, April 12 at 7pm, Memorial Lounge, Waterman, UVM.

Presented by the ACLU of Vermont and UVM Libraries.

Featured Readers: Philip Baruth, David Budbill, Stephanie Farrior, Robert Gensburg, Traci Griffith, Ateqah Khaki, Trina Magi, Travis Nelson, Hilary Neroni, Adelit Rukomangana, David Sleigh, Emma Vick, and Sydnee Viray. With Opening and Closing Remarks from Allen Gilbert, executive director, ACLU-VT and Jeffrey Marshall, acting dean, UVM Libraries. ☺



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