The Gift of Troubled Times
By Lacretia Johnson-Flash, PJC Board Member

I am deeply concerned about the divisiveness in the United States and worry that these divisions will grow much worse before they get better. The rise of “alternative facts” and nationalism, the attempts to erode the tools of accountability and checks and balances in governance and in our political system, the vitriol, the broken bodies, broken spirits, and broken lives, and the expanding definition of who is considered this nation’s enemy has awoken me.

My civic habits of voting, attending a community meeting here and there, reading the newspaper, engaging in passionate conversations about current events with people who occupy my same social and political “bubble” seem woefully inadequate for this moment in our nation’s history. If there is a gift in this troubled time, I believe it is that people are waking up from complacency and passive citizenship.

In this new era, which some might argue is a repeat of past ones, there is fear, anger and worry for many (including myself) about the corrosive rhetoric, erosion of civil liberties and the implementation of policies that hinder the rights, opportunities, dignity or even the basic survival of black and brown people, refugees and immigrants, Muslims, people living in poverty, people with disabilities, members of the LGBTQ community, women, and even the land and the water.

There is no guarantee that all will survive this moment. There is no guarantee that things will sort themselves out. And there is no guarantee that this country will finally manifest its ideals of liberty and justice for all.

In contrast, for others, this is a time of hope and optimism. In watching the coverage of the past presidential inauguration, one of the most searing images for me was seeing the footage of the crowds, a sea of mostly white faces. Among those in the crowd was a white middle-age man who said, “someone sees me now.”

In a country that has centered and celebrated the experiences of white men for most of the country’s 240-year history (a fact that erases the presence of native peoples), I was struck by the irony of his statement. I also realized that despite what we may think of our history, systems of oppression (including white supremacy) don’t serve white people well either. As Martin Luther King, Jr. said, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” And sadly, there is an abundance of injustice and suffering.

For months, I’ve been trying to reconcile the irony of this newly visible white man in a country run by white men for much of this nation’s history, and him
From the Director

My kids are worried about the leadership of this country. I understand their concerns. To add some levity to the gloom, my partner and I introduced them to the quotes of former Vice President Dan Quayle. We want to show them that we’ve had leadership that concerned us in the past and we survived. However, that levity only goes a short distance: the concerns of today feel unique and intense.

Other than humor, one of my coping skills is taking action. I am grateful to work at the Peace & Justice Center with so many amazing, committed people. It is easy to feel overwhelmed by the atrocities that are happening around us, on the street, on social media, in DC. Being part of the work we do here, I feel a sense of belonging, of purpose, and of possibility.

I need to be in community with others, actively resisting the status quo, the slippery slide, and the doom and gloom. I need to be part of the creation of alternatives, of networks of support, of educational opportunities. Each of us can contribute to these efforts in our own way, none of us can do everything, and no one can do this along.

It is a time of mass mobilization. It is a time of great resistance.

For some, this means showing up to every public demonstration and march that they can get to. For others, sending postcards and making phone calls to legislators. Some people will engage in hard conversations with neighbors, family members or co-workers with whom they do not agree. Some will write checks.

Please, chose a way to be involved and know that you are not alone.

Rachel

■ Monthly Drop-In Programs: The Poison of Racism

It has been exciting to implement our new monthly drop-in groups. Toxic Whiteness met in January, February and March. Each time we met we had rich discussions centered on the question, “How does racism hurt white people?” (This is not to be compared to how racism hurts people of color – that is not a comparison that is useful to make.)

Each session started with introductions and then moved into a group read of a blog post or article on toxic whiteness. Then we had an open discussion on the reading and our experiences with racism and whiteness.

The things people shared have been so valuable to me. They have motivated me to further my work to dismantle oppression and to recommit to my aspirations of ally-ship. The poison of racism and white supremacy cloud my thinking. The more clarity I develop about how this happens, the better able I am to become fully human.

We are excited to continue this group on the first Wednesday of the month from 12-1:00. There are people who have come every month to date but there is no expectation that everyone will do so. One participant stated that she has found the group to be enlightening and that she “organizes her thoughts over the month around this event.” I hope you can come!

The other monthly drop-in that we started is the Disrupting Violence Discussion and Practice group. At printing time, this group only met one time and that one time included an incident of aggression that was a perfect example of why I want to attend this practice group! Luckily, we plan to keep doing exactly that. I am excited to share resources and grow with the folks who show up. This group continues to meet on the fourth Thursday of the month from 6-7:30.

If you are interested in either of these groups but are unable to attend at the scheduled times, please let us know so we can consider everyone’s needs as we move forward.

■ PJC Partnerships

We are fortunate to work with many incredible individuals and organizations and to be part of several formal partnerships. Here is a synopsis of a few of them.

Community Council for Accountability for Law Enforcement Officials (Ccaleovt): lead by a steering committee made up primarily of people of ethnic and racial minorities, this group convenes regular public meetings with law enforcement and other government officials to build relationships and trust between POC and police. Out of these relationships, new projects and programs will emerge. Ccaleovt is a new iteration of the group Uncommon Alliance whose work lead to the traffic stop data that has been analyzed to show the racial disparities in policing.

Equal Pay Compact: lead by the Vermont Commission on Women, this is a voluntary agreement that any employer can sign to commit to closing the gender wage gap and to learn more about how to do so. If you work somewhere, see if your employer has signed on at women.vermont.gov.

Partnerships continued on page 5
PJC Welcomes New Board Members

We are so excited to welcome three new board members.

Lam Phan works for UVM’s Mosaic Center for Students of Color. He moved to Vermont 17 years ago with his family from Vietnam. He has worked with men who have committed domestic abuse as well as with the Vietnamese immigrant population providing translation services and teaching basic computer classes in Vietnamese.

“IT is my pleasure to serve on the Board of the Peace & Justice Center. I admire the work that the PJC does, especially in the realm of fair trade and anti-racism. I believe that the PJC is an asset in our Vermont community, and it is my honor to be a part of it.”

Maché Chase was born and raised in Washington, DC. She came to Vermont for her undergraduate degree at UVM where she became heavily involved with the Mosaic Center, the Black Student Union, Student Life, and the Admission’s Diversity team. All these experiences shaped her passion for helping students of color navigate predominately white institutions. She now works in the TRiO/Student Support Services office as a Mentor and Coordinator working with underrepresented students – those with limited income, first generation college students, and/or students with documented disabilities.

“I am finding ways to get involved in the larger community, beyond campus, and am excited to serve on the Board. It’s great to work with individuals who have different backgrounds and experiences from me and who view the world from a different theoretical lens/framework. I am glad the PJC is committed to informing communities on the injustices in the world and allowing those communities who have been impacted by those injustices to speak up. I am honored to be a part of this process and dialogue and I look forward to the work!”

Jaada Longmore has lived in Vermont her whole life. She is the co-founder of CALEO (Council for Accountability in Law Enforcement Officials), a freelance real estate agent, the mom of two wonderful children, and a member of the PTO at Edmunds Elementary and Middle Schools. She is a former member and co-founder of Uncommon Alliance – a group of community members and police officials addressing racial disparity whose work lead to the race-based traffic stop data in Vermont that has been published.

“The PJC is an organization that I connect to in so many ways. With everything that’s going on with the new White House Administration, the racial disparities coming to light, the need for fair trade, and more, I chose to join the board to support all the things they are doing. The PJC has always taken action on these kinds of matters and so much more. It is an organization that I can fully get behind.”

World Fair Trade Day Celebration!

Saturday, May 13th, 10am-2pm
City Hall Park, Burlington

Fair trade vendors with goods from around the world; free banana smoothies; fair trade activities; and Jeh Kulu West African drum & dance troop!
Black History: The Continued Struggle

By Kristen Connors

If you stop by the Peace & Justice Store, you will hopefully notice we have a new line of t-shirts from a local company called The Continued Struggle (thecontinuedstruggle.com) that illustrate important and often widely forgotten parts of Black History. John Williams, founder of The Continued Struggle, sat down with me in March to talk about the buried Black History that prompted his desire to spark conversation and educate people using colorful and provocative t-shirts and stickers.

When asked why his business is important, he chuckled and simply said, “Black History is vast and hidden to most people…They don’t teach Black History, so we don’t know who we are.”

John reads widely and gives me a quick history lesson, citing the work of historians, anthropologists, archeologists, and scientists, tracing everything back to the African continent. “So you see,” he smiles, “American culture is Black culture…and racism would stop or be minimized if we knew the true history of the world.”

I think John’s absolutely right. Learning the true history of humanity, and not a history that has been siphoned through and amended to uphold Eurocentrism and white supremacy, will be an extremely valuable tool in undoing racism today. It is not going to be easy, but if we have a tool to spark conversations, we can at least make a good start.

That’s what John says his t-shirts are for. Pictured are two of his graphics.

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John continues to tell me about historical figures such as Imhotep, who he tells me is one of his favorites. He leans in, saying, “Imhotep was a little tiny guy but he did so many different things.”

Indeed, Imhotep was an extraordinary genius who pioneered the first recorded hospitals in Egypt and made significant contributions to the fields of astrology, architecture, mathematics, medicine, and philosophy. Much of his work is incorrectly attributed to the Greeks who later built upon what he did. John shakes his head, “I can’t understand why they left this history out, why Europeans claimed this history.”

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**Film: National Bird**

Join VT PBS, the Peace & Justice Center, and others for this meaningful screening of a film about the three whistleblowers who broke the silence around one of the most controversial current affairs issues of our time: the secret US drone war. Free and open to the public.

“National Bird is an investigative political documentary that explores the complex issue of drone warfare from a human perspective. Through this film, I hope to enliven the public debate not just by enriching the existing discourse with a balanced portrait of the US drone program, but more importantly by illuminating the impact this program has on the people – veterans and survivors – the human side of this war. Like previous advancements in military technology, combat drones have transformed warfare, outpacing the ability of legal and moral frameworks to adapt and address these developments. A broad, immersive, and thoroughly public discourse is critical to understanding the social cost of drone warfare.” — Sonia Kennebeck, Director & Producer of National Bird

**Vermont Screenings:**
- April 13, Thursday, 6:30pm, The Art House Gallery, Studio & School, 67 South Craftsbury Rd, Craftsbury.
- April 18, Tuesday, 7pm, Johnson State College, Johnson.
- April 20, Thursday, 7pm, Manchester Community Library, 138 Cemetery Ave, Manchester Center.
- April 25, Tuesday, 7pm, Kellogg-Hubbard Library, 135 Main St, Montpelier.
- April 26, Wednesday, 7pm, Canyon Arts, 115 Eastern Ave, St Johnsbury.

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**Get on the bus!**

It is time for people who support scientific research and evidence-based policies to take a public stand. As stated on the marchforscience.com website: “On April 22, 2017, we walk out of the lab and into the streets.”

Join us on the bus from Burlington to DC for the March for Science on Earth Day, April 22. Tickets are $125. If you are in need or a scholarship, or able to contribute toward the scholarship fund, please let us know. Contact Wendy for more information wcoe@pjcvt.org or 802-863-2345 x8.

We are also supporting a solidarity event here in Vermont. At the time of press, the details were still pending. Please contact us for information.

Also, stay tuned for more information on possible buses from Vermont to Washington DC for National Pride March on June 11.

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**Partnerships continued from page 2**

**Human Rights Council:** an evolving group of statewide, grassroots, activist organizations started by 350VT, Vermont Workers Center, Migrant Justice, Rising Tide Vermont, and more. This group emerged out of the 2014 People’s Institute and is a wonderful work in progress, allowing us to support and uplift one another’s efforts.

**Racial Justice Reform Coalition:** under the leadership of Justice For All, we are happy to put our weight behind their efforts to create a Racial Justice Oversight board. There is legislation being considered in the statehouse currently under bills H.492 and S.116. Please see justiceforallvt.org for more information.

As we reported in the last newsletter, we continue our work with the Raise the Wage and the Family and Medical Leave Insurance campaigns under the leadership of Rights and Democracy and Voices for Vermont Kids respectively. We are hopeful that we will see positive movement on these issues this legislative session. Much more information is available online at raisethewagevt.wordpress.com and voicesforvtkids.org.

As an organization with non-violence at our core, it is imperative that we work with others. Nonviolence is about relationships and connections. We are grateful to have so many individuals and organizations to work with. Together we can do so much.

— Albert Einstein, German Theoretical Physicist (1879-1955)
Robin’s Nest

Building Consensus for Peace

By Robin Lloyd

Some kind of new world disorder is emerging, but where is it heading? Are we facing a renewed cold war? Neo-McCarthyism? Will increased military spending with its flagrant waste of energy, resources, and human power torpedo any hope of restraining climate catastrophe?

This Earth Day, join the Vermont Stands for a World Beyond War Coalition on Saturday, April 22nd from 9am to 4:30pm at Winooski High School for a daylong conference, entitled Building a World Beyond War: What Will It Take?

The choice of the location was purposeful. The Winooski School District is right under the future flight path of the F35s that are expected to be stationed at the Burlington Airport in 2019.

The disastrous decision of our political leaders, led by Patrick Leahy, and followed by Bernie Sanders, Peter Welch, Miro Weinberger, and the majority of the members of the Burlington City Council, to welcome 18 nuclear-capable fighter jets to our community is having its impact. The area is now a “sacrifice zone.” Families living under the prospective noise shadow are watching their community be decimated. Only the cities of Winooski and South Burlington have dared to question the military consensus by supporting the lawsuit that is demanding more rigorous environmental standards.

The conference will focus on resisting militarization and looking for ways to protect ourselves more effectively by directing tax dollars to serve people, peace, and the planet instead of profits and war. Workshops will include both educational and action components. By the conference’s conclusion, coalition members and attendees will have developed statewide actions and events that will continue in the coming year.

Pledging to oversee “one of the greatest military buildups in American history,” President Trump is proposing a 10% or 54 billion dollar increase in military spending and a concurrent slash in non-military spending. Many Vermonters are questioning and a concurrent slash in non-military buildups in American history,” the coming year.

By Robin Lloyd

David Swanson, 2017 Noble Peace Prize Nominee and Director of World Beyond War

Kicking off the conference will be David Swanson, a 2017 Noble Peace Prize Nominee, Director of World Beyond War (worldbeyondwar.org), and author of War Is Never Just, War Is A Lie, War No More: The Case for Abolition, and When the World Outlawed War. He is the host of Talk Nation Radio. He is a journalist, activist, organizer, educator, and agitator. Synthesizing the daylong workshops and issues in an endnote address will be Pat Hynes, Director of the Traprock Center for Peace and Justice (traprock.org) and a retired Professor of Urban Environmental Health. She has worked for decades as an educator, researcher, writer, and activist on issues of environmental justice, feminism, and the health effects of war.

Pat Hynes, Director of the Traprock Center for Peace and Justice

Attendees will get to choose from 12 Vermont-focused workshop sessions, listed below, each of which will seek to answer the question: What will it take to build a world beyond war?

- Nuclear Weapons: The Current Threat and What We Can Do About It with John Reuwer, MD, from Physicians for Social Responsibility.
- Activism 101 We are ALL Activists! with Mary Brown-Guillory from Champlain Area NAACP.
- The Power of Militarism in Our Lives: A Community Discussion with Joseph Gainza, Dorie Wilsnack, and Eric Bachman from Vermont Action for Peace.
- How Do You Foster Peace? A Community-Based Listening Project with Adrienne Kinne from Will Miller Green Mountain Veterans for Peace.
- Peaceful Resistance in Ceremony While Facing Violence with Beverly Little Thunder and Catherine Cadden from Kunsi Keya Tamakoce.
- One State, Two States, Solution or No Solution with Sandy Baird from The
Caroline Fund and Mousa Ishaq from the Burlington/Bethlehem/Arad Sister City Program.

- **What Vermonters Can Do NOW To Do Build a World Without War** with Sophie Quest and Sandy Fead from Friends Committee on National Legislation.
- **Soldiers of War Helping Each Other Reconnect and Heal** with Jon Turner from the Farmer Veteran Coalition of Vermont.
- **Equity & Accountability: Finance for a Peace Economy** with Gwendolyn Hallsmith and Matthew Cropp from Vermonters for a New Economy.
- **Building Empathy and Hope** with Jeff Mandell from Kids4Peace Vermont.
- **The F35 Basing in Vermont: A Local Example of Expanding Militarism** with Eileen Andreoli from Stop the F35 Coalition/Save Our Skies VT.
- **Recognizing, Addressing, and Working to End White Fragility** with Kyle Silliman-Smith from the Peace & Justice Center.

A registration fee of $25 covers food, but no one will be turned away due to inability to pay. To register, go to the Peace & Justice Center website (pjcvt.org) and look under the “Upcoming PJC Events” tab for conference information and the registration form. The registration deadline is April 18th.

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If you are reading this article after the conference has occurred, or are unable to attend, you are invited to join the ongoing work of the World Beyond War Coalition. Please contact program@pjcvt.org or call 802-863-2345 x6 for more information.

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**Book Review: War is a Lie**

*By Sarah White, PJC Intern*

I am shocked by how conditioned we are to believe that war is the only way to solve conflict. I recently read *War is a Lie* by activist and 2017 Nobel Peace Prize nominee David Swanson. In the book, he enumerates the many rationalizations used to condone war—many of which are embedded in our unconscious. Each chapter is dedicated to one such justification and Swanson uses detailed case studies, statistics, and other facts to dismantle these pretenses and show that there really is no excuse to go to war.

Chapter by chapter, Swanson notes every major argument used to justify war and chapter by chapter he refutes these claims. Most meaningful to me were his disputes against the ideas that war creates peace, the enemy is irredeemably evil, wars are launched in defense, and that wars are waged out of generosity.

Though *War is a Lie* is a challenging read because of the immense amount of facts and statistics as well as the heavy subject matter, it is worth the effort.

Both my father and grandfather were in the army. I grew up feeling like war was normal and that being “part of the cause” was honorable. I had never critically thought about why we go to war until I was in my late teens. Even then, I didn’t have enough detailed knowledge about the wars that have been waged to create any sort of cohesive argument. I gained insight from reading this book and am better able to think and speak critically about war.

This book is good for those wanting to brush up on their history, especially in relation to the many major wars that have been fought. I recommend it for anyone questioning the necessity of past wars, current wars, and future wars.
Out With Private Prisons. But How?

By Suzi Wizowaty, Executive Director, VCJR

Vermont currently has about 265 prisoners in a private prison in Baldwin, Michigan, owned and operated by GEO Group, formerly known as Wackenhut. But GEO Group has declined to extend the contract with Vermont that expires June 15 so the state is faced with a dilemma. The question most asked is, “Where does the state find 250+ prison beds?” What we should be asking instead is, “How do we reduce the in-state prison population in order to bring back the 250+ men in Michigan?”

At a press conference in March, Montoners for Criminal Justice Reform (VCJR) presented a proposal to do just that, safely and quickly, by ending unnecessary incarceration, with five specific recommendations.

Some involve policy changes on the part of the Dept. of Corrections – not re-incarcerating people for “technical [non-criminal] violations” of their conditions of release, or not holding people who are eligible for release simply because their housing options don’t meet DOC’s approval for any number of reasons. This does not require legislation technically, but may require it politically. To that end, Rep. Selene Colburn sponsored a bill, H.469, to prohibit holding people for lack of approved housing.

Other recommendations require changes in practice on the part of state’s attorneys or judges – e.g. diverting those charged with non-violent offenses to alternative options – which could be mandated. (Some state’s attorneys do this regularly; some rarely if ever do, and thus legislation is required to ensure “geographic justice” in this area.)

Legislation is also required to eliminate monetary bail. Bail reform is a priority of Vermont’s new Attorney General, TJ Donovan, and we understand that as of this writing the House Judiciary Committee is working on a bail reform bill. It’s important to note that people can always be held without bail if they’re considered a public safety risk. But monetary bail is meant to ensure that the person shows up. Unfortunately, monetary bail impacts low-income people differently than it impacts people with financial means. Furthermore, aside from being an act of equity, there is evidence that eliminating monetary bail would have little to no effect on the rate of appearance.

There is also a bill in the House Corrections and Institutions committee, H.150, that would increase parole eligibility for older, low-risk inmates. Early testimony and discussion suggest that by the time you read this, something may have come of this – perhaps increased use of medical parole for anyone with a serious health concern.

It’s estimated that about a third of Vermont’s 1,750 inmates (nearly 600 people) are locked up for “technical violations.” A third of the men (about 500 people) and half the women (about 75 people) have been charged with or convicted of non-violent crimes. It’s important to note that a “violent” crime doesn’t necessarily mean violence took place; some actions, like burglary of a home, are considered violent by definition. And because Vermont law allows someone who is an accessory to a crime – e.g. driving a car – to be charged with the crime actually committed by someone else, women in particular often find themselves facing charges for things they didn’t do.

Another 150 people remain behind bars for lack of housing. We don’t actually know how many “elderly” inmates (50 and above) are designated low risk, but we know the over-50 inmate population as a whole has nearly doubled, from 178 to 332, in ten years. Most of us don’t consider 50 “elderly,” but this is the age the feds use, because people age so much faster in prison, due to high stress, poor nutrition, and poor health care. We do know that statistically speaking, recidivism decreases dramatically every year beyond age 25.

A quick glance at these numbers suggests that policy changes that affected even a small segment of these groups would have a dramatic effect on the total prison population in Vermont.

Do we need to build a huge, 800-bed prison in Vermont? No. Should we close the Windsor facility and/or the work camp in St. Johnsbury? No. Do we need to take steps to increase our use of alternatives? Yes. Do we want to work toward closing some of the prisons because we no longer need them? Yes. Must we invest in more community-based mental health services and addiction treatment? Absolutely. Can we find the political will to replace some of the existing prisons with more humane living environments where people can heal from trauma, address their addictions and mental health issues, learn skills, and maintain their relationships with their children if they have them?

We hope so.

Please join VCJR and Rights and Democracy (their partner in the campaign to De-carcerate Vermont) at the State House in Montpelier on April 12, 10 am-noon, to share your stories of the criminal justice system and learn more about how you can help end unnecessary incarceration.

research policy action
Books Briefly: Seven Journeys Through Time

By Greg Guma

The last elections in the US – featuring the rise of two popular insurgencies, led by Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump, two avatars of disruption and change – appear to have settled little, instead hardening divisions, fueling resentments and spreading widespread anxiety. It feels as if we're living through a unique time. And yet, many of the most gnawing questions do remain the same.

Even if we pay attention to history's lessons, we may have to repeat some of its mistakes. Still, it does feel more like moving in a spiral than a circle, an evolving cycle as our planet becomes both more interdependent and more unpredictable.

Here are eight books that offer some answers.

**Dictator, by Robert Harris** (2015, Knopf, 385 pages)

How does a republic fall? As retold by Cicero's scribe in the final installment of this remarkable trilogy, it starts with ambition, hubris and endemic corruption. Robert Harris does not downplay Cicero's fatal weaknesses, but also dramatizes some of his greatest triumphs as he struggles to protect Rome, first from Julius Caesar, and later from Marc Antony and his rival, Caesar's adopted son Octavian.

The writing is vivid and the dialogue surprisingly contemporary. But it's the story itself, of Rome's slow descent into violence and repression, that makes this novel so compelling.


Whether praised as "the large policy" or condemned as imperialism, America's expansionist military and economic moves beginning in 1898 transformed the country into an emerging empire. Driving the process was a combination of arrogance, opportunism and conflicting ambitions.


**Unruly Equality: US Anarchism in the Twentieth Century, by Andrew Cornell** (2016, University of California, 416 pages)

This accessible history is long overdue, showcasing the broad and profound influence of anarchist thinking and institutions from the Progressive era to the 1970s. An epilogue updates the story, tracing links to recent developments like Occupy. Even knowledgeable readers will discover fresh connections.

Cornell illustrates the movement's diversity, from the Modern School to the Diggers, along with the contributions of leading figures like Emma Goldman, Murray Bookchin and David Dellinger.


Reading this rich and revealing history of Italy under fascist rule, it was hard not to be reminded of Donald Trump. As Bosworth shows, Mussolini's brand of fascism was powered more by charisma than policies, and also drew from a widespread sense of victimhood that fueled aggression, authoritarian quick fixes, and a desperate yearning to recapture a glorious, yet mythical past.

World War II ended the Duce's tyranny, but did not excise fascism's totalitarian approach and mindset. Unfortunately, traces and echoes can be found today in most democracies.


This revelatory biography eloquently celebrates the life and legacy of a citizen diplomat and arts pioneer, a real life Don Quixote who championed cultural pluralism, prisoner rights, and artistic freedom in tumultuous times. Susan Rubenstein DeMasi combines infectious enthusiasm with thorough research and great storytelling, along the way illuminating Henry Alsberg's road from WWI era journalist, human rights advocate and "intellectual anarchist" to founder/director of the Federal Writers Project, a New Deal program that transformed America's literary landscape.

DeMasi's book is a vital, long-overdue addition to American literary history.


An intriguing cultural history. Richard Rhodes brings the Spanish Civil War into fresh focus with revealing details about the volunteers, doctors, nurses, writers and painters drawn into the conflict; poignant stories about life on the front line; and insights on the broader impacts, from medical innovations to memorable art.


This fresh and timely exploration of the run up to World War II reveals the roots and pitfalls of American isolationism, debunking myths on both sides of the debate. Especially chilling are revelations about the roles played by Joseph Kennedy (British ambassador, 1940 presidential aspirant and advocate of German appeasement until 1941) and Charles Lindberg (the famous flyer who turned defeatist, ignored Nazi atrocities, and briefly led the anti-war campaign known as America First).

PJC Note: If we don’t have a book in the Store, we can look into ordering it for you.
April 5, Wednesday

April 8, Saturday
● 9:00am-3:30pm. Symposium for Social Justice Action Groups at Burlington High School. Participants can find ways to join grassroots work for positive change. For more information, contact Rachel at 863-2345 x1 or rachel@pjcvt.org

April 10, Monday
● 6pm Vermonters for Justice in Palestine meeting at PJC. Also May 8 and June 12.

● 7pm Black Lives Matter VT Action Meeting for everyone devoted to the movement for Black LIVES! Integrated Arts Academy, 6 Archibald St, Burlington. Also May 8 and June 12.

April 12, Wednesday
● 10am-12pm. De-carcerate Vermont at the State House, Montpelier. See article on page 8.

● 12-1pm Toxic Whiteness Discussion Group at the PJC. We begin with a reading, video, or audio file that sets the tone for a facilitated discussion. This space is held specifically for white people to help process how white supremacy culture is toxic to them. The hope is that by having a separate space to process toxic whiteness, white people will be better able to allow for the emotional needs of people of color to take priority in multi-racial spaces. Also on May 10 and June 14.

April 13, Thursday
● 11am-12 noon, Free Trade vs. Fair Trade at the PJC. Learn basic information about globalization and how policies and practices have paved the way for huge companies to profit at the expense of people and the planet. This program shows how the Fair Trade movement and principles seek to, at a minimum, counterbalance these atrocities. People are encouraged to stay after for the PJC New Volunteer Orientation at noon.

● 5:30pm Women’s International League for Peace & Freedom (WILPF) meeting at PJC. Also May 11 and June 8.

April 17 & 18, Monday & Tuesday
● Tax Day Penny Poll. Stop by our Tax Day Penny Poll table on Church Street and tell us how you think your taxes should be spent! What would you prioritize? Health care? Agriculture? Education? The Penny Poll is your chance to distribute ten pennies into the programs that YOU care about! Once you’ve put your pennies into the programs (err... jars), you’ll find out how our national discretionary budget is actually allocated. You’ll also be entered into a raffle to win a fabulous prize. After this event we will publish the results of our poll. For more information or questions, please contact Kyle at program@pjcvt.org or call (802) 863-2345 x6.

April 22, Saturday, Earth Day
● 9am-4:30pm, Building A World Beyond War: What Will It Take? at Winooski High School. The purpose of the conference is to revitalize the Vermont peace movement and focus on the financial, social, and environmental costs of war and militarism in our state. For more information: 802-863-2345 x6. See pages 6-7.


● 4:30pm March for Science in Burlington and multiple events in Vermont. Details pending.

April 27, Thursday
● 6-7:30pm, Disrupting Violence Discussion and Practice Group at the PJC. We will include different content to help participants disrupt violence and engage in conflict nonviolently. If interested in leading an activity and/or have materials you would like to share, contact program@pjcvt.org or 863-2345 x6.

April 29, Saturday

● 3-4pm, Fair Trade Banana Presentation at the PJC. Learn about this oppressive industry. The talk is designed to educate, brainstorm solutions, and create tangible action steps. People are encouraged to stay for the New Volunteer Orientation at 4pm.

May 1, Monday
● 12noon, Mayday March for Dignity! ¡Marcha para La Dignidad! Meet at the Migrant Justice office, 294 North Winooski Ave, Burlington to march to Ben & Jerry’s scoop shop to demand they implement the Milk with Dignity Program as promised nearly two years ago! Then we march and rally at the Federal Building demonstrating our unity and dignity in the face of hate and division – lifting up Vermont voices and campaigns in resistance to attacks on our communities. Sponsored by the Vermont Human Rights Council: Migrant Justice, Vermont Worker’s Center, 350VT, Green Mountain Self-Advocates, VT Center for Independent Living, PJC, VT Interfaith Action, UE, United Academics, Pride Center, Rising Tide Vermont, Green Mountain Central Labor Council

May 4, Thursday
● 11am-12 noon, White Fragility Talk and Discussion at the PJC. White Fragility is a state in which even a small amount of racial stress becomes intolerable for a white person. Recognizing and naming it can be a helpful way to stay engaged in discussions about racism and in ongoing racial justice work, even when it is uncomfortable. Learn how this state perpetuates racism in a cycle and explore ways that the cycle can be disrupted. People are
encouraged to stay after for the New Volunteer Orientation at noon.

- Evening time TBA. Stand Against Racism Community Reading of MLK Speech: “Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence” Join the PJC, YWCA, and Vietnam Peace Commemoration Committee as part of nationwide events. We will share a community reading of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s speech commemorating its 50th anniversary. One year before his assassination, Dr. King eloquently (and controversially) linked together the struggles for peace in Vietnam and for economic and racial justice at home. At ArtsRiot, Burlington.

May 6, Saturday
- 8:30am-5pm 2nd Annual Multicultural Youth Leadership Conference at Champlain College. Open to youth ages 14-24. Hosted for youth and by youth. PJC will lead a Conflict and De-Escalation Workshop as part of the event. In this workshop participants will explore the idea that conflict is neutral and that one way to work towards positive change is through learning non-violent ways to address conflict. Questions: mjp@spectrumvt.org

- 12:30-1:30pm. Shock. Outrage. Resistance. Repeat. Join the Greater Bennington Peace & Justice Center at the monthly vigil at the Four Corners in Bennington. Also June 3.

May 7, Sunday
- 2-4 pm, Learning about Nonviolence: Children’s March of 1963 (see April 5 for program details) at the Barn House on the Clemmons Family Farm, 2122 Greenbush Rd, Charlotte. Includes a tour of the Barn House after the presentation as well as snacks. Free with pre-registration (maximum 35 participants).

- 4-5:30pm PJC Prospective Facilitator Gathering. Learn about becoming a facilitator of our educational programs. People from around the state are needed. We are happy to have you join us via video or phone conference. To register, call Kyle at 863-2345 x6 or email kyle@pjcvt.org.

May 9 & 16, Tuesdays
- 5:30-7:30pm. Introduction to your Bill of Rights in a Time of Resistance. This two-part workshop presentation will provide a fundamental understanding of some of the most important provisions of our Bill of Rights. Topics include freedom of speech and press; the right to petition governmental officials; prohibitions against religious discrimination, unreasonable searches and seizures, and self-incrimination; the right to counsel for persons facing potential incarceration; as well as equal protection and due process clauses. All discussions will be within the context of protest actions empowering participants to know their rights and make informed choices when resisting the current regime. At PJC. Sliding scale donation $5-$50. No one turned away for lack of funds. People under 25 not expected to contribute financially.

May 10, Wednesday
- 12-1pm Toxic Whiteness Discussion at the PJC. See 4/12.

May 13, Saturday
- 10am-2pm World Fair Trade Day. City Hall Park, Burlington. Fair trade vendors with goods from around the world: free banana smoothies; fair trade activities; and traditional West African drum & dance entertainment!

May 20, Saturday
- 3-4pm, Free Trade vs. Fair Trade at the PJC. See April 13 for description. People are encouraged to attend the PJC New Volunteer Orientation at 2:30pm.

June 8, Thursday
- 11am-12 noon, Cocoa Campaign Presentation at the PJC. This presentation focuses on the issue of child slavery and human trafficking in the cocoa industry. People are encouraged to arrive at 10:30am for the PJC New Volunteer Orientation.

- 7:30pm Peter Yarrow (of Peter, Paul and Mary) and Arlo Guthrie in Concert at Barre Opera House. This is a benefit for John Summa's film The Resurrection of Victor Jara to pay for the music rights. Tickets: Barre Opera House website (http://barreoperahouse.org).

June 11, Sunday
- Pride March on Washington DC. Bus tickets at PJC.

- Loving Day Vermont. In honor of the 50th anniversary of Loving v. Virginia, the 1967 Supreme Court decision which legalized interracial marriage, Loving Day Vermont will host several events in collaboration with community partners during the month of June. Please stay tuned for additional details. Follow Loving Day Vermont on Facebook for the latest information!

June 14, Wednesday
- 12-1pm Toxic Whiteness Discussion at the PJC. See 4/12.

June 24, Saturday
- 3-4pm, Understanding Free Trade Agreements Presentation and Discussion at PJC. US Free Trade Agreements were intended to ease trade and boost economies. However, with the combination of corporate greed and developmental inequality, it has had a devastating effect on the Global South. People are encouraged to arrive at 2:30pm for the PJC New Volunteer Orientation.
These fair trade Seismic Critters are made in Mexico to detect earthquakes and volcanic activity. They come in many forms: cats, dogs, dragons, lizards, and more!

Paid Sick Leave
This Little Piggy
Stood With
Good things for good causes!

Standing Rock

This Little Piggy
Stayed home with

Chocolate

This Little Piggy
Had Fair Trade

Black Lives Matter!

This Little Piggy
Had no GMOS