



peace & justice news

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Local businesses are partnering with the PJC to help us raise funds with a fun raffle!

Why Do We Support Fair Trade?

By *Gaby Ochoa Brenneman, Manager of Fair Trade & Local Products*

In 2009 Burlington became the twelfth Fair Trade town in the United States. Fair Trade towns make a commitment to actively promote Fair Trade through education and outreach to local businesses and consumers.

The Peace & Justice Center has a mission and commitment to promote peace and justice, and both of these are crucial values for the Fair Trade movement. The Peace & Justice Store is the main source for Fair Trade crafts in Burlington. In addition to providing a market for artisans and farmers, we have a responsibility to educate our community regarding Fair Trade and its impact locally and in other countries.

I personally feel committed to the movement since it represents and advocates for the most disadvantaged. Sixty-nine percent of the artisans and farmers involved in Fair Trade are ethnic minorities, while women make up 76 % of Fair Trade producers globally.

I have seen how Fair Trade improves the lives of many people in my own country of Guatemala, and I believe that the Fair Trade model is sustainable for producers, consumers and for our environment. The trade system in our world needs more transparency and this is why we also work with local businesses in our Vermont community that have fair and transparent business practices and that are committed to using sustainable production practices.

I envision a Peace & Justice Store with an active educational component that

provides more education and resources to school groups, college classes, and any group that is interested in learning more about social justice and Fair Trade as a very concrete way of promoting peace. In addition to providing international Fair Trade groups with an outlet for their goods, I believe we must support national campaigns that exert pressure on US companies to end abuse, forced, child and trafficked labor. We can support initiatives that demand transparency and accountability for a more sustainable way of trading.

In our recent World Fair Trade Day celebration on May 14th, we joined the Raise the Bar Campaign in pressuring Hershey's chocolate company to stop using child forced labor in their West Africa cocoa farms. We cannot ignore that children in West Africa are supplying cocoa to one of the biggest chocolate companies in this country. According to UNICEF, approximately 200,000 children are being trafficked every year to Ghana and the Ivory Coast alone—close to 4,000 children a week(*). Companies like Hershey signed the Harkin-Engel protocol to end child labor almost 10 years ago, but according to Global Exchange, "Hershey is currently lagging behind its competitors in using cocoa that has been certified by independent third parties to comply with international labor rights standards."

On Wednesday, June 8th, in New York City's Times Square, a group of students, children, and social justice activists

Fair Trade continued on page 8

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Wendy Coe
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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

Board update

Dear Friends,

In the intervening time between the last newsletter and this one, the Center has made significant progress with regard to vision, direction, and leadership. Spurred by the open meeting with the community in March in Contois Auditorium, the Board of Directors has considered proposals by peer organizations, offers of assistance from individuals, and has surveyed the landscape of pressing issues in the arena of peace and justice. That meeting, and the successive steps taken by the Board resulted in new involvement in the Center, a new member of the Board, and resolution of several discussions with regard to vision and direction.

Among proposals that the Center considered were several opportunities to merge with peer organizations with similar missions. In each case our potential partners are working hard on specific campaigns and have been effective at building strong grassroots constituencies. The Board concluded that the Peace & Justice Center will remain independent and will seek close allegiances with other organizations as our mission and program activities call for alliances.

Within the context of limited resources – staff and funding – the Center will pursue a focused group of issues under the umbrella of working towards a *Peace Economy*. In the near term, areas in which we will be active include: Fair Trade; Youth Education (school outreach and counter-recruitment); the *Vermont Job Gap Study* and Vermont Livable Wage Campaign. Issues we are exploring, with the possibility of partnering with other groups, include: Racism and White Privilege and the Paid Sick and Safe Days Campaign. Your assistance with these projects and your suggestions for other areas in need of attention are always welcome.

Our current process for assessing whether or not to engage an issue through the Center involves filtering prospective issues with these queries: Is it within our mission? Do we have the capacity to pursue it? Is it local? Is someone else / another group already addressing this effectively? Is there a realistic and achievable goal or goals attached to the issue?

Through this process we have identified the areas above as our current focus, while maintaining a list of significant and pressing concerns to which we will turn as we make progress on current goals and expand our capacity. *As activists, volunteers, donors, and advisors, YOU are our greatest assets to create positive change.* Get involved and join your voice to ours!

One of the significant challenges we have faced has been a debate about the Peace & Justice Store and our current location. Our discussion of this issue revolved around three central questions: Is the Store an asset to the organization? Is it financially viable, and what are the costs, risks, and benefits of remaining or moving location?

Fair Trade and locally sourced products are on-mission for the PJC. The Store is often the first point of contact for new constituents with the organization and thus is the gateway to volunteerism, activism, and support for many of our members. Under Gaby Ochoa Brenneman's leadership, the Store has maintained a healthy cash-flow which funds the cost of goods, the rent (for the offices and Store), store staff, and leaves a *surplus* to fund other program activities. The move to Lake Street gave us accessibility and daylight, as well as a positive working environment for the staff. A move in the near future would disrupt the momentum that the Store and the Center have gained and divert staff, Board, and volunteer time from other efforts.

Based on these conclusions we have reached an agreement with Melinda Moulton to remain open and in place at 60 Lake St. for the foreseeable future. We invite you to make the Store and the Center part of your weekly routine. Stop in to shop, visit with staff, volunteer on a project, or organize a meeting in our community meeting space. We are here for you.

■ Board News

We wish to extend tremendous thanks to Hilary Martin, former Board member and Chairperson, for her years of service, and her recent assistance and advice through several transitions on the staff and the Board. Hilary remains a valued advisor on issues of program and mission. Marianne McCoy has stepped down from the Board due to family illnesses that have taken her out of state several times a month. This,

and her work on diversity and equity in the Burlington Schools have made it impossible to contribute her time to the Center. We wish her the best and thank her for her service to the Center, the mission and the community.

Ed Booth and Nathan Suter have both become more involved with the Center as a result of the community meeting. Ed is working closely with the Board on areas of mission and programs in an advisory role. Nathan has joined the Board of Directors as of May, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Nathan Suter, Board of Directors 



■ New PJC Board Member

Nathan Suter is the Executive Director of Helen Day Art Center, Stowe, VT and a practicing artist living in Burlington. Compelled by the mission to create a just and peaceful world, Suter will contribute his experience as an Executive Director, educator, and organizer to the efforts of the Center.

Nathan co-founded Root Division, an arts and education non-profit in San Francisco in 2002, just after earning an MFA at San Francisco Art Institute where he served as a representative to the Trustees. Suter remains on the Board of Root Division. "We learned a lot by starting an organization and growing it to be impactful in people's lives," Suter said. "I enjoy working with nimble, mission-driven organizations built around a core of passionate people."

The Peace & Justice Center is impressive to me for these reasons, along with a history of successes and positive change." Suter is a member of the Bulls Head Oswego Friends Meeting in Rhinebeck, NY and a graduate of Haverford College in Pennsylvania. 

Center Program Update

By Anna Guyton, *Manager of Mission & Programs*

■ Counter-recruitment at South Burlington High School

Informing high-school students about military myths, recruiter misinformation, veterans' stories, and alternatives to joining the armed forces.

■ Educational workshops, presentations, and panels

Working with students from elementary to university level – educating around peace, social justice, and economic justice issues.

■ Tabling & Rally for the Global Day of Action on Military Spending

Reaching out to the public about the price we pay for war and defense, and what more sustainable things our money could be used for.

■ Supporting the "No Lockheed" coalition

Working with concerned citizens of Burlington to prevent an inappropriate public-private partnership with the world's largest war profiteer.

■ Earth Day Festival

Bringing local non-profits and businesses together to celebrate and educate the community about how to live sustainably on our life-giving planet.

■ World Fair Trade Day Festival

Partnering with Burlington Fair Trade Towns and reaching out to the community about the value and sustainability of the Fair Trade economic model.

■ Author Events

Hosting Virginia Eubanks and her book "Digital Dead End," as well as Bruce Levine and his book "Get Up, Stand Up: Uniting Populists, Energizing the Defeated, and Battling the Corporate Elite".

■ Healthcare Is A Human Right Rally

Joining the masses in Montpelier to support the Vermont Workers Center's powerful campaign demanding universal healthcare for all Vermonters.



■ Press Conference on Assassination of Osama bin Laden (CCTV)

Voicing support for an end to the wars, the hypocrisy of the "war on terror," and addressing the skewed sense of justice that many felt after bin Laden's murder.

■ Continued Outreach through the Peace & Justice Store

Our store serves as our biggest education outlet, and a means to practice what we preach by supporting local & Fair Trade production.

■ Fundraiser at Nectars & Ongoing Raffle

Thank you to all of our financial supporters! Every little bit helps keep our mission alive and our work strong. Please check out our newest raffle! See page 11. 



Robin's Nest

An American Autumn

By Robin Lloyd

Is it possible that an American Autumn will follow the Arab Spring? A group of activists and writers are planning to make it so: they have called for the occupation of Freedom Plaza in downtown Washington, DC on October 6th and are inviting all to come and meet in a festival of non-violence. October 2011 is the 10th anniversary of the invasion of Afghanistan and the beginning of the 2012 federal austerity budget.

In a statement, some of the organizers write, "Our country faces crises on every front: the economy, education, jobs, the environment, health care, housing, the wealth divide, an empire stretched too thin and ready to shred. None of these crises has to exist. Just and sustainable solutions are available and known. What stands in the way of all these solutions is concentrated corporate power.

"The gathering in Washington this October is a reflection of the growing culture of creative nonviolent resistance in the United States. Many individuals and organizations are reaching the conclusion that the time is now to join our struggles for peace and social, economic and environmental justice. In this historic moment, our common vision for democratization of all facets of our society is coming to fruition".

The exhilarating news that young protesters in Egypt were passing around a book by scholar Gene Sharp on non-violent protest *From Dictatorship to Democracy* has inspired many individuals and organizations that indeed, a global movement is rising up to democratize our world.

A leader in the Egyptian blogger community translated a comic book on Martin Luther King's use of non-violence entitled, *MLK and the Montgomery Story*, and distributed 2000 of them from Morocco to Yemen, according to the Fellowship of Reconciliation, who published the original comic book – now



out of print in English—in the late 1950s. "People are learning that they don't have to be afraid," Sharp said in a recent interview. "The fear is gone. People can see the example. The Egyptian example will be imitated elsewhere. We don't know where, but it will happen."

In Vermont, a critical mass may be coming together to support more robust protest actions. The women's Shut it Down Affinity Group, of southern VT and northern MA, has been accelerating their nonviolent blockage of the entrance to Vermont Yankee. Their court dates are continually cancelled.

One of the first teach-ins in years will be taking place this summer at UVM on July 23 (see calendar, p.10). Burlington College history professor Sandy Baird, long a skeptic of the efficacy of non-violence resistance, will be focusing this fall's weekly lecture series of the Institute for Civic Engagement on Gene Sharp and other writers on non-violence.

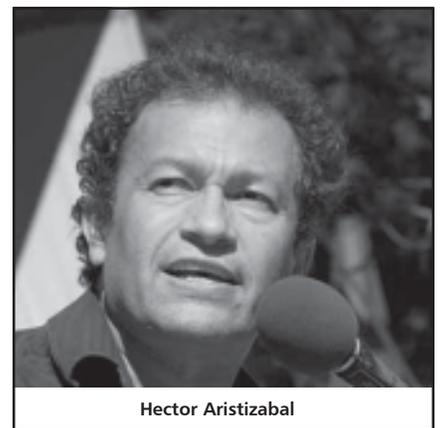
Volunteers for Peace is holding a three week study/work camp July 30 – August 20 in Burlington where the study theme will be peace through the lens of freedom. Dot Maver and the National Peace Academy will be leading a two week course on Peacebuilding & Peacelearning at Champlain College for people who wish to create significant, meaningful and sustainable change in their communities. (See page 11).

■ Remarkable People

Here's the story of two remarkable people I've met this spring who are emissaries of this nonviolent uprising.

Colombian born **Hector Aristizabal** is a therapist, torture survivor and author of *The Blessing Next to the Wound*. I heard him speak at the School of Americas Watch (SOAW) spring conference and protest in Washington, DC. The evening talk was an informal gathering of people who had been fasting in front of the White House during the day, and others who had arrived early for the Solidarity Conference co-sponsored with the Latin America Solidarity Coalition.

"Cocaine," he said, "changed our country. In Medellin, in my youth, I was constantly being recruited by four different armies: the revolutionary guerillas, the right wing death squads, the cocaine mafia and the government military. The army was creating assassins, not warriors. At the university we either became Marxists or therapists. Theater was my way out. Theater and books: the world of the imagination. Healing and transforming."



Hector Aristizabal

His book describes his journey to find meaning in his ordeal, to make sense out of the violent deaths of two of his brothers, and to channel his desire for revenge into nonviolent activism both in his homeland and during decades of exile in the US. As an activist, he uses theatrical performance as part of the movement to end torture and to change US policy in Latin America.

Hector kept us spellbound late into the night. A few days later, we marched on

the White House – he, dressed as Uncle Sam, and me and others wearing white scarves in solidarity with the Mothers of the Disappeared. 27 participants were arrested after staging a die-in on the White House sidewalk to call attention to the thousands of Latin Americans who were murdered by graduates of the US Army School of the Americas.

Mel Duncan is co-founder and former director of the Nonviolent Peaceforce, a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) which trains and deploys approximately 200 unarmed civilian peacekeepers in situations of violence around the world.



Mel Duncan

He came to town to meet with Ben Cohen, and, while here, spoke at the Burlington Friends Meeting house.

How did development of a ‘peace army’ become his life work? In his thirties, at the beginning of the Contra war, he went to Nicaragua to support the Sandinistas. “This was my first exposure to the concept of a peaceforce. We were part of the International Brigadista, a cotton/coffee brigade.”

Years later, he studied the connection between peace, justice and spirituality with Matthew Fox at the University of Creation Spirituality. While taking a course on the mystics, he realized that the organizing that he had been doing was dualistic: based on “us versus them” thinking. A Sufi teacher introduced him to organizing from an understanding of unity. Following this thinking he read more Buddhist texts, and at a center in France created by the Vietnamese philosopher Thich Nach Han, he conceived the idea of unarmed civilian peacekeeping, which Nonviolent Peaceforce describes as “The civilian use of organized and strategic nonviolent methods to deter violence, influence key actors and create safe space where people feel encouraged to transform conflict into sustainable peace.”

In 1999 at the Hague Appeal for Peace, he teamed up with David Hartsough, who had the same idea, and by 2003 they mustered their first team to Sri Lanka.

“There is creative and courageous work for peace and human rights going on all over the world, in the most violent of places, often headed by women,” says Duncan. “Only when invited by such local groups, we intervene with unarmed, nonviolent strategies to protect and assist in their efforts. Nonviolence comes from our faith values, it is effective and it is far less expensive in every way than war.”

In 2009 a new team was deployed to the Sudan. Two Sudanese organizations, the Institute for the Promotion of Civil Society (IPCS) and the Sudanese Organization for Nonviolence and Development (SONAD), invited Nonviolent Peaceforce to provide operational expertise in preventing violence before and during the elections and referendum.

To find out how you can support the peacekeepers from a distance go to www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org. The full statement of the October 6 call is at: <http://october2011.org/statement>. 

An Exercise in Reflection

By Anna Guyton

reflect.
every movement
has been a struggle
for balance – equality, health, security
or against imbalance – domination, oppression
like any natural system

reflect.
how do you move people?
battle complacency, despair, helplessness
turn off the TV – talk to your neighbors
people are only people
don’t fear interaction

reflect.
what is strength?
power in numbers
power in self-sufficiency
power in community
no power in money unless we agree to it

reflect.
what’s worth fighting for?
stability, balance, relationship
this is the true essence of “**human nature**”
not greed, hate, envy, lust, or wrath
but these vices feed each other

reflect.
what must you do?
add your power to the movement – connect
learn a skill or trade – decrease your reliance on corruption
invest in a new balanced system – fair trade, local, co-operative, democracy
teach others how to do the same 

“The civilian use of organized and strategic nonviolent methods to deter violence, influence key actors and create safe space where people feel encouraged to transform conflict into sustainable peace.”

Despite Outcry, Mayor Says Yes to Lockheed

By Sandy Baird

Lockheed Martin, Inc. is coming to town. After a Burlington Spring of opposition to the city's intent to enter an agreement to deal with climate change with Lockheed, a prime manufacturer of weapons of mass destruction, Larry Kupferman, Director of the Community & Economic Development Office and adviser to Mayor of Burlington Bob Kiss, announced to the city's Community Development & Neighborhood Revitalization (CD&NR) committee on June 7th that on the city's dime he is working on a joint symposium with Lockheed, UVM, and the University of Maryland to be held this summer at the University of Vermont.

The announcement came as a surprise to those in attendance at the CD&NR Committee meeting. Most participants were at the public meeting to continue their opposition to the proposed deal with Lockheed, which according to the Mayor, had not yet been cemented into a

partnership. Rather, Kiss asserted that the agreement was only at the stage of a letter of intent. More importantly, citizens gathered at the meeting to comment and to be part of a discussion on the resolution passed by the City Council in the spring of 2011 to create community standards to limit city partnerships with companies which had questionable employment and discrimination practices or a weak record on environmental protection. To many in the audience, Lockheed Martin, one of the largest companies in the military industrial establishment and a mass producer of instruments of war and torture, has a dismal record on all those fronts. The audience gathered to oppose Lockheed in Burlington; they also were in favor of the adoption of community standards to avoid further partnerships with offensive corporations.

Public participants expected to be heard. They also believed that the letter of intent with Lockheed signed earlier by the Mayor had been relegated to a back burner until a public hearing was held on the Lockheed deal or until community standards were discussed. After a heated public hearing in front of City Council in the spring of 2011 (in which speakers in a packed auditorium were unanimously opposed to Lockheed), a resolution, sponsored by Emma Mulvaney-Stanak, (P) Ward 3, passed which included a proviso to hold a public hearing before an implementation of the letter of intent turned to an actual agreement of contract.

The speakers at the CD&NR Committee were studious, hard working, and eloquent. Anna Guyton, spokesperson from the "No-Lockheed" group, read a carefully worded statement outlining opposition to the presence of Lockheed and thoughts on community standards. Jonathan Leavitt, (P), a supporter of the mayor who had stood in the freezing Vermont winter to campaign for Mayor Kiss in March of 2009, was moving as he urged the city to reject a partnership with a company which has never protected life

or the earth and has contributed to wars over the entire planet.

The main organizer of the "No-Lockheed" Coalition, Jonathan, spoke for citizens who opposed Lockheed: "It just seems like a real affront to democracy for the Mayor to move forward with Lockheed Martin as this process is still unfolding, as City Councilors and citizens are partnering in good faith to craft thoughtful legislation; for the Mayor to have CEDO staff using staff time to move forward with this in total contravention of [Councilor Mulvaney-Stanak's] early February City Council resolution. Why are we here? Why do we have City Councilors drafting legislation if it isn't going to be followed? Where does that leave the citizens of Burlington who are partnering in good faith?"

The CD&NR Committee appeared to listen. But at the end of the meeting with little time for questions or comments, Kupferman, announced the Mayor's *fait accompli*; a "partnership" has been reached to create this summer a joint project with the University of Vermont, the University of Maryland, and Lockheed to hold a symposium on climate adaptation. Behind the closed doors of City Hall, against the wishes of our democratically elected City Council as expressed in the Mulvaney-Stanak resolution, Mayor Kiss decided that the means of making a deal with the one of the largest polluters and destroyers of life on the planet justifies the end of allowing that company, rather than our local experts, to cope with climatic problems. In an attempt to "greenwash" their face of war, Lockheed will now take over from many of our Burlington companies and non-profits who have expertise in climate change and will be empowered by our Progressive City to clean up the mess that Lockheed, more than most, has made and still creates. ☪

peace & justice store



Bicycle Chain Picture Frame

Perfect gift for your favorite cyclist or recycler! Recycled bicycle chain makes a unique picture frame. Fits 4x6 inch photo. 5Wx7H inches. Made in India.

good things for good causes!

Experiment in Democracy

By Joseph Gainza

Rarely does history present us with events which resemble a scientific experiment. Events in the Middle East over the last nine years, but especially in 2011, give us an opportunity to examine how best to establish democracy. Analysis of what has recently taken place in Tunis and Egypt can be measured against the ongoing tragedies of Iraq and Afghanistan.

With Iraq and Afghanistan, the reasons the Bush and Obama Administrations have given for the US invasions and continuing occupations have shifted over the years. The latest excuse seems to be the one which the US government has settled on and which they believe will serve to explain and justify the enormous cost in lives and treasure. We are now told that our soldiers and Marines are killing and dying in Afghanistan and Iraq to bring democracy to those nations.

While it was not the US government's original intent or justification for the invasions, I believe that most of the troops who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan (some have served in both countries) believe that their sacrifices are intended to bring freedom and democracy to these tortured lands.

The people in the streets in Tunisia and Egypt, it is quite clear, are willing to disrupt their daily lives, their national economies, their entire society; they are facing the possibility of arrest, injury or even death to establish freedom and democracy in their land. So we are justified in using the successful establishment of democracy, in countries where it did not before exist, to measure the appropriateness and effectiveness of two very different modes of operation.

After eight years of war in Iraq and nine years in Afghanistan, the killing of over 5,000 US men and women in uniform, with over 100,000 severely wounded, with hundreds of soldiers from allied countries killed and wounded, with the killing of scores of thousands of Iraqis and Afghans, mostly civilian, and the killing of countless Pakistanis, neither Iraq nor

Afghanistan have anything resembling democratic governments and the fragile democracy of Pakistan is on the brink of collapse. Even after the expenditure of US resources rapidly approaching three trillion dollars, what we have in both occupied countries is a hollow shell, a thin façade of what our government insists on calling democracy. And the killing continues.

In Tunisia and Egypt we see a very different approach to establishing democracy. Tunisians and Egyptians, fed up with the dictatorships which billions of dollars in US military aid helped to maintain, went into the streets and within a month achieved non-violent revolutions. This cannot be stressed enough;



both Tunisia and Egypt are further along the road to democracy than either Iraq or Afghanistan through the power of non-violent action, not the violence of military force. Yes, there were deaths in both countries, less than 400 total and most observers testify that the major cause of death were the actions of the repressive governments and their paid supporters.

Tunisians and Egyptians understood that the most secure road to democracy is through the practice of direct democracy. They employed the power of the people (the literal definition of "democracy") in direct, non-violent action on the streets to bring about the downfall of dictators.

We fail to learn the lessons of these amazing achievements at our peril. As citizens of a democracy under siege we can take lessons from our Arab brothers and sisters that democracy is more than voting every two or four years. It is more than waiting for elected leaders to fulfill

their campaign promises. It includes a healthy skepticism of elected and unelected power, in the form of mega business corporations, financial institutions, and leaders who promote fear of and anger toward our fellow citizens. We can remember that democracy, real democracy, not just electoral democracy takes effort, it is what happens between elections, it does not run on automatic and, if we are willing to send our sons and daughters to war to achieve it in someone else's country, we should be at least willing to exercise it here at home.

We should also be willing to spend our treasure on it. We should examine our national budget to see if it invests in the necessary elements for building and preserving democracy, or if it tosses our tax dollars at the vain attempt to achieve "national security" through domination and control enforced by the use or threat of military violence.

This question, although unacknowledged on all sides, is what underlies the debate over how to reduce budget deficits: how do we "secure the blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity"? Do we invest in programs which strengthen people's ability to live decent, secure lives? Do we help build their capacity to be active and concerned citizens? Or do we put more and more of our treasure at the service of a bloated military, and weapons manufacturers who keep promoting the next weapon system as the securer of our freedom and democracy?

The Tunisian and Egyptian people have demonstrated that it is not weapons and violence which secure democracy; it is people willing to exercise their power non-violently. They know freedom is not free and they are willing to put their trust in the power of organized, concerted, sustained non-violent action. Perhaps, as in Wisconsin, it is time we experiment with that.

Joseph Gainza is the contact for Vermont Action for Peace and hosts the WGDR radio show Gathering Peace (Tuesdays 8:30-10:00am. 91.1 FM. www.wdgr.org). Contact: 802-522-2376 or jgainza@vmlink.net. 

War Protests 2011

By Colleen Deignan, PJC Intern

Tens of thousands of people nationally and worldwide are protesting war, and the Peace & Justice Center is proud to be on board. On Tuesday, April 12th, the PJC took to the Church Street Marketplace along with members of the No Lockheed group and other anti-war supporters, rallying in solidarity for the Global Day of Action on Military Spending. Global military spending reached 1.6 trillion dollars in 2010, with the United States leading the way, spending 698 billion dollars.

The largest anti-war demonstration for years in New York City occurred on April 9th in Manhattan, with participants mainly protesting

against the war in Libya, but also against military action in Iraq, Afghanistan, Gaza, and Pakistan. Behind the march was the United National Antiwar Committee, which also organized a march of 3,000 people in San Francisco on April 10th. Protesters marched holding signs that called for the withdrawal of troops from Iraq and Afghanistan, the opening of borders, money for jobs, housing, healthcare, pensions, and education rather than war, and many other issues.

Internationally, protesters gathered in Lahore, Pakistan on April 10th, calling for an end to the NATO forces' indiscriminate bombing in Libya. Many of the banners called

for an end to US interference abroad. The event also marked ten years of the United States' "War on Terror". Radical anti-American protesters in Iraq gathered on April 9th in reaction to Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates' statement that American troops could remain in Iraq for years. Groups of a few hundred across Canada were also active in protesting war on April 9th.

The call for an end to war and a decrease in military spending is loud in the United States and abroad. The Peace & Justice Center is working to promote nonviolent activism and education on alternatives to military action. For information on how to become involved in these efforts, please contact the Peace & Justice Center! ☺

Fair Trade continued from p. 1

protested against Hershey and forced child labor. People came because they no longer believe that we can't have a say in how the marketplace works. The campaign is demanding transparency and accountability. At the store, we will continue to support the movement by collecting signatures and inviting children to color a petition. In short, I believe the store is not just about selling quality products from Vermont and around the world. It is about raising awareness and promoting change.

More than just Burlington's source for local and Fair Trade products, the Peace & Justice Store is a window to learn about other cultures and an open door for discussion on social justice, peace, sustainability, and transparency. I invite you to make it yours. Come join the discussion, sign a petition, buy Fair Trade and local products, bring a class or just come to say that you too believe and support justice and peace for all in the world.

Contact Gaby Ochoa Brenneman, P&J Store manager, for information regarding our Fair Trade education programs, and how you can ensure that your business uses Fair Trade practices. Her email: gaby@pjcvt.org.

(* Sources: Trade & Environment Database (www1.american.edu/ted/ted.htm) and the UNICEF website (www.unicef.org). ☺



Mother of the Disappeared at the march on the White House, April 10, 2011. Photo by Robin Lloyd.



Robin Lloyd and Carol Urner, April 10, 2011.

Who and What is Fair Trade Burlington Network?

By *Sandy Wynne*



the 12th official Fair Trade Town in the US. As a side note, Brattleboro was the 2nd in the US to make that claim.

Once the initial Fair Trade Town objective was achieved, the Committee changed its name to Fair Trade Burlington. The group continued to educate consumers about Fair Trade and to promote businesses, organizations and companies that support Fair Trade. The group's next project was Vermont's First Annual Forum on Fair Trade Business in October 2009 at Burlington's City Hall Contois Auditorium. This Forum was a grand success, with product displays, free samples, and a lively discussion among panel members of various levels of expertise and opinions, including three coffee farmers from Guatemala. The public participated with many comments and questions. The UVM Coffee/Ecology Class volunteered, along with many other individuals, at this Forum, assuring its success.

In 2010, Courtney Lang wrote a grant proposal to the US Fair Trade Towns Campaign run by Fair Trade USA (previously known as TransFair USA). The grant challenged Fair Trade Towns to match funding and develop ongoing activities. With great pride Fair Trade Burlington

announced in September 2010 that it had received one of only two \$5,000 grants given nationwide.

Fair Trade USA was so impressed with Courtney's abilities, including her grant proposal, that they recently hired her to work for them in Oakland, CA. She is their new Grassroots Outreach Manager. We are so happy for Courtney, but sad at losing such a dynamic member of our group. While we lost Courtney, we are very fortunate to have gained a new member, Gaby Ochoa Brenneman. Gaby brings incredible expertise, insight and vision to the group. A huge thanks to Gaby for coming onboard!

Before Courtney left us in May 2011, we changed our name one more time. The new, and hopefully final, name is Fair Trade Burlington Network. Our mission is to develop relationships among VT businesses, organizations and consumers to grow the Fair Trade movement. Our vision is to develop a community of ethical consumers who are willing to take action. Our goals to achieve this vision include educating consumers,

promoting businesses and organizations that support Fair Trade, and creating networks.

Our Network is open to anyone interested in getting involved. We are informal, like to have fun, and want to spread the word about Fair Trade. There are no regular meetings...at least not yet. We get together when we can and work on new ideas and share what we all have been up to. Our activities have included presentations at places of worship, civic organizations, schools and retail stores for both employees and consumers. We are helping Green Mountain College and Saint Michael's College to become Fair Trade Schools. We have a blog at <http://fairtradeburlington.wordpress.com/> due to Melinda's outstanding efforts. She also has made sure we have a presence on Twitter and Facebook. In her spare time, she works full time running her Fair Trade business: Dolma Designs.

Contact me with questions, comments or how to get involved. 802.343.9289 or sandywynne@comcast.net.



Initially, the Fair Trade Burlington Network was called the Burlington Fair Trade Town Initiative Committee and was started in January 2009 by Courtney Lang, Melinda Haselton, and Sandy Wynne. The original objective was to make Burlington a Fair Trade Town with the completion of five steps developed by the Fair Trade Towns Campaign. The first step was to create a steering committee of 15 folks from various businesses, organizations (including PJC), schools, and interested individuals.

One of the next five steps was to create a media event which happened in May 2009. The Committee sponsored a Fair Trade Day Celebration in City Hall Park, in conjunction with World Fair Trade Day (the 2nd Saturday of May each year). Senator Sanders was the highlight of the event. The weather was not cooperative except for when the Senator spoke – it completely stopped raining just in time for his speech!

Two other steps toward the Fair Trade Town objective involved documenting a variety of places that sell or provide Fair Trade products and a variety of Fair Trade products available. Given the good fortune of being in Burlington, those lists were not hard to develop.

The Committee completed the objective of making Burlington a Fair Trade Town in August 2009 when the City Council unanimously approved a Fair Trade Resolution. With the passage of that resolution, Burlington became

CALENDAR

July 2011

[11] Monday

- 6-8pm **Vermonters for a Just Peace in Palestine/Israel** meeting at PJC.

[13] Wednesday

- 5-6:30pm **Women's International League for Peace and Freedom** (WILPF) meeting at the Peace & Justice Center. Info: 372-6117. WILPF works on a variety of issues including nuclear weapons, nuclear power/VT Yankee, the Congo, and Hiroshima and Nagasaki remembrance days in August.

[17-23] Sunday-Saturday

- The National Peace Academy's 2nd annual **Peacebuilding Peacelearning Intensive** will take place this summer at Champlain College in Burlington, VT. See page 11.

[23] Saturday

- 10am-5pm **Teach-in on Nuclear Energy**. Arnie Gunderson, Vermont Yankee Decommissioning Alliance, and others. Davis Center, UVM.

[30] Saturday to [30] August

- Volunteers for Peace Work Camp. The theme will be peace through the lens of freedom. www.vfp.org

August 2011

[6] Saturday

- 8-8:30am **Annual Hiroshima Vigil** on the 66th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima. AFSC silent vigil corner of Main and South Prospect Sts. Bring signs.

- 7pm film and Candleboat lighting. Place and time TBA, in Burlington.

[9] Tuesday

- 11 am **Annual Nagasaki Ecumenical Prayer Service** at the bell tower, corner of Cherry and St. Paul Sts. Pax Christi Burlington.

[8] Monday

- 6-8pm **Vermonters for a Just Peace in Palestine/Israel** meeting at PJC.

[10] Wednesday

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

For more calendar events, join our biweekly email action alerts. Sign up on our website: www.pjcv.org/get-involved/events

Documentary Film

About *Silenced Voices*

Migrant Farmworker José Obeth Santiz Cruz was killed in a farming accident in December 2009 in Vermont. The Vermont Migrant Farmworker Solidarity Project sent a delegation to Mexico to return his remains and document his family and community coming to terms with his death. They shared stories about the causes, effects, and their experiences of migration. Their stories draw attention to the conditions and economic policies that force migrants from their homes in Mexico and suggest a need for a new dialogue about the root causes of migration.

Produced and directed by Gustavo Terán, Brendan O'Neill and Sam Mayfield for the Vermont Migrant Farmworker Solidarity Project.

We also have a study guide for teachers/activists to use the film: <http://www.vtmigrantfarmworkersolidarity.org/node/45#ed>

For more information:

VT Migrant Farmworker Solidarity Project
294 N. Winooski Ave., Burlington, VT
802-658-6770
vtmfsp@gmail.com • www.vtmfsp.org



April 26, 2011: The 25th Anniversary of Chernobyl. Church Street, Burlington.

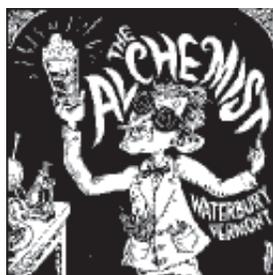
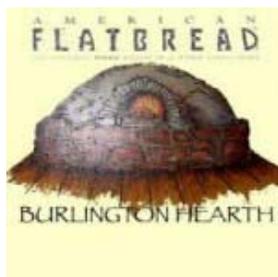
PJC Raffle: A new one every 2 weeks!

Local businesses are partnering with the PJC to help us raise funds with a fun raffle!

Buy as many \$5 raffle tickets as you like. Come into the Peace & Justice Center at 60 Lake Street, Burlington, or go to our website www.pjcv.org/get-involved/buy-raffle-tickets/

Congrats to all the previous prize winners!

- Danielle - \$50 Skinny Pancake gift certificate
- Janet - \$60 Bee Well Massage Basket
- Becky - \$50 American Flatbread gift certificate
- Ethan - Magnolia's & Stray Cat Flowers
- Sandra - \$75 A Single Pebble gift certificate



A Special Thanks to our local business sponsors!



Peacebuilding & Peacelearning Intensive

The National Peace Academy's 2nd annual Peacebuilding Peacelearning Intensive (PPI) will take place this summer at Champlain College in Burlington, VT from July 17-23, 2011.

Because the Peace & Justice Center is a partner of the National Peace Academy (NPA), the National Peace Academy is pleased to extend a 50% tuition discount to members of the Peace & Justice Center who wish to attend the PPI.

The PPI is a one-week immersion learning program for people who wish to create significant, meaningful, and sustainable change in their communities. The PPI provides a holistic introduction to the theory and practice of peacebuilding and engages participants in cooperative learning experiences, including the preparation of a peacebuilding project proposal to take back to their organization, workplace, or community. The program supports the development of the full spectrum of knowledge, skills and capacities of the peacebuilder – inner and outer, personal and professional.

Space is limited, so please apply today! www.nationalpeaceacademy.us

Become a member of the PJC at www.pjcv.org/get-involved/become-a-member



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