Standing Rock is my home

By Beverly Little Thunder, PJC Board Member

Standing Rock is my home. It is where my people have lived and died for nearly 100 years since we were forced onto reservations. Prior to that, we roamed and lived in the area for more years than can be counted. Our ancestors are buried there and our children continue to be born there. The water from the Missouri river has provided life to our people. Today that water is threatened by the corporate greed of Energy Transfer as they attempt to build the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL).

Since April of 2016, the Lakota Nation has been gathering in an attempt to stop the Black Snake of a pipeline that is proposed to carry crude oil through the earth and under the river that feeds so much life. A breach in the integrity of this pipeline would pollute the water of the reservation as well as everything downstream. In addition, the land it would travel through is treaty land for the Standing Rock Tribe and holds burial sites and historical village sites that should be protected. Dakota Access has thus far ignored this fact and continues to drill and lay pipeline.

One young woman had her arm amputated after being hit in the shoulder with one of their weapons. Another lost sight in her eye. An elder suffered cardiac arrest. This is an unarmed action and organizers

Standing Rock continued on page 3
An Activist Hub in a Turbulent Time

In light of the incoming administration and what it means for social justice and peace work, PJC is as committed as ever to serving as a resource for activists and the general public. We have been building a movement of educated people, ready to take action for racial justice and nonviolence; we stand against war and oppression; we support individuals and groups doing the same; and we participate in meaningful legislative work in coalitions for fair and impartial policing, family and medical leave, raising the minimum wage, and sensible gun laws. Through this statewide work, we strive to strengthen the resiliency and well-being of Vermonters so that we can band together for a better world.

I was in no way happy about the national election results. However, from my point of view, things were bad enough with the prior administration. Ever-increasing killings from extrajudicial drone strikes and bombings from planes in countries that we have no right to be in, keeping Guantanamo Bay open, not stopping pipelines that support corporations and devastate individuals and communities – these are realities that many people were not aware of or were not actively responding to. Things will get worse with the new administration, yes, but the unfortunate silver lining (unfortunate because I wish it didn’t take this), is that more people are organizing and mobilizing now. New coalitions are being formed. People are caring for each other more. We are ready to take action to disrupt harmful policies and incidents. Love brigades have been formed. People are practicing active nonviolent conflict engagement. People are putting their time and money into things like reproductive rights and environmental justice organizations to strengthen them before the next storm.

This mobilization is an opportunity to make a real difference. And when the tide turns back to favor the “left,” let’s not be complacent, let’s keep the pressure on, because that will be a chance to move, proactively, toward a better life for all.

Please, if you need support for actions you are planning, contact us. If you are holding an event – anywhere in the state – please let us know so we can add you to our public online calendar. If you are planning an event and want to know on which dates community events are already planned, we can offer what we know. If you want an article published in our enews or in a future edition of this publication, let us know.

We are here to serve your needs. Be in touch and take good care of yourself. If you want to look at the community calendar, you can access it on our website, www.pjcvt.org.

Buses to Washington DC

The Peace & Justice Center is organizing two buses to the Women’s March on Washington DC. We leave Friday, January 20, 10:00pm from Burlington, arriving in DC at 8:00am Saturday. Buses leave at 6pm arriving home at about 4am Sunday morning.

The cost is $125. If you want to contribute to the scholarship fund or if you need financial support, contact Wendy at 802-863-2345 ext 8 or wcoe@pjcvt.org. Checks can be made to PJC, 60 Lake St, Burlington, VT 05401. You can also call with a credit card.

We are making patches and maybe T-shirts with the design at the right. We plan to make a VERMONT banner for folks to walk with. We want people to know Vermont is there!
stress this daily. Peaceful ceremonies are happening on an ongoing basis. A forgiveness march to the police station was organized by youth leaders. Thousands of veterans descended on the camp to join in support of the people there, demanding to stop the aggressive actions used by the police of Morton County and nearby departments.

Here in Vermont, there have been groups and individuals who have traveled to Standing Rock to take much-needed supplies and help in any way they can. Many Native people have quit jobs and are committed to staying through the winter. The winters there are harsh, much colder than those we have here in New England, and the people have fewer resources. A recent denial of a permit by the Army Corp of Engineers is being seen as a ploy to buy time for the Dakota Access Corp until Trump takes office. He has a huge financial stake in the project and is expected to give DAPL the go ahead and overturn the Army Corp decision. Here in Vermont, the bank that holds the states funds, TD Bank, supports DAPL by providing them with loans to see this project through.

What can we do here? We can help by spreading the news of what is going on in Standing Rock. We can close any accounts we have with financial institutions that support DAPL. We can host fundraisers to help support the camps staying through the winter in North Dakota. We can write to our government representatives asking them to voice disapproval for how this is being kept quiet in mainstream media.

Volunteers and Interns

January-February-March 2017
Standing Rock: Learning from the Ancestry

By Colin Bradley

When I left Standing Rock at the end of November, my hands were so cold that I couldn’t move them. I had lost the gloves I got from donations. But when I first arrived, in the beginning of November, it was so warm! Peeling tree poles to build school yurts with black sap all over my hands and sweat under my four layers led me to de-layer, and consider swimming. But then I thought, “Am I allowed to swim?” On our 28-hour journey from Vermont, we stopped to swim at a roadside reservoir and thought nothing of it.

But this was the Cannonball River. The river that ran between Standing Rock Reservation on one side and 1851 Treaty Land on the other. On the Reservation side are Rosebud Camp and Camp of the Sacred Stones, the original camp that was established in April. On the other side is Oceti Sakowin, which means Seven Council Fires. This is the Main camp, where the vast majority of folks are, and where the Indigenous Resistance leads. It is intentional that the main camp is not on reservation land, but on treaty land, which has been violated. The people have come here to pray for the water. Mni Winconi, their main prayer, means “Water is Life.”

Luckily, before I dove in the river, I dove into an orientation with about 100 other newcomers. After a native man named Johnny introduced us to the land, we were led into an army tent. There, two white women activists laid it out for us. We learned many things. The most important thing was that this was an Indigenous led resistance, meaning we respect indigenous leadership and we support them as much as we can. This is a place where non-native people are de-centered and First Nation people are re-centered. Another custom was women were expected to cover their shoulders and wear a skirt. One women asked if we could swim in the river. They replied that “women were expected to be modest, and it was pretty cold.” So… umm….. no.

This was typical guidance at the camp. The direction from the elders was not always spelled out. We all had to step up as decision makers and answer our own questions. Should I dance while the people are singing in Lakota? How many cups of coffee should I drink? Have I done my share of the work for my share of the water? Every action was a practice in compassion for and accountability to the whole community.

Every morning, we met the sun with prayer. Every morning, the women led the ceremony for the water. Every meal, we prayed to the four directions, to the creator, to life. On our first day, we sat by the river across from the water ceremony. When they finished the ceremony, they shouted love to us across the river! Warm water teared from my eyes. I felt at home.

But this was not my home. This is Lakota Sioux land, a decimal of what it used to be. Over the last few hundred years, with each of hundreds of treaties signed and broken by the European invaders, their land shrank and shrank. Their way of life has all but been destroyed and their people continue to be discriminated against. Their sacred warriors are now the mascots of colonial schools. Their land, which used to be thriving prairie lands, with plenty of hawks and prairie dogs and buffalo, is now mono pasture for cows.

It was important to keep this in mind while I was working. I built yurts, washed dishes, chopped wood, guided kids, built composting toilets, participated in direct actions, so they can survive, so they can win, so an Oglala Sioux grandmother can be warm enough this winter. I worked to support their movement. When its all done, it’s their water that they have to drink, not mine. My water is safe and clean in Vermont… or is it?

Pipelines leak. Especially when they have to go under waterways. I know because I talked to a guy there who works in the oil business. He says that there’s no way to check or fix the pipeline when its down that deep under the water. He says that DAPL putting the pipeline here is like a farmer with 10,000 acres putting their hog house right next to your house. It is extremely disrespectful and completely unnecessary. There are acres and acres of land for it to run through. It used to be scheduled to go through white people’s land, but then after the largely white population of Bismarck voted against it, they moved it to reservation land. That’s racist, plain and simple. My friend wants a compromise, a big arch that runs over the river with a sign that honors indigenous sovereignty. That doesn’t fly for the “black snake killas” though. They will stand for nothing less than no pipeline. Many say DAPL will keep drilling and pay all the fines. I heard the Army Corps say that they won’t be able to drill because of flooding.

May we not just see what happens, but create what we want to happen, together. Our Earth Family needs us. Let’s remember our tribal oppressed ancestry and our uprooted colonial ancestry. We are the ones we have been waiting for. If you are a rock, rise up like a mountain. Stand with Standing Rock.

Donations for Standing Rock Two Spirit Camp

The Peace & Justice Center is collecting donations for the Two Spirit Camp.
Checks can be made to Kunsi Keya.
Most needed items: firewood, chains for tires, seriously warm outerwear, boots, and long underwear.
Please contact rachel@pjcvt.org for information on where to bring items.
Beyond the Safety Pin: practicing non-violent interventions

By Diana Gonzalez

“If we want to be courageous, we need to practice courage in small things. That’s the nature of training. If you want to row hard in a race, you row everyday.”

– Mark Noris Lance

Sometimes we need to practice practicing so we are able to be courageous when a situation arises. In November, the Peace & Justice Center generously hosted a workshop in non-violent interventions. In this workshop participants practiced ways to intervene if they saw verbal or physical assault in public. While incidents of verbal or physical assault in public are on the rise, they are still rare and most of us won’t encounter an incident. However, practicing can give us the courage to take action against violence of varying levels in various settings.

There is a lot of research on why people don’t intervene and some on how to help people intervene in verbal or physical violence. One reason people don’t take action is that they don’t know what to do, a.k.a. they have a “skills deficit.” This article breaks down things to consider, potential options you could take, and ways to practice.

Things to do to consider before intervening:

• Notice what your body is doing/feeling. Don’t try to change anything about it, just do a little check-in. Doing this will increase your ability to do whatever you are going to do next.

• Try to check in with the person being targeted to see if they need help. You can do this by writing a note (using the note app on your phone and showing it to them is an option), silently asking by making eye contact/mouthing words, or verbally asking.

• Try to check in with other folks around you. Maybe one person can video tape what is happening, maybe someone can call for help, and someone else can intervene.

• Think about physical safety. Is there a way out of where you are? Is there a way out for the person being targeted? Does the attacker seem to be alone? Are you alone?

If you want to take action, the “4 Ds” can help you decide what to do.

■ Direct:
This is the riskiest one to do, but can be perfect for some situations.
• Directed at the person being targeted. Handy phrases: “This person seems to be bothering you.” “I want to help.”

• Directed at the person attacking. Handy phrases: “That’s not ok.” “You seem upset, can I help you with something?” “We value safety in our community, and what you are saying isn’t safe.” “I have called the authorities; you should go now.”

■ Distract:
• Directed at the person being targeted: Address the person being targeted without acknowledging the attack is occurring. Potentially putting your body in-between the people. Handy phrases: “Hey, it’s so nice to see you, it’s been so long!” “Do you know what time it is?” “I’ve been looking for a bag just like that, where did you get it?”

• Directed at the person attacking: Address the person verbally attacking without acknowledging the attack is occurring. Handy phrases could be: “Excuse me, I’m trying to get to the store, do you know how to get there from here?” “Wow, all the cars are getting towed. Isn’t that weird?” “Your shoes are so cool; what kind are they?” You can also dramatically spill/drop something or get in-between the people without acknowledging what is happening.

■ Delegate:
• Seek out an authority. Are you on a bus, in the street, or in front of a store? The bus driver, transit worker, or store supervisor have enough authority to step in. Go tell them they need to do that.

• Ask someone next to you to do a specific task and you do another task, such as one person distracts the attacker and the other checks in with the target.

Other ideas that don’t fit specifically into the 4 Ds:
• Sitting or standing next to the person being attacked.

• Giving eye contact so the person knows that you know what is happening is not ok, and that you too feel unsafe.

■ Delay:
A lot of times it isn’t possible to do something right in the moment. You can still do lots of good afterward.

• Directed at the person targeted: Ask them if they are ok. Offer them water or snacks. Offer to sit with them for a while. Offer to call someone for them. Offer to walk them somewhere. Offer resources for further support. Ask them if they want to make a report.

• Directed at other people around who also witnessed the incident: Ask them if they are ok. State something about how you feel. Something like, “I feel shaken after seeing this verbal/physical violence. This isn’t what our community is about.”

• Reporting: Depending upon the incident, you can go to official routes like the police or your school administrators. You can also report at places like the ACLU or Southern Poverty Law Center. Additionally, organizations like Hollaback! offer on-line spaces to share your story and inspire others. Telling our story reduces the trauma of being part of verbal and physical violence, as witness or target.

■ Ways to practice:

• Think about where you go in your daily life. When would you have the most ability to take action?

• Read stories in places like Hollaback! and imagine you were doing the intervention.

• Talk to a friend about how you would want to act if an incident happened in front of you.

• Think about which of the “4 Ds” you could use in different situations. May we all have the courage to practice courage.

■ Footnotes


January-February-March 2017

peace & justice news | 5
PJC Ed Everts Peace & Social Justice Award: Presented to Rising Tide Vermont by Bill McKibben

By Jen Berger

On January 19, 2017, The Peace & Justice Center gathers new friends and old, to remember the life of Ed Everts, and to recognize the important work of Rising Tide Vermont.

Ed Everts was a World War II veteran, an active member of Vermont Veterans for Peace, the Vermont American Friends Service Committee, a PJC Board member for 15 years, and producer of the Peace & Justice Review on Vermont’s Community Media Access Channel 15 for 14 years. He was the runner-up for the 2006 United Way’s Hometown Hero Award, and in 2007 he received the Peace & Justice Center’s award for activism (which was named after him).

I first met Ed when I began to work at the PJC in 2006. I remember Ed as kind, generous, grandfatherly, and strongly. At the time, he was the producer for the Peace & Justice Review at VCAM. I had been sitting at the table in the common area working on organizing folks to go to Washington, DC for a demonstration. Ed was at the Center visiting. He kindly and generously offered me the use of his camera to film the demonstration while I was there. I had just started experimenting with video work and was awed at his offer. I hesitantly accepted. (Hesitantly, because it was a huge responsibility to have Ed’s camera with me).

From that moment, I started producing video work for the PJC. Ed’s presence was always a reminder of the beauty of humanity and that this current struggle for peace was part of a long history.

Ed passed in 2013. His life and work are remembered by many and celebrated annually as the PJC honors others doing hard and important work for justice.

Rising Tide Vermont (RTV) is an all-volunteer crew of folks that “organizes and takes direct action to confront the root causes of climate change and to facilitate a just transition to resilient and equitable land-based communities.” (www.risingtidevermont.org)

They have worked hard, tirelessly, and fearlessly over the last few years, organizing, educating and literally throwing a wrench in the system that is digging and drilling the pipeline under Vermont’s green landscape. Through their work, they have brought hundreds of people together, from different parts of Vermont, to build “a movement which opposes the expansion of industrial infrastructure in the Northeast US and Eastern Canada, and exposes corporate and state-sponsored false solutions to the climate crisis”.

The Ed Everts Award will be presented to Rising Tide VT by Bill McKibben. It is fitting that we invite Bill to make this presentation. For decades he has been outspoken about the detrimental effects humans are having on the environment. During a media literacy portion of a class at CCV, my students watched a series of news clips, ranging from the 1970’s through the 1990’s, from the Boston area. One of these clips from the early 1990’s, was of Bill McKibben giving a speech on Earth Day. He forewarned his audience that we, as humans, need to change the way we live our daily lives. He spoke of small changes, such as lightbulbs, and electric cars. And he said, we as a nation, need to become less dependent on fossil fuels. We, as humans, were hurting plants, animals, and land. Years later, as Bill continued to be outspoken about these issues, he gained national attention. “Step It Up 2007” was a national campaign to demand action on climate change by the U.S. Congress. In the summer of 2006, he led a 5-day walk across the state of Vermont to call for action on climate change. And in 2008, he began a national organization called 350.org, which uses online campaigns, grassroots organizing, and mass public actions towards strengthening the climate movement and catalyzing transformation around the world. 350.org now has affiliates all over the world, including 350 Vermont (www.350vermont.org), who work locally and globally towards climate justice.

We are thrilled to have the ECHO Center hosting this event. The ECHO’s center mission is to educate and delight people about the ecology, culture, history, and opportunities for stewardship of the Lake Champlain Basin. As interest and concern, by the public and the state, for the water quality and ecosystem integrity of the Lake Champlain Basin are at an all-time high, the mutual goal of environmental protection is intrinsic.

With the water protectors disrupting the Dakota Access Pipeline, safe and clean water is on many of our minds. Rising Tide Vermont’s disruption of the Vermont Gasline and work toward a just transition, Bill McKibben inspiring the public worldwide, and the ECHO Center instilling in children love and respect for our local water systems. This event will be one of joy and celebration for the work that we do – each in our own way – that when combined makes the world better.

Please join the PJC and our friends on January 19 at the ECHO Center, 1 College St., Burlington.

Doors will open at 5:30. A buffet dinner of chili, cornbread, and fixins will start at 6pm, followed by the award ceremony and presentation by Bill McKibben at 7pm, and then, as in all good revolutions, we will dance! 8-10pm dance party with Mal Maiz, an Afro-Cumbia band. Tickets are $25 to $1,000. Discounts are available. Please let us know if you would like to donate your time in exchange for a ticket.
2017 Annual Ed Everts Social Justice Award Ceremony & Party
Presented to: Rising Tide Vermont by Bill McKibben

Thursday
January 19, 2017 6PM

Music and Dance Party by Mal Maiz

5:30 Doors Open
6:00 Dinner
   Chili buffet with cornbread and fixins
7:00 Award Ceremony with presentation by Bill McKibben
8-10pm Dance party with Mal Maiz

Tickets: $25-$1,000
Youth and fixed income discounts available
Volunteer your time in exchange for a ticket
Contact Rachel at rachel@pjcvt.org for more information
www.pjcvt.org

This event is made possible by:
International Women’s Day 2017

By Sandy Baird

Seven years ago, on March 8, a student of mine in the Pro Se Legal Clinic arrived with a rose for every female volunteer and litigant. That student was from Moldova, a former republic of the Soviet Union where International Women’s Day (IWD) is widely celebrated. The women of the clinic, including me, were deeply touched that we were being remembered and respected for all the work we do to better the world.

I was convinced that in a nation like our own, where women are threatened by and/or treated with violence and abuse, where they are often second class citizens, and where they are not fully trusted by government and politicians to make the most personal and intimate decisions about their health and lives by themselves in their own conscience, IWD should be a holiday. The closest we have, as a nation, are Mother’s Day and Valentine’s Day, both of which only honor women for limited aspects of their being and exclude untold numbers of women. I resolved to wake up my local community to the holiday that other nations have celebrated for over a century.

The earliest celebration of IWD was in 1909 and was called International Working Women’s Day. The holiday has always been widely celebrated in the Socialist nations as well as Latin America. In the wild days of the Russian Revolution of 1917, IWD became a national holiday in the Soviet Union. March 8 is marked throughout the world as a day when women are honored with love and celebrated for the economic, political, and cultural accomplishments that we have collectively and individually achieved. The day is also a time to commit men and women to the continued progress of women to gain equality with men, to work toward the dignity of all, to be free to pursue their own destinies, and to work as equals to bring about a more peaceful, harmonious, free, and beautiful world.

Four years after I was introduced to IWD, following a particularly horrific incident of domestic violence in Burlington, my resolve was put into action. A group of women and men met to think about what we could do to remind us that women and girls deserve respect and gratitude for the beauty and grace, as well as the power and intellect, that they bring to the world. The group was called together by Louise Andrews who worked with the survivor of the crime. Lu’s resolve to honor her friend and colleague led the group to establish the first IWD in Burlington. Members of the IWD committee include Ellen Sklar, who served on the board of the Laura Kate Winterbottom Fund, and members of Zonta, an international organization pledged to the well being of women here and abroad.

International Women’s Day will be celebrated this year at the King Street Center on March 18 from 1-3pm. Food from all over the world will be served and all people of all genders are welcome. The event is free and open to the public. This event will be the 4th year that IWD will be celebrated in Burlington.

Please remember and respect the women in your lives and express your gratitude for their presence. March 8 is International Women’s Day. Join us to celebrate it in Burlington on March 18.

Bananeras: Women Transforming the Banana Unions of Latin America

Book reviewed by Kristen Elder-Connors, PJC Volunteer Coordinator

This slim little book by Dana Frank gives an account of the powerful female voices within the unions that organize workers in large banana plantations owned by Chiquita, Dole and Del Monte. Since gender equity and female empowerment are key principles in the Fair Trade movement, it may be somewhat surprising to find this novel focuses on banana workers outside the Fair Trade movement. Indeed, since only a small percentage of bananas are produced according to Fair Trade standards, this book actually depicts the lives and struggles of the majority of female workers employed in the banana industry.

Women in the banana industry are in essence fighting two separate battles. They are working to improve the working conditions and the lives of their brothers and sisters on the banana plantation through intensive labor and solidarity organizing across the region, and they are simultaneously attempting to combat and dismantle systemic sexism and gender discrimination in their own unions and communities. Female leadership in banana unions is fairly scarce and hardly ever extends into the upper structures of union governance. Women active in their unions have reported feeling unsupported and in many cases are actively discouraged by men in the union and their families.

It was incredibly inspiring to read about the achievements of these women despite the systemic oppression and institutional barriers they face every day in their fight for a better world. This book is accessible to all adults; no background in social justice, the banana industry, or labor history is needed to fully appreciate these stories of human struggle, sacrifice, and victory.
Robin’s Nest: Voices in Resistance

By Robin Lloyd

So many thoughts and feelings swirling in the last few weeks: Shock, then awe, that Trump could have pulled it off. Then anger and questioning: were the elections rigged, as he insisted – rigged, though, to support him?

I wanted to find out what everybody thought. Whoever held a meeting near Burlington, I went. Here are some of the things that I heard:

The NAACP, Champlain area chapter 11/15: Deep concern: “I’m experiencing cultural grief.” “My students are really scared.” “I’m going to expand my own courage to show up more.” “I’m tired of my child being hurt.”

The International Socialist Organization, UVM 11/17: “There will be no peace for this monster in his castle.” “People want deep explanations. They need to read. We need to go into fast motion on recruitment.” “We have eight union members in our branch. But most of the union movement nationally is taking its clue from Hillary: conciliate.” “The opening for socialism is great now because of the failure of the Democratic party.” “We’re in political combat.”

An International WILPF webinar 11/18: The triumph of Trump led international members of WILPF to question their countries’ subservience to US foreign policy. From Norway: “Norway is always doing what the US wants. Why so many US bases overseas?” Australia: “We’re tired of complying with US foreign policy.” A US WILPF member: “I agree with Trump. We should have better relations with Russia, and pull back on Syria. We need to END THE NUCLEAR ERA!” WILPF International president Madeleine Rees: “We are seeing a revolt against the machine, as there was in Brexit, against the failed neoliberal economic order… We must avoid picking up the gauntlet of vituperative discourse, of showing contempt for those who disagree with us. It is what has happened in the UK over Brexit on both sides and it will for sure happen in the US. That binary has to be resisted….”

Feminists Against Trump 11/18:

Women crowded into the small living room in the Lakeside community of Burlington: “It’s happening so fast: a kind of toxic masculinity has taken over. The left, too, needs to account for its misogyny. Women in some parts of the country are turning to the Jane Collective, an organization which provided safe abortions before Roe vs Wade. Now its services are needed again.” “What’s needed is a keening and wailing cry-out.” A Public Panic Attack is planned for January 14 at 2:30. Meet at the top of Church St.

Vermont Workers’ Center 12/4: “Dealing with the pain of our times will require our greatest creativity and courage.” Joanna Macy led by Ruby Perry. 12/13: “We are personally stunned at what happened.”

In the midst of all this, I tuned in to the two-day streaming video of the People’s Tribunal on the Iraq War sponsored by Code Pink (www.iraqtribunal.org). Many people who were on the cutting edge of the effort to stop the Cheney/Bush illegal war effort gave powerful testimony. The tribunal confirmed the reality we now face: how can we think we live in a democracy when the violators of the UN Charter lied to get us into war and continue to walk around as free men?

Finally, in search of a shred of hope, I attended a (re)introduction to the work of Joanna Macy led by Ruby Perry. 12/13: “Dealing with the pain of our times will require our greatest creativity and courage,” Joanna points out in a video. “The most remarkable feature of this historical moment on Earth is not that we are on the way to destroying our world – we’ve actually been on the way for quite a while. It is that we are beginning to wake up, as from a millennia-long sleep, to a whole new relationship to our world, to ourselves and each other. This awakening makes the Great Turning possible.” For more go to www.joannamacy.net or contact Ruby at evolution.ruby@gmail.com.
### January 5, Thursday
- **6:30pm Orientation for VRRP Mentoring Program in Partnership with Play in the Wild!** at the PJC. Dedicated to the empowerment of youth within a community in which the youth experience nurturing one-to-one mentoring relationships that offer concrete guidance, academic support, and consistent friendship, which in turn allows each youth to develop into their full potential, capable of making informed, responsible decisions as involved members of the greater community overcoming barriers of racism, sexism, or cultural prejudice. More info at info@babatree.org.

### January 10, Tuesday
- **Universal Background Check Bill Introduced.** 12:00pm Lunch with your representatives in the Statehouse cafeteria. 12:45pm Press conference in the Cedar Creek Room. 1:30-3:00pm Strategic organizing meeting in Room 10. www.gunsevtt.org for more info including carpooling.
- **5-7pm Standing Rock gathering at PJC.** Hear from people who have been to the camp. See p. 5.

### January 11, Wednesday
- **12-1pm Toxic Whiteness Bag Lunch Discussion Group** at the PJC. Also on February 8 and March 8. See p. 3.

### January 11, 18, and 25, Wednesdays
- **6:30-8:30pm Building Empathy and Addressing Racial Oppression.** Memorial Hall, Essex VT. This three-part program gives you the opportunity to practice recognizing racism and addressing it. The focus is on self, community, and systems/institutions. It is important to attend all three parts. Cosponsored by Heart and Soul of Essex and the Essex Community Justice Center. Participants are strongly encouraged to sign-up with friends, colleagues, family, or anyone who will help continue to work beyond the sessions. Sign-up online or call 863-2345 x6.

### January 14, Saturday
- **3:30-4:30pm Understanding Fair Trade Labels** at the PJC. We break down the differences between Fair Trade Certifications, Fair Trade Membership Organizations, and Direct Trade to help better understand the Fair Trade Movement. Arrive at 3pm to participate in a PJC New Volunteer Orientation.
- **5:30-7pm Zumb-a-thon for Peace & Justice Center** at Colchester High School. 100% of donations will go to the PJC. $15 donation gets you into this amazing event however please consider sharing our work and ask people to donate in your name or on their own.

### January 16, Monday
- **11am-12 noon Dr. King and the Children’s March of 1963 at ECHO, Burlington.** Explore the planning and implementation of the Children’s March of 1963 in Birmingham, AL. In between watching age-appropriate excerpts from Mighty Times: The Children’s March, participants of all ages will explore Kingian Nonviolence (and more) through discussion and song.

### January 16, Monday
- **2-3pm Beyond Martin Luther King Jr: Exploring Guilt & Racism at Winooski Senior Center, 123 Barlow St, Winooski.** MLK Day can be a wonderful time to remember the power of community awareness and action. This program highlights the importance of thinking and talking about racism as a current issue that affects people in all communities. It includes an exploration of White Fragility, a state in which even a minimum amount of racial stress becomes intolerable, triggering a range of defensive responses. Being able to name and recognize White Fragility can be a helpful way to stay engaged in discussions about racism, even when they become uncomfortable. We hope this program helps people gain skills to fight for the racial justice for which Martin Luther King Jr. worked so tirelessly.

### January 19, Thursday
- **5:30-10pm, PJC Annual Awards Ceremony and Party** at the ECHO Center, Burlington. The Peace & Justice Center will recognize the important work of Rising Tide Vermont. The award will be presented by Bill McKibben. 5:30pm doors and buffet dinner of chili, cornbread, and fixins; 7pm award ceremony and presentation by Bill McKibben; 8-10pm dance party with Mal Maiz, an Afro-Cumbia band. Tickets range from $25-$1,000; youth and fixed income discounts available. Volunteer your time in exchange for a ticket.

### January 20, Friday

### January 21, Saturday
- **12:30-4pm Women's March on Montpelier and Unity Rally.** Come together to demand social justice, and to celebrate our communities, our diversity, and our unity in response to the hateful and divisive rhetoric of President-elect Trump. 1:30pm The Women’s March starts at Montpelier City Hall in solidarity with the national Women’s March on Washington. Like the national march, this event is inclusive and all are welcome. The march will lead to the Unity Rally on the State House lawn at 2 pm. Come make noise and be heard!

### January 23, Monday
- **6:30-8pm Remaking An American City:** How progressive activists turned a company town into a model for municipal action in the Trump Era! Steve Early, retired CWA organizer, Labor for Bernie activist, & author. Phoenix Books, 191 Bank St, Burlington.

### January 26, Thursday
- **7-9pm Screening of “I Am Not Your Negro”** at Main Street Landing Film House, 60 Lake St, Burlington. In 1979, James Baldwin wrote a letter to his literary agent describing his next project. The book was to be a revolutionary, personal account of the lives and assassinations of his close friends – Medgar Evers, Malcolm X, and Martin Luther King, Jr. When Baldwin died in 1987, he left...
February 23, Thursday
- 6-7:30pm Disrupting Violence Discussion and Practice Group at PJC. This is a new monthly drop-in event. Also March 23, and April 27. See p. 3.

February 25, Saturday
- 3:30-4:30pm White Fragility Presentation and Discussion at the PJC. White Fragility is a state in which even a minimum amount of racial stress becomes intolerable, triggering a range of defensive responses. Being able to name and recognize White Fragility can be a helpful way to stay engaged in discussions about racism, even when they become uncomfortable. Arrive at 3pm to participate in a PJC New Volunteer Orientation.

March 11, Saturday
- 3:30-4:30pm Fair Trade vs. Free Trade at the PJC. See 1/28.

March 18, 2017, Saturday
- 1-3pm International Women’s Day Celebration! Taste international treats prepared by local women and hear about three community members being honored for their work. King Street Center, 87 King St, Burlington. See p. 8.

March 22 & 29, Wednesdays
- 6-8pm, Nonviolence Activism 101 at the PJC. Nonviolence has been proven to be incredibly effective in addressing oppression even though our culture may not embrace or encourage this truth. Nonviolent activists employ a wide variety of strategies, such as rallies, marches, hunger strikes, boycotts, and much more. Participants will explore personal and social identities; learn aspects of Kingian Nonviolence, and engaging in role play. More info/sign up: program@pjcvt.org.

March 25, Saturday
- 3:30-4:30pm Understanding Free Trade Agreements at the PJC. See 1/14. Arrive at 3pm for the New Volunteer Orientation.

March 9, 12, 16, & 19, Thurs. & Sundays
- Privilege & Accountability: Becoming an Ally 4-part Workshop facilitated by Francine Serwill-Ngunga and Rachel Siegel. Participants explore personal and social identities; practice new vocabulary; develop skills to be a better ally; and leave with an understanding of what it means to honor our responsibilities as conscience members of society. We hope you will gain an understanding that real change starts with actions we ourselves take. At PJC. $150 for public, $100 for PJC members, scholarship available. Thursdays are 5:30-7:30pm and Sundays are 3-5pm. More info/sign up: program@pjcvt.org.

February/March [dates and time pending]
- Building Empathy and Addressing Racial Oppression at Sterling College, Craftsbury VT. See description under January 11. Space is limited. Sign-up/more information: pjcvt.org/

February 16, Thursday
- 6-8:30pm Nonviolent Activism 101 at CVU High School, Hinesburg. Nonviolence has been proven to be incredibly effective in addressing oppression even though our culture may not embrace or encourage this truth. Participants explore how they are affected by various systems of oppression to help unlock meaningful ways to work towards social justice and peace without perpetuating the cycles of violence that permeate our culture. Register online through CVU’s Access Program or call 802-482-7194. $10 general / $5 for people over 64 and under 18.

February 11, Saturday
- 3:30-4:30pm “Cocoa Campaign” at the PJC. The presentation focuses on the issue of child slavery and human trafficking in the cocoa industry. It is designed to educate, brainstorm solutions and create action steps that fit within the comfort zone of each participant. Arrive at 3pm for the PJC New Volunteer Orientation.

February 11, 18 and 25, Saturdays
- 3-5:00 How to Talk to Kids About Racism. Facilitated by Isaiah Hines and Jade Walker. Steele Community Room, 28 North Main St, Waterbury. All who are interested in exploring how to address racism with kids are invited to this three-part discussion group that will include resource sharing and role playing. Sign up online, email program@pjcvt.org, or call 863-2345 x6

February 18, Saturday
- Nonviolence & the 1963 Children’s March at Kellogg-Hubbard Library, Montpelier. See description on January 16th. Time pending

February 4, Saturday
- 3-4pm Of Earth and Being: Work by Diane Elliott Gayer book signing at the PJC. Of Earth and Being is a collection of photographs and essays critiquing and celebrating what we know and who we are. Gayer is an architect by training, an ecologist by nature, and a problem-solver by instinct. This free event includes light refreshments.

January 28, Saturday
- 38th Anniversary of the Peace & Justice Center. 38% off all store sales for members all day!
- 3:30-4:30pm “Fair Trade vs. Free Trade” at the PJC. Information about globalization and how policies and practices of globalization have paved the way for huge companies to profit at the expense of people and the planet. It also shows how the Fair Trade movement and principles seek to, at a minimum, counterbalance these atrocities. Arrive at 3pm for the New Volunteer Orientation.

January-February-March 2017

behind only 30 pages of his manuscript. Filmmaker Raoul Peck envisions the book James Baldwin never finished in his new documentary. I Am Not Your Negro is a journey into black history that connects the past of the Civil Rights movement to the present of #BlackLivesMatter. Ticket: $8. If the ticket price is a barrier, please contact the PJC at program@pjcvt.org or call 863-2345 x6.