



peace & justice news

A P U B L I C A T I O N O F T H E P E A C E & J U S T I C E C E N T E R

HIGHLIGHTS

PAGE 2

■ From the Center

The PJC is developing new educational work for the Racial & Economic Justice Programs and the PeaceWork Programs.

PAGE 3

■ New Faces at the PJC

Goodbye to Carmen Solari. Welcome to Cassy Frank, Armando Carmona, and Pajj Wadley-Bailey.

PAGE 4

■ PJC Response to Shooting of Michael Brown & Racism in VT

PAGE 5

■ Composting Toilets in Haiti

PAGE 6

■ Where does Environmental Justice fit in the PJC?

■ VGS and Fracking

PAGE 7

■ Warm to Cold: Mental Stresses of Drone Pilots

PAGE 8

■ The Silence on Rape is Breaking

PAGE 9

■ The Happiness Walk: Two Women, Two Years, 7500 miles

PAGE 10

■ Calendar

PAGE 11

■ Julia Alvarez to present at PJC Activist Award Ceremony and Party for Migrant Justice.

Undoing Racism In VT's School System An Equation to the Power of 3

By *Alessandra Clelia Amato, PJC Racial & Economic Justice Intern*

There was a dream once upon a time; a dream shared by many; a dream for which countless people have fought and died. This dream spoke of equality, justice, and respect among all people. But as all entities need their opposite in order to exist, this dream is the consequence of a frightening nightmare. It is a nightmare in which opportunities to achieve a safe, healthy, and prosperous life are still a privilege designated to only a portion of our people. This nightmare has existed for too long and as history leaves behind a mark, the behaviors that should have been eradicated from society long ago are still a large part of our institution. And so the dream goes on.

Today, members of our community from different academic, racial, and socio-economic backgrounds have come together to undo institutionalized racism in Vermont. It is a peaceful but definitive fight in which we see Vermont's school system at the heart of the reform. "Things are going to change," Hal Colston, Director of *Partnership for Change* says with a firm voice, passion aglow in his face. Colston's *Partnership for Change* is a local organization whose mission is to remodel the Burlington and Winooski School Districts by creating a student-centered learning system that provides all students with the skills necessary to

succeed in their future education and life after school. "We have a significant achievement gap along the lines of race and ethnicity as well as socio-economics," Colston explains, "so kids who are struggling in families with lack of re-

sources – kids of color – all too often are not being met as who they are." He continues to say, "This current [educational] system is designed as one-size-fits-all and if you don't fit that seat, well... it's too bad."

Hal, who joined *Partnership for Change* in the spring of 2012, highlights the

importance of creating a meaningful relationship between students and teachers as a key tool to end institutionalized racism in Vermont's schools. Colston confides that he often reminds himself of the words of professor of child psychiatry at Yale University, Dr. James Comer's: no significant learning can occur without a significant relationship. Furthermore, the answer to assure the success of students and to the undoing of racism in the school district is a three-way relationship in which parents have to play a role of their own. Infinite Cucleasure, Community Organizer at *Parents and Youth for Change*, tells us that their goal is to encourage families to become involved



Undoing continued on page 4

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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 Director

Coming Soon: New PJC Educational Programs!

The board and staff at the PJC are hard at work developing new educational plans for both the Racial & Economic Justice Programs and the PeaceWork Programs. In recent years, the PJC has contracted a handful of incredible trainers to host programs on topics like white privilege, nonviolent communication, conflict resolution and more. These programs were terrific as individual events. We are now poised, however, to grow as an organization and the time is right to develop our own workshops.

We are engaged with advisory panels for each of the two program areas to create the workshops. At the end of the development period, we will have comprehensive how-to manuals so that the programs will be replicable, standardized to some degree, and will extend beyond any one staff or board member's tenure. We intend to start offering the programs in 2015 and expect that with consistent outreach and marketing, our presence will create more opportunities for those already interested in doing this work and draw in new people who may not have thought about these topics before. Below is an outline of our plans.

■ Racial & Economic Justice Educational Programs:

- "Privilege and Accountability" is an opportunity to delve deeply into the ways that we have personally absorbed the discriminatory messages about race and class and how to unlearn them. It will address micro-aggressions, unconscious thoughts, identity awareness and alliance-building. This will be marketed especially to Human Resource departments at larger Vermont business as well as to the public.
- "Myths, Bias and Stereotypes" looks at historic and current oppressive messages regarding various cultural, religious and ethnic groups including Anti-Semitism, white supremacy, homophobia and sexism, how they overlap and how they differ.
- "History of Institutional Racism in the USA" walks through the racialization of American culture from the 1st Act of Congress to the Japanese internment camps, from the colonization of the Native peoples to mass incarceration. The intersections of capitalism, imperialism and patriarchy will be included as will examples of people rising above oppression.
- "Ethnicity, Diversity, Sameness and Difference" is for preschool through elementary school students to engage in open dialogue about topics that are often hard for parent and teachers to discuss. We will gently engage in games and conversations that explore who we are and how we experience our identity.
- "Anti-racist Parenting Discussion Group" will be a six-week series of facilitated conversations to address the challenge of raising kids of any ethnicity in our current climate. Using video clips, blog posts and other written material as conversation starters, we will discuss talking to kids about racism, multiracial familial experiences, dealing with fear and anxiety, creating hope, and more.

■ PeaceWork Educational Programs:

- "Non-violent Conflict Resolution" will touch on numerous topics including creating peace both internally and externally in order to be well-equipped to intervene in difficult or even violent situations. An overview of nonviolent communication will be included. This program is well-suited to the public and to institutions like prison and police departments.
- "Activism 101: Rallies, Marches, Protests, Civil Disobedience and More" teaches an overview of ways to engage in making a more peaceful world around us and will speak to both historic and current activist movements. This workshop will likely appeal to high school and college students and will thus be marketed largely to those groups.
- "Creating Peace Within: Mindfulness and the Bigger Picture" is an introduction to making peace with our internal landscapes, practicing loving kindness in our hearts and minds, and connecting the personal experience to our local and global communities and movements. This workshop will be marketed more broadly than any of the others as it is accessible to all.
- "Peacework for Kids" is being developed for elementary schools, middle schools and camp groups, and will offer time to discuss conflict resolution, self-love, and nonviolent communication. There is an exercise that replicates the Woolworth's lunch counter sit-in designed for kids that will be an optional add-on to this workshop.

All of the workshops are adaptable so they can be used by various ages and will be offered for various lengths of time with the content altered depending on who is participating and how much time is allotted.

Stay tuned for more information about programs you can help us bring to people throughout Vermont and that you can participate in yourself! ☺

■ **New PJC Board Member**



With great enthusiasm, we welcome Paij Wadley-Bailey to the Board of Directors. Paij’s accomplishments and associations are extensive, remarkable and include:

- Developed the Lesbian & Gay Studies Program and Center at Goddard College
- Served as the first coordinator of the LGBTQA Services Program at UVM
- Served as faculty at each of these colleges
- Works as the (unpaid) Director of the Vermont Anti-Racism Action Team (VARAT), which maintains a hotline for complaints about racism in public schools
- Works as the statewide director of Reading to End Racism (RER), an initiative to help eliminate racism through interactive personal and literary programs that educate and empower youth
- Is an anti-racism trainer and diversity consultant
- Serves on the New England Regional Funding Panel for the Haymarket People’s Fund
- Member of Women’s International League for Peace & Freedom Central Vermont Chapter
- Coordinates the Central Vermont Codepink affiliate group

Paij identifies as a “bull-dagger:” her forebearers were black women who, as cross-dressers, herded cattle (referred to as “doggies”) and helped to “tame the Wild West.” They were also among the first “rodeo-ists.” When it was discovered that they were female, the “o” was dropped in their case and an “a” inserted to denote they were females.

We are fortunate to have Paij working with us and are grateful for the expertise, wisdom and commitment she brings to our work. ☺

New Faces at the PJC

■ **Staff Changes**

It is not easy to say goodbye to **Carmen Solari** who has been with the PJC for the past two years, most recently as our Fair Trade Store Manager. Carmen has managed the store with not only a commitment to fair trade and fiscal stability, but with a sense of aesthetics and creativity that went beyond her job responsibilities. She also brought our fair trade program into the world through presentations in elementary schools on our Cocoa Campaign, college presentations on Fair Trade vs Free Trade, public film screenings, and a large scale collaborative event every May for International Fair Trade Day. She worked with interns showing great respect and guiding them on a learning journey. Carmen was a driving force behind our collaborative work with UVM student groups and the Fair Trade Burlington Network that urged UVM to change their purchasing policy. As a result, UVM has contracted with a third-party certifier to make certain that the clothing they buy is ethically sourced. Carmen has made such a difference in our store, in our office, in our local community, and across the globe. We wish you well Carmen and we know that your activist soul, your creative spirit and your sense of humor will bring you great places and will continue to make the world a better place.



Cassy Frank has been hired as our new Fair Trade Store Manager. She joins us as a recent transplant from the Willamette Valley, Oregon. Her career has been driven by a desire to inspire individuals to uncover solutions to live happy, healthy, and productive lives. In addition to ten years in the natural products industry as a Marketing Communications and Education Manager, Cassy spent three years living off-grid in South America. During this time Cassy collaborated with a local artisan community and volunteered at a small co-op where she witnessed rewards of fair trade first hand. Returning stateside, Cassy has remained committed to following a whole food diet, seeking out locally produced food for her family, and practicing sustainability in her everyday life. We are excited to get to know Cassy. Come into the store anytime to introduce yourself and let her know what you love about PJC!



We are also excited to introduce **Armando Carmona**, our new Assistant Store Manager and Volunteer Coordinator. Armando brings with him a wealth of organizing and leadership skills as well as a steadfast commitment to human rights, diversity, and inclusion. His past experiences include translation work, policy-based research and coyuntural analysis (a popular education approach and strategy for collective analysis). He is also an aspiring journalist and writer. Please help us welcome Armando – we are looking forward to working together! ☺



Join Us! PJC Annual Meeting, October 23, Thursday
Elect Board Members, Program Updates, & Dinner
6pm at the PJC, 60 Lake St, Burlington VT



Peace & Justice Center Statement

Response to the Shooting of Michael Brown and Racism in Vermont

By Rachel Siegel, 8/21/14

When heinous acts of racist violence happen elsewhere, many well-intended people use them as evidence that there isn't racism in Vermont. The staff and board of the Peace & Justice Center disagree. There is more to discrimination than just the dramatic acts of violence that saturate our media.

The shooting in Ferguson, Missouri, as well as both the civil unrest and the militarized police response are of deep concern to the Peace & Justice Center. Racial justice and nonviolence are at the heart of our work. We believe in and work

for a more peaceful and just world, a world where parents do not need to fear their black and brown boys will be killed for no reason other than their appearance, where we recognize the benefits of diversity, and where human equality is valued. We therefore must speak out against acts of racist violence.

Simultaneously, we must respond to the more subtle acts of racism that pervade our culture and to institutional and systemic oppression. There is a phrase "death by a million cuts" which aptly reflects the hurt of racism in Vermont. The usually unconscious acts of prejudice and disrespect, the stereo-

types projected, the touching of hair, the being followed in stores, the crossing of streets in avoidance, and other acts in response to people of color, are referred to as micro-aggressions. Each micro-aggression slices at those of us with brown and black skin and limits the lives of those of us who are white. Institutionalized racism includes decision making, resource allocation, policies and practices that perpetuate privilege and access to some and not to others. These systems of oppression are also hard for those in power to see. To continue the metaphor, institutionalized racism creates an environment in which the wounds cut

Undoing continued from page 1

with their kids' schools and most importantly to realize the power they have as parents and guardians to shape the future of their kids. "If you don't do it, nobody will do it," Infinite replies after been asked what he would tell the families who don't want to have anything to do with the school district. In fact, Infinite believes that traditional reforms are not enough to account for all inequities outside of the school. He adds, "a family's shift in behavior and mindset is transferable [and it can] adjust inequities on your block, neighborhood library, and local police force."


The equation to the power of three is that in which teachers, parents and students are given the power and skills to create a more student-centered school system where diversity is embraced and we ensure the success of each and every student. *Partnership for Change* along with *Parents* and *Youth for Change* are not the only ones who shares this dream. In fact, as Infinite says, they are only a part of the movement, carrying a small amount of the total weight. There are people who are trying to stand up for change everyday. They are teachers, administrators, board members, students,

parents, and members of the community who share a common denominator: they all believe that the current system is not working for most people, and that it must be remodeled to fit the needs of everyone.

In an effort to raise awareness about the struggle racial minority groups face within the educational system, the *Peace & Justice Center* is collaborating with *Partnership for Change* to bring the Sundance award-winning film *American Promise* to Burlington. "As an organization with racial justice at the heart of our mission, we are eager to share this outstanding film. *American Promise* perfectly highlights the intersection of racial justice and education," says Rachel Siegel, Executive Director of the *Peace & Justice Center*.

American Promise takes us to the 13 year-long journey of two middle-class African American parents in Brooklyn, NY, who turn their cameras on their son, Idris, and his best friend, Seun, as they make their way through one of the most prestigious private schools in the country. This provocative and intimate documentary presents the complicated truths about America's struggle to come of age on issues of race, class and

opportunity. Joe Brewster, Co-Producer and Co-Director of the movie shares that same dream of equity and once again talks about the importance of the power of three by saying, "Our goal is to empower boys, their parents, and educators to pursue education opportunities, especially to help close the black male achievement gap." *American Promise* will be screened at Merrills' Roxy Cinema in Burlington on October 7th at 6:30pm and it will be introduced by Hal Colston. The event is free but due to limited seating, people are encouraged to pick up tickets in advance at the Peace & Justice Center Store or at the Roxy.

"I like to think what we are doing is not any different than practicing medicine. You continually work on improving it and learning from what you just did and making it better. And I think we should have the same approach to education," says Colston. There was a dream once upon a time that spoke of equality, justice, and respect among all people. It was a beautiful dream, and it still is. However this time people are not going to allow the nightmare to continue for much longer. "Things are going to change." Yes they are. 

more deeply and heal more slowly even when there is no singular act of violence that explains the hurt.


We live in a highly racialized society. When white people refer dismissively to the “race card,” as a defense against what a person of color perceives as racism, another cut is made. While some claim colorblindness, we believe this is a myth. Saying skin color is not seen denies a very important characteristic of a person’s identity and experience. Of course we see race and our hope is that we don’t make assumptions based on it. How can people of color, when disrespected, not wonder if race is a contributing factor? In fact, how could anyone prove that it is not?

The death of Michael Brown and the ensuing violence is indeed horrific. While we speak out against the abuse of power in Ferguson and send messages of support and comfort to his family and friends, we hope all of us, people of color and aspiring white allies alike, will also turn our attention to the racism and white privilege here in Vermont.

The Peace & Justice Center hosted a couple of racial justice-related events. They were not specific to the killing of Michael Brown and were scheduled prior to the tragedy. However they are not unrelated.

- “The Spies of Mississippi,” a documentary about the state-sponsored campaign to Defeat Civil Rights in the 1960s, was shown at the Block Gallery in Winooski on August 26th. The DVD is available in the PJC Library.

- Book discussion of “*The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*,” by Michelle Alexander on Sept. 22 & 24. Racial profiling, disenfranchisement, and mass incarceration constitute today’s legal system for institutionalized racism, discrimination, and exclusion. To hear about future discussions, sign up for our bi-weekly enews.

The Peace & Justice Center board and staff send blessings and condolences to Michael Brown’s family and to all members of the Ferguson community, we join the collective voice of alarm regarding police militarization and violence, and we pledge renewed commitment to the movement for racial justice and peace in Vermont and beyond. 

Composting Toilet Project Launched in Haiti

By *Meg Brook, Director of Volunteers For Peace*


As you read this, local farmers on Peak Macaya, the second highest mountain in Haiti, are harvesting coffee. They are walking for hours up and down steep inclines, gently picking beans, carrying heavy loads on their heads, using hand-powered machines to crack shells and extract beans, carefully monitoring moisture levels, and hand-sorting the very best beans to roast and sell. I first visited Peak Macaya in June 2013 and was instantly struck by the untouched beauty of the mountain and the natural way of life. As I reached the rugged mountainside that appeared uninhabited from the distance, I saw clusters of houses, carefully tended gardens, and met local people.

I learned a lot on my first visit but what struck me most was the lack of any toilet or even primitive latrine. The mountain is the toilet and human waste can easily be seen by the river where they wash their clothes and bodies, along paths where most pass with no shoes, and in fields where they garden. This not only creates a huge health risk for more than 30,000 people living in this area but also for the quarter million people who live downstream from this vital water source.

Volunteers for Peace (VFP.org) is a Burlington non-profit offering programs around the world. We have a particularly strong program in Haiti due to the close proximity and a moral obligation to empower and support local communities



which have been oppressed by US intervention. Our primary focus is cultural exchange and each year almost 100 volunteers serve with us in Haiti. In 2011, we established Clean Water for LaVallee, an organization that provides clean drinking water in schools and educates students about health and hygiene. As I walked the mountain I brainstormed with local farmers how to address the sanitation issue and support their work.

In March 2014, the Peace & Justice Center graciously hosted our first Sanitation Fundraiser and our project was launched! In June, a VFP volunteer and I arrived in Haiti and began meeting with local leaders to develop a pilot project for sanitation on Peak Macaya. In July, community meetings were held to obtain local buy-in and select the eight local project leaders. In August, the first eight composting toilets were constructed, two collection areas were created and locals started to collect the natural materials that would mix with the waste. This month the toilets officially opened in three communities. Approximately 15 people will use each toilet, a simple outhouse with a five gallon bucket to collect the waste. The community leaders will collect the waste to make compost every two days. It will take a year for the compost to be ready to use on future coffee and vegetable plants. You can help this project grow by purchasing Peak Macaya coffee at the Peace & Justice Store or contacting me at meg@vfp.org or 802-540-3060 to sponsor one or more toilets or to volunteer in Haiti. 

Environmental Justice

■ Where does Environmental Justice fit in the PJJ?

By Rachel Siegel

PJJ's mission is specifically about social and economic justice as well as peace and human rights. We do not focus per se on environmental justice, climate change mitigation, conservation, alternative energies, etc., because that work is clearly being done by multiple admirable organizations in Vermont including 350 Vermont, Rising Tide, Vermont Energy Investment Corporation, SunCommon, NRG and many more.

However, our work is not unrelated to environmental justice.

As weather patterns have become more extreme and damaging, it is easy to see who is most affected by the devastation – here in Vermont and internationally it is the people with the least resources. This is where environmental justice meets economic justice.

When we think about the USA's investment in fossil fuel extraction and production, we see capitalism wreaking havoc in Middle East, in Native communities of North America, and elsewhere. This is where environmental justice meets peace and human rights.

I believe that climate change is the issue of this generation much like nuclear war was the issue of mine in the 70s (not that we are safe from nuclear weapons by any stretch). And I believe that environmental justice must be a priority.

In the meantime, while we are surviving and solving this crisis, we need also to prioritize working to mitigate the impact on those most severely and negatively impacted by environmental injustice.

Assuming we don't destroy our species and/or the planet as a whole, we need to continue addressing social and economic justice, peace and human rights. I give much thanks to those doing the work to directly address our environmental crisis from all the various angles. And I thank those of you who work to address the social and economic impact of environmental injustice.

■ VGS and Fracking

By Jen Berger, rate-payer and member of Rising Tide Vermont

Climate change is effecting everyone. Decades of overuse and dependence on fossil fuels has created unstable environmental conditions of global proportions. Sometimes we see the effects in other parts of the country, and in September 2011, we saw the effects in our backyard when Hurricane Irene wreaked havoc throughout the state of Vermont.

At the same time that our environment is becoming more unstable, the economy continues to waiver and fail to meet basic human needs. Rents continue to rise in Chittenden County, jobs remain difficult to find, and the changes in weather make heating one's home more and more difficult.

Corporations and many politicians are proposing that fracked gas can both shore up our struggling economy, and act as a clean and cheap transition to a renewable energy future. Unfortunately, neither of these is true. Natural gas may appear to be cheaper right now, and may be cheaper than other heating sources, such as propane and oil, but these lower rates are temporary due to the current saturation of fracked gas on the market. To add to that, a number of recent studies have pointed out the high likelihood of turbulent gas prices moving forward due to the way Wall Street has created a "fracking bubble" through its frenzied investment in the process.

The idea of fracked gas being a cleaner gas is also a myth. Natural gas is a naturally occurring hydrocarbon mixture consisting mainly of methane, which is driven out of the ground through shattering the bedrock with massive injections of fresh water and chemicals. Although frequently greenwashed as a "bridge" fuel, natural gas is still a fossil fuel with greenhouse gas emissions that may be as bad or worse than conventional oil or coal when extracted using the controversial method of hydraulic fracturing. In addition to its impact on climate change, the transmission of

fracked gas depends on miles of pipelines that are dug into the land often in the backyards and farmlands of residents nearby the drilling sites.

This is exactly what is happening here in Vermont. Vermont Gas Systems (VGS) is in the process of breaking ground on the first of a three-phase major fracked gas transmission pipeline expansion in Chittenden and Addison Counties. If they are allowed to build it, the proposed pipeline project would extend from Colchester to Vergennes and Middlebury, then under Lake Champlain to Ticonderoga, NY to serve the International Paper mill. There are longer term plans to build a pipeline to Rutland and to connect to the USA's transmission lines in New York State.

The majority of residents in Addison County whose land is directly impacted by the pipeline route, are opposed to this pipeline.

Actually, technically, the State of Vermont is opposed to this project. In 2012, Vermont became the first state to ban the practice of hydraulic fracturing. Governor Shumlin stated, "The increased amounts of natural gas obtainable through hydraulic fracturing were not worth the risk to drinking water supplies.... In the coming generation or two, drinking water will be more valuable than oil or natural gas... Human beings survived for thousands and thousands of years without oil and without natural gas," he said. "We have never known humanity or life on this planet to survive without clean water."

However, the Governor, and VGS are not morally opposed to bringing fracked gas *through* Vermont, sourcing it from Alberta, Canada to the great detriment of the Lubicon Lake Cree First Nation communities in the region.

This fracked gas pipeline project is also a detriment to the land, landscape, farms, and lives of Vermont residents. It has, and will have an impact on the finances of Chittenden County and Franklin county residents. Over the last few years, a percentage of the payments VGS rate-payers make on our bills goes into the System Expansion & Reliability Fund (SERF). This fund is being collected to construct the fracked gas pipeline

Fracking continued on next page

Warm to Cold: Mental Stresses of Drone Pilots

By *Michaela Herrmann, PJC Cost of War Intern*

The Peace & Justice Center started their Cost of War program in 2012. The program focused on numerous costs of war, especially how soldiers are affected by war. In 2014, the program became specifically about drones. As I am finishing my summer as the Cost of War intern, I have explored the reality of drones and more specifically what it means to be a drone pilot.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, ie.drones, such as the Predator and Reaper, are hovering over the Asian and African continents, carrying hellfire missiles, while American pilots are sitting in a room somewhere in the USA. Many believe this type of war is working in our favor because our troops can fight safely from their own country. Even though those pilots are physically safe, it is becoming more evident that drone pilots are paying a serious mental health cost.

One drone pilot, Brandon Bryant, has actively spoken out about the physiological reality of being a drone pilot. Originally from Missoula, Montana, Bryant

joined the military to pay off college debt. After going through Imagery Analysis training, his entire class was picked up by a drone program. He spent five years as a sensor operator, in an 8x20 trailer stationed in Nevada (1) and realized the harsh truth about drones.

Bryant became aware of the fact that over 98% of those killed in drone strikes are not high targets. Drones can see everything beneath them, including something as small as a soccer ball. At one point, Bryant even witnessed a child accidentally get hit by a drone and then was told it was just a dog. Also, the screen that the pilots watch, displays a heatmap of humans, so pilots can literally see a person go from having warm blood to cold (1). Bryant now has Post Traumatic Stress Disorder as a direct result of being a drone operator.

Bryant is not the only drone pilot who has suffered from PTSD. The Air Force has taken interest in knowing the health effects of drone operators. In 2011, the


Air Force surveyed 840 drone pilots and found 46% of Predator and Reaper pilots, and 48% of Global Hawk sensor operators reported to have “high operational stress.” Another study focused on health records of 709 drone pilots and 5,256 manned aircraft pilots between October 2003 and December 2011. After examining diagnosis and treatment records, professionals concluded that drone operators had higher incidence rates from 12 conditions including anxiety disorder, depressive disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse and suicidal ideation (2).

Drone operators experience high stress and PTSD because one, they are monitoring a potential target area for days; two, they also see the aftermath of a drone attack where manned aircraft pilots do not; and three, the brain has a difficult time understanding how one can be at war during the day and then return home to a community not at war (3).

While technological advances seem to be improving safety for our soldiers, they are ordered to kill people and communities of people whose faces and behavior they recognize. We are taking whatever humanity is left in war out and our own pilots are paying a serious mental health cost as a result.

If you have any further questions please feel free to contact the Peace & Justice Center. We would be more than happy to travel anywhere in Vermont to share our drone programming which includes films, speakers, action ideas and two presentations, one on the basics of drones and the other on the experience of drone pilots.

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- (2) Dao, James. “Drone Pilots Are Found to Get Stress Disorders Much as Those in Combat Do.” *The New York Times*. Feb. 22, 2013. Web. Sept. 3, 2014.
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Fracking continued from previous page

project. Therefore, Chittenden County residents have already been financially supporting this project. In July, VGS announced a 40% increase in the cost of the project, bringing the cost to \$121 million, and is seeking a 3.8% increase in rates for current customers beginning in November. We, as rate-payers, will be asked to pick up the cost of the increase, whether we support the pipeline expansion or not. In July, over 500 Chittenden County residents signed a petition calling on the Public Service board to reopen the project’s Certificate of Public Good (CPG) and halt construction until the 40% cost increase is evaluated. They didn’t.

Fracking is a major issue in the fight against climate change and a major issue we are fighting right now in Vermont. What can we do?

- Stay informed at www.risingtidevermont.org and vtdigger.org
- Watch *Gasland*, a film about this issue available in the PJC library.
- You can send comments to the Public Service board at: psb.clerk@state.vt.us. Write letters to the editor stating your opposition. Contact Vermont Gas Systems 802-863-4511 ext 4 or customerservice@vermontgas.com.
- Don’t pay the 3.8% increase on your gas bills, stating on your bill that you are paying for your gas service, but not for the pipeline.

At the end of October, Rising Tide will host a massive day of action against the pipeline. Visit risingtidevermont.org for more information or email risingtidevermont@gmail.com to get involved. 



Robin's Nest

The Silence on Rape is Breaking

By Robin Lloyd with filmmaker Liz Canner

A woman who insists on carrying a mattress to class at Columbia University until her rapist is expelled from campus, is getting worldwide coverage. The sexual and domestic abuse rampant among members of the National Football league is all over the mainstream media.

Something is happening. And it's happening here in Burlington, too. The March on Sept. 13, for rape and murder victim Laura Winterbottom, got the largest number of participants ever.

And, during the first week of college at UVM, some 50 mostly female students turned up to hear filmmaker Liz Canner talk and show clips from her work in progress on rape on campus: *Silence U*.

Sponsored by WILPF, the UVM Women's Center and the Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies Dept., this wasn't your usual lecture. It was about survival. "Nowadays," Canner said, "you might graduate with the title of survivor as well as a BA."

It is generally thought that a university should be a place of inquiry, openness, experimentation, risk-taking; not a place of lies and coverups, of fear and isolation. And yet for many women that is what it has been and still is. Liz recounted how during her college years at Brown University, women students developed an underground way of alerting each other to serial rapists on campus by writing their names on the bathroom wall. The administration immediately and continually had the names erased. One Executive Vice President called the women "Magic Marker terrorists," and their list "anti-male graffiti."

"Rather," said Liz, "it was an act of desperation of women trying to protect each other. The pushback from the University opened her eyes to the fact of male supremacy on campus and was one of the events that led her, years later, to make this film.

Her question: What spaces on campus seem more rape-prone or rape-free to you? Students: "Some dorms seem less safe." "Freshmen get targeted because they are not aware. They can be identified. They carry a purse." "The frats."

From her coverage of the rape culture at Dartmouth College, Liz discovered that



At the March for Laura Winterbottom on Sept. 13, WILPF and PJC members Robin Lloyd and Judy Yarnell walked the talk with members of UVM's One in Four chapter. According to the national website, the UVM chapter is one of only 15 chapters around college campuses nationally. "One in Four, Inc is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to the prevention of rape by the thoughtful application of theory and research to rape prevention programming." One prevention technique they stress is bystander intervention. Its not just up to the woman to say no, but up to onlookers, in a potentially high-risk situation, to diffuse the situation and say "Stop it, guys."

fraternities dominate the social scene at Dartmouth. They control the space, and offer free alcohol. They teach humiliation and misogyny, and as such, they offer a degree in the techniques of patriarchy. "Fraternities stunt men at a vulnerable age," said Liz.

A huge thorn in the side of Dartmouth on the frat issue is former student Andrew Lohse who is interviewed in Liz's film. Lohse is currently touring the talk shows with his memoir "Confessions of an Ivy League Frat Boy" which has just been published. Lohse was a 'bro' at the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, and in fact for several years was the captain in charge of hazing. Author Janet Reitman has written a fascinating account of his journey from dedicated frat boy to whistleblower in a biography in Rolling


Stone (2012). According to Reitman, Lohse "accused Dartmouth's storied Greek system – 17 fraternities, 11 sororities and three coed houses, to which roughly half of the student body belongs – of perpetuating a culture of "pervasive hazing, substance abuse and sexual assault," as well as an "intoxicating nihilism" that dominates campus social life. "Fraternity life is at the core of the college's human and cultural dysfunctions." Lohse concluded, by recommending that Dartmouth "overhaul its Greek system, and perhaps get rid of fraternities entirely."

Fraternities do not have as powerful a grip on the UVM campus as they do at Dartmouth, perhaps because alert women's groups force the administration to react swiftly when an incident occurs. When a survey was circulated by a 'bro' at Sigma Phi Epsilon in 2011 asking, "If I could rape someone, who would it be?" the feminist group FedUp raised a hue and cry. UVM put the frat on probation and within days national leadership kicked the students out of the fraternity's house and closed the chapter.

Liz Canner sees some positive steps being taken on the national level. Title IX is a federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any education program or activity

that receives federal funding. The statute is intended to protect students' right to an education without the hostility of sexual harassment or assault. The Obama administration is getting more proactive in taking action on rape claims, but there is still a long way to go. Liz says that Obama should include frats in Title IX investigations. Could a movement to delegitimize frats get traction at UVM?

Canner is completing her film, and raising funds to cover post production costs. Her hope is to use the film to educate and create change on college campuses and within our justice system. She is available to speak to college and community groups.

She can be reached at elizabethcanner@yahoo.com. 

The Happiness Walk: Two Women, Two Years, 7500 miles

By Linda Wheatley

The nation has a lot of challenges: poverty, homelessness and an unsustainable growth economy, struggling rural towns and urban blight, mental health issues, violence and increasing incarceration rates, climate change, the destruction of ecosystems, and animal extinctions.

This image could be paralyzing and that is one of the reasons Vermonters Paula Francis and Linda Wheatley are walking across the United States asking people about happiness. They felt they had to do SOMETHING.

Linda and Paula, both of Central Vermont, began walking in 2012 to focus attention on what people say matters in life – what we value – as a project of the Vermont-based nonprofit Gross National Happiness (GNH) USA. They identify values themes and then connect people and communities to resources that can inspire an alignment between these shared values, our political system, and our economy.

There are a couple of other reasons for The Happiness Walk. Research shows that cultivating deeper levels of individual happiness enhances our ability to participate, engage, and contribute to the wellbeing of all. The walkers have found that even the conversation about happiness inspires well-being. We believe this conversation has enormous power.

We walk also because we know that we will get what we measure. Using alternative indicators is an idea that is spreading quickly. For decades, development and “progress” have been largely driven by economic indicators. Measures like Gross Domestic Product (GDP) have been overused and unquestioned. As a society, we have allowed our economic and political systems to be more influenced by these outdated measures of progress than by the measures that initially inspired the declaration of our right to the pursuit of happiness: freedom, community, good governance, opportunity and more.

Paula and Linda are gathering statements from people they meet along the way. They have spoken with hundreds and expect to collect thousands of responses to prompts about happiness and what matters in life. They believe that the information collected and the networks created during their two-year, 7500-mile journey could actually influence positive change at the policy level, in our media, and in our public discourse.

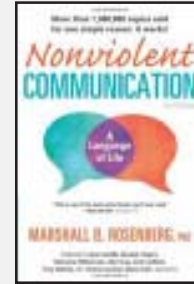
Gross National Happiness, an example of wellbeing measures developed in Bhutan over the last decade, has spurred a resolution at the United Nations. Alternative indicator sets like the Happy Planet Index, the Better Life Index and the Human Development Index offer meaningful measures of wellbeing.

Vermont has taken this discussion to the State House. Vermont is the first state in the nation to legislate an expanded set of well-being measures, the Genuine Progress Indicator. The state’s new Economic Development Strategy will be grounded in the GPI. Wellbeing indicators must drive policy.

To date, Paula and Linda have walked over 800 miles, from Montreal, Canada to Washington, DC. They will continue on from Washington, DC to Norfolk, VA, October 11th to the 27th, then toward Raleigh, NC in November. You can find information about their route at www.happinesswalk.com. You’ll also find their blog and photos, a list of events and requests for help (hosts, gear transporters, media connections, etc.). The Happiness Walk will be celebrating the 2014 kick-off on October 7th at North Branch Café, 41 State St, Montpelier, 5-7pm. Everyone is welcome.

Contact info: Linda Wheatley, 802-535-8383, linda@happinesswalk.com. Paula Francis, 802-279-4072, paula@happinesswalk.com. 

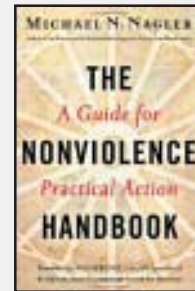
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Become a Recruiter for Peace!

The PJC visits VT high schools to talk to students about alternatives to the military and offer opportunities to learn skills in nonviolence. Join us for a training on how to talk to youth so that you can join our recruitment team! **Saturday, Nov. 8th at 3:30pm at the Peace & Justice Center.** More info: Kyle at 863-2345 x6 or program@pjcv.org. 

CALENDAR

October 5, Sunday

• 1pm **Workshop on Direct Democracy and Horizontalism at PJC with Marina Sitrin**, author of *They Can't Represent Us: Reinventing Democracy from Greece to Occupy*. Join us as we explore questions about democratic participation, strategies on how to construct new social and political relations through horizontal spaces and apply these experiences in a local context. Our conversation will range from the environmental defense assemblies in Argentina, Zapatista autonomy in Chiapas, the Occupy Plataforma (housing defense) movement in Spain, and assembly movements in Greece. Marina Sitrin, has participated in the Direct Action Network in the late 1990s to Occupy and the movements in Argentina. She has studied first hand horizontal movements in Latin America over the past two decades as well as the contemporary ones in Southern Europe. Free.

October 7, Tuesday

• 6:30pm Screening of **American Promise**. This inspiring and intimate film provides a personal look at the racial achievement gap found in our education system. This issue sets our youth up for lifelong inequity. The film is being presented to provide awareness, offer support and inspire participation in a movement for racial justice to improve our kids' future. Learn more about the local movement that is working to end racism in our schools. The film will be introduced by Hal Colston, director of Partnership for Change. It is being presented with support from PJC members, a grant from Haymarket Peoples' Fund, and a co-sponsorship with Partnership for Change. This event is free but because there is limited seating we recommend picking up tickets at the PJC. Information: Kyle at 802-863-2345 x6 or kyle@pjcv.org.

October 8, Wednesday

• 6-7:30pm **Films and panel discussion on South Sudan** at PJC. FREE. Light snacks provided. This event is being hosted in conjunction with the Canvas Peace Project event on October 18.

October 9, Thursday

• 5pm **Women's International League of Peace and Freedom** meeting at PJC. Also Nov. 13 and Dec. 11.

October 13, Monday

• 6-8pm **Vermonters for a Just Peace in Palestine/Israel** meeting at PJC. vtjp@vtjp.org. All are welcome! Also Nov. 10 and Dec. 8.

October 18, Saturday

• 6-9pm **The Canvas Peace Project** is an initiative inspiring artists across the US to raise awareness of genocide and the ongoing conflicts in the region of Sudan. The Canvas Peace Project will host an auction and event at the Skinny Pancake in Burlington. Sponsored by the PJC, Skinny Pancake and SUDEF.

October 21, Tuesday

• 7-8pm **Listening for What Matters Most**. A PJC workshop lead by Robin Guillian and held as part of Vermont's Conflict Resolution Month activities. \$5 fee, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds. Information: Kyle at 802-863-2345 x6 or kyle@pjcv.org.

October 23, Thursday

• 6pm **PJC Annual Meeting at PJC**. Join us for dinner, board elections and an update from our director.

October 29, Wednesday

• 6:30-8:30pm **Recycled Aluminum Jewelry Art Class with Kenyan Artist Leah Mitula**. In honor of Fair Trade Month, the PJC will be hosting Leah Mitula, the founder of Denur Crafts, an all-women's jewelry cooperative in Kenya. All of their jewelry is made from raw, locally sourced materials: carved bone pendants from the butcher, earrings made from aluminum cans, and glass beads made from sand. Leah is traveling all the way from Nairobi to Vermont to share with us the craft of making jewelry from recycled aluminum! Davis Studio, 4 Howard St, Studio 2, Burlington. \$30 register here.

November 4, Tuesday

• 6-8pm **"Peace and Popcorn."** A casual series of peace and social justice films from the PJC's video library, chosen by night-of participants on the first Tuesday of every month. Good films and good company. All are welcome. Peace & Justice Center, 60 Lake St. Free. Also Dec. 2.

November 5, Wednesday

• 5:25pm CORN, (Conversation On Race Now) is doing a series of programs on **"Interracial Love: Living the Difference"** on CCTV, Channel 17. It can be found online under CCTV's social justice category. For more information and if you would like to be a guest on the show, contact Vivian Mason vhm8446@gmail.com, co-founder of CORN.

• 7-8:30pm **Engaging Conflict for Peace**. By seeing oneself in all beings we automatically create a frame of mind for a peaceful coexistence. And only by embracing peaceful resolution to conflicts can we truly experience justice and joyous living. Come learn powerful skills for engaging conflict peacefully from Ben Bosley a professional in the field of conflict resolution. \$5 Adults. Free for Kids. At PJC and sponsored by the PJC. Information: Kyle at 802-863-2345 x6 or [email kyle@pjcv.org](mailto:kyle@pjcv.org).

November 8, Saturday

• 1-8pm **VT Workers Center Membership Assembly & Sweet 16 Anniversary Celebration Dinner** at the Old Labor Hall, Barre VT. (802) 861 4892.

November 15, Saturday

• 7pm Peace & Justice Center presents **Julia Alvarez** at Main Street Landing as part of the 2014 Ed Everts Social Justice Activist Awards honoring Migrant Justice. Live music, food, cash bar. Tickets at PJC.

December 4, Thursday

• 7pm **Liberty in North Korea Tour** Comes to the PJC with voices and insights of those who have experienced the challenges and changes in North Korea first hand. Joonmi Park, and Joseph Kim produced a personal, dynamic, and engaging multimedia presentation. You will gain a better understanding of the challenges the people face and the ways they are overcoming them. For more information visit: libertyinnorthkorea.org or contact Kyle Silliman-Smith at 863-2345 x6 or kyle@pjcv.org

An Evening with Julia Alvarez

to honor the work of Migrant Justice with the PJC's Ed Everts Social Justice Activist Organization Award

Save the Date! Saturday, November 15, 2014

The Peace & Justice Center is delighted to honor the work of Migrant Justice, a Burlington-based organization who is dedicated to building the voice, capacity, and power of the migrant farmworker community and engaging community partners to organize for economic justice and human rights.

The evening will include a reading by Julia Alvarez, a writer of novels, essays, books for young readers, and poetry. You may be familiar with her novels, especially, *How The García Girls Lost Their Accents* and *In the Time of the Butterflies*.

Please join us for this festive celebration and fundraiser. For information on tickets to the event, please email info@pjcvt.org

Music, food, cash bar. At Main Street Landing, One Main St, Burlington. Co-sponsored by Main Street Landing.



A Request From Julia Alvarez

By Judy Yarnall

Julia Alvarez, who will be reading and speaking at our November 15th event honoring Migrant Justice, has long been engaged with issues of social justice. Her best known novel, *In the Time of the Butterflies*, tells the story of the valiant Mirabel sisters who were killed because of their underground work against the Dominican dictator Trujillo. It has inspired thousands of women and activists, just as her kids' novel *Return to Sender* has roused awareness and sympathy for migrant dairy workers and their families in Vermont.

Her current cause is the third annual Border of Lights gathering at the border between Haiti and the Dominican Republic on the anniversary of the Haitian Massacre (October 1937), when 20,000 Haitians and Dominicans of Haitian descent were slaughtered by the dictator and his military. "This crime against humanity," Julia told me, "was never properly addressed or redressed by the Dominican government, an attitude which persists to this day, as we saw this past September 2013 when a Draconian law was passed by the highest court in the land, denationalizing Dominicans of Haitian descent."

We of the PJC can join the Border of Lights vigil by going online sometime between 8-10 pm on Friday, October 3rd and posting a photo of ourselves (and friends) holding a light in remembrance of the lives lost and hope for present day justice. These images of solidarity from far away, Julia says, cheer the crowd at the border.

For instructions, go to www.juliaalvarez.com/border-of-lights/virtual-vigil.php.

Migrant Justice

Migrant Justice builds the voice, capacity, and power of the migrant farmworker community and engages community partners to organize for economic justice and human rights. We gather the migrant farmworker community to discuss and analyze shared problems and envision collective solutions. Through this ongoing investment in leadership development, members deepen their skills in community education and organizing in order to work for long-term systemic change. From this basis our farmworker members have prioritized building a human rights movement in order to meet their basic human needs by securing the fundamental human rights to: 1) *Dignified work and quality housing*; 2) *Freedom of movement and access to transportation*; 3) *Equal treatment and freedom from discrimination*; 4) *Access to quality healthcare*.

We have build a powerful movement of farmworker leaders and allies producing some inspiring concrete victories including:

- Building a broad network of racial justice organizations to win legislation in 2014 expanding the State Police bias-free policy (that we won in 2011) to all Vermont police that explicitly: a) prohibits all Vermont Police to use resources for the purposes of immigration enforcement; b) mandates bias-free training of all police; c) requires uniform race data collection.

- Organizing a powerful grassroots network of farmworkers, farmers, and allies to win legislation in 2013 for all VT residents to access drivers licenses, regardless of immigration status;

- Stopping the deportation of Danilo Lopez in July 2013 by organizing widespread community and power-holders' support including public support from all 3 of Vermont's representatives;

- Partnering with Vermont Workers' Center to prevent the exclusion of undocumented people in Vermont's 2011 groundbreaking universal healthcare legislation;

- Winning over \$15,000 in back wages through our Workers' Rights Hotline, *Teleyuda*, pushing the VTDOL to change labor law in 2013 to expand state powers to collect unpaid wages;

- Being recognized nationally as the example of Ben & Jerry's Foundation's effective funding for their 2014 NCRP award; receiving the 2013 VT ACLU "David Curtis Civil Liberties Award";

- Winning RESIST, Inc. Organization of the Year for 2013 and the 1st UU Society of Burlington's Courageous Love Award for 2013; and being named the recipient of the Peace & Justice Center's 2014 Ed Everts Social Justice Activist Organization Award.



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