



# peace & justice news

A PUBLICATION OF THE PEACE & JUSTICE CENTER

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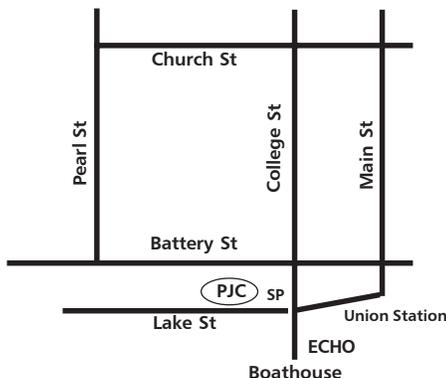
## The Peace & Justice Center Moves to 60 Lake St.!



We are excited to be in our new home at Main Street Landing -- a LEED certified and accessible building with neighbors The Skinny Pancake, Seventh Generation, VBSR, and ECHO.



Come visit us soon!



View of PJC front door from patio of Skinny Pancake.

EDITORS

Wendy Coe  
Gene Bergman  
Robin Lloyd

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CIRCULATION

1,400

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

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PJC MISSION

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



From the Center

## We're on our way!

As of September 1, 2009, the PJC will have completed our move, be in our new space and will begin working in new ways that may take a bit getting used to—for us and for you. Our space, including the store, is accessible, so we welcome our differently-abled members and friends to come in and see us, to shop in the store and to use the Center's offerings. We will still offer a library, with a smaller selection of books, and free access to a computer and wi-fi. We also have a conference room that is available for use during Center hours—which now include being open until 8 pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays.

Our store is now gearing itself up to offer only local and fair-trade items, including our books, which we will purchase primarily from Chelsea Green Publishing, a local and green book publisher. We will no longer sell items if we are unsure of their origin or labor practices. From now on when you come into the Peace & Justice Store, you will know that any product you buy has been carefully selected based on a commitment to buying local first—and what we cannot obtain locally will be fair-trade. Our store is one of our educational arms and we will be using it to promote our dedication to a more sustainable Vermont by putting a large focus on selling locally produced goods and products.

Moving forward, we are taking a three-pronged approach to our work. We are pursuing a pro-active agenda that includes re-directing much of our human and financial resources to one major area of focus—the Basic Needs Budget and our series of *Job Gap Studies*. For over a decade, the PJC has been at the forefront of advocating for livable wage jobs that allow individual Vermonters to meet everyday basic needs. We were the first to establish a basic needs methodology and to institutionalize the process within state government. Our work has resulted in the term “livable wage” becoming commonplace all over Vermont—in public and private sectors. We have made great strides in raising wages in Vermont and the concept of making a livable wage has become a common goal for many Vermonters.

Now, it is time to move the conversation beyond just focusing on the individual—to include a thorough analysis of the systems that are in place that either support or hinder the idea of creating self-sufficiency and shared prosperity in Vermont. We know that without this analysis, we will not be able to break down the barriers that keep well-intentioned businesses from offering a livable wage to their employees. We also know that it will take a comprehensive approach that includes cooperation and collaboration between government, labor, non-profits, private and public sectors, for Vermont to attain self-sufficiency and shared prosperity.

The PJC will be re-examining our *Job Gap Studies* with a focus on updating *Phase 6* (The leaky bucket analysis that examined the export of Vermont's cash for products, goods and services from out of state) and performing a more in-depth current analysis of *Phase 9* (the economic development examination). This represents one prong of our three pronged approach and will receive the most human and financial resources. For more on this, read Colin Robinson's more detailed explanation further on in our newsletter.

The second prong in our new three-pronged approach will be our Coalition work. We will be joining coalitions that support our pro-active agenda, and will be offering our unique perspective at all those tables—one that includes human rights and racial justice at the forefront of any economic justice conversation.

And now, we come to our allied assistance work. This represents the third prong to our new approach. This work will keep us grounded in our roots and enable us to support a broader reach within the movement. Through our allied assistance work, we will be supporting those groups doing other important peace and justice work, but without the capacity or resources to accomplish their missions alone. The PJC will be offering assistance to these groups through a newly formed membership category that will include fiscal agency for some, media outreach for others, and additional support that will help our allies to be more effective. We are very excited to be able to expand and deepen our capacity to assist groups who, like us, are working toward a more just and peaceful world. Together, we will make Vermont a better place to live.

On a final note, I would like you to know that in order to achieve all that we are striving for—we have made some major changes to our infrastructure—to the way we do our work. We no longer will be working in separate project areas. We will all be working on our pro-active agenda, in our own areas of expertise. When you call the PJC after September 1<sup>st</sup>, you will hear different options. You may be directed to a different staff person then you are used to working with. We now have three departments—Policy and Advocacy, Development and Communications, and Administration. We all work in teams and the teams all

work together. There are team leaders who facilitate the workload of each department, and ensure we are meeting the needs of our members and the greater community. We believe this new structure will allow us to be more efficient and more effective. We hope you will agree!

Please bear with us during this time of transition. We hope you will be pleased with our efforts and will join us in our new journey!

In celebration of peace and justice,

Nancy T. Lynch 

### Apply for Sisters of Mercy Peace Awards

Do you or your organization have a great idea for a peace-building project that just needs a little money to get off the ground? If so, the Sisters of Mercy Peace Initiative Awards Committee would like to hear from you. Application deadline: Oct. 15. \$30,000 will be disbursed this year in the form of small grants to individuals and groups working for peace and social justice in VT.

The committee is looking for applications which reflect 1) a commitment to principles of non-violence; 2) democratic organization; and 3) diversity or a commitment to diversity. Proposals must involve the wider community and special attention will be given to projects which focus on youth. Recipients of last year's grants include VT Refugee Assistance, Pax Christi Burlington, the Addison County Farmworker Coalition, and the Rural Women Leadership Institute of VT.

To receive an application, e-mail Laurie Gagne at lgagne@smcvt.edu.

The Mercy Peace Awards were established in 2006 with proceeds from the sale of Trinity College, which was owned by the Sisters of Mercy of Vermont. Committee members are Dr. Laurie Gagne, Chair; Sister Susan Fortier; Sister Miriam Ward; Sister Pat McKittrick; and Joseph Gainza. 

## Opportunity Knocks/Opportunity Costs

By Anise Richey

**T**he experience of moving is something that most of us go through many times in our lives. The packing and unpacking, setting up new utilities, adjusting to the new space and making it our own are all things that spark excitement and anxiety in all of us.

Most of us never think about what it means to physically relocate our place of business. After all, there are people paid to do that exact thing. They evaluate how much stuff you have, pack it into nice boxes for you after-hours, then load it onto a giant truck and move it to your new digs. You might have to re-order your filing cabinet or replace a bulb in your desk lamp, but most of the heavy lifting and logistics is left to the professionals, right?

For those of us working in the non-profit world, most of the time "moving professionals" ends up meaning us. And while we keep the daily focus of the organization rolling along we also take a moment here and there to pack. We load up our friends' pick-up trucks with boxes and shuttle them back and forth daily. And no matter how much planning and organizing goes into the move, surprises are lurking behind each door.

A ten-minute setup of the new phone system takes 48 hours. That desk you thought you'd use doesn't fit in the door. Oh, and all your letterhead and envelopes have to be changed.

This is where you come in. Every move has its unanticipated costs and unexpected needs. Anything you can do to ease this burden is appreciated. If it is time to renew your membership please consider adding a little extra to help defray some of these hidden costs of relocation. If everyone who receives this newsletter contributes even \$10 it would ensure that our new home will be a warm and welcoming space properly outfitted to service the community.

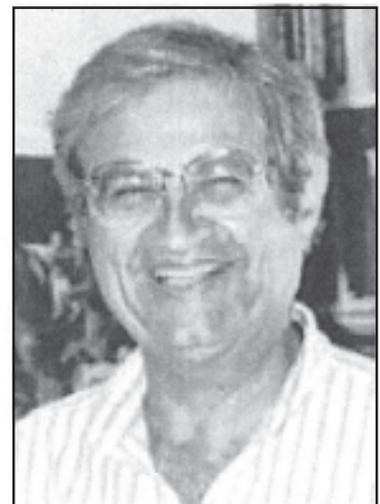
New Phone System:	\$5000
New Furnishings:	\$2000
New Signage:	\$2500

Working toward self-sufficiency and shared prosperity: Priceless.

We would like to especially thank Melinda Moulton & Main Street Landing, Vermont Community Foundation, and Ron Miller for generously supporting our move! 

## In Memoriam

With many others in the Peace & Justice community, we mourn the passing of Abbas Alnasrawi. Despite his many responsibilities as a professor and administrator at UVM, and time consuming tours of duty on national and international boards concerned with Iraq, oil, and the Middle East, as well as writing 6 books, Abbas was willing to give unstintingly to the community. He helped us understand the economics behind the first Gulf War and the ongoing crisis in his birth country. He had always hoped to take a group of us to Iraq and visit his home town of Karbala. Unfortunately peace came to Abbas but it has not come to Iraq. Thank you Abbas for sharing with us your knowledge and humanitarian concern for Iraq and the Middle East. 



**Dr. Abbas Alnasrawi**

2/1/32-8/20/09

# A New Vermont Economy Will Inherently Foster Peace by Generating Justice

By Colin Robinson

Over the past two years the Peace & Justice Center has undertaken the process of evaluating our organizational mission and vision of the work we do and how we reach our goals. During the course of these conversations it quickly became clear that the issues of peace and justice that we have worked on – peace and human rights, economic and racial justice – have many common threads – what we have called “interconnected issues” – but organizationally we have always done our work in silos.

Too often social justice organizations compartmentalize their work while never fully tackling the systemic and structural barriers to creating peace and justice in Vermont and beyond. It also became clear that as a statewide organization our greatest strengths and successes have come out of our economic justice work, through the Vermont Livable Wage Campaign and the *Vermont Job Gap Study*.

Seizing the organizational opportunities presented by a leadership transition, combined with the realization across Vermont and the country that our current economic structure has failed working Americans for decades, it became clear that we needed to focus our work on helping to craft a vision of a “new economy” for Vermont and beyond.

## ■ Building the Vision

Our collective vision for Vermont’s “New Economy” has been well laid out in the nine phases of the *Vermont Job Gap Study*. It is a just economy where all Vermonters can meet their basic needs from housing to food, where limited state resources are used to help Vermonters meet those basic needs, where economic development is people focused with emphasis on human infrastructure, where Vermonters invest in Vermonters.

The Peace & Justice Center’s legacy is that of working on issues that create justice in an effort to work for peace. Our new direction in reality isn’t a new

direction, but rather a honing and refocusing of our legacy issues for contemporary challenges. As we have seen with the current economic crisis and the “Great Recession”, the challenges facing Vermonters are those of basic needs, created by an inherently unjust economic system. For too long, those struggling for economic justice have been tackling the issues in the same way the Peace & Justice Center has historically worked, by siloing the issues.

## ■ Elevating the Conversation

Our development of the Basic Needs Budget – the livable wage methodology – and its integration into state statute, coupled with the minimum wage work of the Vermont Livable Wage Campaign, has allowed for these standards to continue to be used in current policy conversations. The Vermont standard for calculating the cost of a family’s basic needs remains the gold standard nationally for measuring the real cost of making ends meet.

However, as we have talked to Vermonters across the state – from low-wage workers to business owners – we realize we can no longer talk about livable wages with out talking about bringing down the cost drivers for Vermonters and Vermont businesses. We realized ultimately these challenges need to be addressed comprehensively and holistically from a structural economic level. We must move our analysis beyond the individual to the systemic level. It is by working for economic justice at this level, moving out of silos, that we believe we can ultimately cultivate a society where all Vermonters attain self-sufficiency and reap the benefits of shared prosperity.

In our vision for a “new economy” we will work to take the conversations of basic needs to a higher level. Using the Basic Needs Budget as a frame, coupled with an analysis of economic issues through the lenses of human rights and racial justice, we will be revisiting the

work from two of our *Job Gap Studies*, to allow them to reach their policy potential.

*The Vermont Job Gap Study Phase 6*, known as *The Leaky Bucket*, and *Phase 9 – Economic Development in Vermont*, both filled comprehensive voids in the economic research on how Vermont’s economy was working for most Vermonters – or wasn’t working as the situation remained. These two phases of the *Job Gap Study* determined whether the economy was ultimately producing enough livable wage jobs, or incomes sufficient to meet basic needs. They then looked at the structural problems in the Vermont economy that create the circumstances which don’t allow Vermonters to meet their basic needs. As the introduction to Phase 9 states:

“A great deal has happened since the Peace & Justice Center released *Phase 1* in 1997. Notwithstanding all the good work, however, many working families continue to struggle and the long-term prospects are mixed at best. Based on the available data, current economic development policies are not producing gains for most Vermonters: Inflation adjusted median household income is stagnant; health care costs are crippling businesses and families; pensions are at risk; income inequality is increasing; poverty persists at a high level; women’s wages continue to lag behind men’s; many rural areas of the state remain disadvantaged; and these problems are especially acute for a high percentage of Vermont’s people of color.”

## ■ Moving Forward – Refocusing

As we move forward we will work to actualize and further analyze many of the recommendations laid out in *Phase 6* and *Phase 9* including:

- **Self-reliance matters:** Greater self-reliance will reduce our vulnerability, keep more money in VT, and give us more control over our future.

- **Expand the circle:** The debate about economic development policy should be more open and include workers.
- **Not just wages:** Reduce the costs of basic needs (health care/housing) to lower the livable wage.
- **Nothing is forever:** Businesses come and go. Invest primarily in people and hard assets.
- **Use the tools we have:** State purchasing should reward responsible contractors, favor VT businesses, and prohibit offshore contracts.
- **Disclose cost shifts:** Report on employers whose workers receive public assistance.
- **Go local:** Promote locally owned businesses (including employee ownership) because they are less likely to move and will keep profits in VT.

The conversations about localization have been heating up since *The Leaky Bucket* was first published in 2000, but there is still a need for comprehensive economic analysis and advocacy. By integrating these re-localization conversations, with those of basic needs and economic development, the Peace & Justice Center will take its place in the growing economic justice movement to create a New Economy and build upon our historical successes. In a country undergoing tectonic shifts in the thinking about our economy, Vermont and the Peace & Justice Center are poised to lead by example.

As we settle into our new space we will also be settling into this organizational refocusing. Over the next 18 months we will be releasing a new phase of the *Job Gap Study*, revisiting *Phase 6* and *Phase 9*. We will begin a broad based education campaign and process for receiving input and generating buy-in from stakeholders. We will be in the statehouse and in Town Halls talking to lawmakers and community members about how together we can create a new economy that works for everyone.

Through this effort we will bring a new voice, vision and comprehensive analysis to the conversation about how Vermonters meet their basic needs, how we Vermonters use our limited resources and how we, together, can create a better, stronger economy with self-sufficiency and shared prosperity for all. ☺

## The Leaky Bucket Conclusion

The data shows that the Vermont economy is heavily dependent on imported goods and services. As a result, **our largest export is cash**. This cannot be the path to sustainability, which, by definition, implies a rough balance between inputs and outputs. Therefore, it would seem prudent to further investigate import replacement.

As shown in Table 9, we estimate that **Vermont residents and businesses** send almost \$16 billion annually out of state for goods and services. Remarkably, this means that we are annually exporting the equivalent of **\$26,538 in cash per person**. We are exporting opportunity—jobs and taxes, and we have little or no control over the means of production (i.e., wages, benefits, working conditions, environmental impacts, etc.) or

how our capital is used once it leaves the state.

Vermont is powerless to shape the global economy. What we can do is think clearly about how it affects us, what choices we have, and what opportunities exist for independent action. Import replacement is not—and can never be—a panacea, but it may be a useful tool for increasing our self-reliance and achieving a greater measure of control over our future.

Table 9

Category <sup>1,2</sup>	Estimated Annual Cash Outflow
Commodities	
Food & kindred products	\$1,808,000,000
Energy (trans. fuels, elec., etc.)	1,084,000,000
Textiles, apparel & leather	625,000,000
Paper & allied products	611,000,000
Printing & publishing	598,000,000
Machinery & equipment	522,000,000
Lumber & wood	362,000,000
All other domestic commodities	6,423,000,000
Finance	
Mortgage interest	384,000,000
Consumer credit interest	241,000,000
Canadian commodities	2,800,000,000
Federal taxes (net)	200,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,658,000,000</b>

## DEBATE: Ending Israel's Occupation of Palestinian Territories: Non-violent Options

**Monday, 9/14/09, St. Michael's College, International Commons, 7:00pm.**

In the international peace community, the movement to end the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories through the use of boycotts, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) has been controversial. Our speakers will debate both the fairness and effectiveness of BDS as a method of resolving the conflict. Bill Wilson, Emeritus Professor of Political Science at Saint Michael's College, will moderate the debate.

**Arguing in favor of the motion: Omar Barghouti**, Palestinian researcher, commentator, and human rights activist. He is a founding member of the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (PCACBI) and a leader of the BDS campaign against Israel. He holds a bachelor's and master's

degree in electrical engineering from Columbia University and has written extensively on political and cultural affairs on diverse subjects from Iraq to Palestine to contemporary dance.

**Arguing against the motion: Dr. Steven Scheinberg**, professor emeritus of History at Concordia College in Montreal and co-chair of Canadian Friends of Peace Now, a Zionist organization that works for peace between Israelis and Palestinians and monitors illegal settlement activity in the West Bank. He writes and lectures widely on contemporary events in the Middle East and anti-Semitism. He also contributes weekly editorials to Radio Shalom in Montreal.

This event was initiated and is co-sponsored by Vermonters for a Just Peace in Israel/Palestine. ☺



Robin's Nest

## A World Citizen Inspired by the Stars: Stephan Mogle-Stadel

By Robin Lloyd

**A**ugust is the month to watch the night sky. The annual Perseid meteor showers are sending their celestial debris streaking through our atmosphere. The heavens were cloudy two of the three evenings I looked; but even a brief time star gazing causes wonder and questions.

A German man visited Burlington recently to interview world citizen Garry Davis. When I interviewed Stephen Mogle-Stadel, author of a biography of the second Secretary-General of the UN, Dag Hammarskjöld, and asked him what set his life on its unique trajectory, he said it was the gift to him of a telescope: “As a child of 8 or 9, I got a present from my parents of a telescope. I would go out to a field, and from watching the stars I got an impression of how big the universe is, and how small minded a lot of people down on earth are, battling over petty things. Immanuel Kant had the same observation...if you look upon the stars it wakes something up in you and you develop a cosmopolitan mind...so I had this early experience, being alone in the night with the stars...”

Another youthful experience showed his propensity to take life seriously. “When I was 16, I visited together with my school class the Dachau Concentration Camp. I experienced some guys playing soccer with a tin can, and I interrupted them, and took away their tin. I didn’t think about it, I just did it... Dachau is a special place, where so many people were killed, and to just have fun and kick around a tin... It is not enough to guide students to such places, if you don’t change your mind, and at that time I thought, I am a citizen of the world, and I must do something as a consequence of Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Dachau.”

In 1989, at the age of 19, Stephan refused military service, claiming he was a Citizen of the World. In West Germany,

before the fall of the Berlin wall and reunification, this was a very difficult position to take. “Military service was obligatory,” he said. “Everyone had to go or they had to have a good reason; if you were a member of the communist party, or of a Christian church, you might get out, but I said I was a citizen of the world, and



Garry Davis and Stephan Mogle-Stadel

as such I said I could not serve in a national army.” He considered patriotism as a form of national paranoia. He had done a psychoanalytic review of military service, and found that if you bring young men too early into such a system, before they have time to develop themselves, it’s not good for their psychological development.

Ultimately “they wrote me back telling me that I should find another argument, and that I had four weeks to reply, otherwise they must refuse my request.” This was the first time that a German person refused to serve by claiming World Citizenship. It happened that Stephan, by then a journalist, was traveling to NYC, doing research at the UN on Dag Hammarskjöld...”and this

magic name of D.H. opened some doors for me, so I had the chance to rewrite my application on UN paper, and send it from the UN fax. ... {The German draft board} must have thought, ‘before this guy makes any more turmoil, we’ll let him go through’ ... I wanted to do my civil service for humanity and of course at that time the only place was at the UN.”

I asked him why he came to Burlington to interview Garry Davis.

“After claiming World Citizenship,” he explained, “I discovered there was a movement, the German World Federalists. They had nearly died out from age, but one of the members contacted me and brought me to a conference of Federalists, and I met Peter Ustinov. I learned about Garry and I got a World Citizen passport in 1993. I started an organization in Germany, working with governmental officials trying to strengthen and reform the UN.”

As many Vermonters know, Garry Davis, 87, who has lived in the Burlington area since 1991, was a bomber pilot in World War II. Bombing cities led him to decide, after the war, that nations are the cause of war. He entered the American Embassy in Paris in May of 1948 and renounced his American citizenship. Emerging as a stateless person, he declared himself a citizen of the world. The peoples of the world, exhausted by war, embraced him as ‘le petit soldat américain’ and clamored to sign up for his Registry of World Citizens.

In November of ‘48, he caused a furor at the newly formed United Nations, which was meeting then in Paris. He interrupted one of their sessions by shouting from the balcony “I interrupt you in the name of the people...” He was hustled off by four security guards, but his friend and co-conspirator, Robert Sarazac, continued his words:

“I interrupt you in the name of the people of the world not represented here. Though my words may be unheeded, our common need for world law and order can no longer be disregarded.

We, the people, want the peace which only a world government can give.

The sovereign states you represent divide us and lead us to the abyss of Total War.

I call upon you to no longer deceive

us by this illusion of political authority.

I call upon you to convene forthwith a World Constituent Assembly to raise the standard around which all men can gather, the standard of true peace, of One Government for One World.

And if you fail us in this...stand aside. For a People's World Assembly will arise from our own ranks to create such a government. We can be served by nothing less. "

I asked Stephan to explain why he thought that this action unblocked resistance in the UN to the passage of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights the following month.

"If you look at the discussion in the General Assembly at that time," Stephan answered, "there was no public involvement, but due to Garry's intervention, attention was drawn to the Universal Declaration, and to the 30 articles {championed by Eleanor Roosevelt}. He made so much trouble in the press that the light of the public was drawn to the issue". A week before the UDHR was to be voted on in the UN General Assembly, 20,000 people gathered in the Velodrome d'Hiver to hear Garry's challenge to the UN.

***The Universal Declaration was adopted by the General Assembly on 10 December 1948 by a vote of 48 in favor, 0 against, with 8 abstentions.***

A few days later, Eleanor Roosevelt wrote that the UN is not set up to make peace – "that's what governments are supposed to do among themselves". But, she added, "How very much better it would be if Mr. Davis would set up his own governmental organization and start then and there a worldwide international government. All who would join him

would learn that they have no nationality and, therefore, not being bothered by any special interest in any one country everyone would develop what he believes to be a completely cooperative feeling among all peoples and a willingness to accept any laws passed by this super government."

That's what Garry did, and Stephan is a member of it, carrying the message of individual sovereignty and world law to a younger generation. 

### PJC Classified

Peace & Justice Center is looking for assistance as we migrate our website from FrontPage to Dreamweaver. Are you skilled in the fine art of file structure and know the ins and outs of these two programs? If so and you would like to make an in-kind donation of your services we would like to talk to you. Our timeline for this project is Sept/Oct.

Please contact Anise Richey at 863-2345 x6 or arichey@pjcv.org.

### In Memoriam

**Dr. Lawrence McCrorey**

1927-8/23/09

Dr. McCrorey taught at UVM for nearly 40 yrs.; he was the former Dean of Allied Health and Vice President of Academic Affairs; he was a full professor of physiology. Dr. McCrorey was a well known jazz musician and civil rights activist. (We will have a fuller article in the next issue.)

## CALENDAR

### September 2009

#### [6] Sundayday

- 2pm Vets for Peace meet at 25 Laurel Hill Dr, So. Burlington. 864-6230.

#### [9] Wednesday

- 6-8pm Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) meeting at the Peace & Justice Center. Info: 372-6117.
- 6pm Monthly Review Press presents a Book Party & Discussion with Steve Early, author of *Embedded with Organized Labor: Journalistic Reflections on the Class War at Home*. 16 Wilson St, Burlington (between Mansfield and N. Prospect St). Co-sponsored by: Will Miller Social Justice Lecture Series, Labor Notes, CWA Local 1400, VT Workers Center/JWJ, Peace & Justice Center, United Academics-AFT/AAUP, and Burlington ISO. 363-1362.

#### [14] Monday

- 7pm DEBATE: Ending Israel's Occupation of Palestinian Territories: Non-violent Options. International Commons, St. Michael's College.

#### [16] Wednesday

- 7pm Fr Roy Bourgeois has been working to close the School of Americas. The school trains Latin American soldiers at Fort Benning Ga. He will give a talk at the 1<sup>st</sup> Unitarian Universalist Society, 152 Pearl St, Burlington VT. Free admission. web site: soaw.org. Contact Richard Kemp 802 862 4418.

#### [21] Monday

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

### October 2009

#### [29] Thursday

- John Bellamy Foster. Will Miller Social Justice Lecture Series. More details, next issue.



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