Silver Linings
By Mateo Kehler, co-owner of Jasper Hill Farm

It was a real shock to discover the racist and anti-Semitic graffiti that appeared on our coverall barn at Andersonville Farm in West Glover, VT mid-morning last September. There were five other locations tagged by vandals that morning and while such acts committed in broad daylight would seem brazen, Andersonville Road may be the actual middle of nowhere. There are more people in every direction from here, which makes the act even more disconcerting as this Northeast Kingdom neighborhood represents a pastoral ideal that has been disturbed by the events of last September.

Andersonville Farm supplies milk from our herd of 180 Holsteins for the production of Jasper Hill cheeses. As a community of over 80 full-time employees, Jasper Hill is a microcosm of the Vermont community at large and this act of vandalism was an affront to all of us on many levels. We are a ‘rainbow coalition’ and amongst us there is a real diversity of ethnicity, race, culture, religion and sexual orientation. We are diverse culturally and we are a better business because of this diversity.

As a company we felt compelled to respond to this act in a public fashion and to address this ugliness head on. For the sake of our neighbors, our employees, and our children, and because we truly believe that it is our responsibility as a business and as leaders in our community to take an activist role in stamping out hatred and bigotry, we decided to offer a $1,000 reward for the arrest and conviction of the perpetrators of this act.

It had been less than a month since the violence of the ‘Unite the Right’ March in Charlottesville and President Trump’s comments were still fresh. Instead of sweeping this event under the rug, we posted pictures of the vandalism to our company Facebook page. Our post went viral and we were both overwhelmed by the outpouring of support and appalled by the hatred and vitriol of trolls that attracted the subject matter. It was clear that many people wanted to participate and we were inundated by requests to contribute to the bounty. We set up a GoFundMe page and within five hours raised $5,000 from individuals near and far and from customers who were willing to put up cash to confront this specter. By the end of the GoFundMe campaign, the reward had grown to over $7,000.

This event was widely covered by the media across the state. VPR, WCAX, and many local papers covered this story.

Silver Lining continued on page 3
From the Director

We focus on racial justice, fair trade, nonviolence, and YOU!

In addition to our own intersectional programs on racial justice, fair trade, and nonviolence, the Peace & Justice Center exists to support activists and activist groups around Vermont. We collaborate with newer activists through our intern and volunteer program giving them the skills and motivation to carry on our mission. We also offer the following assistance:

- Event promotion
- Amplification of ideas and voices
- Legislative campaign assistance
- Group meeting space
- Allied Groups

Specifically, we commonly do the following:
- Add to community calendar
- Put in “upcoming events” section of the bimonthly e-news that goes to 6,000+ people.
- Publish article (500-700 words) in our quarterly print newsletter that is mailed to our current members and distributed widely at events
- Publish a guest blog post
- Linking to the blog post in our enews
- Link to the blog post on social media
- Officially cosponsor an event
- Help hang fliers in the Burlington area
- Cross market on social media
- Help turn people out for committee hearings, press conferences, etc
- Help with phone banking to educate people
- Help get people to make phone calls and/or emails to elected officials
- Join coalitions as we are able
- Reduced cost photocopies
- Helping people build connections for their own activist work
- Allow time at our weekly programming meeting and/or monthly volunteer gathering for short educational presentations on your work

PJC VISION & MISSION
Vision: To create a just and peaceful world.
Mission: We work on the interconnected issues of peace, human rights, and economic, social, and racial justice through education, advocacy, training, nonviolent activism, community organizing, and collaboration, since 1979.

PJC’s Newest Staff Person: Alex Rose

In fall, 2017, I interned under Amy Crosswhite at the PJC as the fair trade intern. As the winter months rolled around after my internship had formally ended I found myself volunteering, tucked into not only the physical warmth of the PJC that my Burlington apartment could not provide, but the metaphorical. Since my first day, I’ve found a unique comfort at the Center. At the PJC there is no time to waste for there is work to be done, but this seriousness is reserved for tasks that give way to sporadic bursts of laughter and light heartedness. It was a place I dreamed of working.

As a recent grad from UVM in the Community Development and Applied Economics school, I’ve spent a large portion of my time in class learning about the importance of community in addressing issues small and large (think quarrel between neighbors all the way up to corruption in local politics). However, I only began to understand the power of community when I saw it unfolding in my own life. During my time involved with various projects like Huertas (a food access project among migrant dairy workers in VT) and on the March for Our Future planning committee, I began to truly grasp the meaning of community. Community is founded on relationships. It takes time to build, but when built, it allows us to work more effectively.

As I begin my job as the Volunteer Coordinator, I’m excited about the people I get to be surrounded by. My time is spent training and working with folks who support the Center through day-to-day tasks, but more subtly are forming a collaborative space where we can support one another and have critical conversations.

Besides hanging out with super rad community members, my hobbies include graphic design, pottery, and enjoying the bike path. Currently I’m an intern at Planned Parenthood in the Marketing Department and am excited to bring accurate and artistic information about sexual health to the northern New England area.
Youth Activist Summit
By Dina John, former PJC intern and Rice Memorial High School class of 2018

Containment is no longer the norm for many youth today. When the education system, news outlets, and political institutions fail to effectively educate young people on matters of world affairs, foreign issues, and social injustices, we choose to educate ourselves. Empowering others and evoking change in our communities and country has become not only our passion, but our biggest endeavor. Vermont youth activists have risen to address the social and political issues that face our country. We do so bravely and confidently, while using various platforms to exercise our voices.

Whether or not youth activists are “the new face of political change,” the great work that we have already achieved is not debatable. When we choose to no longer let age or fear silence us, we make ourselves heard and we have an impact.

What lies ahead of us is finding new ways to strengthen and empower one another. The Peace & Justice Center is uplifting youth activists by supporting a Youth Activist Summit. This summit will be an opportunity for not just Vermont youth who already engage in activism to come together, but a chance for other young Vermonters who are interested in learning more about social and political change and matters.

The Youth Activist Summit provides young activists a space and chance to unite, inspire, challenge, and connect with one another. Because we live in different locations in Vermont it is hard to find a place or time to come together to build youth-led movements. This summit is the opportunity we need to further inspire, challenge, and empower each other, with our work and ideas. Through hosting the Youth Activist Summit, the Peace & Justice Center supports us in making real change.

The Youth Activist Summit is scheduled for Saturday, September 8, in the Montpelier area. Details are pending. Please email program@pjcvt.org to get more information or to join the youth planning committee.

Silver Lining continued from page 1

We posted Wanted Posters at general stores and gas stations across the NEK. The State Police where very active in the neighborhood after the Attorney General’s Civil Rights Unit got involved. We received blowback from community members who accused us of self-promotion and of casting this saint, mostly white, rural community in an unfavorable light. But racism has always existed here and the culture of apology and its excuse-making has been operating below the surface forever. We have a platform and we feel an obligation to make our community more livable and to address our own inadequacies, our inherent biases, our blind spots, and our ignorance in the process.

Weeks passed. Suspects were interviewed. The patrols and police presence declined. The official investigation did not produce enough evidence to charge anyone. We believe that the perpetrators were area youth. We hope our response to their actions scared some sense into them.

We decided to ask donors to the bounty if they would like a refund or to invest their dollars in educational programming across the school systems in our community. Only one individual requested we return their $100.

Our children are the future of our community and we began to seek out a means of deploying resources to run programming in the schools system. Lake Region High School, Glover Elementary School, Craftsbury Academy, Lakeview Union Elementary School, Hardwick Elementary School, Hazen Union High School, and Woodbury Elementary School represent the limits of our “natural” community. Netdahe Stoddard, a Hazen Union Cross Country coach connected us to the great work that is happening at the Peace & Justice Center and they were able to schedule a meeting with administrators and community members from each of the schools in our community to begin this important work.

In the end, we are grateful to have partners and allies across our community and for the chance to turn this terrible event into an opportunity for so many. We are resilient and the conversations that are happening because of a moment of ignorance and hate are inspiring.

The PJC is grateful to the generosity and thoughtfulness of Mateo and the Jasper Hill Farm community for contracting us on to work with the Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union and Orleans Central Supervisory Union school districts. We are facilitating trainings with the leadership teams of each district starting in July that will ideally lead to all school personnel receiving education and support to undo racism and work for racial justice. We look forward to expanding on and supporting the work that has already begun in these communities thanks to the energy and commitment of folks living there.
It’s in the Air

By Vicky Castillo

It’s in the air. It surrounds us. At all times. In all places. And we can’t see it. We can’t touch it. We can’t smell it or hear it or taste it. It seems invisible yet omnipresent, inescapable yet easily ignored (for some). It’s racism. I bet your lungs tightened, your stomach dropped, or the hairs on the back of your neck stood up when you read that word. It is proven that upon reading or hearing the word “racism,” a person’s blood pressure and heart rate increase. These are natural responses to stress.

We (myself and my fellow members of the Civil Rights Alliance through Saint Michael’s College) find it so ironic that the abstract notion of racism in America causes such visceral responses in the human body and mind. Most people respond to this stress by trying to avoid it. They run away in denial, or confront the problem with a closed-minded, swift, sharp answer of “I’m not racist,” or anything that pushes the responsibility off their own shoulders. Sorry to break it to you, but the reality that you and I, and all American citizens, were born into a systemically racist society is not up for dispute. We need to stop thinking about racism as an individual problem or an abstract concept and realize that our society and culture is saturated with it.

Our history of violence and hatred towards people of color has caused racism to become embedded in our institutional structures, such as our government, school systems, and businesses. It is present in the processes of applying for housing, health care, and the job market. It’s infiltrated its way into our subconscious through subliminal messages that we have been exposed to since childhood. So yes, we all have preconceived judgements, prejudices, and beliefs because it is in the air that we breathe. Maybe you aren’t consciously racist, but that does not exclude you from participating in and supporting systems of oppression that perpetuate racism in this country, not by choice, but just simply by being.

As I said, racism is not an individual problem. It’s not a good person vs. bad person issue. It simply is. So I encourage you to stop shying away from the truth – racism is an injustice that continues to plague our country and has concrete effects and consequences on millions of Americans. Stop denying that you, too, contribute to this problem just by being a part of this system, which is a part of the foundation of the United States. Just stop.

Now I address the students of Saint Michael’s College specifically. I see your good intentions every day – when you smile and say hi as we pass in the halls or when you hold the door open for me. We work together to create spectacular volunteering opportunities, promote service organizations, and raise awareness for certain topics of social justice. But where is this support for racial justice? We are known as a supportive community, but this is one critical piece that we are missing as an institution. It is evident in all the empty chairs at the events put on by the Civil Rights Alliance and other organizations that intend to foster inclusion and educate people about their own role in systematic racism.

I am aware that you say you are against racism in all its forms, and I even believe you, but there is a disconnect between your words and your actions. Don’t just claim to be an ally; be an ally in word and deed. I dare you to show up every once in a while. Don’t be scared by words like “white privilege” and “systemic racism” in the titles of racial justice events – own that these are existing phenomena and take action to do something about it. It would go a long way for our students of color that don’t always feel accepted here. Show up, not only to support students of color, but for yourself as well – there is still a lot we all can learn about racial justice.

I don’t pretend that this is an easy change. It takes a lot of hard work to counteract years of subliminal racist messaging, and a lot of dedication to actively oppose and work against racism every day. But, I would not extend this challenge to the St. Mike’s community if I did not believe in it. I look forward to seeing how you rise to the occasion. Thank you.

Vicky Castillo is in the Saint Michael’s College class of 2019 and Co-leader of the Civil Rights Alliance (CRA) through the Mobilization of Volunteer Efforts (MOVE) on campus.

Note: The PJC has an ongoing partnership with the Civil Rights Alliance and we look forward to collaborating with Vicky and others this coming school year.
New PJC Facilitators

**Jude Smith Rachele, PhD**

As co-founder and CEO of Abundant Sun, an international cultural transformation agency, I have been working as a global diversity, equity, and inclusion professional for the past 25 years. As a global citizen, I re-located to Manchester Center, VT, from the UK and Europe, in the summer of 2015. This choice was driven by Vermont’s international reputation of being a progressive state committed to social justice.

Having expanded our business operations to Vermont, I have been very busy working for a variety of organizations in Chittenden County where there is the highest visibility of cultural diversity in the State. The demand for our work is strong there, yet virtually silent in the southern Shires, where I have found it very hard to put my finger on the diversity, equity, and inclusion pulse.

Then the opportunity arose to facilitate a community-based conversation, with the Peace & Justice Center, at the local Manchester library on ‘Seeing and Disrupting Racism in Children.’ What I felt I could help with was providing a global dimension of race and racism, and to help people see beyond what I consider to be the narrow confines and definitions of race within American society.

I suppose I accepted the offer to work with the PJC because deep down inside of me I would love to see the United States of America's culture free itself from what I have come to call its ‘Obsessive Compulsive Racial Disorder.’ I would love to see the United States of America move beyond the binary of race, to evolve beyond just seeing and defining people only in terms of black and white. I am reminded of the phrase ‘Free your minds and the rest will follow.’

**Karen Ames**

While growing up in a small, rural community in southern Vermont, I understood racism as individual acts of violence by bad people, and primarily acts that happened somewhere else. As I matured I came to understand institutional racism as a system that disadvantaged some through no fault of their own, but for a while I did not confront the corollary, that for some to be disadvantaged, there must be some who are advantaged.

During my years as an educator, mother, and community member, I wrestled with what best to do with my unearned advantages. More recently, I’ve been thinking a great deal about the ways systemic injustice harms everyone; we all have a responsibility to work to effect change.

I believe in the power of education and dialogue. Participating in and facilitating workshops for the Peace & Justice Center provides an opportunity to engage in meaningful, challenging, and diverse conversations with a broad range of people, the kind of conversations that promote my own growth and advocacy work as much as (I hope) that of others.

An example of how US intervention and the use of military power have produced disastrous unintended consequences. He asked “What would Iran look like today if their democratic government had not been overthrown [in 1953]? What impact did that American-led coup have on the entire region? What consequences are we still living with today?” This book answers Senator Sanders’ questions.

**Inside Iran**

*By Medea Benjamin*

When the Iran nuclear agreement was signed by President Obama in 2015, the world breathed a sigh of relief. Iran would not get nuclear weapons, relations between the Republic of Iran and the West would improve, and the moderates in Iran were empowered over the hard-liners.

Then came President Trump, throwing US-Iranian relations into turmoil. It is said that war is the way Americans learn geography. Don’t let that happen with Iran. This easy-to-read book is designed to help Americans understand Iran so that we will be better equipped to prevent war! It recounts Iran’s long, proud history and the disastrous effects of outside intervention. It sets the stage for the 1979 Islamic revolution, and the religious regime’s crackdown on human rights, religious minorities, and women. The book traces how decades of Western sanctions have affected daily life, and delves into Iran’s tumultuous relationship with the United States and with its neighbors in the region. Most importantly, it highlights the heroic efforts of Iranians to live in a more open, more democratic society, free of outside interference.

In one of Senator Bernie Sander’s rare foreign policy talks, he used Iran as an example of how US intervention and the use of military power have produced disastrous unintended consequences. He asked “What would Iran look like today if their democratic government had not been overthrown [in 1953]? What impact did that American-led coup have on the entire region? What consequences are we still living with today?” This book answers Senator Sanders’ questions.

**Author Talk/Booksigning with Medea Benjamin at the PJC on September 26, Wednesday at 6pm.**
Robin’s Nest

Nuclear Disarmament Education in Vermont
Hiroshima Day, and the Hibakusha in Burlington

By Robin Lloyd

At the Nobel Peace Prize celebration at Burlington’s Fletcher Free Library this winter – when we watched the award given to ICAN (International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons) in Oslo by video stream – we were delighted to meet Maho Takahashi and her husband Casey, an encounter which is leading to renewed activity and education on the dangers of nuclear energy and weapons in the Burlington area this summer.

Maho is Japanese and grew up inspired by her mother who worked to support children affected by the Chernobyl nuclear accident of 1986. Maho has been passionately involved in peace and social justice issues from an early age.

Since 2003, she has been involved with the Peace Boat, a Japan-based international organization that leads educational global voyages for peace and is a key member of ICAN. Peace Boat has organized over 90 voyages, including 60 around-the-world voyages, carrying more than 70,000 participants to 200 ports. Peace Boat has worked with over 170 Hibakusha – atomic bomb survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki – travelling around the world calling for a nuclear-free future. Maho has written that she “is inspired by how the voices of Hibakusha bring impact, open peoples’ eyes, and lead to actions around the world.”

Together this summer, Maho and WILPF are collaborating on a special project to bring Hibakusha Stories: Nuclear Disarmament Education and Action for Vermonters to the students in our state.

To celebrate International Peace Day on September 21, two Hibakusha will visit Vermont for five days (September 17-21, 2018).

Shigeko Sasamori was 13 years old when the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945. Yasuaki Yamashita was 6 years old when the A-bomb fell on Nagasaki three days later. He writes, “I feel that it is important to keep alive the memory of the suffering, devastation and death that nuclear weapons can cause in the hope that no one will ever use them again. I worry because each year there are fewer and fewer people still alive who can speak about this memory from personal experience.”

These two survivors will be speaking in schools and at public events around Vermont, along with two Hibakusha Stories professional educators who will share curriculum materials and resources.

We hope readers will take advantage of this unique opportunity to meet two people who have experienced the devastation of nuclear weapons and are very concerned about the plans of the Trump administration to develop new types of weapons.

In addition, several events will take place on August 5 and 6, Hiroshima Day. See the calendar of events, and/or call Marguerite Adelman 518-561-3939 or me 802-355-3256 for more information.

Calendar of Events

**August 5, Sunday**

6 pm. A walk starting at the top of Church Street and walking down College Street to the waterfront near the boathouse. In memory of those who lost their lives in the nuclear devastation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, chalk ‘shadow drawings’ will be marked on the streets, and candle boats will be floated and songs sung. Children are welcome. Sponsored by PJC and WILPF.

**August 6, Monday**
8am. Silent vigil at the corner of Main and South Prospect Streets to remember the victims (hibakusha) of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and call for the worldwide abolition of nuclear weapons.

**September 19, Wednesday**
7-9pm Hibakusha Stories. Hear stories from two Hibakusha who are in Burlington for a week, visiting area schools. Learn from their first-hand experiences, and discuss the future we would like to create together. Place TBA.

**September 20, Thursday**
7pm An Evening with Hibakusha at St. Michael’s College.

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Maho Takahashi
New on the Shelves! Summer Reading

Compiled By Alex Rose and Meryl Braconnier

A Day in the Life of Marlon Bundo
Jill Twist, Illustrated by EG Keller
This sweet read is one of both love and advocacy. You will laugh out loud, cry tears of joy, and root for Marlon Bundo as he falls in love with a fellow boy bunny despite the subtle (or not so subtle) references to the current administration.

The Bitter Side of Sweet
Tara Sullivan
In this novel, Sullivan introduces us to main characters, Amadou and Seydou who leave their home country of Mali to find work on the cocoa plantations of the Ivory Coast. Quickly and tragically the brothers find themselves subjected to forced labor and no way out. While a fictional tale, this story guides the reader through the realities of extreme poverty, exploitation, and slavery that plagues the cocoa industry.

The Evil of Banality: On the Life and Death and Importance of Thinking
Elizabeth Minnich
Minnich addresses the troubling question of how society can allow for “extensive evil,” or “systematic horrific harm-doing.” Exposing the ordinary people behind terrors such as genocides and slavery, this book provokes a necessary, philosophical discussion of ethics, experiences, and the surprisingly banal seeds of evil.

The Ministry of Utmost Happiness
Arundhati Roy
Delve into this fairytale-novel hybrid that presents an eclectic dance of narratives surrounding two main characters: a trans-woman, Anjum, in Delhi and a desirable architect and activist, Tilo. Published 20 years after Arundhati Roy’s award-winning, debut novel, The God of Small Things, The Ministry of Utmost Happiness reflects Roy’s values as a political activist and artfully reveals India’s political problems through the make-believe.

The Hate U Give
Angie Thomas
The Hate U Give is a New York Times bestselling young adult novel. 16-year-old Starr Carter witnesses her childhood best friend, Khalil’s death by a police officer as an unarmed citizen. This novel is an all too real look at what it means to be a young person of color in the US. Through the eyes of a teenager, the reader untangles themes of racism, police brutality, activism, and, of course, a little romance.

We Are All Fast-Food Workers Now: The Global Uprising Against Poverty Wages
Annelise Orleck
A voice for precariats worldwide, We Are All Fast-Food Workers Now illuminates the recent history of the growing, global movement against low wage industries that fail to sustain and protect their employees. While reading, you will experience the shocking stories of struggling workers, appreciate the power of protests, and avidly hope for an improved future.

Brothers of the Gun: A Memoir of the Syrian War
Marwan Hisham and Molly Crabapple
An intimate and powerful read, Brothers of the Gun documents the bloody Syrian war, as Marwan Hisham’s youth is consumed by active involvement in the on-going rebellion against the country’s brutal dictator, President Bashar al-Assad. Hisham’s firsthand experiences paired with Molly Crabapple’s ink illustrations generate an emotional reflection on family, home, and liberty in the face of destruction, chaos, violence, and death.

The Hate U Give
Angie Thomas
The Hate U Give is a New York Times bestselling young adult novel. 16-year-old Starr Carter witnesses her childhood best friend, Khalil’s death by a police officer as an unarmed citizen. This novel is an all too real look at what it means to be a young person of color in the US. Through the eyes of a teenager, the reader untangles themes of racism, police brutality, activism, and, of course, a little romance.
Fair Trade Campaign Conference: A bubble burst

By Alex Rose, Volunteer Coordinator and Assistant Store Manager

If you’ve been into the Peace & Justice Center, you know how integral the three components of Racial Justice, Peacework, and Fair Trade Education are into all they do. While each staff member has their area of expertise, the collaborative nature of the PJC facilitates an atmosphere of multidimensional learning. Therefore, last fall, as the fair trade intern I wasn’t learning only about conscientious consumerism, but was pushed to take a look at other factors at play like racism and colonization. Because of this, I’d say the PJC has been somewhat of a bubble for me. This bubble is far from the traditional one you’d equate with utopia like conditions of white picket fences and ever-smiling faces, but a bubble made up of people working hard to be critical and intersectional in their work.

With that, my understanding of fair trade has been one in which racism, sexism, economic exploitation, and access to education, are addressed in the same breath. Without this integration, true progress is unachievable. Whether supporting farmer-owned Divine Chocolate or participating in direct trade with David — a PJC volunteer who brings jewelry from a co-op in Niamey, Niger – fair trade at the PJC seeks to be producer-centered. To me this is what fair trade is about: As an individual who is on the benefiting side of capitalism, one of my few powers is to support an alternative system like fair trade.

At the March, 2018, Fair Trade Campaign Conference in Washington D.C. that I attended with PJC’s Fair Trade Program and Store Manager, Amy Crosswhite, I was confronted with the realization that the fair trade model I had put so much trust into is not immune to corruption and greed. Many things brought me to this realization including a lack of inclusion of workers, a lack of racial and economic diversity, and an emphasis on the power of the consumer.

It was a glaring red flag that there was extremely little representation from workers. This made the conference feel one-sided and disconnected. When you are missing an entire part of the equation, you will almost always get the wrong answer. In this case, the wrong answer entailed fighting for workers when workers were not even present. Instead, featured panelists included successful white people from Fair Trade USA, 1% for the Planet, and even the supermarket, Kroger. What these people had to say was not all bad; their objective is to give consumers more opportunities to support fair trade products, which of course, I can get behind.

However, why is it that while attending a conference about an alternative trade system which favors the producer, we barely heard from this body of people? Once again, the spotlight was on the white people who find themselves in charge.

As I looked around the conference hall it was like looking into a mirror. I became acutely aware of my presence as a white university student. The absence of key voices from the fair trade movement left it impossible for questions to be answered and to address certain topics. This was so concerning because this absence was the reason we needed an alternative trade system in the first place.

At the very least, my time at the Fair Trade Campaign Conference took me out of my Peace & Justice Center bubble. It showed me the importance of taking a step outside of your own work, your colleagues, your city, and understanding the systems at large. Globalization has impeded producers from having equitable, dignified, and sustainable opportunities politically, economically, and socially. I will start to believe that fair trade is achieving its true intention when farmers, producers, and growers, are the ones teaching and leading us. The fact that there was little diversity in the representation from Fair Trade Campaigns makes me question their motives. That being said, in order to move the dial forward, these critical conversations and reflections are paramount. May we all step outside our bubbles and continue to pop them.

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Leave a Lasting Legacy

You can ensure that your investment in making change in the world lives on by making a bequest or planned gift to the Peace & Justice Center. What’s a planned gift? Put simply, it’s a contribution that is arranged now and pays out at a future date. Commonly donated through a will or trust, planned gifts are most often granted once the donor has passed away. There are many types of planned gifts, including some that pay an income to the donor during their lifetime, with the remainder going to the non-profit when they pass.

We look forward to helping you make these plans as personally gratifying as possible. Contact Rachel Siegel at rachel@pjcvt.org if you’d like to discuss ways to make a lasting impact.

If you have included the Peace & Justice Center in your estate plans, you’re a member of our Legacy Society.

Thank you!
Burning Tires
By Marc Estrin, Vermonters for Justice in Palestine

“Those terrorists! The snakes! The cockroaches! Look at them, burning tires to poison our brave men and women protecting us at the fence! And it’s clearly horrible, too, for the environment! But Hamas doesn’t care…”

I’ve seen all these assertions in Israeli articles and comments since the Great March of Return began, and crowds gathered weekly at the Gaza fence. “What country would put up with this?” “What would you do if someone invaded your home?”

Well, ok, what would I do if a preannounced set of 100 snipers (not soldiers, mind you, but “snipers”) were lined up behind and atop huge berms of earth for self-protection, and their scopes and rifles were pointed my way?

If I were clever enough, I’d try to become less visible to their shoot-to-kill-or-permanently-damage intentions. Hence the tactic of holding a celebration/demonstration behind a screen of smoke – not from high tech military chemists, but from the only available source – burning old tires. Brilliant. Daring (depending on wind or windlessness), cheap, camera-worthy.

The irony of Israelis objecting to a smokescreen is really too much to bear. Israel is one huge smokescreen. I’d put a smokescreen as the central image on their flag.

Consider:
– the whole “peace process” since Oslo, which simply disguised the creation of illegal settlements for half a million illegal settlers in the Palestinian territories.
– the whole “Israel has the right to defend ourselves” gambit, using that excuse to slaughter, starve, and control whole populations of Palestinians with small arms at most, or handmade resistance weapons against modern high tech weaponry supplied as needed by the US. Self-defense -- a smokescreen more lethal and long-lasting than the Israeli tear gas and phosphorus in the skies.
– “they want to push us into the sea” smoke-canard. Who? How push? (no room given the Israeli nuclear submarines.) When was the last time you heard any Arab make such a statement?
– the Israeli policy of “non-declared” nuclear weapons. Such a smokescreen allows Israel to proceed with its weapons program without inspections, or responsibility to non-proliferation treaties, destroying the possibility of a nuclear weapons-free Middle East.
– the labeling of everyone killed by an Israeli bullet as a terrorist, or in the case of young children, as a potential terrorist or “human shield.” But who are the victims? What were they doing? Can’t see through the screen of label-smoke. “We will investigate. If necessary.”
– interesting psychological smoke screens that go with all this: The most recent I’ve seen was the idea that killing a few at the fence was “good for the Palestinians.” Why? Because it would keep down the possibility of some getting across the fence, and establishing a “terrorist beach head” in Israel – in which case far more slaughter would have to occur in order to wipe them out...
– …even “mowing the lawn” – the regular massive attacks on the imprisoned Gaza population, whenever Israel feels the need for political or “defense” purposes. A huge smokescreen surrounds the whole business of having “withdrawn” from Gaza, so no longer an occupation – when in fact Israel takes sadistic pleasure in controlling exports and imports, movement in and out, even for medical reasons, air space, sea space. Best to starve or cripple the next generation.
– less lethal smokescreens are white-coated, or colored green or pink. In 2006, Israeli foreign ministry officially launched the “Brand Israel” campaign, and with the help of US marketing executives, is currently pouring in enormous resources to “rebrand” Israel in a positive light upon the world, and at the same time to legally shut down any criticism or pro-Boycott Divestment and Sanctions activity at home and abroad, especially on US campuses.

As the smoke from burning Israeli tires continues to engorze the world, Vermonters for Justice in Palestine (vtjp.org) will continue its efforts to disperse it.

Women’s March Vermont: Youth EMPOWER

We believe that the single most powerful act we can do is prepare young people with the skills and structure to take actions around causes that matter to them with courage, compassion and collaboration. To that end, Vermont Women’s March is taking up the national organization’s program Youth EMPOWER! Our goal is to provide young people with the tools to create high school and college chapters and to provide support to existing youth activist efforts, in order to guide students in making a positive impact in their communities.

At a local level, what this means is that we are available to provide support to youth projects that further any one (or all) of the Women’s March Unity Principles: ending violence, supporting reproductive rights, LGBTQIA rights, worker’s rights, civil rights and racial justice, disability rights, immigrant rights and environmental justice.

We were honored to support the youth leaders who spearheaded the March for Our Lives rally in Montpelier on March 23, 2018: an historic event that led to the passage of unprecedented gun reform legislation. The success of this rally illustrates how powerful and capable our young people are in affecting change and why we must continue to support them and amplify their voices.

Are you a young person looking to get involved or needing support for an existing project? Email us: Vermont@WomensMarch.com.

Women’s March Youth EMPOWER is an initiative of Women’s March Youth through a coalition with Peace First, Rise To Run, Teen Vogue, The Justice League NYC, The Gathering For Justice, and Rock The Vote. Women’s March EMPOWER upholds the unity principles of the Women’s March platform.

Join us on September 28 at ArtsRiot in Burlington for Power to the Polls Vermont. Details TBA. Contact vtwomensmarch@gmail.com for more info.
July 7, Saturday
2-3pm Fair Trade 101, at PJC. Background on the history of global trade and how trade has historically come at the expense of marginalizing people in the Global South. We will examine the Fair Trade Movement as an alternative trading system that ensures small producers of the Global South are given access to the global market, and also provided with basic human rights. Arrive at 1:30pm to join PJC New Volunteer Orientation.

July 12, Thursday
5:30-7pm, Militarism and Masculinity, at the PJC. Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) member Cheryl Diersch will facilitate a dialogue and reflection on the current state of field of work towards the full realization of the Women Peace & Security Agenda, exploring strategies for combating militarism, to the movement building of peacemakers – women, men and people of diverse gender identities, as well as programmatic and advocacy efforts to promote peace and nonviolence, including through the engagement of men and boys in promoting nonviolent models of manhood. Inter-linkages between militarism and masculinities will be explored. This event is held as part of the monthly meeting for WILPF’s Burlington Branch.

July 16, Monday
12 noon-1pm, Toxic Whiteness Discussion Group, monthly event at the PJC. This space is held specifically to process how white supremacy culture is toxic to white people. The hope is that by joining this space, white people will be better able to allow for the emotional needs of people of color to take priority in multi-racial spaces. FREE. Also August 20 and September 17.

July 17, 24, and 31, Tuesdays
7-9pm, Talking with Kids about Racism, at ZenBarn Studio, Waterbury. Talking about race and racism can be difficult – especially with children. That does not mean we shouldn’t have these conversations. This discussion group addresses the impact of racism on our children. It is designed to help people discuss these issues with children in a meaningful and age-appropriate way. It includes resources, discussion, and role playing. Suggested contribution is $75 for the full series, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds. People under 25 not expected to financially contribute. Facilitated by Zymora Davinchi and Jade Walker.

July 19, Thursday
6pm, POC in VT Affinity Group, monthly event at the PJC. “People of Color only represent 5.6% of the Vermont population. Because of this, we often find ourselves to be the only person of color in the room – whether at school, work, social events, or in the grocery store. How can we, as people of color, share our stories and be heard as well as come together and build community among ourselves in a predominately white state?” This space is open to all People of Color (POC). FREE. Hosted by Kina Thorpe and Song Nguyen. Also Aug. 16 and Sept. 20.

July 21, Saturday
2-3pm Cocoa Campaign at PJC. This presentation focuses on the issue of child slavery and human trafficking in the cocoa industry. Designed to educate, brainstorm solutions and create tangible action steps. Arrive at 1:30pm to join PJC New Volunteer Orientation.

July 28, Saturday
10am to noon Will Miller Green Mountain Veterans for Peace monthly meeting at the Kellogg-Hubbard Library, Montpelier. Veterans and others interested are welcome. More info: Richard Czapinski (rczapinski@madriver.com) Also Aug 25 and Sept 22.

August 4, Saturday
2-3pm Free Trade vs Fair Trade, at PJC. Learn basic information about globalization and how policies and practices have paved the way for huge companies to profit at the expense of people and the planet. This program shows how the Fair Trade movement and principles seek to, at a minimum, counterbalance these atrocities. Arrive at 1:30pm to join PJC New Volunteer Orientation.

August 5, Sunday
6-8:30pm, Hiroshima and Nagasaki Commemorative Walk with Singing and a Candle Boat Remembrance. We will meet at the top of Church Street near the Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington (152 Pearl St) at 6pm. We will sing peace songs and walk down Church St to College St and then to the Waterfront. Stopping along the way to sketch “nuclear chalk silhouettes” on the pavement. We will end at the beach near the Boathouse to launch candle boats and for a short program. Bring anti-nuclear weapons or peace posters. This program is hosted by the Peace & Justice Center and Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom Burlington Branch.

August 12, Sunday
3-4pm Seeing and Disrupting Racism, at PJC. This program was developed for predominantly white audiences because efforts to end racism does not fall solely on those oppressed. We start by defining racism. Then we walk participants through the concept of white fragility. We go over how white fragility perpetuates racism and specific ways to disrupt that cycle. Free for all and registration is not needed. Arrive at 2:30pm to join PJC New Volunteer Orientation.

August 18, Saturday
2-3pm Fair Trade 101, at PJC. Background on the history of global trade and how trade has historically come at the expense of marginalizing people in the Global South. We will examine the Fair Trade Movement as an alternative trading system that ensures small producers of the Global South are given access to the global market, and also provided with basic human rights. Arrive at 1:30pm to join PJC New Volunteer Orientation.
### CALENDAR

#### August 25 & 26, Saturday & Sunday
Saturday, 10-5 and Sunday, 9-4. **Nonviolence Training: Building the Nonviolence Movement**, at VEIC, Burlington. The PJC is excited to host this weekend-long program from the Institute for the Study and Practice of Nonviolence (nonviolenceinstitute.org). Dive into the principles and practices of nonviolence developed by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Led by Sal Monteiro and PJ Fox. Sliding Scale Fee $0-$100, register online at www.pjcvt.org/events.

#### September 22, Saturday
2-3pm **Banana Industry**, at PJC. Learn about the oppressive banana industry. This talk is designed to educate, brainstorm solutions and create tangible action steps that fit each participant. Arrive at 1:30pm to join **PJC New Volunteer Orientation**.

#### September 20, 27, & October 4, Thursdays
6:15-8:15pm, **Building Empathy and Addressing Racial Oppression** at Sterling College, Craftsbury Common. Build skills and knowledge to engage in disrupting racial oppression everywhere. Participants are expected to attend all three parts of this workshop. The first session defines racism and explores doing racial justice work in predominately white spaces in general. The second session is focused on seeing racism in one’s self and/or community and the final session is all about practicing what is worked on within this program and turning learning into action, in an ongoing and long lasting way. Build tools and guidelines for action in order to reaffirm a commitment to creating and supporting an anti-oppressive society. This series is led by Zymora Davinchi and Netdahe Stoddard. There is no participant fee for this program thanks to the financial support of Sterling College. Registration is highly recommended as space is limited to 25 people. For questions or to register call 863-2345 x6 also register online at pjcvt.org/events

#### September 5, Wednesday
5-9pm **Community Night at Bluebird Barbecue**, Burlington. This restaurant pays tribute to backyard barbecue with a relaxed and carefree vibe and on this night they will be donating 10% of the entire evening’s sales to the Peace & Justice Center. Have a spontaneous night out or make a plan with family and friends. If bringing your whole crew, we recommend making a reservation: bluebirdbbq.com or 802-448-3070.

#### September 8, Saturday
**Youth Activist Summit**, Montpelier area. A day-long youth-led event supported by the Peace & Justice Center to gather youth from around Vermont for a day of networking, education, and more. Join us if you are part of any social justice activism or if you want to learn more about how to get involved. Sliding scale fee. No one turned away for lack of funds. Some travel reimbursement available. See page 3.

2-3pm **Understanding Fair Trade Labels**, at PJC. Explore the differences between Fair Trade Certifications, Fair Trade Membership Organizations, and Direct Trade to help us better understand the Fair Trade Movement. Arrive at 1:30pm to join PJC New Volunteer Orientation.

#### September 10-14, Monday-Friday
**Global Climate Action Summit**. 350VT is leading the statewide affiliate actions in advance of and while the summit takes place in CA. PJC will be working with them on a nonviolent, direct action training in Vermont.

#### September 19-21, Wednesday-Friday
**Hibakusha Tour**. See page 6.

#### September 15-23, Saturday-Sunday
**Campaign Nonviolence Action Week**. Multiple events planned throughout Vermont. So far in Vermont: Brattleboro, Burlington, Manchester, Winooski. Check out campaignnonviolence.org for more information.

#### September 26, Wednesday
6pm **Inside Iran. Author Talk with Medea Benjamin**, at the PJC. See page 6 for book description.

#### September 28, Friday
**Power to the Polls Vermont**. Art, music, education, learning circles, and more. At ArtsRiot in Burlington. Women’s March Vermont. See article on page 9.

#### October 1, Monday
5:30-6:45pm, **Prospective Facilitator Gathering**, at the PJC. Join us to learn about becoming a facilitator of our educational programs. The evening will include an overview of the programs we offer, explanation of our educational philosophies, and time for you to share your experiences and interest. Next steps include participation in a workshop and then becoming a paid facilitator. Programs include the following topics: non-violence, racial justice, fair trade and anti-war. People from around the state are needed so if you are interested but cannot join us in person, we are happy to have you with us via video or phone conference. Light refreshments served. To register call Kyle at 863-2345 x6 or email kyle@pjcvt.org.

#### October 6, Saturday
2-3pm **Cocoa Campaign**, at PJC. This presentation focuses on the issue of child slavery and human trafficking in the cocoa industry. It is designed to educate, brainstorm solutions and create tangible action steps. Arrive at 1:30pm to join **PJC New Volunteer Orientation**.
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$2,500 Individual Membership
$3,000 Family Membership
$3,500 Shaker
$4,000 Charityworker
$4,500固定收入
$5,000固定贡献
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