Amazon, ICE, and Global Trade
By Kason Hudman, PJC Volunteer

For people interested in resisting large corporations, the many sins of Amazon are discussed so often that it has almost become cliché. However, due to its unusually broad influence on the marketplace and our lifestyle, a constant reminder of the real human cost that comes with supporting Amazon is perhaps necessary. From horrifying labor abuse, a shocking factory workplace culture, and a long-standing record of environmental degradation and resource extraction, Amazon has done more than its fair share to contribute to our current planetary crisis.

All of this further enriches Amazon Founder Jeff Bezos who is already far and away the richest person on the planet. One area of abuse that has received less attention until quite recently is Amazon’s relationship with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and their profiteering off the mistreatment and abuse of immigrant families. In our current moment of increased attention to the struggles faced by immigrants and the fight for migrant justice, it is imperative that we cast our gaze at the way that Amazon is again contributing to the problem. We should rethink our financial relationship with Amazon and focus on supporting fair trade and local producers.

Nearly every week there is another story about ICE detention centers, concentration camps, and violent Border Patrol agents disregarding the basic dignity of migrants and their families. In response to these conditions, activism and direct action demanding migrant justice has arisen across the country. From ICE facility occupations to economic boycotts of ICE investors, there are multiple avenues activists can take in demanding the better treatment of immigrants.

In recent weeks, some activists across the country have rightly focused their attention on Amazon. Amazon provides significant technological support to ICE, including developing harmful facial recognition technologies and providing logistical support. Amazon Web Services also supplies the cloud platform for Palantir (a private American software company that specializes in big data analytics) to maintain their massive database of undocumented people. As we have seen in Vermont, those databases are inaccurate, racially biased, and particularly focused on targeting activists who stand up for immigration justice. Any financial support that you give to Amazon, including merely visiting their website, provides some monetary support for ICE and their attack on migrant families and human rights. Boycotting Amazon is a key tool in the broader fight against borders and our horrific and racist immigration system.

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From the Director

Community Meeting

We are excited to announce that we are holding a Community Meeting. This event will include our Annual Meeting but we hope to attract a broad audience beyond our membership.

At this Community Meeting we will discuss what it means to be an anti-racist organization and to put oppressed communities at the center of our work. We are clear about the limitations of our current leadership in this work for peace and justice. We plan to discuss why we will be best led by Indigenous, black, and other POC, queer and trans folk, poor and working class people and youth. We will discuss a timeline for staffing changes.

In addition, we will explain our commitments to the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions of Israel Movement (BDS) and to the trans-community. Our positions on these two issues have caused dissent in our membership and the broader community. It has impacted our work toward collaborative movements. We want your opinions and ideas on how to move forward from these divisions while maintaining our values and beliefs.

Members will vote for the Board of Directors as part of the meeting but a majority of the time together will be presentation and discussion. All are welcome to attend and hear about our work. Also, everyone is encouraged to become a member (giving levels start at $15 a year) to join our work!

Please join us and share what you’d like to see the PJC do in the coming years and help us refine our plans to set new leadership up for success.

Peace & Justice Center
Annual Meeting and Community Meeting
Sunday, October 27, 2019, 4-5:30
ONE Community Center
20 Allen St, Burlington

Thank you for reading our newsletter. We need your help to assess the value of this publication. If you can take a one to two minute survey, you will be entered in a raffle. Drawings on: Nov 1, Dec 1, and Jan 1. Each prize will include a PJC Activist Pack and a $50 gift certificate. The survey can be found at https://tinyurl.com/PJC-newsletter-survey

Community Voices for Immigrant Rights

The horrors continue to unfold each day: people being deported and dying because they can’t access the medical care they need; the “safe third country” agreement; immigrants coming here due to the US’s violent impact in their own countries; immigrants arriving as climate refugees from a climate crisis that was not caused by them; people drowning, dying of dehydration, and being murdered in their effort to get here; the private prisons profiting from it all; the children forever separated from their parents; the parents forever separated from their children; dozens of migrants in Vermont and New Hampshire detained by ICE in the past few weeks; and on and on.

It is absolutely too much to bear alone. Fortunately, there are groups organizing around the state for immigrant justice locally and internationally. We are tracking events, information, and things to do on our website pjcvt.org/close-the-camps/

If you are in the Burlington-area, please join us at an organizing meeting with Community Voices for Immigrant Rights (CVIR). CVIR is led by a coalition of people and groups including Peace & Justice Center, Women’s March Vermont, and Migrant Justice. CVIR has been meeting every other Monday. You can join a working group to plan educational events, street actions, or work on legislative work. Find out more by following us on facebook or in our enews.

CVIR is supporting the work of Migrant Justice in their No Mas Polimigra campaigns to improve the state Fair and Impartial Policing model on a town by town basis. “Polimigra” is a mash up of “policia” (police) and “migra” (immigration officers) and refers to the collaboration that happens between our local police and immigration even when it is not supposed to. Creating stronger local ordinances is an amazing opportunity to directly impact migrants here in Vermont.

Family separation and racism have been part of this land since Europeans settled here on Turtle Island (an Indigenous name for this continent). It is not new. But let’s seize this moment of heightened awareness to mobilize and not let up.

Save the date: Close the Camps/Stop the Deportations Protest at ICE offices in Williston on October 20. Details TBD. Follow us on social media or contact us to learn more.
New PJC Board Members

Please help us welcome our three newest board members. We are thrilled to collaborate and learn with them.

Chuck Brewer

I have been living in Burlington for two years after relocating from Boston and working as a community psychotherapist. After seriously flirting with the idea of a career as a priest, I decided that the role of a psychotherapist would be the most effective way I could help people discover how to live authentically.

I am a military brat so I was raised overseas into early adolescence. These global adventures have contributed to my understanding and appreciation of multiculturalism. More often than not, I see the bonds that tie humanity together as opposed to those things that separate us. Both of my parents have a communitarian streak which is why my sense of self is similarly strengthened when volunteering in my community. The Greek conception of eudaemonia being applied to the community is definitely at play here, I would imagine. I really enjoy reading books on science these days but will read some philosophy on occasion. I also enjoy classical music, jazz, and the blues. I am finishing my third album (pop music) and am very excited about the upcoming fall and winter seasons as I really dislike Northeastern summers – it’s too humid! Finally, I am quite fond of beetles, cats, house plants, and snails.

Kahlia Livingston

I’m a Burlington native who is passionate about social justice. I graduated from Burlington High School in 2014 where I then attended the University of Vermont and earned a bachelor’s degree in Political Science and Sociology. Combined with my own personal experiences, I learned a lot about the discrepancies in society regarding race, class, gender, and sexuality through my academic work which helped shape my consciousness about these very present societal issues. I’ve been seeking an institution where I can work with others with a like-minded agenda to help spread awareness about these problems. Because of that, I’m excited to start participating in PJC projects and help expand our influence around the state. I look forward to learning more about the organization and helping make progress wherever I can be of service.

Aden Haji

I am currently the youth coordinator for the Multicultural Youth Program. I am a UVM graduate with a bachelor’s in Anthropology. My family migrated from Kenya in 2003 and we have been living in Burlington ever since. I started community organizing in my last few years of high school and it has been a great experience for me in Burlington. I am the oldest of 6 kids. I enjoy playing basketball and connecting with new people.

Amazon continued from page 1

Due to the fact that Amazon commands such a large presence in our broader culture, a complete boycott seems difficult. Luckily, the Peace & Justice Store provides a local place to shop that, in contrast to shopping on Amazon, gives a voice to those fighting for migrant justice and provides direct monetary support to people in the global south. There are many fair trade products at the Peace & Justice Store made by people living in Central America, from many of the countries most migrants are coming from. The Peace & Justice Center has also been directly involved with local efforts to support immigrants and undocumented people, and will continue to be involved as long as human migration is criminalized and migrant families are denied justice. Boycotting Amazon and supporting fair trade and local producers therefore goes beyond anti-consumerism; it’s a key part of demanding basic human rights for all humans and demanding respect for immigrants.
Immigrants and refugees knock on the door for entry and hope to make a new life here. But people forced into exile frequently yearn to return to their country. Juan Carlos Vallejo of Colombia is one such exile, leaving after 16 years in Burlington, trying to find a way to re-engage in the struggle of his people, who have been involved in the longest armed conflict in Latin America.

My compassion for his cause came from my travels to Colombia in the 90s. With Women’s International League for Peace & Freedom and the Colombia Support Network, I made a video Courageous Women of Colombia about the plight of women on the supply side of the war on drugs. I wanted to share how the war on drugs had exacerbated violence and homelessness throughout the rural areas of Colombia.

Burlington-area activists may remember Juan Carlos from his participation in the School of Americas Watch vigil every November on Church Street. The SOAW vigil, sponsored by Pax Christi, is dedicated to the memory of all the victims of the US reign of terror in Latin America. Juan Carlos always held the photo of Fernando Lalinde, an university era friend and neighbor who was arrested, tortured, and disappeared by a military patrol outside Medellin, Colombia in 1984. With Lalinde’s mother, Juan Carlos campaigned publically to demand his whereabouts. This was the beginning of his human rights work. Years later, his mentor and professor Jesus María Valle Jaramillo was abducted from his office and killed February 27, 1998.

Juan Carlos went underground, living “in rotation” among his friends, and tried slowly to get back to teaching. For a while, Peace Brigades International accompanied him. In 2002, he gave a lecture at San Quintin Prison in Medellin where the most dangerous sicarios (assassins) are housed. During his talk, he spoke against the War on Drugs, and about the social factors leading to the imprisonment of these young men. “Why are you incarcerated? Are you really criminals?” he asked. After the lecture, two prisoners who had inside information of the plans of local death squads, approached him and told him, “Guys are looking for you. You need to leave now.” Juan Carlos grabbed a suitcase with some documents and left home. “Word was that agents were outside the airport looking for me,” he said. “My friends put me in a wheelchair; I had a bit of camouflage; a beard and hat. Accessibility for the disabled was a separate door and no one was monitoring it. I made it.”

Juan Carlos said most of his family criticize him for his exile and his militancy. “My mother was different. She was an artist, a feminist, very progressive, and despite having died years ago, always understood and supported my work.”

In the US, political contacts led him to Bernie Sanders, and he moved to Burlington. Juan Carlos was hoping to be on the faculty at UVM, but that opportunity never materialized for what he believed were political reasons.

“I realize I don’t have a future here. I will try to return to my country,” says Juan Carlos. Thus he is going to Sweden to meet with delegates from the Colombian Truth Commission who have been monitoring the success and failure of the Peace Accords. Many Colombian exiles from around Europe will be gathering there next month to receive a report on what is going on. If safety is possible, he might return with a group of exiles.

We wish you safe travel, Juan Carlos, and success in your search for social justice!

Robin’s video Courageous Women of Colombia is available online website https://www.greenvalleymedia.org/

Peace Accords in Colombia in trouble

The peace agreement signed between the Colombian state and the FARC-EP (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) in 2016 was heralded as one of the most progressive and holistic peace agreements in history. The accords include transitional justice mechanisms, investment in rural areas most damaged by the conflict and forgotten by the state, and guaranteed political participation for victims and ex-combatants, reparations for victims, and reconciliation via a truth commission, according to the North American Congress on Latin America Report.

But much of the peace settlement have not been implemented. Many guerrillas are still in jail. Others have built homes or ranches but the government has not protected them. On August 29, 2019, four commanders announced that the peace agreement failed and they are going to take the war back to the jungle.

With nine US military bases, Colombia is a major actor in the region, especially given its new relationship with NATO. The Duque government, aided and abetted by the US has undermined the peace accords and militarized the border with Venezuela, according to Juan Carlos.

The guerrilla groups have said they will not allow any attack against Venezuela. Juan Carlos insists that, “Any military attack on Venezuela will set up a fire storm across Latin America. It will start what Chavez has called ‘the mother of all wars.’”
We are happy to be working with the following new facilitators. If you want to learn more about working with us, please contact program@pjcvt.org.

**Susan Schoenfeld**

I’ve been in a decades-long process of trying to better understand racism in the US, including coming to grips with my role in this system, and my responsibilities as a white person to address it. What’s clear to me is that this is a life-long task. I’m a long-time member of the Peace & Justice Center and have been involved in different types of racial justice work locally over the past 30 years. Most recently, I’ve worked with Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) in Burlington, helping to facilitate conversations among white people on racism.

My work background is in Public Health. I retired in 2014 after 25 years working as an infectious disease epidemiologist at the Vermont Department of Health, including six years as the Refugee Health Coordinator. I currently teach a course in UVM’s on-line Masters in Public Health (MPH) program.

**Shelley Vermilya, Ed.D.**

Born on the Mason-Dixon line in Delaware, I’ve been a Vermont resident for 40 years, an extreme-gardener, swimmer, and educator K-grad school. Liberatory teaching and imagining justice are my core values. I talk with parents, students, and teachers in school and over avocados at the co-op. I’m currently piloting a project as Equity Scholar-in-Residence at U-32 Middle and High School teaching an Honors Colloquium and Gender Studies 101 at Saint Michael’s College. Joining the Peace and Justice Center has linked me with folks around Vermont who hold similar values about working to increase knowledge about changing the world and making justice real.

We were honored to work with Joelyn Mensah and Zymora Davinchi as they developed the PJC’s new program for people of African descent, “Black Beauty.” Mercedes and Zymora co-facilitated the first presentation of it in September.

**Mercedes Mack**

I chose to do this work because of the opportunity to work with Zymora and be in a black-centered space. This is a crucial time to be centering, actually listening to, and taking very seriously what black femmes, black womxn, black trans people, black trans womxn, and black gender nonconforming people have to say.

Many people don’t realize the gift of our genius and the blueprint our dreams, ideas, and pleasure provide a way forward out of the mess we are in.

If you want to know how to help this stolen land we live on called the United States, turn your attention away from politicians and votes and focus humbly and graciously on black femme voices at the margins (if they invite you to). If we look at who got us here/what they look like (white men and white women), what would it mean to center the people with the exact opposite characteristics (black femmes)? What would our world look like then? The ideas and conversations that emerge from black spaces are real technology informed by an ancestral lineage of people who literally survived hell. This technology is dismissed by too many white people and not taken seriously.

I chose to do this work because I am not interested in the direction people in power/white people are headed. It seems a majority of white people’s complicity and unwillingness to take black people and our humanity seriously results in burning the whole earth down. No thank you. I’m getting off that train and stepping confidently into the direction of a strong expansive melanated focused future that is powered by minds like Zymora’s and Joelyn’s creating transformative content like that of Black Beauty. I’m grateful for PJC being the conduit, but really this work is not about them. It’s about us. Don’t ask me who I’m voting for. Talk to me about what you are doing for black femmes. All power to the people.

**PJC Volunteers**

55 wonderful people volunteered a total of 966 hours to the Peace & Justice Center in June, July, and August.

Would you like to volunteer? We have opportunities statewide. Contact Aris at volunteer@pjcvt.org for more information.
Stay Cozy with Fair Trade!

Cold weather is on its way and the Peace & Justice Store has fair trade goods to keep you cozy and warm. Support small producers in the Global South and help fight systems known for exploitation and human rights abuses.

US Sherpa

Using crafting methods that have been passed down for generations, US Sherpa founder Ongyel Sherpa is bringing Nepalese culture to the United States. This direct trade is based on just and ethical practices. Over 300 artisans are ensured safe working conditions and fair pay. US Sherpa uses natural fibers and minimal packaging to ensure sustainability.

Andes Gifts

40 knitting cooperatives and 80 family-based knitting groups from Bolivia and Peru provide handcrafted goods for Andes Gifts. Factory jobs often require women to move locations and work long hours that keep them from their families and traditions. That is not the case for those who knit for Andes Gifts. These skilled artisans stitch, knit, and weave garments year round while having the flexibility to stay close to home and partake in their local traditions.
A Little Something for Everyone

The Peace & Justice Store carries a wide range of goods that can delight any age. Soapstone angels, finger puppets, hacky sacks, and maple nips are just a few items found in our store that make the perfect stocking stuffer!

2020 Calendars & Datebooks Are Here!

Macaya Coffee

Since 2005, Macaya Coffee founder, Pierrevy Polyte, has used profits from his business to invest in his community in Peak Macaya, Haiti. One of his initiatives was building a school. They started with 25 students and now provide education to 500 students. Our direct trade relationship helps Pierrevy continue to give back to his community.

"More coffee is less poverty and more education," Pierrevy Polyte
Resistence is Not Futile

By Rachel Siegel

Amid growing resistance to the basing of the F-35A fighter-bomber planes at Burlington International Airport, several strategies have emerged: ongoing protests outside Senator Sanders’ office called Fridays at Bernie’s; legislative initiatives at the local and state level, larger scale protests, and media campaigns to include signs on public buses. Collaborations between Save Our Skies, PJC, Women’s International League for Peace & Freedom, Veterans For Peace, Stop the F-35s, Citizens Against Nuclear Bombers, and People for Peace & Security have been common. Solidarity from groups with intersecting and overlapping missions is growing.¹

The most recent strategy that has been utilized has been based on Morality. On Monday, September 9, Retired Lt Colonel Roger Bourassa and Retired Colonel Rosanne Greco, went to Senator Leahy’s Burlington office to speak up about the F-35 immoralities and to hold him accountable for the key role he played in coercing the Air Force to select Burlington and his part in part of the corruption of the F-35 basing selection process. They presented Sen Leahy’s staff with a list of demands and were arrested as they waited for his response past closing time.

The strategy continued for the rest of the week with groups representing military veterans, the individuals living in the dangerous in F-35 noise zone, clergy and people from faith communities, city councilors, and the medical community risking arrest each day. In total, there were six arrests that week. We are grateful to Rev. Roddy O’Neil Cleary, Rabbi Joshua Chasan, So Burlington residents Carmine Sargent and Kara Paige, Burlington City Councilors Max Tracy and Jack Hanson, South Burlington City Councilors Meagan Emery and Helen Reihle, and Doctors John Reuwer and Jean Szilva.

Accompanied by members of Code Pink, Jennifer Decker continued the effort and brought the same documents to Senator Leahy’s DC office.

Each group presented the following documents to Sen Leahy’s staff:

2. A demand to delay the F-35 basing until six conditions are satisfied.
4. A Declaration of F-35 Immoralities written primarily by Rosanne Greco. The full version can be found on the PJC’s website (pjcvt.org).

1. The F-35 basing decision process which selected Vermont was immoral because it was based on and sold to the public with lies. The basing selection process started with a lie. Lies, deception, manipulation, and falsification of information permeated the process.
2. The F-35 basing in Vermont is immoral because it needlessly harms – by the US Air Force Estimates 6,663 people in the Burlington area. Thousands of people may be harmed physically, cognitively, economically, emotionally, socially, and spiritually.
3. The F-35 basing is immoral because it is a weapon of mass destruction. The F-35 is an offensive weapon system designed to attack other nations.

These are the six conditions that must be satisfied according to the demand (also written primarily by Rosanne Greco):

1. F-35A has at least 1,000,000 flight hours, similar to the number of flight hours that the F-16 had when it arrived at the VT Air National Guard Station.
2. US Air Force, Federal Aviation Administration, and City of Burlington officials conduct a public hearing.
3. Funding is secured to purchase all 2,963 homes in the F-35A 65dB DNL noise zone that multiple federal agencies classify as being unsuitable for residential use; and move all households who wish to relocate to comparable homes in areas suitable for residential use.
4. A public hearing is held with qualified independent health and safety experts to address conflicting information on noise mitigation and to provide information on the health impacts of noise on children and adults, and the risks to civilians from a crash of an F-35A composed of 42% military-grade composite material and toxic stealth coating.
5. Department of Defense provides detailed information on the nuclear role of the F-35.
6. Investigations into the falsification of data and other improprieties associated with the F-35A basing selection process for Burlington, Vermont have been completed and the full report(s) have been released to the public.

The first two F-35s are scheduled to arrive before this newsletter is printed. They will continue to bring two planes at a time until we reach the full fleet of 20. They will likely not use the afterburners initially so as to keep the noise down. As our friend John Reuwer noted, let’s not become the frog in the water that doesn’t notice the heat turning up until it boils to death. Let’s keep up the resistance. Other municipalities have successfully gotten basing decisions reverse even after the planes had arrived.

See you on the streets, in your letters to the editors, as you mount legislative pressure, and more!

¹ These groups include Migrant Justice, AFSCME Local 1674 Howard Center Workers’ Union, Vermonters for a New Economy, The Root Social Justice Center, National Association of Social Workers VT Chapter, Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ), Vermont Workers’ Center, Vermont National Lawyers Guild, Kunsi Keya Tamakoce, and more.
Why I Volunteer
By Deanna Tuttle, former intern

As the previous Volunteer Development intern and current volunteer, I can say first-hand how transformative my experience with the Peace & Justice Center has been, so much so, that I did not want to leave after my internship ended. PJC gave me an outlet to get involved in organized activist work in my community and understand how a nonprofit works from behind the scenes. I am pursuing a degree in Community and International Development with the goal to someday work for a nonprofit, so becoming an active member of PJC solidified my goals and put me on the right track toward achieving them. For the first time since moving to Burlington for school, when I first joined PJC as an intern, I felt like I finally found my place where I could be myself and learn so much from a group of inspiring and incredibly intelligent people.

During my time as an intern and even still today, I leave PJC every time having learned something new and with the feeling that I am a part of something truly valuable and that makes a real difference in the community. My internship provided me with countless friendships and connections that have formed a new kind of support system that I never knew I needed. I have learned so much about both myself and about the world that surrounds me. I truly believe that I have been made a better person that is now equipped with new skills to be a socially conscious and thoughtful citizen because of my experiences with the Peace and Justice Center.

We are living during a time of rigid divides, hateful acts, and disregard for basic human rights in our world. The Peace and Justice Center creates a safe space for myself and other members of the community to learn, vent, accept, protest, discuss, share, and overall do whatever it is we need to in order to feel sane in this crazy world that we live in.

As a volunteer and an intern, I was given the chance to harness my own unique set of skills and experiences to teach others and to be empowered by such a strong and inspiring community of activists. I will forever be grateful for my experiences and the lessons I learned from the Peace and Justice Center and I plan to do what I can to stay involved, stay educated, and fight for what I believe in.

PJC Sponsors films
THE INFILTRATORS by Alex Rivera & Cristina Ibarra
Synopsis: Through an electrifying mix of documentary interviews and narrative reenactment, The Infiltrators brings to life the incredible true story of the National Immigrant Youth Alliance, a group of young undocumented activists who, in 2012, embarked on a mission of extraordinary daring: allowing themselves to be arrested by ICE in order to infiltrate a for-profit Florida detention center and help rescue fellow undocumented immigrants being held there. Charged with the crackling suspense of a thriller, this true life tale of courage and resistance is equally enthralling and galvanizing as it exposes the injustices and inhumanity of America’s deeply broken deportation system. 4pm, Friday, October 25.

ADVOCATE by Rachel Leah Jones
Synopsis: Lea Tsemel defends Palestinians: from feminists to fundamentalists, from non-violent demonstrators to armed militants. As a Jewish-Israeli lawyer who has represented political prisoners for nearly 50 years, Tsemel, in her tireless quest for justice, pushes the praxis of a human rights defender to its limits. 1:15pm, Sunday, October 27.

Main Street Landing Film House, 60 Lake St, Burlington. More information at Vermont International Film Festival’s website: vtiff.org.

Greetings to my New Community!

I am so excited to be joining the Peace & Justice Center as the new Volunteer Coordinator/ Assistant Store Manager as well as Facilitating the Racial Justice and Non-Violent Communication Educational Programs! It is not lightly that I step into this work, as a Lakota and Latina Woman I realize the importance of these programs and the Work that is being done by PJC. It is my hope to continue to foster amazing relationships with all of you while engaging in dynamic conversations that will bring about real healing change!

I am incredibly blessed to have grown up at Kunsi Keya Tamakoce (KKT) in Huntington, VT. KKT is a non-profit organization that is led by my Unci (Grandmother) Beverly Little Thunder and my family. We are dedicated to teaching the ways of our Lakota people to help build stronger communities through ceremony and spiritual guidance. It is a part of my culture to be of service to my family and to my community and having the opportunity to work with my Unci, a PJC Board Member, is a prayer come true!

My intentions for my time with you at PJC are to continue the amazing work of Alex as the Volunteer Coordinator and build our family of Volunteers! I am also very open to hearing from you about things that are important in your spaces and communities so that I can be more impactful! Our door is always open at PJC and I am so blessed to be standing on the other side with arms wide open to welcome you as I have been so lovingly welcomed!
October 1, Tuesday
- 5:30-8:30pm, Environmental Justice and Nuclear Waste: The Road from VT to West Texas New England Tour. Christ Episcopal Church, Montpelier
- 6-8pm, Shut It Down, Stories from a Fierce Loving Resistance by Lisa Fithian. Fletcher Free Library, Burlington

October 2, Wednesday
- 5-9pm, Escalating Resistance: Mass Rebellion Training! With Lisa Fithian. Unitarian Church, Montpelier

October 3, Thursday
- 12-2pm, Milk with Dignity: Two-year Anniversary & Campaign Launch Celebration. Leddy Park, Burlington
- 6:30-8:30pm, Seeing & Disrupting Racism: A Focus on White Fragility. This program was developed for predominantly white audiences because efforts to end racism does not fall solely on those oppressed. In it the group will explore what racism is and why it is often difficult for white communities (and individuals) to see it. It will include going through the concept of white fragility and specific ways to disrupt racism. Lamoille Civic Center, Morrisville

October 4, Friday
- 5-6pm, F-35 Weekends at Bernie's Senate office, 1 Church St, Burlington. Every Friday

October 10, Thursday
- 7-9pm, Eleanor Roosevelt and the Drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This year marks the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Eleanor Roosevelt’s work chairing the committee that drafted this historic document. The featured speaker, Dr. Blanche Wiesen Cook, is an historian and author of a 3-volume, definitive biography of Eleanor Roosevelt. These events are organized by the Burlington Chapter of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom. Mead Memorial Chapel, Middlebury College

October 11, Friday
- 7-9pm Eleanor Roosevelt and the Drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. See October 10. Billings Ira Allen Lecture Hall, Burlington

October 14, Monday
- 6-7:30pm, Vermonters for Justice in Palestine (VTJP) meeting. PJC, Burlington. Also 11/11 and 12/9

October 15, Tuesday
- 6-8:30pm, PJC board mtg. PJC. Also 11/12 and 12/10.

October 16, Wednesday
- 6-8pm, POC in VT Affinity Group. POC in VT Affinity Group. PJC. This program is led by people of color, for people of color. It is a quarterly gathering for POC to come together to share their experiences and explore their identities. Each meeting focuses on a different topic as determined by the group. PJC. FREE.
- 6:30-8:30pm, Building Empathy & Addressing Racial Oppression. This program gives participants the opportunity to build skills and knowledge to engage in undoing racism. The sessions focus on racism within self, community, and taking action. Sterling College, Craftsbury Commons. Registration required online at www.pjcvt.org. Also 10/23 and 10/30

October 17, Thursday
- 7-9pm, Labor, Social Justice and the Return of the Strike with Deepa Kumar. Professor of Media Studies at Rutgers University, Deepa Kumar is the recipient of the Dallas Smythe award for her engaged scholarship and the Georgina Smith award for her work on gender and race equity. She is recognized as a leading scholar on islamophobia and empire both nationally and internationally, and her book Islamophobia and the Politics of Empire has been translated into several languages. Will Miller Social Justice Lecture Series. UVM Davis Center, Sugar Maple room, Burlington

October 19, Saturday
- 10am-12pm, Champlain Valley Amnesty International meeting. Brownell Library, Essex Junction. Also 11/16 and 12/21.
- 10am-12pm, Will Miller Green Mountain Veterans for Peace, Chapter 57 Monthly meeting. Hunger Mountain Co-op, Montpelier. Also 11/16 and 12/21
- 2-3pm, Cocoa Campaign 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 that fit within the comfort zone of each participant. People are encouraged to stay after to participate in a PJC New Volunteer Orientation. FREE.
- 3-3:30pm, New Volunteer Orientation. PJC

October 20, Sunday
- 4-5:30pm, PJC Community Meeting. Hear about and discuss our commitments to liberation and our changing leadership. See page 2.

October 21, Monday
- 5:30-6:30pm, Toxic Whiteness Discussion Group. 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 11/18 and 12/16.

October 23, Wednesday
- 6:30-8:30pm, Coalition for a Livable City meeting. PJC. Also 11/27
October 26, Saturday
- 7:30-9:30pm, Emma’s Revolution Concert. First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington.

November 11, Monday
- Veterans for Peace Armistice Day Event

November 16, Saturday
- 2-3pm, Seeing & Disrupting Racism: A Focus on White Fragility. Peace & Justice Center. This program was developed for predominantly white audiences because efforts to end racism do not fall solely on those oppressed. In it the group will explore what racism is and why it is often difficult for white communities (and individuals) to see it. It will include going through the concept of white fragility and specific ways to disrupt racism. People are encouraged to stay after to participate in a PJC New Volunteer Orientation. PJC. FREE.
- 3-3:30pm, New Volunteer Orientation. Learn how to be part of our community through volunteerism. PJC. FREE.

December 3, Tuesday
- GivingTuesday is a global day of giving fueled by the power of social media and collaboration.

PJC Wish List
- Bluetooth Speakers
- Couch and Loveseat

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!

The Hate You Give by Angie Thomas

Book Reflection by Odessa Clemmons-Sparks, PJC volunteer & Burlington High School student

While reading The Hate You Give I felt a deep sense of anger and irritation by what was happening in the book. Everything that they were talking about is prevalent in my daily life. This book brings up the real world issues and shows a different side then you see in the media. In media people are quick to call people of color “Terrorists” or “Gang members.” This book shows the anger and hurt his family and friends experience after his murder. Angie Thomas connects you to Khalil in a way that you felt like you knew him; -- where you felt like you knew his life and you wanted to support him. When he got shot, Angie Thomas made sure that it felt like Khalil was your friend who got shot and discriminated against. It felt like it was your friend who was yet another victim of police brutality. It felt like Kahlil had just looked you in the eyes to ask if you were ok and gotten shot right in front of you. Angie Thomas brought to light issues of police brutality, violence, and racism together in a fully packed book which will make you feel like you need to stand up and do something; that prayers aren’t what is needed. Because what we really need is change.

Emma’s Revolution Benefit Concert for Migrant Justice/Justica Migrante Vermont Interfaith Action Gun Sense Vermont

Oct. 26, Saturday, 7:30pm
1st UU Society of Burlington
$22 advance/$28 door
tickets: emmasrevolution.com or at the Peace & Justice Store.
The Peace & Justice Center

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