PJC Theory of Change

By PJC Staff (Alex, Amy, Kina, Rachel, Wendy)

During our retreat last summer, we clarified our Theory of Change. We thought you, whether you who have been connected to our work for decades and or are newer to the Center, would be interested to see how we articulate our work. Let us know if you have ideas or feedback about this Theory of Change. And join us as we change the world! Here it is:

Since society is an all-encompassing system, changing oppressive structures requires changing the culture itself. The premise of Peace & Justice Center’s work is that our political, social, and economic institutions were built on principles that favored some (male, white, typically abled, straight, cis-gendered, wealthy, militarily powerful) at the expense of others (women and gender nonconforming people, people of color, people with disabilities, LGBTQ2S persons, the 99%, the nonviolent). These dynamics are embedded in our culture’s DNA.

The impacts of violence and oppression are global. Militarism and capitalism fuel slavery, poverty, and the growing climate catastrophe. In order to effectively solve these issues, they must be addressed intersectionally.

The purpose of the PJC is to work on the interconnected issues of peace; human rights; and economic, social, and racial justice. The PJC is committed to raising awareness of these issues, redressing the harms of generational oppression, and equipping people with the tools to lead viable social change movements that include. Doing this work allows us to maintain our humanity morally, spiritually, and literally.

Our ultimate goal is to create a peaceful and just world. To achieve this, the PJC utilizes education, leadership development, and community-building to reach organizations, groups, activists, institutions, and the general public.

Education
We educate people through workshops, films, and other events; our Fair Trade Store; and our social media, quarterly paper newsletter, and bi-weekly e-news.

Leadership Development
We help build leaders through internship and volunteer opportunities available year-round for people of all ages and all backgrounds but emphasizing youth activist development.

Community Building
PJC offers memberships starting at $15 per year and free through volunteering. Our Allied Group program provides space, fiscal sponsorship, and other useful infrastructure to smaller or newer groups.

Change continued on page 3
You are invited to the
10th Annual Ed Everts
Peace & Social Justice
Activist Awards Celebration

Thursday, March 19, 2020
6-9pm at ECHO

Honoring
Wendy Coe, PJC founder
and
VT Coalition for Ethnic &
Social Equity in Schools

Featuring a chili dinner, cash bar, and silent auction!

Tickets available at pjct.org or in the store.
Vermont Coalition for Ethnic and Social Equity in Schools: 2020 Ed Everts Peace & Social Justice Award Winner

By Amanda Garces, VCESES founder/member

The Vermont Coalition for Ethnic and Social Equity in Schools is honored and grateful to be receiving the Ed Everts Social Justice Activist Award. We receive this honor on behalf of all the present and future coalition members and for those who built the work before us. Likewise, we write as one voice because this work and this honor belong to not one person but all coalition members.

In 2017, the coalition formed to become a vehicle to advance social equity in our state specifically through working with our schools. Our members are activists, educators, students, immigrants, parents who work every day to advance issues that impact us all. The issues that unite us and that our members engage in within their respective organizations and communities include LGBTQIA+, disability, immigrant, Indigenous, and Palestinian rights, and the Movement for Black Lives. Today we receive this award as a beautiful testament of the work we are building together.

In 1999, The Racial Harassment in Vermont Public Schools Report (aka “The Green Book”) found that racism in Vermont schools was pervasive. Multiple other reports have found that students of color, students with disabilities, and LGBTQQA+ students do not feel safe in many Vermont schools. In May 2019, we celebrated the passage of Act 1, The Ethnic Studies and Social Equity Working Group Law. A 20-member committee has come together to recommend new standards and policies in Pre-K through 12th grade. The coalition appointed 11 out of the 20 members comprised of people who represent marginalized and excluded communities. They will be leading this transformative work.

Act 1 will be another vehicle for VT communities to come together and be part of this process. The Coalition will continue to work to advance this social equity for all marginalized peoples and ensure that our work continues to build upon the hard work of our elders and ancestors.


To be part of this work contact us via our website: http://ethnicstudiesvt.org/

Do you like this Newsletter?

The PJC is trying to determine if this quarterly paper newsletter is a thing of the past. Should we stop publishing it?

If you think we should continue publishing this quarterly newsletter, or have any feedback regarding it, please let us know.

We gave a link to an online survey in the last issue and not a single person responded. Was this because we asked you to respond online? If you are someone who likes paper and doesn’t want to go online -- that is understandable.

You are welcome to write us a note and mail it to us. Or you can email rachel@pjcvt.org. Or go online https://tinyurl.com/PJCnewsletter-survey.

If we do not hear from anyone again, we might discontinue this publication.
PJC Facilitators

Sarah Wraight organizes with Rise Upper Valley and United Valley Interfaith Project. She brings nearly ten years of experience in social justice organizing, outreach, and scholarship, mostly focused around environmental justice. Sarah believes that anti-racism education is most powerful when it is grounded in sustained community dialogue. She is honored and excited to work with the PJC in facilitating conversations that are critical for the well-being of our communities.

Kason Hudman is a recent graduate from the University of Vermont, having received his Master’s degree in History in May 2019. Originally from Utah, Kason has come to really love Burlington and the fantastic people of the Green Mountain State. He is looking forward to working with the Peace & Justice Center to achieve social and economic justice for all people! Kason also cofounded and organizes with BTV Clean Up Crew which works to clean up “neo-Nazi nonsense” and fundraiser for impacted communities. Find them on Facebook.

Winnie Looby

Why do I want to work with the PJC?
To listen
To learn
To share
To create
To join a community of others who care about social justice.

For many years, I have admired all that the Center has accomplished. I am very fortunate that my current work in the field of education allows me to be a lifelong learner, and I am eager to contribute my skills to the work of the PJC.

PJC Program Facilitation Structure

Over the years, we have clarified the facilitation process for our Educational Programs -- especially for the Racial Justice Program but our Nonviolence and Fair Trade Workshops as well. We have done this in large part to mitigate the emotional and spiritual exhaustion that this work can cause for the people of color leading the programs.

Here is some information on the facilitation structure we use for most of the PJC Racial Justice programs.

Lead Facilitators: This is generally a team of two people, a person of color (POC) and a white person, who plan the agenda together and lead the programs. We use a multiracial team because POC lead our efforts but we need white people to model to other white people their process in anti-racism work. These are paid positions including prep and planning and is not in charge of leading discussions or activities. The role is to be present and speak up if there are points that aren't being heard by participants or if there's another way to explain something. The Support Facilitator Person of Color checks in with the Facilitator of Color at the end of a program. If they would like time to debrief or just be together, this can happen as one hour of paid time. They are not expected to report back the content of their discussion although it is certainly welcome. This is a paid position starting at $15/hour.

White Facilitator Support Person: This is someone who is not necessarily introduced to the participants but might act as a plant in the group. It is someone well-versed in racial justice and wants to practice interrupting racism. Their role is to speak up as needed if the white folks in the group are not absorbing what is being said by the facilitators. They also serve as eyes and ears in larger audiences to offer insights to the facilitators during breaks or after the workshop. This is an unpaid position.

PJC Staff: Staff are responsible to set up programs and do the promotion and administrative planning. Staff register participants and communicate with them leading up to the program. During the program, staff is available to facilitators to debrief situations, provide materials, and deal with logistics.

This is an iterative structure that we seek to improve. We are open to suggestions that will help us continue to center the people most impacted by oppression. Most of that feedback comes from our facilitators and our Racial Justice Advisory Committee but if you have things to share, please contact program@pjcvt.org.

And if you want to learn more about the programs we offer, please see https://www.pjcvt.org/educational-programs/
Wendy Coe: 2020 Ed Everts Peace & Social Justice Award Winner

By Rachel Siegel

Wendy’s longevity at the Peace & Justice Center enabled the organization to successfully weather and navigate the many changes in programmatic focus and new initiatives that were developed, staffing changes, 12 executive directors, changes to the structure of the Board of Directors, funding that came and went, three physical locations, and dozens of buses to national demos in DC, NYC, and Boston. At a time in history where people tend to change jobs a lot, we tend to forget what came before and not to learn from our history. There is value to have some employees who stay for the long-haul. Wendy Coe was just such a steady force over the life of the PJC. Thank you for your decades of love and service Wendy! You’ve been our glue.

When I came to work here six and half years ago, there had been no director for almost three years. Prior to that, the organization had considered shutting down after the recession left us with far fewer financial resources to keep up. The fact that the organization survived the recession and the lack of directorship was in large part due to Wendy’s abilities and commitment. Wendy was, and continues to be, my go-to for many things. She takes responsibility for countless things beyond her bookkeeping and administrative responsibility. Her labor is sometimes unnoticed until she goes on vacation and we find ourselves needing to change the toner in the copier, bring the compost home, wash the dishes, and fill the water jugs at City Market. Having no kitchen on site makes for a lot of schlepping! But having a Wendy on site means most of us can carry on, barely noticing what she’s doing to keep us operational.

Wendy has had to modernize as technology developed. The newsletter started as articles typed on mimeographed sheets with handwritten headlines. Then, when computers became more common, it was done on DOS. Wendy started coding the articles for the graphic designers, Quad Left, who donated their services and expertise to support the work of the PJC. After Quad Left disbanded, Wendy learned PageMaker, in all its versions, and then InDesign to publish it herself. We continue to hear that the newsletter connects, inspires, and educates Vermonters today.

Likewise, we have moved through multiple data bases and point of sales systems, internet servers, phone companies, and website iterations. Wendy has been central to all these migrations and modernizations.

One of the things the PJC has done for Vermont is to be the fiscal sponsor to over 100 affiliated groups working on projects related to our mission and values. These include Clemmons Family Farm, Vets for Peace, Pride Vermont, Big Heavy World, Save James Bay Vermont, Burlington Livable Wage Coalition, Abenaki Support Work, Native Forest Network, Vermonters for Justice in Palestine, and Women’s March Vermont. It is not often recognized how much there is to do for these groups: bookkeeping, a spreadsheet of donors, paying bills, making reports, and even helping a few get their own 501c3 status. Wendy has done all of this for decades.

For 41 years, Wendy has been doing the work to keep the PJC strong and vital. Her behind-the-scenes labor is often overlooked and taken for granted. But I haven’t taken her for granted. She’s helped many who have a vision of a more just and peaceful world take the steps to actualize their visions. For this we should all be grateful.

Wendy is receiving the PJC activist award this March for her long and devoted service to the Center and to the cause of peace and justice. I hope you can join us at the celebration on March 19. See page 2.
Wendy Coe: the Early Years with PJC (1979-1985)

By Robin Lloyd

Wendy and I are considered (by us) to be the founders of the Burlington Peace Coalition (now the PJC). On January 28, 1979 a gathering of peace activists met. This led to a commitment to form an organization. I wasn’t there at that birth moment; Wendy and I didn’t really connect until the next fall after Wendy returned from cooking at Rowe Camp all summer. At the first meeting in September, Wendy remembers me turning up with my son Jesse in a stroller. From then on, we formed a kind of partnership that became a catalyst for many things.

Wendy is receiving the PJC award this March for her long and devoted service to the Center and to the cause of peace. Because Wendy’s work is mostly behind the scenes, I realize readers may not know of her background and activism.

Wendy was raised in rural Connecticut. Her major connection to the larger world started during high school when she participated in the Unitarian Universalist youth group. At 16, she was treasurer of all the UU youth groups in New England. She learned then not only how to handle money but how to cook for large numbers of people. “I learned I had organizing skills.” Those skills were later transferred to her work at PJC.

She came to Burlington in 1971 to study Clothing, Textiles, and Design at UVM. Upon graduating, she rented a tiny apartment on North Winooski Ave and set up business as a seamstress. She joined the nearby Burlington UU and used their big tables to cut out her sewing patterns. The UU became her touchstone for learning about the world. “I would open the mail as a volunteer and one of the things that came in was a newsletter from the Planetary Citizens organization. I loved the term Planetary Citizen. It reflected the unity of humankind and the threat that nuclear weapons posed to people everywhere. I would write little articles for the UU newsletter on the theme, ‘Dear Planetary Citizens: Nuclear weapons can destroy the whole planet.’”

She joined the UU’s social justice committee. “Three women – Julie Lepeshkin, Helen King, and Nancy Farrell – were my guardian angels there. They urged me to go to the January 28th meeting at St Paul’s Cathedral to listen to the speaker from Mobilization for Survival. There were people there from various faith communities. Some, including Dave Conrad, Howard Stearns, and Dan Hendley, said we needed to create a group that works on the issues of nuclear weapons.” So we did.

In those early days, we communicated with people through the Burlington Peace Coalition (BPC) newsletter. The early issues of the BPC newsletter were simple mimeographed sheets with handwritten headlines. Wendy arranged for it to be printed and mailed to the hundreds of people who had joined in the local movement against nuclear energy and the nuclear arms race. When civil disobedience at Vermont Yankee nuclear plant began in the fall of 1979, a note in the newsletter stated, “Our ranks were somewhat depleted by members in jail on the Vernon antinuclear issue. Wendy Coe for one has not yet been released. Speak truth to power, Wendy!”

Two major events stand out in Wendy’s memory of the first few years of the BPC. As Reagan was elected President, and Bernie Sanders Mayor of Burlington, both the military budget and grassroots activism escalated. Reagan believed that nuclear war was winnable and proceeded to initiate a new arms race. People around the world rebelled, rising up in massive demonstrations. Wendy was in charge of booking and selling seats on the buses going to NYC for the huge disarmament rally and march in NYC on June 12, 1982, where a million people gathered. The BPC sent 6 buses and 6 vans; over 2,000 Vermonters went. She organized it out of her apartment.

The rally marked the convening of the United Nations Second Special Session on Disarmament. Bread and Puppet Theater (B&P) had been chosen by the planning committee to be at the front of the march but Vermont’s contingent was set to be at the back with the rest of New England. When Wendy learned that, she insisted that the Vermont contingent should follow right behind Bread and Puppet because otherwise families would be split up. Wendy explained to the parade organizer, Leslie Cagan, “Some family members will be taking part in the B&P parade, others will be in the Vermont contingent: they need to be together. Many of our people have never been to the big city or taken a subway before. They need to feel safe.” Wendy’s argument prevailed.

Vermonters looked fabulous following the long procession of huge puppets and sculptural images created by B&P Director Peter Schumann and his company. We carried a sea of green and white posters documenting the 177 Vermont cities and towns that had passed a nuclear freeze resolution. “Even the Village Voice knew something was going on,” Wendy said. A reporter travelling with us labeled Wendy the Ultimate Contact Person. “It was my 15 minutes of fame.”

Wendy then flew to England to take part in the Campaign for Nuclear Dis-
armament rally in London in the fall of 1983. Europe was ablaze with anti-nuclear activity sparked by the placement of US Cruise and Pershing nuclear missiles in Europe to counter Soviet SS-20 missiles. Gene Bergman, her partner and soon-to-be husband, drove her to Montpelier where she met other activists and B&P puppeteers to drive to Boston’s Logan Airport.

In London, Peter Schumann choreographed a five-night performance of his Insurrection Oratorio, an orchestral piece performed by people seated on the floor in a semicircle rattling and playing weird homemade instruments. When Peter pointed at us, I would splash water in a plastic dishpan. At the massive demonstration itself we got organized at 7am in a small park and trained 500 volunteers streaming in by tube and bus. That day, millions of people marched worldwide to end the nuclear madness.

So many events, good and bad happened in those first six years. Wendy was an essential organizing force throughout. Three Mile Island nuclear plant suffered a partial meltdown; the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan causing the US Senate to refuse to ratify the SALT Treaty, which limited nuclear weapons in the US and the Soviet Union; we travelled to Plattsburgh to protest the nuclear weapons stationed there; and we hosted the impassioned speaker Dr. Helen Caldicott who struck fear in our hearts by drawing the connections between nuclear power and weapons, and forcing us to visualize the impact of a 20 megaton nuclear bomb exploding in our neighborhood.” We joined national mobilization for Survival and held a Survival Summer teach in. We published the Vermont Peace Reader.

Amazingly, we had success at raising the money we needed to keep organizing. We put out baskets and sold buttons at every event to raise money. We organized several weekend long conferences and sold slices of cake on Church St. as part of the First National Let Them Eat Cake sale in protest of “half-baked Reaganomics that punish the poor.” This meant that we “had to do this whole bookkeeping thing,” according to Wendy. In 1982, the BPC/PJC became a 501(c)3 non-profit.

We also began to believe that we could do more. We travelled to Albany, NY to find out how they structured their Social Action Center. It became our model. In November and December of 1983, Abby Yasgur and I set up a holiday ‘pop up store’ in the gas station where Ben and Jerry’s got their start, on the corner of St Paul and College Streets in Burlington. With the $4,000 we raised, we opened a modest Peace & Justice Center on the second floor at 186 College St.

And in 1985, we were shocked and delighted to receive an inheritance of $10,000 from Paul Laub. “Finally, we had the money. Starting then, I got a regular salary,” Wendy recalls. She set up the database on a donated computer and she has kept track of everyone’s donations for over 40 years. I suspect that it’s been thousands of people.

Many struggles lay ahead – working with the Cree people to resist the expansion of Hydro-Quebec; the Livable Wage Campaign; the Racial Justice & Equity Project and two more moves until we landed at 60 Lake Street.

Wendy’s been here for all of it.

Wendy Coe: the Middle Years with PJC (1990-2002)

By Ellen Kahler

By the time I became the Director of the PJC in June, 1990 Wendy was more focused on being a mom (to Elijah, born 1987 and Woody, 1992) and a behind the scenes work-horse for the organization, and less on being an out-front activist.

I think it is fair to say that every non-profit organization needs a Wendy Coe to be an effective organization. She was always hardworking, dedicated, loyal, willing to do whatever needed to be done, consistent, and very detail oriented. She always exhibited a great deal of love and care for the organization and served as our historian – keeping the records of all our activities, campaigns, and initiatives.

It was a well known fact that the PJC had the cleanest, most up-to-date non-profit mailing list in town (perhaps even in the state) despite the state of computers in those days. Wendy was meticulous in keeping the list up to date and accurate.

Wendy also made sure that our newsletter got out, on time, every month. She worked with an ever-changing small committee of volunteers to develop the story ideas, reached out to solicit articles, did all the layout inhouse, and managed a wonderful group of RSVP volunteers to get the mailing assembled and to the post office.

As the treasurer and bookkeeper for the organization, Wendy had to manage quite a variety of tasks including weekly check writing, monthly financial records and bank statement reconciliations, financial reports for grants, all the human resource issues related to Department of Labor reporting, and health insurance sign-ups, both annually and when a new employee was brought on board. And during these middle years, the organization grew from 2.5 staff to 11. So there was quite a lot to manage!

I could always count on Wendy to do what needed to be done, to express her opinions (even when I did not necessarily want to hear them :-)) and to be that steadying force as the organization continued to grow and change.
Thank you and Goodbye from Wendy

By Wendy Coe, founder and outgoing Operations Manager

I want you all to know how much joy and gratitude I feel towards the people and work of this organization. I am so proud of what we’ve done for individuals, for our communities and state, and that it is recorded in our newsletter, which I produced for 41 years (thank you my friend Ed Everts for proofreading it for 25 of those years). Wow!

I truly have put my heart and soul into this organization because I love it and what it stands for and what it does. I’ve tried to be useful and if our survival is any indication, then I think I have been. The PJC is in a really good place now and this is a good time for me to go.

Working for this little but significant grassroots non-profit has had its benefits. It was amazing meeting Odetta at the store where she did a CD signing before her concert at the Flynn. All that cooking for the UU when I was a teenager really came in handy when I got to cook for Pete Seeger when he did his 1981 benefit for us and other local groups and for the People’s Institute anti-racism trainings. And what a joy it was to provide Dr. Helen Caldicott with a proper cup of tea and a bed to lie down upon before her talk at UVM!!

There are so many people I want to thank. I never realized that my work- ing for the PJC would last for so many years and that I would meet and create friendships with so many people and learn so much from them. Thank you to the thousands of members, activists and volunteers, who kept and still keep the organization going forward. I’ve worked with dozens of people and I especially want to call out store managers Deborah Packard, Alice Christian, Kate Bouton, Jennifer Reay, Carmen Solari, and Gaby Ochoa Brenneman, and program staffers Emma Mulvaney-Stanak, Colin Robinson, Jen Berger, Kimberly Ead, and Kyle Silliman-Smith. It was so fun to have worked with now State Auditor Doug Hoffer without whom Vermont would not have so mainstreamed the concept of Livable Wages. Thank you all for your friendship and my education.

As I’ve gotten older I’ve enjoyed working with younger people. This is especially true for working with our current staff, Amy Crosswhite, Kina Thorpe, and Aris Garcia. They all have been so much fun to work with.

Finally, on this thank you list I want to thank the creative directors of the PJC – Marc Estrin, Jean Pineo, Bob Fisher, Dave Jonah, Greg Guma, Ellen Kahler, Chris Meehan, Serena Chaudhry, Nancy Lynch, and Rachel Siegel. They provided the vision to keep the PJC moving forward through arms races and interventions, economic and racial crises, and so much more. I also want to thank John Tucker who taught me so much about the fight against white supremacy. He would be so happy and proud of the current direction of the PJC.

I am looking forward to retirement though I will be hard pressed to replace the variety and spice of the PJC. Luckily our first grandchild is due to arrive any day and there are so many places to go and people to see. There are still uses for my organizing skills, especially as the main site leader for Burlington’s largest community garden, the Tommy Thompson Community Garden in the Intervale where Gene and I have grown our vegetables for 34 years. And if you bring in your old calendars – I will turn them into origami boxes for the P&J Store.

So again, goodbye and thank you for this wonderfully long run.

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!

Newly organized VT/NH Chapter of Jewish Voice for Peace!

JVP members are serious about making change. We work with diverse communities in Vermont, New Hampshire, and across the US to achieve a lasting peace for Palestinians and Israelis based on equality, human rights, and freedom for all. To learn more about our local work or get involved please contact eliz-blum@gmail.com. To learn more about JVP’s national work, see https://jewishvoiceforpeace.org/. We look forward to hearing from you!
Stop Collaboration Between Police and Immigration Authorities

By Betsy McGavisk and Ashley Smith, PJC & Community Voices for Immigrant Rights members

A powerful policing apparatus threatens the rights, livelihood, and safety of undocumented immigrants in our state. The combined forces of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and local police and sheriffs collaborate in their arrest, detention, and deportation.

Police and immigration authorities do so despite the state’s Fair and Impartial Policing Policy, which was intended to end such collaboration. But the policy contains loopholes that allow it to continue, putting immigrants in jeopardy.

For example, in November, a Chittenden County Sheriff detained an undocumented farmworker, Luis “Chiri” Ulloa, whose crime was being in the backseat of a car pulled over for speeding. By using the routine stop to ask for immigration documents, the Sheriff was able to hand Chiri over to border patrol, who sent him off to a prison in New Hampshire where he is being processed for deportation.

Activists in the farmworker organization, Migrant Justice, argue that in asking for Chiri’s immigration status, the officer violated the Fair and Impartial Policing Policy. But the Sheriff’s department denies that, claiming that requesting immigration papers is allowed under the current policy.

Clearly the confusion about the state’s policy that allowed this outrageous violation of Chiri’s rights must be ended. The attorney general, T.J. Donovan, has stated that the state’s policy is a floor, not a ceiling, and local governments can adopt stronger versions of the policy in order to close the loopholes that allowed for Chiri’s detention and pending deportation.

That is why activists in Migrant Justice and Community Voices for Immigrant Rights (CVIR) have come together in a campaign called No Mas Polimigra BTV (which in Spanish means “no more police-immigration collaboration”). We are demanding that the Burlington City Council pass a resolution that would tighten Burlington’s Fair and Impartial Policing Policy and prevent any and all collusion between the Burlington Police Department (BPD), ICE, and CBP.

We are working so out of the conviction that no human being is illegal and, as Senator Patrick Leahy said recently, “show me your papers’ are words that you should never hear once inside the United States.”

The city council resolution we are presenting is modeled on Winooski’s Fair and Impartial Policing Policy, which was drafted by Migrant Justice and the ACLU of Vermont. Winooski’s improved policy was passed unanimously by the Winooski City Council and ratified by the Attorney General. Similarly, our proposal for Burlington would close four loopholes that currently allow Burlington police to:

1. Report the immigration status of victims and witnesses of crimes to deportation agents.
2. Ask about a person’s immigration status on suspicion of having recently crossed the border.
3. Share confidential information with immigration agents on grounds of “public safety” or “law enforcement needs.”
4. Give deportation agents access to individuals in police custody, effectively turning local police stations into temporary holding cells for ICE and Border Patrol.

Closing these loopholes will end collaboration of the BPD and immigration authorities, protect the right of undocumented workers, and help prevent what was done to Chiri from being done to anyone else. It will also ensure that our local taxes are spent on programs that benefit our community rather than funding a federal program aimed to intimidate and control immigrants.

If we are successful in getting Burlington to adopt Winooski’s strengthened Fair and Impartial Policing Policy, we will set a precedent for other cities and towns to do the same throughout the state. We can then push for the state government to follow our lead and close the loopholes statewide.

Vermont can and should set an example for the whole country that we reject the anti-immigrant racism whipped up by President Trump and all the attacks on immigrant rights by his administration and those that preceded him. We can make Migrant Justice’s slogan, “Vermont Will Fight for Immigrant Rights,” a proven reality and model for the rest of the nation.

We all have a common interest in this struggle, because, as the old union slogan taught us, “an injury to one is an injury to all.” Politicians and bosses use attacks on immigrants to slash wages and curtail rights for some to pit them against others in a race to the bottom.

The only response to such attacks is to unite and fight for equal rights for all. Join us in the struggle in Burlington and throughout the state to close the loopholes in the Fair and Impartial Policing Policy and defend immigrant workers.

Reach out to Burlington’s city councilors and mayor, encourage them to support our resolution, and join us for upcoming teach-ins and demonstrations in support of the campaign. To find out more, contact us at No-Mas-PolimigraBTV@googlegroups.com and also get involved in supporting Migrant Justice’s many campaigns to advance the rights of farmworkers and all immigrants in our state.

CVIR meets the second and fourth Mondays in Burlington. Join us!
CALENDAR

January 13 & 27, Mondays
5:30-7:30pm, Community Voices for Immigrant Rights. CVIR organizes long term, sustained efforts for immigration justice that center most impacted people. There are opportunities for new and seasoned organizers alike to get involved. Breakout groups include organizing around educational events, rapid response, local/national actions, and more. No matter your skill-set, introvert or extrovert, there is something for you to contribute! Arrive at 5:30 for food and conversation. We’ll begin promptly at 6pm. Free childcare provided. Food generously donated by the Vermont Worker Center’s People’s Kitchen, but cash donations are accepted. This location is accessible for people with disabilities. If you need accommodations or childcare, please email vermont@womensmarch.com. Every second and fourth Monday of the month. RAD, 241 N Winooski Ave, Burlington. Also Feb. 10 & 24 and March 9 & 23.

January 13, Monday
6-7:30pm Vermonters for Justice in Palestine (VTJP) monthly meeting. PJC. Also Feb. 10 and March 9.

January 15, 22, & 29, Wednesdays
6:30-8:30pm, Talking with Kids About Racism. The Schoolhouse, South Burlington. This workshop is designed for all who are concerned about the impact of racism and/or white privilege on our children. Talking about race and racism can be difficult -- especially with children. But that does not mean we shouldn’t have these conversations. This three-part program addresses the impact of racism on our children. It is designed to help white people discuss these issues with children in meaningful and age-appropriate ways. It includes resources, discussion, and role playing. This is free for anyone under 25, fees vary for others, and no one will be turned away for lack of funds. Sign-up online or call 863-2345 x9.

January 19, Sunday
3pm, The Greater Burlington Multi-Cultural Center’s Annual MLK speaker: Mayor Steven Reed, the first African American mayor to be elected in Montgomery, Alabama. 1st UU Society, Burlington. Free but tickets are needed. Tickets available at the PJC. https://gbmrc.org/mlk2020/

January 20, Monday
3pm The Greater Burlington Multi-Cultural Center’s Civil Rights Panel. ECHO Leahy Center. https://gbmrc.org/mlk2020/

January 25, Saturday
2-3pm, Fair Trade Labels. PJC. This presentation breaks down the differences between FT Certifications, FT Membership Organizations, and Direct Trade to help us better understand the Fair Trade Movement. Free. People are encouraged to arrive at 1:30pm to participate in a PJC New Volunteer Orientation.

January 31, Friday
6-8pm, January POC in VT Affinity Group. PJC. This is a monthly gathering for POC to come together to share their experiences and explore their identities. Free. Also Feb. 27 and March 26.

February 13, Thursday
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 March 12.

February 29, Saturday
2-3pm, Fair Trade vs Free Trade – Citizens United. PJC.

March 8, Sunday
2-4pm, Seeing & Disrupting Racism: A Focus on White Fragility. PJC. 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.

March 19, Thursday
6-9pm The 10th Annual Ed Everts Peace & Social Justice Activist Award Celebration. Featuring a chili dinner, cash bar, and silent auction! Tickets available at pjcvt.org or in the store. ECHO. Tickets at PJC. See page 2.

March 28, Saturday
2-3pm, Fair Trade 101: Global Trade & Racism. PJC. The aim of this presentation is to give some 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 is an alternative trading system that ensures small producers Global South are given access to the global market, and provided with basic human rights. People are encouraged to arrive at 1:30pm to participate in a PJC New Volunteer Orientation.
1. How long have you been working at the Peace & Justice Center (PJC) store and what do you do there?

I started working at the store in April, 2019. I work at the Point of Sales counter. My primary responsibilities are interacting with customers and carrying out sales transactions. A key component of these transactions is to make customers aware of PJC’s mission and activities. I have a brief elevator speech to convey this information. These exchanges often lead to enjoyable and informative conversations with customers – both those who are familiar with, and possibly active in PJC, and those who are unfamiliar with it, but interested in its goals.

2. Why PJC?

I had visited the store some time ago, when it was on Church St., as a customer. The way in which it marries its mission with the store and its activities made a positive impression on me that stuck. I entered the A4TD (Associates for Training & Development) internship program, a federal training and placement service for retired people who want to re-enter the workforce. After completing an interview process, the agency matched my interests and job skills and experience with a variety of local organizations that needed interns. PJC was one of the organizations that seemed to be a good match.

As I mentioned earlier, I already had a positive impression of PJC as a past customer. Its mission was consistent with my values. I thought my experience and skills matched well with the intern’s duties. At the same time, I would be applying them to new situations. In addition, someone who had interned at PJC gave it a great recommendation.

The interview with the PJC staff went well. The staff was friendly and supportive. When they offered me the position, I gladly accepted.

3. How does your work at PJC relate to your prior work experience?

In the past I’ve done marketing research, personnel service, and sales. I recognize the importance of knowing your organization’s services and products, and interacting with customers in a manner which makes them feel comfortable and valued. I enjoy applying these skills to my internship.

4. How has working at PJC compared to your expectations?

It has exceeded my expectations. I truly enjoy working with the staff and volunteers. It is stimulating to work with people of various backgrounds and ages. Everyone is supportive of one another. The same is true for working with our clientele. I’ve learned a great deal from my conversations with them. Getting to know the stories behind our merchandise (mostly fair trade), and of the growers and crafts people who produce them, has been an unexpected bonus. Being able to attend programs for volunteers and the general public has been a surprise benefit. As a result, I’ve learned so much about other countries and cultures and much more about American history and culture, some of it troubling.

5. What one issue that PJC is working on is particularly important to you?

The PJC addresses Climate change at the intersection of racial and economic justice by doing Fair Trade Education. Climate change represents an existential threat to the world. It is a credit to PJC that I see how the most immediate threats of climate change will impact the poorest, most oppressed, and most vulnerable people of the world. They experience the worst effects and threats right now. Those most impacted it have no false sense of “we have time to debate and gradually solve these problems.” For instance, environmental racism is rampant and has for a very long time.

6. What is your favorite PJC store product?

Without any hesitation – Divine Chocolate. For two reasons. One, their chocolate is delicious – not good – delicious. Second, and more importantly, Divine products are fair trade items. The chocolate industry as a whole is among the most notorious industries for victimizing workers. Most chocolate is produced in two African countries: Ivory Coast and Ghana. The producers practice the worst labor practices, including child slavery. The working conditions are unhealthy and dangerous. Those who are paid receive pitiful wages. Less than 3% of the revenue goes to the farmers.

Divine is a workers’ cooperative in which the local growers themselves establish their working conditions and form relationships with customers regarding prices. Many of the collaborators are women working very hard to change the future narrative of their children’s lives. Our store has brief descriptions about its fair trade items, producers, and related commercial industries on display alongside most of its products.
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