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of Eastern Maine
Newsletter



Just say No -- NO, NO, and perhaps NO again

by Christina Diebold, editor

Two questions on Maine’s November 3 ballot, 1 and 4, cry out for loud no’s. Question 1 would repeal the state’s new law permitting same-sex couples to marry. If Maine does vote to uphold the equality in marriage law, it would be the first state in the nation to do so. Opponents of same-sex marriage are determined not to let that happen, and are throwing money and effort into the “people’s veto.” Fighting back are some very determined and dedicated organizers who have planned their strategy carefully – prepare, work hard, never let up. Ads have started to fly. Opponents of Question 1 talk about fairness; proponents of repealing the law talk about sinister changes and what dangerous things will be taught in the schools.

The second question that should be roundly rejected is No. 4, TABOR II, or the Taxpayers’ Bill of Rights. It sounds innocuous enough – let the people vote on raising taxes -- but as a former Republican legislator from Colorado (a state virally infected by TABOR) has pointed out, such elections are highly technical, usually attract few voters, and are expensive to mount. If TABOR is enacted during a recession, spending will never recover from its current low levels and we’ll stay in a recession, with devastating effects on government services.

Question 2 would reduce excise taxes on automobiles that are less than six years old. Billed as a tax reduction for citizens who follow certain energy efficiency requirements, this question seems regressive and would cause a headache for municipalities, which would probably have to cut services and/or raise property taxes, so it deserves to be defeated as well.

“Taxes” is a dirty word to the right wing. Progressives certainly don’t like paying taxes to fund wars of aggression, and the cost of such wars – as well as their similarities – is the topic of two articles in this issue by Vietnam veterans. On the other hand, paying taxes to fund universal health care, education, and environmental sustainability would be an investment, not a burden.



Walking for Real Security

by Will Whitham, Bangor High School senior

On September 12th, more than seventy-five activists came together at Davenport Park in Bangor for a Walk for Real Security, which was sponsored by local peace and justice groups, religious organizations, and other NGOs. By noon, the park brimmed with citizens young and old, some having traveled hours just to attend the event. Participants brought a variety of signs advocating progressive causes, ranging from health-care reform to withdrawal from Afghanistan. Doug Allen got things going with a rousing indictment of militarism, corporate greed, and horrific socioeconomic conditions, his voice rising to a climax as he denounced failed policies and applause grew louder and louder around him. He reminded us of the symbolic nature of our walk, as we would start at the Bangor Area Homeless Shelter and travel to Eastern Maine Medical Center to call for affordable housing and health care for all. Judd Esty-Kendall followed with songs, getting our group singing and leaving me to fumble awkwardly with a drum as I tried to accompany his guitar.

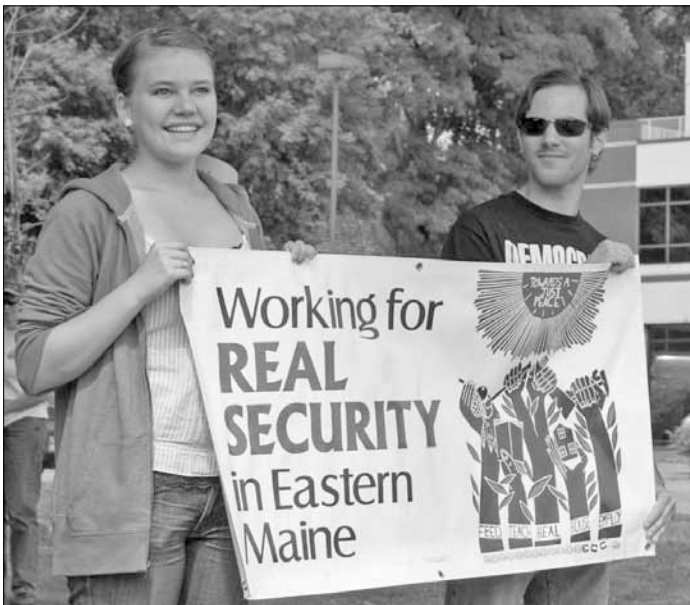


Photo by Tammy Olson

Sufficiently motivated, we then started our three-mile walk, with youth and Veterans for Peace leading the procession. We were received favorably by onlookers, with regular honks, thumbs-up, and few hecklers. Excellent percussionists kept the march moving smoothly and steadily, and we returned to Davenport Park having exercised both our legs and our First Amendment rights. Several speakers then urged us to continue the good fight, with Joel Brooks passionately advocating health-care reform, Jerry Call citing chilling insurance claim denial statistics, and Tom Battin roundly condemning TABOR II.

I left feeling great, although my spirits dropped when I saw a supposed counter demonstration of about twenty reactionaries jettisoning tea-bags into our poor, over-polluted Kenduskeag Stream. Nevertheless, our rally was a tremendous success, as we united young and old in principled protest for a new society built on cooperation, and a better world for all.



Afghanistan/Vietnam: déjà vu all over again

by Dud Hendrick, Veterans for Peace

Like many readers of the Newsletter, I heard Father Roy Bourgeois speak in Orono on September 10. As he spoke of his experience in Vietnam, I was reminded of my own transformation. I am not, of course, suggesting the trajectory of my life has been as spectacular as his. Far from it, but I have his example and others to benefit by, and I know that my abhorrence for the “military solution” was born in the same fields. As I came to the opinion that the lives lost in Vietnam were an unnecessary obscenity, I have despaired as our leaders have repeatedly violated a sacred responsibility they have to the people.

And now we wage war in Afghanistan. As in Vietnam, we are in a country where we are not wanted, fighting a war for reasons that remain elusive, though President Obama has insisted this “is a war of necessity.” We again have installed a puppet government that by all evidence is illegitimate and corrupt. This time around we are not even certain who the enemy is. The Taliban? Al Qaeda? Anand Gopal of the Christian Science Monitor reports that the insurgent movement is a *mélange* comprised of “competing commanders with different ideologies” but one common objective—“kicking out the foreigners.”

Not unlike the reported prospects of victory in Vietnam, the picture in Afghanistan seems ever less promising. Casualties mount, yet the administration seems dedicated to committing more troops and more treasure. The U.S. Army Marine Corps Counterinsurgency Field Manual, co-authored by General David Petraeus, whom we know to be this war’s William Westmoreland, recommends “a minimum of 20 counterinsurgents per 1,000 residents necessary to control the countryside.” Might we expect the number of American troops committed to grow from 68,000 (number projected by December) to 660,000 (based on a population of 33 million)?

There is at least one other parallel. We may be staying the course simply because we don’t know how to leave and that doing so would be embarrassing.

This war requires the push-back we saw in the '70s. We must take to the streets.

Resources:

1. *Afghanistan: Ending a Failed Military Strategy, Peaceful Tomorrows*
2. *Afghanistan by the Numbers: Measuring a War Gone to Hell*, Tom Engelhardt
3. *Time to Get Out of Afghanistan*, George Will, The Washington Post
4. *Reliving the Past*, Bob Herbert, New York Times
5. *Futility is Something of a Habit in Afghanistan*, Steve Chapman, Chicago Tribune
6. *The Cost of War in Afghanistan*, American Friends Service Committee
7. *Obama's Meaningless War*, Robert Sheer, Truthdig.com
8. *Afghanistan for Dummies*, Ray McGovern, Information Clearing House
9. *The Looming Political War Over Afghanistan*, Glenn Greenwald, Salon.com



Vietnamistan

by Al Larson, Jim Harney Chapter of Veterans for Peace

Thirty-nine years ago I left Da Nang in Vietnam and thought that the quagmire that marked that period in our history would soon be over. It took another five years for us to finally get out of there. Now we are embroiled in another debacle, spilling more blood in another unwinnable war in the Middle East, and there appears to be no end in sight. Again, in Afghanistan, the U.S. is supporting an unpopular, corrupt government. Outside of Kabul, Hamid Karzai's ineffective administration is either ignored or feared. The recent election is rife with charges of voter fraud from all sides. Did we not learn anything from Saigon?

Our troops are once again facing a culture they don't understand, a language they can't speak, and customs unlike those familiar to them back home. We can't win the "hearts and minds" of Afghans by bombing their homes and killing innocent civilians any more than we could in Vietnam by moving whole villages into resettlement areas with no means of self-sustainment.

The Afghan army is ill equipped to deal with the missions it is given. The ARVN forces were also unable to deal with the guerrilla tactics of the Viet Cong and later the NVA. Our military trained them for years as we are training the Afghan forces. They, too, appear to be less than capable of resisting Taliban offenses. The weaponry is also similar.

Our troops have the latest in high-tech gadgets designed to kill very effectively, but they are wounded or killed by comparatively simplistic IEDs or human-detonated explosives. We fight no enemy navy or air force.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates says that the fighting is intensifying but that with additional troops and more money and time we will be able to turn things around. His counterpart, Robert McNamara, said the same thing forty years ago.

The similarities between Vietnam and Afghanistan are becoming all too real. Congress should cut the funding for this quagmire before it drags on any further.

Bus trip to Boston for anti-war rally

Please join CODEPINK, Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine, Peace Action Maine, Peaceworks, Maine Green Independent Party, Waterville Area Bridges for Peace & Justice on **October 17 in Boston** for a large regional demonstration against the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. A bus will leave Bangor at 7 a.m., stop in Augusta and return to Bangor that evening at 8 p.m. To reserve a \$35 same-day bus seat, call 942-9343 or e-mail info@peacectr.org. Scholarship donations for those unable to afford the \$35 are welcome. Make checks payable to Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine. **For more information and to download flyers:** <http://oct17boston.org>.



Called to be peacemakers

by Mary Ellen Quinn, Pax Christi Maine

"Peacemaking is not an optional commitment. It is a requirement of our faith." *The Challenge of Peace - God's Promise and Our Response* (1983)

Do you come to peacemaking from a faith-based perspective? Do you have a connection with a faith tradition, a church, a synagogue, a mosque, a spiritual community? Do you participate in a social justice and peace committee?

In this time of great challenge and opportunity, it is important to forge strong, sustainable connections among people of faith. The enduring message within all faith traditions and spiritual paths is one of unconditional love, compassion and nonviolence with a focus on neighbor and a commitment to the common good.

The critical concerns that face our nation such as the economy, education, equality, unemployment, health care

and housing are not solely political issues -- they are social justice issues. They are issues of conscience.

Let's work together to create an even greater sense of connectedness by developing a contact list for every faith community so when social justice and peace actions are planned, invitations to participate will be extended to a broad range of people.

People of faith can be a visible presence for the cause of peace. Offering your name as a contact does not obligate you to attend any meetings! We will work through email/telephone trees to accomplish this goal. For information, contact Mary Ellen Quinn, Pax Christi Maine, 223-4992; mequinn@peoplepc.com.



A military draft is what we need to end apathy

by Adam Marletta, University of Maine graduate student

I would like to offer a modest proposal: President Barack Obama should reinstitute the military draft.

It is no secret our military forces have been stretched thin in the last eight years, with dual wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Now the Obama administration wants to escalate the dubious conflict in the latter region, and one has to assume our current strictly volunteer army will eventually reach its limit. So bring back the draft. Inform all able-bodied, relatively healthy 18-year-old Americans not currently enrolled in college they must show up for training and will deploy to Afghanistan (or Iraq). Actually, scratch the college part. Make them all fight.

OK, so I do not really support a reinstatement of the draft. However, I am hard-pressed to think of anything else that would motivate young, college-age Americans to demonstrate against these escalating wars of aggression. Where once the American university was Ground Zero for anti-war activism and progressive, youthful demonstrations, today's colleges are eerily silent. Indeed, many students I encounter express no opinion on such events outside their dorm rooms, or dismissively inform me they "hate politics."

What I find especially frustrating is that most of my friends and colleagues share my views on these issues. They, too, believe the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are immoral and misguided. Yet the majority of them do not act upon these anti-war sentiments. Many Americans now appear to be in "wait and see" mode, patiently sitting back and hoping President Obama and the Democratic

Congress will end the wars. This passive "wait and see" attitude stands in stark contrast to our parents' proactive, anti-establishment mentality when they were our age.

These illegal, unconstitutional wars will not end themselves. And while I want to place my progressive faith in President Obama, as so many of my peers have, thus far he has failed to truly deliver the real changes we need in this country. He needs a strong push—a push that can only come from us. It is this form of "intelligent discontent" that Socialist leader Eugene Debs called "the mainspring of civilization." "Progress," he famously noted, "is born of agitation. It is agitation or stagnation." Our nation has already suffered through eight years of the latter. We must seize this opportunity to commit ourselves fully to a more just America.



NO on 1 a tough, historic battle

by Christina Diebold, editor

Organizers and volunteers for the NO on 1 campaign are working really, really hard, as they have been for a long time. They are trying to make history. Maine made history last spring when, after a vigorous grass-roots effort, the Legislature passed a bill allowing same-sex couples to marry, and the governor signed it. If Maine ratifies the law at the ballot box this fall, it will make history again.

The effort to prevent repeal of that hard-won law faces formidable opponents: the Catholic diocese of Maine, the National Organization for Marriage, and the Schubert Flint PR firm, which spearheaded California's Proposition 8.

At a Community Conversation in Bangor on September 15, organizers outlined their strategy for overcoming these odds: an air war, with TV and radio ads aimed at swing voters; and a ground game, with relentless local organizing – phone banking and door-to-door canvassing. The campaign has 18 full-time organizers, and scores of volunteers.

Very few voters are still undecided about NO on 1, Darlene Huntress pointed out, and in an off-year election, turnout is likely to be low, so every vote really does count. She urged those who filled a room at the Hammond Street Congregational Church to vote early. The secretary of state's office publishes the names of early voters, so the campaign can cross off the names of supporters who have voted and concentrate resources on those who have not. "This is a red alert," Huntress said. "We are so close to winning, but we don't have big enough numbers to win – we need you all to step up and help us."

The NO on 1 office in this area is near the Winterport Boot Shop and the Twin Super Buffet restaurant in a shopping plaza in Brewer, opposite the Hannaford plaza. Door to door canvassing is conducted from there every Saturday, starting with training at 10 a.m. Phone banks operate there Sunday through Thursday.



Volunteers needed to protect equality

by John Crow

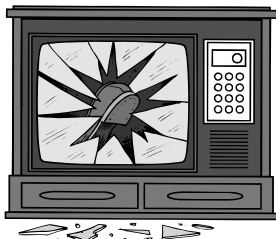
With less than 50 days until the election, NO on 1/Protect Maine Equality volunteers across the state are working hard to identify supporters to vote NO on Question 1 this November. Here in the Bangor area, the Brewer office of the NO on 1/Protect Maine Equality campaign is busy seven days a week, working to ensure that Maine's new marriage equality law is not repealed at the ballot box on November 3.

In order to win this November, the NO on 1 campaign needs everyone who knows how important it is to protect marriage for same-sex couples to volunteer at least once over the next two weeks. There are a variety of ways you can help protect marriage equality: identifying voters at door-to-door canvasses and voter identification phone banks, collecting pledges to "vote No in November" at community events, and data entry – there are even opportunities to volunteer from home. For more information about volunteer opportunities in the local NO on 1 office, contact Gabi or Aimee at 561-0614, Gabi@protectmaineequality.org or Aimee@protectmaineequality.org.

If we all work together, Maine will become the first state in the country to protect marriage equality at the ballot box this November.



The Peace and Justice Center is in need of a large screen TV.



Ours died. We use it to show our monthly film series, using DVDs. If you can help us, please call the Center at 942-9343.



Martin Swinger to perform at Harvest Supper

by Ilze Petersons, Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine

Martin Swinger will perform at the 20th annual Harvest Supper sponsored by the Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine on Saturday, October 3, at 6 p.m. at the Unitarian-Universalist Church, 120 Park Street in Bangor.

Martin Swinger puts 40 years of performing experience into award-winning original songs, traditional and contemporary music, swing and jazz standards.



Martin Swinger. musician and performer

Long-time Maine activist Larry Dansinger will be honored at the supper with a Hands of Peace Award. The first youth Hands of Peace will be awarded to Kira Pilot, who graduated last year from Bangor High School and was active with Veterans for Peace and other social justice organizations.

Speakers will be Carly Del Signore and Aaron Bell of Tidemill Farm. They will speak about their experience of organic farming as the eighth generation on the same farm in Washington County. The farmers were featured on a Martha Stewart Thanksgiving program in 2008.

The Harvest Supper is a vegetarian potluck held to celebrate the fruits of all the labors for peace and justice in the region and is a benefit for the Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine. Participants are invited to bring vegetarian dishes to share. The suggested donation for the supper is \$10 for individuals and \$15 for families. For more information, call 942-9343.



Carolyn Eisenberg to present Schonberger Lecture

Carolyn Eisenberg will speak on "Re-Creating Post-War Germany in Iraq: A Tale of Two Occupations" at 7:30 p.m. October 22 in 100 D. P. Corbett Hall at the University of Maine as part of the Howard B. Schonberger Peace and Social Justice Memorial Lecture Series.

A professor of history at Hofstra University, Eisenberg is also the author of *Drawing the Line: The American Decision to Divide Germany, 1944-49*, which has won numerous book awards. Eisenberg is a founding member of Historians Against the War, created in 2003 to rally historical opposition to the U.S. war in Iraq; she is also a co-chair of the Legislative Action Network of United for Peace and Justice. In her dual roles as historian and activist, Eisenberg has published widely in such magazines as *The Nation*, *Newsday* and *History News Network*, and she has appeared on National Public Radio, Fox News and WCBS. Eisenberg will also speak on "When Scholarship and Activism Collide: Nixon, Kissinger and the Question of Needless Wars" for the Socialist and Marxist Studies Series at 12:30 p.m. October 22 in the Bangor Room, Memorial Union, at the University.

Howard Schonberger taught the history of U.S. foreign policy at the University of Maine and was one of Maine's leading peace and justice scholar-activists for 20 years. In the 1980s he was a leader in BACASC (the Bangor Area Central America Solidarity Committee), which has since become PICA. After his death Howie's family and friends established the lecture fund that bears his name. In fact, Eisenberg met Howie in an archive in Washington while he was doing his research on the occupation of Japan and she on the occupation of Germany.

For more information, contact Beth McKillen at 581-1912 or Ann Schonberger at 581-1229.



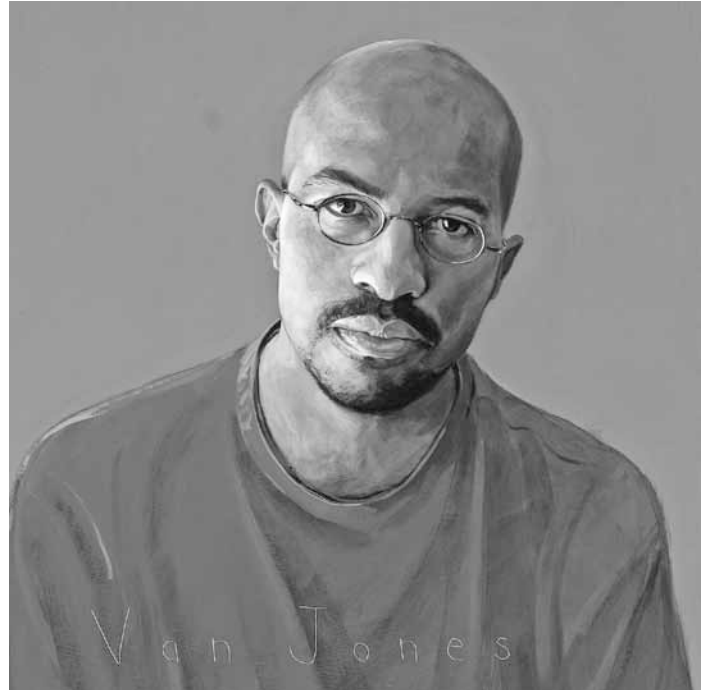
A lesson for progressives

by Robert Shetterly, Brooksville

"... the 20th century has been characterized by three developments of great political importance: The growth of democracy, the growth of corporate power, and the growth of corporate propaganda as a means of protecting corporate power against democracy."

Alex Carey, Australian social scientist

Liberals, Democrats, and progressives who have been supporting Obama should finally be convinced with the resignation of Van Jones, Obama's green jobs and innovation adviser, that Obama is not the person they helped elect. It should also be clear that the U.S. government as it is currently configured is not going to make changes that preserve democracy or the environmental viability of the Earth.



Portrait of Van Jones by Robert Shetterly

Van Jones is a visionary idealist and a practical economic planner. He's not an ideologue -- unless you consider compassion for the poor and wanting to have a sustainable Earth for our great grandchildren ideological. He takes on the world's most serious problems: poverty, environmental racism, energy depletion, war, and climate change. More importantly, he understands the relationship between those issues, and that they can be confronted in the most efficient and just manner if seen as one problem: Bring the manufacturers of green energy equipment into the poor and despairing ghettos where jobs are most needed, educate poor minorities to do these jobs, and construct the solar panels, windmills, and geothermal machinery that will be needed to power our future in a sustainable way.

He understands that the basis of our reality is not a constantly growing economy but living in harmony with nature. That reality, nature's, must be our highest priority. Then we build an economy to fit that reality.

What's surprising is how easily Jones was forced out. Almost as surprising as how the Obama people did nothing to defend or protect him.

The lesson here for progressives is the same lesson that Frederick Douglass and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Thoreau and Alice Paul, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Edward Abbey, Diane Wilson and Judy Bonds had to learn. It's all about courage and persistence. Our democracy is not preserved by voting. As Mother Jones said, "You don't need the vote to raise hell!"

Raise hell!



TABOR a looming disaster, Coloradan says

by Christina Diebold, editor

In a recession, libraries are more essential than ever – a source of books for those who can't afford to buy them, and access to the Internet for those who don't have any. "Today you can't look for a job unless you have Internet access," said Lisa Feldman, a library assistant at University College of Bangor.

Lisa was attending a forum on TABOR II organized by Citizens Unified for Maine's Future. If TABOR (Taxpayers' Bill of Rights) passes, she said, "Libraries will be devastated."

That and more has happened in Colorado, which passed a TABOR bill in 1992, according to Steve Johnson, a Republican state senator before becoming a county commissioner, who spoke at the meeting. When TABOR passed, no one expected what happened as a result. "Colorado is 49th in the nation on Medicaid spending," Johnson said. But people who lost Medicaid weren't miraculously cured of their health problems – in a cascade of events, they went to emergency rooms, hospitals in turn charged people who had insurance, and insurance companies passed on those costs in much higher premiums, which businesses could not afford to pay.

Because Colorado adopted TABOR by putting it into the state constitution, the Legislature was unable to repeal the bill. Instead, following an expensive statewide referendum in 2005, Colorado suspended TABOR for five years. Which means the state will have to deal with the issue all over again next year. Businesses hard hit by TABOR spent millions in support of suspending the law in 2005. "The business community wishes it had spent more to fight TABOR at first," Johnson said.

He urged Mainers not to repeat Colorado's mistake, pointing out that a recession, when spending already has been cut to the bone, is the worst time to adopt TABOR,

which will continue to ratchet spending down from that low point, crippling government services.

"Businesses want good government services, an educated workforce, a good infrastructure," Johnson said. "I've never heard businesses say they want low taxes – they want a state that invests in itself and the future."

Those interested in volunteering to fight TABOR, or who want more information, can contact organizers Tom Battin (NoTABORII@thomasbattin.net; 632-6064) or Jim Martin (martinh18@gmail.com, 671-9815).



Short bits

Why don't Buddhists vacuum in the corners?
Because they have no attachments.

A Zen student walks up to a hot dog vendor and says, "Make me one with everything."

The Emperor asked Master Gudo, "What happens to a man of enlightenment after death?"
"How should I know?" replied Gudo.
"Because you are a master," answered the Emperor.
"Yes sir," said Gudo, "but not a dead one."



PEACE & JUSTICE CENTER FILM SERIES

CAPITALISM HITS THE FAN
Sunday, October 25, 7 p.m.

This new film is a superb introduction, allowing citizens to comprehend and react to the current economic crisis. With breathtaking clarity, Richard Wolff breaks down the root causes of today's economic meltdown, shows how it was decades in the making and reflects failures within structures of American-style capitalism itself. Wolff argues convincingly that more fundamental change will be necessary than the current government bailouts, stimulus packages, and increased market regulations.

Discussion after program
Phone ahead for child care

notices

Pax Christi Maine Retreat: Awakening the Dreamer

Symposium to be held October 17-18 at the Living Water Spiritual Center in Winslow. The symposium takes a fresh approach to our most critical concerns – environmental sustainability, spiritual fulfillment, and social justice, challenging the dream of “progress” that dominates Western culture and tries to dominate the rest of the world, with devastating results. Through a mix of video clips, personal reflection and group interaction, participants will explore how we can all play a part in creating a better world. The workshop will be facilitated by Patricia Proulx-Lough, family therapist, and Alastair Lough, hydrogeologist. Both are leaders of the U.S. Transition movement. To register, send a deposit of \$25 plus registration form to Mary Ellen Quinn at memquinn@peoplepc.com, or 91 Baker Road, Winterport, ME 04496. Make checks out to Pax Christi Maine. The Saturday symposium is available separately. For information about costs and scholarships, contact Denise Dreher, laffmom@yahoo.com or 286-9747, or Bill Slavick at billslavick@myfairpoint.net or 773-6562.

Charlie Howard, 25 years Later: How Far Has Maine Come?

This display on the life and death of Charlie Howard, a young gay man who was murdered in downtown Bangor by three teenagers in 1984, was created by the Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine at the University of Southern Maine and examines how far Maine has come and how far it has to go in addressing anti-gay discrimination and violence. The display will be at Eastern Maine Community College Library in Bangor until the end of October.

Nonviolent communication to be offered

Peggy Smith of Lincolnville, the first person in Maine to be certified as a trainer with the Center for Nonviolent Communication (cnvc.org), will offer a Level 1 course in nonviolent communication at the Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine, beginning October 19. The course will run from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. on Monday evenings, concluding November 30. Kathy Schilmoeller of Orono will also teach the course. This course will also be taught this fall in Portland and Camden. More information can be found at: www.MaineNVCnetwork.org and www.opencommunication.org. Peggy can be reached at 789-5299.

Information on health care reform available

Health care and coverage reform is another hot topic, and the Maine Center for Economic Policy, 622-7381, www.mecep.org, has both a fact sheet on health care reform and a report, “National Health Reform: Lessons from Maine.”

Check out both of these for information. There’s also Midcoast Health Care Reform, which continues to promote a single-payer system and is urging rallies and vigils locally and statewide to counter the opposition to government-supported health care programs. Midcoast HCR, 596-7784 or info@midcoasthealthcarereform.org.

Library lowdown: Where have all the readers gone?

by Katie Greenman, library organizer

In These Times, when money is tight, it makes *Dollars & Sense* to take advantage of an incredible resource available to you at the Peace & Justice Center. *The Nation* depends on *Progressive* activists like you who are willing to take the extra steps it takes to get the *Hightower Lowdown* on all the *Crisis* issues we face on our *World Watch*.

Labor Notes your remembrance of *Mother Jones* and her struggle for justice. Many in the *Middle East Report* a continuing need for *Teaching Tolerance*. The North American Congress on Latin America (*nacla*) invites you to cross borders for understanding.

Thanks to the generosity of *Co-op(erative) America(ns)* supporting the P&J library with subscriptions to a wealth of periodicals providing in-depth coverage of the Center’s focus areas, you can arm-chair travel as the *New Internationalist* you always wanted to be, while keeping alive the *Washington Spectator* in you, here at home.

Next week, *Amnesty* will be granted to all those who have never once picked up a magazine from the shelves to enlighten the darkness peddled by sensational, sound-bite media IF you become *Defenders* of the library. How? Come early to the next P&J Event and find the *E* that’s waiting just for you. Then check out (or pick up) and read any of the italicized magazines in this article! And please spread the word. *Yes!* Together we can do it!

In memory, in honor

The Peace & Justice Center is grateful for donations received recently in memory and in honor of loved ones. Your generosity is acknowledged and appreciated.

In memory of Dorothy Day (1897-1980)

Harry & Louise Conroy, West Lebanon, NH

In memory of Victims of War

from the Bar Harbor Peace Vigil, Bar Harbor, ME

c a l e n d a r

October 1: "The Centenary of Gandhi's Most Important Book: Violence and Terrorism Today," Doug Allen, 12:30-1:45 p.m. Bangor Room, Memorial Union, University of Maine, Orono. FMI, 581-3861.

October 3: 20th annual Harvest Supper, 6 p.m. at the Unitarian-Universalist Church, 120 Park Street, Bangor. Long-time activist Larry Dansinger to be honored. Sponsored by the Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine, 941-9343

October 6: Eighth Anniversary of the Bangor peace vigil, 5 p.m. Join us across the street from the Federal Building on Harlow Street for cake and cider as we commemorate eight years of standing for peace and justice. For more information, call 942-9343

October 7: "Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai," film on Nobel Prize winner from Kenya with discussion by Patricia Sithole, 12:15-1:30 pm. Bangor Room, Memorial Union, University of Maine, Orono. FMI, 581-1228.

October 10: Vigil for Keep Space for Peace Week from 11:30 to 12:30 at Bath Iron Works. Meet in front of the Administration Building on Washington Street in Bath to say No to the production of Aegis cruise missile destroyers in Maine. FMI: Smilin' Trees Disarmament Farm at 763-4062.

October 14: "Embodied Domestics, Embodied Politics: Women, Home and Agoraphobia," Kirsten Jacobson, 12:15-1:30 pm. Bangor Room, Memorial Union, University of Maine, Orono. FMI, 581-1228.

October 15: "The Outcomes of Cold War Policy in Latin America," Stefano Tijerina, 12:30-1:45 p.m. Bangor Room, Memorial Union, University of Maine, Orono. FMI, 581-3861.

October 16: HOPE 2010 planning meeting, 4:30 p.m. at the Peace & Justice Center, 170 Park Street, Bangor. Join us to begin planning for next year's HOPE Festival. Call 942-9343 or e-mail info@peacectr.org if you will come to make it the best ever.

October 16: "The World According to Monsanto" to be shown at 7 p.m., Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine, 170 Park Street, Bangor, by Food for Maine's Future. Discussion to follow the film. FMI, contact Ryan Parker, 356-6577.

October 17: Bus to Boston rally to Stop the War in Afghanistan. Leave Bangor from the Peace & Justice Center at 7 a.m., return at 8 p.m. \$35 per person. Scholarships welcome.

October 17: "Awakening the Dreamer" symposium on environmental sustainability, spiritual fulfillment and social justice at Living Waters Spiritual Center in Winslow. Contact Mary Ellen Quinn, Pax Christi Maine at 223-4992 or memquinn@peoplepc.com

October 19 and continuing for five additional Mondays: "Growing Peace Within Me and the World" a Level 1 workshop in nonviolent communication hosted at the Peace & Justice Center, 170 Park Street, Bangor. Taught by Peggy Smith and Kathy Schilmoeller. FMI: Peggy, 789-5299 or www.MaineNVCnetwork.org or www.opencommunication.org.

October 21: "Sophronia Design: A Feminist Fashion Show and Discussion," Mallory Bruns, 12:15-1:30 pm. Bangor Room, Memorial Union, University of Maine, Orono. FMI, 581-1228.

October 22: "When Scholarship and Activism Collide: Nixon, Kissinger and the Question of Needless Wars,"

Carolyn Eisenberg, 12:30-1:45 p.m. Bangor Room, Memorial Union, University of Maine, Orono. FMI, 581-3861.

October 22: "Recreating Post-War Germany in Iraq: A Tale of Two Occupations," Carolyn Eisenberg, Howard Schonberger Peace and Social Justice Lecturer, 7:30 p.m. 100 D.P. Corbett, University of Maine, Orono. FMI, 581-3861.

October 24: Planning for the Center's Future, 1-5 p.m. at the Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine, 170 Park Street, Bangor. Call 942-9343 or email info@peacectr.org if you plan to come so we can send you background materials.

October 25: "Capitalism Hits the Fan -- Richard Wolff on the Economic Meltdown," film shown at 7 p.m. at the Peace & Justice Center, 170 Park Street, Bangor.

October 28: "The Upcoming Referendum on Marriage Equality: A Matter of Civil Rights," Victoria Blanchette, David Cox, Sue Estler, Amy Fried, 12:15-1:30 pm. Coe Room, Memorial Union, University of Maine, Orono. FMI, 581-1228.

October 29: "Overcoming Power Differences: The Obstacles to Effective Partnerships Between Universities and Communities," Linda Silka, interim director Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center, 12:30-1:45 p.m. Bangor Room, Memorial Union, University of Maine, Orono. FMI, 581-3861.

November 5: "Undoing the Imperial Presidency," author David Swanson, 12:30- 1:45 p.m. Bangor Room, Memorial Union, University of Maine, Orono. FMI, 581-3861 and 7:00 p.m. 170 Park Street, Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine..



Come help us plan the Center's future

Saturday, October 24th, 1:00 - 5:00 PM

**Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine
170 Park Street, Bangor**



Last year we put out the call to Save Our Center and you answered that call. You told us why the Center was important to you and offered to help. Now we need your input again to plan for the future of the Center.

The Steering Committee invites members to a meeting on October 24 from 1 to 5 p.m. to review the vision, mission

and structure of the Center and to set goals for the next three years and beyond. That's a tall order for a half-day meeting. So in order to facilitate the discussion, we will present recommendations from the Center's committees and then ask for your input. Please let us know if you plan to attend so that we can send you an agenda, background materials and proposals to consider ahead of time.

Call us at 942-9343 to let us know you plan to attend or email us at

info@peacectr.org.



Photo by Tammy Olson

Michael Lyng, right, came from Lee, Mass., for the September 12 Walk for Real Security. He had previously been with the Presque Isle peace vigil. With Michael is Steve DeMaio of Northern Maine Peace & Justice, which holds the Presque Isle vigils and co-sponsored the Walk.



Photo by Eric Olson

Chris Rusnov holds a sign that sums up her concerns at the Walk for Real Security. She represents Waterville Bridges for Peace, one of the co-sponsoring organizations.



Peace Vigils:

For additions & cancellations: cpdiebold@yahoo.com

Bangor: Tuesdays 5-5:30 p.m. Federal Building, Harlow St. Call the Peace and Justice Center at 942-9343.

Bar Harbor: Sundays on the Village Green; 1-2 p.m., a silent and respectful peace vigil; bring your own signs. For information, call Suzanne at 288-8037 or Dee at 288-4365.

Belfast: Sundays noon-1, High and Main Sts. Call 338-6365.

Blue Hill: Sundays, noon, Blue Hill Bridge. Call 326-4405.

Bucksport: Sundays at noon on the Bucksport/Vernona Bridge; meet at the traffic light on the Bucksport side; call 469-8972.

Deer Isle: Mondays 4-4:30, Route 15 across from Deer Isle Congregational Church. Call 326-4405 or 348-2511.

Ellsworth: Sundays at noon on the bridge in town; bring signs and songs. For information, call Martha at 667-5863.

Houlton: Fridays, noon-12:30, silent vigil at the Peace Pole in Monument Park. Call Marilyn, 532-3797.

Lincolnton Beach: Sundays at noon, Ducktrap Bridge. Call John, 230-2410.

Presque Isle: Sundays 12-1, Bridges for Peace on the Aroostook River Bridge.

Rockland: Sundays at noon, corner of Park and Main Sts. Call 273-3247.

Skowhegan: Sundays 12-1 at the Margaret Chase Smith Bridge.

Southwest Harbor: Saturdays 11 to noon, Pemetic School Green, Main Street. Westside Peace Group. Bring your own sign or use one from our collection. Kate, 244-3702.

Waterville: Sundays, noon-1 p.m, Messalonskee Bridge on Kennedy Memorial Drive (by CVS).



PEACE & JUSTICE CENTER *Newsletter*

is published 10 times a year by the **Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine**. Deadlines for News Items and Calendar items are the 15th of the preceding month. Contributions, comments, feedback, are encouraged.

Before submitting material please check with the editor for space availability, length of the article, and final deadline.

Opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the staff, board, committees or membership of the Peace & Justice Center.

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View this newsletter at www.peacectr.org

Mission Statement

...to support as well as link individuals and groups concerned with peace, social justice, and environmental issues. Center services promote cooperation, expand awareness, explore connections, and encourage community involvement in working toward a peaceful and just society. The Center also develops programs in response to those community concerns not being adequately addressed by existing social change organizations.

Peace & Justice Center
of Eastern Maine / ROSC
170 Park Street
Bangor, Maine 04401

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Newsletter



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Here's my donation.**

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Photo by Tammy Olson

**Antonia Carroll and Emma Moore, two students
from Bangor High School, who helped promote the
Walk for Real Security.**