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of Eastern Maine
Newsletter



Conversion is in the air this spring

by Christina Diebold, editor

“Separate but equal” – sound familiar? That phrase goes back to the last century when it was used to justify separate schools for children whose skin was darker than white. The Supreme Court decided otherwise, but it took decades of civil rights activism to make the point and change laws.

Now here we are again. Some opponents of same-sex marriage say marriage is for heterosexual couples only, and anything else is an “abomination” (to quote Leviticus). The more moderate opponents say civil “unions” are good enough for gays and lesbians, although such unions do not confer the multitude of legal benefits that marriage does, as Suzanne Brunner points out in an article in this issue. Not to mention the emotional benefits of being treated equally.

A bill to legalize same-sex marriage in Maine has been introduced in the Legislature, with a record 60 co-sponsors. To prevail, it must pass this spring. The bill is called “An Act to Prevent Discrimination in Civil Marriage and Affirm Religious Freedom.” It would allow gays and lesbians to marry in Maine, and it would affirm religious freedom by letting churches decide whether or not they want to celebrate same-sex weddings. Many would.

The issue is part of the overwhelming change engulfing the country. The old deregulated, free market capitalism has crashed in spectacular fashion, and a new system is needed. Global warming and volatile oil prices make a shift to alternative, green energy imperative. And the bloated defense budget needs to be trimmed in these times of huge needs and huge deficits.

Conversion is the name of the game. Mary Beth Sullivan is well aware of that – she lives in Bath, home of Bath Iron Works, major producer of Navy destroyers. As she points out in this Newsletter, defense contracts are grossly inefficient as job machines. Weatherization, mass transit, health care and education all provide much more bang for the buck in terms of jobs – and enrich society with long-lasting benefits. She suggests letting BIW turn out wind turbines instead.

Look inside for more about new directions, from cleaning up streams in Bangor to working for universal health care -- and for news about the HOPE Festival coming up April 25.



Legalizing same-sex marriage a justice issue

by Suzanne Brunner

Editor's Note: A bill to legalize same-sex marriage in Maine has been introduced in the Legislature by Senator Dennis Damon, a Democrat from Trenton. A hearing on LD 1020 has been scheduled on April 24. The bill has been endorsed by Equality Maine and the Maine Freedom to Marry Coalition.

Why marriage?

Over 200 Maine state laws provide automatic legal protections and responsibilities for married couples. Even when same-sex couples take exhaustive (and often expensive) steps to protect themselves and their families by constructing wills, health care proxies and co-parent adoptions, they cannot come close to duplicating the protections that only civil marriage brings.

The following are examples of inequalities experienced by same sex-couples:

- Many gay and lesbian workers cannot take bereavement leave for the death of their partners or a member of a partner's family.
- Maine's Family Care law does not provide the opportunity for a gay or lesbian employee to use accrued paid time off to care for a same-sex partner, because the partner is not a married spouse.
- If an employee suffers a job-related injury or death, the same-sex partner is not entitled to any protections under the worker's compensation system – even if that partner was financially dependent on the injured worker.
- Unlike married couples, gay and lesbian employees cannot select a "joint and survivor annuity" option to provide for their partners in the event of their death.
- Because they do not have the option of filing jointly, some same-sex couples may pay more state taxes than their married friends.
- If an employee is killed on the job due to employer negligence, his or her same-sex partner cannot bring legal action against the employer.

Marriage is a socially constructed institution that currently excludes same-sex couples. Such second-class status

cannot be changed with the piecemeal legal arrangements created by so-called "separate but equal" institutions, like civil unions and domestic partnerships that mark them and their children as less worthy than other citizens. The only just solution is for same sex couples to have the equality of freedom to marry.

Suzanne Brunner was chair of the executive committee for the Yes on 6 campaign in 2000. She has been a nurse educator, clinician and educator in health care settings for almost 40 years.

Military spending as "jobs engine" a myth

by Mary Beth Sullivan

Congressman Barney Frank (D-MA) has done Maine's activists a huge favor by offering a focus for our work in the coming months. His proposal to cut military spending by 25 percent is a call to action for those of us who understand that the U.S. has created a "permanent war economy" – turning over our industrial base to weapons manufacturers who rely on endless war and international sales for profits. The "military industrial congressional complex" has been thorough in its work to put factories in voting districts throughout the country so that popular support for military weapons-as-jobs programs would create unmovable roots.

Frank's proposal has not been welcomed on Capitol Hill; only four progressive representatives showed up for his hearing on the issue. As Rep. Frank observed, the proposal will only gain traction if the people get to work and demand it!

Military production is capital intensive, creating 8,555 jobs for \$1 billion in spending. Those same billion dollars could produce 12,800 jobs for home weatherization; 12,884 jobs in health care; 17,687 jobs in education; 19,795 jobs in mass transit. Military spending as a "jobs program" is a myth.

Former Gov. Angus King predicts Maine will be uninhabitable when oil prices are \$8 a gallon, with 80 percent of its homes heated by oil. The future of this state depends upon renewable energy technologies to replace fossil fuels.

The tireless efforts by Maine's congressional delegation to maintain Bath Iron Works as the site to build multibillion dollar naval destroyers are misguided. They need to hear *our* vision: a BIW that creates jobs by building the windmills and rail cars needed to survive the 21st century. Workers at BIW are now passing around a petition calling

on our Congressional delegation to work as hard to bring money home for wind turbine construction as they now do for naval destroyers. Sign it online by typing "the petition site" into a search engine. Then search "build wind turbines in Maine." Also call Maine's politicians and tell them to cut military spending and build wind turbines at BIW. (Office phone numbers are: Senator Olympia Snowe, 945-0432; Senator Susan Collins, 945-0417; Representative Mike Michaud, 942-6935; Representative Chellie Pingree, 774-5019.) And send a note of thanks to Rep. Barney Frank for starting the conversation.

Mary Beth Sullivan is a peace activist and social worker who lives in Bath. She can be reached at mbsull@mindspring.com



HOPE Festival to be a smorgasbord of activities

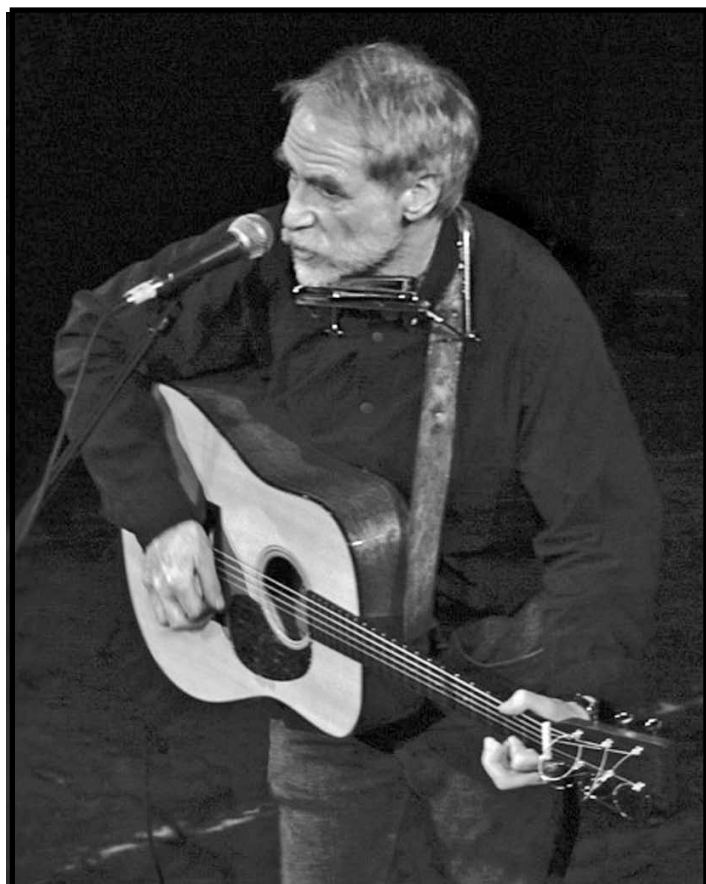
by Ilze Petersons, program coordinator, Peace & Justice Center

Celebrating hope and our connections to each other is more important than ever with so many struggling to survive in these hard times. Entertainment, information, interaction will be on the menu in the new light and airy University of Maine Student Fitness and Recreation Center in Orono at the 15th annual HOPE Festival on Saturday, April 25, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The rec center has won seven major design awards, including one for sustainability, efficiency and environmental quality.

In this new space, participants will be able to browse among more than 60 organizations working for social change and sustainability, attend workshops and demonstrations on creating a community garden, making a solar cooker, having fun with wind and solar, reducing home energy costs, repairing bicycles and working for national health care. There will be talking circles for young and old. For fitness fans there will be a 5K fun-run, or you may prefer to relax at a yoga workshop. And you might even try out improvisational theater with Scot Levy from the Penobscot Theatre. Delicious, locally produced food will be for sale, as well as jewelry and crafts made from recycled materials.

Special events will include an opening with Native American drumming and a community chorus of HOPE Festival Singers, a keynote talk on Farm and Food Security by Eliot Coleman, a concert with David Mallett and a closing community Drumming and Dancing for HOPE. Children of all ages will enjoy the amazing juggling of Zachary Field, performances by Peregrine Puppets, African games, international student dancers,

and activities organized by the Maine Discovery Museum, Fields Pond Audubon Center, and Windover Arts Center.



David Mallett, singer and musician

There will be something for everyone at the 15th annual HOPE Festival. Come and join us at this free event made possible by many volunteers. If you can help put up flyers in your neighborhood or help at the festival with setting up, cleaning up, or working at the food concession or with children's activities, call 942-9343.



From picket line to new hope

by Steve Husson

Hope travels on strange and unusual paths. The workers at DHL (a multinational package delivery company based in Germany) suffered 13 weeks of hell because we had chosen to unionize and the company didn't want us to. We had hoped the union would bring us safe, inspected vans, maybe health insurance, a pension, a voice at work, and a better life. Because the huge multinational corporation didn't want to recognize our legal rights, they threw us out on the street. Standing up for your rights can be a very difficult thing, especially if your main tool is a picket line in the early Maine spring of 2005.

During the terrible, uncertain period of deep financial and emotional stress, we found a ray of hope that we were not expecting and didn't know existed. We were introduced to a whole community of people who threw their support behind us. This community honked their horns as they drove by, and some even stopped and gave us coffee and doughnuts. A group named Food AND Medicine took us under their wing and provided us with a warm place to eat lunch and coordinated fundraisers to keep us from bankruptcy. They pushed our cause to the media and politicians. They stood shoulder to shoulder with us and made our struggle theirs. Hundreds of good-minded, caring people were on our side. We couldn't have continued without this support.

We finally won and got our jobs and union back. This experience changed me for the better, and I have most willingly joined the community that saved us. Now, I hope to help other people's struggles as they did mine.

Steve Husson is working for Food AND Medicine. He shared his story at a "conversation" at the Peace & Justice Center. The center has been collecting stories about hope in preparation for the HOPE Festival, and members of the community are invited to share their stories at the festival.



Broken health care system past due for repair

by Ali Vander Zander, health care organizer, Maine People's Alliance

It is clear that our health care system is failing us. For instance, according to "Insuring Health or Ensuring Profits," a 2007 report by the Northwest Federation of Community Organizations, growth in wages was 3.7 percent, while the average increase in premiums for employer-sponsored coverage was 6.1 percent. Even more galling, the growth in profits for the country's seven major health insurance companies from 2006 to 2007 was 9.7 percent. Obviously, someone is benefiting from our broken health care system, and it is not ordinary people.

We are the only country in the world where health care costs are a leading cause of bankruptcy. In 2007, nearly two-thirds of U.S. adults, or an estimated 116 million people, struggled to pay medical bills, went without needed care because of cost, were uninsured for a time, or were underinsured, according to the Commonwealth Fund's "Losing Ground" report. When a majority of a country's population have either already been forced out of the health care system or are holding on by their fingertips, it is time for major health care reform.

At Maine People's Alliance, we want a universal single payer system to be implemented in the United States. Passage of a universal single payer plan doesn't seem likely this year, so MPA members are working to build grassroots support for a set of principles that we hope will be included in whatever reform passes in 2009. We want a strong public health insurance plan, cost control, quality improvement and a truly inclusive health care system.

Maine Senators Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins have played important roles in the past as moderates who can bridge the party divide on health care issues. Passing any major health care reform will require bipartisan support, and we hope that our senators will continue to use their influence to craft legislation that will make a real difference in the lives of Mainers and that reflects the health care principles — universal access, quality, affordability, and equity — that matter to us. While the support and leadership of Maine's Congressional delegation is crucial, health care reform won't happen unless everyday Mainers raise up their voices. Contact your senator and representative and tell them you're counting on them to do the right thing to fix our broken health care system.



Bangor's streams need citizen advocates

by Lucy Quimby, Bangor

The City of Bangor is trying to assemble stakeholder groups and gain citizen support for Watershed Management Plans that will bring all five of Bangor's impaired streams up to their federally mandated water quality standards. Birch Stream and the Penjajawoc Stream are the first to be addressed by the city. The mandate to clean up these streams comes from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) via Maine's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). We all have seen that grassroots support is essential to the effective functioning of these state and federal regulatory agencies. We have another opportunity to make a difference.

In Portland, the Conservation Law Foundation threatened to sue Maine's DEP for allowing Portland businesses to violate federal clean water standards and pollute Long Creek, a stream that flows through South Portland's Maine Mall. As a result, the EPA has involved itself in the local development permitting process — an unhappy situation for Portland developers.

Although Bangor is anxious to avoid a similar fate, there has been resistance to stream restoration efforts. Some

wish to attribute poor water quality in the Penjajawoc Stream predominantly to the effects of the Penjajawoc Marsh rather than looking at the inconvenient truths about the effects of impervious surface on water quality. Lawyers representing some business interests have tried to undermine or bypass the stakeholder process.

You can play a crucial role. Attend the city's educational meetings. Volunteer to be a stakeholder. Participate in the Penjajawoc Stream Team. Tell your city councilors that you want stakeholder participation in the creation and oversight of Bangor's Watershed Management Plans. It's an opportunity to learn – streams are fascinating and important to the health of our community – and to participate in the protection of an important resource. To find out more, contact Wendy Warren, Bangor's environmental coordinator, at City Hall, 945-4400.



Reflections from India: Gandhi and Terrorism

*by Doug Allen, education coordinator,
Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine*

In the March issue, I wrote "Indians listened attentively to my surprising interpretation that Gandhi, proponent of peace and nonviolence, would have advocated using force to stop terrorists during the November 26-29 [Mumbai] attacks." Some Mainers were equally surprised that Gandhi would advocate this and that I might be sympathetic. I was asked to clarify this surprising interpretation.

Most Gandhi admirers, as well as critics, uncritically assume that Mahatma Gandhi, best-known proponent of *ahimsa* (nonviolence), would never endorse violent force, even to stop terrorists. This often renders Gandhi passive and irrelevant when dealing with terrorism.

First, Gandhi broadens and deepens concepts of violence and terrorism. In addition to suicide bombers and other individual acts of terrorism, Gandhi addresses economic and corporate terrorism, state and political terrorism, military terrorism, and psychological and cultural terrorism. Second, Gandhi upholds nonviolence as an absolute principle, and he does not deviate from this absolute ideal.

What makes Gandhi interesting, nuanced, and relevant is his practical struggle with how you apply the absolute ideal of nonviolence to complex, particular situations, such as Mumbai terrorist attacks. Ninety-nine percent of the time we have long-term preventative and short-term interventionist nonviolent options. Sometimes, in extreme

cases, we should absorb suffering and violence because this offers educational and transformative possibilities.

However, there are cases in which no nonviolent options have any possibility for dealing with violence. The terrorist killing innocent human beings has no interest in engaging in dialogue, and offering one's life has no transformative possibilities. Not to stop the terrorist makes one complicit with the ongoing killing. In such cases, Gandhi says that forceful violent intervention may be necessary since it is the most nonviolent thing we can do.

Such violence may be necessary, but it is never moral. It is tragic, since it represents human failure. We should be saddened and never glorify violence. Since Gandhi upholds the absolute ideal of nonviolence, even during such violent intervention, we should minimize the intensity and duration of our violence, work for nonviolent reconciliation, and do everything possible to prevent the repetition of conditions that gave rise to terrorism and other violence.



Peace & Justice Steering Committee to be elected

As we face a financial crisis at the Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine, we are fortunate there are so many volunteers who help ensure that the Center continues to be a vital hub of peace and justice activism for Eastern Maine. Key to this effort is the Center's Steering Committee, elected each May at our General Assembly meeting to oversee finances, policies, space and two part-time staff.

We want to express our appreciation to those who have guided the work of the Center by serving on the Steering Committee and are now moving on: Marina Abbott, June Burke, Maria Girouard, Kevin Holmes and Chris Stark. Thank you for sharing your time and talent so generously. We also want to thank those who are willing to be renominated to serve for 2009-2010. These are Kay Carter, Mike Howard, Al Larson, Marj Lawrence, Jeff Lowell, Chuck Rodrigues, and Anna Sweeney. New nominees are Kerry Curtis, Janet May and Peter Phillips.

Mark your calendar for May 8 from 6 to 8 p.m., when you are invited to a General Assembly meeting, potluck, sing-along and election of the Steering Committee. Come and join us to celebrate all the good work done by so many over the past year and to share ideas for the future – as well as delicious food.





Legislation for a Department of Peace

by Lynn Ellis

On February 3, Congressman Dennis Kucinich re-introduced legislation for a Cabinet-level Department of Peace (HR 808) along with 62 co-sponsors from past years. On March 4, Maine's 1st District representative, Chellie Pingree, signed on, bringing the total to 65 co-sponsors.

The Maine Campaign for a Department of Peace continues to educate and inform about this important legislation. Six of us are slated to travel to D.C. for the sixth annual Department of Peace Conference on March 20-23, including four students from the University of Maine at Farmington. We will meet with Rep. Pingree to thank her as well as meeting with Rep. Mike Michaud, as we continue our four-year dialogue with him on co-sponsorship.

The full text of the legislation can be read on The Peace Alliance website at www.thepeacealliance.org by clicking on the link for Legislation.

- A few of the mission statements: The Department shall --
- (1) hold the cultivation of peace as a strategic national policy objective;
 - (2) reduce and prevent violence in the United States and internationally through peace-building and effective nonviolent conflict resolution;
 - (3) strengthen nonmilitary means of peacemaking.

If you would like to get involved with the Maine Campaign, contact Lynn Ellis, state coordinator, at lellis@mainedop.org or call 207-491-5064.



Soften

Soften enough to allow
 the unknown ...
 the possible ...
 to come into being.
 Soften into feelings of grace,
 of gratitude,
 allowing forgiveness to enter.
 Forgiveness allows healing ...
 healing the wounded heart,
 the wounded soul.
 Peace lies within
 that softened place.
 And so it is.

by Lynn Ellis



P&J Center receives grant from RESIST

by Steve Soucy, office manager, Peace & Justice Center

The Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine has received funding for year three of a multi-year general support grant from RESIST Foundation of Somerville, Massachusetts. RESIST began in 1967 with a "call to resist illegitimate authority" in support of draft resistance and in opposition to the Vietnam War.

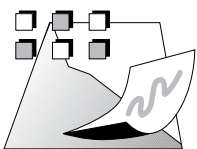
RESIST has continued to fund movements for social justice, including civil rights, environmental rights, international human rights, reproductive rights, women's rights, economic justice, prisoners' rights, media and culture, and lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender rights. Over the years, RESIST has evolved into a national foundation providing small but timely funding for grassroots peace and social justice groups, in grants and loans of up to \$3,000.

"Each year, RESIST funds groups like the Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine, because our mission is to support people who take a stand about the issues that matter today, whether it's to resist corporate globalization, promote a woman's right to choose, or develop activist leaders," says Board Chair Rebecca Howes-Mischel. "And we believe it is especially important to help grassroots organizations that might be too small or too local -- or too radical -- for mainstream foundations."

The Center is pleased and honored by its association with RESIST. More information about RESIST can be found at www.resistinc.org.



We are searching for someone to serve as backup to lay out the Newsletter. Some computer graphic skills would be helpful. You would not have monthly responsibilities. It would only be if Judy Rusk were not available to do the job that month. If interested, please call Judy at 207-852-7391.



Northeast
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Help Organize Peace Earthwide

15th Annual

HOPE FESTIVAL & GREEN EXPO

Saturday, April 25th • 11 A.M.–4 P.M.

Student Recreation and Fitness Center

University of Maine, Orono

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Eliot Coleman
Four Seasons Farm

ORGANIZATIONAL

FAIR WITH 70
NON-PROFIT GROUPS

SPECIAL CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

- Zachary Field's Amazing Juggling
- Peregrine Puppet
- Fun and informative activity tables

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

- Voices of HOPE community choir
- David Mallett, renowned folk singer
- Theater, dancing, and more!

- Learn about peace, justice, and environmental resources in our community
- Learn how to reduce home energy bills, reduce, reuse, and recycle
- Visit alternative energy displays and demonstrations

SPECIAL EVENTS

- 5 K Fun Run at 10:00 A.M.
- Yoga and other workshops
- Join talking circles on hope for the future

MINI FARMERS' MARKET/FOOD COURT WITH LOCAL PRODUCERS

Co-Sponsored by Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine, Peace & Reconciliation Studies Program, U Maine, Women in the Curriculum, Women's Studies Program, UM and Maine Peace Action Committee.

FREE ADMISSION

For more information contact:

Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine
942-9343 or email: info@peacectr.org
www.peacectr.org



In Memoriam

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

In Memory of Dr. Jacob Bennett:

Nancy MacKnight, Orono
Ann Patricia Burnes, Orono

In Memory of Karel Weissberg:

Daniel Harmeling and Kathie Amatniek, Gainesville, Florida
Richard Atlee, Southwest Harbor
Robert W. Kates, Trenton
Eric and Kate Russell Henry, Southwest Harbor
Kathleen Bowman and Dennis O'Donnell, Bar Harbor
Caroline Angle and Priscilla Fitch, Salem, Mass.
Bruce Kaye, West Hollywood, California

In Memory of Silas Brogunier:

Group Health Cooperative, Madison, Wisconsin
Sharon McMullen and Carolyn Brogunier, Hagerstown, Maryland
Margaret G. Skinner, Madison, Wisconsin
Debora D. Rogers, Bangor
Becky Siebens and Richard Anthony, York
Peter and Joyce Anthony, York
Thomas and Susan Anthony, York
Robert W. Horne, Wiscasset
Eliza and Peter Smith, York
Elise Straus-Bowers, Woolwich

In Memory of Susan G. Abraham:

John, Bev, Paul and Kim Wilson, Hampden

In Memory of London Mitchell:

Margaret Mitchell, Pittsfield



notices

Economic human rights: a solution to poverty in the U.S.

Cheri Honkala, national coordinator of the Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign, will speak in various towns and cities in Maine from April 2 to 8, to bring the potential and power of economic human rights to Maine people. The locations and times of her talks in this area are listed in the Calendar section. Honkala was a homeless single mother who has become an anti-poverty organizer and housing rights activist. She has been a leader of demonstrations against policies that maintain poverty, including dozens of arrests for nonviolent civil disobedience, and has been profiled in several films on

poor people's movements against poverty. For more information about the talk and the tour and a complete schedule, contact Larry Dansinger at 207-525-7776, email him at roscc@psouth.net or look on the web at www.peacebreadjustice.org.

SEADS open house offers fun, solar energy information

Solar Energy Awareness and Demonstration Seminars will hold an open house April 11 through 19 in Columbia at the SEADS Solar Hostel and Seminar Center. Participants can attend for two weekends (April 11-12 and April 18-19) or for the entire time, April 11-19. The open house will appeal to green, community and peace activists, environmentalists and alternative energy practitioners. The special half rate of \$50 a day includes a solar seminar, room and board. Scholarships are available. Optional activities include vision quest, horseback riding, hiking, boat ride/sail and/or cross-country skiing. Those attending can learn about retrofitting their homes, moving to a solar community, building a solar home, plus photovoltaics, hydroponic growing systems, organic gardening and wind energy. Contact SEADS of Truth, P.O. Box 192, Harrington, ME 04643; 207-483-2764 or 207-733-1095; seads20@yahoo.com; SoniBiehl@gmail.com; <http://seadsoftruth.webs.com>.

Say No to war on April 15

Despite what we hope will be a kinder and gentler Obama administration, more than half (51%) of every one of our tax dollars will go to pay for past, present, and future wars this year. That figure is according to the War Resisters League's (WRL) "Where Your Income Tax Money Really Goes." You are invited to join with others who will be passing out flyers before and on Tax Day, April 15, in a number of cities and towns in Maine, including Bangor, Belfast, Ellsworth, and at least 5-10 other locations around the state. To join a leafleting group, or to start one in your own community, and to get a supply of flyers to pass out, contact Larry Dansinger at the Maine War Tax Resistance Resource Center, 525-7776, roscc@psouth.net.

Animal rights and animal wrongs

A one-day symposium on Religious, Ethical, and Economic Perspectives on the Human Treatment of Other Animals will be held Thursday, April 16, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Husson University's Dyke Center for Family Business in Bangor. Register online at www.husson.edu/symposium or call Cliff Guthrie at 941-7760. Speakers for the event will include: Hugh Curran, Peace and Reconciliation Program, University of Maine, Buddhist practitioner and teacher; Dr. Clifton F. Guthrie, Circle Professor of Religion and Humanities, Husson College; Donald E. Hoenig, VMD, State Veterinarian and director of the Division of Animal Health and Industry of the Maine Department of Agriculture; Rabbi Darah Lerner of Congregation Beth El in Bangor; Katie Lisnik, Maine state director for the

Humane Society of the United States; Mike SanAntonio, director of dining services, Husson University. Cost of \$30 includes lunch.

Youth Activism Gathering to be held in Turner

The tenth annual Youth Activism Gathering will be held April 18-20 at the Turner Grange, Route 117 in Turner Center. The event is an opportunity for young people to come together, organize and share ideas. All meals and lodging are provided. To register and for more information, go online to MaineYAG.wordpress.com or email MaineYAG@gmail.com or call Ariel at 774-9979. You can also mail a registration and check (payable to ROSC) to ROSC, 161 Stovepipe Alley, Monroe, ME 04951. To keep YAG going each year, \$5 or \$10 per day is requested, but those who can't pay that much are still welcome to come. Registration is accepted on arrival, although advance registration is helpful.



These are the Peregrine Puppets, who will perform at the HOPE Festival, Saturday, April 25.

PEACE & JUSTICE CENTER FILM SERIES

BLOOD AND OIL
Sunday, April 19, 7:00pm

This new documentary film based on the critically-acclaimed work of Nation magazine defense correspondent Michael T. Klare, unearths declassified documents and presidential doctrines to show how concerns about oil have been at the core of American foreign policy for more than 60 years – rendering our contemporary energy and military policies virtually indistinguishable. In the end, “Blood and Oil” calls for a radical re-thinking of US energy policy, warning that unless we change direction, we stand to be drawn into one oil war after another as the global hunt for diminishing world petroleum supplies accelerates.

<http://www.bloodandoilmovie.com/>

Discussion after program
Phone ahead for childcare



c a l e n d a r

April 1: "True Blood: Moral and Romantic Identities in the Sookie Stackhouse Series," Jessica Miller, Philosophy, 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. Bangor Room, Memorial Union, University of Maine, Orono. Women in the Curriculum and Women's Studies.

April 2: Cheri Honkala, national coordinator of the Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign, 9-10 a.m. with members of HOME Inc. and the public, Route 1, Orland. From 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. Bangor Room, Memorial Union, University of Maine, as part of the Socialist and Marxist Lecture Series. 581-3860.

April 3: Cheri Honkala to participate in potluck dinner and talk at Food AND Medicine meeting, 20 Ivers Street, Brewer.

April 4: Cheri Honkala to participate in "Action Plan for Economic Human Rights in Maine" workshop, Pine Tree State Arboretum, 153 Hospital Street, Augusta, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. FMI Larry Dansinger, 525-7776 or rosc@south.net.

April 6: "How Do We Build a Just, Sustainable Economy?" Symposium on the Employee Free Choice Act

featuring Barbara Ehrenreich, author of *Nickel & Dimed*, and testimony from Maine workers, 6 to 8 p.m., D.P. Corbett Business Center, University of Maine. FMI call Food AND Medicine, 989-5860.

April 7: Cheri Honkala to be interviewed by phone 10 to 11 a.m. on "Through the Ism Prism" radio program, 89.9 FM WERU, East Orland.

April 8: Cheri Honkala to meet at noon with legislators and the public, Visitors Center, State Capitol, Augusta. At 5:30 p.m., dinner (light supper provided) followed by talk, Shirley Damren Room, Kennebec Valley CAP, 97 Water Street, Waterville.

April 8: "Gertrude Stein and Other Scandalous Women in Literature: Pedagogical Perspectives," 12:15 to 1:30 p.m., FFA Room, Memorial Union, University of Maine, Women in the Curriculum and Women's Studies.

April 9: "Writing Socialist History," Professor David Roediger, University of Illinois. Part of the Socialist and Marxist Studies Lecture Series. 12:30-1:45 p.m., Coe Room, Memorial Union, UMaine. 581-3860.

April 15: "At Home in Maine: An Experience of Maine's Contemporary Homebirth and Midwifery Culture" (film and discussion), 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. Bangor Room, Memorial Union, University of Maine. Women in the Curriculum and Women's Studies.

April 19: "Blood and Oil," documentary based on work of Nation magazine defense correspondent Michael T. Klare, 7 p.m. Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine, 170 Park St., Bangor. Discussion after program. 942-9343.

April 22: "Sexy From the Start: Helen Gurley Brown and the Second/Third Wave of Feminism," Jennifer Scanlon, Bowdoin College, 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. Bangor Room, Memorial Union, University of Maine. Women in the Curriculum and Women's Studies.

April 25: 15th annual HOPE Festival with Eliot Coleman, David Mallett, other events and organizational fair, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Student Recreation and Fitness Center, UMaine, Orono. Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine, 942-9343 or info@peacectr.org or www.peacectr.org..



The Center offers many resources to the public. Please look for our list of DVDs and periodicals at our website - www.peacectr.org.

Left to right, Doug Allen, Mary Dolan, Eric Olson
The Peace & Justice Education Committee members invite people to come and borrow magazines that have been organized by Katie Greenman.

Photo by Ilze Petersons

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/Verona 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.
Lincolnville 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).



Your Newsletter staff: left - Judy Rusk, layout right - Christina Diebold, editor

Photo by Ilze Petersons

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.

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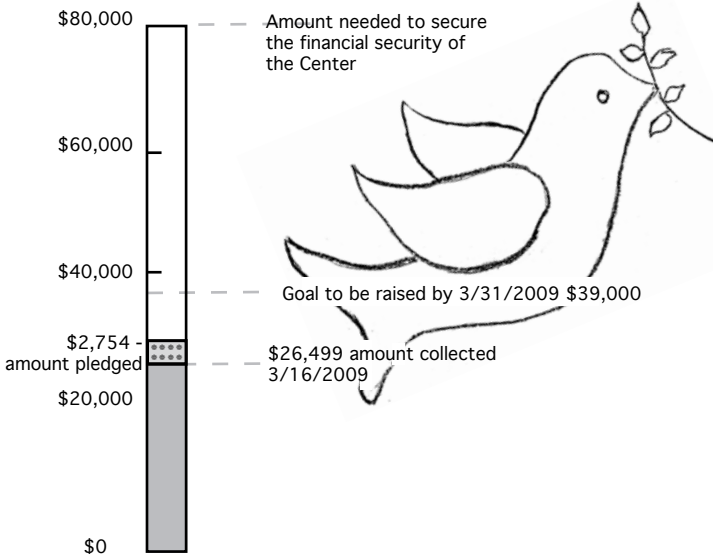


of Eastern Maine
Newsletter



Thanks to all who have contributed generously to the Center's Save Our Center Fundraising effort. If you have not yet sent in your membership, please consider increasing your donation by pledging a monthly amount of \$5, \$10 or \$20. Pledge whatever you can afford. You can donate by visiting our website at www.peacectr.org or mailing your contribution to the Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine, 170 Park Street, Bangor, ME 04401. **THANK YOU!**

MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT UPDATE 2009



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