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of Eastern Maine *Newsletter*

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All the news ...

by Christina Diebold, editor

The pile of newspapers on my desk has been growing – that’s what happens when you collect headlines. Most are from the Bangor Daily News, some from the New York Times, and some sent to me from farther afield. Here’s a small sample: “Middle-class unemployed seek food pantries,” “Wealth disparity is national shame,” “A perfect storm for health care in Maine,” “1 in 2 now low income, or in poverty,” “Economic mobility lagging in the U.S.,” “Iraq war to impose burden on taxpayers for decades,” “Thirty companies paid no income tax 2008-2010,” “Tax policy feeds gap between rich, poor.”

Occupy encampments have faded from the headlines but the movement, which brought the seriousness of income inequality to the fore, is far from dead. Groups in Eastern Maine have been meeting to strategize and to plan non-tent occupations – for example, a protest of the disastrous Supreme Court decision granting personhood to corporations (Citizens United), on January 20 at the Federal Building in Bangor and a statewide meeting to discuss the Occupy Movement on January 28 in Augusta. Area contacts are listed below.

We have lost two long-time stalwarts in the peace and justice movement, two giants. Richard Stander died December 18 at his home in Stockton Springs at the age of 79; a celebration of his life is planned for January 29. Tom Sturtevant died January 7 in Winthrop, and hundreds attended the service for him on January 14. Tributes to them are in this Newsletter. They will be greatly missed. Both continually connected the dots and called for reordered priorities to meet human needs.

On cold winter nights, homelessness is especially dangerous, and it is no surprise that shelters are bursting. A social worker analyzes the problem in an article on the next page. Taxing the rich and ending the wars would provide the funds urgently needed. You can also find out more about Move to Amend’s efforts to overturn the Supreme Court’s Citizens United decision. And you will find good news about the HOPE Festival on April 21 – well known environmentalist Bill McKibben has agreed to be keynote speaker.

To find out about Occupy in the region, go to www.occupymaine.com. Under “find us” there are links to Occupy Augusta, Bangor, and South Portland. You can access Occupy Bangor directly at occupybangor.org. Other contacts: Occupy Aroostook, Alice Bolstridge, bolstridgea38@gmail.com, <http://occupyaroostook.wordpress.com>; Occupy Ellsworth, Nancy Glista, nglista@myfairpoint.net, www.meetup.com/occupy-ellsworth; Occupy Blue Hill, Anita Babson, widesea@roadrunner.com; Occupy MDI, Lucas Burdick, llburdick@gmail.com. And you can always check Facebook.

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Homelessness: a big problem with a simple solution

by Meridith Bolster

With a lack of jobs and affordable housing, Bangor is seeing an increased need for help for the homeless. If proposed MaineCare cuts pass, the city, shelters, emergency rooms, police, jails, and other providers will face even greater needs.

Bangor has three adult shelters, a domestic violence shelter, and a shelter for adolescents. They are filled to capacity, and have been using their emergency beds. In addition, a number of homeless people are couch surfers, staying with acquaintances, sometimes in unsafe situations

General Assistance in Bangor is serving 50% more homeless people than a year ago. There are those who say we are seeing an increase because people flock to Bangor for services, but that is a myth. Recent research shows that less than 1% of all 2010 recipients of public benefits came to Maine from another state. From 2008 through July 2010, the number of aid recipients who left Maine each month was double the number who moved to Maine.

So what can be done? First we need to look at reasons behind homelessness.

According to the National Coalition to End Homelessness, the top five reasons for homelessness are: 1) lack of affordable housing, 2) lack of a living wage, 3) domestic violence, 4) medical bankruptcy, and 5) mental illness.

Solutions, therefore, include an increase in permanent housing, affordable rents, a living wage, and supportive housing. The need for MaineCare to prevent medical bankruptcy and treat mental illness is therefore more important than ever. If we see a decrease in MaineCare coverage for those who are vulnerable but housed, they are at risk of losing housing and ending up in jail, in hospitals, and on the streets. For those who are already homeless, losing MaineCare means longer periods of time being homeless. This will cost the state so much more in the long run.

Is being homeless deadly? Very. Homeless people are three to four times more likely to die than the general population. This increased risk is especially significant in people between the ages of 18 and 54. Permanent and supportive housing is a cost-saving, evidenced-based solution to homelessness. Numerous studies show that housing is much cheaper than homelessness by thousands of dollars per person, and even cheaper than keeping someone in a shelter. Housing reduces money spent on individuals for mental health and substance abuse

treatment, jail time, and medical problems. This housing model works and people overall are able to remain housed.

Meridith Bolster, LCSW, is a psychotherapist at Penobscot Community Health Center's Summer Street clinic, which serves homeless and peri-homeless adults. To see interviews with homeless people, go to <http://invisible.tv/blog>.



Pushback against Citizens United decision

by Bonnie Preston, Blue Hill

Editor's note: Before the Newsletter went to press, Occupy organizers in Blue Hill, Ellsworth and Bangor were planning a protest marking the anniversary of the Citizens United decision at the Federal Building in Bangor on January 20.

As soon as the Supreme Court announced it would re-argue the Citizens United v. FEC decision, a small group of people who had long been working to end the concept of corporate personhood gathered allies into a coalition of "outside the beltway" groups and developed a plan. Within an hour after the Court announced its 5-4 decision on January 21, 2010, this coalition, Move to Amend (movetoamend.org), went live on the web with a site where people could sign a petition calling for an end to corporate personhood and an end to the concept from an earlier Court decision (Buckley v. Valeo in 1976) determining that money is speech.

Since that time, almost 200 organizations, growing from the original 15, have endorsed Move to Amend, saying that constitutional rights are for natural persons only, not artificial entities like corporations. The amendment would also overturn Buckley, giving federal, state and local governments the right to regulate corporations, including corporate campaign spending.

Various efforts have been made to mitigate the effects of Citizens United, to no avail. Legislation to amend the Constitution has been introduced, but even the best is focused on the First Amendment, the guarantee of free speech. In addition to the First Amendment, the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Fourteenth have been widely abused by corporations, as well as the Commerce clause and the Contracts clause. The problem is therefore multidimensional, and the solution must be comprehensive. As the Program on Corporations, Law and Democracy (POCLAD.org), the think tank for the movement, says, the abolitionists did not call for ending

only one or two aspects of slavery, or try to establish the Slavery Protection Agency, or ask slaveholders to sign a voluntary code of conduct to treat slaves less harshly. Likewise, we need to totally abolish the principle of corporate personhood, which will allow us to build a truly democratic society and an economy that serves all of us, not just the very richest people in the country. Only Move to Amend calls for such an amendment.

Bonnie Preston is active in Alliance for Democracy, one of the founding organizations of Move to Amend. For information, she can be reached at bonniepreston@earthlink.net, 374-3636.



Enriching the Soil Campaign sprouting seeds

*by Ilze Petersons, program coordinator,
Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine*

The seeds planted by the Enriching the Soil of Peace & Justice Campaign funded through the Maine Community Foundation have generated new contacts, skills and volunteers to help ensure the long-term sustainability of the Peace & Justice Center. A kickoff for the campaign in October generated a visual "River of History" with drawings by those who helped to establish the Center in 1988 as well as those who have joined various actions, programs and events during the past two decades. Barbara Kates, our consultant with more than 30 years of experience with organizing, has skillfully guided the project and generated assistance from other area consultants who have been willing to share their expertise.

Fabulous training on Sustainability Volunteer Teams provided by Joyce Schelling and Fundraising by Gary Friedmann brought Center volunteers together with a diversity of organizations including Families and Children Together, United Cerebral Palsy, the Lubec Memorial Library, HOME Coop, WERU, My Friends Place, Open Communication, the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, the Barka Foundation and the Maine People's Alliance.

What's next? Now the Centers' Sustainability Team is ready to improve the Center's fundraising for long-term viability as a hub of progressive activism for decades to come. New volunteers have come forward to offer their time and their skills and many have participated in volunteer orientation sessions to learn more about the Center's history, mission, programs, actions and events and to explore how they might help. As part of the campaign,

a Marketing workshop will be held at the Center on February 17 with Deborah Chapman (see below). And on March 16, Barbara Kates will facilitate a volunteer development workshop. Contact the Center if you would like to take part in these upcoming workshops or volunteer orientation sessions, which can be organized to fit your schedule.

Marketing for a good cause: Promoting your nonprofit

Friday, February 17, 1 to 4:30 p.m.
(Snow date: Friday, February 24, 1 to 4:30 p.m.)
Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine,
96 Harlow Street, Suite 100, Bangor

Do you want to increase awareness of your organization, its programs and services? Is your mission to enhance the community's understanding of your cause and to engage community members in fulfilling your vision? This workshop will provide an overview of basic social marketing principles you can apply to accomplish these goals. You'll learn how to develop a multi-faceted approach to promoting your organization to a variety of target audiences, including consumers, service providers, potential volunteers and the general public.

Workshop leader Deb Chapman is a grant and business writer who has extensive experience working with the nonprofit sector. She is the Operations Director for the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence and founder of Chapman and Company, a business communications consulting group. Contact the Peace & Justice Center at 942-9343 to learn more about registering for this workshop, which is free to Center volunteers and \$30 for others.



From left to right:

Barbara Kates, project coordinator ww

Photo by Miriam Kates-Goldman

Gary Friedmann, fundraising consultant

Photo courtesy of Gary Friedmann

Deborah Chapman, marketing consultant

Photo courtesy of Maine Coalition to end Domestic Violence



From pitas to peace

by Katrina Bisheimer

After 9/11, I was fearful that the U.S. would respond to violence with violence; I needed a place to express my fears and do something -- anything. At the Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine I shared experiences that little by little opened my eyes and expanded my mind and heart. One such experience was befriending Susan, a joyful creative soul. I was going to Washington to protest the war. The P&J Center had coordinated four buses to transport local folks to Washington. Susan desperately wanted to go, but didn't have enough money. People had donated money for this very purpose, but she wanted to pay her own way.

Susan had an idea: For a small donation people could have a bag of homemade pitas. She called it "Pitas for Peace." Attached to the bag was an amazing picture of a man with several pitas delicately balanced on his head, an explanation about how bread-making is a peacemaking practice, and a recipe for pita bread. The photograph was taken by Jim Harney, a man of great compassion and integrity who took pictures to bear witness, or to make visible the injustices that spark the indignation and energy driving people to make change. It was a simple yet complex idea. The photograph evoked the qualities of courage and love for all of humanity; the ideals that most people believe in because they are the essence of life. People paid for a taste of pita bread, but mostly for those ideals that offered hope for a more peaceful and just world. Susan received enough donations to pay for her trip and then some.

Making pita bread is a peacemaking practice. It begins with an idea, a recipe and the ingredients. A kitchen to gather and mix the ingredients -- flour, salt, honey, liquids, yeast (sometimes). A counter for kneading the dough. A pan to contain the dough as it rises and expands. Finally, an oven at just the right temperature to bake it. The Center is like a kitchen for peacemaking, where a variety of people and ideals are connected to make change possible.



Photo by Ilze Petersons

Pizzas are often the fuel for meetings at the Peace & Justice Center. Libby Norton, a singer with Voices for Peace, hauls off a few of the boxes for recycling.

Mark the date for HOPE with Bill McKibben!

As we await the late winter snows, we are already planning for this year's HOPE Festival, which will be on Saturday, April 21, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the University of Maine's Student Recreation and Fitness Center. Mark your calendar for this joyful celebration of our connections to the Earth and to each other with keynote speaker Bill McKibben. McKibben is the author of a dozen books about the environment, beginning with *The End of Nature* in 1989, which is regarded as the first book for a general audience on climate change. He is a founder of the grassroots climate campaign 350.org, which has coordinated 15,000 rallies in 189 countries since 2009. Time Magazine called him "the planet's best green journalist" and the Boston Globe said in 2010 that he was "probably the country's most important environmentalist." We are grateful to Rob Shetterly for helping make this exciting talk possible.



Proposed bill targets unions

by Lisa Feldman

A bill pending in the Maine Legislature, LD 309, calls itself "An Act To Make Voluntary Membership in a Public Employee Labor Organization in the State." This sounds good. Who would support coercion in labor relations? Not the federal government, which made the "closed shop" (requiring all workers to join a union) illegal in 1947. So what's the real purpose of LD 309? The bill's legalese masks a number of provisions that would limit the ability of teachers, child-care workers, state and municipal employees, or workers at publicly funded colleges or universities to represent themselves by means of democratically elected, legally recognized unions. Some of these are technical, involving issues of unit determination. Perhaps the easiest to understand involves "fair-share" payments.

LD 309 would outlaw these fees and make payment of union dues purely voluntary, as if unions were the equivalent of a country club or religious organization. However, labor law **requires** unions to represent the interests of non-members in contract negotiations. If non-members' contract rights are violated or they run afoul of a supervisor, union shop stewards **must** represent them in grievance handling.



Most unions therefore ask all bargaining unit members either to join the union or pay a representation fee. "Rep fees" cover a non-member's fair share of the costs of these legal mandates. A few unions have contracts that permit them to deduct these rep fees from the paychecks of those who refuse to do either. Most unions do not.

Contract talks can drag on for months, even years. Expenses include training, travel, food (sandwiches, pizza), photocopying, postage, office supplies, paid staff time. Shop stewards must also be trained and supported by paid staff. Unions reduce costs by making extensive use of committed volunteers in negotiations and grievance work. This helps make unions democratic. It also makes "rep fees" a bargain.

LD 309 has little to do with any "right to work." It has more to do with a concerted right-wing attack on unions, designed to prevent them from fulfilling responsibilities assigned to them under a system of labor law painstakingly evolved over the past hundred years.

War Tax Resistance Workshop

Are you ready to take the risk of no longer paying for war? Are you curious enough about the idea to find out how you might do that? The annual workshop for war tax resisters and those who are considering the option or wanting to find out more about how to do it takes place on February 4 (snow date: February 5) from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Peace & Justice Center, 96 Harlow St., Bangor.

Many people think war tax resistance means jail, but only a handful of people have experienced that in the last 30 years, usually for issues separate from their refusal to pay for war. Those who are open and connected to other war tax resisters (WTRs) need not fear that option, or even a seizure of property.

Here's what a Bangor-area war tax resister said recently, "Refusing to pay Congress to commit crimes against humans at home and abroad has been the most empowering single act I have ever taken. It's led me through a lifetime I might not have had the courage to follow otherwise, and placed me in a community of people with great intelligence, compassion, and integrity. Other than an end to war and exploitation, what more could one want?"

In addition to the annual workshop on the how-to's of WTR, participants can stay for lunch and help develop plans for actions on or before Tax Day (April 15) to promote it throughout the state. The workshop runs from 10 a.m. to

noon, followed by a potluck lunch, then planning for the coming months up to Tax Day from 1-3 p.m.

For more details, contact Larry Dansinger, Maine WTR Resource Center, 525-7776 or rosco@psouth.net.

VFP mourns Tom Sturtevant

by Doug Rawlings, Maine Veterans for Peace

Veterans for Peace members are in deep mourning as one of our Charter members, former Chapter President and serving Board member, Tom Sturtevant, died on January 7.

Our state chapter has stood on the shoulders of Tom Sturtevant for years. As chapter president, his quiet leadership and amazing doggedness in the face of adversity – neither red tape nor neo-conservative attacks thwarted Tom – made us a force to be reckoned with. Tom is the epitome of a nonviolent direct activist. In line with our organization's pledge to refrain from violence of any kind, Tom also took seriously our mission to "...act in the best interests of the group for the larger purpose of world peace." Throughout the years, no matter in what capacity he served Veterans for Peace, we all knew that we could trust Tom to take care of the smallest details while still holding onto our grand vision of abolishing war. Tom reserved rooms, made banners, attended countless meetings in Augusta, stomped the pavements in Portland, always taking care of last minute arrangements while staunchly advocating for peace. He would sit in senators' offices and representatives' foyers until someone would hear what he had to say.

We are deeply saddened and will miss Tom beyond words, but in memory of Tom's presence, we will not let Tom pass in silence. Joe Hill famously urged his friends – "Do not mourn; organize!" We owe it to Tom to continue his good work. We are stronger because of him, and we will do what he bade us to do – work to abolish war, keep peace in our hearts, and make this a better world for our children and grandchildren. Rest in peace, good friend.



Tom Sturtevant

Photo by Carole Whelan

Tom Sturtevant: a life well lived

by *Dud Hendrick, Maine Veterans for Peace*

Small wonder that so many, 800 to 1,000, made it to Winthrop from around the state on a frigid January 14 to celebrate a life well lived. We all knew how truly special Tom Sturtevant was.

Our Veterans for Peace chapter always knew. We knew he would always be there—the Bring Our War \$\$ Home campaign, peace vigil, peace walk, medical marijuana, Brunswick Naval Air Station, land mines, Common Ground Fair. Every issue we addressed, Tom would be there.

What a unique guy! He was, not unlike all of us engaged in the quest for peace and justice, often angry. Angry with Congress, angry with our foreign policy, angry with the Blue Angels, angry with our nuclear arms policy, our energy policy, our national myopia. And yet, Tom was just as reliably upbeat and affable and absolutely hopeful. We learned at the memorial service that he declared to his family at Christmas that one of the two most wonderful developments in 2011, in his opinion, was the Occupy Movement. (The other was that he had last summer raised three crops of string beans—reminding us he was an avid gardener.)

At times I believe we who are engaged in the pursuit of peace all have felt rather alone in a wilderness. Those of us in VFP surely have as we rail against flag-waving militarism and jingoistic American exceptionalism. Tom always provided us with moral assurance. If such a man was on your side, you could be pretty certain the angels (notwithstanding the “Blue” variety) were as well.

VFP members know how important he was to our organization. We thought of him as our heart and soul, and I’m not sure how we’ll get through this loss. It will be dreadfully difficult to carry on but, thanks to Tom’s example, we know we must and we know we will.

We’ll stand on Tom’s shoulders. His example provides the confidence that what we do is what we must do. Thank you, Tom. *Presenté* Tom Sturtevant.



A celebration of Richard Stander

From the Dialy Hampshire Gazette, 12/23/2011

A memorial celebration of the life of longtime peace activist Richard J. Stander will be held Sunday, January 29, at the Shriners’ Club, 20 Northport Avenue, Belfast. The gathering will begin at 10:30 a.m., with the celebration starting at 11

a.m. At 1 p.m. there will be a vegetarian potluck lunch, B.Y.O.B. Please bring drums, shakers, etc. for a group drum finale.

Stander died December 18 at the home he built in Stockton Springs. He was 79. He grew up in New York City and in his teens became involved with Habonim, a progressive Jewish youth movement. He traveled to Israel in 1951, where he worked as a translator at the Jerusalem Post and, with his first wife Havi (Pollak), cared for children in a postwar displaced persons camp.

With a master’s degree in psychiatric social work from Columbia University, Stander worked with the children of migrant workers, then directed a drug-abuse treatment program in New Haven.

In 1977 Richard met his second wife, Nancy Galland. Together they established an organic farm in Hadley, Mass., and developed the original organic certification standards for NOFA-Mass. In 1987, Richard and Nancy took up residence at Fiddler’s Green Farm in Belfast, where they grew organic vegetables, milled organic baking mixes and hot cereals, ran a bed and breakfast and farm stand, mentored farm apprentices, and dabbled in cheese making.

They retired to Stockton Springs in 1997. Stander enjoyed skiing, swimming, kayaking, hiking, rock climbing and story telling. He took his children to peace and civil rights marches and the 1968 Be-In in Central Park, always inspiring them to question authority.

Later in life his dedication to peace, justice and the environment took many forms, including support of Palestinian sovereignty, leadership in ending mercury pollution of the Penobscot River, and civil disobedience against the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. His heart was lifted by live on-the-spot reports from Zuccotti Park and the Occupy Movement, phoned in by his granddaughters.

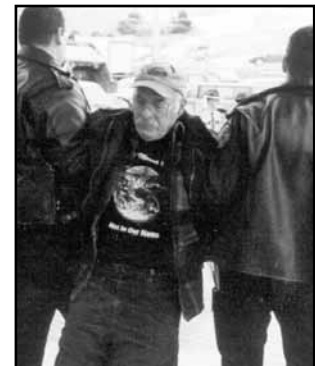


Photo on right: Richard Stander is arrested at the Federal Building in Bangor after a protest against the bombing of Iraq in March 2003.

*Email remembrances may be sent to:
nangalland@myfairpoint.net.*



Judge moved by nonviolent civil disobedience

On March 20, 2003, twelve people were arrested at the Federal Building in Bangor during one of many actions to protest the “shock and awe” bombing of Iraq. Two of those arrested, Nancy Galland and Richard Stander, asked for a jury trial and were found guilty. The District Attorney claimed this was a case of a “frivolous waste of the state’s resources.” But Judge Allen Hunter took two weeks to decide on the light sentence of twenty hours of community service. At the sentencing he said “...this is the most difficult sentencing I’ve ever had to do.” He then took twenty minutes to explain why the case was important and not frivolous. Richard and Nancy shared the significance of his explanation in the December 2003 Peace & Justice Center Newsletter, referring to reports from San Francisco, Minneapolis and even France that a judge in Maine recognized the importance of civil disobedience.

Below are excerpts from the transcript of the sentencing of anti-war activists by Superior Court Justice Allen Hunter on October 31, 2003.

“We do, from time to time, ... receive events of civil disobedience, and they make us all uncomfortable. I’m not sure that’s necessarily a bad thing. Those of us who prefer the comfort of the status quo are made to feel uncomfortable when we have people engaging in actions which violate the norm or ... which disturb that level of comfort. ...

We do have a tendency to go grow complacent with our existence. We sleep on our rights. We forget those rights. From time to time, it’s a useful thing to be reminded, and I think certainly anyone who grew up in the ‘60’s as did I and I suspect a few others out there, cannot help but remember a lot of the good that came from many acts of civil disobedience, and we have school children who, to this day, are instructed in classrooms about the Boston Tea Party, perhaps the first act of civil disobedience that our nation experienced.

And is there anyone here in this country today who doesn’t derive some benefit from that act of civil disobedience? I suspect not. And so I think we have a history that demands that we acknowledge that, notwithstanding that sometimes these actions do violate the criminal law, as I have found happened in this case. I think it’s also incumbent to give some recognition that these illegal acts often do play an extremely important and vital political role.”

Remembering Richard Stander

by Bill Phillips

The peace and justice community has lost a dear friend and dependable ally with the death of Richard Stander on December 18, 2011. After a long and challenging period of declining health, Richard succumbed to heart failure with characteristic philosophical calm, dying peacefully in the home he built with his own hands on Cape Jellison, listening to Bach and attended by his longtime, loyal and loving partner, Nancy Galland.

Our hearts go out to Nancy in sympathy and gratitude as we remember the many ways she and Richard brought a lifetime of dedicated activist experience to bear on our collective efforts locally over the last ten years and more. Early co-editors of this publication, Richard and Nancy were also articulate participants in teach-ins, rallies and demonstrations. Even as Richard’s physical problems began to limit the couple’s mobility, they could be seen together at activist gatherings, the undaunted Richard negotiating the crowd on a shiny red scooter.

We will miss Richard’s warm heart, his gentle spirit, his critical intelligence, and his passion for making this a better world, a world that was already better for having him in it. As it is difficult to imagine peace without justice, it is difficult to imagine Nancy without Richard. Fortunately, Richard will live on in the minds and the hearts of those of us whose lives he has touched, and it is our hope that this legacy will be a source of consolation for Nancy.



Photo by Ilze Petersons

Recently attending a volunteer orientation session at the Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine: Amy Hughes, who will serve on a Sustainability Team, and who will help get University of Maine students involved with the HOPE Festival.





Winter-spring 2012 Peace & Justice Center film series

Films are shown at 7 p.m. Sundays at the Center, 96 Harlow Street, Bangor, and are followed by discussion.

January 15: "Freedom Riders," an inspiring documentary showing the courage and determination of black and white students who rode integrated buses into Alabama and Mississippi in 1961, suffering beatings and imprisonment but finally compelling Attorney General Robert Kennedy and President John Kennedy to take action to protect them and desegregate interstate travel. If you missed the showing, you can borrow the DVD from the Peace & Justice Center's library.

February 19: "Mother: Caring for the 7 Billion" breaks a 40-year taboo by bringing to light an issue that silently fuels our largest environmental, humanitarian and social crises -- population growth. Since the 1960s the world population has nearly doubled, adding more than 3 billion people. At the same time, talking about population has become politically incorrect because of the sensitivity of the issues surrounding the topic -- religion, economics, family planning and gender inequality

March 18: "Poto Mitan: Haitian Women, Pillars of the Global Economy," part of Women's History Celebration. Told through the lives of five compelling Haitian women, "Poto Mitan" gives an inside perspective on globalization, Haiti's current crisis, and the resilient women challenging this system.

April 29: "The Age of Stupid" (part of Earth Week). This ambitious documentary/drama/animation hybrid stars Pete Postlethwaite as an archivist in the devastated world of the future, asking the question: "Why didn't we stop climate change when we still had the chance?" He looks back on footage of real people around the world in the years leading up to 2015 before runaway climate change took place.

May 20: "Entre Nos," inspired by a true story, focuses on the experiences of a courageous and adoring mother, Mariana, and her two remarkable children from Colombia. It raises the need for comprehensive immigration reform to keep families together, protect workers, and provide a path to citizenship. Michael Moore selected it as one of the 20 Best Pictures of the year.

notices

PEACE & JUSTICE CENTER FILM SERIES

MOTHER: CARING FOR THE SEVEN BILLION

Sunday, February 19, 7:00pm

Mother: Caring for the Seven Billion breaks a 40-year taboo by bringing to light an issue that silently fuels our most pressing environmental, humanitarian and social crises - population growth. In 2011 the world population reached 7 billion, a startling seven-fold increase since the first billion occurred 200 years ago. The film features world-renowned experts and scientists including biologist Paul Ehrlich, author of "The Population Bomb"; economist Mathis Wackernagel, the creator of the groundbreaking Footprint Network; Malcolm Potts, a pioneer in human reproductive health; and Riane Eisler, whose book "The Chalice and the Blade" has been published in 23 countries.

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

Discussion after program

Phone ahead for child care



Many thanks to these supporters!

- Larry Dansinger, Monroe
- Suzanne Fitzgerald, Bar Harbor
- Kathryn Gaianguest, Lamoine
- Alex & Julie Grab, Old Town
- Betty Grant, Eugene OR
- Mark A & Martha L Kelley, Orono
- Eloise Kleban, Orono
- Glen W Koehler, Orono
- Lois Marchand, Bangor
- Bill & Mary Phillips, Stillwater
- John & Marisue Pickering, Orono
- George & Joyce Schelling, Orland
- Kathy Walker, Hampden
- Flo Wilder, Hancock
- ROSC, Monroe
- Martha Dickinson, Ellsworth
- John and Katie Greenman, Old Town



Girls Rock! nominations due February 3

Girls Rock! weekend is not until April, but Hardy Girls Healthy Women is preparing for it with nominations of strong girls anywhere in the state they can recognize during that week. Do you know girls 12-19 who epitomize the empowerment of young women? Besides the award, there will also be a small cash prize for winners. Nomination forms are available on line (see HGHW website) or contact Jackie Dupoint, jackie@hghw.org or 861-8131 for a form. Nominations are due by February 3.

Lenten Vigil for Disarmament

Beginning on Ash Wednesday (February 22) and continuing every Saturday through April 7, peace activists will hold a vigil from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in front of the Administration Building of Bath Iron Works to protest the continued building of warships. Lent is seen as a time to reflect, reconsider and repent, a time that can be used to repent wasting the world's resources and waging war indiscriminately. For information, Smilin' Trees Disarmament Farm, 763-4062.

Creative projects by young people sought

Launch ME is a contest for young people, ages 16-35, who have creative projects they want to share and activate. Sponsored by the League of Young Voters, the idea is to attract these new ideas, let the public vote for their favorites, and give awards to the winners. In addition, the ideas will get publicity and begin to attract community support for those causes and projects. For an application and details about the contest (ideas due by March 15), contact Nicola Wells, nicola@theleague.com or check it out on Facebook (fb.me/maineleague) or atwww.theleague.com/me.

Scorecards on Maine legislators available

How did Maine legislators do last year on labor issues? You can find out from the Maine AFL-CIO's 2011 Working Families Legislative Scorecard. In this time of attacks on working people and attempts to reduce their ability to preserve their wages, benefits and ability to organize, it's even more important to know which legislators are supportive of working people and which are not. For that scorecard of votes for and against working people, contact the Maine AFL-CIO, 622-9675 or info@maineaflcio.org or www.maineaflcio.org.

c a l e n d a r

January 28 (snow date: January 29): "Visions and Strategies for the Occupy Movement in Maine" gathering, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Randall Student Center, UMaine, Augusta. ROSC, 525-7776 or rosc@psouth.net.

January 31: "Purity Myth" film by Jessica Valenti, 12:15-1:30 p.m., Bangor Room, Memorial Union, University of Maine, Orono. Women in the Curriculum.

February 2: Panel: "Environmental Justice," with Hilary Lister, "Hidden Maine Economies and Organizing for Community Justice"; Professor Richard Judd, History, "Environmental Justice: A Historical Context"; Professor Michael Howard, Philosophy, "Carbon Cap and Dividend: A Progressive Policy for Climate Change." 12:30-1:45 p.m., Bangor Room, Memorial Union, UMaine; part of the Socialist and Marxist Studies Series, 581-3860 or douglas.allen@umit.maine.edu.

February 8: Women in the Military, with Andrea Tolbert, Nancy Laffin and Kristina Muniz, 12:15-1:30 p.m., Bangor Room, Memorial Union, University of Maine, Orono. Women in the Curriculum.

February 9: "Occupy UMaine: A Student Panel," Dan White, Eric Collins, Calvin Forbes, and other students. 12:30-1:45 p.m., Bangor Room, Memorial Union, UMaine; part of the Socialist and Marxist Studies Series, 581-3860 or douglas.allen@umit.maine.edu.

February 14: Building Bridges for Women through Service-Learning: Bringing students and communities together to combat domestic violence in Honduras, with Darlene Bergeron and Kathleen March, 12:15-1:30 p.m., Bangor Room, Memorial Union,

University of Maine, Orono. Women in the Curriculum.

February 22 (and following Saturdays through April 7): Lenten Vigil for Disarmament at Bath Iron Works, 11:30 to 12:30 in front of the BIW Administration Building on Washington Street in Bath.

February 4 (snow date: Feb. 5): Annual Maine War Tax Resisters and Supporters workshop and meeting, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Peace & Justice Center, 96 Harlow St, Bangor. Maine WTR Resource Center, 525-7776 or rosc@psouth.net.

February 15: "Carbon Nation" film (our dependence on carbon resources and its influence on climate disruption), 6 p.m. Free Library, Belfast. Meredith, 338-5089.

February 17: Workshop: "Marketing for a Good Cause" with Deb Chapman, 1-4:30 p.m., Peace & Justice Center, 96 Harlow Street, Bangor. Call 942-9343 to pre-register.

February 19: "Mother: Caring for the 7 Billion" (examining the overpopulation problem), 7 p.m., Peace & Justice Center, 96 Harlow St., Bangor. 942-9343 or info@peacectr.org or www.peacectr.org.

February 22 (and following Saturdays through April 7): Lenten Vigil for Disarmament at Bath Iron Works, 11:30 to 12:30 in front of the BIW Administration Building on Washington Street in Bath.

February 22: "Women in Academia -- Navigating Multiple Roles and Personal Wellness" with Melissa A. Rosenberg, LCPC-C, 12:15-1:30 p.m., Bangor Room, Memorial Union, University of Maine, Orono. Women in the Curriculum.

March 3-4: "Building Bridges of Communication" workshop with Peggy Smith to benefit WERU community radio, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. both days, Peace & Justice Center, 96 Harlow St, Bangor. 789-5299 or peggy@opencommunication.org.

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Won't you join our many supporting members and make a donation to the Peace and Justice Center today?

Just go to www.peacectr.org and **click** on the **DONATE NOW** button. It's fast, secure and easy.

Or, you can mail a check to:
96 Harlow Street, Suite 100,
Bangor, ME 04401.

Several people who have recently contributed to the Center have asked us why their names were not listed among supporters in last month's newsletter. To respect donors' privacy, we included only those who indicated on their reply card that they were willing to be publicly acknowledged. Some may prefer not to be acknowledged, but others may have simply overlooked the place on the membership reply card where you could make your wishes known. If this is the case, please let us know you are willing to be publicly acknowledged as a supporter, and we will include your name in an upcoming newsletter. We hope other readers will be encouraged to become supporters when they see your name listed as a donor, and we want to recognize the contributions of all of you who keep the Center going and growing.



Peace vigils

For additions and cancellations:

cpdiebold@gmail.com

Bangor: Tuesdays, 5-5:30 p.m., Federal Building, Harlow Street. Call Peace & Justice Center, 942-9343.

Belfast: Sundays, noon to 1 p.m., corner of High and Main streets. Cathy Mink, 338-4920.

Blue Hill: Sundays, noon, Blue Hill bridge. Judy and Peter Robbins, 326-4405.

Deer Isle: Mondays, 4-4:30 pm., across from Deer Isle-Stonington High School, in front of ball field. Dud Hendrick, 348-2511.

Dover-Foxcroft: First Sunday of the month, noon to 1 p.m., Merrick Square at East Main and Essex streets. Sidney Mitchell, 564-8687.

Eastport: Saturdays, 11 a.m. to noon, Eastport Post Office, David Gholson, 853-2633.

Ellsworth: Sundays, noon, Union River bridge downtown. Russell Wray, 422-8273.

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

Lubec: Saturdays, 11 a.m. to noon, Triangle at Flat Iron Corner, opposite IGA. Dick Hoyt, 733-2068.

Presque Isle: Sundays, noon to 1 p.m., bridge over Aroostook River on Route 1. Steve Demaio, 455-8158.

Skowhegan: Sundays, noon to 1 p.m., Margaret Chase Smith Bridge. Mark Roman, 643-2356.

Southwest Harbor: Saturdays, 11 a.m. to noon, Pemetic School Green, Main Street. Westside Peace Group. Kate Henry, 244-3702.

Waterville: Sundays, noon-1 p.m., Messalonskee Bridge on Kennedy Memorial Drive (by CVS). Bobby Hayes, 873-0878.



PEACE & JUSTICE CENTER *Newsletter*

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

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

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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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 / ROSC
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of Eastern Maine
Newsletter

February 2012



Yes! I would like to support the work of the Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine. Here's my donation.

The Center is a non-profit membership organization registered in the state of Maine, but donations are not tax-exempt. If you would like to make a tax-exempt donation, please make your check payable to ROSC (Resources for Organizing and Social Change), and write "P&J" in the memo line.

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If you prefer, you can make a donation online at our Website - www.peacectr.org. Donations made online are automatically paid through ROSC and are tax deductible.

I can't donate money right now, but please keep me on the mailing list. _____



Photo by Ilze Petersons

Martin, Mary Ellen and Coral Anne Wallace recently attended a volunteer orientation session at the Peace & Justice Center. Martin has done audio work for the HOPE Festival and will help with the Center's website. Mary Ellen is interested in starting another book discussion group. Coral Anne likes to hang with her parents.