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## Hopelessness... *not* an option

*by Gerry Gross*

Progressives are having a hard time maintaining their sense of hope these days. With each new presidential appointment or policy directive, 'hope' takes another step back, and 'fear' and 'anxiety' step forward.

Yet loss of hope – despair, doubt, fear ... these are not acceptable alternatives. Despair and doubt paralyze us, make us unable to struggle against forces that would rob us of our human rights, including: jobs with dignity that pay a living wage, basic healthcare, quality public education, environmental justice, security in retirement, economic opportunities for all, just immigration and foreign policies, and individual privacy protections. There is so much that needs our attention. So, as you see, despair is not an option.

As the new editor for the Peace and Justice Center newsletter, I have found hope in the many people I have met here. I have been a peripheral member for years, but until I retired, I never participated in Center activities. Now I hang around frequently and have learned a great many things. For one, I had known about several groups working to improve conditions for people both locally and globally, groups such as Maine People's Alliance, Spruce Run, Power in Community Alliances (PICA). But I never knew there were so many more! Too many to list here, but if you read PJC emails, you will learn about them all. All these organizations comprise thoughtful, dedicated individuals working tirelessly to promote care for people and the planet. Who knew?

Knowing these groups and these people are out there... this gives me hope. When I am feeling down, I get myself to the Peace and Justice Center. The Tuesday 11 a.m. – noon forum never fails to recharge my 'hope' batteries. And the Peace Vigil that follows at noon... well, nothing lifts my spirits like a honking horn and thumbs up from a passing motorist. Lastly, I take hope from words of activists and writers like Toni Morrison, who said: "There is no time for despair, no place for self-pity, no need for silence, no room for fear. We speak, we write, we do language. That is how civilizations heal."

## Proposed Juniper Ridge landfill expansion

Since 2003 when the State of Maine bought the Georgia-Pacific sludge dump in Old Town and Alton to "save the mill," and turned operations over to Casella Waste Systems in a sole-bidder 30-year contract, our region has become a sacrifice zone for garbage from all of Maine and beyond. The State and Casella want to increase the "landfill" to four times its current size. Now brimming with nearly 8 million cubic yards of trash, the plan is to fill it with over 30 million cubic yards, much of it from out of state.

Because of our weak regulations, Maine is a dumping ground for other New England states. Juniper Ridge is already Maine's biggest landfill, and, not coincidentally, is located just a few miles from the Penobscot Reservation. This is a serious threat to land and water quality in the area, and a clear environmental justice issue. After hearings on the proposed expansion last fall, the BEP has released their draft decision approving a 9.35 million cubic yard expansion of Juniper Ridge Landfill. Concerned citizens have until May 8th to submit comments about the decision to [Kathy.tarbuck@maine.gov](mailto:Kathy.tarbuck@maine.gov).

FMI: listen to the March 30th episode of RadioActive, available at <http://archives.weru.org/radioactive/>. You can also follow developments on FaceBook pages No Juniper Ridge Megadump Expansion and Dawnland Environmental Defense.



## Follow Trump's money

*by Doug Poulin*

I am from Indivisible Bangor and the Peace and Justice Center. We believe in a positive future for our country and the world. Trump and his administration and their policies are contrary to that future. I oppose Trump. His agenda. I oppose the policies of his cronies who have flooded the executive branch, the Congress, and the halls of Justice. Our taxes were already at work subsidizing Big Oil, Big Pharma, Big Agriculture, Big



Weapons. Now these big boys have bought themselves a Government from top to bottom. It is Big Money on steroids. Through the privatization of everything, they are a Big Straw sucking up OUR tax dollars.

Everything that we hold near and dear, these guys are after it: Medicare, healthcare, social security, public education, science, clean air, privacy. Nothing is sacred. It is all up for grabs. These people are truly (as Stephen King calls them) "Plunder Monkeys," yet they claim to act in the name of Security, Freedom, Pro Life, and Individual Responsibility!! This is the true HOAX. Their policies will take from the poor, the middle class, the elderly, our kids and grandkids and great grandkids. From the future of all species on our planet.

Big Business has moved into the White House/Mar-a-Lago. Influence is being peddled and there will be no public log of who is coming and going. Conflicts of interest and opportunities for corruption abound. All signs point to Russia, big oil deals, and hoodwinking on a global scale. Trump disregards the American public's right to know. He disregards the emoluments clause. His Art of the Deal seeks to obliterate any remnants of the New Deal.

I say this is a Big Deal and we need to find out who owns whom. One first step is to follow the money. We need Donald's tax returns. He has said he would release them, then he said he wouldn't. He has said he can't while being under audit. We need his taxes released, with or without his consent. We need a leader who is accountable, transparent, honest. And we need that leader now.

*Doug Poulin, Hampden. The above remarks were excerpted from a speech Doug made at the Tax Day Protest in Bangor on April 15.*



## Affirm, defend Bangor's community values

In ordinary times, we have no reason to ask our City Council to declare that we are proud to treat every person in our community with dignity, respect and equal protection. But these are not ordinary times. People have well-founded fears of a Muslim registry and hate crimes are on the increase. President Trump's ICE agents are now coming to get undocumented immigrants in Maine. State Rep. Lawrence Lockman's bill LD366 would punish any local government that gets in their way, withholding state aid to towns that don't collaborate with ICE. When our community

values of diversity and inclusion are threatened, and when various groups among us feel at risk, our words matter and give us all heart. We urge all members of the Bangor community to sign and share the following PICA petition online at [www.pica.ws](http://www.pica.ws). Doing so will urge our City Council to add its official voice to ours.

*"Bangor, Maine aspires to be an open, welcoming and safe community for all its residents. We wish to value and honor our racial, ethnic and religious diversity. It makes us stronger and better. The current political climate has become frightening for millions of immigrants and their families. In addition, we recognize that our Islamic friends and neighbors feel threatened by the seeds of anti-Muslim sentiment being sown throughout our country. In light of these concerns, we call on the Bangor City Council to declare that here in our city, we are committed to uphold the rights, ensure the safety, and affirm the worth of each of our residents. We strongly support the Bangor police department's policy to not routinely inquire into the immigration status of any person(s) encountered during the course of normal law enforcement activity. Our public security, including effective community policing, requires that no one feel intimidated or apprehensive in coming forward with information that aids our officers in keeping us all safe. We are proud that our public officials strive to treat all of our residents with respect, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, documentation status, sexual or gender identity. We know that when any sector of our populace feels vulnerable, the integrity of our entire community is in jeopardy. We celebrate our diversity, our openness to one another, and our commitment to dignity and equal justice for all."*



## Please support our P&J Center

*by Kay Carter, P&J Board*

We wrote to the Peace and Justice Center community recently, asking individuals to join with others and pledge increased support to the Center to assure that the progressive voice of concern continues to be vital in Eastern Maine. We thank the many folks who have responded generously. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 this spring. We are not there yet. Can you help us?

It is positive to note that the Center has seen an increase in young people volunteering over the past year. Young women have taken the helm organizing powerful events such as the End Violence Together Rally and March in September. If you came to the HOPE Festival, you likely were inspired by the art and social change theme that permeated the day. That art spirit was guided by two emerging artists from our PJC community.

You may also have noticed an increased number of e-mails from Karen, passing on information about activities of the Center and other organizations. The P&J Center, with its part time staff, facility, mailing list, Facebook page, and collaborative efforts, has been central in assuring that our individual and collective voices are amplified during these challenging times and that we are a resource to the many folks working for progressive change throughout Maine and the nation. Any amount you can contribute helps the Center get critical and timely information out to our community. Thank you for considering increasing your support.

### In Honor, In Memory

Many thanks for the following donations in memory and honor of loved ones:

**In honor of Silas Brogunier from Michele Brogunier**

## Notices

### New Indivisible group forming in Northern Penobscot County

Indivisible Northern Penobscot is a newly formed rural group whose members come from Mattawamkeag, Winn, and Grand Falls Plantation. Future meetings will be held on Tuesday mornings in the Lincoln area, May date and time to be determined. At our first meeting we established a deep concern for the 2018 mid-term elections and the importance of bringing forth progressive candidates. Members continue ongoing conversations with our elected officials via email, phoning, letters, and postcards. Anyone interested in joining please contact wildspiritcamping@gmail.com.

### Hampden area diversity group

About a year ago, I received a call regarding a concern in our high school parking lot. I contacted a few other moms and along with our Town Manager, Police Chief, and a few teachers (who took the time to teach history and respect in the parking lot) we worked together to make our school parking lot safe for our students. And that's how our Facebook page was created. In a time of shunning refugees and immigrants, people of color, people with various sexual preferences, and different ethnicities, we are striving to provide a safe space for all to share concerns and to support each other in a welcoming atmosphere. The Hampden Diversity group is currently a Facebook page but we are planning to grow and provide live meetings soon. We are a community that supports each other and helps to create a positive space for all to be respected and heard. Please consider joining us on our FB page: Hampden Area Diversity.

*Sarah Novak, Hampden*

## PEACE & JUSTICE CENTER *Newsletter*

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### 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.

To support the work of the P&J Center of Eastern Maine, my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

The Center is a non-profit membership organization registered in the state of Maine, but donations are not tax-exempt. To make a tax-exempt donation, make your check payable to ROSC and write "P&J" in the memo line. You can make a donation online at www.peacectr.org. Donations made online are automatically paid through ROSC and are tax deductible.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

This gift is in **memory of** \_\_\_\_ in **honor of** \_\_\_\_

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*Newsletter*  
May 2017



## Peace & Justice Center Film Series - Fridays at 6:30 p.m.

Friday, May 19: MAKING A KILLING: GUNS, GREED AND THE NRA

**Making a Killing: Guns, Greed and the NRA** tells the stories of how guns, and the billions made off of them, affect the lives of everyday Americans. It features personal stories from people across the country who have been affected by gun violence, including survivors and victims' families. The film exposes how the powerful gun companies and the NRA are resisting responsible legislation for the sake of profit. The film looks into what we can do to put an end to this profit-driven crisis.



[[www.bravenewfilms.org/makingakilling](http://www.bravenewfilms.org/makingakilling)]

## Community Calendar

### May 2017

**May 1:** International Workers Day Celebration, U Maine campus mall near Fogler Library, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. FMI: [thomas.macmillan@gmail.com](mailto:thomas.macmillan@gmail.com)

**May 2 & every Tuesday:** Support & Action Gathering, 11 a.m. to noon, P&J Center.

**May 3:** Interactive Story-Telling with Maine-Wabanaki REACH & U Maine Art Education Community Outreach, Lord Hall Rm 202, U Maine, 3:30 - 5 p.m. FMI: [constant@maine.edu](mailto:constant@maine.edu)

**May 10:** Maine Harm Reduction Conference, Hutchinson Center, Belfast, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. FMI: [alex@mainehealthequity.org](mailto:alex@mainehealthequity.org)

**May 15:** Robin Kimmerer, Native speaker, "The Personhood of Plants: Land, Language and the Rights of Nature", Buchanan Alumni Center, McIntyre Room, U Maine Orono, 7 p.m. FMI: [darren.ranco@maine.edu](mailto:darren.ranco@maine.edu)

**May 19:** Film, "Making a Killing: Guns, Greed, and the NRA", 6:30 p.m., P&J Center

**May 23:** Senior Expo, Husson University Gym, 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. FMI: [info@eaaa.org](mailto:info@eaaa.org)

**May 25:** Mabel Wadsworth Annual Celebration, Penobscot Valley Country Club, Orono, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. FMI: [info@mabelwadsworth.org](mailto:info@mabelwadsworth.org)

### June 2017

**June 2:** P&J Center Annual Meeting program & potluck, "Maintaining hope in challenging times", P&J Center, 5:30 p.m.

### July 2017

**July 14-16:** Healing the Wounds of Turtle Island, Nibezun, Passadumkeag. FMI: <https://www.facebook.com/events/139392306480617/>

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