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## Perspectives on hope from two young activists

### What hope means to me *by Tzipporah Winters*

*"Together, we can make a change in the world. Together we can help stop racism. We can help the world live without fear. It is our only hope. And without hope we are lost."*

~ Michael Jackson

I am a teenager interested in social activism. Recent events have given me perspective on the importance of hope. When Trump won the election, I understood that this was going to have devastating effects on women and our LGBT community. I try to be an example of love, joy, kindness, and hope. My best friend has shown me how important it is to live in the moment because tomorrow is never promised. When we live in the moment, we can share love and hope with everyone that we see, forget our differences and see through the eyes of love. There are times when the future looks broken. This is when we need to remember that our greatest hope in life is love. This is my foundation. This is what hope means to me.

### What gives me hope *by Hannah Connors-Townsend*

*"You must not lose faith in humanity."* - Mahatma Gandhi

After the election last year many people lost their hope. However, no matter how bad the news or how chaotic our world may be, people will always find their strength in different ways. Some by protesting, some by praying. I happen to find my hope in both ways, as I'm a Christian and a feminist. Crazy right? Quite the contrary, in my life the two intertwine quite naturally. It's reassuring to know that there is a God who truly cares about every injustice, no matter how small, who helps me see beyond the situation in front of me and instead look at the bigger picture. God's promises propel me to keep resisting, to stay strong, and to never stop fighting for what is right, just like my friends would tell me to do. They help me voice my concerns and frustrations while helping me to gain understanding from another point of view. It's that sense of understanding and unity that strengthens my hope: the fact that two completely different individuals

can find common ground and see something through the other's eyes. Together, through God, with our friends and families, we can become understanding and unified individuals fighting for a common goal of peace, love, and hope, and that is why I am hopeful for today and the future.



## Healthcare at a crossroads

*by Cathleen London MD*

I have watched this week as political pundits tried to praise the American Health Care Act (AHCA) that passed the House of Representatives and now sits before the Senate. I watched as Tom Price, the Secretary of Health and Human Services stated that cutting \$880 billion in Medicaid funding (which translates to 14 million people losing their coverage) puts more resources into Medicaid. This is Orwellian double-speak. The AHCA takes away the protections for pre-existing conditions that we fought so hard to gain in the Affordable Care Act. Despite claims to the contrary by Paul Ryan and other GOP pundits, the AHCA, not yet scored by the Congressional Budget Office, has none of those protections.

The AHCA has not been put forward to improve healthcare policy, but rather to change tax structure in a way that benefits high earners. From the blog *Incidental Economist* (which focuses on health economics and policy):

*Here is why the AHCA is moving forward. The ACA used tax funds to pay for the healthcare of people in the bottom 20% of the income distribution. High earning people pay most of the taxes, so the ACA transferred money from them down to people in the bottom deciles of the US economic hierarchy. The AHCA cuts taxes in the ACA and reduces the amount that the government will spend on the health care of the poor. The net effect of the AHCA is a massive loss for the poor and a benefit for the very top of the economic scale.*

*I would love to be able to say that these bills represent clashing views about the best way to deliver health care. Unfortunately, I am unable to find a conservative health*

*policy expert who thinks the AHCA is optimal. There may not be one who thinks it's even good. The AHCA did not pass based on its merits as a health policy solution. The AHCA passed because Republicans wanted these transfer effects.*

Physician groups are against the AHCA as millions will lose coverage, and there will be huge costs shifts to working families for worse coverage.

Healthcare in America is at a crossroads. Is it a privilege or a right? And who pays? The political right insists that no one should have to pay for someone else's care (missing the point of insurance risk pools). But is that who we are? The next time you see someone clutch their chest and fall to the ground are you just going to step over them or will you call for help?

We all pay - regardless. Emergency room visits must be paid for to keep hospitals open, stocked with supplies, and staffed with nurses, doctors, technicians, and yes, administrators.

How quickly we forget the discussion we had just a few short years ago that the way to bring costs down is to treat early in the disease process - or better - prevent illness in the first place. The most expensive way to treat is to wait for the patient to show up in the emergency room.

While the House was busy passing the AHCA, Maine AllCare rallied and testified in support of a bill (LD 1274) for single-payer healthcare brought forward by Representative Heidi Brooks. Patients brought their stories. Physicians brought our stories - of patients who are uninsured or underinsured - of the frustrations with the giant morass of administrative burden that the insurance industry has placed on us.

If, as a country, we were truly fiscally conservative, single-payer healthcare is the direction we would take. As a small state, this is a more difficult path. Determining how we would fund single-payer is the next step. The committee agreed that we need to look at how we fund healthcare, and how we as a society care for each other in a way that makes sense and keeps our critical access hospitals open. I look forward to helping Maine provide affordable healthcare to all its citizens. It is time to put patients over politics.



## 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**

**In memory of Jesse Bidol from Mary Jane Bush and Sue Davies**

## Solar for ME - Bangor area opportunities

*by Karen Marysdaughter*

The Bangor Climate Action Team is excited to report on two initiatives underway in the Bangor area to promote the development of solar energy.

**Municipal Solar** - Recently, town officials from Bangor, Brewer, Hampden, Veazie & Orono met with a representative of ReVision Energy, the largest solar installation company in Maine, to discuss municipal solar opportunities. ReVision works with municipalities and non-profit organizations to provide affordable solar via what's known as Power Purchase Agreements. A growing number of towns and school districts in the state are investing in solar to control their electricity costs.

**Greater Bangor Solarize** - Solarize is a solar photovoltaic (PV) group purchasing program that aims to lower the price of solar, providing a cost-effective way for communities to increase the number of residential and small business solar installations. Across the country, Solarize campaigns have been introduced, creating jobs, lowering energy bills, and decreasing carbon footprints. Other Solarize campaigns have taken place in Freeport, central Maine, mid-coast Maine, and on Mt. Desert Island.

You can help! We need folks to lobby their local officials in support of solar for municipalities and schools. We also need people to help with outreach on the Solarize project, to encourage friends and neighbors to consider solar for their homes and businesses. If you are interested in helping to promote solar, and/or you want to consider solar for your own home or business, please contact the Bangor Climate Action Team, c/o Karen Marysdaughter, karenmd@myfairpoint.net, 930-5440 .

## Notices

### Earth Day - June 10, 2017

PICA, Transportation for All, and Food AND Medicine are excited to celebrate Earth Day in downtown Bangor on June 10th! This event combines the talents and generosity of local organizations to focus on bringing families in our community together and raise awareness of the natural environment. Activities such as seed-planting, zumba-dancing, face-painting, and donations of food and ice cream will be available for all participants! Highlighted will be a special guest that makes the city greener, less congested, and more accessible... the Community Connector Bus! Join us from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Pickering Square.

**Art Camp!**

The Peace and Justice Center has been awarded a grant from the Maine Humanities Council to sponsor a six-week youth program, and we are proud to announce the first session of Art Camp! We hope to expand the program in the future to have several sessions, each exploring a different medium of art. This session we will focus on murals. We'll study famous muralists, techniques to use in the medium, challenges, and methodology for transferring design from paper to wall. Local artists will speak to our class and help prepare them for mural projects in the community. The camp will culminate in painting a beautiful mural in downtown Bangor. The mural's theme will revolve around Bangor's diverse communities coming together and contributing to build a stronger Bangor, but the actual design is in the hands of our students. The class will be taught by Andrea Simoneau, who has been working with the Peace and Justice Center for about six months on various art workshops and activities, including the HOPE Festival this past April. The camp runs from May 22nd to July 15th, 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., on Mondays and Wednesdays. The final week, July 10th to 14th, we'll have art camp every day, because we'll be painting the mural. It's for kids ages 8 to 17, and there is a \$5 to \$10 registration fee (sliding scale) that will be used to help cover the cost of materials. If you know a child or teenager who has tons of creative energy and would be interested in making a lasting artistic contribution to their community, please call the Peace and Justice Center to register them, or email us at [info@peacectr.org](mailto:info@peacectr.org). Also, we are looking for volunteers to help us during our sessions, so if you are available from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays and enjoy working with kids, your help would be greatly appreciated. Contact us at [info@peacectr.org](mailto:info@peacectr.org).

**Water is Life! - Penobscot River Rally & Flotilla  
Saturday, June 10th, 12:00 to 3:00, Bangor Waterfront,  
next to the Sea Dog Restaurant (26 Front St, Bangor)**

Join us to celebrate the Penobscot River and support the Penobscot Nation's ongoing struggle to protect and enhance the water quality of the Penobscot River for the benefit of all. Bring your boat or hop in a voyageur canoe to be part of the Flotilla. Learn how you can be a Water Protector! FMI: Jim Freeman, [veronabliss2@gmail.com](mailto:veronabliss2@gmail.com)

**Healing the wounds of Turtle Island  
July 14 at 8 a.m. – July 17 at noon Nibezun,  
Passadumkeag, Maine**

Our ancestors tell us that the Eastern Gate is where we will gather to begin the healing of this land. It is here in the East where first contact was made between the Native peoples and the newcomers. It is here that the first blood was spilled between our people, and our history of violence began. So, it is here on this same land that the healing must begin. We will gather along the Penawahpskek (Penobscot) River, at Nibezun in Passadumkeag. All people are welcome. FMI: <https://www.facebook.com/events/139392306480617/>

**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](http://www.peacectr.org). Donations made online are automatically paid through ROSC and are tax deductible.

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*Newsletter  
June 2017*



*Notices continued*

**Pretty Black: Racism in the Art World**

Join us Saturday, June 17 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the P & J Center for the exciting opening of an art show featuring local artist Keith Washington! His work celebrates culture, body, music, and poetry, and challenges the paradigms of fine art and exclusivity. It provides a provocative and sometimes uncomfortable look at race in the art world through multimedia pieces and fictional characters such as Pretty Black.

**P & J Center Film Series - Fridays at 6:30 p.m.**

**Friday, June 16: REFLECTIONS FROM INDIA**

**Reflections from India:** Doug Allen and Ilze Petersons spent much of Doug's 2015-2016 sabbatical in India. Doug gave lectures throughout India and did Gandhi-inspired research. India today is defined by dangerous, but also creative, economic, social, political, religious, caste, gender, and environmental issues. Doug and Ilze will share reflections on their adventures and on the people and the places they visited in India.



## Community Calendar

### June 2017

**June 2:** P&J Center Annual Meeting, & Potluck, with youth panel presentation on "Maintaining Hope in Challenging Times." P&J Center, 5:30 p.m.

**June 10:** Water is Life - Penobscot River Rally & Flotilla, 12 noon to 3 p.m., Bangor Waterfront by the Sea Dog Restaurant, 26 Front St. FMI: [veronabliss2@gmail.com](mailto:veronabliss2@gmail.com)

**June 10:** Re-Scheduled Earth Day Celebration, 11a.m. – 1 p.m., Pickering Square, Bangor. FMI: [katherinekates5@gmail.com](mailto:katherinekates5@gmail.com)

**June 16:** "Reflections on India," presentation by Doug Allen & Ilze Petersons, 6:30 p.m., P&J Center.

**June 17:** "Pretty Black: Racism in the Art World" art show opening, featuring local artist Keith Washington, 5-8 p.m., P&J Center. The show will be available to view through mid-July.

**June 24:** Bangor Pride Festival. FMI: [pride@mainehealthequity.org](mailto:pride@mainehealthequity.org), 990-3626.

### July 2017

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

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