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End violence together

by Julie Hathaway

Imagine a cookout. Twenty-five people from eighteen African nations have been dining with new American friends. Now we all dance under a star-filled sky. It's a bittersweet occasion as we say farewell to people we've come to care about. For many of us from both continents it's been a learning experience, a replacing of media-generated stereotypes with real life stories.

We tend to think of diplomats as well connected, well-off men and women negotiating and partying in embassies in exotic cities. Most of us never consider ourselves diplomats. But when we go to other countries or welcome visitors or newcomers to our own, we become citizen diplomats. In either capacity, we have the chance to win hearts and minds. I was an exchange student in Mexico at a time when Norte Americanos had a bad reputation: materialistic, egocentric, rude, drug consuming, and sexually promiscuous. I was none of the above. My Mexican family and their friends came to know a girl who was spiritual, thoughtful, studious, courteous, and interested in learning about their culture and values. Being welcomed into a colorful, nurturing community granted me lifelong immunity to harmful Latino stereotypes.

Winning hearts and minds is a powerful way to fight violence. Violence, whether in 1930's Germany or America today, depends on an ignorance that allows acceptance of stereotypes. Even if we don't personally harm anyone who is demonized, we may agree with efforts to exclude them from our country or be indifferent to their suffering.

When we see the faces of people from other countries and become aware of our communalities and shared humanity, we become immune to stereotypes. We stand up to those who perpetuate them. We care what happens to our new friends. We oppose corporations that pollute their water and cut down their rain forests and treaties that endanger their ways of life. We teach our children to care. We move ourselves and those around us a little further toward the nonviolent world we all yearn for. This gives me hope.

Brown bag monthly PJC lunches

As we face the daily assaults on our values and attacks on programs designed to serve human needs, it can be challenging to know how to respond. Visits to congressional offices, phone calls, e-mails and letters to the editor, and rallies are some of the ways we have been able to make our voices heard. But how do we sustain our energy and commitment for the long haul?

Doug Allen, long-time Center activist and philosophy professor will join Mary Ellen Quinn, seasoned social worker and co-coordinator for Pax Christi to initiate the brown bag series on Monday, September 11th at noon at the Peace & Justice Center. They will address the topic "9/11: End Violence for Real Security". Together they will share thoughts about the End Violence Together Rally planned for Saturday, September 16, at West Market Square in downtown Bangor.

Future sessions will include one on "Truth" with Tom White-Hassler on October 16th, and a presentation on the "Citizens' Climate Lobby" on November 6th. Bring a lunch, or just come and participate in the discussions which will follow each presentation. FMI: call 944-2609.



Universal Basic Income Forum

by Amy Hughes

"I am now convinced that the simplest solution to poverty is to abolish it directly by a new widely discussed measure: the guaranteed income."

Martin Luther King, Jr. 1967

On Tuesday, September 12th from 6 to 8 p.m. the Socialist Party of Maine and the Peace and Justice Center Education Committee will hold a forum on Universal Basic Income (UBI) at the University of Maine. Speakers will include Michael Howard, University of Maine Philosophy Professor, and Maia Dendinger, Co-Chair of the Socialist Party of Maine and English Instructor at the University of Maine. UBI is the idea of a providing a basic wage for everyone paid in regular intervals with no work requirement or



means testing. The idea has grown in popularity especially over the last year with basic income trial programs started or slated to start in countries such as Finland, Spain, and in the Macau Special Administrative Region of China. Thinkers on both the right and the left embrace basic income, though they favor different methods of funding and implementing the program.

The oldest continuously running basic income program started in the US State of Alaska in the 1980s. The Alaska Permanent Fund sets aside a certain amount of oil revenues to be used as an investment in current and future generations of Alaskans. Part of this fund is paid out in yearly dividends to residents that have lived in the state for the duration of a calendar year. The Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend currently pays each adult \$2,072 per year and has been found to be a supplement that keeps some 15-20,000 people above the poverty line. Alaska can perhaps provide lessons to a state like Maine that is also highly dependent on its natural resource economy. Join us to learn more about the basic income experiments and studies currently taking place and potential ideas for future implementation. FMI: contact Amy Hughes at hughesae@gmail.com.

Nuclear weapons

by Joe Perry

Just over 72 years ago, the US dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the first and only time nuclear weapons have been fired in conflict. Now, the world is arguably the closest it's been to another nuclear bombing since the height of the Cold War. In a world full of increasingly violent and destructive rhetoric, it is critical that we remain aware of the immense cost of possessing nuclear weapons, and the disastrous consequences of using them. Nine countries possess over 15,000 nuclear warheads that are far more dangerous than the bombs dropped on Japan, and, in many cases, these weapons can be launched at a moment's notice. Even a small nuclear war would kill hundreds of millions, and severely and permanently damage the environment. A nuclear war between the US and Russia would almost certainly result in mass extinction, and render the earth uninhabitable.

Considering the numerous false alarms and near misses that have almost led to large scale nuclear warfare on several occasions, it would seem that the very existence of nuclear weapons is a threat to humanity, even without world leaders calling for their use and deliberately escalating tensions between nuclear-armed nations. Although the hazards posed by nuclear weapons have been heightened in both severity and profile by the actions of the current administration,

as long as nuclear weapons exist, they will remain one of the greatest threats to life on earth, regardless of who controls them. Pro-peace activism, and especially anti-nuclear activism, is desperately needed. Therefore, the University of Maine Peace Action Committee remains committed to advocating for nuclear disarmament, work that will be a primary focus of our activism during the coming semester.



Changing Maine for Racial Justice

by Christine of ROSC

Supporting racial justice efforts at this moment is critical. While it is true that violence toward people of color has been increasing, it is also true that white supremacy has never stopped completely and people of color have been organizing for dignity, safety and resiliency for hundreds of years. Since Maine is the second whitest state in the U.S, many people think white supremacy isn't a problem here. That's not true. Mainers are getting KKK flyers at their homes, the governor proclaimed "people of color are the enemy", anti-immigrant sentiment shows up through cuts to General Assistance, the Supreme Court of Maine ruled the Penobscot nation doesn't have rights over the Penobscot River, and Islamophobic graffiti has shown up on the walls of USM. This is an important time to come together to end white supremacy.

Resources for Organizing and Social Change (ROSC) puts on a statewide event every year called Changing Maine, a gathering for analysis building and networking for activists. This year's theme is "Changing Maine for Racial Justice." ROSC is taking care of logistics and fundraising, but this year the gathering is being organized by leaders of color from the For Us, By Us Fund. It will be held Saturday, September 9th from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at YWCA of Central Maine, 130 East Avenue, Lewiston, ME 04240.

For Us, By Us writes: This year's conference provides space for Black, Indigenous, PoC, and White activists and organizers to add breadth and depth to their racial justice work. We've called on experienced trainers and organizers from outside of Maine to bring their knowledge and skills to organizers here. We've found trainers to present workshops on radical Black love as an organizing tool and Black/PoC solidarity within movement building, trainers to deliver workshops for White organizers to ground their organizing work in anti-racist principles and practices, and Indigenous trainers to address historical trauma/ intergenerational resilience and using the momentum from Standing Rock/NoDAPL to further Native organizing in Maine. FMI: www.facebook.com/events/140625586506419/ or resourcesforsocialchange.org

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 Beatrice Trum Hunter, from Richard Cate and June Rieber**

notices

**End Violence Together, West Market Square, Bangor
September 16, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

Join Campaign Nonviolence 2017 for a rally and march to build a culture of peace, trust, healing, unity, and understanding ... beginning in Bangor, Maine. There will be music, speakers, poetry, tabling, and interactive activities for peacemakers of all ages. Co-sponsors include H.O.M.E, Pax Christi-Maine, Peace and Justice Center, Penobscot Job Corps, and Partners for Peace. FMI: ompeacectr@gmail.com.

**Grassroots Organizing Workshops (GROW)
September 29-October 1, Pine Tree Camp
114 Pine Tree Camp Road, Rome, Maine 04963**

Come to the 14th Annual GROW New England Weekend and learn about organizing, enjoy beautiful surroundings and healthy food, network with old friends, and meet new ones with similar interests. Workshops will focus on how to strategize to build lasting and impactful grassroots campaigns including:

- Strategy Development/Crafting a Campaign Plan
- Centering Directly Affected Communities
- Influencing Public Policy
- Theater of the Oppressed
- Organizing Democratically
- Building Diverse Groups/Coalitions

Cost for the event is on a sliding scale from \$0-100 per day, all meals and lodging included. FMI: contact Sass Linneken at 207-607-2571 or sass.rosco@gmail.com; or Jacqui Deveneau at jacqui50@yahoo.com; or check out the website <http://www.resourcesforsocialchange.org/>.

**Many faiths... many cultures One community
Bangor Multi-Faith Community Dinner**

Monday, October 9, 5 p.m. at Bangor High School Joe Baldacci and representatives from several religious and cultural organizations in the greater Bangor area will hold the First Annual Bangor Multi-Faith Community Dinner on Indigenous Peoples' Day. The goal is to bring together members of different faith and ethnic groups to share ideas and traditions and establish social connections. Tickets should be ready in mid-September (watch for a PJC email) and available through area churches, synagogues, the Islamic Center in Orono, and the Peace and Justice Center. There is no charge, but donations will be gratefully accepted to help defray costs. FMI: Joe Baldacci at jbaldacci@baldaccilaw.com.

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** _____

Name: _____

Please send an acknowledgment to

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*Newsletter
September 2017*



P & J Film Series - 6:30 p.m., Friday, September 8 - NOW IS THE TIME: HEALTHCARE FOR EVERYBODY

We've seen enough to know that insurance-based healthcare is not effective for keeping costs down and giving everyone access to needed medical care. Polls indicate that the general public supports the idea of universal healthcare. So it should be a no-brainer, right? But there seems to be something more, like a fog that keeps people from moving forward together. What is so difficult about the idea of looking after each other? This film intends to expose the fog, and will leave viewers examining what it means to be an American and what it takes to step into action. www.nowsthetimemovie.com/

c a l e n d a r

September 4: Food AND Medicine annual Labor Day Barbeque, 4:30 to 7:00 p.m., 20 Ivers St, Brewer. Music by Valerie Orth. FMI: Melissa@foodandmedicine.org, 989-5860.

September 5 (and every Tuesday): Visits to local Congressional offices; meet outside federal building, 11:45 a.m., Bangor. FMI: Lfeldperson@yahoo.com, 989-5860.

September 8: P&J Education Committee meeting (open to all!) 4:30 p.m., following by "Now is the Time" film re: healthcare, 6:30 p.m., P&J Center, Bangor.

September 9: "Changing Maine for Racial Justice: Centering Anti-Racism in Our Movements." 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., YWCA, Lewiston. FMI: sass.ros@gmail.com, 607-2571.

September 11: Monthly Education Series Brown Bag Lunch, "End Violence for Real Security." 12-1 p.m., P&J Center, Bangor.

September 12: Forum on Universal Basic Income, 6 p.m., University of Maine (exact location TBA) FMI: hughesae@gmail.com, 660-3821.

September 16: 4th Annual End Violence Together March & Rally, 1-4 p.m., West Market Square, Bangor. FMI: info@peacectr.org, 942-9343.

September 29: Yom Kippur Afternoon Service, 3 p.m. This participatory Jewish service will reflect on missing the mark and building community in our work toward social justice. Interested parties welcome. Congregation Beth El, 183 French Street, Bangor. FMI: gross.geraldine@gmail.com.

September 29-October 1: 14th Annual Grassroots Organizing Workshops, "Strategies for Social Change." Pine Tree Camp, Rome, ME. FMI: sass.ros@gmail.com, 607-2571.

September 30: March for Racial Justice, Washington DC. FMI on location transportation options: kchammill@gmail.com

October 9: Bangor Multi-Faith Community Dinner, 5 p.m., Bangor High School Cafeteria. Tickets needed, but are free. FMI: jbaldacci@baldaccilaw.com

October 13-21: Maine Peace Walk for Conversion, Community & Climate, Bath. FMI: globalnet@mindspring.com 207-443-9502

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