



Photo by Karen Marysdaughter

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## Two voices of hope after Charlottesville

by Doug Allen, U Maine Professor of Philosophy

Understandably, Jews were alarmed by swastikas, displays of Holocaust genocidal rhetoric, and other blatant anti-Semitism at Charlottesville. Various super-wealthy and powerful Jews (and others), silent when it comes to anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim, racist, sexist, and other violent rhetoric and policies and even supporting Trump's economic politics favoring big corporations and the wealthy elite, were disturbed. That is a very minimal Jewish response.

The most sacred time of the Jewish calendar starts Rosh Hashanah (evening September 20) and ends Yom Kippur (sundown September 30). During the High Holidays, one reflects on sins (wrongs) and attempts to atone by seeking forgiveness and making wrongs right, with renewed hope for a better year of health, happiness, peace, and justice. What is most significant in the Jewish approach is that one cannot ask God for forgiveness for wrongs committed against other humans (most of the injustices and violence in the world) without first reaching out to the others who have been wronged, seeking their forgiveness, and repairing the wrong. In this approach, there is great hope that we imperfect human beings can do better in realizing our ideals of loving kindness, compassion, serving the needs of the oppressed, and living value-based lives.

by Linette C. George, Licensed Pastor & Teacher  
Dedham & Holden Congregational Churches, UCC

My faith is in a God that can soften any heart, and it is there that I find my hope for the resolution of racism. It is clear that the public, open face of racism is now blatantly unavoidable, as it has been thrust into the center of White America. I witness the fire that has been ignited in those allies who will be silent no longer. The worship service in Charlottesville ended with a pastor announcing the church was surrounded by white supremacist protestors. Yet next he said "I think it is time to pray for our enemies." THIS is the God I worship who will give me such strength that in my hour of such vulnerability, I can pray for a person who hates me for the color of my skin—a person who

brought guns, Kevlar and riot gear to a protest. Those who come armed with love are always there with the most powerful weapon. I saw that love in the rally so expertly and expeditiously organized for Westmarket Square. When a sea of people craving peace and community are gathered in visible, tangible expression of intolerance for hatred, I continue to have hope that God will spark that same love in those whose hearts are so full of hatred. I am facing the challenge to love my enemy as myself. Love always wins.



## Referendum question 2: affordable healthcare and medicaid expansion

by Gerry Gross

Maine voters will have a chance to express their will on the issue of Expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act at the ballot box on November 7. Question 2, An Act to Enhance Access to Affordable Health Care, reads: "Do you want Maine to expand Medicaid to provide healthcare coverage for qualified adults under age 65 with incomes at or below 138% of the federal poverty level, which in 2017 means \$16,643 for a single person and \$22,412 for a family of two?" Question 2 is a citizen-initiated ballot measure that seeks to expand Medicaid eligibility under the terms of the ACA.

A "yes" vote would require the state to provide Medicaid services, called MaineCare in Maine, for persons under the age of 65 who have incomes equal to or below 138 percent of the federal poverty line. Medicaid expansion was originally required of states as a condition of all federal Medicaid funding, but the United States Supreme Court ruled in *National Federation of Independent Business v. Sebelius* that such expansion was optional.

Maine Republican Gov. Paul LePage is a staunch opponent of the Affordable Care Act, calling it unconstitutional, and he vetoed Congressional efforts to expand MaineCare eligibility six times. In fall 2016, supporters of expansion, led by Maine Equal Justice Partners, launched a petition drive to put the issue to voters in a referendum, which the Governor cannot

veto, if passed. More than 67,000 people signed petitions to put this question on the 2017 ballot.

Maine People's Alliance, another supporter, stated that in addition to covering more than 70,000 working Mainers, expanding health coverage through Medicaid will also bring \$500 million in federal funds to the state and is projected to create more than 3,000 new health care jobs, predominately in rural areas. According to law enforcement and drug treatment experts, it's also a vital step in addressing Maine's opioid addiction epidemic. If you want to help, contact Sam Portera of MPA at Sam@mainepeoplesalliance.org. A 'yes' vote on Question 2 will be good for Mainers and for Maine.



## Maine millionaires primary recipients of proposed Trump tax breaks: Proposed tax cuts threaten basic education and health services

New analysis (August 17, 2017) from the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (ITEP) shows Maine's millionaires would get an average tax cut of \$135,220 under President Trump's proposed tax plan. Maine millionaires represent only 0.3 percent of all Maine households, yet would receive more than a quarter of all tax breaks. The president's tax proposal would cut national revenue by more than \$4.8 trillion over 10 years and would trigger major cuts to basic health and education services that strengthen the middle class.

"From this analysis, one thing is crystal clear. The Trump tax plan represents the interests of millionaires and billionaires and completely fails working people," stated Sarah Austin, policy analyst at the Maine Center for Economic Policy. "These enormous tax breaks are paid for by taking away services that help keep seniors and working people from falling through the cracks. Ultimately, the cost of these tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans would fall on state and local tax payers as Maine lawmakers work to replace key investments lost at the federal level."

Nationally, millionaires would receive an average of 48.8 percent of the tax breaks—despite making up just half of one percent of Americans—while the approximately 45 percent of Americans earning less than \$45,000 would receive just 4.4 percent of the tax cuts. The Trump tax proposal is expected to be the basis for tax legislation pursued by House GOP leadership this fall.

*The Maine Center for Economic Policy is a non-partisan, policy research organization committed to helping Maine people prosper in a strong, fair and sustainable economy.*



## Work to reduce carbon emissions

*by Gerry Gross*



## Peace & Reconciliation Studies continued at U Maine

*by Hugh Curran*

For nearly two years, the Peace and Reconciliation (PR) Department's future was in jeopardy due to a decision by the Department of Lifelong Learning (DLL) to phase out the program. I am happy to report that it is once again a viable university offering.

The 2015 decision to eliminate the program came as a shock to Peace Studies faculty and students. Many expressed strong views concerning the importance of retaining PR Studies. To that end, a petition letter was circulated that asked for support from the University and Maine peace action communities.

The letter pointed out that Peace Studies are an integral part of 136 colleges and universities across the country and that if U Maine closed its PR program, Maine would be the only state in New England without one. This prompted hundreds of responses to both the DLL and PR corroborating the importance of Peace studies and urging the University to retain the program.

I approached Dean Timothy Reagan of the School of Education to see if our program could be placed within that School. Dean Reagan agreed to discuss this at a faculty meeting and the results were positive. More meetings were held in Winter/Spring of 2017 with DLL and deans of several departments. The transition of PR from DLL to the School of Education was begun and Sid Mitchell was named Director.

**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**

**n o t i c e s**

**Many faiths, many cultures, one community: Bangor Multi-Faith Community Dinner**

**Monday, October 9th, 5 p.m. at Bangor High School**  
 Bangor Mayor Joe Baldacci invites the community to an Interfaith Dinner starting at 5 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 9, at the Bangor High School cafeteria. Based on the theme, "Many Faiths, Many Cultures, One Community," the dinner is an opportunity for greater Bangor community members of all cultures and faiths to break bread together and learn more about the Maine Multicultural Center. The dinner is free to anyone who wishes to participate, but tickets are required for admission. Tickets are available at many houses of worship in the Bangor area, at the Peace and Justice Center, or by contacting the mayor at [joe.baldacci@bangormaine.gov](mailto:joe.baldacci@bangormaine.gov). Due to space constraints, this dinner is limited to 250 guests.

**Harvest Supper and Hands of Peace Awards**

Save the date! for the 28th Annual Harvest Supper and Hands of Peace Awards, Saturday, November 11 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Unitarian-Universalist Society of Bangor, 120 Park St. This is an opportunity each year for us to celebrate the good: the harvest, our dedicated activist community, and the work accomplished over the past year by the Peace & Justice Center and the other great organizers we collaborate with. Join us for delicious food, stimulating company, and inspiring awardees!

**Indigenous Peoples' Day**

On August 28, the Bangor City Council unanimously approved a resolution to celebrate the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples' Day instead of Columbus Day. The council record states that renaming the holiday "will provide an opportunity for our community to recognize and celebrate the Indigenous Peoples of our region," specifically citing the Micmacs, Maliseets, Passamaquoddys, and Penobscot Nation. Maulian Dana Smith, Penobscot Tribal Council Member, led the effort. Supporters of Indigenous Peoples' Day maintain that honoring Columbus glorifies colonization, racism, and genocide. After the Bangor City Council vote, Maulian Dana Smith was quoted by the Bangor Daily News as saying, "When we take a traumatic event in history and transform it into a chance for healing and enriching gaps between our communities, it is a powerful thing."

**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  
October 2017*



## **P & J Film Series - 6:30 p.m., Friday, October 13th - 13TH**

**13th** is Ava DuVernay's 2016 documentary exploring the intersection of race, justice and mass incarceration in the United States. It is titled after the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, which freed the slaves and prohibited slavery. The US has five percent of the world's population but twenty-five percent of the world's prisoners. **13th** shows that slavery has been perpetuated in criminal justice practices since the end of the American Civil War and examines the prison-industrial complex and the emerging detention-industrial complex, demonstrating how much money is being made by corporations from such incarcerations. <http://www.avaduvernay.com/13th/>

# c a l e n d a r

**October 9:** Multi-Faith Dinner, 5 p.m., Bangor High School Cafeteria. Tickets needed, but are free.

FMI: [jbaldacci@baldaccilaw.com](mailto:jbaldacci@baldaccilaw.com)

**October 12:** "Sistering with Carasque - A Journey in Solidarity," Hispanic Heritage Month series, 6:30 p.m., 165 Barrows Hall, U Maine. FMI: [maria.rave@maine.edu](mailto:maria.rave@maine.edu)

**October 13:** P&J Education Committee meeting (open to all!) 4:30 p.m., following by "Thirteenth" a film on racial issues, 6:30 p.m., P&J Center, Bangor.

**October 13-21:** Maine Peace Walk for Conversion, Community & Climate, Bath.

FMI: [globalnet@mindspring.com](mailto:globalnet@mindspring.com), 207-443-9502

**October 15:** Harvest Festival Fundraiser for Nibezun, 12 noon to 4 p.m., 18 Nepisikwit Dr, Passadumkeag. FMI: "Harvest Festival Fundraiser" on FaceBook.

**October 16:** Monthly Education Series Brown Bag Lunch, "Truth: The Relativity of Absolutes", 12 to 1 p.m., P&J Center

**October 17-18:** Wabanaki Climate Conference, Buchanan Alumni House, U Maine. FMI: 207-853-2600

**October 18:** Walk to End Abuse, 11 a.m., West Market Square, Bangor. FMI: [agleason@partnersforpeace.org](mailto:agleason@partnersforpeace.org); 945-5102

**October 20-21:** The Q - A Conference to Raise Up LGBTG+ Youth, University of Maine, exact time & location TBA. FMI: 207-581-1228, [umaine.wgs@maine.edu](mailto:umaine.wgs@maine.edu)

**October 21:** Power in Community Alliances Annual Auction, 3 to 6 p.m., Center for Family Business, Husson University. FMI: 947-4203, [elleng@pica.ws](mailto:elleng@pica.ws)

**October 25:** "Who's Watching Whom? Video Surveillance by and of the Police," 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., Nocturnem Draft Haus, Bangor. FMI: [info@mainehumanities.org](mailto:info@mainehumanities.org), 773-5051

**November 4:** Solidarity Harvest Benefit Concert with Noel Paul Stookey, 7 p.m., Brewer Performing Arts Center. FMI: 989-5860, [adam@foodandmedicine.org](mailto:adam@foodandmedicine.org)

**November 11:** P&J Center 28th Annual Harvest Supper and Hands of Peace Awards, 6 to 8 p.m., Unitarian-Universalist Society of Bangor, 120 Park St, Bangor

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