



Photo by Karen Marysdaughter

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28th Annual Harvest Supper

Saturday, November 11, 6 to 8 p.m.
Unitarian Universalist Society of Bangor

At this year's Harvest Supper, the Peace and Justice Center of Eastern Maine is pleased to present the Hands of Peace Award to Sherri Mitchell, Penobscot lawyer, author, and activist; and the Youth Hands of Peace Award to Olivia Baldacci, Bangor High student, activist, and community leader.

Sherri Mitchell was born and raised on the Penobscot Indian reservation at Indian Island in Maine. She graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor's degree from the University of Maine, and received her Juris Doctorate and a certificate in Indigenous People's Law and Policy from the University of Arizona's James E. Rogers College of Law. Sherri currently has a private law practice in the State of Maine and is the Founding Director of the Land Peace Foundation, an organization dedicated to the global protection of Indigenous rights and the preservation of the Indigenous way of life. The PJCEM is honored to present Sherri with the Hands of Peace Award, for her tireless and nonviolent support for Indigenous Peoples protesting the Dakota Access Pipeline at Standing Rock, North Dakota.

Olivia Baldacci, a junior at Bangor High School, has already built an exemplary resume as an activist. She worked on Bernie Sanders' campaign last year, and the Youth and Nonviolence Workshop. She currently works with the Olympia Snowe Women's Leadership Institute and Hardy Girls-Healthy Women. Olivia is a founder of the Women's Interest Group at BHS, a club for students of all genders, sexualities, races, and ethnicities to meet to discuss personal experiences and social justice concerns. WIG reaches out within the community to bring awareness to issues such as equal representation, gender discrimination, and sexual assault. The PJCEM is delighted to present the Youth Hands of Peace Award to Olivia for her generous spirit and enthusiastic work with WIG and the P&J Center.

We invite you to join us for the Harvest Supper to celebrate another year of good works and to personally thank the recipients of the Hands of Peace Awards. Please bring a vegetarian dish to share!



Indigenous People's Day observance

by Amy Hughes

In August the Bangor City Council unanimously voted to recognize Indigenous People's Day on the second Monday of October- a day recognized by the federal government as Columbus Day. The conversation was spearheaded by Penobscot Nation Ambassador Maulian Dana, who has traveled around the State of Maine speaking on the importance of officially recognizing Indigenous People's Day. She has been supported by Native and Non-Native allies who have advocated for this change in their own municipalities. To date, Brunswick, Portland, Orono, and Bangor now officially recognize Indigenous People's Day, with Bar Harbor likely to sign on in the future.

The Peace and Justice Center of Eastern Maine (PJCEM) joined with Maine People's Alliance, Food AND Medicine, Faith Linking in Action, the Greater Bangor NAACP, and the Social Justice Committee at the Unitarian Universalist Society to host Bangor's first Indigenous People's Day celebration. Speakers included Karen Marysdaughter and Amy Hughes of the PJCEM, Michael Alpert of Bangor NAACP, and Darren Ranco, Penobscot Nation member and Director of Native American Research at UMaine. Introductory remarks pointed to the idea that celebrating Indigenous People's Day is a way of living more deeply rooted in our historical truth. We can honor Native Americans by ensuring our activism reflects the origins of our mutual struggles. Darren Ranco spoke about the leadership of Native activists in Maine who have worked to protect Native culture and the health of the natural resources on which we all depend. From efforts to clean up the Penobscot River to actions that mitigate potential damage by the Emerald Ash Borer, Native people have been on the front lines for centuries. Attendees then brainstormed ways to observe the holiday in the future and to commit to working in solidarity with Native Peoples throughout the year. To help us plan next year's Indigenous People's Day observance, contact Amy at hughesae@gmail.com.



Visitor from India speaking at PJC

by Doug Allen

Mahesh Upadhyaya from India will speak at the Peace and Justice Center of Eastern Maine on Thursday, October 26, at 6:30 p.m. His topic is “Unpacking the Caste System: India and the United States.” He will be doing a similar program on this topic on October 26, at 12:30 p.m., in the Bangor Room, Memorial Union, of the University of Maine.

Based in Ahmedabad, India, Mahesh Upadhyaya serves as the International Partners in Mission South Asia's Regional Director. He works to bring people together regardless of caste, class, religion, or gender working toward the goal of peace, justice, and reconciliation. With studies in biochemistry and social management in India and with a graduate degree in religion from the University of Chicago, Upadhyaya has a wide range of experience in human rights and labor rights organizing, training NGOs, microenterprise cooperatives, nurse and social work training, and efforts at gender equality and interfaith dialogue.

What is “caste”? Unlike many Indians who deny that caste still exists or others who present an idealized view of caste, Upadhyaya will unpack the human devastation of caste violence. Isn't the U.S., which promotes its ideology of equality for all, free from hierarchical caste violence and injustice? How is caste in India and in the U.S. related? From firsthand personal experience, I know that Mahesh is a very caring person, an engaged activist, and an effective communicator. Those who attend this program will be educated, inspired, and motivated, and will enjoy a lively question and discussion period.



Adventures in civic engagement

by Lisa Feldman

As the new Trump Administration began to take shape, Food AND Medicine staffer Sandy Joy thought: Why should corporate America have all the lobbyists? The democratic principle is: the voice of the people shall be heard. Increasing that volume just takes a little organization. Sandy began organizing. A small group from Food AND Medicine was joined by recruits from Indivisible: Bangor and the Peace and Justice Center. Citizen-lobbyists now visit the Bangor offices of both US senators every Tuesday at noon, having picked and researched a weekly focus topic. Some 50-60 people have participated in one or more visits. A diverse, committed and feisty group of 12-15 comes on a regular basis. Together, we've explored the differences between protest and lobbying. Protests aim at expressing

a simple point boldly and succinctly. Lobbying finds its strength in listening—building trust by demonstrating understanding and respect for the other's point of view.

The health care debate provides a good example. On advice from former state legislator Adam Goode, we de-emphasized our preferred means (a single-payer system) and instead emphasized goals we could share with Senator Collins. When we began to talk about preserving meaningful access to affordable health insurance that covered a comprehensive range of services close to home, we began to make progress with Senator Collins' staff. We have even met with both Senator King and Senator Collins.

Statistics and reasoned argument only go so far in effective lobbying. Real breakthroughs come when we connect on the level of fundamental values. In a time of hyper-polarized partisan politics, learning to communicate across political boundaries is a useful skill, not easily mastered. Balancing the sane and civil voice of reason with the still, small voice whispering from the whirlwind can be tricky. A group setting helps as our individual strengths complement one another. We welcome all to join us—we meet Tuesdays at 11:45 a.m. outside the Federal building on Harlow Street in Bangor. We welcome collaboration with faith and community groups on issues of shared concern. FMI: please contact Food AND Medicine's current Volunteer Coordinator, Lfeldperson@yahoo.com (207-889-0257).



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

Women's Interest Group (WIG), Bangor High School
WIG is an organization where students of all genders, sexualities, races, and ethnicities gather to discuss their personal experiences and social justice concerns. We bring awareness to issues such as equal representation, gender discrimination, and sexual assault, and support community groups that work towards achieving security and equality for all. This year WIG is focusing on several initiatives. One important area is changing how the BHS administration handles sexual harassment and assault. We are drafting a proposal with assistance from Partners for Peace (formerly Spruce Run). We believe that, together with Partners for Peace and school officials, we can develop a clear plan that will more effectively address the problem of sexual assault

in a way that will not only protect potential victims but also educate potential offenders. WIG is also sponsoring several upcoming films at PJC:

Audrie and Daisy (2016). Saturday, December 16th, 7 to 8:35 p.m. The effects on families, friends, schools, and communities when teens have their sexual assault caught on camera. The \$3 admission will go to Rape Response Services.

13th (2016) Saturday, February 17th, 2018, 7 to 8:40 An in-depth look at the U.S. prison system and our nation's history of racial inequality.

She's Beautiful When She's Angry (2014) Saturday, April 28th, 2018, 7 to 8:35 p.m. The fascinating story of the women who founded the women's movement from 1966 to 1971. The \$3 admission will go to the Mabel Wadsworth Center.

The Out List (2013) Saturday, June 16th, 2018, 7 to 8 p.m. Being a member of the LGBT community, as told through interviews with LGBT celebrities and community leaders. The \$3 admission will go to Maine Health Equity Alliance.

Sowing Peace, Harvesting Hope

**Solidarity Harvest Supper and Hands of Peace Awards
November 11th, 6 to 8 p.m.**

Unitarian Universalist Society, 120 Park Street, Bangor
Please join the Peace and Justice Center for our annual potluck Harvest Supper. This year we are delighted to present the Hands of Peace Award to Sherri Mitchell, and the Youth Hands of Peace Award to Olivia Baldacci. Come congratulate these two remarkable activists and savor the fruits (and vegetables) of our labors over the past year. Please bring a vegetarian dish to share. FMI: ompeacectr@gmail.com or call 942-9343.

Maine Multicultural Center (MMC)

The MMC is new on the Bangor scene. We recognize that Bangor-area residents come from a variety of cultures, ethnicities, histories, and religions, and we believe that we all have the right to live in a community where our backgrounds are understood and welcomed. We also know that with our aging population and low birth rate, the only way for our area to have a healthy economy is for Bangor to be a culturally rich and diverse place that both retains young Mainers and attracts new residents. The MMC will act on these insights by providing information and referrals to community resources for new Mainers, promoting the visibility of Bangor's diverse cultural groups, and conducting events and programs on cultural understanding for both new and more established area residents. MMC is a volunteer-based organization, so to do all this we need help. Our work is done through committees – Development, Education, Events, and Marketing, plus a general Advisory Committee. If you would like to become part of the MMC, please contact Ed French, Executive Director (ebfrench14@gmail.com, 207-944-3952) or follow the MMC on Facebook.

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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

Name: _____

Address: _____

