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Art funded for youth projects

by Andrea Simoneau

Hello Peace and Justice Center friends! Thank you once again, old friends and new, for continuing to support Center work. It was an exciting few months for Art Camp as well! Thanks to the hard work of Karen Marysdaughter, the Peace and Justice Center secured a \$2000 grant from the Pine Tree Youth Organization to hold several Art Camp sessions on a variety of topics throughout the coming year. Thank you so much, Pine Tree Youth Organization. We promise to make sure your faith is well placed. We've got several things planned, ideas still in flux, but for sure we will be partnering with the Carleton Project in the spring for another awesome ... and this time... completely student-directed mural project!

The Peace and Justice Center was also awarded \$1500 by the Commission for Cultural Development of the City of Bangor to paint three murals in Bangor's recreational centers: places where youth programs exist and community members gather for programming. The design we'll be working from depicts civil rights leaders who have had impacts across the spectrum of civil rights actions. The students will add their own contributions and details, and as we draw and paint these historical figures, we'll do a "work-and-talk" lesson on each. We're still confirming potential host sites, but we are set to do one with our friends at the Capehart Boys and Girls Club as a portable standalone display in their new teen center opening in the next few weeks! I am filled with gratitude for my city, for all who have helped us and continue to help us on this journey, and for all who continue to believe in art and the good it can do to foster hope in our community.



Tax bill protests at Sen. Collins' office

by Jessica Stewart

Just before Christmas, a season of love and giving, Sharon Dean, Ridgley Fuller, and Jessica Stewart went

to Susan Collins' Bangor office to speak with her staff about the tax bill. After futile discussions, we announced our decision to remain in the office until Senator Collins agreed to vote NO on the tax bill. We were arrested by a federal officer, released with appearance tickets, and will eventually appear before a federal judge. We made this difficult decision because as citizens, voters, and mothers, we could not, in good conscience, be complicit in the passage of this economically violent and unjust tax bill. Nonpartisan policy analysts and the Congressional Budget Office agree that the bill gives to the wealthiest Americans and corporations, and takes from most lower- and middle-income individuals and families. We know from empirical research by respected economists, that the bill will result in pervasive harm to our most vulnerable citizens: children, the elderly, and people with disabilities.

While we were charged with failing to obey a lawful order, Sen. Collins and all members of Congress who voted for the bill failed to obey the spirit of our legal system: to safeguard the common good. Voting for a tax bill that enables the rich to thief from the poor undermines the rule of law and violates higher moral principles of economic justice. We are guilty of no crime except fulfilling our duties as citizens to uphold the common good and look out for our neighbors. Sharon, Ridgley, and I complied peacefully with the federal officer, and face a \$130 fine or 30 days in jail. We stand in solidarity with all who resist this tax bill and hope that many Mainers and people across the nation will be moved to take risks for a more just and peaceful society.



In honor, in memory

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

From Michele Brogunier in honor of Silas Brogunier
From Stanley Musgrave Jr. & Kathleen Batchelder, in honor of their parents Stanley & Katherine Musgrave



Tell me the truth: Exploring the heart of cross-racial communications

An intimate conversation between two friends followed by a community dialogue

On Wednesday, February 7, 2018 at 5 p.m. in the Wells Conference Center Room 1 at the University of Maine in Orono, Debbie Irving, author of "Waking up White" and Shay Stewart Bouley, blogger for Black Girl in Maine Media and Executive Director of Community Change, Inc. (CCI) will join us for a presentation and facilitation of a community conversation about cross-racial relationships.

Many of us are familiar with the term "woke," which has come to mean a certain level of awareness about social and racial justice. For Debby Irving, author of the book "Waking Up White," it means, after a lifetime of ignorance and confusion about race and racism in this country, to at last wake up and open herself up, in sometimes painful ways, to understanding her identity and privilege as a white person. Shay Stewart Bouley's work at CCI aims to make visible and challenge the historical and ongoing role racism plays in the institutions that shape all our lives. The organization focuses particularly on involving white people in understanding and confronting systemic racism and white privilege.

Although conversation is a primary way human beings think together, fear of talking about race can prevent us from using this critical tool. Shay and Debby will explore the common fears and pitfalls of cross-racial conversation that keep people isolated in their own racial groups at the expense of personal, professional, and societal growth. They'll also help audience members understand how interpersonal social patterns hinder organizations from living up to their own ideals for diversity and how good intentions can actually undermine collective progress.



Julius Lester, scholar & activist, has died

by Gerry Gross

Julius Lester, African-American scholar and activist, passed away last week at the age of 78. An award-winning author of 43 books and articles in *The New York Times* and *The Village Voice*, he taught Judaic and Near Eastern studies at the University of Massachusetts. Lester's very first book was an instructional book on how to play the 12-string guitar, co-authored with Pete Seeger. His 1994 novel about the civil rights movement, "And All Our Wounds Forgiven," was nominated for a National Book Critics Circle Award. Lester was a masterful wordsmith, and in his memory, we share some of his words here.

History is not just facts and events. History is also a pain in the heart and we repeat history until we are able to make another's pain in the heart our own.

Who am I? There are not enough words to describe who am I, who any of us are, because we all carry within us traces of lives going back 10,000 years and more. What a shame that there are those who would reduce the wonder of being human to such a narrow and restrictive a concept as race...

~ from a 2015 essay

notices

Late breaking news ...

there will be *no* HOPE Festival for 2018!

We haven't given up HOPE, but due to increased costs at the venue we've been using, and the lack of time to properly organize, the Peace & Justice Center will be setting aside the HOPE Festival for 2018. We'll be sorry to miss the collaboration and upbeat atmosphere of the festival! We may need to be looking for a new venue in the future - if you have ideas for location, and/or want to help us bring an even bigger and better HOPE Festival back in 2019, please let us know.

February is Black History Month

The University of Maine Office of Multicultural Student Life is celebrating Black History Month with an inspiring schedule of programs. Listed below are only some of the offerings:

February 1: Unity March and Kick-off Event at 12 p.m. Meet on University Mall in front of Fogler Library.

February 1-28: The University of Maine's Innovative Media Research and Commercialization Center Student Art Exhibition opens at 1 p.m. on Feb 1.

Mondays February 5, 12, 19, 26, 1 to 3 p.m.:

Documentaries, films, and TedTalks on race, culture, and people of color, Office of Multicultural Student Life.

February 7 and 21, 1 p.m.: Lunch-N-Learn Student Development Discussion. Engage with successful individuals from Maine and surrounding region in a forum that highlights the strengths & talents of entrepreneurs, physicians, and educators of color, Office of Multicultural Student Life or COE Room.

Films Wednesdays & Saturdays, Neville Hall, room101.

February 7 and 10 at 8 p.m.: *Marshall*

February 21 and 2 at 8 p.m.: *Love Beats Rhymes*

February 8 and 22, 1 p.m.: Workshops with intermedial artist Eleanor Kipping to increase social consciousness for audiences of all races and identities, including an interactive discussion of the representation of race in films from the mid-1900s to today, Bangor Room Student Memorial Union.

February 28, 12 noon: Black History Month Finale - Student Memorial Union. Sit-In with a reading from the black feminist Combahee River Collective Statement.

FMI: Silvestre Guzman silvestre.guzman@maine.edu or <https://umaine.edu/multicultural/event/black-history-month/>.

Save the dates for Bangor's Annual Pride Week, June 17 to 24, 2018!

The organizing committee for Bangor's annual Pride Week has gotten off to a great start! They plan to repeat favorites from last year, such as the Rainbow awards, a youth dance and a chem-free dance, a Saturday night party at the Bangor Arts Exchange hosted by Equality Maine, a children's story time, and a drag show, plus a few new events, including a 5K race in Orono. And, of course, the very popular Pride parade. Yet more activities are in the works. Want to help create another incredible week of Pride for the Bangor community? Contact Hannah Ruhlin (hannah@mainehealthequity.org,) or Ambureen Rana (ambureen@mainehealthequity.org) at Health Equity Alliance.

**Workshop: Living a nonviolent life
March 17, St. Joseph's College in Standish, ME
9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

Please gather for a workshop with activist, author, and Nobel Peace Prize nominee Fr. John Dear. "Living a Nonviolent Life" is co-sponsored by St. Joseph's College, Pax Christi, and Unity of Greater Portland. Preregistration is required, as seating is limited. Go to www.unitygreaterportland.org or call 207-893-1233, ext. 5. Sliding scale fee \$30-\$50. FMI contact Mary Ellen at 223-4992 or memquinn@peoplepc.com.

**Book Launch: Sacred Instructions
Buchanan House, University of Maine
February 17th, 3 p.m.**

Please come to celebrate the launch of *Sacred Instructions: Indigenous Wisdom for Living Spirit-Based Change*, written by Sherri Mitchell, Penobscot Native, lawyer, activist, and 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. "In this passionate prayer for reclaiming and celebrating Indigenous wisdom, sacred activist Sherri Mitchell invites everyone to the table. Both Native and non-Native peoples have been suffering from the ongoing trauma of colonization. The remedy is a conscious and loving embrace of core cultural values of reverence for the earth and clear-sighted collaboration. Mitchell's intelligent writing and wise heart light the way." Mirabai Starr, author of *Caravan of No Despair*. To reserve a copy of the book and your place at the signing, go to: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1405590239567540/>.

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.

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Email: _____ Phone: _____

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*Newsletter
February 2018*



PEACE & JUSTICE CENTER FILM SERIES: Sunday, February 18, 6:00 p.m.

In honor of Black History Month we present **I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO**

Whatever you think about the past and future of what used to be called "race relations" -- white supremacy and the resistance to it, in plainer English -- this movie will make you think again, and may even change your mind. Though its principal figure, the novelist, playwright and essayist James Baldwin, is a man who has been dead for nearly 30 years, you would be hard-pressed to find a movie that speaks to the present moment with greater clarity and force, insisting on uncomfortable truths and drawing stark lessons from the shadows of history.

www.pbs.org/independentlens/films/i-am-not-your-negro/



calendar

February 1: Black History Month Opening Day Ceremony & Unity March, 12 p.m., University of Maine. Many other events planned throughout the month. FMI: silvestre.guzman@maine.edu

February 1: "Trump Presidency: A Year in Review" presentation by environmental thought leaders, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., Wells Conference Center, University of Maine. FMI: nrcm@nrcm.org

February 1-2: Court appearance of Aegis 9, group arrested at protest of Bath Iron Works destroyer "christening." Sagadahoc County Courthouse, Bath. FMI: globalnet@mindspring.com

February 7: Exploring the Heart of Cross-Racial Conversations, with Shay Stewart-Bouley & Debby Irving, 5-6:30 p.m., Wells Conference Center, University of Maine. FMI: risingtide@maine.edu

February 16: Candidate Forum for CD2 candidates to focus on substance abuse disorders and harm reduction. Sponsored by Health Equity Alliance at 6 p.m. Downeast School. FMI: Andrea at andrea@mainehealthequity.org.

February 17: Sherri Mitchell's "Sacred Instructions" Book Launch, 3 p.m., Buchanan House, University of Maine. FMI: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1405590239567540/>

February 18: P&J Education Committee meeting (open to all!) 4:30 p.m., following by the film "I Am Not Your Negro," 6:00 p.m., P&J Center, Bangor.

March 17: "Living a Nonviolent Life" - a workshop with Fr. John Dear - activist, author, Nobel Peace Prize nominee at St. Joseph's College, Standish, ME. Sliding scale fee \$30-\$50. FMI: 223-4992, memquinn@peoplepc.com

April 7, 2018: *We regret to say that the HOPE Festival is cancelled for this year!*

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