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Bangor Women’s March

*Excerpts from speech by Desiree Vargas,
U Maine Black Student Union*

I wear red and black to bring awareness to violence against black and indigenous women. When we talk about peace, we must talk about justice. And when we talk about justice, we must talk about the economic, environmental, and social injustices that continue to be protected in our society: the notion that some lives matter more than others. There are powerful people who will take the lives of others to protect their wealth. In a society where love of money is valued over the love of people and the planet, the people and the planet will suffer.

But people united and ‘woke’ are more powerful. Together we will demand respect for women and Mother Earth. Today we celebrate women who lead with wisdom and power to stand against our oppressions. Unity of women should not be divided by class, identity, spiritual beliefs, or whom we love. Unity of women should not be destroyed by shaming other women for being sex workers or for having abortions. All women need protection and love. Unity of women is not color blind, because we are not all one race, one culture. We will not be homogenized. We are humans from different nations and tribes, and non-white people need to have the culture of our ancestors be preserved, to “respect the sacred”.

We have much work to do to empower our women, to help our girls grow to be women who do not shrink their selves to be accepted by men, who will not be scared to break free of gender boxes, and who will not have their lives destroyed by sexual assault. It is a disgrace; men like Brock Turner walk free while violence against women, especially nonwhite women and trans people are cases left without justice. It is a disgrace that imperialism and militarization disproportionately hurt women and families. The powers that be will try to bury us. There is a Mexican proverb that says, “They tried to bury us but didn’t know we were seeds.” We will grow through every tribulation and rise reaching for the sun.

Thank you and fare well

It is with great regret that the Steering Committee of the Peace and Justice Center received a letter of resignation from Amy Hughes, effective February 2. Amy has been involved with the Center for over 6 years, originally as a volunteer, later as a part-time employee helping to facilitate the HOPE festival and finally as full-time program coordinator. She has been influential in bringing diverse voices and programs to the Center and in coordinating and collaborating with a wide variety of organizations and individuals. Her energy and commitment to creating communities which empower people of all backgrounds have been some of her gifts to the Center. We will miss Amy and all she brought to the work of peacemaking in eastern Maine. Thank you Amy!

The Steering and Education Committees will be working together to develop plans for the staffing and direction of the Peace and Justice Center. As the process goes forward, input from the broader community will be sought and welcomed. In the meantime, Karen Marysdaughter will continue as the Office Manager, a part-time position, which will assure that basic communication and networking activities of the Center continue.



Doomsday clock: Two minutes to midnight

by Doug Poulin

I was born in the same year as Little Boy and Fat Man. I have lived my whole life with the threat of nuclear war. The other day my grandson told me that he didn’t want to get nuked. And so, a legacy of dread is handed to the next generation.

The theory goes that if a nation has nukes, then other nuclear nations won’t mess with them for fear of getting nuked back. This is called deterrence. At one point the U.S. and the U.S.S.R had 50,000 nukes between them. That was a whole lot of deterrence going on! In second grade I crouched under my desk,



practicing the Civil Defense drills designed to protect me from a nuclear attack and radioactive fallout.

Progress has been made to tone down this madness, but nukes are still with us. In January 2017, Joe Biden reported we had 4,018 nukes, with 1600 “deployed”... ready to activate on a moment’s notice. Now we are told that an updated missile system is needed, one that is nuclear-guided and remotely calibrated to dial in a desired “yield”. They are advertised as highly accurate and less radiation-emitting, and a bargain at \$1.7 million each. So we’ll take 480 at \$8.25 billion.

The new sales pitch is, once again, deterrence. Our billion dollar nuclear arsenal no longer has deterrent value. Everyone knows we won’t use them because they are too big! What we need now are tactical low yield nuclear weapons. Everyone knows that we will use these! Now that is real deterrence!

Nobody wins a nuclear arms race. Our desks will not protect us. The USA should pledge No First Use of nuclear weapons. We need to pass legislation that removes the hair trigger on nuclear weapons and puts more than one person in charge of that Big Button. We must support the efforts of the Nobel Prize winning organization: The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. We should sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Heed the warning of the Doomsday Clock recently reset to 2 minutes to midnight.

Divesting from the stock market

by Larry Dansinger

A recent free fall in the stock market has investors concerned that maybe the market won’t continue to go up and up! But they should be concerned about more than how much they can make from investing - there are other serious downsides to the market. I believe the stock market is—in regards to our social and moral values, income equality, local economic development and our entire economy—a bad investment.

Here are a few reasons: (1) It supports corporate capitalism rather than local business. Multi-nationals already have an advantage; stock market capital gives them even more; (2) Shareholders (actually speculators), primarily the 1%, get the dividends, paid for by workers via low wages, an endangered environment, and local communities (the 99%) which barely share in corporate profits. (3) A strong economy is based on trading in goods and services, but stocks just move money around. Nothing of value is produced; (4) In theory, stockholders own corporations, but have no significant influence on management; (5) Stock trading is just a glorified form of gambling, as “investors” found out in 1929 and 2008.

Financial advisors tout “socially responsible” stocks, but any money given to large corporations is irresponsible. It makes the rich richer and the rest of us have to pay the bill. We should instead commit our money to “community investments” with local nonprofit groups. They need the capital; the multi-nationals don’t. A few examples of community investing in Maine are: Four Directions Development Corporation (loans to Wabanaki tribal members), CEI (loan capital for small businesses), and Genesis Community Loan Fund (affordable housing). It’s time to divest from the entire stock market and reinvest in local communities.

I am in the process of writing a lengthy article on this topic. If you’d like a copy, contact me: Larry Dansinger, (207) 262-3706 or larryd@myfairpoint.net.



War Tax Resistance Day Gears Up

by Ginny Schneider

The \$60 million ask by General Dynamics of Maine taxpayers as the company plops down billions in CASH to buy another company brings home the warped priorities of our elected officials. War Tax Resistance Day (4/17/18) and the weeks leading up to it are a perfect time to call attention to the connection between our tax dollars, the perpetuation of the war machine, and the depletion of our resources for healthcare, education, and a social safety net on both state and federal levels.

The Maine War Tax Resistance Resource Center has grown this effort over the last couple of years from 5-6 actions in 2015, 11 in 2016, 17 in 2017, and 20 or more this year. Here’s the schedule so far:

3/1/18 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. University of New England Career Expo, Biddeford campus center
 3/27/18 9:15 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. Thomas College Jobs for Maine Graduates Career Expo, Waterville
 4/10/18 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Bates College Commons
 4/11/18 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. University of Southern Maine, Portland, Student Union
 4/14-16 Table and workshop to be announced (TBA) at ROSC Youth Activism Gathering, Pine Tree Camp, Rome, ME
 4/14/18 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. and beyond, Belfast coop
 4/14/18 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., 4/17/2018 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Damariscotta post office (PO)
 4/14/18 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Blue Hill coop
 4/17/18 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., noon – 1 p.m. Downeast band Fire in the Commons and speakers, Lobsterman Park (outside the Nickelodeon Movie Theater), Portland
 4/17/18 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. UMaine, Farmington, student union

4/17/18 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Brunswick PO sponsored by PeaceWorks
TBA Time and Location at another Brunswick location
 4/17/18 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. or later UMaine, Orono, student union
 4/17/18 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., 4/18/18 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. UMaine, Machias, Torrey Hall next to the library
TBA - Bangor Earth Day; Bar Harbor, ME; Bethel, ME; Ellsworth, ME; Norway, ME and Gorham, NH; Unity College

If you are interested in volunteering, please call 558-5758. If you would like to connect with folks to explore war tax resistance, please come on by. We'll have lots of free materials and knowledgeable folks to answer your questions. We also have a web site at <http://mainewtr.nwtrcc.org>.



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**

n o t i c e s

**Youth Activism Gathering
 Pine Tree Camp, Rome, ME
 April 14-16, 2018**

Since 2000, young activists and changemakers from across the state have converged for a three-day celebration of the brilliance of youth and political action. The Youth Activism Gathering (YAG) is a place for Maine youth to share their ideas, skills, and experience with like-minded peers. It is a safe space to build community and relationships so that we may fight systems of oppression alongside one another. The YAG is organized for youth by youth, with minimal input from older mentors. If you are interested in facilitating a workshop, helping to organize the YAG, or are interested in attending, please contact the organizing team at maineyag@gmail.com.

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

Plans include 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 the very popular Pride parade. Yet more activities are in the works. Want to help? Contact Hannah Ruhlin (hannah@mainehealthequity.org.) or Ambureen Rana (ambureen@mainehealthequity.org) at Health Equity Alliance.

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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: _____

