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Transportation for All releases report

by Amy Hughes

Public transit report identifies evening bus service as the most important need for the Community Connector bus system.

Transportation for All is a public transit support group of bus riders, drivers, and other community members supported by a coalition of local organizations: Food AND Medicine, Faith Linking in Action, Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 714, Power in Community Alliances, and Eastern Maine Labor Council. On April 12, TFA released a report based on 373 surveys of Greater Bangor residents. The report aimed to identify the most effective ways for the Community Connector bus system to increase ridership by meeting the needs of a broader range of residents. Evening bus service until 9 or 10 p.m. was overwhelmingly identified as the most important need by survey respondents. The report recommends against major investments that could draw resources away from implementing evening service, including current proposals to move the bus depot.

Testimonials from the report tell powerful stories about the potential for expanded hours to improve lives and provide economic opportunities. One man spoke about difficulty getting home from his son's basketball games at night especially during the cold winter season. Those who are dependent on the bus pointed out how strictly the hours limited their availability for work or evening classes. Employers described a complicated dance of scheduling workers with limited availability due to limited bus hours. The report recommends that Bangor, Brewer, Hampden, Orono, Old Town, Veazie, and the University of Maine focus investments in the Community Connector on a concrete plan for implementing evening service. In addition to extended hours, the report recommends implementation of designated bus stops and real-time tracking to make catching the bus simpler for all users. Finally, for improvements to be implemented successfully, those who are most familiar with the Community Connector—bus riders and drivers—need to be involved. This report recommends a permanent forum for bus drivers and riders to be involved in the planning and

decision-making process. To get involved and show your support for an improved transit system please contact Martin Chartrand, Organizer, at (207)-989-5860 or transportationforall@foodandmedicine.org.



MLK's Poor People's Campaign

*Nonviolent Moral Fusion Direct Action Training
Ellsworth, May 5th, 1 to 5 p.m.*

Join the Maine Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival for 40 days of moral action this spring to challenge systemic racism, poverty, the war economy and militarism, ecological devastation, and our nation's distorted moral narrative. The training is for people interested in participating in nonviolent moral fusion direct action. Attending the training does not commit you to doing civil disobedience; there are many ways to support the Maine Poor People's Campaign. FMI: www.facebook.com/pg/maineppp/events/

We have a sickness in the soul of the nation. Poor is seen as a negative word. Welfare is a negative word. It is morally wrong to kick people when they're down and not pay them a living wage. It's wrong to roll back voting rights and have 900 fewer voting sites in Black, Brown, and poor White communities. It's wrong to hurt the poor and take social safety nets and deny universal health care as a human right and to make Muslims the enemy and to attack the LGBTQ community. It's wrong to deny immigrants and call them aliens. We've got to challenge it. We need to launch a poor people's campaign: a revival of a national morality that has long-term stamina and is not just focused on Trump because he's a symptom. We have to have a real racism and classism critique of public policy, and not allow politicians to hide behind "this is just politics." Every decision is a moral decision... and if those decisions have a disparate impact on poor people, then we need to say that those policies do not live up to our deepest moral values or our deepest constitutional values and the promise of justice for all. What I believe we have to do now is build a deeply moral anti-racist, anti-poverty, pro-love, pro-justice, pro-labor fusion movement where all of us understand the deep moral intersectionality. The people against the LGBTQ community are the same

people who want to undermine public education. The people undermining public education are the same people wanting to reverse voting rights. The same people against voting rights are against universal health care. Those same people are against dealing with the criminalization of Black, Brown, and poor White people. Those same people also don't want to fix the environment. We have to have moral dissent and people who will challenge the 'status quo' with what one writer calls a "subversive hope." Some things are not left vs. right. There's a moral center. There's right vs. wrong.

~ Excerpted from Rev. William Barber's public remarks



Must keep resisting corporate wars

by Bruce Gagnon

Yugoslavia, Iraq, Libya, and now Syria have something in common: similar demonization of their leadership prepared the American people for US-NATO military intervention and regime change. Countless innocent civilians were killed under the guise of RTP-'responsibility to protect'. The corporate criminal syndicate that runs the US keeps playing the same tune and it keeps working. People fall for the demonization and illegal US intervention being done today in Syria.

Syria is about oil, natural gas, and pipeline routes in that part of the world. Syria is about US domination and desire to force regime change not only there but eventually in Iran and Russia. Syria is also about profits for the military industrial complex. When cruise missiles get fired from Bath-built Aegis destroyers, the weapons (@ \$1.5 M each) must be replaced. On and on it goes while social programs go unfunded at home and corporate oligarchies feast on tax breaks at the federal, state, and local levels.

At this moment in Connecticut the General Dynamics Corporation is requesting \$160 million from that state which has huge unmet social needs. Activists there are organizing to oppose the bad bill – in part because they were inspired by our recent campaign in Maine. The S6 local union at BIW recently posted a message on Facebook saying that the company was refusing to have any communication with them because they had complained about 31 lay-offs announced at the shipyard on the same day that LD 1781 was approved in Augusta. The union had also refused to endorse the bad bill because the workers voted 50-50 (for and against). This was a big story that was largely unreported by Maine media. Weapons corporations are now normalizing the idea that states and even local cities (like Bath) should help pay for weapons production. This must be resisted. These endless wars that are contributing heavily to global warming must be resisted. The lies from mainstream media must also

be resisted. The US has been at war my whole life. I am tired of the blitzkrieg but I will keep resisting as long as I can draw a breath.

~ Bruce K. Gagnon, coordinator of the Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space, lives in Bath.



Mainers deserve a life raft

by Bill Clark

Maine AllCare is a non-partisan, not-for-profit group that advocatess for healthcare for everyone in Maine. Good health is vital to the Common Good as we pursue liberty and justice, as individuals and as a state. Current healthcare systems are dysfunctional, unjust and unaffordable, leaving 130,000 Mainers uninsured and additional thousands under-insured.

We recently heard from two friends who need GoFundMe campaigns. A healthy young man who worked for a not-for-profit and could not afford insurance nearly died from a blood clot in his lung. Emergency, ambulance, and hospitalization bills amounted to more than \$20K, and he continues to need expensive medication for a newly discovered clotting disorder. Another man, older and insured, had complications of major surgery and an extended hospitalization in Boston. Many aspects of care, extended rehab, and family expenditures are not covered. Neither of these stories of financial ruin would occur in any other developed country.

MAC believes everyone in Maine should have comprehensive coverage, because everyone needs healthcare at some time. Our family, friends and neighbors suffer intolerably because neither local nor national politicians are willing to do what is right for us. MAC is working to establish a publicly funded system administered by an independent authority that would be for people, not for profits. Studies suggest that 95% of people could pay less for healthcare than they now do. We could remove deductibles and co-pays, which are barriers to preventive services and early care. With this "improved Medicare for every Mainer" plan, we would avoid the complexities and unfairness of existing profit-driven schemes.

Thirty-four of 35 industrialized countries provide care for ALL their citizens. About 20 other states are working on this and Maine AllCare believes that Maine could be the first to take this step for the common good of all its residents. MAC would like Maine to lead the way: Dirigo!

~ Dr. William Clark is a member of Maine AllCare and PeaceWorks. He lives in Brunswick.



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
- Fred Irons**, from Christina Diebold
- Christina Diebold's birthday**, from Gerry Gross

In honor and memory of Claudia Tucci, from Mary & Jim Bird, Larry Dansinger, the Hampden Garden Club, and the Six Basin Street All-Women Dixie Land Band (Jo Dauphinee, Erika Richardson, Muffy Eastman, Jan Klitch, Carol Tracey, Charlene Sirois, Helena Bosse, Susan Heath, Theresa Laliberte, Donna Megquier, & Sonja Faulkingham)

n o t i c e s

Peacekeepers Wanted!

Recently certain Peace & Justice Center events have drawn the attention of people who are not necessarily committed to nonviolence. After someone assaulted a marcher at our End Violence Together event last fall, we decided to pull together a group of "peacekeepers" to be present and help de-escalate possibly threatening situations. At the recent March for Our Lives, our team, together with the local police, helped keep the peace when an individual carrying an AR-15 decided to join the march. **We are looking for additional folks to join our team.** We've been specifically requested to help with peacekeeping at the upcoming Pride Parade and Festival on June 23rd in Bangor. Please contact the Center if you are interested - we will be holding a preparation session prior to the Pride Festival.

Bangor Pride Week 2018

OBC Rainbow Run 5K - June 17, 2018 - Register now!
Parade and Festival - June 23, 2018, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Bangor Pride Week is coming up fast! This year's Pride will include a 5K run, a parade of community figures and friends, a festival with food and fun, and after parties into the night! Updates on vendors and more will be coming as we move into June, so be sure to check the Bangor Pride website: <https://www.mainehealthequity.org/bangor-pride>.

Watch for news on nominations for this year's Pride Honorees! Entertainment and drag performer applications accepted until May 20 at 5 p.m. Volunteer applications accepted until June 10 at 5 p.m. Parade marching and tabling applications will be accepted until June 20 at 5 p.m. For more information on how you can be involved in Bangor Pride 2018, contact Hannah Ruhlin at (207) 242-0709 or hannah@mainehealthequity.org. Is your business or organization interested in sponsoring Bangor Pride 2018? Contact Andrea Littlefield at (207) 570-0664 or andrea@mainehealthequity.org.

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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*Newsletter
May 2018*



PEACE & JUSTICE CENTER FILM SERIES: **Sunday, May 20, 6:00 p.m.**

AN AMERICAN, PORTRAIT OF RAYMOND LUC LEVASSEUR

This film profiles Raymond Luc Levasseur, who grew up in a French Canadian neighborhood in Sanford, Maine, near now-abandoned textile mills. After spending some time in Boston, he enlisted and went to Vietnam. After returning, still reeling from what he'd seen, he discovered political activism and joined a group considered by many to be radical. In 1984, he was arrested for participating in bombing attacks by the United Freedom Front in protest of U.S. foreign policy. Today, out of prison and living in Maine, he reflects on his uncompromising, idealistic life. Ray will speak after the film about his work in Maine and beyond to end solitary confinement and for prison transformation. <http://www.f3msurdemande.ca/unamericain/>



calendar

May 5: Nonviolent Moral Fusion Direct Action Training (preparation for the Poor People's Campaign 40 days of moral action), Ellsworth. FMI: Poor People's Campaign Maine on FaceBook - <https://www.facebook.com/maineppc/>

May 12: Radical Listening for Social Change, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Deering High School, 370 Stevens Ave, Portland ME. FMI: Maine Nonviolent Communication Network at out2cthec@hotmail.com or 207-370-0381

May 17: Mabel Wadsworth Annual Celebration, 5:30 to 8:00 p.m., Morgan Hill Event Center, Hermon. FMI: info@mabelwadsworth.org

May 20: P&J Education Committee meeting (open to all!) 4:00 p.m., following by the film "An American: Portrait of Raymond Luc Levasseur", 6:00 p.m., P&J Center, Bangor.

May 31: Maine People's Alliance Rising Tide Awards Dinner, 6 to 9 p.m., South Portland. FMI: sam@maineoplesalliance.org

June 23: Pride Parade & Festival, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., downtown Bangor. FMI: hannah@mainehealthequity.org.

July 13-16: Healing the Wounds of Turtle Island 2018, Nibezun, Passadumkeag. FMI: <https://www.facebook.com/events/532492523796042/>

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