



Changes to make P&J sustainable 1
Space force 2
In honor, memory 3
Notices 3
Discussion series 4
Calendar 4



2018 General Assembly, Harvest Supper & Hands of Peace Awards!

November 10 is a key date for the future of the Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine. On that Saturday, at 3 p.m., supporters of the Center will gather for a General Assembly at the Unitarian Universalist church (120 Park St., Bangor) to chart the changes needed to sustain us. An Ad Hoc Committee has been working on this for several months, and looks forward to a discussion of various options, as outlined in the October Newsletter.

Following that meeting, at 6 p.m. we'll come together as the peace and justice community has for many years, for our Harvest Supper – celebrating at a vegetarian potluck the fruits of the season and the fruits of progressive organizing. Women with Wings will sing, and we'll honor hard work for a better world with Hands of Peace and Youth Hands of Peace Awards.

Winning the Youth Hands of Peace Award this year is Amy Hughes, co-coordinator of the Center for two years until she moved to New Hampshire in September. A graduate of the University of Maine, Amy served on the Center's Steering Committee and as HOPE Festival volunteer prior to joining the staff. She has worked on many organizing campaigns, from same-sex marriage and racial & economic justice initiatives to Everytown for Gun Safety.

The Hands of Peace Award goes to the Civic Engagement group, launched by Food AND Medicine after the election of Donald Trump. Since then the group has met almost every Tuesday with staffers in the Bangor offices of Senators Collins and King for civil, informed and persistent conversations about issues that matter, from the plight of detained refugees to health care to climate change. Members include Lisa Feldman, Jack McKay, Samantha Le, Doug Poulin, Christina Diebold, Sandy Joy, Melissa Berky, Valerie Walker, Katy Bolduc, Marina Abbott, Gerry Gross, and Peter Phillips.

We hope you can join us on this important date! If you can't make it in person, please convey your support by contacting the Center at info@peacectr.org, or 942-9343.

Can't afford Trump's 'Space Force'

*Bruce Gagnon,
Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space*

Donald Trump has introduced the idea to create a new branch of the military – the Space Force. Space Force promoter Rep. Mike Rogers (R-Ala.), chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, said he would introduce a bill in January to give the Pentagon authority to create a Space Force.

A new Space Force will cost nearly \$13 billion over five years, according to U.S. Air Force estimates. The Air Force Association, a nonprofit organization that promotes the Air Force, has released a paper, arguing against the Space Force. The group argues that the Air Force has been managing most of the military's space missions for decades now and those capabilities shouldn't be taken away. Instead, simply rename the Air Force to the Aerospace Force, the group argues.

Additionally, in the recent defense authorization bill signed into law by Trump, the Pentagon is ordered to "develop a space-based ballistic missile intercept layer" (orbiting battle stations) even though senior military officials have opposed the idea.

While the estimates vary, experts have consistently found the costs for space-based missile defense interceptor systems to be prohibitive. For example, a 2004 report issued by the Congressional Budget Office estimated that the cost to acquire a limited kinetic space-based system, launch the parts into orbit, and operate them for 20 years could reach almost \$80 billion in 2004 dollars (more than \$100 billion today).

A new arms race in space would be expensive, provocative and terribly destabilizing. It would put in danger existing commercial satellites which coordinate virtually all functioning on the Earth. The aerospace industry has long said it intends to lobby Congress to cut Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and what little is left of the social safety net to pay for Star Wars.



In honor, in memory of

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

In honor of Silas Brogunier, from Michele Brogunier

In memory of Charlotte Herbold from Nancy MacKnight, Meredith Bruskin, & Congregation Bet Ha'am of South Portland

notices

RIDE-THE-BUS-MONTH!

Thousands of Bangor area residents depend on the bus to get to work, to school, to appointments, to stores or laundromats. More would use it if the schedule were more convenient. This is a classic Catch-22: Ridership would increase if the buses ran during the evening, or on Sunday, or more frequently. But until more people ride, there is little incentive (or cash) to improve service. You can help by accepting the November Ride-The-Bus Month challenge: Try the Community Connector at least once during the month - invite friends to do the same! By riding the bus, you can save money, help fight global warming, and fight the stigmatization of public transit users. As an added incentive, the Community Connector will offer free fares on all routes on Election Day, Tuesday, November 6. Why not organize a neighborhood bus trip to the polls to vote? Community group Transportation for All is cooperating with the bus system to promote Ride the Bus Month. Members will be at Pickering Square on Election Day with bus information, hot chocolate, music and art – come join the fun! TFA meets on the third Thursday of every month, 9-11 a.m. at the Peace and Justice Center (96 Harlow Street, Suite 100, Bangor). All interested in learning more about the bus system, or working to improve it, are welcome. For more information, contact Jack McKay or Darcy Cooke (989-5860).

Solidarity – NOT Charity:

The annual Solidarity Harvest provides all the ingredients for a full Thanksgiving meal to people in hard times all across Maine. All food is purchased from local Maine farms. Dozens of labor unions, faith groups and other organizations are strengthened by this effort. Over 1,300 meal baskets will be distributed - enough to feed well over 10,000 people! Volunteers are needed to help sort and weigh the produce and assemble the baskets at the Labor Council Building and Food AND Medicine office in Brewer, during the week of November 13 – 20, weekend included. Shifts, which can be flexible, are 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., 12 p.m. – 3 p.m., and 3 p.m. - 6 p.m., with a meal served twice per day. Sponsored by the Eastern, Western and Southern Maine Central Labor Councils, and organized by Food AND Medicine. FMI: email Adam@foodandmedicine.org or call 989-5860.

PEACE & JUSTICE CENTER *Newsletter*

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Editor: Gerry Gross, gross.geraldine@gmail.com

Layout: Barb Friedman, Insbark@gmail.com

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Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine

96 Harlow Street, Suite 100

Bangor, ME 04401

207-942-9343 or info@peacectr.org

www.peacectr.org

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: _____

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*Newsletter
November
2018*



PEACE & JUSTICE CENTER FILM & DISCUSSION SERIES

IMMIGRATION JUSTICE: A PANEL DISCUSSION

Sunday, November 18, 6:00 p.m.

Robert Glover is an associate professor at UMaine and has published widely on the politics of immigration.

Carlos Maibeth-Mortimer was born in Nicaragua and now lives in Brooklin, Maine. After college graduation he started Nicaschool, a school for Indigenous Refugees in Nicaragua.

Beth Stickney directs the Maine Business Immigration Coalition, advocating for positive laws and policies impacting immigrants. She co-founded the Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project.

Dennis Chinoy has been active with immigration issues as a volunteer with PICA for many years.

calendar

November 1-30: Ride the Bus Month in the greater Bangor region served by the Community Connector, to promote public transportation FMI: darcy@foodandmedicine.org

November 3: Health Equity Alliance Annual Awards Dinner & Silent Auction, 5:00-9:30 p.m., Bangor Banquet & Conference Center. FMI: info@mainehealthequity.org

November 4: Annual PICA Auction, 3:00-6:00 p.m., Dyke Center for Family Business, Husson University, Bangor. FMI: 207-947-4203 or elleng@pica.ws

November 6: ELECTION DAY! Get out and vote! Free Community Connector bus service day in the Bangor region, Transportation for All celebration in Pickering Square during the day.

November 10: *Peace & Justice Center General Assembly, 3 p.m., UU Church, 120 Park St, Bangor, followed at 6 p.m. by annual Harvest Supper & Hands of Peace Awards.* FMI: info@peacectr.org

November 13-20: Solidarity Harvest, three shifts every day putting together over 1000 meal baskets for food insecure people across Maine, Food AND Medicine, 20 Ivers St, Brewer. FMI: Adam@foodandmedicine.org

November 18: Immigration Justice: A Panel Discussion, 6:00 p.m., Peace & Justice Center, 96 Harlow St, Suite 100, Bangor. FMI: info@peacectr.org

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