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Indigenous Issues & the Newly Elected Governor, Janet Mills

by Dawn Neptune Adams, P&J Center Racial Justice Consultant

Having survived the midterm elections, and after an uninspiring race for Governor, where do we go from here? Newly-elected Governor Janet Mills is known for her work in opposition to Indigenous people during her time as Attorney General. Maine residents made it clear during the campaign season that the ill-treatment of natives is no longer acceptable. It is now a good time to focus and take action on three of the most pressing issues, as outlined here:

1. VAWA (Violence Against Women Act)

Native Womxn are three times more likely to suffer from violent crimes than any other group of womxn. According to statistics, 80% of these crimes are committed by non-Native men. We need to introduce and pass an updated version of LD 268 "An Act regarding Penobscot Nation's and Passamaquoddy Tribes' Authority to exercise Jurisdiction under Federal Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 and the Federal Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013.

2. Penobscot Nation vs. Mills

The Penobscot River has always been home to the Penobscots. As the Attorney General, Janet Mills vociferously defended the State's opinion that the Water flowing in the Penobscot River surrounding the 200+ islands that make up the reservation was not part of Penobscot Territory. We ask for continued support of allies to keep industrial interests from framing the narrative in harmful ways. The Penobscot Nation has one more level of appeals in this case. The River is our living Relative and we protect it for the future generations of all people.

3. Maine vs. the EPA

In 2014, Maine's DEP tried unsuccessfully to set water standards so low as to allow only 1.4 ounces of fish from Tribal Waters per day, due to very high cancer rates. This equals a portion the size of almost one-half of a deck of playing cards; not even close to the definition of sustenance. Continuing resistance to any regression in water quality standards is of utmost importance. Clean water and tribal sovereignty is in the best interest of ALL the people of Maine.



General Assembly: Good Turnout, Good Discussion!

The tremendous turnout of over 50 people for the General Assembly on November 10th was heartening – we were happy to keep widening the circle and adding chairs. Ably moderated by Kay Carter, our meeting included background on the work of the Peace & Justice Center by Mary Ellen Quinn, a skit produced by Samantha Le, a testimonial by Jane and Tom White-Hassler on what the Center meant to them as discouraged newcomers after the election of 2016, and lots of facts and figures, questions and answers.

At issue were four possible future scenarios: 1) keep staff and space essentially the same while working hard to substantially increase revenue and membership; 2) pare down expenses by reducing staff and/or office space, perhaps eliminating the print newsletter; 3) partner with a like-minded organization to pool resources; and 4) let go of the Center, continuing until the money runs out, about a year.

As usual with P&J members, discussion was lively – ranging from grants, their benefits and limitations; to telephoning people to ask for money; the value of having accessible, visible space; the need for staff; and how to create a younger, more diverse membership.

We literally voted with our feet, moving to one side of the room or the other to express support for various options. A far-from-scientific impression of the exercise is that most were in favor of keeping the Center as is, as much as possible, although a few were in favor of merging with another group, such as Resources for Organizing & Social Change. It seemed also that people were more in favor of reducing space than staff, and more were in favor of vigorous programming than just fundraising. Much more will be learned from an analysis of the yellow "I Can Help" forms turned in at the end. Meanwhile, THANKS to all who organized and came to the General Assembly!



2019 Womxn's March

by Desiree Vargas

A movement of powerful, divine, innovative, and resilient womxn is both sacred and beautiful! An organized march and gathering without any bias based on race, age, ability, gender, sexual expression, and identity, to address current political and personal issues, is not only an impactful form of resistance, but a spiritual form of existence.

A womxns march is about standing together in solidarity against any form of power that is anti-womxn. The need for intersectional feminism is needed now more than ever in order to create safe spaces, protect our basic rights, create a better environment for future generations, and to heal wounds that have been created historically by a destructive form of feminism that isn't intersectional and leaves out our sisters.

In January 2019, Bangor will be having an intersectional Womxns March with a diverse selection of speakers and organizers. The organizers of this particular march recognize the needs of our community to be complex because discrimination overlaps within marginalized groups of people. This inclusive march will give the opportunity to hear all voices, and educate the public on subjects that aren't discussed enough. The Peace & Justice Center will be supporting the organizing for this event - contact us for more info.



Introducing the Socialist Party, Eastern Maine Local

by Zach Campbell

The Socialist Party of Maine is an anti-capitalist political party that advocates for the social ownership of the productive forces (factories, machines, raw materials, labor) of society. We stand in firm opposition to all forms of bigotry and oppression within society, including (but not limited to) racism, classism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, and ableism. We work together with local organizations in the greater Bangor area like the Peace and Justice Center, Food and Medicine, Transportation for All, the Law Enforcement Accountability Group, the Democratic Socialists of America, among other groups to help build a cohesive, ideologically driven progressive movement in Maine.

Currently, the state of Maine is a chartered Socialist Party. We have two nationally recognized locals: our Eastern Maine local located in the greater Bangor area, and our Midcoast local, with members in Belfast, Augusta, Waterville, and Unity. We have a group in the southern portion of the state, meeting bi-weekly

in the South Portland area. We run candidates in local elections. Seth Braun ran for Bangor City Council for the second consecutive year. Seth received over 2,000 votes for City Council, which wasn't enough to win, but showed considerable improvement over the 800 votes he received the year before. Maia Dendinger ran for State Senate in District Five. She was the first woman Socialist candidate to receive funding through the Maine Clean Election Fund.

In Eastern Maine, we have two meetings per month. We have a Book Club group currently in progress where we are reading *White Trash* by Nancy Isenberg. Many members are helping with the Church of Safe Injection in Bangor. You can find us on Facebook by searching "Socialist Party of Maine." If you have any questions about the Socialist Party of Maine and how to get involved, email MaineSocialists@gmail.com.



So You Want to Talk About Race, by Ijeoma Oluo

reviewed by Karen Marysdaughter

I am white. Specifically a white, middle-class woman who likes to think of herself as progressive, a good person with good intentions. But growing up white in a racist system means that I, and all other white people, no matter how well meaning we may be, are complicit with racism. Ijeoma Oluo, in her book, *So You Want to Talk About Race*, asks me and others like me to take a clear, unflinching look at the reality of racism as a system and the part we play in it. I was struck to the heart by her description: "Racism in America exists to exclude people of color from opportunity and progress so that there is more profit for others deemed superior." What that means for me as a white person is "you will get more because they exist to get less." (my emphasis)

Oluo offers us white people an opportunity to learn about ourselves and see our actions more clearly, so we can become the people we truly want to be. She asks "Do you want to look like a better person, or do you want to be a better person? Because those who just want to look like a better person will have great difficulty with the introspection necessary to actually be a better person." Her suggestions for what we can do to actually dismantle the system we, whether consciously or not, help hold in place, are clear, practical, and doable. If you are serious about addressing racism, please read this book.





In honor, in memory of

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

In honor and memory of Silas Brogunier, from Hope Brogunier and Michele Brogunier

notices

It's time to lay down our print newsletter!

After much deliberation by the staff and Steering Committee, and input from our General Assembly, the P&J Center has decided to discontinue our print newsletter as of this issue. We will send out a regular E-News electronically. If you do not currently receive our E-News and would like to do so, please send us an email: info@peacectr.org, and we will add you to our list. Many thanks to all our wonderful past newsletter editors, to our dedicated layout person Barb Friedman, to our collating organizer Kevin Holmes, and the many volunteers who have faithfully collated the newsletter each month!

Racial Equity in NPO Spaces

Our local progressive organizations are working to address the intersections of race, class, gender, sexual identity, ability, citizenship status, etc in our work, but it is a challenging process. The Peace & Justice Center is organizing an event for staff, volunteers and board members of area progressive nonprofit organizations in early February, 2019, to share our progress and the obstacles we still face, particularly in addressing racial equity. The goal is to address how we can further deconstruct racial inequalities in thought processes, events, event planning and planners, as well as the hiring process in our non-profit settings. This is an invitation only event - if you are interested in participating, please contact the P&J Center.

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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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This gift is in **memory of** ____ in **honor of** ____

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*Newsletter
December
2018*



PEACE & JUSTICE CENTER FILM SERIES

I KNOW A MAN... ASHLEY BRYAN
Sunday, December 16, 6:00pm

Ashley Bryan is a 94-year-old creative wonder who skips and jumps in his heart like a child. He served in a World War II all-Black battalion where he experienced the racism of a separatist Army and the carnage of D-Day. As a result he dedicated his life to creating beauty and joy, spreading love and awe through his art. He's a poet/illustrator of over 50 children's books, makes magical puppets and sea glass windows from found objects inspired by his African heritage. Ashley lives on the remote Cranberry Islands, Maine and has been using art his entire life to celebrate joy, mediate the darkness of war and racism, explore the mysteries of faith, and create loving community. His life story and the art he makes from this wellspring of experience is an inspiration to people of all ages. <https://ashleybryanfilms.org/>



calendar

- December 1:** World AIDS Day event, 10 a.m., Health Equity Alliance, 304 Hancock St, Suite 3b, Bangor. FMI: info@mainehealthequity.org
- December 1, 8, 15 & 22:** Bath Iron Works Advent Vigils, 11:30 to 12:30, Washington St, Bath, across from BIW Administration building. FMI: Smilin' Trees Disarmament Farm, 763-4062
- December 14:** Equality Maine Holiday Celebration & Awards, 5:30-8 p.m., Bangor Arts Exchange, 193 Exchange St, Bangor. FMI: www.EqualityMaine.org
- December 16:** Film, "I Know a Man. . . Ashley Bryan", 6:00 p.m., Peace & Justice Center, 96 Harlow St, Suite 100, Bangor. FMI: info@peacectr.org
- January 19:** Save the Date! Womxn's March in Bangor