

THE NEWPEOPLE



PITTSBURGH'S PEACE & JUSTICE NEWSPAPER

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U.S. Voting on the Line

Jo Tavener interviews Barry Kauffman,
Executive Director of Common Cause PA

What do you do at Common Cause for voter protection?

For nearly four decades Common Cause/PA has worked to hold power accountable and make government more open, honest, and effective – in which voters are encouraged to vote and every vote is counted. We are the People's Lobby. When problems arise, we examine them to learn how other places have responded to similar problems, and then develop solutions that fit Pennsylvania. That means we lobby, do major research projects, public education programs, and litigate.

Voting is how most citizens have influenced government and public policies that affect most aspects of their lives. Most voters don't have lobbyists working for them, can't make huge campaign contributions, or have PACs doing their bidding. Voting is how they influence who makes the decisions, and what those decisions may be.

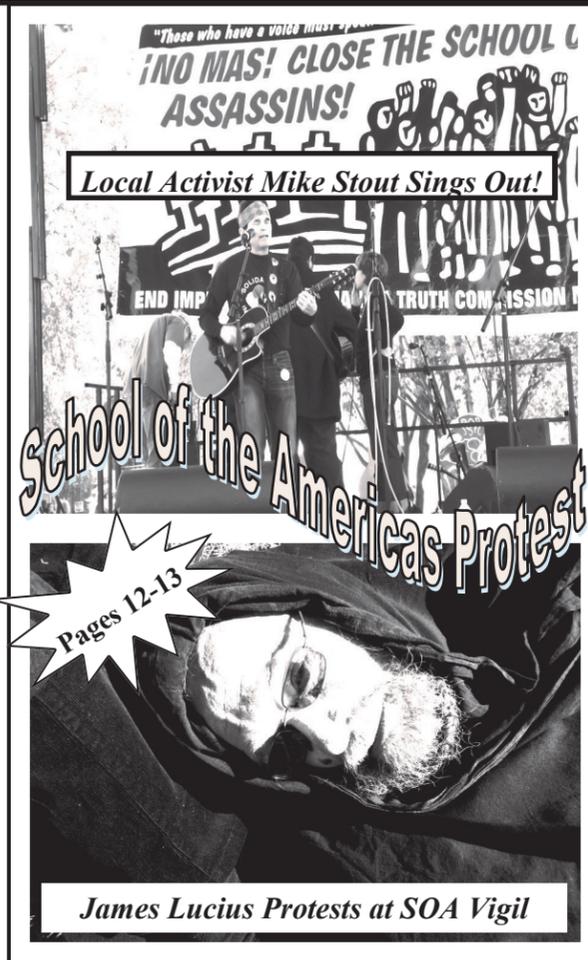
Voters need good information about

candidates, public policies at stake, AND how government and elections work. They need to know that people running elections do it without political bias and that election equipment functions properly; that they have easy access to the ballot; and that they can vote in a safe and non-intimidating environment – without misinformation campaigns or harassment. Only then can they have some assurance that our government works with some degree of integrity.

Some commentators see voter protection as substantially a technical problem. I see it as primarily political, dealing with issues of power and its legitimacy.

Yes, some of the problems are technical in nature but all have political implications. Look at redistricting. Redistricting can pre-determine electoral outcomes. Crooked redistricting is a powerful incumbency protection tool, and damages the political strength of communities, empowers special interests and diminishes voters having effective, meaningful representation.

(Continued on page 4)



Forty Years of Struggle and Fun. What's next? It's up to you!

by Molly Rush

What have we – as a community of peacemakers and justice seekers -- accomplished in our 40 years as a Center? Good question.

Looking at the monumental tasks ahead, it's one worth asking.

My first thought is of the thousands of remarkable people, while they seldom see themselves that way, who've come through our doors, started new campaigns and organizations, or become actively involved - often for the first time, and then stayed around for the next struggle.

Others have moved on, taking their experiences with them. I know people all over the U.S. and beyond who continue to be active or take what they've learned and find other outlets for their energy. Some have given in to discouragement. Nonetheless, every one of them has contributed in some way and are part of the mosaic that is the history of Thomas Merton Center and who we are today.

Just look at the list on page two of our current projects and affiliates. Check out our website calendar, and sign up for our weekly e-blast of upcoming events. You'll find a movement that's alive, diverse and growing.

There have been real changes in attitudes since

1972. Mixed race couples, once seen as an oddity (if not worse) are commonplace. Gays were mostly in the closet. To be for peace was unpatriotic. 'Women's lib' was a snide epithet.

It took years and tens of thousands of U.S. casualties to build opposition to the war in Vietnam. In 2002, 7000 people took to the streets in Pittsburgh prior to the Iraq war. Within a few years a majority opposed that war and now even Republicans support an earlier pullout from Afghanistan.

The growing use of drones is actually a response – a dangerous one, as Medea Benjamin pointed out – to the growing public opposition to U.S. involvement in foreign wars and American casualties.

Our job remains, of course, to oppose all wars, all casualties of war, and the militarization of foreign policy.

Through the years there have been an astonishing number of campaigns, projects and



Molly celebrates 40 years!

coalitions:

Stop the B-1 Bomber, the grape boycott, Indochina Peace Campaign, World Hunger, Committee on Women in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, Parenting for Peace & Justice, Nestle boycott of infant formula, Euromissiles, resistance to Central American Wars, Pittsburghers Against Apartheid, Tax Day resistance; San Isidro Sister City, Affirmative Action, Mobilization for Survival, Earth Day, Speak with One Voice Against Racism, Palestine Solidarity Committee, Jobs with Peace, Pgh. People's Quincentennial, Fair Trade Campaign [NAFTA], Alliance for Progressive Action, Pilgrimage to Close the School of the Americas, Living Wage Campaign, WTO/IMF Protests, Rock Against Racism, Rally Against Gun Violence, Healthcare not Warfare, US-Cuba Caravan, Save Our Transit 2005, Save Darfur, Anti-Death Penalty actions, G-20 protests, Anti-Fracking campaigns, Occupy Pittsburgh, and many more.

Merton Center staff members founded Chapter 39 of Amnesty International, Jubilee Kitchen, The Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank and led the River City Campaign at Rockwell,

(Continued on page 14)

TMC works to build a consciousness of values and to raise the moral questions involved in the issues of war, poverty, racism, classism, economic justice, oppression and environmental justice.

TMC engages people of diverse philosophies and faiths who find common ground in the nonviolent struggle to bring about a more peaceful and just world.

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Recruits board members, conducts board elections

Building Committee

Oversees maintenance of 5123-5129 Penn Ave. sites

Membership Committee

Coordinates membership goals, activities, appeals, and communications

40th Anniversary Committee

Plans and oversees activities to celebrate TMC's 40th year of service

Editorial Collective

Plans, produces and distributes The NewPeople newspaper

Finance Committee

Ensures financial stability and accountability of TMC

Personnel Committee

Oversees staff needs, evaluation, and policies

Project Committee

Oversees project applications, guidelines, and policies

Special Event Committees

Plans and oversees TMC fundraising events with members and friends

TMC COMMITTEES & PROJECTS

Anti-War Committee

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 www.pittsburghendthewar.org

Association of US Catholic Priests

Fr.Survil@EmbraceAllOfLife.us

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 www.thomasmertoncenter.org/bookem

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(Women for Peace)
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412-361-6010, shawnapgh@aol.com

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economicjustice@thomasmertoncenter.org

Fight for Lifers West

412-361-3022 to leave a message
 fightforliferswest@yahoo.com
 http://fightforliferswest.mysite.com

Human Rights Coalition / Fed Up

(prisoner support and advocacy)
 412-802-8575, hrcfedup@gmail.com
 www.thomasmertoncenter.org/fedup

Marcellus Shale Protest Group

melpacker@aol.com
 (412) 243-4545
 marcellusprotest.org

Pittsburgh Anti-Sweatshop Community Alliance

412-867-9213

Pittsburgh Campaign for Democracy NOW!

412-422-5377, sleator@cs.cmu.edu
 www.pcdn.org

Pittsburgh Works!

(labor history documentaries)
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Pittsburgh Darfur Emergency Coalition

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 www.pittsburghdarfur.org

Urban Arts Project

mbbpggh@yahoo.com

Progressive Pittsburgh Notebook

Call 412-363-7472
 tvnotebook@gmail.com
 www.progressivepghnotebook.blip.tv

Westmoreland Marcellus Citizens Group/ Roots of Promise

724-327-2767
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The Pittsburgh Totebag Project

P.O. Box 99204, Pittsburgh, PA 15233
 www.tote4pgh.org

Whose Your Brother?

412-928-3947
 www.whosyourbrother.com



HOURS of OPERATION

Thomas Merton Center

Monday—Friday
 10 am. to 3 pm.
 Saturday—10 am. to 1 pm.

East End Community Thrift

Tuesday—Friday
 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Saturday—Noon to 4 p.m.

CONTACT INFORMATION

General information.....http://www.thomasmertoncenter.org

Submissionshttp://thomasmertoncenter.org/newpeople/submit-article

Events & Calendar Items...thomasmertoncenter.org/calendar/submit-event

And the Giving Goes On and On



On December 8, the East End Community Thrift Shop will host a Holiday Open House. We have snacks and many volunteers who will act as "Personal Shoppers" for our guests. Each guest receives a voucher so that she may shop for clothes, toys, household items, holiday sweater decorations. We are able to host this party because of the wonderful donations we receive throughout the year. These donations make it possible to share with our guests at this Holiday Season and throughout the year. For more info call (412) 361-6010.

TMC AFFILIATES

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 412-559-1364 www.alleghenydefense.org

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The Big Idea Bookstore
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North Hills Anti-Racism Coalition
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**PA United for a Single-Payer
 Health Care**
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 www.PUSH-HC4allPa.blogspot.com
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**United Electrical, Radio and Machine
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**Pennsylvanians for Alternatives to the
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Voices for Animals
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**Women's International League for
 Peace and Freedom (WILPF)**
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 edith.bell4@verizon.net

Interested in getting more involved?
 Contact information above.

New Economy/ALEC

New Economy Working Group Is on the Move

by Molly Rush

The New Economy Working Group was formed to help facilitate communication and cooperation among the astonishing number of local organizations, campaigns, worker owned businesses and green initiatives working to replace a broken economic and political system that has left gross inequality and environmental devastation in its wake.

[By 2009 one in four Americans had zero or less net worth. The top 1% owned 34.6% of the wealth and the bottom 90% only 27%. [Economic Policy Institute].

To further New Economy activism in Pittsburgh, two upcoming events will, we hope, jumpstart the process of information sharing and neighborhood empowerment.

The first is a December 3rd potluck supper at the Merton Center, 6:30-8:30 pm. Members of the Larimer Consensus Group & Green Team will discuss the exciting campaign to rebuild their community. They have developed a comprehensive transformation plan for that devastated neighborhood next to East Liberty. Come and be inspired by their creative initiative.

Then on January 5th we're sponsoring a training for facilitators of neighborhood Resilience Circles (See right). People from several neighborhoods have already signed up. Finally, a Mapping Project is underway that will provide comprehensive information on local initiatives and organizations. Harvey Holtz has prepared a draft questionnaire for interviews with local groups in order to create a searchable database of alternative, resistance and transformative groups and organizations, with special attention to the new economy. If you're interested in volunteering to do some interviews, contact iamholtz@iup.edu. Come to our next meeting: Tuesday, December 11th, 10 am at the Merton Center and you'll be energized by the creative and positive work being done to promote community and real solutions to critical problems.

The mission of the national New Economy Network www.neweconomy.net is "to support a transition to a new economy where the priority is to sustain people and the planet, social justice and cohesion are prized, and peace, communities, democracy and nature all flourish."

Molly Rush is chair of the New Economy Working Group.

New Economy Working Group Sponsors Resilience Circles Training

by Tim Cimino

The New Economy Working Group is the newest TMC Economic Justice Group. Our mission is to spark various initiatives that help people with economic transition. We are also working to connect other groups with each other so that groups can cross-fertilize and network. Current projects include a massive effort to identify all the various local alternative and activist groups, and create a searchable online database that groups can use. The other major effort is the subject of this article.

Resilience Circles are groups of 10-20 people who come together to increase personal security in these hard economic times. Groups have three purposes: learning, mutual aid and social action. Resilience Circles cover a lot of ground—they are a rich experience where relationships deepen and people re-learn the practice of mutual aid; they address both ecological and economic concerns; and they tap into a vision of a new, fair economy in harmony with the planet. You can learn more at localcircles.org.

Our next step to create these circles in Pittsburgh is to sponsor a facilitator training on Saturday, January 5th from 9AM to 3PM at (location to be determined) The

training fee is \$15 but scholarships are available. Luka Carfagna, who has worked with a Circle in Boston and is a PhD candidate at Boston College, will lead the training.

Picture this: You and perhaps a friend from your local community group, church group or school group attend the training. Then you go back to your neighborhood and organize a group. Many tools are provided, such as the agenda for the first meeting, and a seven-session package to build and educate the group. Soon resilience circle members are learning skills and information that saves them money, conserves natural resources, and helps the local economy and community transition to a more viable, people-centered economic model.

If you have any further questions about the training, please contact me. I can answer your questions and also email you the link for registering for the training. Or if you're interested in the New Economy Working Group, you can also contact me, timcimino@gmail.com, Molly Rush, molly.rush@verizon.net or call the Merton Center at 412-361-3022.

Tim Cimino is a member of the New Economy Working Group.

EVENT

The Grand Bargain: Another Name for ALEC

by Jo Tavener

If Paul Krugman is to be believed in his op-ed NYT piece of November 9, 2012, *Let's Not Make A Deal*, it's better to allow the Bush tax cuts to expire and automatic sequestration cuts to take place than to give in, via a 'grand bargain, to Republican terrorist tactics'. Read his column. He says it all, reminding us that we got ourselves into this mess by giving in to past Republican blackmail around the debt ceiling.

Chris Hayes made a similar point on his show, *Up With Chris*, on November 11. The right-wing conservatives and the Tea Party revolt of 2010 made Obamacare and the deficit major campaign issues, forecasting economic devastation similar to Greece. However, once in power, the Republicans increased, rather than decreased, the deficit by \$800 million by voting to maintain the Bush tax cuts.

Now that they are about to expire, creating automatic spending cuts; all of Washington is alarmed by the prospect. Conclusion: no one really cares about the deficit. It's a way of talking about undercutting programs you don't like and upholding ones you do!

The 2012 election provided a powerful populist mandate to uphold the interests of working and middle class people, and demand that the rich and super rich pay their fair share of taxes to reduce the deficit.

President Obama is now in a much stronger position to push back against Republican tactics and get a budget deal that strengthens the economy (thereby, cutting the deficit for years to come) and end the unnecessary suffering of the bottom 80%. Obama gained strength and renewed enthusiasm for his election when he returned to the populist rhetoric of his 2008 campaign. To ditch the actions that such a rhetoric calls for once again, and "snatch defeat from the jaws of

victory," as Krugman puts it, Americans would have to conclude what much of the Progressive left has been saying lately, that the Democratic Party is no longer connected to its base, having been captured by Corporate America, along with the Republican Party and the 1% Supreme Court.

Hence my belief that the latest negotiations by the "gang" of six senators with the nation's corporate leaders - the so-called 'grand bargain' - Obama is considering is just another iteration of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC).

According to Former President Ronald Reagan, ALEC, "forged a unique relationship between state legislators and corporate and business leaders. to apply their talents to solve our nation's problems..." Sound familiar?

For months a bi-partisan group of senators have been in closed door negotiations with corporate leaders, under the rubric of the Campaign to Fix the Debt, founded by Erskine Bowles, now being considered by Obama as the next Secretary of the Treasury, Fix the Debt, which involves 80 CEOs, is proposing a deficit reduction package that would cut Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and reduce spending across the board -- a major federal austerity program. It would lead, as in Europe, to greater unemployment, poverty and economic stagnation. (See Dean Baker: The Campaign to Fix the Debt and the Hair Club for Men.)

How could they hope to get away with this? That's what the hyped-up scare of a self-imposed 'financial cliff' is all about. Few, aside from Krugman and Hayes, reveal that the cuts won't be imposed all at once. Any cuts that are imposed can be rescinded once a deal is made. As Krugman notes, there's no need for panic. All sorts of cuts can be found without destroying the safety net.

Not a week after 80 corporations and banks

signed a letter to Congress in October 2010, demanding austerity and further dismantling of the safety net, 15 global banks added to the pressure by sending a letter to President Obama and Congress warning that "the solvency, productive capacity, and stability of the U.S., as well as its moral authority as a global leader, require that its financial challenges be credibly met." (See Andrew Gavin Marshall, *No Conspiracy Theory*.) This comes from such banksters as the CEOs of Bank of America, Citigroup, Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan Chase, Morgan Stanley and Wells Fargo.

Obama appears open to making a 'grand bargain' as long as it is fair-entitlement' cuts in return for the top 2% paying its fair share in taxes.

However, there has already been 1.5 trillion in cuts in social programs since the 2010 deal on the debt ceiling. We have paid our fair share as well in stagnant wages, loss of home equity and pension funds. Yet Obama appears to feel it is fair to target our "earned income benefits" from social programs we ourselves have funded with years of work.

If there is one stat to be remembered, let it be that 93% of all income from 2009 to 2010, the first year of recovery, was captured by the top 1%. Now they want a \$134 billion tax break through 'tax reform' (see Emmanuel Saez.)

Having created a global financial crisis and been bailed out, they now demand more suffering from the bottom 80%- all in the name of solvency, stability and moral authority! By the end of 2011 they held \$8.5 trillion in assets or 56% of the U.S. economy. Too big to fail; too big to jail; too big to tax! A corporate coup d'etat!

Jo Tavener taught film production at New York University School of the Arts before retiring as assistant professor of Critical Media and Cultural Studies at the University of Pittsburgh.

Activist Organizing

Voting on the Line—continued from front page

Voting machines that don't function properly and lack paper trails for recounts, diminish confidence in elections and possibly election outcomes. We need a non-partisan oversight agency to protect electoral integrity. Some states include election oversight under the umbrella of government integrity agencies. Pennsylvania's election code is an anachronism and needs a total overhaul to reflect new technology and the lifestyle of contemporary Pennsylvanians.

There are dozens of long-overdue reforms: campaign contribution limits, redistricting, on-line voter registration, no-excuse absentee balloting, regular audits of polling places to ensure full accessibility to elderly and disabled persons, curbside balloting, major changes that allow people in hospitals and other care facilities, etc. to vote.

Even minor changes are important: that ALL poll workers be fully trained and certified, a sufficient number of voting machines, proper signage at polling places, and a list of polling places to direct voters coming to the wrong polling place to the proper one.

What about the need for national standards regarding voting technology, early voting, voting registration and partisan control of election administration?

As our country changes, as technology evolves, as people become more mobile and communication instantaneous, we must change how governments and elections work. At first, the U.S. constitution gave the states nearly all power over elections. Later, constitutional amendments protected racial minorities, gave women the vote, and lowered the voting age to 18. Life styles today are far more hectic and intense than our founders could have envisioned. Having just one election day really doesn't work. Many states extended periods for voting, permitted election day registration, no-excuse absentee ballots (computer and internet security isn't yet sufficient for web balloting). Online voter registration was to be available statewide July 1; but was postponed. We need strict national standards on the reliability, accuracy and simplicity of election machines to ensure they are tamper proof; and permit accurate recounts.

Some see voter suppression as part of a larger dilemma: the hollowing out of our democratic traditions, the growth of the far right, with Citizens United empowering secret donors and the loss of economic rights through union busting, voter ID laws and dirty tricks.

The whole voter ID scandal is widely seen as a voter suppression effort. With virtually no up-side on election security or integrity – it created confusion on November 6th, and if not rescinded or dramatically re-written, will prevent thousands of legitimate PA voters from voting – and at a hefty price tag. Some people in power may see their long-held power slipping away and are doing everything to

prevent others from gaining power.

But most people really want elections with high levels of integrity and reliability. Common Cause has always been devoted to protecting elections and ensuring that no legitimately registered voter is denied rights. The voter ID law falls far short of that standard. It was rammed through with many loose ends. Many legislators were unaware of its wide-ranging implications. Its very short implementation period put state and local election administrators in an operational vise, having to retrain staff, poll workers and educate the public. The rules of the game were constantly being changed by the state and the courts, creating an election process unfair to election officials; confusing, if not an outright disenfranchisement of voters.

The good news is that the disingenuous photo ID scam backfired. Voters rebelled against a "theft of democracy" by legislative fiat. Regardless of which party engages in skullduggery, Common Cause and other non-partisan organizations are ready to fight for ALL voters' rights.

We've done it before and will continue to do so. The courts have given the legislature and election officials time to fix problems with the voter ID law; they must allow administrators sufficient time to adjust their systems. No voting law should be passed without giving at least one year for full implementation. We cannot permit this year's confusion at the polls or problems with voting machines to become "the new normal."

The Supreme Court wants to re-litigate the Voting Rights Act (VRA). Doesn't it empower the Feds to oversee the states' conduct?

Far too many states had a history of intimidating voters based on race or ethnicity – using literacy tests, poll taxes, etc. – if not outright physical intimidation to deny the right to vote. In jurisdictions with such a history, the federal government can require states to take remedial action. Some Pennsylvania communities with histories of mistreatment of Latino voters are required to act to ensure that legitimate voters' rights are not infringed.

Wouldn't rolling back the VRA be disastrous?

Common Cause President, Bob Edgar stated "The Voting Rights Act, and Section 5 specifically, has stood as a bulwark against pernicious efforts to roll back the right to vote for millions of Americans. The restrictive voting laws that swept the nation in recent years demonstrate exactly why we need the VRA - to protect every single

American's right to cast a ballot and have it counted, irrespective of race. It is a critical component of this most basic democratic freedom."

There is also the Voting Empowerment Act now moving through Congress.

Common Cause applauds the introduction of the Voter Empowerment Act. This critical legislation advances reforms so that eligible voters can register and cast ballots without undue burden, regardless of race, age, economic class or disability. It installs protections to ensure that all ballots are counted as cast. It requires a needed response when partisan groups threaten the vote by misleading efforts such as lying to voters about where, when and how to vote.

Amid a new wave of voter suppression laws, intended to keep eligible citizens from participating in our democracy, this important legislation removes barriers to voting, so that everyone eligible to vote can do so unimpeded.

Nothing is more precious in our democracy than our right to vote. Our history proves that the Voter Empowerment Act will help safeguard that right.

Jo Tavener taught film production at New York University School of the Arts before retiring as assistant professor of Critical Media and Cultural Studies at Pitt.



Occupy Teach-In: Reclaiming Education for the 99%

by Robin Clarke

"Education teaches us to accept the system as it is," began Carl Redwood, addressing a crowd of about 60 students, faculty, and interested Pittsburghers at the Occupy Pittsburgh Teach-in, "Transforming Education for the 99%," held on Saturday, November 10th at the University of Pittsburgh student union. Throughout the day, workshops addressed such topics as student debt and the consumerist ideology of education, the Quebec student strikes (featuring Montreal student-activist Nauss Steeves), the Fight Back Pittsburgh project of the United Steelworkers, and adjunct wage slavery.

In the student debt workshop, Jeff Williams

and Chris Wike of CMU discussed how the current system constructs students as consumers (who purchase education) rather than citizens (who engage in civic rights for free, as in voting). Williams emphasized how the state shifts its own debt onto individuals by cutting funding for colleges and universities, which then charge ever-higher tuition that must be covered through massive loans. The average student finishes college with over \$30,000 in federal loans, a figure that does not even measure credit card debt, private loans or any other personal debts, Williams noted.

In the afternoon portion of the teach-in, at least thirty people attended a particularly moving workshop facilitated by the Duquesne Adjunct Faculty Association and the Pittsburgh Industrial

Workers of the World, both of whom addressed specific strategies for faculty to engage in solidarity unionism (with or without official union recognition). Clint Benjamin of the DAFA described an adjunct life of 7 classes, poverty wages, a child to provide for, and total absence of any kind of health insurance. The IWW emphasized ways to use direct action to solve grievances, highlight exploitation, and empower the working class to address its own needs. Robin Sowards and Josh Zelesnick discussed the local, ad hoc, on the ground nature of organizing adjuncts at Duquesne. The day ended with an uproarious chant of Stand Up! Fight Back! and many ideas for reclaiming education for the 99%.

Robin Clarke is a member of the editorial collective who is a poet and activist and teaches writing at the University of Pittsburgh.

Activists Visions

Ads Targeting Kids Sell More than Just a Product

by Lilly Joynes

In what first-lady Michelle Obama referred to as “a game changer,” the Walt Disney Corporation pledged to ban all advertising of junk food on its television networks, radio stations and websites by 2015. Disney is only the first media company to make a move like this, but desperate times call for desperate measures.

Most recently, the National Center for Health Statistics estimated that almost 20% of American children are obese. That means one of every five children is scientifically considered extremely fat. If you’re like me, you feel sympathy for these kids – either for the ridicule they will face in school, or for the fact that they don’t even know what they are doing to their bodies. Many of the most influential factors of the childhood obesity epidemic have nothing to do with genes, but rather with environment.

According to the Center for Disease Control, “foods high in total calories, sugars, salt, and fat, and low in nutrients are highly advertised and marketed through media targeted to children and adolescents, while advertising for healthier foods is almost nonexistent in comparison.” Not only is there a lack of healthy advertising, but junk foods are being portrayed as healthy. Television commercials feature likable cartoons or elated children munching on empty calories and



claiming that the food offers real nutritional value. For example, cereal giant General Mills markets its products with “the Big G Guarantee” – that there are 12 whole grains in every serving. Yet, Reese’s Puffs are promoted as essentially candy you can eat for breakfast, while Trix are still “just for kids” and Lucky Charms are full of highly sought after marshmallows.

And what happens when kids watch these commercials? They eat and repeat. When children see a commercial for food, they are likely to go to the kitchen and grab something to eat (we’re all culprits here). If they are craving the particular food from the commercial, they will find the nearest parent and ask to go to the grocery store. When a parent says no, it’s easy to repeat the slogans of the commercial – whether they be supposed nutrition facts or built-in child logic. What I’m referring to by the latter is a slogan like Yoplait’s Go-Gurt uses: “Dads who get it, get Go-Gurt.” Now imagine a cute little girl saying it and all of a sudden you want to be Mr. Cool Dad.

Commercial speech was actually regulated under the umbrella of the First Amendment in the 1970s, although this protection seems to be largely abused. Companies are obviously still producing far more advertisements targeted at children than should be permitted. Most research on children and media concludes

that kids don’t even recognize that something on TV is an advertisement and not entertainment until they are 7-12 years old. For this reason, the government is able to regulate advertising since it is all “inherently misleading” to children (as determined by a legal standard called the Central Hudson test).

In a large-scale study by the Rudd Center for Food Policy & Obesity at Yale University, 84% of parents reported taking their child to a fast-food restaurant in the last week, 66% of those to McDonald’s. Possibly the worst offender in the study, McDonald’s, has 13 websites including Ronald.com, which targets children as young as 2-years-old. In the study, 40% of parents also reported that their children ask to go to McDonald’s at least once a week, and 15% of preschoolers ask to go every single day. So what might seem like a cute repetition of a newly-learned word can quickly turn to an unhealthy obsession.

Social Media is another big culprit in targeting children. Celebrities are paid to Tweet about their favorite products and there is a Facebook fan page for absolutely everything. Children connect with these famous icons and subject themselves to a constant stream of updates from the respective marketing teams who manage the pages. When you can watch TV, play games, and share photos with your favorite products, that makes them seem like a friend and everyone knows that people trust their friends.

Note: Admongo.gov, a website run by the Federal Trade Commission, aims to help children understand why and how advertising works using an interactive learning game.

Lilly Joynes is a sophomore at the University of Pittsburgh in Communication Studies.

The Ai Sakai: A Goal That’s Better than World Peace

by Tim Cimino

The Ai Sakai is a new concept that can raise the self-esteem of humanity. It will make creating a more beautiful and harmonious world easier. Twenty years ago I had a table at an Earth Day event for my organization, World Peace One. A young man walked up to the table, glanced at the literature and said, “There will never be world peace” and walked away. The biggest problem with world peace as a goal is that the standard is too high. One war anywhere and we’ve failed. It’s like being a first-grader whose parents tell him or her that they expect straight A’s all the way through school. Their expectations would cause bad feelings each time the child got a B or worse. Or else they’d learn to have contempt for the goal and your parents, and reject those expectations. The vision of world peace causes similar feelings — either inferiority, or a contemptuous rejection of world peace as being unrealistic, just as that young man scoffed at the idea.

Here are seven other drawbacks to “world peace” as a goal.

1. It’s vague. Does it mean no war or no conflict at all? Would that include environmental balance or not?
2. It emphasizes disagreements between various religions and philosophies. Are we aiming at a Christian, Muslim, Buddhist or Atheist world peace?
3. There’s no timeframe. World peace by when?
4. The “world” is so huge that it can kill the incentive to act. On a global scale, individual action seems insignificant. (Of course it’s not, but the framework de-motivates.)
5. Total peace seems unnatural, since some conflict is part of life.
6. Peace has negative connotations of being boring, un-dramatic, or no fun.
7. Even if armed conflicts were to end, there would still be people who were immature and having to learn life’s lessons. The suffering and damage they cause in the process of growing up precludes that perfect peace.

Here’s an alternative vision: The Ai Sakai. (In Japanese, Ai means harmony or love. Sakai means frontier or limit.)

The Ai Sakai has three parts:

1. A hundred fold decrease in preventable suffering and premature death before the year 2100. (Make the year 2000 the baseline. Pick 40 major indicators, such as deaths from war, deaths from disease, hunger, political imprisonment, child abuse, violent crime, etc.)
2. A 90% return to environmental balance by 2100. Again, pick 40 major indicators, such as amount of forests, amount of desertification, species

diversity and preservation, population growth rate and so on.

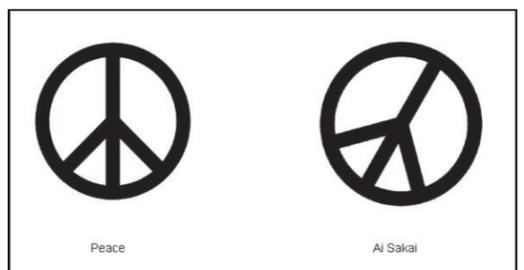
3. A significant annual increase in the happiness of active participants (perhaps because they’re using ongoing personal support to learn at least one or two major beneficial habits, skills or attitudes each year).

This alternative vision has none of the flaws of “world peace.” It’s not absolute. It has a timeframe, a target date. The focus on practical efforts produces unity rather than arguing because everyone is against suffering. The third sub-goal, personal happiness, helps people connect to the big picture. Most importantly: Because progress is measurable, we can celebrate progress along the way. Humanity can feel good, rather than feel bad each year because we’re not perfect yet. Even a 1% annual drop in hunger, for instance, would be on track for a 99% reduction in suffering by the end of the century! Also, rather than being boring, the Ai Sakai creates dramas: Will we or won’t we reach the targets for hunger, and for all the other indicators this year?

So how do we cause the shift?

1. This year include an educational mini-flyer from AiSakai.Org in your holiday card or email.
 2. Forward a video from AiSakai.Org to your friends.
 3. Ask artists friends to create art around the concept.
 4. Use our nifty new Ai Sakai symbol to spark awareness and curiosity!
 5. Ask peace organizations and religious groups to endorse the concept. (For religious people this can lead to a clarifying discussion about the role of religion and spirituality in the Ai Sakai.)
 6. When someone talks about peace, educate them about the Ai Sakai. (For the sake of brevity, “Sakai” or “The Sakai” can be used interchangeably with “Ai Sakai.” Sakai means ‘frontier’ and can stand for “harmony frontier.” By happy coincidence Sakai also has “ai” in it!)
 7. Please send feedback or suggestions to timcimino@gmail.com
- Feeling good about being on the way to the Sakai is a beautiful thing.

Tim Cimino is part of the working group for a New Economy.



Activist Poetry

Why Poetry? Why now?

*A welcome to the **NEW** New People poetry section by Robin Clarke*

For centuries, poets have composed “defenses” of poetry—of what poetry does, why it matters, and what poetry uniquely offers that other language forms cannot. Instead, what if we proceed with the notion that poetry needs neither defending nor explaining. What if poetry—art—may be what can defend and explain us? Why should we, the human race, exist? Why, when we seem bent on ecological destruction, war, mindless accumulation for accumulation’s sake—why should we presume the human has any value whatsoever? If this were in fact what most humans truly wanted, there would be little defense possible for our continued existence. But most humans actually want the opposite of all these things, though the control of public speech (by the U.S. government and the corporations it serves) has distorted the full range of human voices to a few repetitive narratives: all humans are naturally competitive; we should focus primarily on amassing wealth for ourselves and our immediate families; dog-eat-dog capitalism is the way it’s always been and will always be; whatever our military is doing right now, it must be necessary for our safety. Lies. Lies. Against lies, poetry, like all art, can practice difficult, messy truth. Against the sound bite, poetry offers the line break. Against the spectacle of election, poetry spits hard rhymes. Against UPMC’s “wrecking ball of greed,” poetry can declare horizontal networks of human connection and power. Against deadly corporate lies and profit by any means necessary... against the swat team gun barrel at yet another black teenager: the ballad of the poors: we are alive.

Robin Clarke, a new addition to the editorial collective, is a poet and activist and teaches writing at the University of Pittsburgh.

Ballad of the Poors

poem by Becca Mertz

(Originally published in *Carcinogenic Review*)

Someday (again) (soon) (I hope) the POORS will delete our invisible shackles. The POORS will stop filling our mouths with cocks and peppermints and high fructose corn syrup, and our brain cells will be light again, like hummingbirds. Someday the POORS, the ninety-nine percent, someday we’ll all make breakfast for each other on a Tuesday afternoon. The Christian POORS will love the Gay POORS and all the colors of POORS will make Dionysian love with each other until there is no more whiteness anywhere but Olive oil or Sandpaper or whatever and whatever until color is just another adjective we barely even use. Someday the POORS will realize that coffee tastes better to us, and toilet paper feels better to us, and movies are more magical to us, and fucking feels ten times better when you’re hungry and exhausted and afraid of who might come in. Someday when Jesus is back the Christians will all repent and be saved and the Angels will spread their rainbow wings over even the most shameful Republican tapping his foot in the dirtiest public restroom stall. Someday when the POORS stop believing in money they’ll recognize Jesus again in the language itself/in the language of their children instead of the language of their Oppressor. Someday when the POORS stop believing in money they’ll recognize again the voices of the Prophets in spite of the hate-speech of the slack-jawed monkey puppets sleeping the skyscrapers and sleeping in the cubicles! Someday each POOR will reach out her fingers and lead the Oppressors by their ties into the barbeque-scented dusk of anti-ownership, and we’ll all get high along the pure brown sandy beaches of Vieques and Pittsburgh and everywhere and wherever.

R/B Mertz is a poet and teacher living in East Liberty. Her poems have appeared online and in print, and she self-publishes on her website at mylyriccompany.tumblr.com. She teaches writing at Penn State New Kensington and Duquesne University.

For Odell Brown

poem by Emily Carlson

In marker she wrote
“AM I NEXT?”
over the baby inside
her womb curving the words
into his question
re: Trayvon Martin
black teen shot
in *quote* self defense.
Amadu Dialo, Ramarley Graham,
Jordan Miles
carrying a Mountain
Dew not a weapon, carrying
mountains—
iced tea, a pack
of Skittles. All over
the world we wear
hoodies for him
which is to say
for us. A comment on the Justice
for Trayvon Martin
facebook page, beneath
the pregnant woman’s
photo reads: “WHAT A
FRIGHTENING LAND
OF LIBERTY.” Last night
I heard a deputy shout
at Odell Brown, “Put
your hands in the air” and
a woman’s voice, someone
who loved Odell before he
was born, when there was only
Odell Brown, American
Jazz organist who helped
write “Sexual Healing.”
The deputy, had he known
what this woman knew,
that Odell, too, was full of beautiful music,
may have pleaded with her,
*Put your hands
in my hands.* Instead he held
an assault rifle at
Odell’s chest. In some
million rooms across the world
Marvin Gaye sang I need some lovin’
and Odell Brown’s hands danced
across the organ while the deputy called
Odell’s hands *Goddamned hands*
as in, “Put your goddamned hands
in the air,” which scared Odell
who would not even
put them up on the Steel Phantom,
so why would he, a black teenager,
put them up in front
of a white deputy, yelling, with a rifle.
How could he put his hands
in the air as a swat team
crept out of our garden holding
huge shields that would not block
what they were about to see
as they surrounded him. I carried my baby
into the room with one window
because *what if a stray bullet* like they say,
remembering the bullets
through Mike’s window that just missed
his children’s heads,
the bullet hole above our sink.
I carried my baby into his room,
Paul’s book looking out
from the shelf
telling stories about desegregating
schools in Georgia, looking out
with the dedication, written
before Jules was born, “with hopes
that your baby will not have to fight for
his rights.” He’s a month old and police

are still stopping young black men
with the message, “Something’s
really wrong with you.” “Not fight
for justice,” a woman says, “not *fight*.
We have enough fighting.”
“Okay, *work* for—” I say.
“Fight,” says Sten.
“Fight,” says Malcolm.
“Fight,” says Angela Davis. “Fight” says Komozi
and Mumia, and Mother Jones,
and all the Black Panthers,
and Mel, and Josh, and Chavez.
Fight. Fight. Fight. Fight.
Fight back tears of frustration,
says the dictionary.
“Fight” says King, “that the stumbling block
is not the KKK but the White Moderate
[...] who lives by a mythical concept of time”
[...] who wait[s] for a ‘more convenient
season.’” Two white teens
in blue velvet
gowns with Statue of Liberty crowns
wave in front of Liberty
Rent-A-Center, “Honk if you love Liberty.”
the “Liberty” of the Rent-
A-Center and the “Liberty” of our declaration
blurring ten miles from the Eatonville of
Their Eyes were Watching God. Had he never
walked a dark street at night, carried sweets
in his pocket, talked to a sweetheart
on the telephone, his teenage body full of dreams
remembering futures he’ll never have
in a nation where more African Americans
are in prison, on probation or parole in the 21st century—
NOW—than were
enslaved
in the late 1800s. One
poster holds two
photographs: Trayvon Martin, 2012 Florida.
“My Killer Was Not Arrested.”
Emmet Till, 1955 Mississippi.
“My Killers Were Released.”
Till’s mother requested an open casket:
impossible to discern
the face of the 14-year-old,
her son,
accused of flirting with a white woman.
Which was her point.
The unemployment rate
for black men here, in East Liberty,
is 50%, which is worse
than the unemployment rate
during the Great Depression for which
social services, for which soup
kitchens, mural projects, public
works, bread lines. “I couldn’t count
how many times I’ve been stopped.
It becomes kind of
natural with young black men.”
Kind of
natural the transformation of sweets
into guns, fear projected onto
bodies. “I don’t know,” Morrison says,
retelling an old story,
one told in many cultures,
“I don’t know
whether the bird you are holding
is dead or alive,
but what I do know is that it is in your hands.”
It is in all of our hands.

Emily Carlson's manuscript about Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 2006 was a finalist for the Fence Modern Poets award. Emily teaches writing and literature in Pittsburgh, where she lives with her family.

Activists Ending Wars

In Case You Missed It: Sderot, Israel

by Mike Rosenberg

Sderot is a city of about 24,000 residents and is located in the western part of the Negev desert, about one mile from the border with Gaza. The city name means “boulevards or avenues” in Hebrew and was given that name in honor of the efforts of the founders of the State of Israel to “make the desert bloom” by planting trees and building roads throughout the Negev. The city is a poor, immigrant town. The main employer is Osem, one of the largest food manufacturers in Israel.

Since 2001, over 10,000 rockets have been fired from Gaza into Israel, with many falling in or near Sderot. More than 1600 rockets and mortars have been fired alone between January 2011 and November 2012. When a rocket is detected in Israeli airspace, the Tzeva Adom, or Red Color, detection system goes into action. A two-tone alert is broadcasted over the city’s PA system and a female voice repeats the words “Tzeva Adom”. As soon as the Tzeva Adom warning goes out, residents of Sderot have about 15 seconds to find cover. The basements of most homes and public building in Israel feature bomb shelters but because time is so limited when rockets are launched into Sderot, special playgrounds and other outdoor facilities have been constructed so children and nearby adults can find safety.

The effects of the consistent attacks have taken their toll on the city. According to a recent study by the Social Work department at the Sapir Academic College in Sderot, approximately 15,000 city residents suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). In 2009, a spokeswoman from the Hosen Center in Sderot, which provides psychological support for city residents

said the following, “Children are afraid to sleep on their own, to be on their own, even to go to the toilet alone. They feel that their parents cannot protect them. Bed-wetting is a common manifestation of their anxiety and insecurity. Their parents are similarly anxious and frustrated. It is even difficult to speak of PTSD, for as long as the rockets fall the trauma is renewed daily; we are not even in a post-trauma stage.” It is believed that 25% of the population has left Sderot since the attacks begin 10 years ago. Most of these who left were of the upper-middle class, leaving a vacuum of professionals and high-educated residents in the city.

Sderot is rarely spoken about outside of Israel and Jewish circles in the diaspora. The mainstream media rarely mentioned the nearly 100 rockets launched into Sderot in the first half of November alone when it spoke about Israel’s targeted assassination of Hamas’s military leader, Ahmed Said Khalil al Jaabari on November 14th. If they did, they did not fully explain the impact consistent attacks have on the people of Sderot. The quality of life of the innocent on both sides of the Israel-Palestine conflict must be respected and preserved. It is not the intention to defend the Israeli government, but rather to inform and educate that there are two sides to the story. There will be no winner in the continual conflict Israelis and Palestinians find themselves in. There will be only losers and victims.

Mike Rosenberg is a social work intern at TMC and a senior at University of Pittsburgh studying social work and Jewish studies.

Israel Claims ‘Right to Self-Defense’

by Amira Hass

By supporting Israel’s offensive on Gaza, Western leaders have given the Israelis carte blanche to do what they’re best at: wallow in their sense of victimhood and ignore Palestinian suffering.



Courtesy of Michael Rosenberg

Israel’s right to self-defense is a tremendous propaganda victory. One such victory is that it has been accepted as a victim of the Palestinians, both in the

view of the Israeli public and that of Western leaders who hasten to speak of Israel’s right to defend itself.

This allows Israel to add another link to the chain of dispossession of a nation as old as the state itself. While at the same time, it manages to hide the fact that one continuous thread runs from the 1948 refusal to allow Palestinian refugees to return to their homes, the early 1950s expulsion of Bedouin from the Negev desert, the current expulsion of Bedouin from the Jordan Valley, ranches for Jews in the Negev, discrimination in budgets in Israel, and shooting at Gazan fishermen to keep them from earning a respectable living. Millions of such continuous threads link 1948 to the present. They are the fabric of life for the Palestinian nation, as divided as it may be in isolated pockets. They are the fabric of life of Palestinian citizens of Israel and of those who live in their lands of exile.

But these threads are not the entire fabric of life. The resistance to the threads that we, the Israelis, endlessly spin, is also part of the fabric of life for Palestinians. The fact is resistance to the injustice inherent in Israeli domination is an inseparable part of life for each and every Palestinian.

The foreign and international development ministries in the West and in the United States knowingly collaborate with this representation of Israel as victim because every week they receive reports from their representatives in the West Bank and Gaza Strip about yet another link of dispossession and oppression that Israel has added to the chain, and because their own taxpayers’ money make up for some of the humanitarian disasters, large and small, inflicted by Israel.

On November 8, two days before the attack on Israeli soldiers in a military jeep, Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) killed a 13-year old Ahmad Abu Daqqa, who was playing soccer with his friends in the village of Abassan, east of Khan Yunis. The soldiers were 1.5 kilometers from the kids, inside the Gaza Strip area. On November 10, after the attack on the jeep, the IDF killed another four civilians, aged 16 to 19.

Leaders of the West could have known that, before the IDF’s

exercise last week in the Jordan Valley, dozens of Bedouin families were told to evacuate their homes. How extraordinary that IDF training always occurs where Bedouin live, not Israeli settlers, and that it constitutes a reason to expel them. The leaders of the West could also have known, based on the reports their countries finance, that since the beginning of 2012, Israel has destroyed 569 Palestinian buildings and structures, including wells and 178 residences. In all, 1,014 people were affected by those demolitions.

In 1993, the Palestinians gave Israel a gift, a golden opportunity to cut the threads tying 1948 to the present, to abandon the country’s characteristics of colonial dispossession, and together plan a different future for the two peoples in the region. The Palestinian generation that accepted the Oslo Accords is the generation that got to know a multifaceted, even normal, Israeli society because the 1967 occupation allowed it (for the purpose of supplying cheap labor) almost full freedom of movement. The Palestinians agreed to a settlement based on their minimum demands. One of the pillars of these minimum demands was treating the Gaza Strip and West Bank as a single territorial entity.

But once the implementation of Oslo started, Israel systematically acted to make the Gaza Strip into a separate, disconnected entity, as part of Israel’s insistence on maintaining the threads of 1948 and extending them. The Gaza Strip is a separate political entity where there is no occupation. If that is so, why not look at things as follows: As a separate political entity, any incursion into Gazan territory is an infringement of its sovereignty, and Israel repeatedly does this. Does the government of the state of Gaza not have the right to respond, to deter, to scare the Israelis just as Israel scares the Palestinians?

But Gaza is not a state. Gaza is under Israeli occupation. The Palestinians who live there are part of a people whose DNA contains resistance to oppression.

In the West Bank, Palestinian activists try to develop a type of resistance different from the masculine, armed resistance. But the IDF puts down all popular resistance with zeal and resolve. We haven’t heard of residents of Tel Aviv and the south complaining about the balance of deterrence the IDF is building against the civilian Palestinian population.

And so Israel again provides reasons for more young Palestinians to conclude that the only rational resistance is spilled blood and counter-terrorizing.

Amira Hass is an Israeli journalist with the newspaper Haaretz.

Politics 2.0

poem by Lilly Joynes

Tweet tweet Let me follow you like a little bird
Willing and eager to spread your word.
We connect, and I’m constantly in your reach,
Then we fly away on the promises you preach
Because talk is cheap *cheep cheep* (especially when it’s free).

Off in Lala Land you are a star
Where flat screens are illuminated, but flat minds never are.
You turn so ugly when you get caught up in the bickering,
Although I understand - sometimes - you can’t hide your snickering.

On TV you lied, I read it in today’s news.
They compared what you’ve done with your own so-called views.
But those lines were arranged and not on your own,
Put together by experts who decide what will be shown.
I thought something was up, there were several clear signs
Plus the pixels on your flag pin just didn’t quite align.

Our political process, turned into a reality TV guise
Like Mr. America, fought for the ultimate prize.
You claim exclusive coverage, where we can “get all the info”
Or hear beautiful people banter about stuff they actually don’t know.
Just repeat yourself again, because you have nothing new to say,
Pan around the studio, introducing the equipment along the way.
Point again to the Jumbotron at Stage B,
Where live updates are streaming in –
Of opinions and perspectives and interpretations of fact
Give a soap box to the little people,
To let them feel as if they’ve made an impact.

But is it not too outrageous and totally out of line
If I say that our media is out of its mind
For selling us half-truths and skewed statistics.
why are they the leaders, and not the misfits?

Lilly Joynes is an intern working with the TMC editorial collective and is a sophomore at the University of Pittsburgh majoring in Communication Studies.

Environmental Activism

Will Sixteen Police Cars and a Helicopter Be Enough? Mother Earth and Friends Say NO!

by Michael Bagdes-Canning

From November 10-12 two members of the Environmental Justice Committee took part in a great Action Camp sponsored by the local Shadbrush Environmental Justice Collective.

The following is a letter from the Trenches of Maggie's Organic Farm in Bessemer, PA:

The war on terrorism is an abject failure; the terrorists are here in western Pennsylvania and our state government is here to protect them.

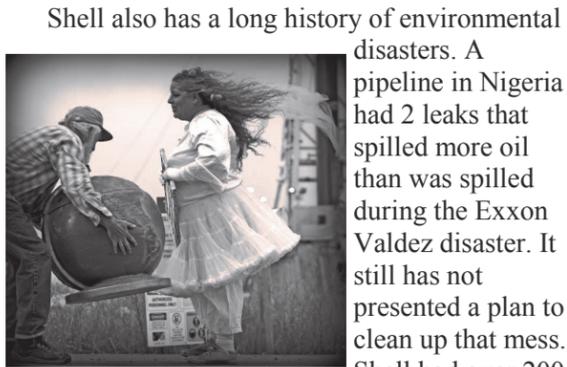
I spent this past weekend with a group of around 100 concerned citizens on an organic farm in Bessemer, Lawrence County. We spent the entire weekend camping, strategizing, peacefully exercising our right to assemble. There were no untoward events; a good time was had by all.

We were there to discuss how we should deal with a gas well being put in by Shell Oil Company about 4000 feet from Maggie Henry's farm. The placement of this well is problematic for a number of reasons but that's not the point of this letter.

The State Department of Environmental Protection has, intentionally, withheld water test results from homeowners near wells. Though this is a scandal, that is not the point of this letter.

Shell Oil is a corporate bad actor. It has been alleged that Shell's relationship with the Nigerian government, police and military led to

a wide range of human rights violations and deaths. In 2009 Shell agreed to pay a \$15.5 million dollar settlement in response to a lawsuit, though admitting no wrongdoing; the suit alleged that Shell was involved in a campaign against local activists - a campaign that left 2000 dead and 30,000 homeless. Though this is reprehensible, it is not the point of this letter.



Shell also has a long history of environmental disasters. A pipeline in Nigeria had 2 leaks that spilled more oil than was spilled during the Exxon Valdez disaster. It still has not presented a plan to clean up that mess. Shell had over 200 significant leaks in Nigeria in 2011. Shell had a huge oil spill in the North Sea in 2011. It didn't report that spill for 2 days. We have reasons to be concerned, but that's not the point of this letter.

On Monday morning, with just a small group of the citizens still in attendance, still at the farm, almost a mile from the Shell well, we were finishing up our meetings and preparing to go to the site to picket and protest. We noticed a State

Police helicopter circling over the farm. Shortly thereafter, we noticed three State Police cars parked on the road adjacent to the farm. There were also State Police cars parked on other roads near the farm. A bit later, after I flagged him down, a trooper told me that there were also troopers at the wellsite; I assured the trooper that we were a peaceful, nonviolent group. I personally saw 10 separate State Police cars and the helicopter. A reporter at the scene told me that she had seen 16 separate cars.

What does it say about our country when such a force is mobilized in the face of approximately 40 demonstrators exercising our right to peaceful assembly?

What it says to me is that there are people in high places who have little regard for the Constitutional rights of citizens. What it says to me is that the "rights" of an exploitative multinational corporation with a long and disgraceful history are protected at great cost while the voice of the citizen is feared.

The attempt by the state to intimidate and stifle citizen speech is outrageous and symptomatic of a police state, a repressive country. It will backfire. If the Governor or Shell think that this show of force will dissuade future attempts by citizens to have their say, they are sadly mistaken. We're not going anywhere.

Michael Bagdes-Canning is a TMC Environmental Justice Committee member.

Hard Numbers, Hard Questions, Hard Rain

by Wanda Guthrie

Bill McKibben explains everything in numbingly simple terms: "Hurricanes are born, as they always have been, when a tropical wave launches off the African coast and heads out into the open ocean. But when that ocean is hot -- and at the moment sea surface temperatures off the Northeast are five degrees higher than normal -- a

storm like Sandy can lurch north longer and stronger, drawing huge quantities of moisture into its clouds and dumping them ashore." This is a normal natural reaction.

What is not an act of nature is the corporate fossil fuel greed that continues to increase greenhouse gas emissions. This is oppression at its worst when countries that can least deal with the consequences of climate change have received the brunt of climate change misery over time.

Haiti lost 54 people and both Jamaica and Haiti are suffering flooded crops and will have a very poor harvest. The hardest part to accept is that this may now be the new normal and the new economy.

The changing climate is costing the global economy \$1.2 trillion a year. Because of climate change, 400,000 people are dying annually; 1,000 children among them. We have had only a taste of it here. Record heat and drought have taken a bit of a toll with lower crop yields and rising food prices. So when we talk about all the statistics, remember that climatologists and economists are predicting that more than 100 million people will die by 2030

if the world fails to tackle climate change.

The new U.N. study, Climate Vulnerability Monitor, reports that if global warming intensifies in the coming years, the economic costs (if air pollution is included) could increase to 3.2 percent of global output. The costs arise from many things: stunting of crops, flooding, and wildfires, but also from the lower productivity of workers when they labor under hotter conditions.

As one of the countries that produce the greenhouse gas heating the planet, we are not immune. Climate impacts could cut the U.S GNP by 2 percent by 2030.

SO WHAT'S THE DEAL? Where are the stories? Why isn't this the emergency on the front page of every paper every day? Where are the politicians and the journalists? And why the silence as we allow fossil fuel industries and duplicitous politicians to continue murdering our future?

Wes Stephenson, former editor of The Atlantic and The Boston Globe, has asked all these questions and written a scathing article in the Boston Phoenix called "A Convenient Excuse." You can find it online. Read it, please. There is really no time to lose!

Such silence and near-silence is no longer acceptable. For countless millions of people, climate silence equals death. Where will we stand?

Wanda Guthrie is a board member of TMC and chair of the Environmental Committee.



Join the Green Energy Collaborative (it's free) and switch to a 100% Pennsylvania Wind Energy Plan offered by TriEagle Energy. Save up to 28% compared to Duquesne Light.*

LowCostWind.com

*Based on the generation, transmission, and GRT portion of the bill. Prices as of 11/15/12. The Green Energy Collaborative is a program of Citizen Power, Inc. For more information call 412-421-7029.



Thank you Global Pittsburgh for arranging the U.S. Presidential Election Exchange with representatives from France, Sweden, Indonesia, and Singapore to meet with B-PEP on November 1, 2012 at Freedom Unlimited, which is located in the historic Hill District in Pittsburgh, PA. The people learned much from one another giving them strength for the journey ahead.



Upcoming Activist Events

15th Annual Summit Against Racism



by Bob Maddox

On Saturday January 26, 2012 the Black and White Reunion will be holding its 15th Annual Summit Against Racism. Formed as a response to the lack of justice manifested in the court cases surrounding the death of Black motorist Jonny Gammage, the purpose of the organization is to enable Black and White people to work together in order to prevent similar tragedies.

The Annual Summits feature workshops (usually 4 or 5, but the high one year was 11) where community people who have a project or an idea for overcoming racism can present to an

interested audience. Plenaries are also planned, sometimes with a speaker but more recently an opportunity for everyone to participate. There's usually some entertainment, something to eat before, and a lunch where people can get together to share experiences and plans, space for literature tables, and possibly a petitioner or two.

The Summit provides funds for the Jonny Gammage scholarship. Working together with NEED, the Gammage scholarship presently offers 2 \$3000 scholarships to African American Law students at Pitt and Duquesne whose answers to an essay question show that they, in the future, will be the very people who will be able to make

sure there are no further 'Jonny Gammages'.

So if you want to start the new year off with some fresh ideas and perhaps some new people to work with, the Summit Against Racism is a place to be. Over the past 15 years several thousand people have thought so.

For further information call 412-322-9275 or visit blackandwhitereunion.org.

Bob Maddox is a member coordinating the annual summit. He also is a monthly distributor of The New People.

'Wobble In' to Pirate Fest; Where Human Rights are More Important than Sports

by Kenneth Miller

Members of the Pittsburgh Anti-Sweatshop Community Alliance are swashbuckling over to Pirate Fest at the David L Lawrence Convention

Center on December 15-16.

Pirate Fest is the annual kick-off of season ticket sales for the Pittsburgh Pirates, showcasing the team's management, players, sweatshop apparel, and inflatable toys. Right

before the holiday season, the home team is mobilized to cover our region in Pirate logos and solicit group ticket sales from schools and churches.



This is the place to talk to baseball fans about sweatshops. We have the capacity, here in Pittsburgh, to deliver solidarity on the scale of Roberto Clemente and Mohandas Gandhi.

Members of the Pittsburgh Anti-Sweatshop Community Alliance will be talking to baseball fans about sweatshops at the Pirates Fest this year. Sweatshop workers are just like us, and they need our support.

For experienced direct action organizers, major league sweatshop educators, and children who care about Human Rights there is no better

time or place to realize a civil rights bridge from Pittsburgh to the sweatshops in countries where our

clothing is made. We invite you to join with us in a *peace campaign* of garment worker union organizing. Union organizing against the global apparel industry illustrates the struggle against imperialism and our desire for economic self-determination. For more info, contact Kenneth at 412-867-9213 or stop by the Thomas Merton Center.

Kenneth Miller is a member of the editorial collective and the Pittsburgh Anti-Sweatshop Community Alliance.

Reconstructing Our Peace and Justice Movement

Dear Friends and Progressive Com-patriots:

Now that the elections are over, with President Obama re-elected and some new exciting Senators, including a record number of women, we have the opportunity to really impact the future of this country. However, in order to do that we need to build a much stronger grassroots movement and come up with new creative ideas for getting our concerns heard. We need and want your help.

Since the bombing of the World Trade Center, the peace movement has been struggling with ways to have an impact and change the direction of peoples' thinking on war and militarization.

There is no doubt that rallies, vigils and marches and programs, like the American Friends Service Committee's Eyes Wide Open, have brought some change in attitudes about the wars.

However these approaches have lost their impact, and they seldom attract new people or have any media appeal. The most we get is a picture with a caption or a short article. It is also true that we are not reaching out to a broader audience to engage them in conversation about their concerns and needs.

For instance according to Medea Benjamin, 82% of the country believes that the use of drones is acceptable. How do we reach people and talk about their concerns for safety and our concerns for the killing of innocent people by unmanned drones?

We need to find new strategies, reach out to other like-minded people and exert more pressure to have more influence on what is happening in our name.

On Saturday January 5th, from 2-4:30 pm we will hold a planning session at the Friends' Meetinghouse, bringing together organizations and individuals concerned about peace and the economy. This will be an opportunity for us to strategize on new creative ways not only to address our concerns but to work collaboratively together to have more impact.

Everybody is urged to come. Put it on your calendars, rack your brains on who should be there and persuade them that we need them. Code Pink and the Anti-War committee are already on board.

- Edith Bell and Scilla Wahrhaftig

Edith Bell is the coordinator of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and Scilla Wahrhaftig is the director of the American Friends Service Committee PA.



40th Anniversary Tribute In Memory of Elizabeth Critchlow

Water for Woodlands Holiday Fundraiser

Nearly a year ago the families in the Woodlands had their buffalos removed by REX Energy. Marcellus Outreach Butler is holding a Lasagna Dinner to raise money to donate to the 25 families now relying on bottled water. Please consider attending on Saturday, December 8, 2012 from 4:30 - 8 PM. Expect Santa, lasagna, music, movies, a silent auction, and children's crafts. Bring your own beer or wine. Requested donation for adults: \$15 at the door. All proceeds after expenses will go to purchase water for the affected families in the Connoquenessing Woodlands that have lost their potable water after Hydraulic Fracking for Natural Gas commenced in their community.

RSVP to mpro113@gmail.com or 724-452-5556 or by sending a check (payable: Marcellus Outreach Butler) to 209 Little Creek Road, Harmony, PA 16037.

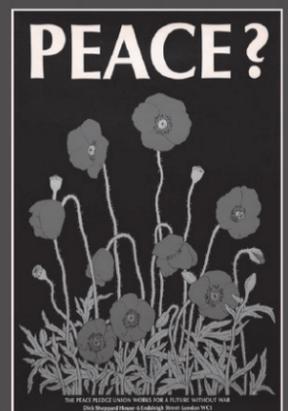
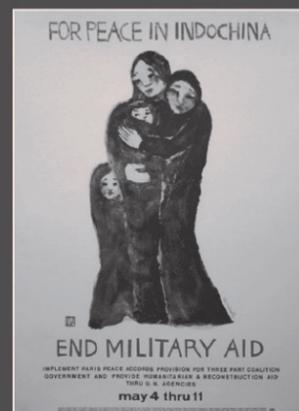
EVENT

GUNS VS. BUTTER

A collaboration between Justseeds Artists' Cooperative and Interference Archive

Historical and Contemporary Anti-War Posters

Opening Reception **Fri, Dec. 7th, 2012, 7 - 10 PM**
Friday, December 7th, 2012 - Sunday, January 6th, 2013



An exhibition of printed posters detailing global, grassroots struggles against war and military aggression. The exhibition includes contemporary print work by members of Justseeds, historical selections from Interference Archive, and the Justseeds/Iraq Veterans Against the War collaborative portfolio "War is Trauma".

JUSTSEEDS ARTISTS' COOPERATIVE

INTERFERENCE ARCHIVE

Straub



819 Penn Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
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FUTURE TENANT
celebrating 10 years
as a space for art
2002-2012

Images from left-right: 1. For Peace in Indochina, American Friends Service Committee et. al. (Artist: Lucia Vernarelli), c. 1973, Offset lithograph poster, USA. 2. Peace? Peace Pledge Union (Artist: Unknown), c. 1975, Offset lithograph poster, UK.

Pittsburgh Activist Strategies

Making It Pittsburgh's UPMC: A Dual Strategy

by K. Briar Somerville

The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) is the largest employer in Pennsylvania. On **December 5** at **5:00 pm**, Allegheny County Council will hold a public hearing on UPMC at the County Courthouse: **436 Grant Street**, in the Gold Room on the 4th floor.

EVENT

“The hope is to get the council to vote to launch an investigation into UPMC's alleged non-profit status and its various union-busting activities,” writes labor historian Millie Beik in a mass email circulated to local labor activists. Beik was there when the council unanimously approved holding the public hearing. “In order to move everything forward, we need to have a large attendance to support this effort on behalf of social justice.” The major player in the efforts to question UPMC's tax-exempt status and unionize its workers is the Service Employees International Union (SEIU).

Meanwhile, a UPMC Presbyterian employee (aka This Employee) interviewed for this article recalls the buzz around the unionization debate began this summer, and that the union issue seems to have gone quiet in the last two months. In the room with This Employee sits Kenneth Miller, a local labor activist.

This Employee says that over the summer, “It was big-time. Every day posters were put up all over the hospital for the union. The hospital was aware; someone would go behind them and rip them down.” Employees received direct mailings to their homes from UPMC with anti-union messages. The hospital held anti-union meetings and presented fact sheets about specific benefits employees at Allegheny General Hospital lost when the union came there. According to the SEIU Healthcare PA website, “it is illegal for management to tell employees that existing benefits will be discontinued if the facility is unionized.” The website of SEIU Healthcare PA has a “Know Your Rights” for unionizing page at <http://tinyurl.com/c73eg27>.

Kenneth says “It's in the company's interest to state the terrible consequences of union organizing. They are fully aware of how much everyone needs their job and the fact that people don't know what their rights are.”

At least in the case of This Employee, the fear tactic works. He says that even though UPMC's language has been less direct than ‘you will be

laid off,’ he fears that his job may not be secure if he reveals his name in this article or does anything else publicly pro-union. Miller counters that if his name were printed here and he were fired for union activity, this article could actually be used as evidence in his defense, since it is illegal to fire employees for unionizing. “You can't protect union organizers if they aren't public; when they're public, we can use the law and apply pressure.”

According to the SEIU, “It is illegal for management to grant employee wage increases or special concessions in order to keep the union out,” yet UPMC gave all its employees a raise this summer during the height of the union contention. This Employee interpreted this as an anti-union tactic that “pacified the employees” and slowed union momentum. Miller says, “A common problem is that as long as somebody's got it worse than you, you don't need a union, and the union's got to win them all.”

This Employee says that even though UPMC offers good on-the-job training and opportunities for advancement, “I've never worked in a place with so many unhappy employees.” According to Miller, it is common for management to dump additional responsibilities on workers and expect them to complete all their duties in the same amount of time. Such unreasonable demands are clearly about cutting costs.

This Employee pauses and asks Miller, “Would the union have a say-so in job descriptions?” Miller says “It would have to be bargained in the contracts. What the union allows is for there to be a table where you bargain a contract. It's all of you together around the table telling the boss what you want – it doesn't guarantee getting or not getting certain things, just the chance to negotiate together.” This Employee realizes “That's what missing. I get the picture. I see what the possibilities are. I see where it could eliminate where I can go in tomorrow and be given extra responsibilities to do in the same amount of time with no warning and no chance to say no.”

Krysta Curl, an SEIU organizer, remarks over the phone that UPMC employees working with the union often tell her, “I know this is about more than me getting a raise.” She sees this as an effort to hold UPMC accountable as a part of the community in Allegheny County. Curl explains, “When the largest employer pays low wages, this ripples throughout the whole community.” Curl

tells me that the community's movement against UPMC started around January, when UPMC workers began collaborating with education groups, people in public services, social services organizations, community health organizations, homeowners, and those fighting transit and education cuts.

Curl and the SEIU assert that UPMC is unofficially behaving like a for-profit company, and Curl points out that “if they were [officially] acting as a for-profit, they'd be contributing to the community through tax dollars.” According to MakeItOurUPMC.org, as the largest private landowner in Allegheny County, UPMC's \$9 billion revenue last year would have put it in the Fortune 500 if it were legally a for-profit corporation. Those UPMC letters on the top of the Steel Building cost at least \$750,000; the CEO makes \$2,872 an hour; and foreign investments are a slap in the face to those who fought the closing of Braddock Hospital here in Allegheny County.

MakeItOurUPMC asserts that the \$133 million UPMC avoids in annual income taxes “would cover the projected deficits of both the Port Authority and the Pittsburgh Public Schools.” The fact that UPMC does not contribute to public transit is especially problematic because UPMC is dependent on public transit to get its patients to their appointments, and as a non-profit, the care of patients should be a priority.

This Employee may not realize it, but he and Krysta Curl from the SEIU are singing the same tune. In the workplace, he says, his bosses place more emphasis on efficiency than patient care.

The UPMC employees might argue that they need the union more than they need their employer's non-profit status to be revoked. And the union might assert that they need support from the larger community to combat UPMC's fear-mongering. Ultimately, it is the community that needs UPMC's excess money to go into public services.

All local employees need UPMC to stop artificially holding down the region's wages.

The Allegheny County Council itself wants a slice of the UPMC pie in tax dollars, so it has agreed to hear testimony on December 5 to decide whether to investigate further.

K. Briar Somerville is an intern at the Thomas Merton Center with a history with Occupy Wall Street, now studying information science at Pitt.

SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Targeted)

by Anne E. Lynch

Three Rivers Community Foundation will be releasing our NEW grant process in December 2012 (visit our website, <http://www.trcfwpa.org> for more information), and we expect that many reading this column will be considering applying to us for funds. Every year, we go over our process, trying to strike the best balance between what's easiest for those who apply and for those who decide. One of the methods we use in evaluating is SMART: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Targeted. Ask yourself the following:

Is your proposal Specific? We realize that applications are due sometimes months in advance of a program being held. You may not have all the details ready. Still, it is a good idea to have an uninvolved person read your application before you send it in and ask the following questions: Does the proposal make sense? Does it have clear focus? Are acronyms spelled out somewhere in the proposal? Did you clearly articulate your goals and objectives? Did you specify details and which ones will be determined closer to the event?

Is your proposal Measurable? At TRCF, we know that measuring social change can be a tricky thing, but it's good to have measurable parts in the proposal like the following: How do you know if a population has changed its attitude because of your project? How will you determine its success? – if it's getting 100 people to an event, getting 250 postcards signed and mailed, having 75% of attendees turn in event evaluations, having supportive letters to the editor published, etc.

Is your proposal Achievable? We have actually received proposals that come just shy of claiming, “And with this project, we'll eliminate racism in the city of Pittsburgh.” Optimism is a terrific quality to have, but let's be honest – no single project is going to end racism. Think about what resources you have, what resources you can borrow, and what your people can actually do. Then, come up with achievable goals and objectives. If that means having to take things a year at a time, and build the project each year, that's fine! Let the foundation know that, too. It gives us confidence to see that you're planning to see a goal attained, even if it takes several years.

Is your proposal Realistic? This goes hand-in-hand with achievable. We're going to be looking at proposals and asking of each one, “Is this specific project really going to meet this particular goal?” How will your planned activities ensure success? As an example: if your goal is to reduce crime rates, and your project is to hold a concert, how will the concert reduce crime rates? Is it realistic to believe that a single concert will reduce crime?

Is your proposal Targeted? We're going to be looking to see if you've specified the proper demographics of your target audience. For instance, if you are hosting a conference, who are you inviting to speak? Who are you inviting to attend? How will you ensure that you reach your target audience (s)? From where will your participants come? What targeted actions will be taken to follow-up on the project?

Anne E. Lynch is the Manager of Operations at Three Rivers Community Foundation.

Activist Reports

Movie Review "We Are Alive—The Fight to Save Braddock Hospital"

by Jonathan Reyes

"If it wasn't for that hospital I wouldn't have a mother today," said Fontaine Hawkins after reliving the tragedy he faced when a three inch aneurysm burst in Geraldine Hawkin's brain in December of 2000.

"She had to get to the hospital fast, so we hopped in the car and my mother, covering one eye, drove through the streets of Braddock swerving on and off the road and nearly crashing at every turn. At her most desperate moment she even asked me, a 13 year old at the time, to take the wheel if she passes out." Not only did they both make it to the hospital alive but Geraldine Hawkins, on the brink of death, was stabilized by UPMC Braddock. They couldn't completely heal her, but they made her strong enough for the next hospital to."

After hearing a story like that, it made me wonder how a scenario like this plays out now that there is no hospital in Braddock. This is just one of the many concerns expressed in Tony Buba's documentary film, *We Are Alive: The Fight to Save Braddock Hospital*. And what a fight it was within the two and a half year time it was filmed.

Beginning in October 2009, and following through to June 2012, this film, co-directed by Tom Dubensky, walks its audience through yet another historic battle in Braddock, from start to finish and beyond.

Nobody pitched forks and pointed bayonets at

their enemy as much as they pitched signs and pointed fingers, but the residents of Braddock did not stop there, as Buba and Dubensky film dramatizes.

We Are Alive is superbly seasoned with music, comedy, speeches, role plays and conference sit-ins that highlight how much UPMC, a "non-profit" organization, seems not to care about the health of the Mon Valley residents it had taken responsibility for when it took over their hospital in 1996. The promise of a glittering new Monroeville hospital full of privately insured patients was more important to UPMC than the street theater zombies, Raging Grannies, furious residents--such as Boro Councilwoman Tina Doose, and resident Jim Kidd --and stalwart activists like Mike Stout and Occupy Pittsburgh, who all came out to fight.

On November 9th I went to the first and only public screening of this spirited documentary, aside from one at Harvard on Tuesday, November 13th. The Pittsburgh screening was the most active movie experience I have ever had. When politicians and UPMC spokespeople misled the community, the theater hissed with sounds of a snake and echoed the chants of residents as they marched on to spread their message. No less than 250 people showed up in support of Buba and Dubensky's film: which is equivalent to how many lives UPMC Braddock would have saved, according to a UPMC physician interviewed in the film, if only 1% of its typical yearly

admissions ended up in critical care. It was a sold-out theater's worth of patients in need of UPMC's "life-changing medicine."

"We can expect a 2013 copyright date on it for sure," Tony said, when asked how soon the public could expect the documentary to hit Pittsburgh. After a slow start (possibly still stunned by what they just saw on film), the audience bombarded Tony Buba and Tom Dubensky with questions, regarding what's next for the film. Finalizations on the film will be based on audience feedback sent to TonyBuba@comcast.net.

Buba's hope for the future of the film is that it be used as a study guide. "Four words: healthcare begins at birth," he said, meaning healthcare should be a human right, not a privilege.

The only problem Tony Buba has is taking credit. "Sure my name's on the screen but if the camera work and stuff is bad it's my fault. If it's good, that's Tom Dubensky and the rest of the team."

More credit and thanks was given to Pittsburgh Filmmakers, to those who donated to a \$12,000 Kickstarter campaign to complete production, the Thomas Merton Center, the Braddock Library and the incredible number of strong women in Braddock.

The question remains whether or not the fight is over. Braddock's soldiers have raised big questions in many minds: who is next? McKeesport? When will UPMC live up to its charitable values? UPMC employees often question who and what they work for, and so now the war continues to make UPMC truly support the community, whether by making good on its charitable title or through the taxes the non-profit title allows UPMC to avoid. Find out what's next at MakeItOurUPMC.org.

Jonathan Reyes is a member of the Editorial Collective and moderator for the Social Justice Group Discussion at the Braddock Library.



Charges are Dropped Against Vandenberg 15

by Molly Rush

The Vandenberg 15, including Daniel Ellsberg, Cindy Sheehan, and Father Louis Vitale, were arrested for trespass protesting the launching of a Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile from Vandenberg Air Force Base on February 25th.

On November 14th, the opening day of the trial, all charges were dismissed. Defendants had planned to argue that as citizens it is their duty to report a potential crime, the unlawful conduct of the U.S. government..

According to the US Constitution, treaties are the supreme law of the land. Article VI, Section 2 of the Constitution states: "This constitution, and the laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof; and all treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States shall be the supreme law of the land; and the judges in every state shall be bound thereby, any thing in the constitution or laws of any state to the contrary notwithstanding." The United States signed and ratified the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) which entered into force in 1970. Therefore, it is part of the "supreme law of the land."

Under Article VI of this treaty, "Each of the Parties to the Treaty undertakes to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a Treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control." By test-launching an ICBM, the US is in breach

of its obligations under Article VI of the NPT. It has failed to act in good faith to live up to our treaty obligations. Each of the 450 Minuteman III missiles deployed by the US carries a powerful thermonuclear weapon – many times more



powerful than the bombs that destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Kept on high alert 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, they are highly accurate, but also easy to target. In a time of crisis, there is incentive to "use them or lose them." They are first-strike weapons that could be launched in response to a false warning of attack.

To launch a Minuteman III ICBM from Vandenberg may be a criminal act. A test-launching represents a threat to other countries – reminding them that we can attack them with nuclear weapons.

Murder and the threat to murder is a crime. In this case the threat to kill millions of people is a crime against humanity. A US nuclear attack against another country would almost certainly result in a counter-attack against the American people and puts the entire human race at risk.

Since the end of the Cold War, we tend to forget that the threat of nuclear war continues. The danger is not only from terrorists or rogue nations obtaining a nuclear weapon, but from our own government's failure to take the lead toward full disarmament. as was the intent of that treaty.

In 2009 President Obama declassified information on the size of the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile, today estimated to be about 5000.

The Federation of American Scientists estimates there are over 19,000 nuclear warheads in the world as of 2012, around 4,400 of them "operational", ready for use. Dan Ellsberg in 1969 released to the press the Pentagon Papers, a top-secret

Pentagon study of U.S. government decision-making regarding the Vietnam War to the press.

Richard Nixon's secret Oval Office tape from June 14, 1972, shows aide H. R. Haldeman describing the situation to the President: "Rumsfeld was making this point... To the ordinary guy, all this is a bunch of gobbledygook. But out of the gobbledygook comes a very clear thing: it shows that people do things the president wants to do even though it's wrong, and the president can be wrong."

Dan's participation, at age 81, in the Vandenberg 15 protest was the latest in a long string of conscientious protests.

To him and to the other 14 we owe a debt of gratitude.

Molly Rush is the co-chair of the Thomas Merton Center editorial collective.

Faith in Action

A Prophet for Justice

by Joyce Rothermel

On November 17-18, a group of us from the Thomas Merton Center participated in the annual protest and prayerful witness at Ft. Benning, Georgia, the home of the U.S. Army School of the Americas (see related articles on next page). Since 1946 the SOA has trained over 50,000 soldiers from 18 different Latin American countries, many responsible for the killings of thousands of their own citizens and missionaries serving them. (See box below about an upcoming service commemorating the martyrdom of 4 Churchwomen killed by graduates of the School of the Americas.)

We gathered at Fort Benning in solidarity in remembrance of those who have been killed at the hands of soldiers trained with the use of our tax dollars. We heard the repeated message from Maryknoll priest, Fr. Roy Bourgeois, "Close this School, the School of the Assassins." Since 1990, with Fr. Bourgeois' leadership, people have been working to close the School through the School of the Americas (SOA) Watch movement. Utilizing the legislative process, this annual public protest, will hopefully close the School soon.

About two years ago, Fr. Bourgeois began to address another injustice, this time within his Church.

The issue is the denial of ordination to the priesthood of Roman Catholic women. Unwilling to remain silent, Fr. Bourgeois proclaimed: "Silence is the voice of complicity. Therefore, I call upon all Catholics, fellow priests, bishops, Pope Benedict XVI, and all Church leaders at the Vatican to speak out loudly on this grave injustice of excluding women from priesthood."

Shortly after we returned home from Ft. Benning, it was announced that Fr. Bourgeois had been expelled from the Maryknoll order with whom he had served for over 40 years. This action follows Fr. Bourgeois' continued public position in support of women's ordination. Earlier he was excommunicated as a Catholic but not expelled.

The Maryknoll superior general ordered him to recant his position or Maryknoll would expel him and ask Rome to defrock him.

Things proceeded rather quietly until this past February, when Fr. Bourgeois participated in a panel discussion at the New York premiere of

the documentary *Pink Smoke over the Vatican*.

The film chronicles the struggle for women's ordination in the Catholic Church, and features extensive clips of an interview with Bourgeois. (A copy of the film is available for loan at the Merton Center, call 412-361-3022.)

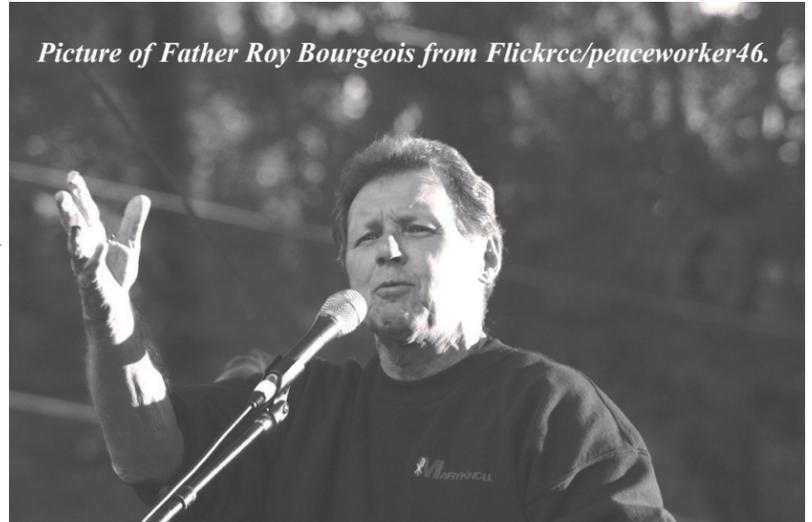
In a letter to the head of Maryknoll, Fr. Bourgeois states: "After much reflection and many conversations with fellow priests and women, I believe sexism is at the root of excluding women from the priesthood. Sexism, like racism, is a sin. And no matter how hard we may try to justify discrimination against women, in the end, it is not the way of God. Sexism is about power. In the culture of clericalism many Catholic priests see the ordination of women as a threat to their power."

Unlike the action by Maryknoll, in 2001, when Benedictine Sister Joan Chittister was invited to speak at the women's ordination conference in Ireland and the Vatican asked her superior to prevent her from speaking, her superior, and all the Benedictine sisters in her convent, refused, citing their vows of obedience to the Spirit and to consensus. The Vatican relented.

On Fr. Bourgeois' behalf, the Women's Ordination Conference is circulating a petition to support him. Other groups including Roman Catholic Womenpriests are also calling for help to support him. Fr. Bourgeois, in response to his expulsion, has asked everyone to read his recent book, "My Journey from Silence to Solidarity." It can be ordered by writing to him at P.O. Box 3330, Columbus GA 31903 or by calling or faxing him at (706) 682-5369.

It is not too early to ponder the impact Fr. Bourgeois' dismissal from Maryknoll will have on the School of Americas' Watch. The SOA Watch protest has grown into the largest, most sustained anti-militarism movement in the U.S.

Even more important than its size, the SOA Watch has revealed the power of a spiritually based political movement.



Picture of Father Roy Bourgeois from Flickrcc/peaceworker46.

Fr. Bourgeois is truly a prophet for our time! You can support him by signing an online petition found at: <http://tinyurl.com/crvsbxg>. You can also join the Merton Center's involvement in support of the SOA Watch by contacting Russell Noble at the Merton Center.

Joyce Rothermel recently returned from the annual public protest at Ft. Benning's School of the Americas. She also chairs the Church Renewal Committee of the Association of Pittsburgh Priests that supports the ordination of women in the Roman Catholic Church.

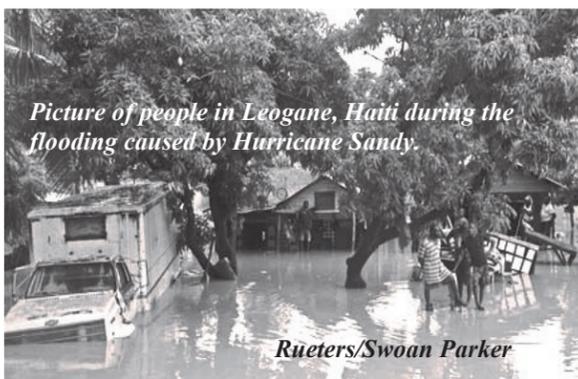
Pittsburgh Area Pax Christi Chapter Event

Pittsburgh Area Pax Christi is hosting a celebration of the 32nd anniversary of the martyrdom of Four Churchwomen and extending their legacy with a viewing and sharing of the documentary *We Are All Immigrants* on Sat., December 1, 2012 from 7 - 8:30 PM at St. James Church Chapel, 718 Franklin Avenue in Wilksburg.

The documentary produced by the Path to Justice Committee of the Tri-Diocesan Sisters Leadership Conference tells stories of immigrants in Pittsburgh today. All are welcome. (The four U.S. Churchwomen were killed in El Salvador by graduates of the U.S. Army School of the Americas.)

Hurricane Sandy Hits Haiti Hard

by Chedlin Gerve



Picture of people in Leogane, Haiti during the flooding caused by Hurricane Sandy.

Rueters/Swoan Parker

Last month Hurricane Sandy brought death and destruction to many in the western hemisphere, not only in the U.S., but also to nations in the Caribbean. Haiti, still struggling to recover from the earthquake of 2010, suffered the most in that region with over 40 dead and several people missing. With continued rain, the rivers are still rising.

A critical bridge, Pont Bonnet, collapsed in Ganthier, Haiti cutting off travel from Port-au-

Prince to the Dominican Republic via Malpasse. Many Haitians are now stranded in the Dominican Republic waiting to return to Haiti. Who knows how long it will take to repair the bridge. Currently, the Haitian National Center of Equipments (CNE) is assessing the situation in order to make the necessary repairs.

The European Union has allocated 6 million euros in emergency aid to the countries of the Caribbean to provide assistance to the hurricane victims. "Hurricane Sandy illustrates the increasing intensity of natural disasters to which even the best prepared countries such as the United States, are not protected," said Kristalina Georgieva, European Commissioner for humanitarian aid. "While Haiti was not on the direct path of the hurricane, the country already highly vulnerable to disasters, has nevertheless been hit hard.... Combined impacts of these disasters are devastating for a population already living in extreme vulnerability." Crops have been destroyed, raising fears of food shortages.

Infrastructure and homes were destroyed on a large scale. 1.5 million Haitians are affected.

Emergency funds from the European Commission will immediately assist the people most affected through the provision of food and basic household items, as well as house repairs and restoration of water infrastructure and sanitation. The funds will also help restore local agriculture by providing farmers with seeds and tools. Immediate priorities remain, however: access to food and drinking water to avoid waterborne diseases and in countries affected by cholera, a resurgence of the epidemic. Funds are being allocated for the restoration of shelters and the establishment of structures for the population.

New People readers can assist through support to Partners in Progress based in Ligonier, PA. Send donations to Partners in Progress, 329 N. Fairfield Street, Ligonier, PA 15658. (Visit www.piphaiti.org.)

Chedlin Gerve is an employee of Fonkoze, Haiti's alternative bank for the organized poor. He is currently on scholarship, studying at Duquesne University with the support of the Pittsburgh Haiti Solidarity Committee and their host families.

International Activism

School of the Americas Vigil Draws Thousands

story and photo by Russell Noble

“We are not going anywhere” – that’s the message that Father Roy Bourgeois, founder of School of the Americas (SOA) Watch, wanted America to take away from the vigil held November 16 to 19 at Fort Benning in Georgia. The annual vigil attracts thousands of protestors from across the U.S. and Latin America where they learn about and work together to close the United States’ School of the Americas.

The School of the Americas, or the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, as it has been called since it was renamed in 2001 as part of a campaign to revise its image, is one of Americas most important tools in subordinating and controlling Latin American countries where it trains Latin American soldiers in torture, counterinsurgency, and violent crowd control methods. Its graduates have been implicated in coups, massacres, assassinations, and repression all across Latin America.

The SOA Watch, a nonprofit organization, and works to inform the American public of SOA graduates’ human rights abuses and, ultimately, to shut it down. Argentina, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Uruguay, and, since last year, Ecuador and Nicaragua have all ceased sending soldiers to the SOA thanks to this organization.

Every year since 1989, SOA Watch has held a vigil in November to protest the school and the human rights violations it has spawned, as well as to remember those who were murdered by SOA graduates.

On Sunday, in a symbolic death ceremony, thousands of protestors silently lay down in solidarity to commemorate the thousands of victims who fell by the hands of SOA graduates.

Throughout the day, an automated message

that seemed to embody the SOA reached out from the military intercom at the Fort’s gates to warn protestors not to trespass and to justify its power as “consistent with the principles of the United States Constitution.”

During the memorial service protestors mourners placed one cross each on the gates of Fort Benning—with the names of people killed by political repression in Latin America countries. At the same time names of the victims were sung aloud and answered with a “Presente” (“here” in Spanish, meaning “in our hearts”) from the crowd.

After the sober funeral procession, a grand puppet show and musical performance were put on to celebrate SOA Watch’s past victories and to remind those gathered of the work still yet to come in closing the School.

Puppetistas on stilts and in animal costumes, some holding aloft a gigantic green bird puppet, represented Latin American countries and their cultures in the performance. Meanwhile the U.S.S. Empire, a cardboard ship held up by the protestors, represented the United States’ past

repression. It was a vibrant and artistic satire of American imperialism, but beneath the humor the message was clear: U.S. foreign policy in Central and South America is abusive and manipulative to the point of ridiculousness.

Entertainment for the weekend also featured politically conscious musicians like Colleen Kattau and Elise Witt, Silvia Brandon Perez, and Pittsburgh’s own Mike Stout.

Stout, who is an experienced singer, songwriter and SOA protestor, calls the vigil “incredibly uplifting...there’s nothing like it in the whole world” and emphasizes that it “reinvigorates the movement and Pittsburgh’s connection to the effort, not only to oppose the School of the Americas, but to oppose war and imperialism.”

While those at the vigil mourn the SOA’s victims, they are also filled with hope for the future and joy at being one year and two countries closer to extinguishing its influence.

The spirit of empathy that was felt beneath the weekend’s activities particularly moved John Ahlborg, a first-timer at the vigil and one of the many college students present.

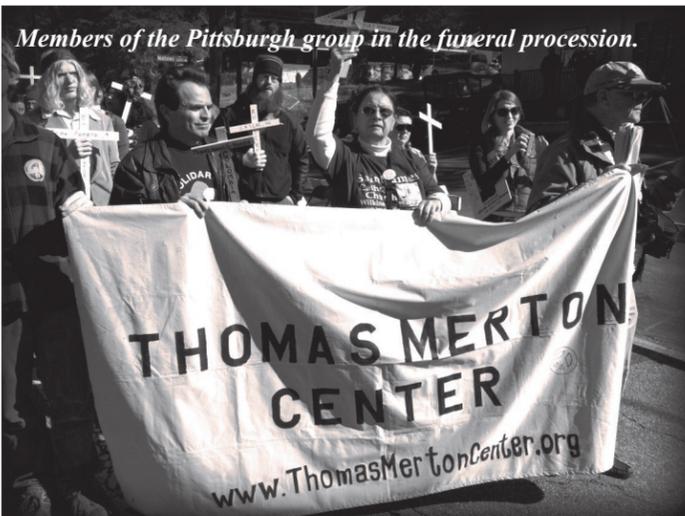
“This wasn’t what I thought this protest would be like. It wasn’t just shouting and anger – there was organization, music, companionship, and compassion.” Indeed, the compassion felt in every word and gesture at the vigil is what made it such a unique and inspiring experience.

Russell Noble is an intern at the Thomas Merton Center who organized the trip for nine fellow activists travelling from Pittsburgh to his first SOA Watch this year.



Closing the School of the Assassins

by Michael Drohan



For the last twenty years on the weekend before Thanksgiving thousands of peace and justice activists have gathered at the U.S. Military Base in Fort Benning, Georgia. Their mission is to demand the closing of the School of the Americas, now renamed the Western Hemisphere Institute of Security and Cooperation (WHINSEC), which is housed within the Army Base in Fort Benning. Located in Panama during most of the Cold War years, the school moved to Fort Benning several decades ago, when control of the canal was returned to Panama. The stated purpose of the School was to train Latin American soldiers of the officer class and promote friendly relations with the Latin American military during the Cold War years.

What was hidden from the American public was that the students trained in Fort Benning were schooled in torture methods and in the ideology of national security and counter-insurgency.

With the murder in 1980 of Oscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador, and of six Jesuits and their housekeeper and her daughter in 1989, the ugly fact came to light that the perpetrators and intellectual architects were graduates of Fort Benning. Gradually then, it became known that most if not all of the oppressive military leaders of Latin America in the ‘70s and ‘80s were graduates of the School of the Americas. Cumulatively they have been responsible for the murder of upwards of one million people across the Americas, the Generals and the Army murdering their own citizens, the poor and the peasantry and clergy who promoted social justice.

This year, a team of nine members of the Thomas Merton Center made its way to Georgia to take part in the three days of activism and demands for the closing of this institution. It is an amazing weekend of social justice promotion with speeches, workshops, music, plays, and puppet shows. The participants in the weekend were enabled to see the connections between all the social justice issues from the torture that takes place in U.S. prisons to the depredations of gold-mining companies in Guatemala and El Salvador by Canadian and US companies to the Killer Coke campaign in Colombia against Coca Cola to the injustices inflicted on the people in the open-air prison that is Gaza.

For me, personally, the annual visit to Fort Benning (this year was my 10th) serves as a fire within me of resistance to injustice and a renewed commitment to struggle for justice. In Fort Benning, one gets a sense that one is not alone as one encounters activists from all over the country who

have committed their entire lives to the pursuit of social justice. One also has the opportunity of becoming aware of struggles and issues that one is not familiar with or that one does not have time to work on in one’s own neck of the woods.

One of the more impressive parts of the weekend for me has always been what is called the memorial funeral procession. During this event, the names of the thousands of men, women, and children who were killed in the Americas by their own military and leaders are chanted and those present respond “Presente.” Their memory, their lives, and their sacrifices are remembered and treasured; they are not forgotten. In particular, the victims of the El Mozote, El Salvador, massacre of December 11-12, 1981, are remembered. On those dates more than 30 years ago, the El Salvadoran graduates of the School of the Americas massacred close to 900 people. A banner carrying the image of the lone survivor of the massacre, Rufina Amaya, floats above the stage from which the names are chanted. The massacre is reenacted with several people smeared with blood lying prostrate on the ground.

It is a privilege to be part of the Fort Benning peace and justice extravaganza, and those of us who participated hope to share the inspiration we got this year with those of you who could not be there. Our hopes are that next year we can organize an even larger Pittsburgh contingent to go and demand the shutdown of this infamous institution. Also, in the months ahead, we hope to work on the legislative process of getting Congress to pass a resolution to close the school.

Michael Drohan is a member of the Board of Directors of the Thomas Merton Center and co-chair of the Editorial Collective.

Living Lives of Activism

Forty Years of Struggle (Continued from front page)

Westinghouse and SEI at CMU, Amos House, Citizens Budget Campaign, Central American Campaigns, the Haiti Solidarity Committee, PUSH - PA. United for Single Payer Health Care, and, of course, the East End Community Thrift Shop.

We've worked with literally hundreds of community, labor, environmental and faith groups, including Tri-State Conference on Steel, Friends Peace Center, Peace Links, WILPF, Youth Cry, Just Harvest, NAACP, Association of Pittsburgh Priests, Pax Christi, Pittsburgh North People for Peace, Women for Racial & Economic Equality, Rainbow Coalition of Western Pennsylvania, Three Rivers Community Foundation, and many more.

Finally, as community builders, we've sponsored or co-sponsored countless retreats, days of reflection, book studies, prayer services, conferences, hearings, protests, marches, boycotts, fasts, vigils, legislative meetings, educational programs, delegations, celebrations, parties, potlucks, and picnics.

These have built lasting relationships in the community and beyond. And to me, that is the most important of our accomplishments.

What's next?

I hope we will continue to respond to the needs of the day, to form deeper relationships among the many and diverse local, national, and international efforts to create a more peaceful and just community and world. I hope we will

continue to promote nonviolent solutions and speak hard truths to power.

I believe that Thomas Merton, that complex and fascinating person, through his powerful writings, will continue to provide guidance and the steady habit of deep reflection as we address the challenges ahead.

I am inspired by the many young people who come through our doors. We have much to learn from them as they respond to today's and tomorrow's challenges. And we can share our experience and resources with them.

Molly Rush is the co-founder of the Thomas Merton Center, board member, and co-chair of the editorial collective.

Announcing the Thomas Merton Center's New Board of Directors

by K. Briar Somerville

The Thomas Merton Center's 40th Anniversary Dinner on November 8 marked the end of the voting for the 2013-2015 board.

We welcome seven new members to the board of twelve: **Ed Brett**, professor at La Roche College and TMC member since 1984, with an interest in the wars in Central America since that time; **Kitoko Chargois**, journalism and photography student at Chatham University and recent TMC intern; **Ken Joseph**, attorney with Pepper Hamilton focused on the development of affordable housing, as well as Cornerstone Sustainer of the Thomas Merton Center; **Chris Mason**, former Occupy Pittsburgher now with the Birmingham Foundation supporting local health and human service programs; **Joyce Rothermel**, co-founder of the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank and the Pittsburgh Haiti Solidarity Committee, having spent ten years as a TMC staff member and currently serving on the *NewPeople* editorial collective; **Tyrone Scales**, bachelor's student of social work at the University of Pittsburgh, former intern of United Cerebral Palsy Pittsburgh, and former volunteer of Aseracare Hospice; and **Shernell Smith**, from CMU's Office of the Dean of Student's Affairs on

Multicultural and Diversity Initiatives, who co-organized the Merton Award Dinners of 2010 and 2011.

We also celebrate the retention of five of our current board members: **Kathy Cunningham**, TMC member and avid volunteer of about ten years, having book-kept during TMC's financial renaissance and now serving on the board's Education and Outreach Committee; **Michael Drohan**, off-and-on board member since 1984 and member of the Anti-War Committee since its inception, sporting an international professorial pedigree in economics and physics; **Wanda Guthrie**, TMC board member for the past six years and facilitator for Creating a Culture of Peace, with interests in interreligious initiatives and mitigating the harmful influence of the gas industry; **Francine Porter**, critical care nurse at Shadyside Hospital and nine-year member of the social justice community active with Codepink Women for Peace; and **Molly Rush**, co-founder of the Thomas Merton Center, staff organizer 1973-2006, co-chair of the *NewPeople* editorial collective, and co-founding organizer of the nascent Western PA Working Group for a New Economy.

K. Briar Somerville is a member of the editorial collective.

Lessons for Today from the Legacy of Bayard Rustin

by Scilla Warhaftig

Ask most young people these days who was Martin Luther King Jr., and they will know something about him and will have little difficulty identifying a picture of him. But ask who is this fellow and you will draw a blank.

Who was he? His name is Bayard Rustin, and this year we are celebrating the 100th anniversary of his birth.

Bayard Rustin's contribution to the Civil Rights Movement was vital. His understanding and dedication to nonviolence helped to formulate the movement that we know now and that is an example for us today. He recognized the potential of King's leadership and was the one who helped to persuade King to take a totally nonviolent approach. When they first met, Dr. Martin Luther King had guns in his house and was protected by armed guards. Rustin persuaded King that, if he was to pursue a nonviolent approach, he needed

to believe in it totally and give up all use of arms.

Rustin was also the brains behind the Freedom Rides and helped to organize the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which initiated many important civil rights actions. He spent many years going around the south promoting nonviolent resistance which he had learned while working in India with Gandhi. He was probably the chief strategist for the use of nonviolence in the civil rights movement.

Perhaps his greatest achievement was the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. He did most of the organization for the march, which brought together an amazing 250,000 people from around the country without the social media tools we have today.

Why then is he so little known and why is his name missing from lists of the leaders of the civil rights movement? Rustin was gay, and in those years there was a strong anti-gay bias. Not only that, but he had been arrested in 1953 for a

homosexual offense.

Homosexuality was criminalized in parts of the United States until 2003. Bayard Rustin's homosexuality was an embarrassment to the movement, and he took a backseat role in order not to jeopardize its work.

The American Friends Service Committee and the Thomas Merton Center will be celebrating the life of this amazing man on Thursday, December 13th, at 7:00 pm at the Friends Meeting House, 5806 Ellsworth Avenue, Oakland. There will be a film showing of "Brother Outsider," the story of his life, and a panel to discuss his life and its relevance to today.

Scilla Warhaftig is the program director of the American Friends Service Committee PA.



RIP Mary Paradise, Founder of Peace Links

by Molly Rush

Mary Paradise, a founder of PA Peace Links, died on October 19th in Belmont, Massachusetts.

Peace Links was founded in 1982 by Senator Dale Bumpers' wife Betty, Teresa Heinz, and other Congressional wives. Peace Links worked for "a safer world for our children," empowering women to work towards abolishing nuclear weapons, educating children and families in conflict management skills, and linking with women and men worldwide who seek alternatives to war.

Mary was a key organizer of the multi-sponsored In Concert for Peace in 1984, with conductor Andre Previn and volunteers from the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. Funds raised allowed Peace Links to open its office in the Downtown YWCA. Peace Links members traveled to the former Soviet Union to meet with Russian women seeking peace.

At least eight more Peace Links chapters were formed in Western Pennsylvania. Members held symposiums and spoke at civic and religious meetings. In 1995, the group traveled on a Peace Train from Helsinki to Beijing for the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women.

In 1991 Mary opposed the demolition of the historic Syria Mosque in Oakland. She then founded and was the first president of Preservation Pittsburgh. The peace and preservation communities and her Oakland neighbors will miss their good kind friend.

Molly is co-chair of the editorial collective.

APP

Economic and Social Life

"In the economic and social realms, ...the dignity and complete vocation of the human person and the welfare of society as a whole are to be respected and promoted. For man is the source, the center, and the purpose of all economic and social life."

-Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World,
Vatican Council II

Association of Pittsburgh Priests

Activist Community

Medea Benjamin Dinner Celebrates TMC's 40 Years

by Ginny Cunningham
photographs by Philomena O'Dea

It's the 21st century, and most of us struggle to balance work and family commitments that push us to be in three places at once while we also email a client and text a teenager. There are never enough hours. Still, we made time November 8 to join with hundreds of others to celebrate the Thomas Merton Center's 40th anniversary dinner and hear Peace and Justice Award winner and CODEPINK co-founder Medea Benjamin.

Pittsburgh's own songwriter and community leader Mike Stout played guitar and sang his trademark lyrics. The Raging Grannies led a



perfect sync with the evening's agenda, and an award winner whose passionate critique of our country's drone policy brought her audience to its feet for a standing ovation.

Medea Benjamin's personal engagement with men and women in regions targeted by U.S. drones compels her to challenge the assumptions of the more than 80 percent of U.S. citizens of both political parties who approve the country's actions and policies and to challenge mainstream media that have ignored the reality and the implications of the use of drones to target suspected terrorists. "We've claimed forty-nine high level terrorists as targets," she said, while "we have killed more than three thousand people with more than three hundred



challenge militarism globally, and to redirect the country's resources into health care, education, green jobs, and other life-affirming activities. The title CODEPINK plays on the former Bush administration's color-coded homeland security alerts--yellow, orange, red--that signaled terrorist threats. CODEPINK alert is a call to "wage peace."

Asked in an interview with Peace News



singalong to a revised version of "Battle Hymn of the Republic." City Councilman Bill Peduto delivered a Proclamation marking November 12 as Thomas Merton Center Day in the City of Pittsburgh.

The evening was a testament to the strength of an idea and the hope of women and men to advance the cause of peace and justice in our world. At the same time, those in attendance witnessed the enduring vibrancy of a community in which they were - and are - active participants. Women and men, singles, couples, and small groups, circled the vast dining hall at Sheraton Inn Station Square, wound their way around tables set for ten and embraced old friends with whom they'd stood side by side at peaceful demonstrations. They reminisced about memorable moments in the Center's 40-year history; mourned the passing of members whose character had helped shape their own; and celebrated an election that they hope will offer hope for a country increasingly distinguished by historically uncommon diversity. "It gives courage to people in my position," Councilman Peduto said, "knowing you have an army behind you." Center board members, staff, interns, and volunteers who are invariably stretched thin can chalk up a success in their finely tuned coordination of a vegetarian meal, entertainment, cash bars, speakers, a projection system in

strikes."

While drones are partially justified as weapons requiring no troops on the ground, no pilots in cockpits, and no risk to American lives, Benjamin called for examination of a war that is being fought "behind the backs of American people. Where are we at war? . . . The CIA is waging war in places where we have not declared. . . . We simply know nothing about the people we are killing."

Benjamin finds hope and comfort in the fact that mainstream media are beginning to challenge the same assumptions that she confronts. She was heartened, she said, when she began research for her latest book and found government documents and press accounts "everywhere." She said, "I'm seeing a movement growing."

She encouraged others to participate in the November protest at Fort Benning, Georgia, where drone pilots are trained, stressing that "no matter how good or bad" President Obama may be in his second term, more depends on "how good or bad we are at organizing."

"They tell us we have two options," she said: (1) troops on the ground or (2) drones. We need to tell them we want

a third option."

In October, Benjamin led a CODEPINK delegation to a region of Pakistan that has been the target of U.S. drone strikes that have killed more than 2,500 people since 2004, mostly civilians, according to a report out of the Stanford and NYU law schools. CODEPINK, a women-initiated grassroots peace and social justice movement was founded in 2002 and works to end U.S. funded wars and occupations, to



in February about her vision for society, Benjamin said: "I used to think I was a socialist and travelled the world looking for utopia. I lived in countries that called themselves socialist, but I found that they stifled the entrepreneurial spirit of people. . . . There should be things that are basic rights that include health care . . . clean water . . . clean environment. But I also think that people should have the right to be individually



enterprising. I have yet to see the society that I would like to live in but I see pieces of it, bits and pieces of it here and there."

Ginny Cunningham is on the editorial collective.

40th Anniversary Dinner Prizewinners:

- Paul Ricci - overnight stay for two at the Hotel Edison in New York City
- Timothy Reidy - bicycle
- Claudia Detwiler - admissions to several Pittsburgh cultural events
- Virginia Harmon - wine basket

December Activist Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Become a Member of TMC! \$45—Individual Membership \$100—Family Membership \$75—Organization (below 25 members) \$125—Organization (above 25 members) AS A MEMBER, WE WILL MAIL YOU THE NEW PEOPLE! TMC membership benefits include monthly mailings of <i>The New People</i> to your home or email account, weekly eblasts focusing on peace and justice events, and special invitations to membership activities. Join at thomasmertoncenter.org/join-donate.</p>			<p>Jazz at Emmanuel ... where the spirited and the spiritual come together in a new kind of celebration <small>Join us for ecumenical Jazz vespers that feed the soul and deliver a message of hope. Performed by some of Pittsburgh's best musicians in a distinctive 126 year old Pittsburgh Landmark.</small></p> <p>Sunday evenings at 5:00 p.m. November 11 "Living It Forward" December 9 "Mystery Child" January 13 "365-24-7" February 10 "A Fire For Cold Hearts" March 10 "Of These Hands" April 14 "Practice Resurrection" May 12 "Tell It Like It Is"</p> <p>Emmanuel Episcopal Church 957 W. North Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15233 Corner of North and Allegheny Avenues, Northside (412) 231-0454</p>		<p>Black Voices for Peace Vigil to End the War: 1:00pm Corner of Penn and Highland in East Liberty</p> <p>Celebration of Martyrdom of Church Women 7 pm St. James Church Chapel 718 Franklin Ave. Wilksburg 15221</p>	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<p>TMC Environmental Justice Committee Meeting: 4:00-5:30pm Thomas Merton Center</p> <p>Book'em Packing Day 4:00-7:00pm Thomas Merton Center</p> <p>Capital's End 7:30-11:00pm Istanbul Grille, 4130 Butler St. 15206 Focus: Racism</p>	<p>Editorial Collective Meeting: 10:30am-12:00pm Thomas Merton Center</p>  <p>Thomas Merton Award Dinner April 13, Saturday Honoring: Martin Sheen</p>	<p>ISO Meeting: 7:30-9:00pm Thomas Merton Center</p>	<p>TMC Membership Committee—Noon TMC</p> <p>County Council Hearing on UPMC 5:00-6:00 pm 436 Grant St, 4th Floor</p> <p>Darfur Coalition Meets: 5:00-7:30pm Room C, Carnegie Library, Squirrel Hill</p> <p>Write On! 7:00pm at TMC</p> <p>PADP Meeting: 7:00-8:00pm</p>	<p>Green Party Meeting: 7:00-9:00pm 2121 Murray Avenue Pgh, PA 15217 (2nd Floor) 412-784-0256</p>	<p>"Dorothy Day: A Life of Hospitality" Retreat Dec. 7-9 Call Kirkridge Retreat Center: 610-588-1793</p> <p>First Friday Action: 1:30-3:00pm Post Office, Downtown Tony @ 412-462-9962</p>	<p>Black Voices for Peace</p> <p>Project to End Human Trafficking (PEHT) 10am-1pm at Carlow</p> <p>Haiti Solidarity Potluck Luncheon 11-1 pm TMC</p> <p>Annual TMC Membership Meeting 2:00-4:00 pm Friends Meeting House 4836 Ellsworth Avenue</p> <p>Water for Woodlands 4-8pm, 209 Little Creek Rd. Harmony, PA 16037</p>
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<p>TMC Anti-War Committee Meeting: 2:00pm at TMC</p> <p>Book'em Packing Day 4:00-7:00pm at TMC</p> <p>TMC Environmental Justice Committee Meeting 4:00-5:30pm Capital's End 7:30-11:00pm Istanbul Grille, 15206 Focus: <i>Classism</i></p> <p>Jazz at Emanuel 5 pm—see ad above</p>	<p>Amnesty Int'l Pgh's 26th Annual Write-a-thon 6:00-9:00pm Calvary Episcopal 315 Shady Avenue</p>	<p>TMC 40th Proclamation to be read at City-County Chambers—10 am</p> <p>ISO Meeting: 7:30-9:00pm Thomas Merton Center</p> <p>W.O.M.I.N. Meeting: 7:30-8:30pm 18 Schubert St. Pgh, PA 15212</p>	<p>TMC Book Study Calvary Episcopal Church 315 Shady Ave. 15206 7-8:30pm</p> <p>PUSH Meeting: 6:15-8:00pm 2101 Murray Ave, Pgh, PA 15217 drdoneagain@yahoo.com</p> <p>Write On! Letters for Prisoner Rights: 7:00pm at TMC</p>	<p>Election Preparation</p> <p>2013 ELECTIONS CALENDAR <small>Information provided by VoteAllegheny.</small></p> <p>DECEMBER: Thursday, 12/13/12 – Commonwealth Court Judge Robert Simpson holding a status conference on efforts to permanently block the new Voter ID law</p> <p>APRIL: Tuesday, 4/23/13 – Deadline to register to vote in the Primary Election</p> <p>MAY: Tuesday, 5/21/13 – Primary Election for Mayor of the City of Pittsburgh and others</p> <p>OCTOBER: Monday, 10/7/13 – Deadline to register to vote in the General Election</p> <p>NOVEMBER: Tuesday, 11/5/13 – Election Day for Mayor of the City of Pittsburgh and others</p> <p>Visit VotesPA.com for information about how to register, absentee ballots, and polling locations.</p>		<p>Fight for Lifers West meeting: 10:00am-12:00pm 325 N. Highland Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15206</p> <p>Black Voices for Peace Vigil to End the War (above) Environmental Justice Committee Meeting 4:00-6:00pm Thomas Merton Center</p> <p>PPT Meeting 10:00am-12:00pm at TMC</p> <p>TMC Holiday Open House 1-4 pm—Join us in celebration! Bring food and drink to share!</p>
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<p>TMC Environmental Justice Committee 4:00-5:30pm Thomas Merton Center</p> <p>Book'em Packing Day 4:00-7:00pm Thomas Merton Center</p> <p>Capital's End 7:30-11:00pm Istanbul Grille Focus: Heterosexism</p>	<p>Black and White Reunion East Liberty Presbyterian Church 116 Highland Ave. 15th Annual Summit Against Racism</p>	<p>ISO Meeting: 7:30-9:00pm Thomas Merton Center</p>	<p>Darfur Coalition Meets: 5:00-7:30pm Room C, Carnegie Library, Squirrel Hill</p> <p>Write On! Letters for Prisoner Rights: 7:00pm at TMC</p>	<p>Malalathon Basketball Benefit 12:00-3:00pm Salvation Army 1060 McNeilly Road, Mount Lebanon</p> <p>Black Voices for Peace Vigil to End the War: 1:00pm Corner of Penn & Highland East Liberty</p>		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
<p>TMC Anti-War Committee Meeting: 2:00pm Thomas Merton Center</p> <p>TMC Environmental Justice Committee Meeting: 4:00-5:30pm Thomas Merton Center</p> <p>Book'em Packing Day 4:00-7:00pm Thomas Merton Center</p>	<p>CAPITAL'S END at the Istanbul Grille A social space for the full diversity of individual and groups working for social change.</p> <p>December Programs</p> <p>Dec 2 - "Racism" Dec 9 - "Classism" Dec 16 - "Heterosexism" Dec 23&30 - Closed for Holiday Jan 6 - Capital's End resumes</p> <p>Live local music, poetry, talk, "collective political karaoke," open mike, display/sale of art, "call to arms," and an opportunity to build friendships, community and solidarity.</p> <p>Purchase FINE TURKISH CUISINE (BYOB) 4130 Butler St. Pgh, PA 15201 (412) 251-0441 Further info: iamholtz@iup.edu or 724-388-6258</p>					
30	<p>TMC Environmental Justice Committee Meeting: 4:00-5:30pm Thomas Merton Center</p> <p>Book'em Packing Day 4:00-7:00pm Thomas Merton Center</p>					



SPIRITUAL FORMATION CERTIFICATE PROGRAM CLASSES AT PITTSBURGH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Exploring Christian Healing...For Ourselves and Our Ministries

Betty J. Voigt, Spiritual Director, Retreat Leader, and Pastor in the PC(USA)
 January 6-11, 2013

Journeying through the Inner Life:
 Dream Work and Spiritual Formation

Bernard F. Tickerhoof, Director of Ongoing Formation, Sacred Heart Province of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis
 April 18-21, 2013

Immersion Weekend Experience:
 An Invitation to a Deeper Spiritual Life

Mary Lynn Callahan, Interim Director of Spiritual Life Ministries, East Liberty Presbyterian Church and Spiritual Director; with presentations by various Pittsburgh Theological Seminary faculty
 May 2-5, 2013

Eastern Christian Spirituality

John P. Burgess, James Henry Snowden Professor of Systematic Theology, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
 June 23-28, 2013



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 616 North Highland Avenue
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