IMMIGRATION: The Dream Lives On [Pg. 9]

Marcellus Shale [Pg. 20]; Police Brutality [Pg. 14]

PLUS - Pittsburgh Local Explores Heart of Iran [Pg. 8]

The Thomas Merton Center works to instill a consciousness of values, and to raise the moral questions involved in the issues of war, poverty, racism, and oppression. TMC members are people from diverse philosophies and faiths who find common ground in the nonviolent struggle to bring about a more peaceful and just society.
THANK YOU to ROSEMARY McMULLEN and to HARVEY HOLTZ FOR SERVING ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Two years ago, Rosemary developed and led a group of seminars, “Who cares about the Thomas Merton Center?” These meetings helped to move the Center into an era of reorganization.

Harvey felt the TMC needed structure. With his knowledge of Roberts Rules, he implemented a set of updated by-laws.

WELCOME, MARY JO AND JIBRAN. IN JULY TWO NEW DIRECTORS WERE VOTED ON THE BOARD.

Mary Jo Guerio has been a resident of the city all her life and has worked at CCAC for the past 25+ years. Currently, she is the Director of Community Training and Development with a BA in Psychology/Special Education, MSed. Counselor Education, MS Human Resource Management and an EdD in Higher Education. Mary Jo has been member of the Board of Directors of RCS since 1992 and on the Citizen Police Review Board since 2005. One of her passions is to insure that police officers receive training in order to have a better understanding of mental illness. She also ran in 17 marathons and 3 half-marathons.

Jibran Mushqat is a student in Biology and Chemistry at LaRoche College and has plans to go on to medical school. He has a long resume of Activities and Honors, speaks Urdu, reads Arabic and is a member of Amnesty International. He worked on the committee for The Peoples’ Summit. Jibran states his objective for becoming a BOD member as: “Through my diverse experience, ethnic diversity, and dedication to social justice, I hope to promote the mission statement of the Thomas Merton Center: organizing, educating, and taking actions around issues of peace and social justice.”

CALL FOR CANDIDATES!
A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (NOMINATING COMMITTEE)

As we are well aware, we find ourselves at a critical juncture in the evolution of The Thomas Merton Center. With the current conditions in our city, our state, our nation, and our world, our unique perspective as an umbrella organization dedicated to peace and justice is of great importance. We encourage you to lend your talents to lead us into a newly effective phase of making a difference here and now, into the future.

Our bylaws mandate a Board of up to 20 directors, who are elected by the membership, for a two-year term. There is room on the slate for at least 6 people. The candidates will be introduced at the November 1st Award Dinner, honoring Noam Chomsky.

Qualifications that are needed include: a commitment to activism; qualities that would make our organization more diverse; and specialized skills, as training in the law or financial expertise.

You may nominate yourself or someone else by sending a bio or resume or contacting us via email.

Send nominations to: The Thomas Merton Center c/o BDC 5129 Penn Ave. Pgh. 15224 or, email: carol@mcnilda@hotmail.com

With sincere thanks for helping in this essential endeavor,
-Diane McMahon, Michael Drohan and Carole Wiedmann

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Ujamaa Collective opens marketplace in Hill District

The Ujamaa Collective, an emerging cooperative of women business owners of African descent, opened their long anticipated artists’ market in the Centre Avenue business corridor featuring environmentally friendly and handmade jewelry, body care items, crafts, fresh produce and organic, gourmet, and international foods.

The Ujamaa Marketplace opened for business July 31, 2010 and August 1, holding their first open-air market weekend at 2030 Centre Avenue in the heart of the Pittsburgh’s historic Hill District.

The Ujamaa Marketplace is a project of the Hill District based Ujamaa Collective, a black women’s cooperative committed to green entrepreneurship and cooperative business innovation.

The Ujamaa Marketplace provides booths and tables for entrepreneurs in the early stages of their development to showcase their handmade wares, foods and goods. Ujamaa Collective is an organization of women of African descent who are artisans and entrepreneurs committed to servant-leadership in Pittsburgh’s black communities. Ujamaa Collective exercises a non-traditional approach to overcoming the long-standing economic and racial disparities in Pittsburgh’s small business economy.

“We intend to increase the net worth of black women in our communities exponentially,” says Ujamaa Collective member, Yejide KNI:

“The Ujamaa Marketplace is one component of our holistic solution for the economic crisis facing our communities.”

The women of Ujamaa have raised capital for their marketplace and received generous in-kind and funding support from the Heinz Endowments Innovation Economy Fund, McAuley Ministries, the Hill House Hill Association and Pittsburgh Keystone Innovation Zone and Sankofa Community Empowerment. The weekend Ujamaa Marketplace featured product samples, taste testing and gift give-a-ways. African drummers, a jazz set, gospel choir and open mike session created the perfect ambience for a weekend celebration of black women bringing their best products to trade with the region.

For more information about the Ujamaa Collective/ Ujamaa Marketplace please contact Karen Edly - Lockett:
Phone: (412) 414-7496
Fax: (412) 774-2671
Email: ujamacoop@gmail.com

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**REMEMBERING HIROSHIMA, IMAGINING PEACE 2010**

**ANNOUNCES VARIETY OF EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER**

**CHALLENGE YOUR CHILDREN TO CONTEMPLATE PEACE:**

The Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh will offer thoughtful programming throughout the month of September that supports peace and conflict resolution through art activities. Please check the website www.pittsburghkids.org for details.

**LEARN HOW THE PAST AFFECTS YOUR FUTURE:**

On September 22 Carnegie Mellon University will be hosting a lecture by Dr. Yuki Miyamoto, an assistant professor at De Paul University of Chicago and a second-generation A-bomb survivor.

**SPEND AN ATOMIC WEEKEND AT THE MELWOOD:**

**Friday, 24th: The Last Atomic Bomb**

**Saturday, 25th (three films): The Last Atomic Bomb, I Live in Fear, and Dr. Strangelove**

**Sunday, 26th (two films): I Live in Fear and Dr. Strangelove**

**“The Last Atomic Bomb” from 2006 is a documentary that is described as challenging assumptions about the rationale for using the bombs at the end of World War II. In addition it presents information about the U.S.-imposed Press Code in Japan that prohibited media reports on the bomb or its health effects and about the work of the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission that sent its data gathered from thousands of survivors to the U.S., not Japan. The movie presents the story of a seventy-year-old bomb survivor who, with the assistance of college students whom she inspired, has become an international voice for the abolition of nuclear weapons.**

**“Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb” is Stanley Kubrick’s 1964 ultimate black comedy masterpiece about nuclear annihilation. Magnificent performances by Peter Sellers (in three roles), Sterling Hayden, George C. Scott and Slim Pickens are unforgettable.**

**“I Live in Fear” from 1967 is another minor masterpiece from Kurosawa. Some ongoing effects of the bombings in Japan are portrayed through the tragedy of a family. Although the factory that is the source of the family’s wealth and the livelihood for many workers has survived the war, the old patriarch lives, as do many others, in constant fear of further nuclear warfare, with a conviction that Japan would suffer disproportionally from fallout. His increasing obsession and desire to move the whole family to the supposed safety of South America and the efforts of the family and the legal system to address his condition are shown with great sympathy and humanity.**
The Economic Justice Committee (EJC) has been established as a new project of the Thomas Merton Center. Its concerns deal with issues of economic justice and labor solidarity, focusing on concrete campaigns and actions, but also involving educational events.

One of the first actions of the EJC was to support members of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) at the Giant Eagle, the area’s largest supermarket chain, by participating in a “shop-in” on June 12, 2010 that was spearheaded by the Pittsburgh Interfaith Impact Network (PIIN).

Some 60 organizations came out to support UFCW workers in their contract negotiations at Giant Eagle’s Market District store. This ‘shop-in’ consisted of organizational spokespeople approaching the management, encouraging them to respect the union, while UFCW people handed out stickers to shoppers and free reusable shopping bags with the UFCW Local 23 logo, making a visual statement of solidarity with the workers of the store that people who shop there want a fair contract.

The union claims this action brought 400-500 additional people into the store using this action, not to mention giving confidence to the UFCW workers who took part.

The union energized workers, got solidarity activists involved and surprised Giant Eagle, which has never faced a union that mobilized its members.

All franchise stores and more than half overall of Giant Eagle stores are unorganized with new suburban stores built all the time. The vote for the contract was overwhelmingly in favor of the contract, which maintains current pensions and health care benefits, raised up the lowest tier especially and added no new tiers (the favored method of dividing workers and extracting concessions).

As labor struggles and economic justice organizing emerges, the EJC will keep people abreast of opportunities for showing their solidarity and making a difference in bringing community pressure onto those who would steamroll working class people.

The Economic Justice Committee, focused on issues of labor solidarity and economic justice, would have three primary functions:

1. Maintain a communications network and an internet discussion-list among interested activists around issues of economic justice and labor solidarity.

2. Organize educational and cultural events on issues of workers’ rights, labor struggles, and economic justice, taking place perhaps four times per year.

3. Help mobilize support for focused actions related to the primary concerns of the EJC.

To get involved, please join this group: http://groups.google.com/group/economic-justice-committee. Our next meeting is Sunday, August 29th at 4pm at the Thomas Merton Center.

-Courtney Smith

**POEM: “Also Victims of War”**

“We are also victims of war” said the old man’s voice on the radio as he told us his story.

His son returned from Iraq a quadriplegic. A bullet in the neck, followed by a stroke. had left him nearly blind, unable to speak, and paralysed from the neck down. He was twenty years old.

Their voices rich with love and sadness, his parents explained how their lives had changed; devoted now, in every sense of the word, to the care of their son.

It takes two people to get him into his wheelchair where he sits awhile most days. In the daytime he has nurses, paid by the V.A.

“There are small victories” said his mother, proudly. They celebrated when, after a year or so, their son could swallow his pureed food.

“In the evenings we turn him in his bed, every 90 minutes. We have no life of our own. I’ll never be able to retire” said the old man’s voice on the radio.

-Hazel Cape
Torture: Is it as American as apple pie?

US sponsored torture is not new. After World War II the US helped to draft the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Geneva Conventions on the treatment of prisoners. However with the start of the cold war, we withdrew from active support of international human rights. It was during this cold war period, in the 50’s and 60’s, that many torture techniques were tried, tested and perfected—especially psychological torture.

After the cold war we once again took up the issue of Human Rights and in 1994 ratified the UN Convention Against Torture. Yet, as Alfred McCoy points out in his book, A Question of Torture, it was ratified while exempting the US from banning psychological torture. This meant that the CIA interrogation methods were exempt from international law.

Prior to 9/11 while torture was happening and we were very much engaged overseas through training at the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, formerly the School of the Americas, it was much more underground. We were on the surface supporting the UN Convention Against Torture.

The media:
Prior to 9/11 we see the media as supporting the myth that the US does not torture by the way it depicted certain practices. For example:

“Examining newspapers with the highest daily circulation in the country, we found a significant and sudden shift in how newspapers characterized waterboarding. From the early 1930s until the modern story broke in 2004, the newspapers that covered waterboarding almost uniformly called the practice torture or implied it was torture. The New York Times characterized it thus in 81.5% (44 of 54) of articles on the subject and The Los Angeles Times did so in 96.3% of articles” (Scott Horton in Harpers July 12, 2010).

A number of factors went into creating the present atmosphere where torture has become more acceptable. Horton explains:

“By contrast, from 2002-2008, the studied newspapers almost never referred to waterboarding as torture. The New York Times called waterboarding torture or implied it was torture in just 2 of 143 articles (1.4%). The Los Angeles Times did so in 4.8% of articles (3 of 63).

So waterboarding in the hands of the Japanese, the Khmer Rouge, East Germans, Brazilians, and Argentinians is “torture,” the American newspapers tell us, but indistinguishable techniques when used with the authority of the American government are simply “enhanced interrogation techniques,” “that’s what we mean by asking,” “criticize,” “refer to as torture.” ... It has social and political consequences far beyond the nuanced semantics that fill the columns of the public editor. It is shaping a darker, more brutal society—one prepared to accept torture as a legitimate tool in the hands of the state.”

After 9/11, with the War on Terror, things changed. As in the Cold War, we saw an atmosphere of fear and suspicion being propagated. We saw an enemy on every street corner and the dehumanization of some segments of the population. The Muslims were singled out and we saw many instances of discrimination. The process of dehumanizing groups of people made it much easier to see them as a threat.

In order to keep us safe we still believe we need to incarcerate those we feel threaten our security and it is OK to use harsh interrogation techniques to get information. Dehumanizing the enemy is something the armed forces have been doing for years in order to make killing acceptable, but has certainly been perfected with the Iraq and Afghan wars. Many of our armed forces now come from the National Guard and Reserve units a number of whom serve as prisons guards in their civilian lives.

We have already heard about racism and how it has contributed to the increase in incarceration of the African American population. Many of the techniques used have been transferred from prison to places like Guantanamo to detention centers. We know for instance that Specialist Charles Graner, of Abu Ghraib fame, was a guard at one of the most racist and abusive prisons in the US, State Correctional Institution - Greene, a maximum-security prison in Greene County, Pennsylvania. While he was there he had a number of cases brought against him for abusing prisoners.

We also rounded up and incarcerated so called terrorists in places like Guantanamo and Abu Ghraib. We were told they were the “worst of the worst” and that they presented a real threat to society and that harsh interrogation techniques were necessary to get information from them. Terminology changed; we began to refer to “waterboarding” yet refused to use the word ‘torture’.

We referred to the “ticking bomb” as a reason for using harsh techniques on prisoners. When these methods were challenged as being torture, the Bush Administration got around the setbacks by using executive orders to legalize them.

With the climate of fear created in our country we began to see other segments of society as a threat. Immigrants were a natural target and the collapse of the economy made it worse as we perceived immigrants as part of the problem both in terms of crime and taking our jobs.

The entertainment industry, including television and videogames, has also contributed. I recently came across an interesting article by Joshua Phillips who received the Alfred L. duPont-Columbia University Award for his 2008 American Radio Works documentary What Killed Sergeant Gray.

Now he’s developed that story in a book that offers a compelling account of how the use of torture and abusive techniques on prisoners is justified by American soldiers caught up in it.

Some soldiers with Battalion 1-68 told me about an episode that involved choking a detainee with water. No one referred to it as “waterboarding” at the time, nor did anyone reference official means that sanctioned such techniques. One soldier from Battalion 1-68 said the idea was born out of casual discussions on the base about torture techniques that had been used elsewhere. In this case, a non-commissioned officer referenced a kind of water torture that had been used in Vietnam. This soldier from Battalion 1-68 told me that and others tried to reproduce the technique—not to gain intelligence but because it was understood that torture and abuse were permissible.

Naturally, the military and Bush Administration officials approved certain techniques for so-called “harsh interrogation.” But there were other ways in which ideas took root and spread... Soldiers would draw on what they had done during their training (e.g., exercises from basic training), what was available (e.g., a boom box for sleep deprivation), and what they remembered or heard about from others (such as the water choking reference from Vietnam). Those who study torture say this is often how torture techniques are picked up and travel from conflict to conflict.

Military interrogators, officers, and West Point instructors told me how they feared that powerful torture scenes on TV and in...

While the main title of this book conveys the idea that it is principally about Zionism and going beyond it, the subtitle more accurately expresses the principal thesis of the book. That thesis is that the so-called two-state solution is a charade, a dead end and a totally insincere policy as advocated by the U.S. and Israel. Kovel states “consent by Israël to the Two State idea was from the beginning grudging and purely tactical, while the objective has remained the eventual possession of the whole of Palestine and dispossession of the remainder of its Arab inhabitants (p. 207)”. He elaborates that the two-state idea is a mere façade while the real policy is complete dispossession and transfer of the Arab inhabitants from the remaining territories that the Palestinian population occupies. He elaborates further that as a result of 58 years of aggression, occupation and encroachment by settlers, the formation of a second state is practically impossible. What remains to the Palestinians is a kind of rag-doll penetrated by Israeli-only roads and settlements.

In view of this situation, Kovel advocates the formation of a single bi-national State called Palesrail which would be secular and democratic. Apart from the hypocrisy and insincerity of the Two State charade, he attempts to show that the state of Israel, founded on the principles of Zionism is, as presently constituted, incapable of being a democratic and modern state.

According to Kovel, the essential principle underlying the nationalist states that emerged from the feudal regimes of the Middle Ages is that the State belongs to the people and the citizens of the State are sovereign. In Israel, however, such is not the case. Only the Jewish population of Israel have truly sovereign rights and further this sovereignty is extended to Jewish people all over the world, while these rights are denied to Palestinians born in Israel and exiled from Israel as a result of the 1948 war. In no other modern state, does the State belong only to one ethnic or religious group. Kovel asserts that Zionism cannot be understood outside the context of anti-Semitism which was the principal factor for the rise of Zionism. In his critique of anti-Semitism Kovel states “Jewishness is a statement about something unresolved in the self of the anti-Semite.” In its broadest aspect, we would say then that the miserable anti-Semitism that has perfused Christendom is a manifestation of its un-lived life, and its failure to realize Jesus”. In his understanding, Jesus stood for a radical new society. Jesus, he maintains “spoke to, of, and for the beggars, the whores, the rabble, the outcasts, the underlings, the noth- bedeviled humanity took root resulting in pogroms, genocides and countless injustices over the centuries.

Zionism can only be understood in this framework of anti-Semitism. However, according to Kovel, Zionists came to the wrong conclusion and wrong solution due to their essential acceptance of anti-Semitism. In common with anti-Semites down the ages, Zionists believe that Jew and gentile were incompatible and irreconcilable and the only way forward was separation and a special nation for the Jews. In this Zionists differed from socialists and most of the Jewish population of Europe in the 19th century who believed that the curse of anti-Semitism had to be excised from the body politic if there was to be any progress. It is hardly a coincidence that most of the advocates of a separate state for Jews in Palestine such as Lord Balfour and Winston Churchill were ardent anti-Semites. In regard to Hitler, Kovel asserts that his hostility to the Jews was based on what he calls their “Judaic-Bolshevism”. This more nuanced understanding of the Nazi campaign against the Jews, under-stands Hitler’s phobia in broader terms of his phobia for socialism and a more egalitarian society.

In the history of the Israeli state, Kovel points out that the state born in 1948 has been and still is a fervent ally of imperialism and in this lies its greatest defect. Israel allied itself with the British and the French in the 1956 war against Egypt’s effort to claim the Suez Canal. The greatest threats to imperial domination of the Middle East and the Arab oilgarchs have been nationalistic/ Islamist tendencies. In all these struggles—whether against Nasser in Egypt, Saddam Hussein in Iraq, Hezbollah in Lebanon or Hamas in Palestine/Gaza—Israel has been the faithful attack dog. Now the new front of danger is Shiite-nationalist Iran and on this occasion it seems the attack dog is leading its master(s) into the fray. Kovel’s rejection of Zionism and his condemnation of the state of Israel is based primarily on his assertion that this alliance with imperialism corrupts the emancipatory role and possibilities of Judaism throughout human history.

-Michael Dronlan

Torture seen as essential part of American culture

[Continued from page 6]

movies (as well as in literature) encouraged beliefs in the utility of torture.

Hollywood interrogation scenes often show high-pressure situations where interrogators eventually get a suspect to “crack” when they finally resort to physical force. Such scenes show how prisoners quickly succumb to torture, and provide truthful, accurate, and actionable intelligence. Even though these are fictional depictions, they’re powerful and dramatic and have shaped public perceptions about how interrogations ought to work, and how torture is a necessary and effective tool.

So today we see a broad segment of the population that believes that we need to use some form of torture to keep us safe. While most folk are totally unaware of what goes on in our prisons and detention centers they would probably accept that harsh techniques are necessary to keep the “criminal” element under control. And finally there are many who think that with the Obama administration in power we have stopped the use of torture.

The need for education is vital. In order to change the environment of acceptability of torture we need to make the links between what is happening in our prisons and detention centers as well as in places like Bagram and Guantnamo. We need to find ways to reach the media to frame the discussion. Finally education work on torture must include a discussion on the moral issue, and what the impact of its continued use has on our society. This is slow and sometimes frustrating work. There is no short- term fix to this issue.

Recently there has been recognition by groups working on the issue of US sponsored torture that concerns about torture in our prisons and detention centers must also be addressed. There is beginning to be acceptance that these issues cannot be totally separated. Organizations such as The National Religious Campaign Against Torture, The Quaker Initiative Against Torture, and the American Friends Service Committee have all embraced the issue of torture in prisons as well as US sponsored torture as part of their mission.

-Seilla Wahrhaftig

BOOK REVIEW: Beyond a one-state solution in Palestine/Israel
I was in Isfehan, Iran in 2008 when Hillary Clinton told the world that the USA would obliterate Iran. A few days later, I was in Yazd when, back home, a Code Pink protester interrupted one of Mrs. Clinton’s Democratic primary campaign rallies. As the protester was removed, Clinton remarked, “I hope he didn’t step on anybody’s cookies or cake.” How clever.

Located in Central Iran, Yazd is the center of Zoroastrianism (the ethical and spiritual prototype for Judaism and for Christianity) as well as the so-called ‘Sweets Capital of Iran.’ Cookies from Yazd melt on the tongue; the ice cream is like nothing you have ever tasted before, besting even Ben and Jerry’s Cherry Garcia. On an evening’s outing in the lively village (once noted for its bicyclists, Yazdians now favor motorcycles), I bought a bag of the most delightful cookies I’d ever tasted, so light you could scarcely feel them before they melted on your tongue. A young boy -- no more than 10 -- was tending the shop when I walked in; he stepped forward smartly, greeted me with a smile, and after observing my indecision for a few moments, offered me a sample of his cookies. Yazd is an ancient city that is home to one of the oldest and most beautiful mosques in the world, as well as a Zoroastrian fire temple housing a fire that has been burning for over 1200 years. I climbed to the very top of the Tower of Silence in Yazd, and gazed down at the Zoroastrian cemetery to the left, the village of Yazd straight ahead, and new apartments and office buildings to the right. I realized that Yazd is a city on the grow, becoming known as one of Iran’s most rapidly industrializing cities with a future that is threatened every day by American arm-twisting of international corporations who seek to invest in Iran.

When I arrived at my hotel in Yazd, a converted Caravansar, the Persian garden in the courtyard -- a mainstay of Iranian hotels as well as homes -- was alive with the meriment of a birthday party for a 9-year old girl. I snapped a picture of one young girl in her birthday party finery; that set off a bubbly round of requests and smiling poses. I went on to snap another dozen photos of laughing, sweet-eyed, innocent Iranian children, delighted to be with their friends and to be immortalized in an American’s camera.

The photo of the Tower of Silence includes a hospice house with adjacent bengir, with the Tower of Silence in the background. Dying persons spent their last days in the hospice house, attended by caregivers. Upon death, their body was taken to the Tower of Silence.

“Cookies from Yazd melt on the tongue; the ice cream is like nothing you have ever tasted before, besting even Ben and Jerry’s Cherry Garcia”

The article is written in hopes that the people and decision makers of the United States will value hypermilitarization less and the lives of those 9-year old little girls in Yazd more; that America’s leaders make themselves aware of the history of Yazd; recognize the importance of Yazd to all of Christianity; invest in the sweet delights as well as the hopes and dreams of the people of Yazd.

Christ on the Cross said, “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.” But We Americans DO know what we do. There is no excuse, no forgiveness for us. We Americans MUST KNOW what it is we do, and threaten to do. Father, there is no forgiveness for us Americans if we continue our lying demonization and terrorizing of the little girls of Yazd, and our lies about their government, and our lies about their president Ahmadinejad. So many Americans voted for Obama in the hope that we would not destroy the cookies of Yazd and the children who eat them. But those children are now more threatened than ever by both Barack “Hope and Change” Obama and Hillary “We will obliterate you” Clinton. Father, forgive us?? Father, obliterate Iran?

-Florence Wyand
Immigration: Waiting for the Barbarians

The Greek poet Constantine P. Cavafy wrote a poem in 1904 with a punch line that never wears out. “Waiting for the Barbarians” gets to the heart of the nature of political life, civic pride and civic hypocrisy:

“What are we waiting for, assembled in the forum? The barbarians are to arrive today. Why such inaction in the Senate? Why do the Senators sit and pass no laws?”

(and later in the poem)

“Because night is here but the barbarians have not come. And some people arrived from the borders, and said that there are no longer any barbarians. And now what shall become of us without any barbarians? Those people were some kind of solution.”

I invite you to find the poem online. There is both awe and contempt toward governmental institutions and the familiar and distinct sounds of what we say, what we know we mean and what we don’t know we mean.

This summer both the issue of immigration and the building of a mosque in Manhattan have reminded us that we are indeed willing to suspend government justice when loud voices and compelling rhetoric cause us to believe that these issues divide us deeply. But are we ‘deeply divided’?

Recent polling found widespread support for a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants. A new study sponsored by America’s Voice found that more than 75% of Americans who read a description of comprehensive immigration reform said they would support the measure.

We know it is not enough to simply enforce the laws we have; they must be changed. The laws were made by immigrants after all, and the change called for must be guided by the values of protecting the dignity of every person and keeping families together, as well as promoting national security and ensuring fairness to taxpayers..... comprehensive reform!

The worst of the Arizona law was eliminated but the overall effect of the law is now in place and this will continue to promote haphazard and ill-conceived laws in other states if our federal lawmakers do not fulfill their duty to make fair and compassionate laws and set federal policy on immigration. The longer they wait the more dysfunctional our system becomes.

We can immediately work toward passing the Dream Act. The Dream Act would allow students who graduate from college to become U.S. citizens. At this time it is impossible for a student who finishes college to apply for a professional job, their gifts and intellect notwithstanding. At the same time, children with undocumented parents live in fear of being separated from parents and family, many of whom came here for work they couldn’t find in their own countries.

We must continue charitable conversations and make sure that our thinking and analysis are grounded in the best of all our traditions.

There is a dark side of our culture, a shadow. We see it in the backlash we are experiencing against Latino immigrants as embodied in legislation like SB1070, the reaction of the Anti-Defamation League and others concerning the Mosque in Manhattan and other places. I don’t think we really anticipated the hatred, the vilification based on skin color, the justification of racial and religious profiling.

It is for this reason our legislators are now telling us they will not consider, let alone pass comprehensive immigration legislation until after the midterm elections.

-Wanda Guthrie

TMC Board Director receives honor in community tribute

Drake Dunnett accepts Peaceburgh Transformational Leaders Tribute for his grandmother, Wanda Guthrie.

Vikki Hanchin, author of “We Are the Ones We Have Been Waiting For: Pittsburgh’s Role in the Mayan Calendar and the Shift of the Ages,” selected a group of 27 people who have been instrumental and supportive in all that has been unfolding as a result.

Acting on this revelation, Vikki recently hosted a community tribute, a gathering to honor the Transformational Leaders in Peaceburgh, who are significant to her world. Wanda Guthrie, a TMC Board Director, was one of three acknowledged for her contributions to peace and community.

“William Penn’s vision was for this ‘Holy Experiment’ of Pennsylvania,” said Guthrie. “My vision is to continue to lift and declare a ‘hallowed’ world with transformative compassion as we welcome this flow into all our spaces. We are spacious.”

-Wanda Guthrie
After World War II, several young doctors and their families were drawn to the small coal mining towns in the Alle-Kiski Valley to become part of an unusual medical care program. Among those who came were Dr. Dan and Anita Fine, and Dr. Julian and Rhoda Eligator, all members of the Thomas Merton Center.

The program was served by a group practice, the Russellton Medical Group, which employed the doctors, in partnership with the Miners Clinics, a unique structure that was created as an outcome of the United Mine Workers of America Welfare and Retirement Fund. Together, they provided the services for what is best called the Russellton Medical Program.

The clinic facilities, located in the isolated mining towns, gave new accessibility to medical care to the miners and their families. The first community clinic was in a former hardware store on the main road in Russellton, with specialists never before available to this population, tucked away in small rooms on the second floor. The second clinic came into being in the basement of a hotel in Apollo, and the third was nestled in the corner of the Croatian hotel in Apollo, and the clinic came into being in the isolated population, tucked away to this never before with Russellton, a former hardware store located in the isolated members of the Thomas the doctors, in partnership with the Miners Clinics did. Dr. Fine, he was a prince. He took every patient’s troubles to his heart and so did the other doctors.” The largest amount of the doctors’ income came from the Fund, who paid them monthly for the time spent with Fund beneficiaries. They also received income from the miners’ paycheck deductions as well as fees for services from non-miner clients, as the Russellton program services were open to the entire community.

Doctors pooled their income, and received annual salaries that ranged from $12,000 to $30,000, based on years of training, specialty status, experience and years with the group. Most members, under 35 years of age at the time, received two weeks of vacation, increasing to one month for those who were there six years or more.

Many of the doctors in the group thought of the Russellton program as the ideal situation in which to practice – had it not been for the opposition of local organized medicine. The Group was consistently denied admission privileges at the local hospitals.

The opposition from organized medicine manifested itself on the local, state and national levels, but the stated reasons were the same: the limitation of the patients choice of physician to those who are members of the group’s “closed panel,” the participating physicians’ acceptance of other forms of payment than the traditional fee for service, and the possibility of lay control over the practice of medicine, which they referred to as “unethical practices.” In an earlier case, which reached the Supreme Court in 1939, the Court dismissed the charges brought by the American Medical Association (AMA) of “unethical practices” and said “the motivations behind the disciplines were purely economic.” The fear that “lay control,” meaning the union was taking over health care, was groundless, because the Program, according to Dr. Fine, was never treating more than ten percent of the population of the area. Based on these objections, local, state and national medical societies denied membership to the members of the Russellton Group Program and worse, denied them hospital privileges at the local hospitals, including Citizens General in New Kensington and Allegheny Valley Hospital in Tarentum.

The opposition lasted more than a decade and resulted in public debate, investigations by the state and national medical societies, wide newspaper coverage, and a broad range of response by the Miners Clinics, the Fund and the community. Not until 1967 were all the doctors in the Program given hospital privileges, and then only through a lawsuit. When the Federal marshalls served the legal papers on key members of the medical staff and the hospital board, their response was “Why did you do that? We were going to let you in.” The Russellton Medical Program and the Miners Clinics, with their successes and struggles, are long gone, but their experiences in working to develop a model for delivering health care in the Alle-Kiski Valley has relevance for our time. They succeeded in providing modern, accessible, community-based, comprehensive health services, without financial obstacles, by creating a not-for-profit structure, combined with prepaid medical group practice, owned and governed by consumers.

“I’ve wondered many times why the government can’t do that now, and make medical care work like the Miners Clinics did.”

-Elizabeth McDeritt
Despite the devastation and set backs of the Jan. 12, 2010 earthquake, Fonkoze, Haiti’s Alternative Bank for the Organized Poor, has again secured two scholarships from Duquesne University for two of their employees for the upcoming academic year. Through this experience employees gain greater confidence and take on additional leadership at Fonkoze.

We at the Pittsburgh Haiti Solidarity serve as the third leg of the program providing room, board and local solidarity support while they are in Pittsburgh.

The two employees soon to be students are Heguel Mesidor and Patricia Helena Gaurin (they are 28th and 29th employees to receive scholarships to Duquesne University over the past 14 years). The Pittsburgh Haiti Solidarity Committee will be hosting a welcoming reception for them on Sunday, Aug. 29 from 3 – 5 PM at Sacred Heart Rectory Building at the corner of Shady and Alder (entrance off of Alder Street) in Shadyside.

All are welcome!

The Pittsburgh Haiti Solidarity Committee is seeking monthly financial sponsors for the students over the nine months of their stay. If you are interested in offering your support financially or in other in-kind ways, please contact me at 412-271-8414.

-Joyce Rothermel, Convenor

Dennis Brutus to be honored at PNC Park

The members of the Pittsburgh Anti-Sweatshop Community Alliance (PASCA) are pleased to invite you to PNC Park on September 5 to tell the story of our dear friend and colleague Dennis Brutus, who died in December of 2009. An activist, scholar, educator, and poet, Dennis was one of two South African expatriates, along with Mongezi Nkomo, who co-founded Azania Heritage International and the Pittsburgh Anti-Sweatshop Community Alliance. They infused us with the ideas of Black Consciousness and our insistence that our sports teams can be leveraged to achieve social equity.

We should all learn and share and continue to remind ourselves of Dennis's life story and accomplishments. On April 28 at the August Wilson Center we hosted the Bangladesh Center for Workers Solidarity. Together, we discussed the legacy of Dennis Brutus and how the human rights community in Pittsburgh contributed to the dismantling of Apartheid. We set goals aimed to reinvigorate our memory of Dennis’s life and our continuing activism. These goals are to:

- Convince the August Wilson Center Board of Directors to add a permanent exhibit recalling Dennis Brutus’s contributions.
- Integrate Dennis’s Olympic story into Pittsburgh’s sports narrative, at the Heinz History Center, and at the Pittsburgh International Airport, for example.
- Raise $150 to create a permanent monument to Dennis Brutus at PNC Park.

We have reached the third goal! Join us on September 5 for the unveiling of the monument and to hear and tell Dennis's story. Come and be specific about how Dennis’s Black Consciousness and pursuit of justice in sports were “shots heard around the world!”

Here are some examples of how you might tell the Dennis Brutus story at PNC Park:

- There were four different racial classifications in Apartheid South Africa: Black, Colored, Indian, and White. Dennis organized athletic events, in violation of Apartheid laws, between them. At these athletic events, he worked the crowds, talking about how Blacks, Coloreds, and Indians were arbitrary divisions created by the White supremacist regime to divide the masses of South Africans. He explained how the people could be united by the ideology of Black Consciousness.
- It was very clear that, although the Whites were only a small portion of the South African population, their weapons and control of the state made it impossible for them to be overthrown without pressure from outside of South Africa. Dennis began a letter writing campaign to pressure the International Olympic Organizing Committee to ban South Africa from the Olympics. He was shot and then jailed for these activities.

- Thousands of Pittsburghers participated in the campaign against Apartheid. They did so by collecting used clothes, inviting African National Congress representatives to speak, and protesting against the sale of South African gold currency in downtown Pittsburgh. They convinced the University of Pittsburgh to stop investing in South Africa. The end of Apartheid demonstrated to us that we can help stop global injustices and that we can WIN. Dennis Brutus’s presence in Pittsburgh and participation in our ongoing solidarity efforts inspire us to push the limits and give us a mandate to lead by example.

Check the Thomas Merton Center’s eblasts or the announcements on IWW.org for the specific time that we will gather on September 5 at the new Bill Mazeroski statue to go as a group to the unveiling of the Dennis Brutus monument.

Whenever you visit PNC Park, find the Dennis Brutus monument—an aluminum leaf on the relocated Forbes Field wall behind the Bill Mazeroski statue—and tell the Dennis Brutus story to your companions.

You can learn more about Dennis Brutus by watching “Let’s Talk About Sweatshops at PNC Park” on PCTV, Comcast channel 21 or Verizon’s 47.

-Kenneth Miller
A Movement Against Itself: Why ‘comprehensive immigration reform’ is a dead-end

The immigrant rights movement burst onto the scene in 2006 flooding the streets of dozens of cities, for a change, on May Day. Declaring themselves human beings and workers, this surprise movement that had simmered for years changed the national debate and helped defeat the criminalization-based Sensenbrenner bill that was passed in 2005 by the House.

In the movement, it was eventually agreed that no bill was better than a bad bill and the Senate never passed a corresponding bill due to the power of a movement declaring, “No human being is illegal.” However, the movement also said “Today we march, tomorrow we vote,” signaling a strategic orientation of a large section of the movement that seemed to think the means of immigration reform would be achieved by electing Democrats. Now that the Democrats have the biggest majority in a generation and a president that promised reform in many areas, it was assumed that Obama would put forward a decent bill and the immigrant rights movement could concern itself with urging support and passage of said bill. Needless to say, the Democrats have officially postponed trying to pass immigration reform, much like it abandoned a climate change bill. The strategy of the more moderate, legislation-focused portion of the movement has been calling for “comprehensive immigration reform,” a term much like “reform” that has no meaning without context. Whatever was wrong in the Sensenbrenner bill would logically still be wrong now, however, the bills on offer are not in fact better.

The main difference is that this president does not provoke knee-jerk opposition from immigrant rights constituencies; instead he gets such a response from knee-jerk racists and nativists. Just as Obama settled for “reform” in health care as being any bill at all, “comprehensive immigration reform” could end up being anything that is perceived as a victory for Democrats.

What is a movement to do? A first step would be to make demands. The left in the age of Obama is a left that is all too willing to hold its tongue and keep still while the right and conservative Democrats get to set the terms of the debate and the left makes its job defending the most pitiful “reforms” so as not to embarrass those they are sure will come through.

Another step is to insert ourselves into the debate, to counter the “common sense” notions that Obama himself expressed in 2006 as a Senator, that three elements are needed to reform immigration: strengthen border security, provide a path to citizenship with fines and based on adherence to the ‘rule of law’ and a guest worker.

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Protest racial profiling, Arizona Diamondbacks

Arizona’s Senate Bill 1070 attempts to legalize racial profiling in the State of Arizona. As this article is being written, full implementation of SB 1070 is on hold while a lawsuit by the US Justice Department, claiming jurisdictional control by the Federal Government of border and immigration law, proceeds through the courts.

Regardless of the legal status of implementing SB 1070, there will be a protest against racial profiling at PNC Park when the Arizona Diamondbacks play the Pittsburgh Pirates.

In the words of Pittsburgh area labor organizer Mancini:

“As an advocate and supporter of human rights, especially workers’ rights, I am appalled to see apartheid exist in America with regards to the Arizona law—SB 1070, which unconstitutionally advocates the use of racial profiling to detain undocumented workers...immigrant workers, documented or undocumented, are not the problem—the root of this injustice lies in the global socio-economic system that allows big business to exploit workers...we are of only one race—the human race. We belong to only one country—the Earth. We are workers of the world! No to racial profiling! No to SB 1070! Yes to solidarity with workers from all countries!”

In Pittsburgh, we know the reality of racial profiling. It can be seen on the face of Jordan Miles in the pictures taken of him on January 12, 2010. Prosecute Richard Ewing, Michael Saldutte and David Sisk to the fullest extent of the law!

As of July 31, the Pittsburgh Industrial Workers of the World, the Pittsburgh Anti Sweatshop Community Alliance, and the Alliance for Police Accountability have endorsed this protest. Many other groups, such as the Pittsburgh Interfaith Impact Network and the Pennsylvania American Civil Liberties Union, have taken public positions in opposition to SB 1070. We are hopeful that everyone will use this opportunity to demonstrate opposition to SB 1070 and show the world what we know about racial profiling here in Pittsburgh.

Move the All Star Game!
No to Racial Profiling on Roberto Clemente Bridge!
People in Pittsburgh should expect the Pittsburgh Pirates Baseball Club to publicly advocate for next year’s All Star Game, currently scheduled to be played at Chase Field in Phoenix, Arizona, to be moved until this law is overturned.

The ownership of the Pirates and the ownership of the Diamondbacks are business partners; the Pirates should not abdicate a decision about the All Star Game to the Baseball Commissioner. This is your business Bucco! You cannot be silent while your business partner advocates for racists and discriminatory policies that criminalize Hispanic people. In the words of Pittsburgh’s adopted son Roberto Clemente:

“They say, Robertoo, you better keep your mouth shut because they will ship you back. [But] this is something that from the first day, I said to myself: I am in the minority group, I am from the poor people. I represent the poor people. I represent the common people of America. So I am going to be treated like a human being. I don’t want to be treated like a Puerto Rican, or a black, or nothing like that. I want to be treated like any person that comes for a job.”

Organizational meetings to finalize the list of endorsers of this protest and to plan a media strategy will occur during the first and second weeks of September. Please check the Thomas Merton Center’s e-lists for details or call Mancini at 412-216-5839.

Materials that explain the racist and discriminatory elements of SB 1070 are available from the ACLU and MOVETHEGAME.org. Please check out the web site of David Zirin, www.EDGEFOESPOR
ts.org and check out his new book. His writing has pioneered these protests and set the high expectation that our sports are indeed OUR vehicle for social and economic justice.

-Kenneth Miller
A Voice from the US Social Forum: June 22-26

The following are excerpts from a speech given by USSF participant Walter Smolarek, a Mt. Lebanon High School Senior, during a forum workshop. The speech covered the correlation between police brutality and the foundations of the capitalist state.

“While the police sometimes go after people who actually have committed crimes, they ignore that fact that crime, for the most part, is caused by the very system they protect. An underlying issue present in most police brutality cases is racism and racial profiling. While poor and working people suffer from the cops abuses, more often then not the victims are people of color. Racism allows the capitalist class to exploit sections of the working class especially intensely and most importantly it serves to divide the oppressed. The capitalists understand that the most effective way to weaken resistance to their rule is by sowing disunity, making sure that the people at the bottom of society are fighting each other rather than their exploiters. A multi-racial movement against police brutality can go a long way in combating racism and building working class solidarity.”

“One thing that became apparent was that the beating of Jordan Miles was just one incident in a long history of abuse. Many people talked to me about their own experiences with police brutality. One woman told me about how she had recently been brutalized by cops and another told me about her husband, who was assaulted and then sent to jail on the false charges invented to justify the beating. One man that I spoke to told me about how he was arrested and falsely accused of a crime simply because he fit a description. Still others were outraged at the daily harassment they endure at the hands of the Pittsburgh Police Department.”

“However, while organizations like the Alliance for Police Accountability play an important role, its work ultimately will not lead to a society of, by, and for the masses. For that, we need a revolutionary, working class political party, capable of connecting many different struggles and pointing out in compelling and creative ways the roots of these problems in the capitalism. Those with an interest in the pursuit of the long term interests of the oppressed belong in such a party. A fighting organization like the Party for Socialism and Liberation is capable of not only combating police brutality, but getting rid of the system that creates it.”

‘Comprehensive immigration reform’ proves a failure

(Continued from page 12)

program (in that order). By dropping legalization provisions, the Democrats haven’t attracting any more enthusiasm for their bill. One reason the bill has been postponed is because the Democrats are simply unwilling to defend immigrant rights. Because stopping the flow of immigrants would also mean paying people decent wages, offering labor protections and providing services that undocumented workers don’t get, neither the two parties nor employers really want to stop immigration. Instead they want to ensure immigrants can be quietly exploited, while wages for all of us are kept down and the threat of using cheaper, less rowdy labor can always hang above the heads of workers determined to unionize and fight for something decent.

However, the contours of repression versus exploitation are up for debate, the terms of how best to stoke racism to keep us divided and distracted from opposing those with the power is in flux and embedded in this debate. I would argue that changing how Republicans behave is just as much outside of our control as progressive activists as changing Democrats in some direct way. All we can do is demand they answer to our demands and make them feel pressure to act against their better judgment (formed by partisan bickering, the needs of public relations, campaign contributions and careerism).

While the Democrats have been called the “graveyard of social movements,” they don’t even have to go to the trouble of co-opting them these days, instead movements co-opt themselves, demobilize voluntarily and even attack those who dare to critically assess the Democrats and hold them to their promises. With a numerically, organizationally, experimentally and infrastructurally weak left in this country, this approach seems eminently reasonable. We must pick our battles, be realistic about how big we are and how much influence we can have. However, even the numbers we have now have been systematically shoved into the Democratic Party, both in terms of votes, but also in terms of movement priorities and willingness to take positions and engage in effective action.

Up until 1968, the 1960s radicalization confronted a Democratic administration and in 1968 at one of its high points, a Republican was elected to the White House, and the early 1970s still saw further labor and social struggles. The idea that our success is dependent on a Democratic administration is ahistorical. As Howard Zinn said, who sits in the White House doesn’t make nearly as much of a difference as the strength of independent, mass movements.

The waiting around approach is one reason young undocumented immigrants are laying everything on the line by demanding the DREAM Act be passed with high-profile, militant actions (against the wishes of portions of the movement that would rather they wait and pipe down.) While the DREAM Act isn’t perfect, if it passed, it would be a win for our side – and the right’s favorite provision, encouraging immigrants to go into the military to earn citizenship, is actually moot at this point since recruitment is no longer a problem in this economy.

A win for the Democrats is not necessarily a win for our side and is often a loss (especially if we had no hand in making it worth winning), but when we demand something and we get it, that’s something to build on. We on the left have to take questions of strategy and tactics seriously and have an on-going conversation about how to win.

–Courtney Smith
Pittsburgh Police Accountability 2010
Local writer examines organizations’ progress, police responses

Two related Pittsburgh police issues have occupied members of the peace and justice community this year: the police beating of CAPA honor student Jordan Miles and the Citizen Police Review Board effort to investigate last September’s G20 preventative detention of Downtown and mass arrests in Oakland.

JORDAN MILES

Late on January 11, Mr. Miles, a black teen walking between family members’ houses in Homewood, was arrested and beaten, for no apparent reason, by three white undercover police officers. No evidence was produced that Mr. Miles had done anything illegal, unless you count running from three big white men. His family released some now-infamous photographs of his face after the beating.

Mr. Miles’ friends from CAPA High School attended the annual Black and White Reunion Summit Against Racism on January 23 to voice their outrage.

The following Tuesday, their principal allowed them to leave school to support Mr. Miles. They protested at the Mayor’s office, and testified movingly before City Council and the Citizen Police Review Board.

The Mayor (not the Chief, who should have) put the three officers on administrative leave. Charges against Mr. Miles were dismissed. The city’s Office of Municipal Investigations report was to be released in February; it has still not been released. The FBI and a grand jury are also reported to be looking into criminal charges for the warrantless use of force. Waiting for their reports is the excuse given for not releasing the completed OMI findings.

The beating of Mr. Miles and the dismissal of charges against him stimulated the police, the community, and City Council to react.

The Pittsburgh Interfaith Impact Network project with the police to develop an anti-profiling program was highlighted. On the other hand, members of the Fraternal Order of Police threatened a blue flu, which was disallowed by Deputy Chief Paul Donaldson, and then designed and wore in the St. Patrick’s Day parade offensive green t-shirts supporting the accused officers. Reportedly the police have tried to influence District Attorney Stephen Zappala to re-file charges against Mr. Miles. Despite being under suspicion, the officers involved in the beating were publicly awarded citations for previous work.

After the student protests, the community held numerous public meetings. The Alliance for Police Accountability, consisting of various concerned groups, organized a widely publicized march and rally on June 12 to demand prosecution of the three officers and a commitment by the DA not to re-file charges against Mr. Miles. So far there is no sign that the police and their allies will quit stalling.

City Councilman Reverend Ricky Burgess introduced five bills he called the Jordan Miles Public Safety Reform Agenda. Police conduct experts and community members concluded that, however well intentioned, the bills’ specifics needed work. Concerned citizens met with Reverend Burgess numerous times to amend the bills. Council passed three of the following questionable incidents. Some changes were made to the original bills after the community meetings, but the legislation remains ambiguous and needs community attention as it is implemented.

Two bills were held for post agenda discussion after Council’s August recess. They involve Public Safety Bureau cooperation with the CPRB, and an annual Police Service Report.

An important change requested by the community in the police report bill would require publication of statistics on possible racial and ethnic profiling, needed to evaluate the effectiveness of PINN’s program and give it real meaning. The bill requiring cooperation with the CPRB also needs to be clarified, and the community wants CPRB’s role to be strengthened.

For some, both the importance and the flaws in the Burgess legislation have taken energy away from the specific case of Jordan Miles. The authorities seem content to try to let the public forget about him. The FBI and grand jury reports seem well overdue for such a straightforward case. KDKA radio recently editorialized that it is time to wrap this matter up. But it will not be forgotten.

Jordan Miles of Homewood, pictured recovering from police attacks (Photo from Google Images, Jasmine Goldband/Tribune-Review)

THE G20 REPORT

The second 2010 police accountability issue is more convoluted. It concerns the “security” for the September, 2009 G20 Summit and the CPRB. Many law enforcement agencies descended on Pittsburgh to suppress the dissident that the G20 and its policies arouse. Legitimate uses of public spaces were prohibited, and protesters were demonized and harassed. Downtown Pittsburgh was essentially commandeered, with many businesses closing and events cancelled or postponed. Finally, miles away in Oakland, police who had been mobilized as an intimidating show of force erupted in violence against an innocent crowd.

G20 arrestees filed complaints with the CPRB against the police. At its October public business meeting, the CPRB voted to investigate the G20 procedures broadly, and to hold public hearings on the events of that week. Overwhelmingly, speakers denounced the entire security apparatus as well as the conduct of individual police.

As part of its general investigation the CPRB requested documents from Chief Harper, who refused to supply them, based on advice from the insurance company covering liability for G20 activities. Acting within its authority, CPRB issued a subpoena for the documents. After a hearing on the subpoena, Judge

[Continued on next page]
Police Accountability: GET INVOLVED!

THE JORDAN MILES CASE

Visit the website, justiceforjordanmiles.com, stay informed, and spread the word.

Gather signatures and send letters asking the DA for assurance made public that he will not prosecute Mr. Miles.

Go to the next APA meetings and/or encourage your organization to send representatives.

Sign the APA’s petition to the DA to prosecute the three police officers. It is currently being circulated, and is available on the website. Help to gather signatures.

Join in efforts to pressure the Mayor to release the OML report.

Attend the APA march and rally tentatively scheduled for September 18 in Homewood.

Visit the website, justiceforjordanmiles.com, stay informed, and spread the word.

Read and comment on the new legislation on the city’s website, if available.

Help the APA and other groups monitor the implementation of the three bills that have passed.

Prepare for Council's post agenda meeting on the remaining two bills, to be scheduled after the recess.

Contribute ideas and language to the community members who will be participating.

Contact Rev. Burgess. Ask him who he intends to invite to speak at the post agenda. Set up your own meeting with him on the promised bills.

Join a group involved with community-police relations.

THE G2O REPORT

Demand that the insurance company, the Mayor, the law department, the Chief of Police, and City Council stop interfering with CPRB's legal right to information.

Document the city's delays in allowing public access to information. Because of those delays, seek a court ordered extension of the time to file claims against the city for its G2O misconduct.

Follow the money. Demand details of the insurance company's role and influence in the document coverup and bring them to light.

Contribute your opinion on the G2O plan and incidents to CPRB. If you have already done so on the record, do it again.

[Continued from page 14]

Stanton Wettick ruled that the Chief must turn over the requested documents. The Chief then supplied documents that were so incomplete as to be useless. CPRB filed charges of contempt of court against him. A hearing on the contempt charges was scheduled for June 18.

Law department staff lobbied Council suggesting that the city would pay dearly if people found out what went on, and that council members might be personally financially liable. (It was later pointed out that the latter, at least, is probably false.) Council was urged to try to stall the CPRB until after the time limit to file claims against the city passed. A Will of Council on June 15 asked CPRB to delay its investigation. CPRB was not cowed. On June 18, Judge Wettick set a second hearing date on the contempt charges for August 26.

Within minutes, apparently following up on the implied warning in the Will of Council, the Mayor announced that he was replacing five of the seven members of CPRB. The sudden move was not done in accord with the City Code provisions governing appointments, although some replacements had been neglected.

As it became clear that a majority on Council intended to support the Mayor against the sitting CPRB, many citizens protested at a Council meeting on July 6; the ACLU proposed a widely supported and reasonable alternative; and the vote to confirm the Mayor's appointments was delayed. Council was then faced with either agreeing with the public and ACLU, or having to pass legislation to make the Mayor's appointments legal after the fact. They introduced bills to reform the appointment process and rush the Mayor's appointments through, apparently so that a new board could be named before Judge Wettick rules on the Chief's contempt cases. Although the final version of the appointment bill was not available for comment until Friday July 30, Council passed it (and the appointments the Mayor made before the process was in place) on Monday, August 2, just before their August recess. Council members reassured citizens that the CPRB investigation would not be hobbled before Judge Wettick rules in late August, but a motion to guarantee that was defeated. Some citizens attempting to speak out on this maneuver, citing Council rules that established the right to speak, were removed from Chambers.

Meanwhile, important postings were delayed on the city’s website, touted as a tool for “open government.” Controversy aside, these delays alone should be cause for pause. Instead, even before the election of citizens on August 2, a legitimate petition presented on July 25 for a public hearing was denied, and a citizen reported that he was denied the right to speak for the record during the public comment session on July 28.

CPRB has also requested documents related to the individual sworn G2O complaints it has received. Anticipating that he will once again refuse to obey a subpoena, the Chief, represented by the insurance company lawyer, has filed for protection from the next contempt of court citation he expects, causing another delay in getting at the facts before the deadline to file claims. Like the Jordan Miles case, something in those G2O documents seems to be stimulating a cover-up. Citizens who have been involved in these struggles urge everyone to express concern through calls, letters, and emails to public officials, and letters to the editor and broadcast media, calls to talk shows, postings on blogs, etc. The sidebar above contains other specific action suggestions.

-Mark Ozark
REPORT: Resistance for a nuclear free future

From July 3-5 TMC members Fr. Bernard Survil, Joe Martin and I joined with over 200 anti-nuclear resisters and activists from across the US at a gathering near the Y-12 nuclear weapons facility in Oak Ridge, TN. The purpose: to advance the role of nonviolent direct action and civil resistance in the movement for a nuclear-free future.

There’s a new urgency for civil resistance to Administration plans to spend $80 billion over the next ten years to “modernize” the US nuclear weapons stockpile, a euphemism for new bomb development, including $4.5 billion at Los Alamos, $3.5 billion at Y-12 and about $1 billion at a new Kansas City Plant (www.nukeresister.org, Summer quarterly; www.nukeresister.org).

In addition, Pres. Obama has proposed a $54 billion loan program for construction of new nuclear reactors. Yet in April national and regional environmental organizations urged U.S. nuclear regulators to investigate newly identified flaws in Westinghouse’s new reactor design. (www.NIRS.org; www.BeyondNuclear.org)

Clips were shown to the group from a powerful video on the nonviolent campaign in a village on the West Bank. “Bid’In My Law” by firsthandfilms.com. Kathy Kelly led a workshop on the Gaza flotilla; she was on one of the ships. Several others spoke of the time they spent in Gaza.

A spirited new group, THINK OUTSIDE THE BOMB, the largest anti-nuke youth-led network in the US, held an encampment at Los Alamos nuclear weapons facility from July 30-August 6. Their organizing kit is available at www.thinkoutsidelethebomb.org.

There was also a tribute to the Plowshares Eight, jailed in 1980 for the first of about 100 Plowshares actions worldwide. A large number of these resisters were given a standing ovation. Steve Jacobs sang Charlie King’s “The Hammer Has to Fall” and Fr. Carl Kabat, Sr. Anne Montgomery, John Schuchardt, Liz McAlister, wife of the late Phil Berrigan, and I offered reflections on the action at GE in King of Prussia, PA.

Carl has served a total of eighteen years for resisting the bomb. Fr. Dan Berrigan and Dean Hammer, who could not be there, sent messages. Elmer Maas died a few years ago and was also deeply missed. (See YouTube: Nukewatch-NR - Plowshares Eight).

On Monday morning, July 5, a new Declaration of Independence was delivered at the gates of the Y-12 Nuclear Weapons Complex in Oak Ridge, 23 were arrested on state charges for crossing the property line and thirteen were jailed on federal charges for blocking the entrance (www.nukeresister.org).

The Declaration of Independence:

“Under principles of democracy we exercise the right of every citizen of this republic and this planet to peacefully resist the nuclear threat; attacking as it does every core concept of human rights.

“We act to exercise our basic rights to life and freedom from violence and we exercise our duty to protect children and future generations.

“We act to ensure that our government fulfills its promise and responsibilities to unapologetically pursue and achieve nuclear disarmament in good faith.

“We call on this government to end the use of our tax dollars to wage permanent war and demand clean up all chemical and radioactive contamination."

The entire weekend, participants both inspired us with their years of persistent actions and led me to hope that a new generation of resisters will bring new energy to the anti-nuclear struggle.

-Molly Rush

UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

The annual September 21 International Day of Peace, focuses on youth and development, under the slogan: ‘Peace = Future.’

Young people already play a crucial role in working for peace. So this International Day comes with a challenge for young people everywhere: Expand on your work to build peace. Share your plans and ideas, with creativity and passion. The world’s concerns will soon be in your hands. Achieving the goals is essential for ending armed conflict and building sustainable peace.

As we start the countdown to the International Day of Peace, we recognize two truths: Only in a peaceful environment will young people realize their full potential – and young people have the potential to start building that peaceful world today.

St. Mary of the Mount will again host an Interfaith Service, a re-blessing of the Peace Pole, and an International Flag Ceremony beginning at 7 PM at the Church located at 403 Grandview Ave. Please save the date and help us celebrate for world peace.

This year we will also conduct a 24-hour peace vigil all day Tuesday in the church beginning at 12:01 AM on the 21st through Mid-night. Individuals, families or groups can observe this interfaith Vigil by committing to a minimum of 15 minutes of prayer or meditation during the day-long period. A special Peace Mass will be celebrated at 10:00 AM at St. Mary’s.

Please contact Sandy Crowley at 412 381-0212, ext 101 or scrowley@smomp.org to reserve your fifteen minute or more time period.

(I-r) Molly Rush, Anne Montgomery, Carl Kabat and John Schuchardt (Photo by Jim Haber)
Review: Local activist observes revitalized anti-war movement

In Albany, New York, from July 23 to 25 almost 800 people (776 were registered) came together to plan for the next steps in the movement to stop the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan and bring the troops home now. This is the largest gathering of anti-war activists since the commencement of hostilities against these countries in October 2001 when the U.S. invaded Afghanistan.

The meeting included analysis of the present situation, discussion of the different tactics being implemented to oppose the wars but above all the development of strategies going forward to hasten the end of the wars. The Conference also recognized the war situation in Palestine and Gaza being prosecuted by the US proxy in the region namely Israel. A resolution was passed to stop all US aid to Israel because of its policy in Gaza and in the occupied Palestinian lands.

This anti-war Conference brought together representatives from more than 31 different national anti-war organizations to form a united front of opposition to the war producing a remarkable unity of purpose and determination to end the wars. A unifying principle guiding the deliberations was the emphatic declaration that the movement was independent of any and all particular political parties whether of the right or the left. Accordingly the principles guiding the assembly and its action plan tried to steer clear of any and all sectarian divisions and perspectives.

Some of the highlights of the Action Plan that the Conference produced are the following:

- The United National Antiwar Conference endorses and will promote and mobilize for the October 2 “One Nation” march on Washington D.C. initiated by 1199SEIU and NAACP. Specifically it will build an anti-war contingent to that march.
- Affiliated groups will develop antiwar resolutions for city councils and town and village meetings linking the astronomical war spending to denial of essential public services at home.
- In mid-March 2011, around the anniversary of the commencement of hostilities towards Iraq in 2003, it will help to organize teach-ins and demonstrations at the local and regional level.
- All these actions will culminate in bi-coastal mass spring mobilizations on April 9 in New York City, San Francisco, and Los Angeles.

The plan tried to develop a continuous flow of actions and initiatives to mobilize the antiwar forces. A possible critique of the Action Plan is that it is over ambitious in the number of major actions that it sets out to accomplish.

The United National Antiwar Conference (UNAC) has a Continuations Committee composed of representatives of all the 31 organizations that are members. However, this Committee has no full time paid staff and very limited resources for achieving its aims.

It will be up to us – antiwar and peace groups across the country – to realize the excellent plans and muster the forces necessary to organize the bi-coastal mass marches next April. It will be a test of our metal. The composition of the participants had some strengths and weaknesses. On the strength side, the Conference brought together most of the antiwar activists from around the country representing a wide variety of perspectives and approaches from Code Pink, UFPJ, and Peace Action to the ISO, ANSWER and the IAC. It reflected considerable weaknesses, however, in the small numbers of young participants and ethnic minorities. Many initiatives got exposure at the Conference. One such initiative was the showing of the Wikileaks video of the murder of two Reuters reporters and several Iraqis in 2007.

Another exciting initiative was that headed by Col. Ann Wright which is the organization of a US flotilla of ships to Gaza. Overall, this Conference represented a watershed in the antiwar movement and manifested that contrary to mainstream media opinion, the movement is alive, well and militant.

(Photos provided by Michael Drohan)

- Michael Drohan
PRESS RELEASE: Jonny Gammage Memorial Scholarship Awarded

The Black and White Reunion was established in 1996 in response to the death of black motorist Jonny Gammage while in police custody and the unacceptable not-guilty verdicts at the trials of the perpetrators.

One of the organization’s most important projects is the Jonny Gammage Memorial Scholarship to support local students studying the law. Applicants write an essay about civil rights and police accountability.

This year’s winner, Michelle J. Coker, has just begun her legal training at the University of Wisconsin Law School - Madison. She was an intern and a citizen monitor for the Regional Equity Monitoring Project. In her own words:

“When I thought about what to write to address legal changes needed to minimize police brutality, I was inspired by Billie Holiday’s “Strange Fruit.” I rewrote it as “Urban Streets Bear Strange Fruit” with the spirit of our connectional heritage and struggle in America and my desire for justice that every human on the globe deserves. . . . writing this essay helped me to remember why I first wanted to be a lawyer. Lawyers should use their role to be the voice of integrity and dignity in our society and the power to influence American culture to strive for equality for all from corporate law to public interest.”

Ms. Coker received her award at the NAACP’s Scholarship Luncheon on July 27 at the University of Pittsburgh. The Black and White Reunion has presented the scholarship, since its inception, in collaboration with the NAACP Pittsburgh Branch.

This year, BWR announced a partnership with the Negro Educational Emergency Drive, which has added $1,000; the scholarship now totals $3,000. NEED now handles much of the administration and promotion of the Jonny Gammage Scholarship.

Most money for the Jonny Gammage Scholarship is raised through the registration fee for the Summit Against Racism, held annually at East Liberty Presbyterian Church on the Saturday after Martin Luther King Day.

Next year’s Summit Against Racism will be on Saturday, January 22. Registration and workshop information will be available soon at www.blackandwhiterunion.org and in the next issue of The NewPeople.

Why to keep pushing for a state single payer bill

Now that health insurance reform passed at the federal level, shouldn’t we give it a chance to work?

The bill puts forth some positive pledges: 32 million more people insured by 2019, low-income subsidies, 16 million added to Medicaid in 2014, more prevention, community health centers, new coverage for long-term services, better assessment of treatments, support for primary care physicians, limiting the Medicare prescription drug ‘donut hole’; plus some limited reforms of the insurance industry.

However, there are far more ominous drawbacks: How do we pay for it? How do we enforce it? Despite Democratic Party spin, there are no real cost controls on health care treatments or prescription drug costs, and no restraints on profit-first insurance company waste, fraud, abuse, marketing, CEO salaries, or on skyrocketing premiums, co-pays, and deductibles, not to mention medical bankruptcy due to caps on lifetime payouts.

Perverse incentives mean overtreatment and unnecessary care, more bureaucracy and more waste. Most provisions don’t go into effect until 2014. By 2019 another 40-70 million Americans will be without any coverage at all. Nearly everyone now faces the risk of medical bankruptcy.

The profit-first insurance industry will gain millions of new customers at the same time. Already they’re looking for ways to get around the very limited reforms in the bill, continuing their longtime practice of “gaming the system” and greasing the palms of lawmakers. (See New York Times, “Insurers Push Plans That Limit Choice of Doctor,” July 17, A1).

The fact is we cannot afford to wait any longer for real reform – reform that is not shaped to give even more profits to the medical industrial complex.

ACTION AT THE STATE LEVEL

Single payer supporters in Congress are now working on strategies for legislation that will facilitate the enactment and viability of state programs by removing obstacles in current Federal law. The federal bill calls for allowing states to operate an alternative program in lieu of federal coverage. But it won’t take effect until 2017. Specifically, single payer supporters are working on legislation and/or legislative waivers to move the 2017 date to an earlier year, no later than 2014.

We have a real opportunity to move ahead right here in Pennsylvania—and we don’t have to wait until 2014. Other federal waivers being considered address potential constraints under ERISA, and would allow for funds from federal programs (e.g., Medicare, Medicaid, VA, etc.) to be used by state single payer plans.

The expectation is that such legislation will be taken up after the November, 2010 election, either in late 2010 or early 2011.

We’re facing a crisis right now; people who can’t afford insurance are getting sicker and even dying. I’ve learned of one woman who is dying from cancer, whose hospice kicked her out when her coverage ended.

Even those who have health insurance face ever increasing co-pays, and premiums are going sky high with no end in sight. Insurance companies are placing more limits on what they will cover.

THE TIME IS NOW!

Between now and November 2 we must educate the public on these issues, and we must press legislators and candidates to support the federal waivers and co-sponsor Pennsylvania’s bill, SB400/HB1660.

Single payer supporters need to pay for an independent Economic Impact Study if we are to convince legislators, county, and local governments and school districts, businesses and other constituencies of the substantial savings of a single payer program. It will cost $37,000, so we need all the help we can get.

Progressive Democrats of America has offered to share half the funds we can raise from calling their PA members.

Right now we need volunteers to staff the PUSH office for a couple of hours a week, make calls, help with fundraising, take part in rallies, and pass leaflets out at events.

The time is now! True reform is within reach. It’s up to you – to all of us – if we are to succeed.

Join PUSH now. Send $25 or more to PUSH, 2101 Murray Ave., Pittsburgh, PA. Call 412-421-4242 for more information or to become active.

EVERYBODY IN; NOBODY OUT!

-Molly Rush, molly.rush@verizon.net
**Social Action Calendar**

**[AUGUST]**

**FRI, Aug 27**
[8pm] Free GASLAND Screening (rain date Aug 28), Frick Park at Beechwood & Nicholson, Pittsburgh - Marcellus Action Coalition

**SAT Sep 11**
12pm - 1pm Project to End Human Trafficking - Carlow University, Antonian Room #502, Oakland

**SUN Sep 12**
[10am - 11am] Women in Black monthly peace vigil in Slippery Rock - Ginger Hill Unitarian Universalist Congregation

**TUE Sep 21**
*International Day of Peace [10 am] Peace Mass at St. Mary of the Mount, 403 Grandview Avenue, Mt Washington [12:01 pm] A 24-hour peace vigil begins in the church lasting through Mid-night, may be celebrated at home as well. Please contact Sandy Crowley at 412 381-0212, ext 101 or scrowley@smomp.org to reserve your fifteen minute or more time period for the 24 hour period. [7 pm] International Day of Peace, Interfaith Service, International Flag Ceremony, St. Mary of the Mount 403 Grandview Ave.

**MON Sep 26**
* Spend and Atomic Weekend at the Melwood - Melwood Screening Room [2pm – 3:30pm] Anti-War Committee meeting - Thomas Merton Center, 5129 Penn Ave., Garfield

**[SEPTEMBER]**

**WED Sep 1**

**THU Sep 2**
[7pm – 9:30pm] Rosa Luxemburg's Reform or Revolution (1900) (Part II) - Thomas Merton Center, 5129 Penn Ave, Pittsburgh

**SUN Sep 5**
[4:30pm – 5:30pm] Unveiling of the Dennis Brutus Monument - Bill Mazeroski Statue, PNC Park, North Side

**SAT Sep 11**
12pm - 1pm Project to End Human Trafficking - Carlow University, Antonian Room #502, Oakland

**SUN Sep 12**

**TUE Sep 17**
[4:30pm – 5:30pm] No to Racism on Roberto Clemente Bridge - On or close to the Roberto Clemente Bridge

**SAT Sep 18**
No to Racism on Roberto Clemente Bridge - Continues On or close to the Roberto Clemente Bridge Time: TBA

**SAT Sep 19**
No to Racism on Roberto Clemente Bridge - On or close to the Roberto Clemente Bridge Time: TBA

**TUE Sep 21**
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**WED Sep 22**
[7pm - 8pm] Learn How the Past Affects your Future - Carnegie Mellon University, Remembering Hiroshima, Imagining Peace

**FRI Sep 24**
* Spend and Atomic Weekend at the Melwood - Melwood Screening Room, 477 Melwood Avenue Atomic Movie Week End Begins (see article in this paper for details); Times TBA; Ticket Packages for sale at the TMC, Electrical Workers, and from organizing members of Remembering Hiroshima-Imagining Peace (rememberinghiroshima2010.org)

**SAT Sep 25**
* Spend and Atomic Weekend at the Melwood - Melwood Screening Room [1:30pm – 3:30pm] Mike Stout and the Newlanders - Homestead Pump House E. Waterfront Drive, Munhall (Munhall), PA 15120

**MON Sep 30**
[All Day] Last Day: Children Contemplate Peace - Childrens Museum

**[OCTOBER]**

**FRI Oct 1**
Stop Marcellus Shale Gas Drilling! Rally - David Lawrence Convention Center. Details TBA

**SAT Oct 2**
[1:30pm – 3:30pm] Poetry at the Pump House - Homestead Pump House E. Waterfront Drive, Munhall (Munhall), PA 15120

[7pm – 8pm] Pennsylvanians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (PADP) meeting - First Unitarian Church (Ellsworth/Morewood, Shadyside)

CONTACT THE THOMAS MERTON CENTER @ 412 361-3022 FOR MORE DETAILS OR VISIT THE WEBSITE AT thomasmertoncenter.org/calendar.htm

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**[SEPTEMBER]**

**WED Sep 1**

**THU Sep 2**
[7pm – 9pm] Green Party meeting - Citizen Power’s offices, 2121 Murray Avenue in Squirrel Hill, second floor

**SUN Sep 5**
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CALL TO ACTION
Stop Marcellus Shale Gas Drilling!
Rally to Save Our Communities and Environment

October 1, 2010 - Pittsburgh, PA
David Lawrence Convention Center

On Friday, October 1st, the gas industry will host a national summit on shale gas drilling at the David Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh. As Pennsylvania citizens concerned about the health of our communities and the environment on which we depend, we will attend this summit in the streets. We hope you will join us.

MARCELLUS PROTEST is an emerging coalition of community groups and individuals from Western PA that is organizing a march and rally to protest the hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking” of the Marcellus Shale that is already our polluting our air, land and water. People from across the five states where the Marcellus Shale is located will likely be in attendance.

As the facts about fracking bubble to the surface, Marcellus Shale gas drilling is becoming more and more unpopular. Several gas well explosions, dozens of compelling personal stories and hundreds of reported violations have inspired small towns, metropolitan cities, and even the entire state of New York to say, “now wait a minute!” But we need to keep up the momentum.

The gas industry wants to snatch the dollars that lay beneath the Shale before too many people stand in their way or a BP oil spill type-disaster involving gas puts the kabash on the deal. That’s why they’re shellling out $2.85 million to both Democrats and Republicans, and another $900,000 to former PA Governor Tom Ridge to spearhead an unprecedented PR campaign. So on October 1st, we need to show the corporate execs and their political cronies that our lives and our future are not for sale. By organizing this mass demonstration we hope to bring our communities together to build a sustainable grassroots movement that will protect our communities and our environment.

Please help us grow that movement.

Volunteer to help with outreach, publicity, media, web, fundraising or logistics. Ask your friends to come to Pittsburgh and to mobilize folks in their communities. Ask your group to sponsor or endorse the October 1st protest. Make a donation. Or host an event leading up to or following the summit, such as a discussion group or screening GASLAND, a compelling documentary about fracking. We’ll help promote your event.

Together for a fracking-free future,
- Marcellus Action Coalition WPA

For more information about fracking, organizing resources and groups, as well as an up-to-date calendar of events, visit: MarcellusProtest.org