1936 - 1986
Syracuse Peace Council’s
50th Anniversary
Peace Newsletter
Central New York’s Voice for Peace and Social Justice
CELEBRATING & RECOGNIZING
SPC’S ANNIVERSARY

Exciting celebrations of our 50th anniversary are already under way. Our first event, the "Birthday Boogie" on January 16th was a whopping success. The many of us who love to dance came home exhausted. And we made $700.

Five decades of S.P.C. history will be on display at the Onondaga Historical Association at 311 Montgomery Street for a month starting in mid-February. Their hours are Tuesday through Saturday, noon till 4 p.m. Please stop by to see it and urge them to extend the dates of the display.

The Syracuse Cultural Workers Project has received a grant to run on 3 Oral History Programs about S.P.C. They will take place in October.

Fall is also the scheduled time for the release of Against the Odds: The Story of the Syracuse Peace Council being published by the Syracuse Cultural Workers Project. See pages 12-17.

Shove Park in Camillus is named after one of our strong supporters, the late Ben Shove. We hope to have a S.P.C. Picnic there in the summer.

We're working on getting a "big name" speaker for our 50th and having an extravaganza with nationally-known entertainers at the Landmark Theatre.

If you'd like to work on one or more of these events, please call us.

Get Involved in SPC

When people say "I can't find a way to plug in to work at S.P.C.", I think "Either you're not trying to find a way and/or we're not trying because there are lots of ways." To prove the point, I decided - since it's our 50th anniversary - to attempt a list of 50 ways that people could work with S.P.C. Coming up with 50 was easy!

So, now the time-worn excuses won't do. For those who say "I don't know how to organize an event or type", there are 48 other tasks from which to choose. Those who say "I can't help at S.P.C. during the day; that's when I work", could think about the many tasks - actually the majority - that can be done on evenings and weekends. Those who would like something more creative to do could take on banner-making, photo-taking, PNL cover designing and PNL layout. There truly is something for everyone.

S.P.C. would like to salute our many volunteers and ask that you, too, become "one who doesn't wait for someone else to do it."

Please go over this list and check off the jobs you could do. Then call us. Thank you.

-- Corinne Kinane
In this special section

Our usual 24 page PNL this month has been both enlarged and shrunk. It's been enlarged to become the 50th anniversary special and shrunk to this 8 page insert section for Feb. '86 continuing the regular PNL format.

These eight pages include several of our regular features: the monthly events calendar will be found on the last page of this insert rather than on the last page of the whole issue since the whole (minus these eight pages for February) will be distributed throughout the year.

The section also includes a brief article by Angus MacDonald on Libya and Ronald Reagan; an analysis of the Reagan strategy in Nicaragua; and excerpts from a sermon on freedom and survival in the nuclear age by Rev. David Bumbaugh.

Spring Central America Actions

Reagan is about to ask Congress for 100 million dollars in aid for the Contras. Stopping this aid package is a key goal of the Central American solidarity movement this spring. Here are some important events to keep in mind:

* Throughout the month of February the award-winning film "The Official Story" will be playing at the Manlius Cinema. If you buy your tickets in advance from the Peace Council or any of Syracuse's Central American solidarity groups, a portion of the proceeds goes to benefit solidarity work in Central New York. It's entertain,ment, education, organizing and fundraising all at once, so come down to SPC, get some tickets, and sell them to your friends. Or call us -- we'll get them to you.

* The Syracuse Pledge of Resistance Coalition plans to hold a major action three working days after Reagan officially makes the aid proposal to Congress. Keep your ears peeled, and if you're not already on the Pledge of Resistance phone list, call SPC and we'll get you on it.

* March 20 is National "World-A-DAY with the people of El Salvador." The organization "New El Salvador Today" is asking all of us to donate one day's wages for peace. Contact Liam at the SPC office if you are interested in helping to publicize this campaign, or if you would like to donate a day.

* March 21-24 have been designated as a national time for actions on Central America. Many activities, both national and local, are in the planning stages now.

* A newsmint broadsheet on Nicaragua has been published by a group of Syracuse activists for mass distribution, door-to-door. This publication can be used as a basic educational tool for people not familiar with what is really going on in Central America. If you would like to get involved in this distribution/education project, call Liam at S.P.C.

Introducing New Staff

Yes, we've just hired two new stuff people! Lameeb Hameed, a local Syracusan and graduate of LeMoyne College, and Leeann Irwin, fresh from a tour of European peace camps, are joining us this month. You can look forward to hearing from them in the March PNL. But in the meantime there will be a welcoming potluck at 6:00 pm at 504 Allen St. on
Come on Board

SPC activists from all three steering committees met to discuss how to go from 3 staff people to 2. To reduce staff workload we decided to hire a part-time bookkeeper and to change the Peace Newsletter from ten 24-page issues to 12 issues a year which alternate between 8 pages and 24 pages. We'll evaluate this after 6 months, so be sure to let us know how you feel! SPC's structure will remain basically the same—one staff person will be the PNL production coordinator, and the other will work with the Organizational Maintenance Committee. We reinstituted a program committee which will give program guidance to the staff and work on projects. We feel good about these decisions and excited about the possibilities. Please join us for the first meeting of our new program committee—Tuesday, February 18 from 7-9 at 212 Standish Dr., Syracuse (the Brule's house).

Anniversary Peace Award

For many years the Peace Council has given out an annual "Peace Award" at its Birthday Dinner. For our fiftieth year we are trying to be a little more organized by getting in nominations. So, if you have any ideas for our 50th anniversary Peace Award—either individuals, groups or institutions—send them in now!

Good Wishes to Virden

Syracuse will really miss Virden Seybold. He has been at the American Friends Service Committee for 11 years as area director, with program responsibilities in disarmament, the death penalty, community development, etc. He has been very active in his church, and he and Elva have often opened their home to many people, including Marco Burkli-Vils and Christa Pranter when they were here as interns at S.P.C.

Now Virden has moved on to an exciting position as regional Peace Education director for A.F.S.C. in Baltimore. Baltimore's gain is our loss. Virden has always been a quiet, subtle anchor in the local peace community; always reliable, determined and committed.

We wish you the best of luck, happiness and satisfaction, Virden, and we insist that you come back to visit!

Upcoming Projects

Three major SPC events are coming up this spring: First, our spring phonathon. We need help from any of you who are good on the telephone. The rest of you should prepare yourselves for a call—please consider, if you're not already doing so, making a monthly pledge to S.P.C. in honor of our fiftieth anniversary.

After the phonathon comes our Fiftieth Birthday dinner. Call in your speaker suggestions now! And finally, we're trying for a major fundraising concert in May. Want to help out? Call us today.

HUNGER & DEPRIVATION IN THE US:

WHERE HAVE OUR PRIORITIES GONE WRONG

A Lecture By Victor W. Sidel, MD

Tuesday, February 11, 1986
8:00 pm
Shanahan Chapel
Grewen Hall
Le Moyne College
(look for the clock tower)

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The Price of Freedom

by Rev. David E. Bumbaugh

The following is the muchly condensed text of a sermon delivered in Syracuse at the May Memorial Unitarian Society on September 24, 1985.

For as long as I can remember, "freedom" has been a word symbolizing values more profound than any strict definition of the term would admit. During World War II we believed that the world was divided into the Allies who were struggling against evil and the forces of evil: the Nazis and the Japanese who had attacked us without warning or provocation, and who were a different color, race, religion and presumably lived by an inferior social code.

Early in my childhood I came to think of the United States as the bastion of freedom, without ever understanding what freedom meant. I believed that freedom was ever in jeopardy, threatened with subversion by wicked foreigners: that "the price of freedom is eternal vigilance"; and that young men must prepare to do battle for freedom. I accepted that it is better to die in freedom's cause than to live in slavery. Even though slavery was never clearly defined, only shrouded in images of helpless people dominated by cruel men.

World War II ended with the triumph of the free world over its enemies, but scarcely had our soldiers marched home when we found ourselves in a new struggle between slavery and freedom. It was hard to understand since the forces of evil we had just defeated now became part of the free world, and some of the nations who had been part of the struggle for freedom now became our enemies. But the old image of the "free world" endangered by the forces of slavery was still powerful. We watched our young men march off to Korea to fight for freedom. And so it has been ever since. Our wars, our foreign policies, military budgets, the arms race and our meddling in the affairs of other nations, all are justified in terms of the needs of our nation, but in terms of a global metaphysical mission -- the defense of the "free world" against demonic forces.

We are never very clear about what we mean by freedom. At times we seem to be talking about political rights. At other times, a standard of living. Likewise, the "forces of oppression" are only vaguely defined. They are often totalitarian systems which we reject because they object to our global dominance and economic practices. But we accept similar systems of government which murder their own citizens and accept them as part of the "free world" because they support us. Thus a number of sometimes contradictory concerns are united in one powerful word: "freedom." And our political leaders use that emotion-laden word to rally us behind their policies.

The strength of this rallying cry derives from a conviction that it is freedom which makes life worthwhile; that freedom gives meaning to our being. This also makes us decide that life is worth less than freedom; that only the free life is worth living. It exerts enormous power over us and shapes our actions in ways that are seldom understood.

There was a time, not long ago, when this cherishing of freedom made sense. We knew that political, civil and economic freedom created a special quality of life and that freedom was worth defending and sacrificing for. We drafted our young men and, with a mixture of pride, regret, sorrow, sent them out to kill and be killed. Freedom has never been cheap. But in August 1945, when we incinerated two Japanese cities and shoved an ill-prepared humanity into the nuclear age, the stakes multiplied and the values by which we had lived for so very long were profoundly called into question. Einstein suggested that the advent of the nuclear age had changed everything except the way we think and therefore we drift toward unprecedented destruction.

It is utterly foolish to talk about preserving freedom or defending the "free world" as if Hiroshima had never happened. The primary aim of any rational system of values, public policy, or relevant religious concern must be the preservation of human life on this planet. All other concerns must be subordinated to that aim. When we did not have the power to destroy the human community, it made sense to talk about risking the lives of some, perhaps even a whole nation, to preserve qualities which gave life its value. But once we had the power to destroy the entire human community, we could no longer afford that profligate attitude toward life. If we fail to prevent the nuclear holocaust, the earth, once silent, will remain silent forever. All human accomplishment will be swept away.

Whether our antagonists are demons without conscience, or human beings like us -- frightened, confused, ambitious, cunning and eager to avoid Armageddon -- is irrelevant. I believe that nothing -- not economic well-being, nor our political system, nor our personal freedoms, nor even the nation -- is so important that we can risk destroying the human race on its behalf.

That does not mean that we must surrender our values or cease struggling to create a world in which we may live in peace and plenty, knowing the blessings of freedom, secure in our civil and human rights. But it does

David Bumbaugh is the minister of the First Universalist Church of Syracuse, N.Y.
mean we must understand that these goals in the nuclear age have become instrumental, not absolute, and that we must find new, less lethal ways to serve the ends we would achieve. The instruments we use must be carefully chosen so that life itself, the basis from which all conscious value arises, be not threatened. Freedom is worth much sacrifice, but to risk all of human existence in behalf of "freedom" is too high a price.

The code words must be stripped of their power. Words like "the American way" and "the free world" and "the evil empire" and "the world communist conspiracy" must be demystified and desacralized. We must demand to know what we are being asked to risk and in service to what aims. We must insist that no national aims are legitimate -- including national survival -- if they involve risking the human race.

That is a hard concept for me to confront for I was

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JURIED EXHIBITION AT OSWEGO ART GUILD from March 8 to 30, 1986, titled "Herland II: An Original Country." Slides of art work are due at the Oswego Art Guild, PO Box 315.

FREE LIST of red hot books about the struggle for peace and justice around the world from REOON Publications, PO Box 14602, Philadelphia, PA 19134

Complete AQUARIUM set-up (except for fish) available from SPC for $50 or best offer. Call 472-5478.

DIRECTION SERVICE OF ONONDAGA COUNTY provides personalized assistance, info., and referral services for children and adults with all handicapping conditions, free of charge. Call 423-3735.

SUBMISSIONS WANTED for an anthology of poetry for peace by women in Central America or living in exile. Deadline for submissions is May 1. Send to Zoe Angelsey, 285 E. Third St., NY, NY 10009 (212) 674-7907.

54 page bimonthly DOCUMENTARY SERVICE available from LADOC, apartado 5594, Lima 100, Peru, for $16/month. We are looking for a wonderful WOMEN to join our household. Call Karen Mihalyi, 472-9386(H), 428-8724(W).

SOUND SYSTEM available for rental from SPC for a donation. Call Corinne or Peter Jorgensen at 476-5205.

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Marta Taylor

and the Eastside Community Choir

Grace Episcopal Church

419 Madison St., Syracuse

$4-$10 Sat. March 8 7:30 p.m.
Changed Relocation Tactics at Big Mountain

Ten to fifteen thousand Indian people at Big Mountain, Arizona are still threatened with relocation from their ancestral homelands at a cost to taxpayers of $1.5-2 billion before it is over. In December 1985, Congress passed PL 99-190 providing $50 million more to be spent on relocation by Sept. 30, 1986, clearly bypassing the July '86 confrontation date laid out in the original Federal Law. In addition, the Secretary of the Interior was granted broad powers bypassing safeguards previously provided in law to protect the environment and archaeology of the area: "the Secretary may carry out construction and lease approvals or executions under this provision...without regard to the rule making requirements of any law, executive order, or regulation."

New Speakers Bureau

Last fall, in an effort to get the message to the public that there is a real potential for Nuclear War, and that this is preventable, the Central NY FREEZE along with other local organizations formed the Speakers and Programs Bureau.

The Bureau decided on three areas to produce programs that local speakers would present to community groups: "Star Wars," or the Strategic Defense Initiative; Avenues of Hope in a Nuclear Age; and US-USSR Relations, which is not under way, but should be in the Spring.

These presentations are appropriate for meetings, luncheons, or special gatherings of organizations.

To learn more about programs now available, "Star Wars," and Avenues of Hope in a Nuclear Age; or to arrange a presentation, call (315) 445-1132 or write: Speakers and Programs Bureau, Box 394, Syracuse, NY 13214.

Thanksgiving Action

On Thanksgiving Day, the second anniversary of the Plowshares 7 action, 11 people entered the Skyline Gate at Griffs Air Force Base and served the base a copy of the original protests of the Plowshares 7. Approximately an hour after they entered the base, ten of the eleven were arrested and held for six hours in two "squash courts" in the base gymnasium.

Six of the ten were brought to trial on January 23, and sentenced to 5 days or $75. Five of the six chose to serve the 5 days. One, due to a trial in Rhode Island for a similar action, paid the fine.

The remaining four have to have their trial separately due to Ban and Bar orders issued in the past, the sentence for the group could be six months' imprisonment or a $500 fine. The trial, originally set for January 30, is postponed indefinitely for medical reasons of Judge Conahan.

Watch for trial date in the news, or call 475-2811 for up to date info.

Black History Month

The existence of Black History Month can be traced back to 1926 when originally launched as "Negro History Week" by Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson. Dr. Woodson had become an educator and historian from his early beginnings as a laborer in a West Virginia coal mine. His goal was to mark a special period of time each year to recognize the achievements and contributions of Afro-Americans. In 1976 the week was extended to the entire month of February.

This year in celebration a special festival has been organized by the Syracuse Cultural Workers and The Community Folk Art Gallery, with financial assistance from the N.Y. State Council on the Arts. "SYMBOL OF SOUL," a festival of films, artists, filmmakers, and poets will open on Feb 2 and continue through Feb 27. Eight wonderful films by Black filmmakers will be shown on Saturday and Wednesday evenings beginning on the 8th, with visits from the directors on the 15th and 22nd.

Please see the inserted NWS Films schedule for dates, times and locations of all the films. Call 474-1132 for more info.

Vietnam Victory Memorial

The Vietnam Victory Memorial Committee is building America's first memorial to those who died opposing the government's illegal war in Vietnam. April 30, 1985, on the 10th Anniversary of the Liberation of Saigon, the ground breaking for the memorial took place, in spite of threats from local veterans groups that say the day it goes up, is the day it comes down.

Terry Choate, director of the project, says that they have incorporated into the design several elements so that it would be "difficult to get close enough to to attach plastic explosives" and anyway it would just bring more publicity to the memorial's meaning.

The memorial is scheduled for completion this April 30th. If you can help, or know of someone's name that should go on the memorial, write to: Vietnam Victory Memorial P.O. Box 9304 Phoenix, Arizona 85088
Invasion, war of attrition, negotiation. Those are the three options the Reagan Administration has in Nicaragua. But since negotiation does not suit the Administration's style, it is seriously considering only the other two alternatives, which share the same objective: getting rid of the Sandinistas.

"There's a faction that wants to invade and another that thinks invasion is unwise," says Bill LeoGrande, a staff member of the Senate Democratic Policy Committee. "But it isn't one department versus another: it cuts across departments and agencies." Battle lines are drawn between the advocates of invasion, who look for a symbolic "rollback" of the Soviet empire and a spectacular demonstration of American military prowess, versus the proponents of a war of attrition, who seek the slow strangulation of the Sandinistas.

"The result of the disagreement is that nothing happens," says LeoGrande. "It's a rut. Some want to push the policy out to the right, some want to push it to the left. But neither side can do it. So the policy stays where it is and keeps going forward. The policy is the synthesis of their disagreement."

Administration policy has meant continued funding for the contras, economic embargo, pressure on private and multilateral banks to limit loans, pressure on allied governments that try to maintain normal relations with the Sandinista government, travel bans, and the prospect of breaking diplomatic relations. This policy of attrition aims to turn the screws so tightly that the Nicaraguan government will run out of resources, its people will rise up in frustration, and the leaders of the revolution turn against each other in fratricidal recrimination, and the Sandinistas will be squeezed dry and lifeless at the feet of the Yankee giant.

The policy is working. Mounting internal discontent has already led the Sandinista government to declare a state of emergency. In announcing the suspension of civil liberties in mid-October, President Daniel Ortega blamed U.S. meddling.


"There is a new strategy at work in Nicaragua: low-intensity war," says Bill LeoGrande, a staff member of the Senate Democratic Policy Committee. "But it isn't one department versus another: it cuts across departments and agencies." Battle lines are drawn between the advocates of invasion, who look for a symbolic "rollback" of the Soviet empire and a spectacular demonstration of American military prowess, versus the proponents of a war of attrition, who seek the slow strangulation of the Sandinistas.

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"The ideological climate is changing," says Debra Reuben, coordinator of the Nicaragua Network. "At the grass-roots level, when you go out to talk about Nicaragua, the barriers, the questions, come much sooner. There is less willingness to listen."

Most Americans, however, remain ignorant of U.S. policy. Only one out of every four persons polled in June knew the United States was backing the contras. "It doesn't intrude into their daily life," says Leo Grande. "It doesn't even touch it."

For all the problems facing the anti-interventionist movement, the number of people committed to opposing U.S. policy in Nicaragua "has skyrocketed," says Reuben. She points to the 70,000 persons who have signed the Pledge of Resistance, a church-inspired campaign that enlists people to perform civil disobedience in the event of U.S. escalation of the existing war or the invasion of Nicaragua. Some 40,000 Americans have gone to Nicaragua since 1979, Reuben estimates.

Still, the threat of an outright invasion hovers as an everyday presence. Under what circumstances would the United States invade? If the government of Nicaragua were to show signs of serious divisions, says Leo Grande, then "a pretext" would be all that is needed.

Neither Leo Grande nor Reuben expects an invasion, however. Instead, they assume the war of attrition will simply continue. It has taken its toll already. Up to 50 per cent of Nicaraguans have died so far in the contra war, President Ortega told The New York Times in July. The first national conscription in Nicaraguan history has been confronted by considerable resistance.

The embargo which the Reagan Administration imposed in May has meant that all U.S. imports -- from toothpaste to sanitary napkins -- are either prohibitively expensive or just don't exist. Distribution problems bring periodic shortages; shortages mean long lines. The price of basic goods has been driven up by inflation, and life is hard.

This low-profile war also wears away at its opposition in the United States. The grass-roots opposition complains of being overloaded. "There are too many crises too often," Reuben laments. "Your educational campaigns suffer, your humanitarian aid campaigns and sister-city projects get put aside." The feeling is one of perpetual siege, "and with the shift in the ideological climate, we expect more harassment from the Government."

For Deborah Barry more than Reagan's good luck is at work. "It's a new strategic conception, prolonged counterrevolutionary war," she says. "It is the result of the reinterpretation of Vietnam and the experience of the Third World liberation struggles of the last forty years. And it's not just Nicaragua. It's El Salvador. It's the whole Third World."

The question that both the Nicaraguan government and the U.S. critics of Reagan policy have to answer is how to deal not with an invasion but with this enervating constant war.

Ronald Reagan, Libya and the Constitution

by Angus MacDonald

The cover of the January 13 issue of NEWSWEEK magazine carries the question, "Stopping Khadafi: What are Reagan's Options?" It does not say, "What Are The Options of the United States?" The Congress of the United States has not declared war on Libya. Article I, Section 8, Clause 11 of the United States Constitution reserves to Congress the right to declare war.

Ronald Reagan, upon becoming President, swore to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution. Yet from the beginning of his presidency Ronald Reagan has been trying, with terrifying success, to usurp this power of Congress and to grab for himself the power to make war whenever and wherever he wants to. Mr. Reagan urges that his (limited) authority to conduct foreign policy and his position as commander-in-chief of U.S. armed forces authorize him to use those armed forces at his discretion -- conveniently ignoring the fact that the people who wrote the Constitution gave Congress the power to declare war precisely to curb trigger-happy presidents.

Mr. Reagan placed U.S. Marines in Lebanon in violation of the War Powers Act, and over 200 of them were killed there. A cowardly, corrupt and compliant Congress let him get away with it. President Reagan ordered the attack on Grenada without even notifying Congress. A few in Congress considered impeaching the President, but the U.S. public backed Reagan and the brave small voices faded away.

As I write, the aircraft carrier Saratoga moves to join the carrier Coral Sea in the Mediterranean near Libya, to await President Reagan's orders. No Congressman or Senator has cried, "No attack on Libya unless and until Congress declares war on Libya!"

An attack on Libya wouldn't stop terrorism. Terrorism is low-budget war; it would go without Kadhafi's support. But an attack could start World War III. The Soviet Union and Libya's Arab neighbors have announced their support of Libya.

When elected representatives fail to uphold the Constitution, the job falls to us.

Recently I sent a telegram to Ronald Reagan, President, The White House, Washington, D.C., which said, "Stop trying to start World War III in Libya." If you should send the president a telegram, a letter or a postcard with a similar message, it might help to keep the peace, and also to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution.
**FEB. ’86**

**Black History Month**

- **February 14**: Valentine’s Day Brunch at the Women’s Info. 470-6906.
- **February 17**: The Women’s Info. is open on Thursday from 10 AM to 6 PM.
- **February 19**: African American Life Su Bird Library, 3rd Floor.
- **February 21**: Black History “African American Life Su Bird Library, 3rd Floor.
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**5th Birthday Party for the Central NY Weapons Freeze**

**CALLING ALL LEGS AGAINST ARMS**

**DATE**: Saturday, February 15
**TIME**: 8:00 PM
**PLACE**: Maynard, 3800 E. Genesee St.

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**RSVP**: 445-2935

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Fifty years! We've made it! Fifty years of effort, patience, perseverance, commitment and caring by thousands of people known as the Syracuse Peace Council. Fifty years of often lonely organizing, sometimes popular agitating and daily, tireless educating. Fifty uninterrupted years of working to raise society's consciousness on the nature of war and of putting ourselves into action to abolish it. Fifty years! We've made it.

To the best of our knowledge we have endured longer than any locally based, self-funded group in the country. We've always been proud of this small miracle. So it seems an opportune time to ask, "What has our history added up to?" When we peer back at five decades, when we read the yellowed newspaper clippings, dust off the brittle documents and faded leaflets, when we search our own selves for memories and history, what do we conclude?

Our Peace Council has always been a collection of many different people's aspirations for peace and justice. We've been a community of similar-minded dissenters, a kind of family of protesters, a celebration and an experiment by caring people with alternative social values and a vision of peace. We've been an informal congregation of citizens with principles that make us stand up and fight back. We've been in the consciousness-raising business; a workforce of organizers, educators, leafletters, volunteers. It seems there are many, many ways to understand what we accomplished, who we've been, what our history adds up to, to understand what forces have brought Peace Council people together and kept us together.

What is this Peace Council we've built? Well, we've built an office, a library, a community as well as a safehouse and a haven for that community. We've built a printshop, a growing bookstore, a graphic arts center, a clearinghouse for activism, a dependably and responsibly staffed nerve center for progressive politics. We've built a solid organization with an unshakeable tradition of working for the interconnected beliefs in nuclear disarmament, social justice, feminism, community, nonviolence, environmentalism, global solidarity and peace. And we've built a small institution with staying power; a voice of people against the permanent war economy of U.S. society.

Yet, one label we just might enjoy and be proud of is "movement." The history of progressive movements in this country is a long, glorious one. It is a record of human struggle, liberation and evolution against all forms of oppression. The Peace Council's place in this movement and our place within the overall history of movements in the U.S. is precious. It creates meaning in our lives. Anyone who has ever been able to say, "I am a member of the Syracuse Peace Council..." has been able to say they were active in making history. I believe I speak for many Peace Council people when I say that it is a rare and special place to be. And from this special feeling flows our motivation to work for peace and progress. It is a precious reinforcing cycle for us.

In this issue, our 522nd, we bring you unique articles and pieces of news as well. We are happy to announce that the Peace Council's archives have found an honored resting place with the Onondaga County Public Library. We have been carefully studying and reading back upon the 521 issues of the PNL in preparation for our fiftieth year anniversary. These PNLs embody our very history and it is a very rich history; a history of our premonitions of future events and our sorrow, anger and analysis of those events afterwards. They contain news of war and peace spanning five decades.

We have built a movement and been part of that movement. Who has the movement moved? Will there ever be an end to the nuclear arms race, to racism, sexism, militarism, to economic exploitation?? Does the fact that we risk a greater threat of war today than ever before mean that SPC's fifty years of work is nearly in vain? Just how have we impacted public consciousness? Can SPC grow, take in new members, become ten times more vigorous? These are our biggest questions. Maybe this special issue will assist us throughout these next few years to create strong collective answers that will empower us to shape our future history: the next fifty years of the Syracuse Peace Council.

Gary Weinstein for The Peace Council
Statement of Purpose

The Syracuse Peace Council (SPC), founded in 1936, is an antiwar/social justice organization. It is community-based, autonomous and funded by the contributions of its supporters.

SPC educates, agitates and organizes for a world where war, violence and exploitation in any form will no longer exist. It challenges the existing unjust power relationships among nations, among people and between ourselves and the environment. As members, we work to replace inequality, hierarchy, domination and powerlessness with mutual respect, personal empowerment, cooperation and a sense of community.

Present social injustices cannot be understood in isolation from each other nor can they be overcome without recognizing their economic and militaristic roots. SPC stresses a strategy that makes these connections clear. We initiate and support activities that help build this sense of community and help tear down the walls of oppression. A fundamental basis for peace and justice is an economic system that places human need above monetary profit. We establish relationships among people based on cooperation rather than competition or the threat of destruction.

Our political values and personal lives shape and reflect each other. In both we are committed to nonviolent means of conflict resolution and to a process of decision-making that responds to the needs of all.

SPC Staff

Labeeb Hameed, Leann Irwin, Corinne Kinane, Liam Mahony

The SPC Press

Katie Froelich, Laurie Goldman, Paul Siegel

The Front Room Bookstore

Carol Baum, Jean Wittman, Dik Cool (collective member emeritus)

The Peace Newsletter

PNL Editorial Committee

Sheila Clancy, Ed Kinane, Phil Klein, Angus MacDonald, Cletus Pinti, Christa Pranter

Book Review Editor: Carol Baum

PNL Calendar: Corinne Kinane

Letters Page: Gary Weinstein

SPC Projects

Disarmament
Liam Mahony 472-5478

Central America
Liam Mahony 472-5478

South Africa
Corinne Kinane 422-1659

SPC Posters
Dik Cool 474-1132

Native American issues
Jan Peterson 476-6103

NYS Films
Dik Cool 474-1132

SPC Film Committee
Margaret Gelfuso 476-6909

Plowshare Craftsfair 472-5478

Alliances, Coalitions & Contacts

AFSC Anti-Apartheid Project
Thabo Raphoto 475-4822

Educators for Social Responsibility
John Freie 446-8508

Finger Lakes Military Counseling & Information Center
days 789-7543
evenings 587-9512

Finger Lakes Peace Alliance 472-5478

FOCUS—Friends of Central America United in Support
Ron Shuffler 471-6677

Friends of the Filipino People
John and Sally Brule' 445-0698

Madre
Margo Clark 475-0737

New Jewish Agenda
Paul Weichselbaum 446-6662

Nuclear Weapons Freeze of CNY
Nancy Tunnessen 445-1332

Open Hand Theater
Geoff Navias 472-1777

Pax Christi
Frank Woolever 446-1693

People for Animal Rights
Linda DeStefano 475-0062

People for Peace and Justice (Syracuse University)
Tekla Lewin 423-3749

Physicians for Social Responsibility
Jim Dessauer 425-8806

Pledge of Resistance
Affinity Groups 472-5478

Pax Christi
Frank Woolever 446-1693

People for Animal Rights
Linda DeStefano 475-0062

People for Peace and Justice (Syracuse University)
Tekla Lewin 423-3749

Physicians for Social Responsibility
Jim Dessauer 425-8806

Pledge of Resistance
Affinity Groups 472-5478

Syracuse Alternative Media Network
Jim Dessauer 425-8806

Tax Resistance Support Group
Peter Swords 479-5658

United Campuses Against Nuclear-War (Syracuse University)
Tekla Lewin 423-3749

Upstate Resistance
Mark Chupp 475-4822

Upstaters Against Corporate Blackmail
Jim Ellis 476-1536

Weapons Facilities Conversion Network
Peter Kardas 475-4822

Syracuse Peace Council
924 Burnet Ave.
Syracuse, N.Y. 13203
(315) 472-5478
About the Cover

EDUCATE, AGITATE, ORGANIZE! The cover to this special issue of the PNL was designed by Paul Pearce and Gary Weinstein. All photos by Paul Pearce. The top photo is from the 1981 SPC Birthday Dinner, where hundreds listened to Molly Rush and Phillip Berrigan. The center photo is from our first demonstration of our fiftieth year, which was a protest of United States policy in Central America at the Hotel Syracuse while Vice-President George Bush was inside at a fundraising luncheon for Congress. man George Wotley. At the bottom is a shot from a post-Three Mile Island gathering in Oswego organized by the Lakeshore Alliance, in which SPC played a very active role.

The back cover, also designed by Paul and Gary, chronicles SPC's physical moves to various buildings in Syracuse, culminating in the purchase of our own building at 924 Burnet Ave.

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Congratulations from Our Friends

Starting on page 6, and interspersed throughout this special issue are dozens of anniversary greetings from our friends and supporters, both individuals and organizations.
Our 50th Birthday Wish List

There once was a long, long list
Of things for which SPC wished.
Our birthday! We're going to be fifty!
'Twould be neat to receive a small gift.

So here’s a few of our favorite things,
(Not a wish list, for we don’t hold.
For gifts we’d be glad to receive, sure
A few of our favorites.

To help the office more smoothly run,
We need staplers, stamps and a staple gun.
Any supplies at all we’d surely not bar –
We’d love a car mechanic and a car.

A new phone system would improve the scene,
As well as a working answering machine.
A nicer, more pleasant house we’d adore,
How about coming in to paint, or refinishing the floor?

A hand sickle for grass, a picnic table for food,
Your carpentry skills would help brighten the mood.
It’s our time to party and celebrate --
Ideas for banners, shirts and buttons do really rate.

A new press, a typesetter, another branch for
the bookstore.
A safe for our money would be mighty fine,
And lots more of that money -- but we won’t whine.

You may have many things you can give SPC,
Or little at all that’s available for free.
Whichever the case, we need your support and your time,
In our work for peace which is the reason for this rhyme!

Thank You!

Greetings!!

Barb Kobritz
Joan Goldberg
Elinor Cramer
Shubert & Eva Frye

David Kossack
Marion Susie Kossack
Eleanor Cash
Ulster County Conference for Peace & Justice

"May the Syracuse Peace Council prevail in its struggle for peace and justice."
Garrett Stryker

"On to the next 50!"
Ruth Mueller

"A worthy life has a human price."
Jerry & Carol Berrigan

"May your next 50 years be as creative in peace and justice advocacy."
Elva and Virden Seybold

"Shalom!"
Peter & Carol LaGrasse
Stony Creek, N.Y.

"Human Race – Not Arms Race!"
Genesee Valley Citizens for Peace

"Congratulations on Fifty Years!"
Monty Berman

"Hearty wishes for paz – MIP – Frieden – paix – shalom – in every tongue and all ways."
Chris, Marge and Christian Spies-Rusk

"Congratulations SPC! Continue to fight the good fight!"
Richard Weiskopf

"The Peace Council united will never be defeated. Onward to peace through justice."
Mairead Connor & Gary Weinstein

"Together we can have hope! Best wishes."
Henry Yokel & Harry Freeman-Jones, Syracuse.

"We thank SPC for working for peace and justice. Best wishes for the next 50 years."
The Bobis Family

"Congratulations."
Elise Meitz, Paul Weichselbaum & Noah Meitz Weichselbaum

"As we all age gracefully, may we also become wiser and more effective in our common work."

"Warm congratulations to SPC for unswerving leadership in the cause of Peace. Happy 50th Birthday. Gracias, Amigos."
Dory, Francis and Oscar Sokol, Unadilla, N.Y.

"Congratulations for half-a-century of dedication to the cause of Peace."
Patricia Gleeger, Syracuse

"May We Grow Older Together"
Mary Ann Zeppetello

"Thank you to everyone who made these 5 decades possible. The achievement is celebrated coast to coast!"
Donna Warnock, Oakland, California

"We Are Not Lonely Voices."
John B. Kaufmann, member of Gray Panthers, the Anti-Nuke Movement and the Sanctuary Movement, Phoenix, Arizona

"Swinging Progressive Couple, tired of the leftist bar scene, seeks Peace organization. Likes meetings, craves good process. Send photo."
P & M

"Solidarity and Congratulations on 50 years of regional peace leadership."

"Like us, you don’t show your age. Keep up the struggle."
Jane & Sam Feld
Resources for Change

Films

El Salvador, Another Viet Nam
58 min. Investigates El Salvador's repressive security forces, & its guerillas, repression of the Church, etc.

Controlling Interests

An ambitious film dealing with the relationship between corporate objectives and democracy, touching on Brazil, Chile, the Dominican Republic, runaway shops & the CIA.

I Have Three Children of My Own
20 min. slideshow, narrated by Helen Caldicott on the medical dangers of nuclear power and weapons.

The following films are available from the American Friends Service Committee, 821 Euclid Ave, Syracuse N.Y. (315)475-4822.

Witness to War
30 min. 16mm. Traces the path of Charlie Clements from Air Force pilot in Viet Nam to medical doctor behind the rebel lines in El Salvador.

War Without Winners
28 min. 16mm. Former military and government officials make surprising statements for the case against nuclear war.

'Americas In Transition
29 min. color 16mm. Narrated by Ed Asner, traces U.S. involvement in Latin America in this century.

Other Films

The Syracuse community is loaded with other audio-visual materials on peace and social justice issues: films, tapes, slideshows, videos, etc. Tell us what you are looking for and we will do our best to track it down.

Speakers

Do you need a speaker for your organization or class? The staff of the Peace Council would be happy to arrange for speakers and audio-visuals on a variety of topics, including:

Disarmament: Star Wars, the Test-Ban Treaty, Nuclear Weapons Facilities in NYS, Medical Effects of Nuclear War, and much more.
Central America: El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Witness for Peace, Sanctuary, the Contras, etc.
Other Foreign Policy: South Africa, the Philippines, general Latin America, Cuba, etc.
Other: Draft Registration and Counter-Recruitment, Feminism and Militarism.

Want Some More SPC History?

In August, 1983, we published the 500th issue of the Peace Newsletter, which included a large section of oral histories, among other things. We have tried in this 50th Anniversary PNL not to repeat ourselves. So, if we've whetted your appetite today for SPC history, send us $1 and we'll send you the 500th PNL.

Buy the 500th PNL issue.

Posters

Both these posters have been produced by the Syracuse Peace Council. They can be ordered, along with countless other wonderful posters, cards and calendars, from the Syracuse Cultural Workers (see p. 11). Wholesale rates are available on all products. Send $50 for a catalog: Syracuse Cultural Workers, Box 6367, Syracuse, NY 13217, (315)474-1132.

Videos

The Syracuse Alternative Media Network has produced several original documentaries, including the following. To arrange showings call 425-8806.

Witnesses for Peace
40 min. Video-documentary, VHS or Beta.
Central NY's Witness for Peace delegates share their motivations and experience of non-violent activism in Nicaragua during the 1984 elections and U.S. threats at the Port of Corinto.

Queremos la Paz
(We Want Peace): Nicaraguans speak to North Americans.
Nicaraguans speak about their dreams, accomplishments, and desire for peace in spite of U.S. sponsored aggression.

Topical Files

Need to do some research? Interested in finding some of the information that's not in the encyclopedias? SPC keeps an extensive file system: everything from Afghanistan to Women's Struggles; from the "Progressive" magazine to the Herald Journal. Come by and look it over.

SPC 50th Anniversary
Congratulations to

The Syracuse Peace Council

The Socialist Party of New York State

We dedicate ourselves to the cause of peace, justice, and humanity.

113 University Station
Syracuse, N.Y. 13210

GREETINGS from

ARISE, Inc.
Alternatives for Reaching Independence through Services and Engineering

501 E. Fayette St. • Syracuse, NY 13202 • (315) 472-3171

Congratulations to SPC for being an outstanding voice for peace and justice.

American Friends Service Committee
821 Euclid Ave.
Syracuse, N.Y. 475-4822

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY FROM COMEUNITY AN ALTERNATIVE, INDEPENDENT JOURNAL

Congratulations to

The Syracuse Peace Council

The Socialist Party of New York State

We dedicate ourselves to the cause of peace, justice, and humanity.

113 University Station
Syracuse, N.Y. 13210

Congratulations with Hope for another 50 years and Peace!

Stephanie Leeds
Dave Bruni
Daniel Leeds

Community Writer’s Project Inc.
P.O.Box 6884
Syracuse, NY 13217

Co-Directors
Rachel Guido de Vries,
Jo Hunt Piersma,

472-0400

8 week workshops begin MARCH 17 in:

Fiction: Women only, or mixed group
Poetry: Men & Women, Third World
Literature: The Woman in Jewish Literature

Monthly open readings Weekend Workshops also offered

50th Anniversary
"A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death."

Martin Luther King, Jr.,
April 4, 1967

Spending priorities in our nation underscore the validity of that statement. As Douglas John Hall puts it, we live in a culture which has made a "covenant with death." But some of us persevere in trying to reverse the trend, looking forward to that day when the culture will have made a covenant with life.

Alan & Etta Peabody, Deansboro, N.Y.

"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."

Mahatma Gandhi

People for Animal Rights
148 W. Beard Ave.
Syracuse, N.Y. 13205
(315) 478-8521, 475-0062

Shalom
from The Syracuse Chapter of New Jewish Agenda

Don't let your medium get in the way of your message.

Do your printed pieces get in the way of what you're trying to say? Whatever you're trying to do - educate, communicate, sell a product or yourself - you'll do it better through a printed work of quality, and that includes quality typesetting. No typewriter, word processor or press-on lettering can make the impression that type does. The LetterCrafters provides state-of-the-art digital equipment and reasonable rates for jobs of all sizes, from display ads, business cards and resumes to brochures, newspapers and magazines. We'll help create a piece that gets your message across.

The LetterCrafters
501 W. Fayette St., Room 207
Syracuse, N.Y. 13204
(315) 471-8112
MAY WE REALIZE ALL OUR ASPIRATIONS OF THE PAST HALF CENTURY.

Doris Chertow
County Legislator
Almost as difficult as winning the peace is the effort to constantly maintain the struggle. This effort is even more demanding in the 1980's USA with militarism and right-wing influence on the increase. SPC has been a beacon of perseverance and creativity in this struggle. May its feisty role continue until flowers, smiles, and justice cover the earth.

-DikCool for the SYRACUSE CULTURAL WORKERS
An organization born of the Syracuse Peace Council in 1982

CONGRATULATIONS SPC

NEW from SYRACUSE CULTURAL WORKERS
International Women NOTECARDS
Woman to Woman
by Jan Phillips

A beautiful six notecard packet of full color photographs by Jan Phillips. Intimate portraits reflecting our vitality, our weatheredness, our solitude and togetherness. A sensitive and serious look into the eyes of women from China, India, Greece, Hawaii and the Himalayas. Blank inside with warm comments by Jan on the back. 5x7, 6/$7 by mail.

Syracuse Cultural Workers, Box 6367, Syracuse, NY 13217 (315) 474-1132
Send 50c for our full color catalog of posters, cards, calendars.

Happy International Women's Day MARCH 8

CONGRATULATIONS!
K. K. S. productions

NUCLEAR WEAPONS FREEZE
OF CENTRAL NEW YORK
P.O. BOX 394 SYRACUSE, NEW YORK 13214

SPC 50th Anniversary
It is an inspiring story, the story of the Syracuse Peace Council, a tiny but marvelous piece of mosaic of the lost and rediscovered American history. —Howard Zinn
Against the Odds
The Story of the Syracuse Peace Council
by Ruth Geller

The text which follows has been excerpted from the first draft of Against the Odds: The Story of the Syracuse Peace Council by Ruth Geller. The book is being published by the Syracuse Cultural Workers, with a publication date of September 1, 1986. For information about supporting the book, see the facing page. These excerpts have been selected and edited by Andy Mager. Please do not reprint any of this material without permission.

The Peace Bishop

In 1935, at a time when pacifists were becoming increasingly concerned about the drift toward war, a group had begun meeting at The Tea Kettle, a basement coffee shop on East Genesee Street in downtown Syracuse. There they would gather at a round table in the corner and talk about war, and peace. Among the group were Horace and Emily Eaton, active pacifists and socialists, Luther Wesley Smith, the minister of the First Baptist Church, Mrs. Morton Adkins, a woman whose wealth and community influence was largely a result of her family's ownership of the Hubbard Pharmaceutical Company, Mildred Whitney, a high school science teacher, Florence Fowler, a Quaker, and her son Albert, who had cerebral palsy. It was difficult for Albert at first, he was self-conscious about his movements and speech; but soon he became more comfortable with the group. One reason for this was the presence of Mildred Whitney's brother, Norman.

Norman Whitney was a talkative, outgoing, compassionate man who knew how to listen to other people, to be sensitive to their incapacities and abilities, and to encourage them in their strength. He was born—he was to write years later—in Western New York, "far enough from the wicked city of Buffalo to escape metropolitan contamination, but near enough for identification." In 1913 he left home with his sister Mildred to attend Alfred University, and in 1919 he came to Syracuse University to teach English.

Ruth Geller is the author of three books of fiction, including Seed of a Woman, an historical novel about the Women's movement, and Triangles. She writes on social issues for a wide variety of publications; and her short fiction is included in the anthologies Nice Jewish Girls and The Things that Divide Us. She lives in Buffalo, and is a board member of the W.N.Y. chapter of Women's Action for Nuclear Disarmament, and the W.N.Y. Peace Center.
for Peace and Freedom, the Committee on Militarism in Education, and the War Resisters League. Booth space was at first refused by the Fair's General Manager because "the purpose and spirit of some of the written material might be construed as interfering with and dangerous to tariff and other governmental policies." But space eventually was granted, and a list of names was gathered of people who were, as Norman put it, "genuinely interested in doing something to secure peace by peace means."

The 1939 State Fair Booth shows SPC's early commitment to public outreach. Booths at the State Fair have continued sporadically during the past 50 years.

In the spring of 1939, Mildred Whitney and Adelaide Webster accompanied Norman on a trip to Alfred, New York, where he was to speak at the graduation of his alma mater. Mildred was driving, and Adelaide was looking out the window at the countryside. The two women had been chatting when all of a sudden Norman reached into his jacket pocket, took out a little notebook and said, "What am I going to say to these people?" Adelaide looked at him and said, "You mean you don't have your speech all... all ready and put away in your pocket?"

"No," he said. "I'll have to think."

"Well, we'd better be quiet," Adelaide told Mildred, but Norman said, "Oh, no! I can think while you're talking, don't keep quiet, just keep right on talking."

They'd started out late, and in spite of Mildred's fast driving, they arrived at the University late. They expected to find a crowded auditorium, and people anxiously watching out for their arrival so that they could start the program. But the auditorium was empty, and it turned out that they'd come one month too early, one month to the day. Norman's confusion about the dates surprised Adelaide because he was usually so precise, and it pointed out to her what she already knew, that he was terribly overworked.

Peacework During War Time

He was to continue to be overworked. On September 1, 1939, Germany attacked Poland, and Great Britain and France declared war.

During the war years, Norman Whitney took a leave of absence from his position at Syracuse University to work for the American Friends Service Committee; and he spent much of his time travelling to the Civilian Public Service camps (internment camps for conscientious objectors during World War II) to offer friendship, counselling and support to the young men. In January 1943, he wrote:

I went to the camps because I wanted to share at first hand something of how the men are living and what they are thinking... I have memories of fire drills in Massachusetts, of louse hunts in New Hampshire, of rain making in Ohio, of mountainside vespers in Pennsylvania. I recall hours of potato peeling and dishwashing—seem to have specialized in KP—and bull sessions that lasted half way through the night. I have tried to see the camps through the eyes of the campers... As far as possible—as far as they and the circumstances will allow—I should like to identify myself with them.

Given that he might have romanticized the lives of these "campers," he nevertheless had an "urgent need to communicate with the young men whose faith I shared but whose experience was denied by the accident of age," and he began corresponding with them. As his contacts increased, his correspondence became unmanageable, and he took to writing a monthly mimeographed letter he called The Spectator Papers. The idea for the monthly letters, he said, was suggested by "A Letter to Peace Lovers" sent by the English feminist-pacifist writer Vera Brittain during World War I. He called them The Spectator Papers not only because of his function in the letters as an observer of life, but because of his relationship with his readers in the CPS Camps. "On my continuing visits," he said, "I never left a camp or prison without feeling that, try as I might to share the experience of these men whom I so loved and admired, I was in some sense a spectator. I could go; they must remain."

Jean Young of the Friends Meeting, Emil S. Evertz, of the German-American Relief Society, and Ray Fuller of the Peace Council, prepare clothing for shipment to Germany in 1947. The Post-Standard called SPC, "One of the outstanding world relief agencies." Post-Standard photo
A posed photo of some of the Peace Council's Executive Committee from the 20th Birthday Dinner in 1956.

Connections to Gandhi

Several months after Norman's last Annual Report (1956), he met Rajendra Nanavati, a soft-spoken young man who was to have a quiet but important effect on the Peace Council in the 1960's. Raj, as he was called, had long talks with Norman about Gandhi's theories of nonviolence, and his experiences in the Indian Independence Movement.

Raj had become aware of India's social and political upheavals in 1942, when he was twelve years old. He remembers,

"There was an excitement in the country at the time, and what Gandhi was pro-yoing seemed right to me, even at such an age, and it felt good to be a part of that. Many young people were a part of the nonviolent movement, and it was apparent to me that this was a movement which everyone could participate in—the old, the young, the men, the women. There was a real camaraderie between the people who were actively involved in the movement, and a feeling that the goal of obtaining freedom was possible. You didn't know why, but that feeling was certainly there."

On a visit to his uncle in Bombay who had a house on a beachfront, Raj learned that at a nearby beach there was to be a meeting at which Gandhi was to speak. It was a common practice among Hindus to have an evening prayer as a salutation to the interval between day and night, and Gandhi utilized that custom to have what he called "prayer meetings." Raj attended the meeting and listened to Gandhi speak about the Indian Independence Movement, and his hopes and wishes for India.

"I'd never seen him in person, and having heard so much of him, I thought he'd be a big man, a strong man. But he was very frail looking, and I was very impressed by the humility that I saw in him. He was clearly a great man, but he was humble, and he talked softly. He wasn't a great orator, but you paid attention to every word he spoke, and there was no doubt in my mind that he was a very genuine person. I was sure that every word he said was not something he was just telling people but was part of his own life."

Raj became active in the Indian Independence movement, and dedicated to the methods of active noncooperation and nonviolence, and to the Gandhian concept of "satyagraha." As he explains it:

"When people talk of 'pacifism' there is often the negative connotation of being passive. Satyagraha means insistence upon truth, literally. Asserting your belief in freedom and peace. Gandhi said that the methods that you use to gain peace must themselves be peaceful, otherwise you subvert the ends, become corrupted. He was an idealistic person who was practical about trying to gain freedom for India in a method that was consistent with the ends that you seek."

Raj came to America in 1949 to study, first in Cambridge and later in Cleveland. In both places he sought out Quakers, and coming to Syracuse in 1956 he did the same. At a Friends' Meeting, he met Mildred and Norman Whitney, who introduced him to the Peace Council, where he was to influence local acceptance of the nonviolent direct action that had been taking place on a national level for several years.

"Now More Than Ever"

...Some felt that it was a wise decision to make while the Council was still financially solvent. (In 1966, there was talk of disbanding the organization.) But Raj Nanavati disagreed. He had closely followed
the history of Viet Nam since the mid-fifties, and knew
that the rhetoric that was coming from Washington was
completely distorted and incorrect. "And you can't just
stand by and have something like that go on and not do
something about it," he said. "Now of course what an
individual can do may seem like next to nothing, but if
enough individuals join together into a movement, things
can happen. I had seen it happen in India."
He voiced strong opposition to closing the Peace
Council, and said that at this particular time in history
there was a greater need for such an organization than
ever before. He felt that the Council could function
without a chairman, but it would mean that each member
of the Executive Committee would be forced to work with
greater zeal, and perhaps each member could chair on a
rotating basis. But he believed there were untapped
resources. Many people in Central New York were
vitally concerned about the war in Viet Nam and wanted
to participate in an effort to end it, he said. And the
Peace Council had to be there for them.
The Executive Committee was convinced, and
decided that in order for the Council to be effective it
must find new approaches and a new format to enlist
new members and contributors.

From G.E. to S.P.C.
Chris Murray had been a software designer for
General Electric, and lived in Oswego, a town about 40
miles north of Syracuse. "Like many people," she says,
"I became morally outraged over the war. The total car-
nage, the cultural annihilation. . . . We had absolutely
no right to be destroying those people." In 1971 she
began working with a small group in Oswego, one of the
groups started through Pat Vitacolonna's efforts to ini-
tiate semi-autonomous peace centers within a 50 mile
radius of Syracuse; and eventually she came to the
Peace Council office at the Church Center to lay out a
leaflet. She says:
Frankly, it was with an incredible amount of trepidation
that I walked into the Peace Council, knowing that I did not
look like what I thought most anti-war activists looked like.
I wore make-up and heels, I had my hair styled, I wore
dresses. . . . Also, I was very conscious of being a neophyte,
and understand my own lack of a broader political analysis.
I was of another generation in the sense that I was in my
early 30's. I had not gone through a process of rejecting
a lot of cultural stuff. All I knew was that I was outraged
about the war.
The avenue that lead her to quit her job at General
Electric and join staff was War Tax Resistance.

An outgrowth of the Hang Up on the War Project, a
national movement to resist paying the federal excise
tax on the phone bill, War Tax Resistance in Central
New York began in 1972. In that year; the I.R.S. had
made a change on the tax form that inadvertently made
it easier for people to withhold their income taxes as
a means of protest. As Chris describes it:

In the spring of 1972 a group of us got together: Peter
Wirth, Lillian Reiner, Beth Brown, Peter and Ruth Caplan,
Jerilyn and Jim Prior. The group in general was pretty mili-
tant Quakerist in its orientation. Everyone was frustrate-
d at the fact that nothing was seeming to work—letters, demon-
strations, meeting Congresspeople, whatever. So we formed
the War Tax Resistance Fund of the S.P.C. We were going
to withhold all of our taxes, and then would pool the
money, and start funding alternative community projects.
It was a wonderful group because it built its own sense
of community and our work, in addition to outreach, was basi-
cally administering the funds, and recycling the money.
At the very beginning we had two or three very nicely salaried
resisters, one of whom was me, and we actually fed the
funds for quite awhile. We would make an interest free
loan to a group, and when they would pay it back we
would loan it to another group.

In September 1972 the fund made its first loan of
$150 to the Eastwood Tenants' Association. Among the
organizations it loaned money to were the Boston Bail
Project, Glad Day Press in Ithaca, and in Syracuse the
Women’s Information Center, the Citizen’s Prison Committee, The Kid Co-op, and the Peace Council. As Chris says,

"Basically we were concerned that the group represented an alternative to existing society. There were worker owned industries in Syracuse at the time that included an auto shop, an electronics shop, an alternative bakery. It was much more important to us that these groups were structured in decentralized, shared decision-making ways than say, use only whole wheat flour. That’s what we were looking for: an alternative political and social structure.

This increased political activism lead Chris to think about her own life. Having worked in computers since 1958, she was fairly well established in her profession, and though her work was not involved directly in any kind of military application, ultimately she knew it could be used in that way. In addition, though her perspective at the time was strictly an anti-militarist rather than an anti-corporate one, she nevertheless saw that General Electric was clearly profiting from Vietnam being the prototype of the electronic battlefield. In 1971 alone, for example, G.E. had been awarded Department of Defense contracts totalling over one billion dollars. G.E. might be "bringing good things to life," in the United States, but it was bringing Vulcan cannons and F-4 jets to Vietnam.

I was already tormented in terms of my work, but also, on a day to day level, I couldn’t stand it anymore: I couldn’t stand the mentality I was surrounded with: ranging at the very best as apathy toward the war, to a real cold war mentality. I felt like I was working in an environment that was so war-based and war-oriented, that it had created Vietnam. So I was torn.

By this time, the Peace Council had moved to its new house on Burnet Avenue, and she would, as she says, "run down on my lunch hour just to be around people who shared my values."

Quitting General Electric

It was a horrible conflict for me—I was feeling very fractured. But what finally pushed me out of the door of General Electric was the tax resistance. Tax resistance said to me, I am challenging an illegal system.' But it felt like I was still participating in it to too great an extent. I just couldn’t reconcile it, and that was basically why I decided to leave G.E. I felt this incredible urge to make my life conform to my mode of resistance. And I left as a political act.

Up to that point she’d had a certain financial responsibility for her family, but those things had drastically changed, leaving her free to follow her conscience; and with the encouragement of friends she wrote a letter explaining what she was doing, and why, and sent it to about 200 people at G.E. She describes the results:

I was immediately called in by three different supervisors, all of whom felt compelled to explain to me why they chose to remain! One said, ‘I would much rather be at Upstate Medical Center designing heart machines, but this is where my country needs me!’

In March 1973, Chris became a staffperson at the house on Burnet Avenue she’d visited during so many lunch hours.

We all know that the history of the Syracuse Peace Council does not end here. Against the Odds will bring the history of the Peace Council right up to 1985. The growing effect of feminism on the peace movement, the rise of the anti-nuclear power movement, coalition politics and the struggles against a growing right-wing movement in this country will be among the issues addressed in the final chapters of the book. Don’t miss it.
The Front Room Bookstore:
Ten Years of Liberating Literature

by Carol Baum

December 1, 1975 was the grand opening of The Front Room Bookstore, located literally in the front room of the Syracuse Peace Council house on Burnet Avenue. Only hours before, the Front Room collective was nervously awaiting a UPS book delivery (which did come) and staining newly-made bookshelves. The celebration was well attended and people seemed favorably impressed. A collective member chuckles, remembering when Lillian Reiner walked in, stopped sharply, turned completely around and said, "This sure isn’t much of a bookstore!" Lillian's library at home held about as many titles as The Front Room did then.

The Front Room had grown out of the SPC Literature Committee, which was organized by Dik Cool in 1971. The Literature Committee sold pamphlets on the Viet Nam war at anti-war events. After SPC moved into its house in 1972, literature was also displayed in the front room. The committee published a mail-order catalog in 1974, including materials on feminism, economics, Native Americans, health care and ecology, "since SPC realizes that the struggle to end war and violence can't be separated from efforts to end exploitation and injustice."

They bought these from small publishers and movement groups. Dik, Carolyn Graydon, Pat Sullivan and Rick Slater were the stalwarts of the committee. To this day Front Room bank statements are addressed to the Syracuse Peace Council Literature Committee c/o Carolyn Graydon.

By the spring of 1975 the Literature Committee was Barb Kobritz, Lisa Johns, Lois Levitan and Dik. The committee discussed expanding the children's section and every other section too. The idea of starting a bookstore came up and the response was enthusiastic. So they proposed to set up a bookstore in the front room, "with the potential to expand into part of the second room" (which was realized 9 years later!), which would be financially separate from SPC, pay its own staffperson, and make its own decisions.

The summer was consumed with bookstore meetings. The first problem was naming the store. SPC staffperson John Maddaus eventually suggested calling it The Front Room, to which the committee as a whole replied, "OK" (we still want a more exciting name). Then there was the problem of buying books. The War Tax Resistance Fund loaned the store $1500 and an Ithaca bookstore

(cont. on page 19)
donated books. Erwin Reiner made shelves and the committee worked madly to make the store attractive. Barb became the staffperson (and unfortunately never did get paid), public service announcements went out, and the store opened.

There have been slow changes and growth over ten years. Our vision has remained remarkably consistent. We have continued to seek books on issues of peace and justice, paying special attention to alternative presses. Ordering has gone through phases, tending to be closely related to SPC’s interests, although we do put more money into things that actually sell. For a while it was China; then came Cuba, and later nuclear energy. For the last few years the collection has focused on women’s issues, kids, disarmament, and Central America, and has been expanded to include more records, t-shirts, posters, buttons and stickers.

The Front Room has always been collectively run. Most work gets done by regular volunteers, Front Room staffpeople (of which there is usually one), and the collective, which is those people willing to take responsibility for the store. By the end of 1978 the collective had dwindled to Lois and DK, and I joined in early 1979. Several years later Jean Wittman and Katie Froelich joined. Currently Jean and I form the collective and there are 10 other people responsible for specific areas. It’s great -- we can do so much more!

Over the years we’ve produced catalogs, fliers, a monthly Peace Newsletter ad, had used book sales and two Tax Day sales to entice people into the store. However, since opening day we’ve depended on bringing books to people, and have toted boxes of books and buttons to countless events. We even set up a Front Room booth at the 1982 New York State Fair. It took a massive amount of energy, we barely broke even, but we were clearly an alternative presence.

Our most noticeable changes have been in the physical set-up of the store. In our eternal quest to maintain a pleasant environment while fitting too many things into too small a space we have rearranged, built bookcases and actually bought display racks. In a bold experiment to reach more people, the Front Room became a chain and we opened The Front Room Too downtown next to On the Rise in October, 1983. We eventually realized that the humidity of bread baking doesn’t mix with the book business, so we returned to SPC in January, 1985. Since we couldn’t bear to put everything back into that small front room (especially after having just learned the importance of facing books out) we proposed that the store move into the front two rooms. We’re there now.

The Front Room continues to struggle with many issues. How can we make the store more enticing? Are we a bookstore or a big literature committee? How can we be more politically effective and financially stable? The Front Room is an important resource for the local peace and justice movement and we are excited by our work. The "we" at The Front Room is constantly changing -- many people have made significant contributions. If you’d like to get involved, please call.

It’s our Tenth Anniversary, a time for reflection and celebration. We’re planning a party for the late spring. Watch the Peace Newsletter for details.

Carol has been a Front Room staffperson for 6 years and is now the world’s foremost authority on TFR history.

Thank You and Happy Birthday on your first 50 years.

May there not be a need for a second 50!

Love,
Tosh &
Pete Seeger

In Solidarity for the Next 50 Years
War Resisters League

Are you fed up with seeing high school students bombarded with military personnel, propaganda, and paraphernalia?
Are you tired of being chased off high school grounds? Or find your organizing efforts as a high school student undercut?

Then try the WRL High School Organizing Packet. It won’t brighten your teeth, develop your sex appeal, or even give you longer life—but it will give you ideas and encouragement, which should improve your ability to reach and help high school students.

This Packet includes:
• comprehensive organizing guide
• students’ First Amendment rights
• resource list
• 12 case histories of successful organizing efforts

Send $6 (35 plus $1 postage) to the HS Packet, War Resisters League, 339 Lafayette Street, New York NY 10012.
Words worth saving

I was asked for an article on the PNL.
I wrote one - it was dull - I thought Ah well
Why not do it in the rhyming style,
I haven't done that in quite a while.
So off I go picking lines by twos,
Telling you of the Peace Council's news.

The news is not good on the PNL scene
But it's finances, not contents that I mean.
The contents are super, just couldn't be better
News, reviews, letters to the editor
It stimulates our minds and sets us to thinking
But, meanwhile, the resources are sadly sinking.
The subscription rate of $8 a year
Should make it all so perfectly clear
(Oh no! that's an expression Nixon would use):
Better stick with words like "news" and "dues"!
Fees are paid for the postage and printing.
The volunteer hours are unrelenting.

Now I know most of you give to the SPC
And that's not what is bothering me.
The funding's just not there for the PNL,
Believe me, folks, it's not doing well.
So please add $ to your annual donation.
Show your support for our own publication.
Remove this debt from the SPC coffers.
They'll have funds to use so they can offer
Other exciting projects along the way.
After the staff have received their pay.

All together now: one, two three:
Hands in your pockets, just like me.
Pull out the money and away we go.
Run to the Post Office - don't be slow!
Fill in the coupon I made for you,
And a year from now, please renew!

Sally Brulé

Subscribe to the
Peace Newsletter

☐ enclosed for 1 year's subscription, $8
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NAME ________________________________
ADDRESS ________________________________
CITY __ STATE ZIP __

☐ new, please add me to the mailing list

CONGRATULATIONS
FROM SPC PRESS!
PROUD TO BE A PART OF THE
SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL'S
TRADITION OF WORKING
FOR PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

AMY, JUDY, & BILL GRIFFEN

Thornden Morris
wishes
Syracuse Peace Council
Happy 50th Anniversary

The Syracuse Thornden Morris is a team of women dancing ancient English dances to celebrate the Earth's seasons. The exuberance of our dances serves to cast off the Winter and awaken the Spring, revel in the growth of Summer, and share in the prosperity of the Harvest.

We are honored to pass on these centuries-old traditions and to reaffirm our connectedness to Nature and to each other. For more information about learning Morris dances, or to know our dance-out schedule, call Shirley Novak at 446-6099.

women's info center
a place for women to find answers, support, connections and help with a variety of problems

Call us, or drop by
478-4636
601 Allen Street

SFC 50th Anniversary
Dear Friend of Peace:

You have said that you do not want war; that you want peace by peace means; that you want to do something about it. GOOD! Here are some practical suggestions of things that need doing at once.

I. PEACE ACTION EVERYWHERE NEEDS FINANCIAL SUPPORT

You gave us your name weeks, perhaps months, ago. If you have not heard from us before, it is simply because we did not have enough postage stamps. War appropriations of the government for this year of peace amount to a tax of $8.00 on every man, woman, and child in the country. If you want peace, you can help in these small ways.

A. You can send us a book of twenty-five one-cent stamps. Postage is the life-blood of peace action. Even smaller amounts will help; ten stamps or even five will be welcome. We cannot keep in touch with you without a one-cent stamp for each letter.

B. If you are able to do more, you can send us a dollar or more to buy a Peace Bond. Every bond sold does four things: 1. It provides a year's subscription to PEACE ACTION, a monthly bulletin of peace to keep you up-to-date on the peace news of the world. 2. It gives you a chance to vote on five current peace issues of importance to be acted on by the present Congress. 3. It helps support the nation-wide program of the National Council for the Prevention of War - largest unendowed peace organization in the country, and in our belief the one with the most practical plans. 4. 40% of every bond goes to the support of the local peace movement in your community. PEACE BONDS are cheaper than WAR BONDS! If you know others in your community, your church, your school or club who might be interested, BECOME A BOND SALESMAN; complete information furnished on request.

II. PEACE ACTION NEEDS PERSONAL SUPPORT

Peace Action tries to focus the peace sentiment of the nation on the 532 men and women in Congress who control our destinies. You can send telegrams and letters to your representatives at Washington on specific issues as they arise.

ENLIST FOR PEACE AGAINST WAR. Other things you can do:

A. Send us the names of people of your acquaintance who would like to share in our program. Every name added to our list is a potential recruit. But remember, every new name means another postage stamp!

B. You can take a peace census of your community. This is one of our most necessary tasks. Ask us for details.

C. If you know three people willing to work, you can form a Peace Action Committee of your own. Advice and assistance gladly given.

A Peace Action Handbook telling you how to do it - 25 cents.

III. PEACE ACTION NEEDS THE SUPPORT OF PUBLIC OPINION

In each issue of the NEWSLETTER we shall recommend one good book to read. This time it is PEACE WITH HONOUR, by A.A. Milne, Dutton, N.Y., $2.00. This is a devastating attack on the war system because it is so completely logical and good-humored. Get it from your public library or form a reading circle to buy it and pass it around. You can also subscribe to WORLD EVENTS for only 25 cents; address Nofrontier News Service Wilton, Conn. The valuable MONITOR NEWS is presented Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 1:45 P.M. over NBC network; listen to the NEWS over WSYR in Syracuse.

THESE ARE THINGS YOU CAN DO FOR PEACE. WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU?

Write The Peace Committee, 301 YMCA Building, Syracuse, N.Y.
The fiftieth anniversary of the Syracuse Peace Council is also the fiftieth anniversary of the Peace Newsletter. That means that for one half of a century, there has been a continuous progressive voice in Syracuse. For most of those years, the PNL was a two-page mimeographed broadside, not the sophisticated voice of progressive thought and action that it is today.

All kidding aside, it was hard to choose articles for a four-page retrospective. Since peace is the Syracuse Peace Council's middle name, we chose mostly articles on war and peace issues. No slight was intended to the many struggles fought over the years by the SPC for freedom and justice. Let's remember that by working together we can have our goal of peace and justice before another fifty years passes.

February 1938:
America Contradicts Itself

ON JAPAN
1938-After an artificially stimulated 'revolution' supported by American forces, the government of Hawaii was overthrown and the Islands were 'voluntarily' annexed by the United States.
1931-After an artificially stimulated 'revolution' supported by Japanese forces, the government of Manchuria was overthrown and the territory was 'voluntarily annexed' by the Empire. What's the difference? To what extent can we reasonably expect the Japanese (who are thoroughly informed of these facts) to be impressed by the high moral tone of our present attitude?
1937-We send our diplomats to Brussels to condemn Japan as the aggressor in an undeclared war in China. At the same time we continue to supply Japan with the materials for that aggression.
1938-On January 12 there sailed out of Delaware harbor, with the knowledge and consent of the State Department, a ship, flying the Nazi flag, bound for Japan, loaded with 20,000 Pennsylvania-made aerial bombs. At the same time, Mr. Hull was writing a letter explaining that dropping bombs on Chinese civilians-or American gunboats-is ghastly inhumanity. True. But Mr. Hull deliberately refuses to apply the neutrality law which would have prevented the bomb shipment.

March 1938: PNL Warns of War Hysteria

WARNING: Be alert for war scares, warship manoeuvers, troop movements, propaganda-radio, press, screen-about "sanctity of treaties" and "Democracies standing together." (Meaning US and Great Britain vs. Japan!)
The Panay incident was a flop. The American people refused to get excited. But there will be other incidents played up to the limit. Don't let them upset you. The Administration is in earnest, and while it does not want war, neither did Woodrow Wilson.

1943:

May 12, 1943: COMICS NO LONGER COMIC
Margaret Frakes a few months ago discussed the effects of the 15,000,000 copies of comic magazines sold each month in this country; she wrote: "The real effect can be obtained only from taking in the garishly colored pictures on the horror-packed pages; long-fanged and sharp-horned 'Japs' (snarling monsters with brilliant yellow skins, leering eyes, cavernous jaws); machine guns mowing down hordes of Japanese attackers; flames consuming men and ships and cities; bodies from which flesh is being torn by strange 'scientific' monsters; grisly skeletons leering even in death; and through it all, superhuman heroes defying the laws of nature to gain final victory...."

"The nightmarish fears being engendered," she continues, "along with the wishful thinking aroused by the dependence on miracles as the way of escape from all danger, are tragic enough. But even more terrifying is the prospect of a young generation being inculcated with a hate and color prejudice which will make post-war tolerance and understanding a practical impossibility...."

December 20, 1943
WAR GUILT
The punishment of Axis leaders guilty of fomenting war has stirred the imagination of a teenage southern Negro girl. Her suggestion for appropriate punishment to Hitler is this: "Just blacken his face and make him live in the South."

January 18, 1946: SPC 10th Anniversary

Jan 18, 1946: PNL #10
THANK YOU, ONE AND ALL Our Tenth Birthday Party was a great success. Attendance was nearly double that of last year; "presents" were correspondingly generous. Bertha Bracey's message, "Roots of Order and Disorder in Europe" was a moving one; Sylvia Blom-Hansen played two beautiful numbers on the piano--"A good time was had by all." One friend wrote, "Last evening was more wonderful than I can express....the
enclosed gift... so proud of you all... a magnificent job... happy to be a part of the occasion." Another congratulated us on a decade of service, hoped we would live to be a hundred. A wire received during the evening read: "Appreciating fine work done. Looking forward with you."

July 14, 1950: SPC Remembers Hiroshima

THINKING ABOUT KOREA? A BOMB FELL ON HIROSHIMA. REMEMBER?

At exactly fifteen minutes past eight in the morning, on August 6, 1945, Japanese time, at the moment when the atomic bomb flashed above Hiroshima, Miss Toshiko Sasaki, a clerk in the personnel department of the East Asia Tin Works, had just sat down at her place in the plant office and was turning her head to speak to the girl at the next desk. At the same moment... A hundred thousand people were killed... And the same moment, according to Hanson Baldwin, military editor of the New York Times, marked the end of the moral leadership of America.

THE CRY OF THE CHILDREN

On February 24, 1950, observed around the globe as World Day of Prayer, 600 high school girls in Hiroshima in a meeting of their student council, at which no teachers were present, engaged in a two-hour prayer meeting. They then drafted a letter to President Truman, Prime Minister Stalin and Secretary-General Trygve Lie. Then each of the 600 girls signed her name.

"On this World Day of Prayer we bring to mind the horrible experience at the time of the atomic bomb, and we feel deeply the urgent need of a world peace for the sake of the welfare of all people. That day on which our dear fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters and friends were taken from us, on that day tens of thousands in Hiroshima lost their lives as victims of the atomic bomb, and the city full of life until that morning was burned to ashes in but a few seconds. And it was thought that never again would we be able to stand up. The grievous calls for help which came from under the fallen buildings lying within the devouring fire which had wrapped the completely destroyed city are still calling us and pushing us into the road to peace.

"We do not want others to suffer this piteous tragedy which war has brought to us. No matter how science may prosper, man cannot make man. When we think how important each individual is, and of how lightly they were treated in the war, we firmly pray that such a thing will never happen again...

"But as long as weapons exist we firmly believe that we cannot hope for true peace. We pray that the large sums used for armaments will be turned to render services for the happiness of mankind.

WE JOIN YOUR PRAYERS

"Dear Young People of Hiroshima:

"As a youth group vitally interested in world peace, we are taking up your plea in the United States. The people of our country can never begin to comprehend the suffering which you have experienced. We sincerely hope that the growing concern on the part of young people of the world will help prevent another war.

"Efforts on the part of some of our leaders have already been made in the form of proposals toward disarmament and aid to underdeveloped countries. We believe, as you do, that weapons are not a means to peace, and therefore, are discussing with adult guidance the problems we face in our desire for peace and the part that the young people must play...

"We join in your prayers for world peace and for competent leaders to make this peace lasting.

Sincerely yours,

Signed by thirty-one of forty-three high school students at a World Affairs Camp sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee at Camp Caronidowanna, Pa., June 23 to 30, 1950.

February 11, 1952: The Korean War Rages

KOREA: A Sergeant's View

The following news item came to us from London where it had been reprinted.
from the Belfast Telegraph of Nov. 16, 1952. An army
sergeant in Korea, embittered by the 'up and down'
battle for a hill, losing it, taking it and losing it again,
asked: "What is it all about?"

In a letter to the Syracuse (New York) Herald-
Journal, Sergeant Bill Smyth said: "They tell us to
take a hill—we take the hill; they tell us to retreat—
we retreat; they tell us to take it again—the poor kids
in this division don't know what it all about. Why
doesn't someone tell them? We have no leadership—
up and down, up and down. Can't the newspapers do
something—someone has got to."

The Herald-Journal sent the letter to President-
elect Eisenhower, thinking he might have the answer.
But Sergeant Smyth will never know it. He is dead.

October, 1963: PNL Attacks Local Racism

THE SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL STATEMENT ON RACE
RELATIONS IN SYRACUSE

The Syracuse Peace Council is deeply concerned
about the racial situation in Syracuse. Although the
Peace Council is primarily devoted to the cause of
peace, it realizes that peace cannot be achieved while
a significant minority of our citizens must endure rac-

There are several specific questions which deserve
attention. The Negro does not enjoy full equality of
opportunity in three broad areas of his existence: ed-
cation, employment, and housing. We submit that
now is the time for all citizens of Syracuse to work
together to see that significant progress is achieved
in these and other areas. We must not make the Negro
wait another 100 years before he can enjoy the full
blessings of citizenship in our city.

How are these objectives to be achieved? Full
implementation of existing laws is one method. Where
the present laws are weak, we must see to it that they
are strengthened. However, laws alone are not suffi-
cient. Segregation will not vanish until each of us
honestly seeks to destroy the seed of discrimination
within himself and helps others to do likewise. As for
civil disobedience, we do not take a position for or
against it, but we fully support those who, in a spirit
of creative non-violence, feel morally compelled to
make this form of witness.

"but the new wood springs
from the roots underground..."

happy birthday, SPC

love,
Glenda Neff

August 18, 1964: LBJ in Syracuse

From the steps of the beautiful new Samuel New-
house Communications Center at Syracuse University
came the words: "Aggression—deliberate, willful, and
systematic aggression—has unmasked its face to the en-
tire world. The world remembers, the world must never
forget that aggression unchallenged is aggression un-
leashed."

President Johnson, the speaker of these words, was
in town last week, and he chose the dedication of a
school for the training of professional workers in the
news media to make this major public statement on the
Vietnam crisis.

We were not on hand a short time later when John-
son spoke at the University, but those who saw the re-
broadcast of the speech reported that the words "Aggre-
sion—deliberate, willful, and systematic aggression"
evoked only restrained applause, no stampede of emo-
tional nationalism.

Perhaps calls for an expanded war in Vietnam re-
sult in public apathy not public enthusiasm. If so, we
have a real opportunity to appeal for an end to this ter-
rible war which has continued for nineteen years.


On March 19, the Syracuse peace movement, in
cooperation with movement groups in other central New
York towns, pulled off the largest and best organized
anti-draft demonstration in the country that day. 2500
persons picketed the Syracuse Induction Center to pro-
test the processing of men for the military, for the war
in Vietnam. Hundreds of persons sat down in front of a bus load of inductees to keep them from entering the center. That effort was completely successful. At 1:30 after four hours of being surrounded by demonstrators, and after 110 arrests, the bus backed up and returned the unprocessed men to Utica, from where they had originally come...

It must be said, however, that although the bus went back to Utica, every day men will still be inducted in Syracuse, and while the draft board closed until Monday, the Selective Service System continues to process men every day to be cannon fodder in Vietnam. Our victory was not that the induction center was closed down, for we really didn't do that; but rather that our action was a powerful symbol of the strength and power of great numbers of persons committed to non-violent action. If we continue to work, and work hard together, our movement will attain the power to stop the war in Vietnam and to stop militarism in our society.

January, 1972: Early Tom Peyer

El Salvador: A Warning

March 1980: Central America

CENTRAL AMERICA-CRESCENDO OF VIOLENCE

The military-civilian junta governing El Salvador is once again in crisis and it now appears that the country's slide into civil war cannot be halted. The government, which overthrew the dictatorship of General Carlos Humberto Romero in October of last year, has been trying to strike a centrist political balance in a situation where reconciliation between poor and rich, between left and right, is almost impossible. Instead the five person junta has become just one more on the list of authoritarian governments which El Salvador has suffered under since 1932.

Greetings & Congratulations

Albany Friends Meeting appreciates
The Syracuse Peace Council's
50 years of work for peace
in the world.

Albany Monthly Meeting
Religious Society of Friends
727 Madison Ave.
Albany, N.Y. 12208
Tear gas and gunpowder are becoming common scents in the capital city of San Salvador. Various groups of the left have seized embassies, government offices, churches and schools to bring attention to their demands for release of political prisoners, education and work for all, and participation in the government by the people's political organizations. The government response has been to stiffen the repression.

The right wing, which still controls important cabinet posts, the bulk of the army, and a 100,000 person paramilitary spying organization known as ORDEN (order), has vowed to exterminate the popular organizations and rejects any dialog between the government and the left.

June, 1981:

Syracuse Heard Around the World

On May 9, and in the week preceding it, hundreds of Syracuse area people delivered a courageous, visible and principled message to Alexander Haig, to the Reagan administration, to Chancellor Melvin Eggers and to the world. That message was, quite simply, that we do not accept murderous and inhumane policies abroad or at home -- no matter what the "official" rationale for such policies might be. By our actions we also said: NO we do not acquiesce, NO we will not be 'nice' and 'polite', NO we will not be invisible. We WILL speak out against injustice.

The diversity and spontaneity of responses at S.U. and in the community was truly remarkable and heartening. Collectively and individually people chose their path of protest: S.U. students formed the Ad Hoc Committee for a Fair Commencement. Many meetings, leaflets and news conferences followed. Finally, a decision was reached to wear red armbands (500-1,000 did) and to walk out at the beginning of Haig's speech (about 200 did, joined by some faculty). People also carried several banners around the dome floor and stood with their backs turned while Haig received his "honorable" degree.

The Community Committee To Welcome Haig organized the powerful theatrical action inside the dome. Throughout Haig's speech 8 bloody nuns, 2 death-spectres and 8 bloody peasants, representing some of the 19,000 people slain in El Salvador, stood with fingers accusingly pointed. Surrounding them were 200 people acting as supporters, bannerholders, peacekeepers and chanters.

This scary, demanding, yet empowering action was made even more difficult since it was organized in near secrecy. The effectiveness of our efforts became clear in succeeding days as we learned that both AP and UPI carried stories and photos as did most major city newspapers across the country. Two national TV networks, (NBC carried our diploma; see pg. 14) covered it, and local TV and radio coverage was extensive. The Syracuse Herald-American even carried an incredible full-color photo. A notable exception to the reasonably good, though frequently garbled, coverage was WCNY (NET) which basically ignored the protest even going so far as to not say why Moses Finley (an honorary degree recipient who refused to attend because of Haig) was not present. Liberation News Service, the Guardian and Fellowship magazine have also carried stories. Unexpectedly, the SPC office began receiving calls from groups around the country who were excited, proud and congratulatory. Our spirits soared.

The opposition, of course, used a number of the predictable techniques to discredit and divide us. Among them were red baiting (Post-Standard); the "outside agitator" ploy (Eggers and his PR man Julian); and the "small minority" tact (Haig). Such techniques are routinely used to deflect attention from real issues -- such as people being killed in El Salvador.

But clearly our message had been heard. In the coming months and years the same message will increasingly be heard across this land as people intensify our continuing struggle for the ideals of freedom, justice and peace.
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In the Looking Glass: The Syracuse

1) What do you see as SPC's role in the CNY peace and justice movement? What are the most valuable contributions from SPC?
2) Why have you worked with SPC? If you haven't, why?
3) What can SPC do better? What good advice do you have for the future work of SPC?

These three general questions were posed to solicit perspectives on the Syracuse Peace Council in 1986. Activists from within SPC and from other CNY peace organizations provide a variety of viewpoints constrained, unfortunately, by space and deadlines. Your thoughts on SPC are always welcome. Write them down and send to SPC, 924 Burnet Ave, Syracuse, NY 13203.

Carol Baum

Special contributions are easier to write about than SPC's role:
--our multi-issue perspective is both one of our greatest strengths and weaknesses.
--house resources, such as The Front Room Bookstore, SPC Press, the lay-out room, the magazines, newsletters, mailings we get, are available to anyone walking in the door.
--SPC being 50 years old does make a difference. Lots of people and organizations know us, which makes us a wonderful organization for networking. SPC has been a training ground for numerous activists who have since moved on.
--The Peace Newsletter is a key publication in the CNY peace movement, providing analysis, information, reports, publicity and networking.

SPC has many of the same problems lots of other peace groups have. We need to learn how to integrate new people better. We could be more conscious in sharing skills and training people to be organizers. We need to take more risks and talk more with people not like us. We're good at one-time events; we need to initiate more ongoing projects. And of course sometimes we seem paralyzed by the question of how do we go from now to

John & Sally Brulé

It is inspirational and challenging to know that the Peace Council is still working and functioning fifty years after its establishment. The founders knew that it was not an easy course they were charting, and we all know that the struggle must still go on.

The Peace Council can only be as strong as we, its members, determine it to be. While the injustices are many in the world we perceive, nevertheless we must keep our efforts directed towards the basic need of all humanity, which is the elimination of the tools and mentality of militarism. As we go about our attempts at peace making we can renew our strength through our contacts with like-minded people and through the material we read in the Peace Newsletter.

New staff people will soon be joining the Peace Council and we should all work towards making their efforts meaningful to the community and to them. This golden anniversary is a time for renewal—let us continue the struggle.

Sally Brule' works with the Syracuse Cultural Workers and SPC. John brule' is active with United Campuses Against Nuclear War.

Lisa Johns

It is a triumph, not to be taken lightly, that SPC has survived 50 years—an institutional voice on peace and social justice issues, at the community level, for this duration of time is a remarkable achievement.

But our Peace Council is not in good health at the moment. For a variety of reasons that are understandable, and difficult to see how we might have avoided, it has become predominantly a counterculture organization, unable to communicate effectively with the community at large. Meanwhile, the initiatives on all sorts of critical
Peace Council in 1986

Issues are arising elsewhere, SPC hasn't a program anywhere, except broad opposition to US foreign policy and some ideas about how a good society might look. SPC isn't any ideas (program) for how to get from here to there--how to make its vision appealing to a larger audience. Hence, it doesn't try to communicate with that audience and often ends up offending it.

I think a major weakness, too, is our unwillingness to take what we're doing seriously enough to examine the effectiveness issue and admit there's a problem, and go taking some decisive steps. Brief words of advice: Take the effectiveness issue seriously. If we honestly think nuclear war is a possibility, we haven't the luxury of indulging our own anger and outrage; we have to figure out what we can do that actually might make a difference.

Recognize that the social climate has shifted, and we need to adjust what we do and how we communicate with people as a consequence. We are not effective when we close ourselves off in a counterculture ghetto.

As part of re-entry to the real world, resolve to offer a living wage to staff ($9-10,000 at minimum), and be prepared to make the institutional changes which will make that a possibility.

Find a way to contribute to the activism that has arisen elsewhere on disarmament or Central America or South Africa or (pick your issue). Don't take on too much. Define achievable goals, and begin the work of rebuilding.

Johns works on "Somos Vecinos," a newsletter Central America.

Kath Buffington

For three years SPC -- the institution and people -- was the most important thing in my life. I found friends, workers, information, ideas and a vibrant springboard section. Times and people change but bits of SPC will always be with me.

In gratitude to the friends I knew in SPC 35 years ago.

Prudence Wayland-Smith

Peter Kardas

The SPC is a breeding ground for organizers; it has The Front Room bookstore, the PNL, and a network of people who care about a wide variety of important matters--these are its strengths.

There are a number of things that it would be healthy for all of us in the peace movement to address--for instance, the question of how to begin challenging economic as well as political and cultural power in these United States--and on the shop floor as well as in our communities. We need to do this work not only in our writing and thinking, but also in practice, and we obviously cannot do it alone. Somehow we will have to learn to work with a variety of people from whom we are often estranged. I think in hard times like these that we will require being alert to dogmatic rigidity as well as to co-optation. And it will require that we avoid the seductive temptation of seeing our overall political weakness as a sign of strength.

Peter Kardas is the weapons conversion staffperson at the Syracuse office of American Friends Service Committee.

Andy Mager

I believe that SPC's most important current role is to serve as a clearinghouse and resource center for Central New York peace and justice groups.

I have had the opportunity to work both within the Peace Council and outside of it. I work with SPC because I share its vision of a world without violence and exploitation; and I believe that we must demonstrate the interconnections between issues. When I pull away from SPC it is through a combination of need and individual goals.

In the next 50 years I hope SPC can renew itself when the need arises. I also hope that SPC as a group and as individuals can be less "politically correct" and more open and accepting of the general population in Syracuse.

Kath Buffington is now living and working for peace in Allegany County.

Peter Kardas

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Peter Kardas is the weapons conversion staffperson at the Syracuse office of American Friends Service Committee.
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— Supporting Wildlife
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GENEVA NUCLEAR FREEZE

Freeze Now!
frustration with the many personal disagreements and sometimes feeling constrained by the beginnings of a sense of bureaucracy.

There has been very little local ongoing organizing coming out of SPC. It is time to focus energy on a nuclear-free zone campaign or something else which clearly involves the Syracuse community. Andy Mager is working with the Syracuse Cultural Workers on the production of the book, “Against the Odds: The Story of the Syracuse Peace Council.”

Liam Mahony

There are those who bemoan the fact that SPC is no longer the “hub” of peace-work in Central New York it once was. I have not been here long enough to know if it ever was, but if in fact this change has occurred, it is a comment on the growth and variety of the peace movement more than the weakness of SPC. Peace activity in Syracuse is very diffuse and decentralized, and despite disorganization or inefficiency that entails, I feel it enables more people to get involved. The things we take for granted - the Peace Newsletter, our office, The Front Room bookstore, staffed phones, the NVS Film series, etc. - these are our greatest strengths because they give us a visibility and solidity few other groups have. But we can’t just boast about them; we need to make better use of these resources. We need to make it easier and more comfortable for other groups to use them, and that means coming to grips in an active way with the alienation some activists and groups feel from SPC. Staff and SPC activists need to stress flexibility over political correctness.

Liam Mahony is an interim staffperson at SPC.

Nancy Tunnessen

The Syracuse Peace Council, that venerable pillar of the peace and justice community, has been poking and pricking Syracuse’s collective conscience for fifty years. Think of the energy, the persistence, the wisdom and the skills that are sheltered in that house on Burnet Avenue.

For an organization as relatively new as the Nuclear Weapons Freeze of Central New York, the Peace Council has been an invaluable help. As an all-volunteer group, we have learned that the Peace Council staff are frequently the quickest, most efficient source of a plethora of information, as well as possessing the organizing skills and resources we lack. In particular, because the Council has media and contact lists already compiled and the dedicated folk of the Press located in the basement, they do a terrific job of handling publicity for events. Moreover, the Peace Council provides a sense of history about events and efforts over the years. They know what works and what does not, particularly in the area of direct action. The Bookstore carries the resources we need and certainly will not find easily elsewhere.

Like a nurturing parent, the Peace Council has been supportive of the work of single issue “peace” organizations, and in doing so has helped those organizations understand their interrelatedness to each other. Acting as a catalyst for the networking that we all must learn to do better, the Peace Council and the Newsletter keep us in touch, invited and informed.

Syracuse is a stronger and richer community because of the vision, talents and just plain hard work of the Syracuse Peace Council.

Nancy Tunnessen is chairperson of the CNY Nuclear Weapons Freeze.

In 1972, the Syracuse Peace Council started the WAR TAX RESISTANCE FUND, where people opposed to war could pool their tax money to be used for constructive community purposes.

In 1976, the WTR fund loaned money to a group of people to start a community whole grain bakery. The ovens & pans bought with that money passed through several groups before coming to rest at On the Rise.

That loan was the basis for a community business that now employs 7 people nurturing the community that has nurtured us.

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Best wishes to the Syracuse Peace Council for 50 years of service to the community.

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Amos 5:24

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