

# News From

Summer 2009

2013 E. Genesee St. • Syracuse, NY 13210  
(315) 701-1580 • [www.syracusecenter.org](http://www.syracusecenter.org)



## CENTER RESIDENT ORGANIZATIONS

### American Friends Service Committee

(315) 475-4822  
[www.afsc.org/midatlantic/syracuse.htm](http://www.afsc.org/midatlantic/syracuse.htm)

### Citizen Action of New York

(315) 435-2480  
[www.citizenactionny.org/regions/syracuse](http://www.citizenactionny.org/regions/syracuse)

### Peace Action of Central New York

(315) 478-7442 [www.peaceactionny.org](http://www.peaceactionny.org)

### Public Power and Sustainable Syracuse

(315) 412-6578 [www.cnypublicpower.net](http://www.cnypublicpower.net)

### Syracuse Peace Council

(315) 472-5478 [www.peacecouncil.net](http://www.peacecouncil.net)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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*The Center's Grand Opening (May 31, '08) and a landscaping project with the Center's Landscaping Committee and SU student volunteers (April 18, '09)*

## SURVIVING IN TROUBLED TIMES

I am pleased to report that despite the worst recession in 30 years, we have not only successfully established the Syracuse Center for Peace and Social Justice but developed an effective space for five vital organizations. The Center is fully occupied and our day to day operational expenses are covered by the below market rate rents we are able to offer them! We are not only "up and running" and maintaining financial stability, we have also been able to pay down over half of the mortgage and make the building substantially "greener."

Longer-term goals remain unfulfilled: Full accessibility; additional equipment such as audio-visual equipment for more useful meeting spaces; improving the parking lot and driveways; and further greening of the building. We continue fundraising for these and do not mean to imply that we are not in need, but I think we have done well in difficult times.

I want to thank all of our contributors and volunteers for making this tremendous progress possible in just two and half years! This is an accomplishment of which we should all be proud and which will help us achieve our long-term goals of creating a more peaceful, just and sustainable community, nation and world.

We continue striving to achieve the full potential of the Center and the organizations which make it their home. These efforts include small (but significant) operational savings like sharing equipment, looking into shared phone and internet services, coordinating work when goals overlap and coordinating certain fundraising to avoid competing for the same grants. **Look inside for updates from our Resident Organizations.**

—Walter Putter, Chairperson

## AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

AFSC's CAFFE Project (Community Advocates for Family Empowerment) just began another Women's Leadership Workshop. Residents of the Center helped us recruit participants.

AFSC has also helped to coordinate the Peace Patrol for the Juneteenth Celebration (June 13, 2009). Residents of the Center have signed up to serve, and have helped to recruit other folks to serve a shift.

—Chrissie Rizzo

AFSC staffperson Linda Williams on her Peace Patrol beat at the Juneteenth celebration last year.



## CITIZEN ACTION OF NEW YORK



Assuring that all Syracuse children receive a quality education is a primary campaign of Citizen Action. In May we succeeded in convincing the City of Syracuse to increase funding for full day Pre-K programs by \$250,000, allowing nearly 100 children in the Syracuse City School District to receive this service.

We're in the process of scheduling "Meet the Candidates BBQs" in various neighborhoods so the community can meet candidates for local offices. We believe this will increase voter turnout for the School Board election which is often overlooked by communities of color. We are also working to ensure that the people's vote is not overturned by the New York State Senate.

—Tanika Jones

Youth connected to Citizen Action's Alliance for Quality Education Project kick off a book drive campaign at Skiddy Park (July 15, 2008). They collected and distributed over one thousand books to promote literacy issues for youth in Pre-K to 3rd grade.

## PEACE ACTION OF CENTRAL NEW YORK

On January 8, 2009 Central New York Peace Action members joined a conference call with former Senator Clinton and Senator Schumer's offices to discuss the passage of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. Peace Action met with Congressman Maffei on February 27th to discuss nuclear weapons abolition and on May 26th with other community members to discuss our opposition to nuclear power. On April 24 and 25 Peace Action held its third Annual Peace Conference. Linda and Paul Gunter, of Beyond Nuclear, spoke with OCC and SU students on April 24th and to the public at large on April 25 about the dangers of nuclear power. In early August Peace Action will participate in a memorial remembering the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Our annual peace awards dinner will be held in November 2009.

—Jerry Lotierzo

Paul and Linda Gunter were the keynote speakers at Peace Action's April 25 Peace Conference.



## PUBLIC POWER AND SUSTAINABLE SYRACUSE

The Public Power and Sustainable Syracuse office is now fully operational on the second floor of the Center. Check out the glossy, full color Sustainable Syracuse poster on display outside our office — it brings to life a truly green vision for Syracuse. We welcome feedback and thoughts. Organizing meetings are held the 4th Friday of each month at the Center. Also look for our new website this summer.



Mayoral candidates await questions at the March 31, 2009 forum sponsored by the Public Power Coalition. They are (left to right): Otis Jennings, Stephanie Miner, Alfonso Davis and Joe Nicoletti.

The Public Power Coalition, a campaign that originated in the Sustainable Syracuse vision, hosted a Mayoral candidates forum on March 31 at the Westcott Community Center. A capacity crowd turned out to hear the four (at that time) declared candidates respond to questions from the PPC. Coalition partners continue to move the campaign forward with the city. Meetings are held at the Center the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month. Call ahead to confirm at 412-6578.

—Jessica Maxwell

## SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL



This summer the Peace Council continues our weekly peace outreaches every Tuesday and Saturday, is organizing an antiwar presence at the State Fair, will staff outreach tables at many outdoor events and is organizing (with other groups) the annual Hiroshima Day commemoration.

Our annual Bikes for Peace summer program is gearing up to start youth bike clinics at community centers throughout the city. Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation continues its educational work and is launching an effort to get the Syracuse Common Council to pass a Resolution of Respect for and Reconciliation with the Onondaga Nation. The Greater Syracuse Progressive Coalition, which SPC coordinates and involves other resident organizations in the Center, released its “Progressive Platform for the New Mayor” in mid-June.

—Carol Baum

On March 19, The Syracuse Peace Council marked the start of the 7th year of the U.S. occupation of Iraq, with “Bite the Bullet,” a march calling for the U.S. to dismantle the war economy and immediately withdraw from Iraq and Afghanistan.

## CENTER WISH LIST

**Picnic tables**

**Computers (in good condition)**

**Perennial plants (native species preferred)**

**Folding tables**

**Volunteer Painters and Carpenters**

**People to serve on committees:**

- Capital Campaign
- Landscaping
- Renovations



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Syracuse, NY 13210

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## Upcoming Resident Organization Events

### **Video and Discussion: Life in Occupied Palestine**

*Tuesday July 7, 6:30 pm*

Cazenovia Public Library, 100 Albany Street, Cazenovia.  
A showing of Anna Baltzer's documentary followed by discussion. Program starts with Middle Eastern food.  
Contact Andy, 472-5478, [andy@peacecouncil.net](mailto:andy@peacecouncil.net).

### **Meet the Candidates Barbecue**

*Thursday July 16, 6 pm*

Southwest Community Center, 401 South Ave.  
Come face-to-face with the candidates; event will repeat on later dates at various locations. Contact Tanika, 435-2480, [tjones@citizenactionny.org](mailto:tjones@citizenactionny.org).

### **Hiroshima Day Procession**

*Thursday August 6, 11:30*

Meet at Syracuse City Hall Annex, E. Washington St.  
Please wear light-colored clothes. Contact Carol, 472-5478, [carol@peacecouncil.net](mailto:carol@peacecouncil.net).

### **One-week intensive Help Increase the Peace Training**

*Mon through Fri August 10-14, 9 am-5 pm*

Syracuse Teachers Center, 1153 W. Fayette Street.  
Provides a "fast track" to all three levels of HIP training: Basic, Advanced, and Training for Trainers.  
Contact Twiggy Billue at 475-4822 or [cbillue@afsc.org](mailto:cbillue@afsc.org).  
Pre-registration is required.

### **SPC Birthday Celebration featuring: Howard Zinn's Play "Marx in Soho"**

*Saturday October 3, 6 pm*

St. Lucy's Church, 432 Gifford St.  
Contact Jessica, 472-5478, [jessica@peacecouncil.net](mailto:jessica@peacecouncil.net).

### **39th Annual Plowshares Craftsair & Winter Peace Festival**

*December 5-6: Sat 10 am-5 pm; Sun 11 am-5 pm*

Nottingham High School, 3100 East Genesee St.  
Contact Andy, 472-5478, [andy@peacecouncil.net](mailto:andy@peacecouncil.net).