



PASI NEWS

Newsletter of Peace Action of Staten Island, www.peacesi.org 718-989-2881

Calendar:

- THURSDAY, MAR 10, 6:30 to 8:30 PM, WOMEN ON WAR & PEACE. PASI meeting. Unitarian Fellowship Hall, 312 Fillmore St.
- WEDNESDAY, MAR 16, 4:30 to 6:30 PM, SIARAPB Demo to demand justice for Eric Garner. DA's Office, 130 Stuyvesant Pl.
- SAT, APR 9, 9 AM - 5 PM, Peace Action NYS Annual Meeting. Goddard Riverside PASI ELECTIONS. Unitarian Fellowship Hall, 312 Fillmore St.
- THURSDAY, APR 14, 6:30 to 8:30 PM, PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY TOWN HALL. PASI ELECTIONS. Unitarian Fellowship Hall, 312 Fillmore St.
- FRIDAY, APR 15, Tax Day Fliering at Staten Island Ferry Terminal
- TUESDAY, APRIL 19. VOTE! New York State Presidential Primary.

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Women on War & Peace

Forum & Performance

at the next PASI General Meeting

Thursday, March 10, 2016 6:30 to 8:30 PM

Unitarian Fellowship Hall

312 Fillmore St. (at Clinton Ave.), S.I.

Peace Action of Staten Island is holding a Women on War and Peace Forum on Thursday, March 10th - 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at the Unitarian Church of Staten Island, 312 Fillmore Street (at Clinton Ave, in New Brighton, near Snug Harbor), in honor of International Women's Day and Women's History Month.

On Tuesday, March 8th, International Women's Day, two days before the forum, PASI will hand out purple ribbons at the Staten Island Ferry Terminal. Did you know that International Women's Day was begun by the Socialist Party of America in New York in 1908 to mark the strike of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union? Today, it is celebrated at the United Nations and around the world, sometimes as a day to mark the achievements of women and in some countries as a way to show love for women, in the way Mother's Day is celebrated in the U.S. If you are interested in volunteering to hand out the purple ribbons, contact pasi.contact@gmail.com or call 718-989-2881.

The forum on March 10th, will bring women together to share their direct or indirect experience of war and peace. Too little attention is paid to the effect of war on women's and their families' lives. Women are not equal partners in the processes that could have prevented conflicts in the first place. The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, on women and peace and security, passed on October 31, 2000, calls for equal participation of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace-building, and in post-conflict reconstruction. We have a long way to go in realization of this goal. Forum speakers will be:

Madeline Akibo-Betts from Sierra Leone.

Jenna Bitar from Adalah-NY is a young Palestinian-American interested in the rights of women political prisoners.

Iram Ali from Pakistan and raised in Brooklyn, former Associate Director, Operations & Development, Iraq Veterans Against the War and currently Kairos Fellow at MoveOn.org.

Adama Demby from Sierra Leone who came to the U.S. in 1985.

Jennifer Gray-Brumskine from Liberia who came to the U.S. in the late 1980's as a student and is currently President of the Liberian Community Association.

Parvina Olimova from Tajikistan, active in the Turkish Cultural Center.

Peace Action of Staten Island welcomes everyone to come to its meetings. New faces are very welcome. **Doors will open at 6 pm. Please bring something to share for our light refreshment table.**

Bus Directions from Staten Island Ferry Terminal: Take S40 Bus to Clinton Ave and Richmond Terrace. Walk 2 blocks. The Unitarian Church is at Clinton Ave and Fillmore St.

PASI Nominating Committee Report for 2016-17 Board Election

The Nominating Committee for the 2016-17 PASI board election was selected and approved at the PASI general meeting on January 14, 2014. Members of the committee are Eileen Bardel, Jay Bocchicchio, Ilya Geller, John Lawrence, and Delfina Vannucci.. **At the Thursday, March 10th general membership meeting at the Unitarian Fellowship Hall at 6:30 PM, the Nominating Committee will present a slate of candidates for the PASI Board elections.** The PASI Board can have up to 15 members. The slate is listed below. Other names for candidacy may be offered at the March 10th meeting providing such candidates are willing to serve, their candidacy is seconded by at least two other voting members of PASI and they themselves are members in good standing. **The PASI Board Election will take place at the annual meeting on Thursday, April 14th, 6:30 PM, at the Unitarian Fellowship Hall.** (The PASI Board agreed to move the annual meeting from March to April, this year, in order to accommodate a Presidential Primary forum prior to the April 19th Presidential Primaries.) Please contact pasi.contact@gmail.com if you have any questions or would like to be sent a copy of the PASI Bylaws. To vote in the PASI Board election, you must be a member in good standing by paying your dues.

Officers

Co-Chair Ilya Geller
Co-Chair Michael Santangelo
Secretary John Lawrence
Treasurer Delfina Vannucci

At Large Board Members

Tatiana Arguello	Jen DiCarlo
Eileen Bardel	David Jones
Jay Bocchicchio	Sally Jones
Steven Buckley	Ghanim Khalil
Dennis Dell'Angelo	Soji Oluwole
	Dave Poleshuck

Updates

At the January 14, 2016 PASI general meeting, the membership voted on the following resolution in support of the BDS Movement:



The officers and membership of "Peace Action of Staten Island," in response to the call from Palestinian Civil Society (which lives under the control of the Israeli state) for a worldwide boycott, divestment and sanction of all Israeli products including cultural, educational and entertainment activities, do hereby resolve to give our support to the non-violent action of the "Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions" movement. We give this support in an effort to bring peace and justice to the Palestinian people by encouraging an open dialogue with the State of Israel.

More information about the BDS movement can be found at <https://bdsmovement.net/>.

On February 18, 2016, PASI organized a Shut Down Indian Point Forum at the Unitarian Church of Staten Island.



Speakers were Catherine Skopic of Shut Down Indian Point Now (SDIPN) and Dr. Alfred Meyer of Physicians for Social Responsibility. The Indian Point Energy Center houses two working nuclear power plants and is just 35 miles from midtown Manhattan in Buchanan, New York. The recent discovery of tritium leaks into monitoring wells around the plant makes shutting down the plant more urgent. PASI members wrote several letters to the editor in February in support of shutting down the plant. Members are asked to call on their elected officials to support the shutdown.

The forum was recorded by Jen DiCarlo and is available at livestream.com:

<http://livestream.com/accounts/17652345/events/4843157>.

Other community co-sponsors include: Staten Island Democratic Association, New Yorkers for Clean Water, Inc., Food & Water Watch, and Eco-Poetry.org, SIARAPB Community, United for Action, Zeitgeist NYC Chapter, Alliance for a Green Economy, ISLA .



Report Back: PASI Priorities (Which Way) Workshop 2016

Written by Ilya Geller

with help from Tatiana Arguello, Eileen Bardel, Ghanim Khalil, and the PASI membership

I. Introduction

During the general membership meeting on January 14th 2016 Peace Action of Staten Island held a workshop to prioritize the issues we are working on and generate a list of goals and event ideas for 2016. The meeting began with a recap of last year's events and achievements (see PASI's January Newsletter), presented by PASI chair Eileen Bardel.

II. Summary

Following the introduction, the membership was asked to create their own list of events they considered memorable. The group then voted on their priorities, electing to give greater weight to issues that PASI has historically worked on. The top three issues were (1) Move the Money with ten votes, (2) Nuclear Disarmament with 9 votes, and (3) Informing Public of Consequences of war with 8 votes. Ten other issues were suggested, with no other issue getting more than 5 votes.

The membership was then broken up into two groups to generate goals and events for 2016. The goals group came up with four categories including outreach, materials, media and capacity building.

The events group generated five categories including Citizens Court, Big Demos/Actions, Lit Distribution, Curated events, and community building by supporting immigrants affected by displacement and war.

III. Impactful/Memorable Events

Following the introduction, the membership was asked to create their own list of events, actions or demonstrations they considered memorable or impactful. The discussion broadly generated the following categories of events:



1. Large demos and demos involving broad-based coalitions: These included: Black Lives Matter's Millions March NYC and National Action Network's march in response to the murder of Eric Garner, addressing institutional (systemic) racism and police brutality; Witness Against Torture's demonstrations

to close Guantanamo Bay (and provide those unjustly detained with due process); Free Palestine demonstrations, to end the Israeli Occupation and the settlement expansion in Palestine; The Peace & Planet march, to end nuclear proliferation; The People's Climate March, to put pressure on the United Nations Summit on Climate Change to take meaningful action; and the Divest from Fossil Fuels movement.

All the demonstrations had some level of coalition building where smaller groups worked to build the large demonstrations; their magnitude and the media coverage made them memorable and left an impact. The biggest concerns with large demos were figuring out a way of maintaining the coalitions for future action/work, while also staying true to the mission of PASI. It was mentioned that PASI's top priority, according to its mission and history, is advocating for Nuclear disarmament/abolition.

Takeaways: Coalition building and maintenance; Upholding Mission Statement



2. Events attracting diverse participation & educating membership: These events attract diverse participation particularly youth, and events aimed at educating the membership, e.g., the Y2K16 Millennial Activist Panel, which brought together young activists working on various issues and introducing them to Peace Action of Staten Island; the Hiroshima-Nagasaki commemoration, a curated/stylized multifaceted event that included art, music, storytelling, and info tables, and engaged people in several unique ways not prone to attend educational events; and the Black Lives Matter Panel with Josmar Trujillo, Chase Madar and Erica Garner that spoke on the issues concerning the social justice movement dominating American media today.

All three events were well attended and had diverse participants. The biggest concerns around these events

were follow up, especially for the Black Lives Matter and Y2K16 Millennial panels. It was also mentioned that the way to get younger members is through younger members.

Takeaways: Youth involvement/leadership; Follow up for outstanding events

3. Citizen's Court/Mock Trial: In 2015 Rich Florentino began with a mock trial of Citizens vs XXL Corporation, hosting mock trials at the Unitarian Church as a way to discuss differing views on pressing issues. After the Y2K16 youth panel, Daniel Bloise of the Libertarian Party suggested that we hold a debate on the merits of Libertarianism vs Social Democracy (Democratic Socialism). Rich Florentino is also currently committing all his energy on building a broad based coalition to protest the Trans-Pacific Partnership, as he sees it as the most likely issue to unite people from opposing political ideologies.

Takeaways: Follow up with Libertarians and Social Democrats; Outreach for TPP demo

IV. Issues



The membership was asked to popcorn out issues that they would like PASI to work on. In all, there were thirteen (13) issues generated. Each member, 20 in attendance, was then given three stickers to choose their top three issues.

The top issue with ten votes was the Move the Money campaign. One highlight of this campaign is the Global Day Against Military Spending on Tax Day (Mid-April), focusing on reshaping the federal budget from one that allocates most of its funds to the military, to one that allocates those funds to social needs. In second place with 9 votes was Nuclear Abolition, focusing on full disarmament and end to proliferation of all nuclear weapons. And in third place with 8 votes was informing the public of the consequences of war by providing basic facts not covered in media, with emphasis on regular outreach events.

Other issues receiving votes were: Climate Change, and Bringing the Troops Home (each with 5), Shut Down Indian Point, Black Lives Matter and Syrian Crisis (each with 4), Economic Justice/Poverty Issues and taking a Militant Stance on Peace (with 3), The Refugee Crises (2), 30th Anniversary of Chernobyl (with 1), and Peace Voter (with 0)



V. Breakout Groups

After setting their priorities the membership broke into two groups, with one group being goal oriented and the other action oriented.

Goals For 2016

The goal oriented group generated goals focused on the following areas:

1. Outreach: The major goals for outreach focused on (a) increasing diversity of membership, particularly through younger members, and (b) increasing visibility throughout Staten Island. Suggestions for reaching these goals included encouraging younger members to take leadership roles in event planning, conducting outreach at busy South Shore intersections, and outreach in the ferry when coming home from demonstrations.

2. Outreach material: The outreach goals included developing a new PASI brochure, which has not been updated in some time, and getting lawn signs and bumper stickers, which have not been distributed in quite some time either. Updating our materials will help us increase our visibility.

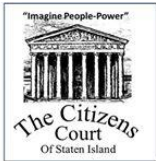
3. Media: The media goals generated included developing relationships with members of the media for better coverage of events, and an increase of Letters-To-Editors from the membership.

4. Capacity Building: The Capacity Building goal was rooted in the creation of a reading group that would meet weekly, starting Monday January 18th, to discuss books written on topics relevant to PASI's mission. By reading books on present issues such as the crises in Syria and conflicts throughout the Middle East, PASI hopes to develop a speakers bureau that would be able to intelligently present PASI's position stances to community based groups such as community boards and civic associations.



Event ideas for 2016

The action oriented group produced the following categories of Events for 2016:



1. “Citizens Court”: Citizens Court is a mock trial developed by Rich Florentino in 2015 in which an audience would receive arguments from opposing viewpoints or ideologies and democratically decide on a verdict. Possible topics include the Trans-Pacific Partnership (The Workers V XXXL), Climate Change (Citizens v XXXL), and merits of Liberals v Libertarians or Social Democrats V Libertarians.

2. Big Demos/ Actions: The group generated four issues for which PASI could organize large demonstrations. These included: a Trans-Pacific Partnership demonstration, currently being planned by a committee consisting of Rich Florentino, Michael Santangelo and Eileen Bardel; as well as action in support of the Shut Down Indian Point Now movement (working on closing the nuclear energy facility in Buchanan, NY, 30 miles north of NYC) ; the Boycott Divestment Sanction movement, aimed at ending Israeli Apartheid; and the Fossil Fuel Divestment Movement.

3. Lit Distribution: Overlapping to some degree with several of the goal-oriented categories, the action-oriented group generated 3 instances for literature distribution. Opportunities for literature distribution were (a) Move the Money tabling, including distribution at Global Day Against Military Spending on Tax Day, (b) when presenting positions/issues developed by PASI's soon to be formed speakers bureau, and (c) with regular newsletter and brochure distribution at the ferry and other high traffic areas. It was also noted that Tax Day, as a major yearly event, should be accompanied with visuals such as a banner, play money with buckets representing various national priorities (to allocate play money too), and bar-charts and info-graphics showing the federal budget and the ridiculous percentage allocated for “defense” and “defense-related” expenditures.

4. Curated Events: The action group discussed the success of the Hiroshima-Nagasaki event and decided that it was a good model to look at for future events. Some of the components mentioned as a big draw were the multitude of learning stations that allowed the event to be covered in greater depth through various angles, musical appearances (here The Young Musician Society of Staten Island), and the engaging nature of grassroots (group) storytelling.



5. Community building and support: The final event generated was a suggestion for us to build relationships with immigrant communities affected by displacement and war by providing tutoring and support such as legal translation. This perhaps may lead to involvement of young immigrants.

VI. Conclusion

The membership emphasized issues that were most in line with PASI’s mission and history, and chose to highlight fundamentals of organizing as the way to get them addressed. The top priorities decided upon were Nuclear Disarmament/Abolition, Moving the Money from the Pentagon to Human Needs, and educating people about the consequences of war, with an emphasis on events like the Global Day Against Military Spending on Tax Day, and The Hiroshima-Nagasaki Commemoration August 6th and 9th. The group focused on the need for more regular outreach, with newsletter and brochure distribution at the ferry and other high traffic areas, and the need for a speakers’ bureau to present issues and positions to other community groups. They also suggested that outreach occur at the ferry after rallies. Also noted was the need to update materials and develop media contacts.

Other concerns included follow up to events from last year, including the Black Lives Matter Panel, Y2K16 Millennial Panel, and the proposed mock trial of Social Democracy v Libertarianism, with outstanding concerns of attracting diverse participation and young members.

Editor’s Note: Many thanks to Eileen Bardel, Ilya Geller and Ghanim Khalil for facilitating the “Which Way, PASI?” Workshop at the January 14, 2016 PASI general meeting. Our apologies for having to condense Ilya’s full notes in order to fit them in the newsletter. For the full report, please contact pasi.contact@gmail.com.

Peace Action of Staten Island

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PASI BOARD 2015-16

Chair – Eileen Bardel
Co-Chair – Richard Greve
Secretary – Pat Berg
Treasurer– Delfina Vannucci
At-Large: Janice Bocchicchio,
Lloyd Berg, Dennis Dell'Angelo,
Ilya Geller, Ghanim Khalil, David
Jones, Sally Jones, John
Lawrence, David Poleshuck,
Michael Santangelo

Membership Coordinator:

Sylvia Zaage

Thank You for Joining or Renewing Your PASI Membership.

If you aren't a member yet or still need to renew, it's easy.

Membership form

We have a sliding scale membership. No member turned away.
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**THURSDAY
MARCH 10, 2016**

6:30 to 8:30 PM

**Women on War and Peace
Forum & Performance**

PASI Meeting
Unitarian Fellowship Hall, 312 Fillmore St. (at
Clinton Ave.)



**THURSDAY
APRIL 14, 2016**

6:30 to 8:30 PM

**Presidential Primary Forum
& PASI BOARD ELECTION**

PASI ANNUAL Meeting
Unitarian Fellowship Hall, 312 Fillmore St. (at
Clinton Ave.)