



PASI NEWS

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

Calendar:

- THURS., APRIL 24, Noon, "Two Who Dared" a screening for Holocaust Remembrance Day. JCC, 1466 Manor Rd.
- SAT., MAY 10, 5:45 PM, ELECTIONS & "Dirty Wars." Unitarian Fellowship Hall, 312 Fillmore St.
- SAT., JUNE 7, 10 AM – 3 PM. "Earth and Food Justice Forum." Unitarian Fellowship Hall, 312 Fillmore St.
- SAT., JUNE 14 5:45 PM. "Candidate Forum." Olivet Presbyterian Hall, 97 Myrtle Ave. (at Broadway)
- SAT., OCT. 18 5-8 PM. MAKE FOOD NOT WAR ANNUAL DINNER. Please save the date!

Inside:

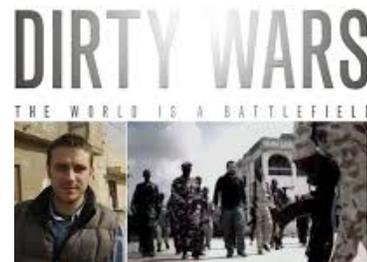
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Screening of "Dirty Wars" after PASI Elections

Saturday, May 10, 5:45 to 8 pm

NOTE NEW LOCATION

Unitarian Fellowship Hall, 312 Fillmore St.



Last year, Jeremy Scahill released his newest book, *Dirty Wars: The World Is a Battlefield*. The book immediately hit the New York Times bestseller list and received critical praise. Just two months later, the film *Dirty Wars*, directed by Rick Rowley, was released by IFC Films throughout North America. Part political thriller, part detective story, the film follows an intrepid reporter as he investigates the activities of a secret army, known as JSOC, who "find, fix, and finish" their targets. No target is off limits for the "kill list," including U.S. citizens.

Peace Action members and friends will have an opportunity to see this film at the PASI annual meeting on Saturday, May 10th.

Before the screening, Peace Action of Staten Island will hold elections for new officers and board members.

Following is the list of candidates:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Chair – Eileen Bardel | | |
| Co-Chair – Richard Greve | | |
| Secretary – Pat Berg | | |
| Treasurer – TBD | | |
| At-Large: | Janice Bocchicchio | Lloyd Berg |
| | Dennis Dell'Angelo | Richard Florentino |
| | David Jones | Sally Jones |
| | Michele Rowan | John Lawrence |
| | David Poleshuck | Michael Santangelo |
| | Nellie Tournaki | |

This program is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. Doors open at 5:45 pm.

Please take note that this program will be held at a new location, the Unitarian Fellowship Hall at 312 Fillmore Street (at Clinton Ave.) which is one block east of Snug Harbor Cultural Center and easily reached by the S40 bus from the St. George Ferry Terminal.



Make Food Not War Annual Dinner SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, October 18, 2014

Peace Action of Staten Island will hold its annual Make Food Not War Dinner on Saturday, October 18, 2014 at the Olivet Presbyterian Hall, 97 Myrtle Ave. The evening will be a chance for us to honor Staten Island Peacemakers, as well as relax and enjoy music, good food, and meet new friends and supporters from all over the Island. Please save the date. If you are interested in helping out in any way, please let us know. Call 718-989-2881 or contact pasi.contact@email.com.



New York Nurses Fight for Safe Staffing & Single Payer

by Patricia Kane, RN, CNOR

The inequality that engulfs New York City has so many harmful consequences. As nurses, we are especially concerned about enduring economic hardship and its fundamental effects on our patients' health.

What can we do about it? The nurses of the New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA) have two goals to improve access to healthcare and insure a better quality of care. Both are legislative proposals before our elected representatives in Albany.

The first deals with "safe staffing" in the Safe Staffing for Quality Care Act. Nurses are often caring for far too many patients at one time. There are emergency rooms where our nurses care for more than 12 patients or more...one nurse! We know, as a result of peer-reviewed, academically-researched studies, that higher staff-to-patient ratios save lives. Hospitals that routinely staff with 1:8 nurse-to-patient ratios experience five additional deaths per 1,000 patients in comparison with those staffing with 1:4 ratios, according to the Journal of the American Medical Association. A new study by Nursing Professor Judith Shindul-Rothschild compared Massachusetts where, like New York, ratios are not regulated, to California where certain staffing levels are the law. She found that Massachusetts patients received three hours less care per day from RNs than in CA. Fewer nurses mean poor patient outcomes. Strong evidence exists that better care achieved with regulated staffing ratios helps the healthcare economy overall. Shindul-Rothschild found that "heart failure readmissions were lower when nurse staffing was greater...." Heart failure readmissions were estimated to cost \$34 billion in the U.S. in one year alone.

New York Health is the name of legislation that would provide a single payer system of care in the state. We believe that this law and the high-quality healthcare system it guarantees to all New Yorkers is the road to universal quality care. Under single payer, you would continue to see your doctors, go to clinics and get hospital care. But patient need would be the priority. And patients would not need commercial healthcare insurance to receive the care they need. As with the existing Medicare program, single payer would standardize charges, ridding the system of the gross overcharges that have run up America's healthcare tab.

We hope New York can lead the way and implement a single payer state law, as well as pass safe staffing. We want to remove all impediments to quality, affordable care for all New Yorkers. Just ask a nurse.



Do As I Say, Not As I Do by Rich Greve

In the wake of the Russian annexation of Crimea, a peninsula on the Black Sea that has been historically part of Russia for centuries and populated mainly by Russians, the United States government, along with other NATO countries, loudly condemned the annexation as a violation of International Law and put economic sanctions on Russia.

Think back eleven years. In 2003, the U.S. invaded Iraq, a nation that had not attacked us. Our leaders at the time stated falsely that they had "weapons of mass destruction." We tried to get United Nations approval for our invasion. We did not get this approval, and we invaded any way. A country that was the cradle of Western civilization was destroyed in the process. The war caused the deaths of 500,000 Iraqis, according to the most recent academic surveys.

During the course of the Iraq War, it also became clear that the U.S. engaged in torturing prisoners, another violation of International Law according to the Geneva Convention. The torture, including waterboarding, was sanctioned and promoted by government leaders. Only a few low-level soldiers were ever punished. Japanese officials were prosecuted for the same types of torture after World War II.

Think about today. President Obama has a "kill list" that targets people declared as "terrorists" by our government. There is no attempt to capture these individuals for prosecution. The President has become judge, jury and executioner all at once. In carrying out these assassinations using weaponized drones, hundreds of innocent civilians, including many women and children, have been killed.

If our government stood for justice and humans rights in this world, we would have some credibility to speak out regarding International Law. Unless we abide by it ourselves, how can we expect others to?



PASI to Uncle Sam: Cut the Pentagon Pork!

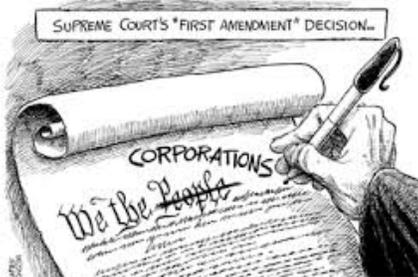
by Eileen Bardel

On Tuesday, April 15th, Peace Action of Staten Island joined the international community for a Global Day of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS). We joined the global community in speaking out against military spending for wars. We want our tax dollars to be spent on creating jobs, providing healthcare for all, repairing our infrastructure and giving our young people the opportunity to receive a good education.

The GDAMS initiative is a result of a joint venture that began in 2011 between the International Peace Bureau and the Institute for Policy Studies. Judith LeBlanc of Peace Action is the US/NA coordinator. Global actions are determined according to domestic and regional issues. Some groups may protest the Pentagon budget, which includes the purchase of war machinery and drones, and call for the end to military violence.

Despite the fear mongering about cuts to military spending this year, the truth is that the Pentagon budget will be reduced less than 1%, according to TruthOut.org. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel stated the army would shrink to levels not seen since before World War II. But the spending levels are still astronomical. According to TruthOut.org, military spending accounts for 57% of the federal discretionary budget which is nearly 40% of military spending on this planet. There is a separate Pentagon budget for making war referred to as the "Overseas Contingency Operations" and it isn't subject to any cuts or restrictions. President Obama's 2015 budget plan actually calls for Congress to approve an additional \$115 billion in future Pentagon funds.

We hope you caught us on April 15th as we leafleted the St. George and South Ferry terminals and created a little street theater to bring our message to Staten Island. Fund Our Communities Not The Pentagon! To join us for in more activities like this, contact us at 718-989-2881 or visit us at www.peacesi.org or pasi.contact@gmail.com. Remember, Peace Demands Action.



Power, Religion, Person and Governments

Reflections while following the "Hobby Lobby" Supreme Court case
by Richard Florentino

Once again, corporations are NOT people. This is a metaphor. It is like saying Time is Money when, in many instances, such as time with your kids or friends or aging parents, Time is a Gift.

A more applicable metaphor would be that corporations are governments. Instead of applying the 14th Amendment, which guarantees the rights of persons to corporations, such as equal protection and "free" speech, perhaps the Supreme Court judges would see fit to apply Article IV, section 4. This article states, "The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican [representative and democratic] Form of Government." Is not a large multi-national corporation much more similar to a government than a person? Large corporations have so much power over our lives. Shouldn't they have more responsibilities and restrictions than rights?

The premise that large corporations are like governments is supported by the preponderance of laws and regulations relating to corporate "governance." Of course the power exerted by a few people at the top of corporate hierarchies often view these laws and regulations as mere annoyances that can be circumvented relatively easily via campaign funding, lobbying, public relations, and access to revolving door government agencies and the military.

If Corporations were required to be more democratic, then control over their activity would be internal and more effective because it would be closer to the people affected and, dare one say, more American. The essential question is this: do we believe in consent of the governed or not? For me this is the most fundamental American value fought for by our Founders – and is at the heart of the American Experiment.

Any thoughts, comments on this essay please contact the author via e-mail: gcitizensi@gmail.com

Peace Action of Staten Island

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Lloyd Berg, Dennis Dell'Angelo,
Richard Florentino, Matt Gleason,
David Jones, John Lawrence,
David Poleshuck, Debby
Poleshuck

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.
Donations are tax-deductible.

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Current Addressee Or

PASI Elections & "Dirty Wars"

Saturday
May 10, 2014 5:45 PM
PASI Annual Meeting
Note new location:
Unitarian Fellowship Hall
312 Fillmore St.
Staten Island, NY

Candidate Forum

Saturday
June 14, 2014 5:45 PM
PASI Meeting
Olivet Presbyterian Hall
97 Myrtle Ave (@
Broadway)
Staten Island, NY

Puzzle: Find your PASI friends at the March 29th NYS Annual Meeting!



Peace Action of Staten Island, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-partisan, non-profit organizations. Peace Action is dedicated to promoting the non-violent resolution of conflict, the abolition of nuclear weapons, halting the global spread of conventional arms, building a human rights culture and supporting human needs instead of militarism.