SPRING ASSEMBLY TO KICK OFF
THE RACIAL JUSTICE CAMPAIGN

GET READY FOR ACTION. This year's WNPJ Spring Assembly is going to be new and exciting! We will be launching the Racial Justice Tipping point at the May 21st meeting. The WNPJ board and staff have developed this project over the past few months based on the commitment to racial justice outlined in our strategic plan.

The gathering will be at James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation at 2146 E. Johnson Street in Madison, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and will include lunch. This is a chance for member groups to get to know one another, learn about how we can work collaboratively for racial justice, and get training around organizational development, engagement and outreach, and direct action.

Our amazing facilitation team includes: Cynthia Lin: WNPJ Board Member, former Western States Center trainer and current organizer with National Network of Abortion Funds; Brandi Grayson: Young Gifted and Black co-founder, YWCA Empowerment Center Manager; Claire Tran: WNPJ Board Member, Trainer with School of Unity and Liberation (SOUL), Asians for Black Lives; Barb Munson: WNPJ Co-Chair, Chair of Wisconsin Indian Education Association "Indian" Mascot and Logo Taskforce; Dana Schultz: Executive Director of Wisconsin Voices; Liz Bruno: WNPJ Board Co-Chair, Herbalist, Generative Somatics trainee; and Z! Haukeness: WNPJ Organizer, Groundwork, various social justice organizations.

This is an exciting opportunity, as people across the country are getting educated and passionate about racial justice. The Black Lives Matter movement, the Not1More deportation campaign, and the Idle No More movement have inspired bold action in these times. Donald Trump’s racism, sexism, and xenophobia have also emboldened a new group of activists to stand up against a common threat, and a common vision of a multi-racial movement for social and environmental justice.

Dace, Z! and Barb have been conducting outreach and speaking with member groups. Dace attended a meeting recently with the Church Women United of Madison. Z! and Barb made presentations at the Wisconsin Indian Education Association annual conference, and at the Widening the Circle conference in La Crosse. And Z! and Dace met with Progressive Dane, who is excited to sign on, strengthen their work, and contribute their skills to the rest of the state. There is great interest for this multi-racial gathering. JOIN US FOR THIS next step INTO WNPJ's future!

VETERANS FOR PEACE CHAPTER 25 PLANS AN ACTIVE SPRING EVENTS IN MADISON AND ACROSS SOUTHWESTERN WISCONSIN

Veterans for Peace Chapter 25 has plans for a strong program of anti-war activism for the Spring of 2016. Events will include:

- Scholarships awarded to students winning peace essay contests in seven high schools including Madison, Spring Green, Richland Center, Dodgeville, Boscobel, Muscoda, and Baraboo.
- Installation of the visually powerful Annual Memorial Mile display May 28 – June 4 along Atwood Avenue near Olbrich Botanical Gardens.
- Participation by members of chapters 25, Madison, and 175, Janesville, in the Annual Memorial Day Parade in Monona, the morning of May 30.
- And an ongoing calendar of monthly meetings, informational tabling at community events, and participation in area peace actions, vigils, demonstrations, and presentations.

By David Giffey, for Vets for Peace

Continued next page
The essay contests and scholarships, named after Chapter 25 member, the late Dr. James C. Allen, were initiated a decade ago and have expanded to include evermore schools and students. In 2015, a total of 39 students entered essays on the topic: “Why I Believe War Is Not the Answer.”

The Memorial Mile is an emotionally gripping display of more than 4,000 symbolic grave markers calling attention from passing motorists and pedestrians to the tragic human cost of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Chapter 25 members and friends have undertaken the intense effort required to assemble, erect, and manage the Memorial Mile at various locations around Madison for the past several years.

The Peace Rally Program at James Madison Park is an important and unique alternative to militaristic traditions surrounding many Memorial Day programs. Speakers, students, musicians, poets, and all participants will focus their attention on efforts in keeping with the Veterans for Peace mission: the abolition of war.

The Peace-of-Art Scholarship, named after the late artist and veteran David McLimans, is available to a Madison high school senior planning to attend Madison College who creates the winning artwork expressing the peace topic “Why War Is Not the Answer.”

Detailed information about Veterans for Peace events is available on the Chapter 25 website, madisonvfp.org. Information is available electronically, as well as by telephone and postal mail.

Essay and art scholarship applications are available on the website for Madison high school students. Students attending those schools in rural Southwestern Wisconsin which are involved in the scholarship program must apply and submit essays through the guidance offices at the respective school.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Help to install more than 4,000 symbolic grave markers for the Annual Memorial Mile display May 28 – June 4 along Atwood Avenue near Olbrich Botanical Gardens.

Email info@madisonvfp.org or call the Chapter coordinator 608-231-9171.

Spotlight Continued from page 6

the idea for sister communities, because it established a relationship and it was more emotional. He proposed to talk to Tammy Baldwin, who immediately said yes, and she introduced us to Mark Pocan who officiated a political relationship. These official relationships are very important, they protect many of the people who would otherwise be accused of working with FARC. It has saved lives.

If you could change or add one law to the books what would it be?

It comes down to the issue of money; the U.S. should pay more attention to its own people than meddling in foreign wars.

Why are you a part of WNPJ?

We’ve been part of WNPJ from the very beginning, we were very good friends with Nan Cheny, one of the founders. We became members believe we because strongly that people who work for peace should work together.

Have you connected with any other organizations through WNPJ? If so, how has this helped your mission?

We work with Rafah-Sister City and Safe water near Badger; it inspires me to see people working with the people in Palestine, we have the same way of looking at people. Those two places you can really see the U.S. Foreign policy at work.
“ANTI-SANCTUARY” BILL DEFEATED
WISCONSIN IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES CALL ON
GOV. WALKER TO VETO ANTI-ID CARD BILL

By members of Voces De La Frontera

The Wisconsin State Senate has adjourned for the year without taking up Assembly Bill 450, a bill that would lead to more cases of racial profiling and strengthen the collaboration between local law enforcement and immigration agents. The Senate’s decision comes at the end of three months of organizing by immigrant and Latino communities across Wisconsin, that culminated in A Day Without Latinos and Immigrants, a statewide general strike and mass mobilization on the State Capitol on February 18, 2016. “This is a breath of fresh air in the face of the belligerent, right wing extremism that is contaminating our political debate,” said Christine Neumann-Ortiz, Executive Director of Voces de la Frontera, “Legislation like this and people like Donald Trump are causing a disturbing uptick in hate crimes, including the recent murder in Milwaukee of a Puerto Rican father and Hmong parents in front of their children.”

THE 40,000 people who marched on the State Capitol on March 18th came from all parts of the state. “In the wake of the Day Without Latinos and Immigrants, we are witnessing a political awakening of the Latino and immigrant community in Wisconsin,” said Neumann-Ortiz, “The message ‘Todos Somos Wisconsin,’ or ‘We are all Wisconsin,’ that came out of the Day Without Latinos and Immigrants received international media attention because the mass general strike was an undeniable statement of the essential and positive contributions that immigrants make to our economy and our society.”

Assembly Bill 450 is one of three anti-immigrant bills introduced in the legislature in this session. A bill to impound the cars of people stopped for driving without a license was never brought to the floor. But Senate Bill 533, which took away the ability of counties to provide local photo identification cards to residents – as Milwaukee County HAD created a program to do – was passed by both chambers of the legislature before the mass mobilization that garnered international attention.

Voces de la Frontera and other groups called for a meeting with Governor Walker to discuss with him the reasons he should veto SB533, and to engage him on the need to support the introduction of a bill to return driver’s licenses to immigrants in next year’s state legislative session. Hundreds of representatives attended the last day of the Senate session AND delivered a petition with over 15,600 signatures to the Governor calling on him to veto the bill. If the petition is not successful the bill will become law automatically April 27th 2016. “If SB533 becomes law”, Neuman-Ortiz asserted, “we will call for an international boycott of Governor Walker’s largest corporate donors.”

In Appleton protestors carried out their own action on the Dia Sin Latin@s wearing cow costumes with signs that said, “Who's Going to Milk the Cows?” The Wisconsin dairy industry is largely dependent on Latin@ dairy farmers, with 40% of the workers identifying as Latin@. This is just one example of the many ways that Latin@ and migrant people strengthen the state of Wisconsin.

Voces partnered with other member group Groundwork as well as Freedom Inc, Coalition for Justice, Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ), Mijente and Young Gifted and Black coalition to reject the racism of Donald Trump and to protest his visit to Wisconsin. Voces was the main coalition partner LEADING the rally Tuesday night, where thousands of Latinxs and other supporters marched to the Riverside theater and spoke out against the candidate’s hate speech and virulent racism.

The message of these actions fell in line with the Day Without Latin@s and went beyond highlighting the ways that the “Trump Effect” targets all people of color, as well as women, queer and trans people. Groups across the country are turning to Trump as a way to unite for a common vision against his hateful platform, and taking bolder actions to interrupt his message.
CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE IN THE TIME OF MASS INCARCERATION AND MASS DEPORTATION: A RESPONSE TO HATE-FILLED SPEECHES

Z! Haukeness, WNPJ Organizer

As I was sitting in the Rock County Sheriff’s department booking area following an act of civil disobedience, I kept thinking about Sandra Bland, a Black woman, about my age who had just moved from Chicago to Texas for a job. She was a well-known social media commentator about the Black Lives Matter movement who was pulled over for failing to use a turn signal. The officer threatened her with a taser for refusing to put out her cigarette - and FOR being a Black woman not afraid to speak her mind and insist on her rights. She was violently thrown to the ground and beaten by the officer, and 3 days later was found dead in her jail cell. When I see the video of Sandra Bland standing up for her rights and see her dignity in the face of an aggressive and abusive officer; I see direct action resistance.

Six of us had just been arrested for participating in an act of civil disobedience and direct action calling on the Holiday Inn in Janesville WI to cancel Donald Trump’s event scheduled for the following day. We highlighted the difference between hate speech and free speech and how the hate speeches being made by Donald Trump are contributing to an escalation of intimidation and deadly actions. Three people of color were killed recently in Milwaukee for being migrants, by a white man spewing racist statements similar to the core messages Trump has promoted on his campaign trail. Black people and other people of color are singled out at Trump rallies, with supporters following his calls to not be “politically correct”, TO “hit first” and TO take us back to the “old days” - evoking images of the civil rights protests beaten or killed by police or white vigilantes.

All but one of us were white, some coming from working class backgrounds, some from middle and owning class backgrounds, all of us queer, myself transgender and gender non conforming. The officers who arrested us and booked us were very polite with us, and while they reminded us to keep our voices down, and follow other rules of the booking area, we were handled with gentle gloves and politeness as we watched re-runs of sitcoms playing on late night tv. This was much different than what one can imagine was the treatment facing Sandra Bland, leading to her death in the Texas jail, an experience not unique to Sandra Bland, but one faced by the countless people of color who have been killed, tortured, and beaten in police custody.

The risk that we took by sitting in the hotel lobby of the Holiday Inn chanting, with our arms locked together, which lasted for four hours until we were cut out, was minimal compared to the risk that people of color face on a daily basis. Violence that women queer and trans people are more and more at risk of with Trumpism in the air. Recent statements on criminalizing women seeking abortions, and the ‘Trump Effect’ legislation that was passed in North Carolina rolling back gains for queer and trans people, are just two examples of trumps attacks on our identities in particular.

Our actions were part of a growing effort to disrupt or shut down these speeches and rallies. In New Orleans BYP100 and European Dissent, an affiliate of Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ), disrupted Trump 39 times, giving him little time to actually speak. In Chicago, organizing by student and community groups, and the overwhelming crowd of protesters who took charge of the venue once the doors were open, forced the cancellation of the event. These actions have inspired people across the country to embolden their actions, and plug into this work where they can. Our action has added to this string of resistance, and has also sent the message to potential #HostsForHate like the Holiday Inn in other cities that they will be protested if they decide to host this hate speech.

We were bailed out. But we left behind two people, both white and both unable to afford their bond amounts of $150 and $2000. One, Julie, was there as the result of a domestic dispute with her boyfriend- she showed us the bruises and scrapes while sobbing, and urging us to believe she wasn’t at fault. The other, Andrew, was picked up on a warrant for failure to pay child support; in his early thirties living with his parents; he was frustrated by how hard it has been to find a job, even while participating regularly in a job search program.

The privilege that we experienced points out how important it is for white people and people with relative class privilege to take riskier actions in this moment. I also know that Trump for president isn’t in the best interests of people in the small working class town of Strum where I grew up in mid-western Wisconsin, and any of us sitting in that booking room. The local news station which reaches Strum posted our mug shots on their website. When I first saw them I couldn’t stop laughing because they made us look so bad it was comical. Then as I began to see how this must have looked through the eyes of others, I realized the injustice of the messaging they were putting forth. Mug shots = criminals. Those white people in the rural area that I grew up with have limited knowledge of the civil rights movement, OR limited media access to the powerful civil disobedience of the DREAMers and Mijente/#Not1ore campaign, and the Black Lives Matter movement, and therefore have little context for our act of civil disobedience. Many of them have not had to understand the injustice of the police, or experienced the incarceration system, because in large part it has been set up to protect whiteness and to protect white wealth.

However, many poor and working class white people have learned through crimes of poverty that the criminal system isn’t set up to work in their favor. Andrew certainly knows this, locked up due to his lack of ability to pay child support. Julie knows this due to her lack of ability to get her $150 bond paid to get out until her court date. With the conflation of racism and poverty, the
criminalization of Black, Brown and Native bodies, and the politically motivated war on drugs, most people of color are acutely aware that the prison industrial complex is designed to continue a system of colonization, slavery and Jim Crow.

Recently we have received confirmation of the way in which race has been used in political campaigning in recent years. An aide to Nixon’s political campaign, John Ehrlichman, as quoted in recent articles, acknowledged that “The Nixon campaign in 1968, and the Nixon White House after that, had two enemies: the antiwar left and Black people. “We knew we couldn’t make it illegal to be either against the war or Blacks, but by getting the public to associate the anti-war hippies with marijuana and blacks with heroin, and then criminalizing both heavily, we could disrupt those communities.” The criminalization of marijuana led to crack and heroine epidemics. The drug war has succeeded in locking up millions of Black people, taking away their voting rights, and creating the social and economic caste system described so well by Michelle Alexander. All the while private prisons and multi-national corporations are getting rich off this system - as Angela Davis has so eloquently taught us in her work detailing the Prison Industrial Complex. The war on drugs may have started with Black people and has most heavily impacted Black, Latinx, Southeast Asian, and Native people, but poor rural white people, and queer and trans people, have also been swept up in its wake.

Throw in the heightened surveillance and examples of terrorism charges for acts of civil disobedience since the Patriot Act, add in the threat of deportation for undocumented folks in Obama’s record breaking deportation era, mix in the experiences of queer and trans people and Black trans women in particular, of whom one out of two face incarceration, and you have a very different environment than that of the time of the Dr. King’s Letter from Birmingham Jail. However his call for white moderates to stop discrediting direct action, and either join in, or at least get out of the way, still has validity. Some of the responses we got when calling liberal or moderate, and even progressive, white folks around the state was to not engage with Trump; that if we ignore him he will go away, or give him more attention. We feel it is his billionaire-money that gives him the media attention. We think, and many other groups across the country including BLM, Grassroots Global Justice, and Mijente, who organized a conference call on this topic, believe that it is time to escalate and engage in bold direct action to halt this hate speech and open racism and offer a counter narrative in mainstream media which we were successful in doing.

It was important that we were a predominantly white group of people showing our resolve for racial justice through direct action for a few reasons: 1) The level of risk for people of color to be directly confronting politicians and other hate speakers has proven to come with a much higher threat of violence and folks of color we were working with encouraged us to take this action on. 2) White people need to see other white people taking risks and participating in direct action for racial justice as a source of inspiration and guidance. 3) White people in power are often times moved more by other white people who they feel they can relate to and aren’t as quickly to brush off as “reverse racists” or playing the “race card.” 4) White queer, trans and working people have a common fight against Trump for our own liberation. However, with the spotlight gained through this type of action, it is also important that we continue to lift up the people of color and organizations of color who have blazed the trail for racial justice and continue to do the heavy lifting of resistance towards liberation.

Groundwork as an organization, and a few of the individuals in the action are directly connected to Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) which is a network of 150 organizations focused on engaging white people in action for racial justice. Due in large part to the work of BLM and Mijente/#Not1More, rooted in direct action, over the past few years white people around the country are agitated, better educated about the problem and urgency, and want to plug in and be a part of the work for racial justice. In trainings that we do with SURJ we are encouraging people to take bigger risks in this moment. We are asking people to take a step outside of their comfort zone, understand our relative privilege, understand where our liberation is bound up in the struggle for racial justice. The stakes are high right now for all of us, and it is time to be bold. Donald Trump is playing the role of the “white lives matter” leader – heightening racial fears and playing traditional divide and conquer strategies among poor, working class and middle class white people. He is leading the charge to push back against the shift in conscious that we have been seeing across the country related to racial justice.

Over the past few years Black and Brown people have been taking bold direct actions around the country for racial justice, white people have also been joining in. The daily organizing, the leadership development, the canvassing, the educating, the organization building are crucial to building up a strong base of people engaged in racial justice across the state and country. Direct action is a key piece of inspiring people to join, and putting people power to work. White people have a particular role in this collective effort and now is as good a time as any to jump into the mix and be cogs in the wheels of politicians riding on a path of racism and hate speech.
**MEMBER GROUP SPOTLIGHT**

*Interviews and Photos by Julia Levine*

Thanks to our new intern Julia Levine, WNPJ has begun doing weekly spotlight interviews with member groups around the state! Stay posted on our e-mail newsletters, and our facebook page for future features. If you haven't connected with Julia yet and would like to be interviewed, please contact her at wnpjintern@gmail.com.

---

**Citizens Climate Lobby**

**What is your central mission?**

Our focus is pushing congress on a national level to pass non-partisan legislation regarding carbon emissions, specifically our law, created by CCL dubbed Carbon Fee and Dividend. The basics of the law include placing a steadily rising fee on fossil fuels like coal, oil, and gas, and then giving the revenue generated from the carbon fee back to households in a monthly dividend. The dividend will allow families to cover the rising costs of electricity and free them to make independent choices about their energy usage.

**When was your organization founded? why?**

Locally, 5 years ago. Nationally, about 7 years ago. I think the reason we exist is that there wasn’t an organization focused on building a citizen response to climate change. Particularly congress wasn’t doing anything about climate change, and the realization among the founders was that they weren’t going do anything unless there was a push among constituents. We provide the constituent support they need to advocate for climate change policies.

**Why are you a part of WNPJ?**

I love the idea of a network, we’re doing our thing there are lots of other organizations doing climate related things, we don’t get together with them very often. Part of the problem is that everyone is so busy, we have enough to do with our own organization.

Every organization is looking for ways to reach out to more people and at least make them aware that they’re here and I’m sure that all 100 organizations in WNPJ are looking to do that in some way. So we’re all thinking about how can I push information out, more than we’re thinking about how can I pull it in? It has to go both ways, you also have to pick and choose, you can’t flood people with too much information.

**What’s one accomplishment of CCL?**

Well, the report from the lobby day last year was that Republicans had moved from the year before, from arguing about whether or not there was climate change to talking about solutions, even in Republican districts there was more talk about solutions. I think that’s huge and it’s certainly not all because of us, but it hasn’t hurt.

---

**Colombia Support Network**

**What is your central mission?**

The main mission we have is bringing education to the American people, press, and government—especially members of congress. We want to educate people about the many misconceptions about the war in Colombia. Specifically, we have five goals: 1. Peace and social justice in Colombia 2. A negotiated solution to the conflict 3. Strengthen Colombian civil society 4. Support communities that are resisting by using non-violence; we are not allied with violent actors. 5. Strengthen U.S. democracy—show people they can be active and that they can take part in our democracy; it allows people to participate and learn they have a voice.

**When was your organization founded? why?**

It was founded in 1984. At that time, I received a letter from a dear friend of a list that was circulating in Colombia of people to be killed, some of them were already killed, some were about to be killed. Some of them were friends of mine. I founded the organization with my husband, who is also Colombian. We got together for a brunch with a friend who was a city council member, and we showed him the list. We were one of only organizations working for Colombia in America. My husband had
WNPJ Membership Renewal Form

Name_________________________________________________________
Address ___________________________________________________________________________________________
City __________________________ State ______ Zip __________
Phone __________________________ E-mail________________________________
Contact Person for Organization Membership __________________________________________________________
I prefer my next newsletter on-line only, please _________________________________

Send completed form to: Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice
122 State Street, #405
Madison, WI 53703

Phone 608-250-9240; E-Mail info@wnpj.org; Website www.wnpj.org. WNPJ is a 501(c)3 organization and donations are tax-deductible.

NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

We welcome Julia Levine as our intern for 2016. Julia is a junior at UW-Madison studying Environmental Studies, African-American History, and Photography. She has been reaching out to member groups to update our Directory and conducting interviews to find out a bit more about each group, what their current projects are, and how they interact with WNPJ. Those have been posted on WNPJ’s Facebook page and in Action Alerts. As we get more, we will expand the Directory to include that information. You can reach Julia at wnpjintern@gmail.com.

Volunteers

After a year of strategic planning and without an Executive Director, Z! and I have identified areas where we need help, developed a plan, and with that information have reconstituted WNPJ’s volunteer program in order to help us move the Racial Justice Tipping Point (R-JTP) forward, support our members, and inform our state about critical issues. We had a successful volunteer training in March adding a handful of new people to our current team of volunteers. WNPJ will begin holding volunteer training drop-ins the 4th Saturday of every month (except holiday weekends). These will also include volunteer activities for current volunteers. Volunteers can earn TimeDollars for their time working on scheduled WNPJ work and WNPJ will start accepting TimeDollar donations. A list of our volunteer needs can be found at http://www.wnpj.org/volunteer. Not in Madison? That’s ok. There is much you can do from anywhere around state. Email office@wnpj.org to learn how you can help out.

Tabling

Tabling at the Dane County Farmer’s Market started on April 16th. One of our new volunteers will be there every other Saturday promoting R-JTP and member group activities. The WNPJ table at the Madison Farmers’ Market is available to all member groups upon request. It’s a great way to get your message out to the public at an event that regularly attracts more than 20,000 people. Send your request to table to office@wnpj.org and we’ll schedule your turn. Another opportunity for tabling is at the Midwest Renewal Energy Association Energy Fair in Custer from Friday, June 17th through Sunday, June 19th. WNPJ will again be providing a Pancake Breakfast on Friday and tabling opportunities for environmental and other sustainability grassroots member groups all weekend long. We’ve broken up the days into 2 and 4 hour shifts. The exhibitor booths are open 9:00 am - 10:00 pm on Friday and Saturday, and Sunday from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. If your organization would like tabling time at Booth B4, send your request to office@wnpj.org and we’ll set you up. For more information on the Energy Fair go to https://www.theenergyfair.org/. The next big tabling opportunity after that will be on Saturday, September 17th at Breese Stevens Field, Madison and all members are invited to send a volunteer to table. Again, contact office@wnpj.org if your organization would like tabling time.

Watch for our new racial justice brochure series

Lastly, one of our new volunteers is creating a new series of brochures, based on the corporatization series put out about 10 years ago, that will expose how racism relates to and influences issues within peace, justice, and sustainability. We are excited about this new series and hope that it will be useful to our members as we embark on the R-JTP campaign.
Please check your membership renewal date on the mailing label

If you would rather receive our newsletter online, please email info@wnpj.org.