

Connecting and Communicating

5th Annual **ICJPE** Conference

Illinois Coalition for Justice, Peace & the Environment

April 9-10, 2010

Champaign-Urbana

Independent Media Center

202 S. Broadway

Urbana, IL

Friday night • 7 pm

Keynote Address

Alexander Cockburn

of The Nation and CounterPunch

Reception following with **Ruthless Goats**

Saturday • 10am- 6:30pm

(business meeting 8:30-10am)

Three Panel Discussions

each followed by breakout sessions

**Transforming the Land,
Transforming Social Relations,
Transforming Empire**

Saturday Evening

8 pm Post Conference Concert at IMC

Roy Zimmerman

Cover \$12.00 for Conference Attendees

(funny songs about ignorance, war and greed)

Thoughts for our Conference:

The Illinois Coalition for Justice Peace and the Environment (ICJPE) celebrates its' 5th annual state-wide conference in the town where we began, Urbana, Illinois. This year we come together to forge connections and to explore ways to communicate with each other as we confront constant warfare, economic crisis, environmental degradation, illusory hope in the governing class and threats from the right. Despite the challenges, the ICJPE has grown to include over 160 member groups.

At this conference you will be inspired by the activism and voices of an extremely talented group of participants who will share their thoughts and experiences on moving us toward a more just, equitable, sustainable and peaceful world.

We want you to take the energy and ideas generated during this conference and put them to work. Remember, we are stronger when we work together and smarter when we learn from each other.

PROGRAM FOR THE 5TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE **ILLINOIS COALITION FOR JUSTICE PEACE & THE ENVIRONMENT**

FRIDAY, APRIL 9 • 7PM

Moderator: Joleen Kirschenman

7PM ALEXANDER COCKBURN

Reception following with music provided by the **Ruthless Goats**

SATURDAY, APRIL 10

7:45 am - 8:30 am Registration/Welcome/Logistics

PART I - COALITION BUSINESS: PROPOSED BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

8:30 Welcome message 5 min

8:35 Coordinating Committee Report including questions 10 min

8:45 Budget presentation, discussion and vote 10 min

8:55 Committee meetings & election of new chairs/Coordinating Committee reps 40 min

9:35 At large Committee nominations and elections 10 min

9:45 Presentation of new Coordinating Committee 5 min

PART II - PANEL PRESENTATIONS AND BREAKOUTS

each panelist gets a 15 minute presentation (4 person panel) or 12 minute Presentation (5 person panel)

10:00AM - 12:20 PM TRANSFORMING THE LAND

Moderator: Laurel Lambert Schmidt

10:00 am - 11:00 am Panel Presentation

11:00 am - 11:30 am Q & A from the floor

11:30 am - 11:40 am Summary statements by panelists

11:40 am - 12:20 pm Transforming the Land - Breakout sessions

Gary Cziko, Ken Dunn, Terra Brockman, Karen Hudson

12:30 - 1:30PM LUNCH

1:30 - 3:50PM TRANSFORMING SOCIAL RELATIONS

Moderator: Andy Thayer

1:30 - 2:30 pm Panel Presentation

2:30 - 3:00 pm Q & A from the floor

3:00 - 3:10 pm Summary statements by panelists

3:10 - 3:50 pm Transforming Social Relations - Breakout sessions

Cristobal Cavazos, Mike Griffin, Jamie Kalven, Barbara Kessel, Paul Street

4:00 - 6:20PM TRANSFORMING EMPIRE

Moderator: David Johnson

4:00 - 5:00 pm Panel Presentation

5:00 - 5:30 pm Q & A from the floor

5:30 - 5:40 pm Summary statements by panelists

5:40 - 6:20 pm Transforming Empire - Breakout sessions

Aaron Hughes, Kathy Kelly, Brock McIntosh, Doug Rokke, Rev. Geri Solomon,
Representative(s) from the **Zenko Peace** movement in Japan

6:20 - 6:30PM FULL ASSEMBLY/REPORT BACK - FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS/CLOSING

Friday Night Keynote, Alexander Cockburn

Alexander Cockburn, is one of America 's best-known radical journalists. He was born in Scotland, grew up in Ireland and graduated from Oxford in 1963 with a degree in English literature and language. He worked at the *Times Literary Supplement*, *New Left Review* and *The New Statesman*. He came to the US in 1973, and has written for the *Village Voice*, *The New York Review of Books*, *Harper's Magazine*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *In These Times* and the *Anderson Valley Advertiser*. Since 1987, he has published a number of books including *Corruptions of Empire*, *The Golden Age is In Us* and, with Jeffrey St Clair, books including *Five Days That Shook the World*, *Whiteout: The CIA, Drugs and the Press*, *Al Gore, A User's Manual* and *A Dime's Worth of Difference*, about the two-party system in America . He has written "Beat the Devil" since 1984 and is co-editor, with Jeffrey St Clair, of the newsletter and radical website **CounterPunch** which have a substantial world audience. He lives in Humboldt county, California.

Joleen Kirschenman, sociologist and policy analyst, has long challenged inequalities in her research and teaching. More recently, she is a leading organizer in the local antiwar movement with the Chicago Coalition Against War and Racism. Concerned with access to and the quality of media, she produces videos for **Labor Beat**, a 23-year CAN-TV show in Chicago, and promotes press for grassroots groups through **Hammerhard Media** She is the treasurer for the ICJPE and sits on its' coordinating committee, as well as the executive committee of the recently-founded Public Workers Unite. This spring she is working to provide urban gardening opportunities in Woodlawn on Chicago's south side.

Saturday Panel Bios

Transforming the Land

Terra Brockman is a member of a remarkable farming family and a nuanced observer of, fierce advocate for, and gifted writer and speaker about sustainable agriculture. She comes at her subject from unexpected angles, combining her experience growing up as one of the 4th generation of an Illinois farm family with her expertise in biology, ecology, literature, philosophy and history. Overall, Terra celebrates the many benefits that come from farming in harmony with nature. Terra is the author of *The Seasons on Henry's Farm: A Year of Food and Life on a Sustainable Farm*, and the founder of **The Land Connection**, an educational nonprofit that saves farmland, trains farmers in entrepreneurial farming, and connects local producers and consumers. Much of her recent work is grounded in her brother **Henry's Farm** in central Illinois , where he grows 655 varieties of vegetables in the Mackinaw River Valley

Gary Cziko, founder of Transition Champaign County, is professor emeritus of the University of Illinois of Urbana-Champaign in Educational Psychology. He is currently involved in advocating bicycling for transportation, recreation and fitness. He is the Secretary of ChampaignCountyBikes.org and has served on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission of the City of Urbana since its inception in 2006. He is interested in all aspects of sustainability including transportation, food, buildings, energy, environmental conservation and restoration, recycling, education, music and art. He is also founder and manager of **The Latino Radio Service** (LRS), which may be the only foreign-language campus radio station in the U.S. It may also be the only completely automated, Internet-supplied radio station anywhere.

Ken Dunn, founder and president of the **Resource Center**, has more than forty years of experience finding productive uses for discarded materials. The Resource Center has pioneered programs for urban agriculture, recycling, reuse, and re-purposing. Resource Center's City Farm program provides a model for urban agriculture in Chicago's Cabrini-Green neighborhood. Mr. Dunn was a recipient of then Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn's 2006 Environmental Heroes Award for his work in urban composting and agriculture. Mr. Dunn's breadth and depth of knowledge has been captured in numerous print articles. He is often tapped for his first-hand knowledge and innovative ideas for managing the waste stream through composting and recycling. He is featured in the following books: *Fields of Plenty: A Farmer's Journey in Search of Real Food and the People Who Grow It*; *Native to Nowhere: Sustaining Home and Community In a Global Age* and *Garbage Wars: The Struggle for Environmental Justice in Chicago*.

Karen Hudson, an activist who works to counter the devastating impacts of factory farming, lives on a fifth generation family farm in Peoria County in West Central Illinois. She is President of **F.A.R.M.** (Families Against Rural Messes), a grassroots organization that organized when livestock factories targeted Illinois for expansion. Karen has been named "Conservationist of the Year" by the Heart of Illinois Chapter of the Sierra Club.

Hudson has been featured in the *Washington Post*, the *Chicago Tribune*, the *Chicago Sun Times*, the *Dayton Daily News*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and on NPR, as well as in various state and local media. She continues to educate and empower citizens in Illinois and across the nation who face the impacts of livestock factories by speaking and through her work with **SRAP** (Socially Responsible Agricultural Project), F.A.R.M., and the **Illinois Citizens for Clean Air and Water**.

Laurel Lambert Schmidt, long time peace activist but recovering Democrat, recently joined the Green Party and is a candidate for US Congress in the 3rd Congressional District of Illinois. She works as a PJEP network organizer for New York, Maine and Washington; chairs the Near West Citizens for Peace & Justice, is a 4-year member of ICJPE's Coordinating Committee and serves on the Forum Committee of Third Unitarian Church.

Transforming Social Relations Panelists

Cristobal Cavazos is a Latino and immigrant rights activist in Dupage County. The son of former Mexican itinerant farm laborers, Cavazos was raised in Dupage County becoming interested in history and political activism while listening to stories of the exploitation of Latinos in the fields and workplace.

Cavazos is a co-founder of Immigrant Solidarity Dupage a group whose mission is to educate, unite and mobilize the community around the rights and struggles of Latinos in Dupage County. Inspired by the "mega-marches" of 2006 across the United States for immigrant rights, the group has fueled a very active grassroots politics in their community becoming the largest Latino advocacy organization in the increasingly diverse west suburbs of Chicago.

Mike Griffin, activist member of the Carpenters Union and veteran of the Staley lockout, has been long engaged in the struggle to build international solidarity among unions and advance coalitions. A carpenter in Decatur Illinois for five years, he recently found himself working with the pipe systems that power huge turbines when the United Brotherhood of Carpenters (UBC) signed a deal with Westinghouse guaranteeing that carpenters can do pipefitters' work if they agree to work for 10 percent less than the normal pay rate. "The UBC is teaching apprentices and members that you have to compete against your brother," Griffin said. "Well, not me." Members protested, threatening to take action with the AFL-CIO and the contract was renegotiated for more money. Still, Griffin and other rank and file members within the carpenters' union think this is the shape of things to come.

Jamie Kalven of the Invisible Institute, is a writer and human rights activist, author of *Working With Available Light: A Family's World After Violence* and the editor of *A Worthy Tradition: Free Speech in America* by Harry Kalven, Jr. He has reported widely on public housing and police abuse issues. He is author of *Working With Available Light: A Family's World After Violence*, based on his own family experience. Since the early 1990's, he has devoted much of my time and energy to social initiatives in inner city Chicago neighborhoods. He was one of the founders of **Vigil Against Violence** and co-directed a program for the **Resource Center** in which volunteers from across the city joined together with residents of inner city neighborhoods to transform vacant lots into gardens, parks and playgrounds. He also works on the possibilities of job creation for ex-offenders and street gang veterans through "grassroots public works."

Barbara Kessel retired from teaching at Truman College in Chicago in 2004, moved to Urbana, and became involved with Quakers Peace and Service committee and with the newly forming Books to Prisoners group. Through BtP she became committed to working with the program in the county jails and to dealing directly with Illinois Department of Corrections about state prisons, concerning mail, prison libraries and reform of Tamms C.C. (our own Guantanamo on the Mississippi, with solitary confinement 24/7). Through CU Citizens for Peace and Justice, she grew interested in what goes on in our county courtrooms, the use of tasers, and the police (mis)use of force. Through the **National Religious Campaign Against Torture**, of which Quakers are members, she has been instrumental in getting them to expand their mission from the international front to include torture in our jails and prisons in the U.S.

Paul Street is an independent radical-democratic policy researcher, journalist, historian, and speaker based in Iowa City, Iowa, and Chicago, Illinois and was the Director of Research at The Chicago Urban League from 2000 through 2005. Much of Street's writing revolves around criticism and exposure of what King called "the triple evils that are interrelated": racism, economic exploitation (capitalism), and militarism-imperialism. He thinks that other and related evils, including sexism and ecocidalism (and authoritarianism more generally) deserve equal consideration.

He is author of four books to date: *Empire and Inequality: America and the World Since 9/11*, *Segregated Schools: Educational Apartheid in the Post-Civil Rights Era*, *Racial Oppression in the Global Metropolis: a Living Black Chicago History* and (most recently) *Barack Obama and the Future of American Politics*. Street's essays, articles, reviews, and commentaries have appeared in numerous outlets, from the *Chicago Tribune*, to ZNet and the Black Agenda Report.

Andy Thayer is co-founder of the **Gay Liberation Network**, a Chicago-based LGBT direct action group which has been a local leader in gay rights, anti-police brutality and anti-war organizing. He's helped organize most of the city's large anti-war protests for the last several years, including a march of 15,000 on Lake Shore Drive at the start of the U.S. invasion of Iraq. He's been arrested numerous times in various protests and was recently found not guilty of two felony counts from a January 2008 protest against the Chicago visit of President Bush. Last year he was among 30 LGBT activists arrested in the 4th annual gay pride demonstration in Moscow, Russia.

Transforming Empire Panelists

Aaron Hughes is national Organizing Team Leader for **Iraq Veterans Against the War** and a former Illinois Army National Guard (ILNG) Sergeant who after serving six years was discharged in June of 2006. Raised predominantly by his single mother, a member of the Chicago Teachers Union, he joined the ILNG in order to serve his community and get an education. In 2003 he was involuntarily deployed to Kuwait and Iraq with the belief he would provide humanitarian relief for the Iraqi people. As a truck driver he traveled throughout much of Iraq and quickly came to the realization that he was not providing any type of humanitarian relief, but in stead was contributing to the oppression, destruction, and dehumanization of the Iraqi people. Following a fifteen-month deployment Aaron returned home guilt stricken and committed to end the occupation and U.S. corporate pillaging. He has dedicated his life to fighting dehumanization and oppression; and has worked to build alliances between veterans and unions in Chicago.

Kathy Kelly co-coordinates **Voices for Creative Nonviolence**, a campaign to end U.S. military and economic warfare. As a co-founder of Voices in the Wilderness, she helped form 70 delegations, from 1996 - 2003, that openly defied economic sanctions by bringing medicines to children and families in Iraq. Kathy and her companions lived in Baghdad throughout the 2003 "Shock and Awe" bombing.

More recently, she has visited Gaza and Pakistan, writing eyewitness accounts of war's impact on civilians.

Kathy was sentenced to one year in federal prison for planting corn on nuclear missile silo sites (1988-89) and served three months, in 2004, for crossing the line at Fort Benning's military training school.

She and her companions at the Voices home/office in Chicago believe that non-violence necessarily involves simplicity, service, sharing of resources and non-violent direct action in resistance to war and oppression. Kathy hasn't paid federal income taxes since 1980.

Brock McIntosh of **Veterans for Rethinking Afghanistan**, is a specialist in the Army National Guard and Military Policeman from Bloomington, Illinois. He has just returned from a twelve month tour in Afghanistan ending in August of this year.

Doug Rokke, PhD. is a Depleted Uranium expert who has been subjected to ongoing retaliation from Department of Defense officials who do not want information regarding actual adverse health and environmental effects of uranium weapons and their mandatory but ignored requirements to provide medical care to all casualties and to clean up all environmental contamination. Now retired, Dr. Rokke has taught elementary school, middle school, and high school as well as undergraduate and graduate courses in environmental science, environmental engineering, nuclear physics, and emergency management. He was a staff physicist at UIUC for 19 years. His military career spanned 4 decades to include combat duty during the Vietnam War and Gulf War 1. He has been an advisor and expert for numerous government agencies and mainstream media outlets on effects of nuclear, biological, and chemical warfare and depleted uranium.

Rev. Geri Solomon of Aurora Urban Ministries and Aurora for Peace and Justice, has been a peace, civil rights, community and human rights activist since the days of Dr. King (over 40 years), opposed to the War in Iraq since its inception. She has helped to organize many political campaigns including those of Jesse Jackson and Dennis Kucinich who was her special guest at one of the largest Illinois Speak-out rallies for Single Payer health care. Solomon, born in Mississippi and raised in Chicago, published 136-page *Soul Winner's Handbook* designed to show lay Christians how to prepare and be witnesses of the Gospels. "This isn't being preached enough. If more Christians would realize their responsibility to build the Kingdom of God, the world

would become a place of peace and fellowship.” Her aim is to revive the peace movement in the US.

Representative from **Zenko, National Assembly for Peace and Democracy**. Zenko believes that unemployment and the war promote environmental destruction and work to the detriment of Japanese society, peace and democracy. Zenko works to promote peace on a global scale. They look to the causes of the so they may join forces with others in the world to dismantle the system of war without end, creating a society which facilitates democracy for the people where people can live in peace. They also work against the economic exploitation of globalization to combat discrimination against foreign residents and with human rights movements to counter the suppression of workers through unemployment and layoffs. They work to protect the environment for humanity’s survival and to protect the natural environment and biodiversity of the earth. To this end, they seek to link up with people all over the world to advance the power of international solidarity.

David Johnson, host of Illinois World Labor Hour, **WEFT Community Radio** in Champaign for 9 years and host of Labor View on Urbana Public Television, Comcast channel 6. He is a rank and file activist and former member of the Carpenters Union, current member of the Illinois Education Association and the IWW - Champaign branch. David also served as the Vice-president and Political Director of the Champaign County AFL-CIO. He joined the antiwar movement at age 14 in 1972 and has since engaged that struggle.