

KW Community Centre for Social Justice

kwccsj@peaceculture.org

63 Courtland Ave.

Newsletter – 1.1 – Fall 2009.

Welcome to Issue 1 of the KW Community Centre for Social Justice Newsletter. The very first thing that needs to be said is a massive thank you to all of our donors—without you, there would be no KWCCSJ.

In this letter you will find a brief introduction to the KWCCSJ as well as a history of recent events and a schedule for some that are coming up in the near future. You will also find links to info about those events and also to all sorts of issue-based information from AW@L.

What is the KWCCSJ?

The Kitchener-Waterloo Community Centre for Social Justice (KWCCSJ) is a radical space in downtown Kitchener. The space enjoyed its official opening in June of 2009, and we are starting regular weekly events and regular hours for the infoshop and drop-in starting in October.

The KWCCSJ has been in the works for close to a year now. The project was initiated by AW@L and KW Anti-Racist Action (ARA), and is now being run primarily by AW@L.

The KWCCSJ was created as a re-visioning of the old KW Youth Collective's "Spot," which closed in 2004. The idea of the drop-in centre was crafted into a community space for meetings, meals and events, with the addition of an 'info-shop'—a radical bookstore and information centre.

The KWCCSJ is a functional meeting space where AW@L holds our bi-weekly and committee meetings. The space is also open to any group in the community who needs a workable safe space to meet in. We have black boards, white boards, and media capabilities including a large screen projector and sound hooked-up. We will soon have wireless internet and also free coffee.

The KWCCSJ is also currently home to the ongoing KW Cop Watch campaign, as well as other projects. If you want to use the space for your group or project, just let us know.

The KWCCSJ is a place where we regularly host speakers, films, info nights, bands, book tours and more. It is also a space where members of our collective with various expertise or skills conduct workshops on topics including direct action, working with the media, campaign planning, project visioning, anti-oppression, decolonization, consensus decision making, and more. If you have an event that you would like to put on, or if you would like to have one of our members conduct a workshop with your group, just let us know—that's what we're here for.



What is AW@L?

AW@L is a group that started on the Wilfrid Laurier campus in late 2006 as an LSPiRG working group. We quickly became unaffiliated and have since brought in community members and have active members from University of Waterloo as well as Laurier.

Rooted in Kitchener-Waterloo, AW@L is a radical direct action group that targets perpetrators of war and environmental destruction, and stands in solidarity with Indigenous activists who are fighting against colonialism, and all people who struggle against oppression in all its forms.

The Issues AW@L works on are defined broadly: Community, War, Indigenous Solidarity, and Ecological Justice. Specifically, we spend much of our energy working in solidarity with land protectors and activists from Six Nations and from Grassy Narrows First Nation, counter-recruitment on University campuses, solidarity with individuals targeted by the so-called 'war on terror' and the Canadian Security Certificate program, anti-2010 Olympics organizing, and direct participation in land reclamation and land protection struggles across the region.

We work with an assortment of other activist organizations in the province including No One is Illegal, Rainforest Action Network, Christian Peacemaker Teams, Council of Canadians, Olympic Resistance Network—Ontario, Stratford Action for Equality, CUPE 3903 FNSW, Young Onkwehonwe United, KW Anti-Racist Action, Indigenous Peoples Solidarity Movement, Earth Justice Initiative, and more.

What have we been up to recently?

Sept. 24 – **Torch Statement** – We issued a statement against the 2010 Olympics and the Torch Relay which is scheduled to be in Kitchener on December 28. The statement, called *A Letter of Resistance to the City of Kitchener – In Opposition to the 2010 Olympics*, along with a copy of a letter sent to Mayor Carl Zehr are available online here: <http://peaceculture.org/drupal/node/365>

August – **Hanlon Creek Business Park (HCBP)** – Several members of AW@L spent a great deal of time involved in the successful occupation of Guelph's HCBP this summer. Read, *Protect Mother Earth, Don't Settle for Less*, an article by AW@L's own Adam Lewis on the occupation. It was written for *The Dominion*—here it is on our website: <http://peaceculture.org/drupal/node/355>

July – **Earth Justice Initiative (EJI)** – EJI was an intensive, month-long activist training program that several AW@L members participated in. A lot was learned, and many solid and strategic connections were made with activists from other parts of the region.

Summer – **Dump Site 41** – Another highly successful land defence, this one in Simcoe County, which also saw extensive and ongoing support from several AW@L members. Read, *For the Water*, an article by AW@L Radio hosts Dan Kellar and Alex Hundert on the campaign to help protect some of the world's purest water. This article too, was written for *The Dominion*—again, here it is on our website: <http://peaceculture.org/drupal/node/342>

Upcoming Events at the KWCCSJ

Sept. 29 – Movie Night, 7pm:

The Weather Underground:

"In October 1969 hundreds of young people, clad in football helmets and wielding lead pipes, marched through an upscale Chicago shopping district, pummeling parked cars and smashing shop windows in their path.

This was the first demonstration of the Weather Underground's "Days of Rage." Outraged by the Vietnam War and racism in America, the organization waged a low-level war against the U.S. government through much of the 1970s, bombing the Capitol building, breaking Timothy Leary out of prison, and evading one of the largest FBI manhunts in history.

The Weather Underground is a feature-length documentary that explores the rise and fall of this radical movement, as former members speak candidly about the idealistic passion that drove them to "bring the war home" and the trajectory that placed them on the FBI's most wanted list."

Oct. 6 – **Community Potluck** 4:30-6pm,
w special guest, **Abousfian Abdelrazik**

*To break the Silence and End the Fear,
Abdelrazik Speaks for Justice:*



"Abousfian Abdelrazik, recently returned from 6 years of forced exile in Sudan, will be on tour across Quebec and

eastern Canada, from the 24th of September to the 17th of October, accompanied by members of Project Fly Home. The tour is sponsored nationally by the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW), Council of Canadians, Council on American-Islamic Relations - Canada (CAIRCAN), International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group (ICLMG), and the National Campus and Community Radio Association (NCRA)."

Oct. 13 – Book Tour, 7pm:

Israeli author and activist Uri Gordon, *Anarchy Alive!*

About the author: "Anarchists Against the Wall is an Israeli action group supporting the popular Palestinian struggle against segregation and land confiscation in the West Bank. Uri Gordon, a participant in the group and author of the book "Anarchy Alive!", will discuss the group's activities and examine the achievements and limitations of the joint struggle, as well as anarchist perspectives on national liberation and the future of Palestine/Israel."

About the book: "Anarchist politics are at the heart of today's most vibrant and radical social movements. From squatted social centres and community gardens to acts of sabotage and raucous summit blockades, anarchist groups and networks are spreading an ethos of direct action, non-hierarchical organizing and self-liberation that has redefined revolutionary struggle for the 21st century."

Oct. 20 – Movie Night, 7pm:

Still We Ride

"On Friday August 27, 2004 just days before the start of the Republican National Convention, a massive police operation was underway. By the end of the night 264 people were arrested. It marked one of the largest mass arrests in New York City's history - and the arrested had done nothing illegal.

For many New Yorkers, August was the first time they heard of what has become a monthly ritual for New York City's bike community; a free-forming ride called Critical Mass.

Still We Ride is a documentary that captures the joyous atmosphere of this August ride before the arrests began and the chaos that followed. It recounts how this ride first started in San Francisco over 10 years ago and chronicles the police crackdown and resulting court battles in New York over the last twelve months. The movie takes on issues of civil liberties, surveillance, the power of mainstream media, and the benefits of alternative means of transportation."

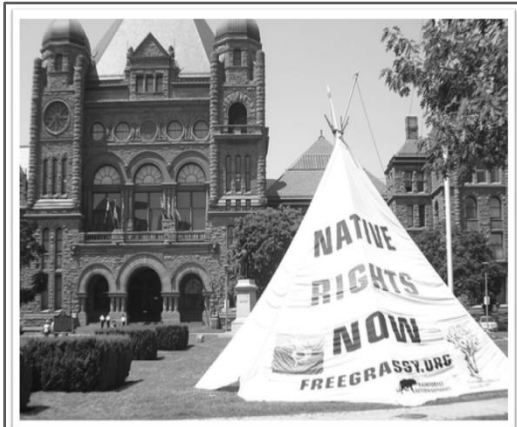
Oct. 25-31 – Events tba

Indigenous Sovereignty Week

The callout for the first annual Indigenous Sovereignty Week comes out of last year's *Defenders of the Land* conference in Winnipeg.

The last week in October, like most Tuesdays, we will be hosting a moving night—we are thinking about showing the CBC dramatization of the Oka crisis, but we might go another route (perhaps a screening of the new Grassy Narrows documentary, *The Scars of Mercury*).

We will be hosting a major speaking event at the Community Centre, likely on Thursday the 29th. This event will be focussed on solidarity with Six Nations. The event will tentatively feature Missy Elliot (Young Onkwehonwe United – YOU), Jim Windle (editor of Tekawennake newspaper and founding member of Two Row Understanding through Education – TRUE in Brantford), and one more speaker tbd.



AW@L members helped erect this 30ft tepee on the lawn of Queen's Park in June 2007.

Tuesdays in November – Movie Night, 7pm

In December...

Stay tuned for announcements about movie nights, speakers, bands, actions, and at least one no2010 Olympics info night.

Nov. 29 – **WTO, Seattle '99 – 10 years later**

Movie Night, 7pm:

Battle in Seattle and Breaking the Spell

It has been ten years since riots and protests rocked the WTO meetings in Seattle in 1999. We're going to talk about a couple movies with two different perspectives on the actions of Nov 29-Dec 2, 1999.



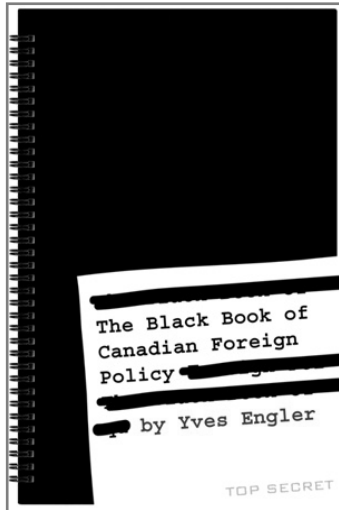
Legendary banner-drop from Seattle '99

Hollywood: "It's November 1999, and five days are about to rock the world as tens of thousands of demonstrators take to the streets of Seattle in protest of the World Trade Organization's Ministerial Meeting... A peaceful demonstration to stop the WTO talks quickly escalates into a full-scale riot, and soon a State of Emergency is declared by the Mayor of Seattle. The streets are mayhem, and the WTO is paralyzed. Caught in the crossfire of civil liberties and keeping the peace are Seattle residents... Ultimately, *Battle in Seattle* illustrates that even against incredible odds, ordinary people can change the world."

CrimethInc: "An hour-long look at the 1999 Seattle WTO protests and the anarchists who traveled there to set a new precedent for militant confrontation, this documentary picks up where *Pickaxe* left off. Filmed in the thick of the action, including footage that aired nationally on *60 Minutes*, it captures a moment when world history was up for grabs."

Recent events at the KWCCSJ

Sept. 24 – Author **Yves Engler**,
Black Book of Canadian Foreign Policy
Book Tour



Canadian author Yves Engler (*Canada in Haiti: Waging War on the Poor Majority* and *Playing Left Wing: From Rink Rat to Student Radical*) spoke to a packed house on a range of topics from his new book: “*The Black Book of Canadian Foreign Policy* is the first serious critical overview of

Canada’s role on the world stage... Contrary to the mythology of Canada as a force for good in the world, this country has been part of an anti-democratic command and control apparatus of the world economic system from its beginning.” Engler “sheds light on the many dark corners of Canadian foreign policy.”

Sept. 22 – **Amy Miller’s *Myth’s for Profit***
Movie Night

“A dramatic, exposé documentary which explores ‘Canada’s role in Industries of War and Peace’. Through diverse interviews and case studies this documentary unveils the specific interests and profits that are made by certain corporation, individuals and agencies within Canada. The Canadian government and the military would like us to believe that we are altruistic peacekeepers helping people around the world. But is this accurate? ‘MYTHS FOR PROFIT’ examines how these misconceptions are maintained and who stands to gain by perpetuating them. By understanding the systems of power in Canada we can move forward in challenging how they operate and collectively create change”

Sept. 15 – **CrimethInc’s *Pickaxe***
Movie Night

Pickaxe is from CrimethInc’s ‘Guerrilla Film Series Vol.1. Their website describes it as follows: “An eclectic mix of activists take a stand to protect an old growth forest from logging at Warner Creek in the Willamette National Forest of Oregon, blockading the logging road and repelling the State Police. Over months a community builds around the illegal blockade as it develops into the Cascadia Free State and similar actions spread across the region. Years after its release, *Pickaxe* has become a classic document of the potential for grassroots direct action to achieve victory against the forces of both government and big business. Lovingly crafted by the participants themselves, the film expertly presents every moment, from confrontation to celebration. Filmmakers: Tim Lewis and Tim Ream.

Sept. 10 – Live Music, Revolutionary Hip Hop
Raised Fist Collective, and guests

The Raised Fist Collective is made up of two rappers; Testament, from London, and Illogik from Toronto. Musical guests included Sean Gallagher, Janice Lee and DJ Saboteur.

Testament, in his own words: “I am not a rapper, I am just a revolutionary that raps good. My lyrics are bricks I use to shatter apathy and the status



quo. Whether I’m spittin to a live DJ scratchin, acapella spoken word style, a beat-boxer on the street, or a punk-rock drum beat, I never pull punches or shy away from spreading confrontational dissent through powerful, thought-provoking rhymes. I’m here to change hip-hop and steal

its soul back from the glorified violence, materialism, sexism, and racism that the music industry creates promotes and markets for their own capitalist purposes. The revolution will not be signed to a record deal... DIY or die.”

Aug. 17 – Punk Rock Night with **The Rebel Spell** (Vancouver), **The Class War Kids** (St. Johns), **Broadcast Zero** (KW), **End Program** (Toronto), and **Jesse Lebourdais** (Vancouver).

These bands are mostly from the Rebel Time Records label network: "Rebel Time Records is dedicated to bringing you the best in socially-conscious, positive and politically charged punk rock. Rebel Time Records is about music of protest and resistance. We're about rock and rebellion. We're about having a laugh and having a say. We're about being the soundtrack to social change. We believe that music can agitate, motivate and educate. It can mobilize and galvanize. It can get you off the sidelines and onto the frontlines..."



We hope to contribute to the building and strengthening of the already existing politically-active punk rock movement. We hope to contribute to the building and strengthening of a broader network and community of like-minded bands, individuals and projects so that meaningful and message-filled music can thrive and grow.

Punk Rock can't change the world, but Punks can! Rebel Time Records....Rebel Tunes For Rebel Times!"

July 10 – More Punk w/ **Broadcast Zero**, **The Class War Kids**, and **Life in Vacuum**

Another show from Rebel Time Records: "Hailing From St. John's, Newfoundland The Class War Kids are a 4 piece Punk Rock & Roll band who are driven to write catchy, and politically charged music. United in the belief that music can be a force for positive change in the world, Sean, Davey, Patty, and Kyle have made it their mission to create solid music that not only gets stuck in your head with catchy sing along chorus' but music that is thought provoking, potentially riot provoking, and hopefully revolution provoking."

July 2 – Speaking Tour:
Chrissy Swain, Grassy Narrows youth leader

This was another packed event with a diverse crowd. Here is a section from the *Waterloo Record* article by Valerie Hill:

"Chrissy Swain is pinning her hopes on native youth to help save the Anishnabe culture and to protect a vanishing way of life on reserves now under siege by mining and logging companies.

"While I'm down here, I'm networking with young



Chrissy Swain at the KWCCSJ
Image courtesy of TheRecord.com

people,' said Swain a youth leader from Grassy Narrows First Nations in northwestern Ontario. Swain was in Kitchener last night, speaking to the KW Community Centre for Social Justice. The centre's offices are meagre, but the spirit in the room was palpable and Swain spoke with passion outlining the myriad of problems faced by her community."

June 18 – **No 2010 Olympics** – Info Night

Check out AW@L's No2010 page at:
<http://peaceculture.org/drupal/no2010>

June 15 – **Forbidden Texts Tour:**

Live Hip Hop w **Testament, Illogik, and Outspoken Wordsmiths**

*Don't forget to listen to **AW@L Radio**, with hosts Dan Kellar and Alex Hundert, every Thursday from 2-4pm on 100.3 fm CKMS in Waterloo. Also live online at soundfm.ca. All of our past episodes and podcasts are available on our website, peaceculture.org.*

September 11, 2009

Dear Friends and Family,

As 2010 approaches, I would like to invite you to join us in the fight against injustice, poverty and oppression in our own community by supporting a new initiative that I am excited to be involved with, the Kitchener Waterloo Community Centre for Social Justice (KWCCSJ).

The KW Community Centre for Social Justice is a safe space. It is a 'radical' space where we hold community meals and events, conduct workshops, hold our meetings, organize our actions, plan our campaigns, and it is also an outreach centre. KWCCSJ is here to empower youth and others to become active in our own communities. KWCCSJ is also an information centre, where we will provide education resources on issues of urban poverty, social change and peace-culture, human rights, gender and sexuality, anti-racism, migrant justice, environmentalism, mental and physical health and more. It is a radical bookstore and reading centre.

KWCCSJ is a space that will be open to anyone in the community and for community groups as a space to meet and organize. We will also regularly host concerts, movie screenings, speakers and workshops, meals and other community events. So far, we have hosted bands from across the country, and have started to run major speaking events and book tour stops. In August we hosted Grassy Narrows First Nations youth leader Chrissy Swain and premiered Amy Miller's new documentary, "Myths for Profit." This fall we will host Israeli author and activist Uri Gordon, Canadian author and foreign policy expert Yves Engler, activists from Six Nations, as well as a community potluck with Abousfian Abdelrazik. We will be showing weekly movie nights, holding benefit concerts, and much more. The KWCCSY will also be the local hub for the first annual Indigenous Solidarity Week at the end of October.

I am inviting you to become a member of 'Friends of Social Justice'—a community based group which directly supports the KWCCSJ—and support a safe/radical space for youth and community organizers from across the Waterloo Region. This is a critical issue for me in times of such political and economic uncertainty, and I am hoping that we can come together as a community to support this vision.

The most sustainable form of contribution to this worthy cause, that can ensure the long term stability of this project, is small monthly or quarterly donations. This will allow us to be able to project our monthly income, to compare to our monthly expenses. I hope that you consider a dollar a day – less than a cup of coffee – as a monthly donation of \$30 a month. All donations are welcome and monthly donations of \$10 or more are extremely significant to the success of this project.

As a 'Friend of Social Justice' you will be kept up to date on the centre through a quarterly newsletter, and invited to all major events.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.
Sincerely,

Friends of Social Justice, and the Members of AW@L

JOIN US!

'Friends of Social Justice' are people that support the activities of the community centre by making a monthly or quarterly financial donation.

'Friends of Social Justice' contribute between \$10 and \$50 /month. Our monthly costs currently amount to over \$1200, which includes rent, phone and daily costs. KWCCSJ has no paid staff.

Your financial contribution will go a long way towards helping youth in the Waterloo Region.

To donate, please complete our Pre-authorized Debit form and send it to us, keeping the yellow carbon copy for your self.

Or send 12 or 4 post dated checks to:

*KWCCSJ
63 Courtland Ave, Unit 6
Kitchener, N2G 2T6*

Or, go to AW@L's website (www.peaceculture.org) and make a one-time donation through our pay-pal account.

'Friends of Social Justice' will receive a quarterly email with updates about the work we are doing and info on upcoming events.

For more information about KWCCSJ, send an email to: kwccsj@peaceculture.org

Links:

AW@L's website: <http://Peaceculture.org>

AW@L Radio:

<http://Peaceculture.org/drupal/awal-radio>

AW@L Radio Rabble Podcast:

<http://rabble.ca/category/podcasts/political-commentary/awl>

Rebel Time Records:

<http://www.rebeltimerecords.com>

Testament (Revolutionary Hip Hop):

<http://www.myspace.com/testamenthiphop>

CrimethInc. Ex Workers Collective:

<http://www.crimethinc.com/>

Myths for Profit (by Amy Miller):

<http://wideopenexposure.com/M4P.php>

Black Book of Canadian Foreign Policy

(by Yves Engler):

<http://blackbook.foreignpolicy.ca/>

Anarchy Alive! (by Uri Gordon):

<http://anarchyalive.com/>

Anarchists Against the Wall:

<http://www.awalls.org/>

Hanlon Creek Business Park Occupation Blog:

<http://hcbpoccupation.wordpress.com/>

Dumpsite 41 Resistance:

<http://stopdumpsite41.ca/>

The Dominion Newspaper:

<http://www.dominionpaper.ca>

2010 Olympics Resistance:

<http://www.no2010.com>

Friends and Allies (with websites):

No One is Illegal:

<http://toronto.nooneisillegal.org/>

Rainforest Action Network: <http://ran.org>

Christian Peacemaker Teams: <http://cpt.org>

Olympic Resistance Network:

<http://olympicresistance.net/>

Defenders of the Land:

<http://www.defendersoftheland.org/>

Guelph LIMITS:

<http://www.landismoreimportantthansprawl.com/>

Council of Canadians:

<http://www.canadians.org>

CUPE 3903: <http://www.cupe3903.tao.ca>

Sierra Youth Coalition: <http://www.syc-cjs.org/>

Empowerment Infoshop (London, ON):

<http://www.empowermentinfoshop.com/>

Upping the Anti: A Journal of Theory and Action:

<http://www.uppingtheanti.org/>

100.3fm CKMS Radio Waterloo:

<http://soundfm.ca/>

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