OMNI
BILL OF RIGHTS DAY DECEMBER 15, 2018
NEWSLETTER #8


Compiled by Dick Bennett for a Culture of Peace and Justice.

http://omnicenter.org/donate/

What’s at stake  (See Newsletter #6): OMNI supports the US Bill of Rights and the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a great foundation for our hopes for a better world: world peace, liberty and justice for all, social and economic justice, a sustainable planet.

OMNI
BILL OF RIGHTS DAY DECEMBER 15, 2014 NEWSLETTER #6
http://jamesrichardbennett.blogspot.com/2014/12/bill-of-rights-day-newsletter-6.html

OMNI

OMNI NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL DAYS PROJECT
(The Project began in 2008 and contains important good material available for research.)

Contents of #7 and #6 at end

CONTENTS OF #8
ACLU
BORDC, Chip Gibbons
DR&D, Sue Udry
CCR
UUSC
It's Bill of Rights Day: Celebrate Our Movement.
Sue Udry, Defending Rights & Dissent 12-15-18

To celebrate Bill of Rights Day today, I’d like to reflect on our tremendous legacy from the days we called ourselves the Bill of Rights Defense Committee, and the groundbreaking work the organization did (long before I came onto the scene).

I love the way Nat Hentoff wrote about BORDC in the Village Voice. He referred to our founding mother, Nancy Talanian, as a modern-day Paul Revere. He compared the “teachers, retirees, lawyers, doctors, students, and nurses” who came together to launch the Bill of Rights Defense Committee in Northampton, Massachusetts in 2001 to the Sons of Liberty. He contrasted their courage with the cowardice of a Congress that rushed to pass the PATRIOT Act and strip us of our liberty. And when Northampton passed the first-in-the-nation resolution to defend the Bill of Rights in 2002, Hentoff called it “a new American Revolution.”

Maybe not a revolution. But we did help build a movement to defend our rights.

Through successive administrations, Democratic and Republican, we’ve mobilized against surveillance, profiling, indefinite detention and torture. We’ve mobilized to protect freedom of speech, religion and assembly, and privacy.

Since that first Northampton resolution, over 400 towns, cities, and eight states have passed similar resolutions.
We’ve helped pass local laws against surveillance, profiling, and government secrecy, and stopped other laws that restrict our liberty and rights.

We’ve had other victories over the years, in the states and in Congress. For a brief shining moment in 2015, we even forced one of the worst provisions of the PATRIOT Act to sunset.

I am honored to follow in Nancy’s footsteps, and I invite you to join me in celebrating BORDC’s legacy by making a contribution on Bill of Rights Day.

There is still so much work to be done, and the outlook may seem particularly dark right now, but, as Nat Hentoff pointed out, “all through our history, dissent and resistance have beaten back the darkness.”
Dear Dick,

Seventy-six years ago, President Franklin Roosevelt designated December 15 to be "a day of mobilization for freedom and for human rights, a day of remembrance of the democratic and peaceful action by which these rights were gained, a day of reassessment of their present meaning and their living worth."

Just months after issuing those inspiring words though, President Roosevelt ordered the internment of 120,000 Japanese Americans.

FDR wasn’t the first or the last politician to wax poetic about liberty while also trampling our rights. Which is why our work is so vital. It’s why we need a movement to make the promise of the Bill of Rights a reality for everyone in this country.

Help Us Make Every Day Bill of Rights Day!

So what are we doing for Bill of Rights Day?

We are mobilizing local communities to push back against a national agenda of profiling and surveillance by pursuing local ordinances to limit local law enforcement cooperation with federal officials, prohibit unwarranted surveillance, and protect online privacy.

Support Us In Mobilizing for Freedom and Human Rights!

We remember the democratic and peaceful action by which rights are gained by documenting the work of local activists across the country on our Dissent NewsWire.

Help us make sure democracy and peaceful action for the Bill of Rights is not only remembered, but takes place everyday.

And we are reassessing the present meaning and living worth of the Bill of Rights by documenting how federal, state, and local law enforcement abuse those rights, and blazing a path forward toward making the promise of the Bill of Rights come alive.

Support us in Keeping the Bill of Rights Alive

We are continuing to be your voice in the nation’s capital by meeting with members of Congress to urge real oversight and accountability at the FBI, opposing the resurgence of McCarthyite legislation, demanding the rights of protesters and dissenters be respected, and for an end to mass surveillance.

Make Your Voice Heard!

winning victories in the future.

Stay Loud, Stay Strong,

Chip Gibbons
Legislative and Policy Counsel
It is easy to feel overwhelmed by the wave of reaction we are facing as a nation. What is important to remember is that you are not alone, that there are movements across the country not only fighting back, but pushing forward and expanding the concept of freedom and human rights. These people’s movements have won important victories in the past and they are essential to winning victories in the future.

This is the type of mobilization we engage in everyday at Defending Rights & Dissent.

You are a crucial part of it.

Stay Loud, Stay Strong,

Chip Gibbons
Legislative and Policy Counsel
Dear Dick,

In recognition of International Human Rights Day (DECEMBER 10), we invited you to join UUSC and our partners around the globe in a rededication to justice for those who are being stripped of their basic human rights.

If you haven’t yet made a gift to UUSC, I urge you to please do so now. Your support is being put to immediate action, bolstering the collective power of our members and assisting our grassroots partners in their struggles for justice:

- In Burma, more than 200,000 Rohingya face the danger of more brutal attacks and blockades of food and medicine by security forces. Given the humanitarian crisis at hand, and with extremely limited access to aid, UUSC is working with partners to provide life-saving emergency aid and developing an advocacy strategy to attempt to stop the violence and allow the safe return of the Rohingya to their homes.

- In Central America’s Northern Triangle, UUSC continues to combat the criminalization of refugees fleeing violence by supporting partners who strengthen protection mechanisms, hold governments accountable for respecting the human rights of migrants, and demilitarize borders.

- In the United States, with the rise of the current administration, UUSC recognized many low-wage workers would face increasing discrimination in the workforce. In response, we have developed partnerships with worker centers and worker-led organizing groups in rural areas in the U.S. where immigrants, Muslims, and people of color are particularly at risk.

With your support, we are making tangible progress to advance human rights, dismantle systems of oppression, and restore dignity to our neighbors in the U.S. and abroad.

Sincerely,
Michael Kourabas
Associate Director for Program and Partner Support

Contents of Bill of Rights DAY Newsletter #7, December 15, 2015
BORDC Celebrates the Bill of rights 12-15-15  
Center for Constitutional Rights  
Bill of Rights Institute  
ACLU on the Patriot Act  
Janine Parry on Equality  
National Days Transformed

Contents Newsletter #6 Bill of Rights Day December 15, 2014  
http://jamesrichardbennett.blogspot.com/2014/12/bill-of-rights-day-newsletter-6.html

Bill of Rights DAY 2014  
ACLU Recent Supreme Court Cases  
ACLU State Affiliates Celebrate Bill of Rights  
Center for Constitutional Rights CCR  
Peter Van Buren, Shredding the Fourth Amendment: NSA, Bush, Obama, Snowden  
Thomas Frank, Rev. of Zephyr Teachout’s Corruption in America: Integrity of Elections vs. Freedom of Expression for Corporations and Wealthy Individuals  
FDR’s “Economic Bill of Rights”  
First Retail Workers’ Bill of Rights

END BILL OF RIGHTS DAY NEWSLETTER #8, DECEMBER 15, 2018

--
Dick Bennett  
Eaarth

Dick's Wars & Warming Blog  
Click here for text of Dick's KPSQ radio editorials  
OMNI Peace Newsletter  
OMNI Newsletter Index  
Peace Newsletter Facebook Page  
(479) 442-4600  
2582 Jimmie Ave.  
Fayetteville, AR 72703