Joanne Sheehan has been an organizer, nonviolence trainer and educator for over 48 years. She is on the staff of War Resisters League’s New England Office in Norwich, CT, and has been involved with community land trusts for decades. Joanne is a Resistance Studies Fellow with the Resistance Studies Initiative at UMass, focusing on the history of nonviolent action training.

Abstract: The racist backlash to organizing during the Civil Rights Movement inspired the development of a community land trust to help secure economic independence for black farmers. The film “Arc of Justice— the Rise, Fall and Rebirth of a Beloved Community” (22 min) tells the story of a legendary land struggle started in 1969. Joanne Sheehan will introduce this land struggle and discuss how it inspired the development of community land trusts and what more we can learn about resistance and resilience from their experience.

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