

# WESPAC ANNUAL AWARDS GATHERING

an online evening  
**Saturday, June 13, 2020 at 7pm**



**Sister Jean Fallon**  
Maryknoll Sisters



**David Peters**  
New Rochelle  
Against Racism



**Leah Alper**  
If Not Now



**Noah Wagner**  
If Not Now



**Vanessa Agudelo**  
Keynote

**Dinner Journal**

# Justice for George



**The WESPAC community joins all those demanding that we address structural racism across all of our institutions and systems—starting with the justice system, but not ending until we have made it possible for all Black people and other people of color to experience the best of what this country has to offer, including having their full human rights and dignity respected. We heed the call for individuals and organizations to adopt anti-racist practices—and commit to doing this work.**

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# **PROGRAM**

**Music Provided by Art Bennett**

## **Welcome**

Howard Horowitz, WESPAC Board President

## **WESPAC Honors**

**Sister Jean Fallon**

Presented by *Priscilla Read*

**David Peters**

Presented by *Erica Itzkowitz*

## **Intermission**

Break Out Session

## **WESPAC Honors**

**Noah Wagner and Leah Alper**

Presented by *Suzanne Burger*

## **Keynote Address**

Vanessa Agudelo

## **Closing Remarks**

**Nada Khader**

# BIOGRAPHIES



## **Sister Jean Fallon—Honoree**

**Sister Jean Fallon** entered the Maryknoll Sisters in 1947. After studying Japanese at the Yale Institute of Far Eastern Languages she was sent to Japan in 1951. Following 23 years of parish ministry in the Kyoto Diocese, Sister came back to the United States to work with World Awareness Adult Education Programs in the North West, acquainting Catholics with world poverty and its effects on the people who share our world.

She then returned to Tokyo Japan where during the 1980's, Sister began participating in National Catholic Council for Justice and Peace. Sister also cooperated with the Association of Major Superiors of Women, taking part in their programs to understand those experiencing injustices in Asia, the causes and relationship to industrialized nations and their way of life. Another effort was in Japan itself with short live-in tours of Hiroshima, Minamata (the mercury poisoning there), and other places with living examples of racism, and labor exploitation.

In 1995 Sister took Scriptural, Ecumenical and Peace Studies at the Tantur Institute in Jerusalem. While there Sister witnessed the cruel treatment of Palestinians by the Israeli Occupation.

Upon her return to Japan, she was asked to work with National Council of Churches, Japan, (NCCJ) as part of their Peace and Nuclear Issues Committee. At the end of 2001 Sister Jean left Japan to become a member of the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns as an Associate Representative of the Maryknoll Sisters' NGO (non-governmental organization) at the United Nations.

When Sister Jean completed her term in May 2007 she wanted to work more directly for Peace so joined the Christian Peacemaker Teams. After intensive training she was, for seven years, sent annually for monthly terms of service with their Team in Hebron, Palestine. There she experienced the both the control and the physical oppression of Israel.

Sister now resides at the Maryknoll Sisters' Center and continues her activities for Justice & Peace

# BIOGRAPHIES



## **David Peters, LMSW—Honoree**

David Peters, LMSW Social Worker , Child-Welfare Advocate , Community Advocate , Administrator, is a social worker in private practice who is committed to improving the lives of children and families. He has more than 25 years of experience in executive and organizational leadership in child welfare, education, and mental health systems developing, carrying out and designing unique structures which seek to develop, strengthen, energize and empower people and institutions.

David is a core trainer with the Peoples Institute for Survival and Beyond, PISAB.org, a national organization based in New Orleans. He is also a master training consultant for NAFI, a national organization dedicated to improving relationships between the police and youth who live in the communities they serve. Mr. Peters is also a team leader for MPG Consulting, a company committed to ensuring that organizations serving populations of color are prepared to provide transformative culturally and racially attuned clinical, programmatic and administrative services. Mr. Peters has a significant history of involvement in a variety of community groups, including New RoAR (New Rochelle Against Racism), a collaborative of community residents seeking to change the conversation around race in their sphere of influence. Mr. Peters has developed curriculum for nonprofits throughout the New York City area to effectively train staff in understanding and addressing gang culture and mental health.

In 2010, Mr. Peters founded and served as Chairman of the Community Enrichment Zone, a collaboration of community-based and faith-based organizations within the Lincoln Avenue Corridor of New Rochelle, which have committed to strategic planning and action to enrich the lives of its constituents. Mr. Peters is a graduate of New Rochelle high school and has been fortunate enough for his children and grandchildren to attend New Rochelle public schools. He also serves as a Deacon at Bethesda Baptist Church Of New Rochelle.

# BIOGRAPHIES



## **Noah Wagner—Honoree**

**Noah Wagner** is an organizer with IfNotNow, a movement of young Jews working to end the Jewish community's support for the occupation in Israel/Palestine. Noah grew up in Pound Ridge, and got their first glimpses at the power of solidarity and community from their mother, who took them to rallies, phone banks and canvasses from the age of eight onward. In college, Noah organized in support of fast food workers rallying for better wages, dining hall workers striking for healthcare, and grad students fighting for a union. More recently, Noah has focused on transforming the American Jewish community: in the past two years, they have led efforts targeting Birthright, AIPAC, and right-wing antisemites. Noah now lives in Philadelphia, PA.



## **Leah Alper—Honoree**

**Leah Alper** is the Fundraising Director at IfNotNow and a proud young American Jew fighting for freedom and dignity for all. She feels lucky to have a job where she has the opportunity to have deep conversations and build relationships with funders, activists, leaders, and organizers from around the world. Prior to joining IfNotNow's full time staff, Leah was a volunteer organizer with IfNotNow's New York City chapter where she helped train new members of the movement. Before coming to IfNotNow, Leah worked with an organization doing anti-gun violence activism in Central Brooklyn, researched the transmission pathways of pharmaceuticals in soil, and facilitated leadership development workshops in Cambodia. She received her undergraduate degree from Bowdoin College. Leah can often be found fermenting pickles, knitting sweaters, training for marathons, and exploring the flowers and trees of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

IfNotNow is a movement of Jews working to end Israel's occupation and transform the Jewish community. IfNotNow stands against white nationalism and antisemitism here in the United States, and also works to build a liberated Jewish community that stands for the freedom and dignity of all people — including Israelis and Palestinians. IfNotNow has chapters in more than fifteen cities and thousands of young Jews have been a part of building the movement.

# BIOGRAPHIES



## **Vanessa Agudelo—Keynote**

A proud first-generation Colombian-American, **Vanessa Agudelo** is an organizer in the Hudson Valley passionate about empowering people to engage their elected leaders and foster systemic change from the bottom up. After finishing her bachelor studies in international politics and archaeology at Penn State, Vanessa moved back to Peekskill to make a difference locally. Concerned about public safety and the impending Climate Crisis, she joined local activists and began to educate the community of the dangers posed by the Spectra natural gas pipeline expansion which runs adjacent to the oldest operating nuclear power plant in the country. She was later appointed to the Peekskill Conservation Advisory Council and helped write a grant to fund a municipal tree inventory. It was Vanessa's environmental advocacy and commitment to justice that convinced voters to honor her by making her the youngest person to ever be elected in the city of Peekskill at 25 years old. Vanessa worked for New York State Senator Marisol Alcantara as her district representative serving Northern Manhattan. Vanessa is currently the New York Immigration Coalition's Hudson Valley Member Engagement Manager and worked alongside coalition partners to pass the "Greenlight" bill giving all residents of the state of New York access to drive's licenses regardless of immigration status.



## **Music provided by Art Bennett**

Art Bennett hails from White Plains, NY. Art was very active in the beginning of the Loft Jazz movement in New York City which rivaled the Newport Jazz Festival during the 1970's. This subsequently led to appearances at Lincoln Center: Alice Tully and Avery Fisher Halls as well as many other New York venues.

Art has performed with many notable Artist such as Rasheed Ali, Lonnie Liston Smith, Poet Laureate Brenda Conner-Bey and has recently performed with Chinese Human Rights activist Poet/Painter Huang Xiang.

Art was awarded a grant for "The Artist Loft" sponsored by Arts-Westchester and the White Plains Library Foundation, modeled after his experience in the 1970s Loft jazz scene in NYC. For the last 4 years he has been involved with the Andrew Goodman Foundation, performing in their efforts to promote voting registration through out the country.

Art believes that the world can be transformed through the Arts and that it can promote awareness of how important it is to live a productive and healthy life for oneself as well as a peaceful co-existence among all Mankind.

# WESPAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## FOUNDERS, 1974

Connie Hogarth  
Charlie Scheiner

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Nada Khader

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**The WESPAC Community deeply appreciates each and everyone one of our donors who continue to sustain WESPAC's work at this critical time.**

**WESPAC Foundation has been a leading force for progressive social change in Westchester County, New York, since 1974. We have been educating, agitating and organizing for a more just and peaceful world, an end to militarism and racism and a more fair economy that works for all. Our members are currently involved with criminal justice reform and police accountability, food justice work, fair housing, climate justice and safe renewable energy, immigrant protection, solidarity with Indigenous Peoples, an end to militarism and drone warfare and the struggle for justice, equal rights and human dignity for all the inhabitants of Israel/Palestine.**



# WESPAC PAST AWARDEES

**1980** The late **Rev. Lee H. Ball** One of WESPAC's founders. Head of Methodist Federation for Social Action and Westchester Clergy and Laity Concerned for a number of years. A major presence of conscience through the Vietnam and civil rights struggles.

**1981** The late **Dr. Corliss Lamont** Educator, scholar, humanist, activist, author and poet. Lifelong fighter for human liberties, peace and humane causes. Chair, National Emergency Civil Liberties Committee (NECLC) and honorary president American Humanist Association. The WESPAC picnic and music festival was hosted each year by the Lamont's on their grounds in Ossining.

**1982** The late **Helen Auerbach** Counselor to hundreds of youth with unbounded generosity of spirit for 30 years. Former WESPAC recording secretary. Gentle fighter against bigotry, injustice, nuclear war. Dedicated to racial justice and work with Yonkers NAACP, Rainbow Coalition, Riverdale Ethical Humanist Society.

**1983** **Charles Scheiner** A man for all seasons. Co-founder, co-chair of WESPAC. Commitment to nonviolence and pacifism has directed his life's activities. Has represented Mobilization for Survival, War Resisters League, WESPAC in North Atlantic Network and Nuclear-Free Pacific movement. Co-founder East Timor Action Network.

**1984** The late **Elsie Harry** Lifetime of activism for racial and economic justice. A WESPAC founding member. Organized Westchester's Welfare Rights Organization and its Welfare Coalition. Led WESPAC's Criminal Justice and Human Development Committees. Powerful advocate for the poor, she personally fought for hundreds of oppressed and dispossessed.

**1985** **Rabbi Michael Robinson** From Blue Ridge Mountains, leader among clergy for justice and peace. Pacifist, C.O. during WWII; early civil rights worker. As Rabbi in Northern Westchester, co-chaired SANE, helped found CALC. Former national chair, Jewish Peace Fellowship. He and Ruth worked with WESPAC as war tax resisters.

**1986** The late **Clara and Arnold Ghinger** Arnold was a jeweler, writer, tireless champion of minority rights and peace. Never missed a demonstration or a good fight for a just cause. Clara, a mainstay at WESPAC, past treasurer and always a source of wisdom and caring. Active in Women Strike for Peace, Women's Pentagon Action, Yonkers Women's Task Force. Lifelong devotion to peace and women's rights.

# WESPAC PAST AWARDEES

**1987 Joanne Robinson-Boettcher** From a family tradition of political involvement (her mother, May, was a guiding light for human rights and equality), Joanne co-chaired the local Rainbow Coalition, helped found Black Democrats and Black Women's Political Caucus, and represented WESPAC and Rainbow at 1985 UN Decade of Women Conference in Nairobi.

**1988 The late Margaret Eberle** Chair of Central America Solidarity Association (CASA) at WESPAC. Spent countless hours doing programs about Nicaragua, El Salvador, U.S. foreign policy. Traveled to Cuba with Friendshipships to challenge U.S. embargo. Former VISTA volunteer in Utah with Native Americans and their struggles. Made all WESPAC banners for demos and rallies.

**1989 Herman Keith** First African American Westchester County Legislator. President of Yonkers NAACP when landmark desegregation lawsuit was launched (won in 1986). Headed Jackson presidential campaigns in Westchester, and Jackson delegate to Democratic National Convention. Working with WESPAC, spearheaded passage of legislation by County Board forcing withdrawal of county funds from banks doing business in South Africa.

**1990 The late Toshi and Pete Seeger**, who lived their lives so that the Rainbow Race of Children can see a new day of peace, green grass, sunshine, blue sky, clear water and a song. Who could ask for more?

**1991 The late Al Warren** Founding member during the Vietnam War of Westchester Peace Council, the forerunner of WESPAC. A union organizer with an unshakable commitment to fight each act of injustice that came his way, from the struggle against fascism as a member of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade to combating local racism and police brutality.

**1992 Andrew Courtney** Career teacher of Fine Arts whose life work is a convergence of social responsibility, education and art. Organized first Construction Brigade to Nicaragua and Eye Doctor's Team to the West Bank and Gaza. An exhibiting photographer, he projects in his photos the searing humanity of oppressed people in Central America, the Middle East and South Africa.

**1993 The late Ruth Inabu Fox** Community activist for more than 50 years. Outstanding organizer and leading promoter of universal health care based on the Canadian model; advocate for permanent housing for the homeless, working poor and minorities. National Board member of Gray Panthers. Recipient of White Plains Distinguished Human Rights Award and Governor's Award for extraordinary contributions to improving the quality of life for Westchester residents.

# WESPAC PAST AWARDEES

## **1994 WESPAC on its 20th Anniversary**

**1995 Helen Bellotti, Eleanora Cutignola, Ed Lyman, Vince Rubeo, Len Ruderman, Florence Tabor** WESPAC would not be able to function without the many volunteers who have dedicated their lives to the progressive causes WESPAC champions. This year we chose to honor the people behind the scenes who make WESPAC work: the dedicated, longtime volunteers.

**1996 Connie Hogarth** For 22 years Connie Hogarth was WESPAC's charismatic leader, providing dynamic leadership, compassionate guidance, and genuine friendship to its members and those it serves. Connie led WESPAC in the struggle to protect people and the environment from the ravages of corporate greed, establish peace at home and abroad, create a just society and extend the definition of family to include the whole of life on the planet. Connie continues her activism with the Connie Hogarth Center for Social Action at Manhattanville College.

**1997 Dennis Hanratty** As director of Mt. Vernon United Tenants and Co-chair of the Board of Hunger Action Network of New York State, Dennis is a leader in the struggle for affordable housing, and the struggle to end hunger and poverty. His global perspective consistently informs his work for justice at the community level.

**1998** The late **Winston A. Ross** Winston Ross was a lifelong advocate for the poor and disadvantaged in our community. He was committed to the fight for equal opportunity and justice in both his professional and volunteer activities. Since 1984 he was Executive Director of WestCOP (Westchester Community Opportunity Program), which was formed in 1965 from President Johnson's declaration of a "War on Poverty."

**1999 Amy Goodman** Amy Goodman hosts Pacifica Radio's *Democracy Now!*, a daily national grassroots newsmagazine on both international and national issues. She has reported from Chiapas, Haiti, Nigeria and East Timor. Her program is the only remaining national medium to cover U.S. policy from a critical and investigative perspective.

**1999** The late **Judge Bruce M. Wright** Judge Wright was dubbed "Turn 'Em Loose Bruce" when he released without bail a Black man accused of slashing the throat of a police decoy. The man later was found innocent and whose only "crime" was carrying a Boy Scout knife. This was just one of his many lifelong acts of courage, controversy and conviction.

# WESPAC PAST AWARDEES

**2000 Harold Lasso** Active organizer and leader dedicated to empowering and serving Westchester's Hispanic community, as well as achieving justice for Indigenous people in the Americas and peace for Colombia, and building bridges between peoples and among groups.

**2001 Julie Davis Carran** One of WESPAC's most active volunteers, Julie helped with administrative work, supports other activists, and reaches across race, class and age lines to find common ground and make connections among individuals and community groups. Her dedication, perseverance, perspective and empathy have helped sustain WESPAC and build the larger movement for social justice.

**2004 Judith Karpova** Opposing the Vietnam War through direct action and mobilizing anti-globalization demonstrations, she has organized U.S. humanitarian travelers to Iraq and been a courageous human shield, protecting Iraqi civilians.

**2004 The late Rev. Lucius Walker, Jr.** A drum major for justice, Lucius was Executive Director of the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO) and pastor of Salvation Baptist Church. His compassion empowered victims of human rights violations from apartheid South Africa to the U.S.A. For Cuba, he defied the U.S. blockade with Pastors for Peace caravans bringing humanitarian supplies.

**2004 Zena Mikdadi** Zena is a vital bridge to the Muslim Community in Westchester for non-Muslims. A founder of American Muslim Women's Association, she reaches out to diverse communities with humor and patience, raising awareness about Islam and about challenges Muslims face here.

**2004 Alex Matthiessen** As Executive Director of Riverkeeper, Alex educates, advocates, litigates. Along with a legal team, he investigates potential threats to the watershed and enforces environmental law to safeguard the Hudson River Valley and the NYC water supply. He is the Hudson River's most visible and aggressive advocate.

**2005 Mike Levinson** For his 30 years of activism with WESPAC Foundation and the War Resisters League, for his commitment to nonviolence, peace, justice and direct action.

**2005 The late Sundiata Sadiq** Three-term president of the Ossining branch of the NAACP, for his 30 years of activism on issues of racial justice and political prisoners, including his work to free Mumia Abu-Jamal.

# WESPAC PAST AWARDEES

**2005 Indian Point Safe Energy Coalition** for its effective mobilizing of people and communities to call for the closing of the Indian Point nuclear power plant.

**2006 Joan Indusi** For her work to close Indian Point, resist war taxes, oppose U.S. wars in Central America and Iraq, abolish nuclear weapons, reduce funding for the military and support a clean environment and national health care.

**2006 Rev. Emma Loftin-Woods** For her work to integrate schools in North Carolina and Yonkers, promote tenant rights, help victims of Hurricane Katrina and to repeal the Rockefeller Drug Laws.

**2006** The late **George Houser** For his non-violent struggle against racism and his work for civil rights, to end colonial domination of Africa and for founding the American Committee on Africa.

**2007 Cleta Ciulla** For her work with the Rockland Sister Cities Project in Friendship with the People of Nicaragua and her contribution to the Rockland Coalition for Peace and Justice.

**2007 Rev. Rafael Garcia** For his work in educating the public on "U.S.-Plan Colombia", the colonial status of Puerto Rico, the abuse of teachers in Oaxaca and the exploitation of unionized janitors in Westchester County.

**2008 Al Surya Peterson** Surya is a founding trustee of the African American Cultural Foundation created in 1969. He served as the Health and Fine Arts Director for several years. He was the co-founder of the Sunday Gallery that was created in 1970, a collective that exposes the creative expression of local African American artisans.

**2008 Phyllis and Orlando Rodriguez** When their 31 year-old son died in the 9/11 terror attacks in New York, they called on President Bush in an open letter not to start a campaign of revenge in Afghanistan. The letter, "Not In My Son's Name", circulated widely on the internet and is their political credo. They joined other victims' relatives in forming September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows in February 2002.

**2008 Westchester-Rockland Chapter 60 of Veterans for Peace** This chapter chartered by the national organization in 1991 at the initiative of the late Alvin Warren of Montrose, a Veteran of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade and the Second World War. He was joined by members of the metro-area Clarence Fitch Chapter of Vietnam Veterans Against the War. The combined group adopted the name "Tappan Zee Brigade" reflecting its area of operations on both sides of the Hudson River.

# WESPAC PAST AWARDEES

**2009 Victor Corona** Has been a fair trade vendor at the Margaret Eberle annual holiday fair for several years. Has been coordinating the Fatherhood Involvement Initiative of Head Start under the auspices of Family Services of Westchester and helps connect local Latino immigrants to employment and language resources.

**2009 The late Dr. Olivia Hooker** Was born in Muskogee, Oklahoma in 1915. She moved with her family to Tulsa, Oklahoma a few years later. Dr. Hooker was six when the Tulsa Race Riot occurred. Aged over 100 years old, she was among a few hundred remaining survivors who are still seeking restitution for the losses of life and property that they and their families suffered as a result of the riot.

**2009 Nick Mottern** Has been active in anti-war and local organizing in Westchester County for the last 20 years. He is a journalist and directs the knowdrones.com website. He has worked for Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, organizing speaking tours on the impact of US policies on Africa, as well as Bread for the World. He is the founder of KnowDrones.com.

**2010 Ted DeSoyza** Has been very active in the peace movement in Westchester County and is an inspiration to countless numbers of activists. She has worked with "gangs" on the Lower East Side and has taught at the Correction Facility in Bedford and at the Adult Learning Center in New Rochelle.

**2010 Mirene Ghossein** Is active with Alwan for the Arts, WESPAC and Adalah-NY. In 2008 she organized The Art of Palestinian Children, a traveling exhibition of 26 paintings by Palestinian children in Lebanon that were donated by Al-Jana in Beirut. She sees art as a powerful vehicle that social justice activists can use to bridge gaps in understanding and mythologies.

**2010 Felice Gelman** Has been a core member of WESPAC's Middle East Committee for several years. She has become very involved in the campaign to end Israel's siege of Gaza and has made three trips to the region with Code Pink and the Gaza Freedom March. She also serves on the board of the Friends of the Jenin Freedom Theater.

**2010 Jackie Mann** Is the Co-founder and President of the Elias Foundation dedicated to promoting community leadership networks for progressive social change in Westchester County. Elias supports organizations that amplify the voices of community members and initiatives led by the communities they serve.

# WESPAC PAST AWARDEES

**2010 Mary Williams** Is a community activist who is one of the founders of the Westchester Community Opportunity Program (WestCOP), a co-founder of the Union Child Day Care Center and the Theodore Young Community Center.

**2011 African American Men of Westchester** Is composed of men who have distinguished themselves in the fields of finance, politics, government operation, telecommunication, education, social services, legal services, business organizations and engineering. They work to strengthen the family institution and focus attention on social issues which have a disproportionately negative impact on the African American Community.

**2011 No War Westchester Community** members have held a vigil in White Plains every Saturday since the U.S. invasion of Iraq. They have participated in the effort to end illegal wars and occupations and to bring the troops and mercenaries home. They welcome your support and participation.

**2011 Women in Black New Rochelle Solidarity Vigilers** Under the leadership of Ceil Lavan stand vigil each month in New Rochelle to raise the consciousness of drivers and pedestrians about the U.S. backed siege of Gaza. With the support of her Blauvelt Dominican Sisters, Ceil went with a Code Pink delegation to Gaza in May of 2009, four months after the Israeli military's attack on the Gaza Strip.

**2012 Rachel Estroff** Is a founding member of Westchester for Change, an organization of community activists working for progressive social and political change, focusing on issues impacting economic inequality and environmental degradation.

**2012 Maggie Goff** Was a student at Manhattanville College where she served as the President of the Connie Hogarth Center for Social Action and was active in various student and community organizations dealing with education budget cuts, immigration, the environment, LGBTQ rights and justice in the Middle East.

**2012 Cora Miles** Former teacher and assistant principal, is active in several cultural and social justice organizations dedicated to ending racial disparities, including the Anti-Racist Alliance, the Westchester Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Institute for Nonviolence, OneACCORD and WESPAC.

**2012 Gary Shaw** Leader in the struggle against nuclear power, is a member of the steering committee of the Indian Point Safe Energy Coalition (IPSEC). He was the lead writer of the anti-nuclear documentary "Nowhere to Run" which won a Silver Medal at the 2003 Houston International Film Festival.

# WESPAC PAST AWARDEES

**2013 Marlen Fernandez and Maria Jaime** Marlen was a student at Lehman College and Vice President of the Lehman Dream Team. Maria was a Duchesne Scholar at Manhattanville College. They were co-coordinators of the Westchester Dream Team, a chapter of the NYS Youth Leadership Council that works to empower undocumented youth and challenge the broken immigration system.

**2013 LaMont Oyewale Badru and Roger Drew** LaMont, a member of the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, is a professional community organizer in community development and housing policy. He founded the Community Governance and Development Council working to establish a neighborhood base of youth education and recreation in Yonkers. Roger worked at the Duchesne Center for Religious and Social Justice at Manhattanville College, where he ran numerous programs on human rights, social justice, diversity and women's rights. He was a member of the Board of Directors at WESPAC.

**2013 Priscilla Read** Has been active in the Rhode Island Qalqilya Alliance and the Episcopal Diocese to raise awareness about Palestine and Israel and to counter Islamophobia. She was the founder and coordinator of the Westchester Chapter of Jewish Voice for Peace, working toward a just peace in the Middle East.

**2013 George Guerci** Former member of the NYC Fire Department who was active in the successful struggle to end discrimination against African-Americans and other people of color in the NYFD by changing its testing and hiring practices. He has been active in the effort to free Mumia Abu-Jamal, to shut down Indian Point and, with Nick Mottern, on the anti-drone "Know Drones" campaign.

**2014 Connie Hogarth** Lifelong peace, justice, and environmental activist. She was the co-founder and Executive Director of WESPAC for 23 years. She served as both an honoree and the keynote speaker for the 40th Anniversary Awards Dinner for WESPAC. She has been honored with the establishment of the Connie Hogarth Center for Social Action at Manhattanville College, training students to move from academics to activism. Her contributions to the movement for social justice are priceless.

**2014 Doug DeCandia** Served as the Food Growing Program Coordinator for the Food Bank of Westchester. He works with youth and adults from around the county in the garden growing fruits and vegetables to serve those experiencing hunger.

# WESPAC PAST AWARDEES

**2014 Jalal Sabur** Helped to start the Food Justice Committee at WESPAC, as well as the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement. He has worked with the Was-saic Community Farm. He is currently running the Victory Bus Project, where he transports family members to visit loved ones who are in upstate prisons while providing them with fresh produce.

**2015 Ibrahim Siddiq** Activist, artist, philosopher and poet, Ibrahim a.k.a. POET (Putting Out Eternal Thoughts) is the Artistic Director of a grassroots arts program known as The FREE ART Project through which he facilitates work-shops, open mics, and showcases in NYC and Westchester. He is the founder of the organic plant-based skin and hair care product line Earth's Pantry where the proceeds fund The FREE ART PROJECT.

**2015 Howard Horowitz** A WESPAC community activist since its founding in the 1970s, and has served as Chairperson of the WESPAC Board. He is an active organizer in the Westchester Chapter of Jewish Voice for Peace and works to bring alternative Palestinian and progressive Jewish voices to Temple Israel of New Rochelle and the wider community through the Westchester Jewish Council.

**2016 Art Bennett** As a musician who was very active in the beginning of the Loft Jazz movement in New York City, leading to appearances at Lincoln Center. Art has performed with many notable artists, including Rasheed Ali and Lonnie Liston Smith, and believes that the world can be transformed through the arts as a medium that transcends boundaries and divisions.

**2016 Frank Brodhead** Has worked as an editor and writer, a tenant rights organizer and has also worked for the American Friends Service Committee. He is one of the founders of Concerned Families of Westchester, a community-based organization that focuses on stopping wars and climate change.

**2016 Jun-san Yasuda** As a member of the Nipponzan Myohoji Order whose only mission is to walk and pray for peace as she walks to challenge the root causes of nuclear weapons, the African slave trade, and the many injustices to Native people. She has spent days in rough weather outside the prisons of Leonard Peltier and Mumia Abu Jamal.

**2016 Kenneth Chamberlain Jr.** For effecting positive change in Westchester and beyond. After his father's death at the hands of White Plains police officers, he has worked tirelessly toward creating more just, safe and sustainable communities and is a founding member of the Westchester Coalition for Police Reform.

# WESPAC PAST AWARDEES

**2017 Latifa Williams** as a licensed mental health counselor, for her efforts to eliminate the disproportionate representation of children of color within child welfare, and other related systems, and for her commitment to working for a world in which law enforcement institutions are transformed to create a more just and equitable policing system for everyone.

**2017 Scott Havelka** as Director of Programs and Services at The LOFT: LGBT Community Center with its early beginnings at the WESPAC loft space, and for his work reducing the statewide number of new HIV infections, as well as his work serving on the planning team of the annual Margaret Eberle Fair Trade Festival.

**2017 Sharonne Salaam** an advocate for justice for over 40 years. Mother of Yusef Salaam, one of the Central Park 5, she is a founding member of "Justice 4 The Wrongfully Incarcerated" and organized a nine day walk from Harlem to Albany, NY, to introduce legislation on behalf of the wrongfully incarcerated and their families.

**2018 Laura Case** an advocate for the homeless for many years, Laura has been volunteering as the leader of Homeless Are People Too (H.A.P.T.) committee of Community Voices Heard, a group of homeless and formerly homeless Westchester residents pushing for better treatment and more housing the homeless can afford.

**2018 Zeltzyn Sanchez** a leader with the Sustainable Port Chester Alliance, an organization that works to empower residents to be involved in local issues affecting their community including development, affordable housing, local employment opportunities, immigrant rights and voting rights.

**2018 Tomiko Morimoto West** for using the trauma of surviving the U.S. nuclear bombing of her hometown Hiroshima in 1945 to dedicate her life to working for a more just and peaceful world with nonviolent resolutions of global conflicts.

**2019 Cornell "Lord Judah" Carelock**, hip-hop teaching artist in Westchester County, New York, with many years of experience as an artist and social justice leader, specializing in many evolving forms of creative expression through his company, Judah Bless Entertainment.

**2019 JustLeadershipUSA**, dedicated to cutting the US correctional population in #halfby2030. JLUUSA empowers people most affected by incarceration to drive policy reform, while recognizing that mass incarceration is one of the most significant domestic threats to the fabric of our democracy.

Envisioning and creating an alternative world  
from the one in which we now live....

**Congratulations to the 2020 WESPAC Awardees**

**Sister Jean Fallon, Maryknoll Sisters  
David Peters, New Rochelle Against Racism  
Noah Wagner and Leah Alper, If Not Now**

**Thank You  
For Your Tireless Efforts on Behalf of  
Peace with Justice**

**Howard Horowitz  
Member, WESPAC Foundation Board**

and

**Alisse Waterston  
author of the forthcoming graphic book  
*Light in Dark Times: The Human Search for Meaning***

In a time when many of us struggle with the feeling that we cannot do enough to change the course of the future, this book asks us to envision and create an alternative world from the one in which we now live.

— *ethnoGRAPHIC Series, University of Toronto Press 2020*



IPSEC

## **The Indian Point Safe Energy Coalition**

*Congratulates*

**Sister Jean Fallon,  
David Peters,  
Noah Wagner  
*and*  
Leah Alper**

**2020's Wonderful WESPAC Awardees**

**and we express our appreciation for the music of  
Art Bennett and Friends**





SISTERS  
of CHARITY  
NEW YORK

In gratitude for  
Sr. Jean Fallon &  
the Maryknoll Sisters —  
faithful witnesses and advocates  
for people and all Creation!

**Congratulations to all honorees!**  
**Sincerely, Donna Jackson, Mount Vernon, NY**



Sisters of Saint Dominic of Blauvelt, New York  
*Futuring the Charism for the Life of the World.*

**Congratulations to the  
WESPAC 2020 Award Winners.**

We are especially proud of our  
Dominican Sister of Maryknoll

**Sr. Jean Fallon**

for her lifetime commitment to the work of justice.

**Westchester Coalition for Police Reform  
is more motivated than ever  
to push our vital work forward.**



**Thanks to the awardees and WESPAC  
for your part in keeping WCPR relevant and strong.**



Religious Organizations Along the River  
Congratulates Sr. Jean Fallon  
& the Maryknoll Sisters  
for their ongoing commitment  
to people and to the Earth

**BEST WISHES TO THE  
WESPAC Foundation  
ON THE**

**46TH ANNIVERSARY  
& ANNUAL AWARDS GATHERING**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HONOREES**

**SISTER JEAN FALLON  
MARYKNOLL SISTERS**

**LEAH ALPER  
IF NOT NOW**

**DAVID PETERS  
NEW ROCHELLE AGAINST RACISM**



**SHELLEY B. MAYER**  
STATE SENATOR  
37TH DISTRICT



**DISTRICT OFFICE**  
(914) 934-5250  
SMAYER@NYSENATE.GOV  
222 GRACE CHURCH STREET, SUITE 300  
PORT CHESTER, NY 10573

**Congratulations to Tonight's Honorees**  
**Sister Jean Fallon** Maryknoll Sisters  
**David Peters** New Rochelle Against Racism  
**Leah Alper & Noah Wagner** If not Now

Thank you **WESPAC**  
for 47 years of leading communities  
in Peace & Justice

**Bravissimo**  
**Vanessa Agudelo**  
**Art Bennet & Friends**

Concerned Families of  
Westchester – CFW  
Serving our brothers and sisters since 2001



**Thank you,**  
**WESPAC**  
**for years of service to our world.**  
**You have inspired all of us**  
**with your selfless dedication to**  
**bringing out the best in US(A).**  
**Wish we could clone you.**

**Maury Knight,**  
**former resident, Monroe, NY**

**The Greenburgh Human Rights  
Committee congratulates  
tonight's honorees and thanks  
them for their contributions to  
making Westchester a better  
place.**

**We thank WESPAC for  
continuing its pioneering role in  
championing social justice.**

The Greenburgh HRC advises our town government, advocates for its residents, and provides various forums on human rights issues. It meets the third Thursday of each month at Greenburgh's Town Hall. The meetings are open to the public.

[Facebook.com/GreenburghHumanRights](https://www.facebook.com/GreenburghHumanRights)



**Kudos  
to the 2020  
WESPAC awardees**

from  
Ron and Julie Carran

WESPAC devotees  
for decades



**The WESPAC Middle East Committee**  
salutes this year's WESPAC honorees,

**Sr. Jean Fallon  
David Peters  
Noah Wagner  
Leah Alper.**

Whether it is advocating for justice in Palestine, empowering youth in our neighboring community of New Rochelle or devoting decades to the ministry of compassion and service, each of our honorees has dedicated themselves to lifting up the dignity and human rights of every individual.

Today, more than ever, the world needs people like  
Sr. Jean, David, Noah and Leah to  
challenge the status quo and insist that the bounty be shared.

**Congratulations and keep up your amazing work.**



## **Congratulations**

**David Peters, Sister Fallon,  
Noah Wagner and Leah Alper**

**We honor the difference you make for a world that works for everyone**

**People's Institute for Survival and Beyond  
Undoing Racism in Our Lifetime**



# **NEW ROAR**

*Congratulations to David Peters!  
with deep appreciation and love,*

*from your New RoAR family  
New Rochelle Against Racism*



## To Our Dear Sr. Jean

Congratulations on this well-deserved honor.

Whether it was during your many years of ministry in Japan, representing Maryknoll Sisters at the United Nations or giving witness to the injustices of occupation as a member of the Christian Peacemakers Team in Hebron, you have devoted your life to making the world a better place.

We thank you for your life-long service to others, commitment to advancing justice for all and devotion to the cause of peace.



With love from your Pax Christi friends,

Abigail Abysalh-Metzger,

Beth Begley,

Marie Dennis

Doug Hostetter

Mary Yelenick



***The Elias Foundation congratulates  
WESPAC and all the honorees  
for their outstanding work and commitment  
to social justice in Westchester!***

[www.eliasfoundation.org](http://www.eliasfoundation.org)

*Congrats on your  
46th Anniversary!*

# WESPAC FOUNDATION

Peace Action New York State  
[www.panys.org](http://www.panys.org)



**Congratulations to WESPAC  
& the 2020 Honorees!**

**Your work is inspiring, powerful & impactful!**



*Special Recognition to Honoree  
Sister Jean Fallon, M.M.*



**Maryknoll Sisters**  
MAKING GOD'S LOVE VISIBLE

In honor of

**Adma Jeha d'Heurle**

June 21, 1924 - October 19, 2019

**Distinguished professor and outstanding mentor,  
fondly remembered for  
her peace activism, hospitality and friendship.**

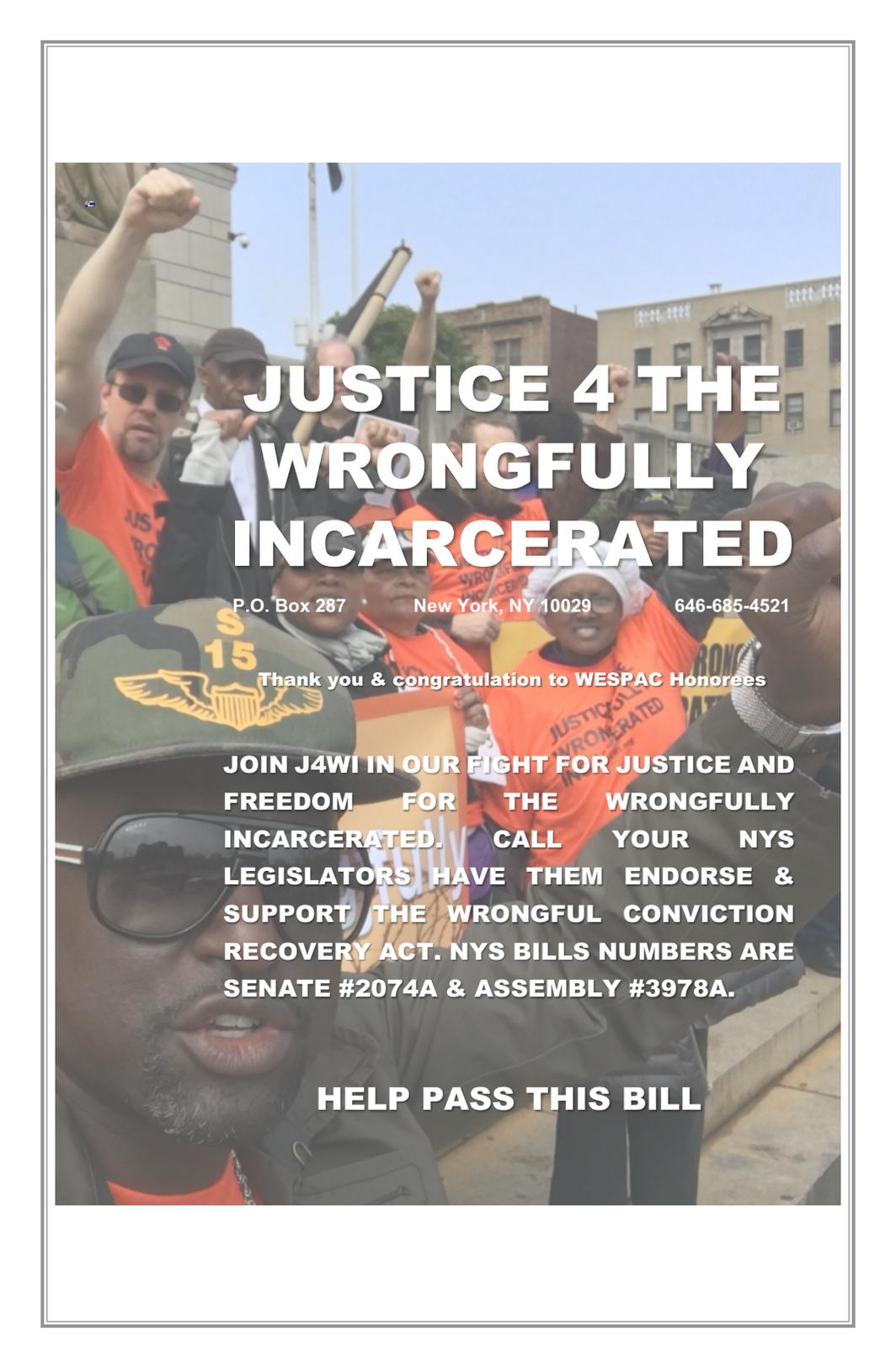
From longtime WESPAC member Barbara Walker

**The MLK Institute's mission is to advance racial equity  
for all our communities by educating youth and adults  
in nonviolent activism for justice.**

**The Board of Directors and friends  
of the MLK Institute for Nonviolence  
are grateful to WESPAC for the ways you mobilize  
our communities and help enhance our mission.**



Westchester Martin Luther King, Jr. Institute for Nonviolence



# JUSTICE 4 THE WRONGFULLY INCARCERATED

P.O. Box 287

New York, NY 10029

646-685-4521

Thank you & congratulation to WESPAC Honorees

**JOIN J4WI IN OUR FIGHT FOR JUSTICE AND  
FREEDOM FOR THE WRONGFULLY  
INCARCERATED. CALL YOUR NYS  
LEGISLATORS HAVE THEM ENDORSE &  
SUPPORT THE WRONGFUL CONVICTION  
RECOVERY ACT. NYS BILLS NUMBERS ARE  
SENATE #2074A & ASSEMBLY #3978A.**

**HELP PASS THIS BILL**

## **Benilda Rojas - 1935-2019**

Benilda Rojas died on December 8, 2019 after a struggle with dementia for two years. She was surrounded by her family, Martin Sanchez Rojas, daughter-in-law Wendy Rose Sanchez, and her grandsons, Gabe and Bobby Sanchez.



Benilda, known to friends as Doña Beni, was born in 1935 in Ayacucho, Peru. The daughter of Luis Rojas Huay, a police officer (d. 1979) and Maria Altamirano, a homemaker (d. 1944), she spoke Quechua as a child.

Benilda was a long time employee at the paper factory in Chosica, where she was a shop-steward and leader with the national union - CGTP in the 1960's. She came to the US in 1969 and worked as a housekeeper. She earned her certification as a CNA and worked many years as a nurse's aide in Long Beach, NY. She was active in the New York City area in worker and immigrant rights and worked with Latino leaders in the late 1970's to insure there was an amnesty for immigrants. Her home was always a sanctuary for immigrants, mostly coming from Peru. She was a staunch supporter of indigenous rights in Peru and advocated that immigrant children in the US honor the cultural heritage of their home countries. She often shared bread, coffee and clothing with the workers waiting in the cold on Union Ave. in New Rochelle, where she lived for many years.

She was devoted to her grandsons and actively involved in their lives for 25 years. She walked them to Columbus School every day, attended soccer games, Open Mics, and school and cultural events with her family. She loved music, dancing, keeping up with current events, and was an amazing cook. Doña Beni lit up a room with her presence. Her generosity, optimism, humor, and zest for life will continue to warm the hearts of all who remember her.



Black Lives Matter—June 2020



Photo by Andrew Courtney



Photo by Andrew Courtney



# The Walkabout Clearwater Chorus and Coffeehouse Congratulates WESPAC on leading the struggle in Westchester since 1974!

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## **Walkabout Clearwater:**

**The Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse**  
(Second Saturdays, October through May)

**Ongoing throughout the year:** Chorus performances at festivals, schools, concert halls, subway stations and more.

**Facebook:** Join the conversation!

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with Connie Hogarth and Emma's Revolution at the  
WESPAC Annual Dinner, April 2014



website: [walkaboutchorus.org](http://walkaboutchorus.org)

NOVEMBER BUT LIVING NO JUSTICE NO PEACE AND PRISONER

**RACIAL JUSTICE**

**END THE DEATH PENALTY**

COMMUNITY

**RIGHTS**

Indigenous Rights

**Justice**

SPEAK OUT

No War

Grassroots

Peace

**No drones**

ZAPATISTAS

Wage

**WESPAC**



Cooperatives

Action Network

Rainbow Coalition

STOP Mass Incarceration

**LIVING**

Vietnam

FOOD justice

Ban fracking

*Safe Energy*

**#blacklivesmatter**

Self determination

Transformation

**Progressive social change**

People over profits

Dream Act

**Climate Action**

**LIBERATION** Theology

Truth to **power** CIVIL DISSENT Economic **justice**

*Palestine Solidarity*