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February 2023 Newsletter

WESPAC FOUNDATION

A message from Nada:

Dear friends and members of WESPAC!

Here at WESPAC, we have been working diligently on a wide range of social, racial, environmental and economic justice initiatives. I hope you will take a bit of time to browse our newsletter to see what we and our friends have been up to!

We currently have five social justice groups regularly using the WESPAC meeting space. The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond has resumed the two and a half day Undoing Racism Workshops on a monthly basis at the WESPAC space. If you would like to participate, you may register here for April and here for May. If your social justice group is interested in renting our beautiful space, please feel free to contact me to discuss.

I will be leading a team for virtual lobby day for #CommunitiesNotCages on March 6th and would be happy to have others join us. You can register here. WESPAC is also hosting an important public forum with Margaret Randall on March 14th regarding the human rights crisis in Nicaragua. Registration required here.

The struggle for a more just, sustainable and peaceful future continues!

Onward,

Nada

WESPAC Annual Awards Celebration 2023

Fridays for Future – New York City

Hello Climate Friends,

This March, our team of high school organizers will be leading the NYC chapter of Fridays For Future in a global strike. We will be **marching across the Brooklyn Bridge at 2PM on Friday, March 3rd**, starting in Manhattan (near Foley Square). There will be more details to come soon. Also, leading up to the strike, please post on your accounts to promote it.This is our **social media toolkit:**

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1FKzMjwvtj2AAC0zRoaWRYfcDw3vzoGns?usp=sharing

Also, if you or anyone you know is interested in giving a SPEECH/reading a POEM about how climate change has impacted them / the climate work they do at our strike - please let us know. This is a very special opportunity to share your message to thousands.

MORE INFO:
Demands: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1oVe_poW9eVJzFRN0Yo9ro4yamcIwDEvhfET8aNPUuuU
Action Network: https://actionnetwork.org/events/fridays-for-future-global-strike

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Nada at Manhattanville

Nada had the opportunity to talk about WESPAC this past month to students at Manhattanville College at the kind invitation of Craig Donnelly, the Director of the Sr. Mary T. Clark Center for Religion and Social Justice. She discussed the role of WESPAC in progressive movement building:

Social Workers Against Solitary Confinement (SWASC)

The Antiracist Alliance and SWASC recent collaborated to get the following stakeholders report submitted.
It is a fabulous document in that it is succinct and powerful in communication around the issues of white supremacy and its deadly impact on Peoples of African Descent.

In response to the OHCHR | Call for Inputs on Upcoming Country Visit to the United States of America by the United Nations International Independent Expert Mechanism to Advance Racial Justice and Equality in the context of Law Enforcement from 24 April – 5 May 2023, the following Stakeholder Report was submitted on behalf of Social Workers and Allies Against Solitary Confinement by Professors Earl Smith and Angela Hattery.

To Advance Racial Justice and Equality in the context of Law Enforcement:

https://mcusercontent.com/a7ca1ea0db56f296d179e42ba/files/16402b22-a2d9-75bb-b93f-5659a21177eb/UN_Human_Rights_Brief_2_24_23.pdf

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Restorative Justice Westchester

Restorative Justice Westchester's Inaugural Spanish Restorative Justice Workshop
Wednesday, March 22, 2023 (Snow date April 12, 2023)
Time: 6-9 p.m.

Location:
Sleepy Hollow Senior Center
55 Elm Street
Sleepy Hollow, NY 10591

With restorative justice we can build trust in the community, develop deeper understanding of each other's perspectives, share experiences, find common goals, and more.

For More Information:
Contact Jill Sternberg (914)473-3774 or Diana Loja (914) 438-7987
Email: westchesterrj@gmail.com

RSVP HERE

Si usted esta buscando para la formacion en espanol:
Restorative Justice Westchester te invita a participar en el Taller Inaugural de Justicia Restaurativa en Espanol el 22 de marzo de 6-9 pm en el Sleepy Hollow Senior Center.

Contacte westchesterrj@gmail.com si esta interesado

RSVP HERE

Restorative Justice Westchester Monthly Meeting
Tuesday March 14th 3:30 - 5:00 PM Via Zoom

Network with Restorative Justice Practitioners, share about and get support for your RJ programs and activities, and discuss how we can advocate for a more restorative county. We'll gather in Circle to support one another for facing difficult conversations in these divisive times.

Contact westchesterrj@gmail.com to receive the Zoom link.

Free concert for the community Come to the FREE Community Concert!
St. Thomas Episcopal Church on March 11th.
168 West Boston Post Road, Mamaroneck

Doors open at 4:30 pm. Show starts at 5pm.

We want to celebrate Community, Life, Hope, Joy, Courage and Friendship with YOU! No tix needed!

Stop Cop City Protest & Ways to Take Action

On February 22, a group of activists marched in the cold rain to demand Stop Cop City! We gathered in the traditional territory of the Munsee Lenape, in White Plains, NY to send solidarity to forest defenders in Atlanta & honor 26-year-old Tortuguita, who was murdered by police in January while defending the forest from being destroyed. "The Atlanta Police Foundation, corporations, and local officials are trying to destroy

hundreds of acres of the Weelaunee Forest [aka Atlanta Forest] to build a massive police training compound. The compound would train cops from around the world in militarized police tactics. (For more info: **stopcopcitysolidarity.org**) Cop City would be a mock city to train cops in counter-insurgency & urban warfare techniques. The Weelaunee Forest is located in a majority black, working-class community.

Protesting Local Offices in White Plains

We protested outside the offices of Invesco & Greenberg Traurig, to demand they cut all ties with the Atlanta Police Foundation and Cop City. Both these companies fund the Atlanta Police Foundation & have senior executives who also sit on the Atlanta Police Foundation Board of Trustees. At the protest we uplifted the name of Kenneth Chamberlain, Sr. who was killed by White Plains police in 2011. We drew connections to the struggle in Palestine; the police who killed Tortuguita trained with Israeli occupation forces. Just hours before our protest, Israeli occupation forces carried out a horrible massacre in Nablus, Palestine. If Cop City were to be built, U.S. police & Israeli occupation forces would conduct more joint training operations.

We have a different vision. We know we are part of Mother Earth & we will defend her. We will #StopCopCity!

Take Action- Make Calls to Corporate Funders & Demand They Cut Ties to Cop City!

GI Partners
Main office: 415-688-4800
Greenwich, CT
office: 203-661-2000
Ask them to cut all ties to Cop City & drop Atlas Technical Consultants, a company constructing Cop City

Greenberg Traurig
White Plains office: 914-286-2900
Atlanta Office: 678-553-2100A
sk them to cut all ties to Cop City

Invesco
Main office, Atlanta: 404-892-0896
Ask them to cut all ties to Cop City

More Info

For local events contact StopCopCityWhitePlains@gmail.com.

Follow on instagram: @StopCopCity914, @StopCopCityCT, @StopCopCity, @DefendAtlantaForest, @CommunityMovementBuilders
#JusticeForTortuguita #DefendAtlantaForest

Crisis in Nicaragua – How Can We Help?

Twelfth International Uranium Film Festival

Dear friends of the Uranium Film Festival.
13 years ago we founded the International Uranium Film Festival (IUFF) and it continues.

The next festival, the 12th International Uranium Film Festival in Rio de Janeiro, featuring new films about Chernobyl, Fukushima and nuclear war, is scheduled for May 18-28. 2023 at the Modern Art Museum (MAM Rio) cinematheque.

See attached the list of films selected so far.
https://mcusercontent.com/a7ca1ea0db56f296d179e42ba/files/0ddb6260-133f-004f-cec3-5ddfb9e46118/2023_Uranium_Film_Festival_Rio_Film_List_English_1.pdf

Thank your for your former participation and interest in this in the world unique film festival about the atomic age.

Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse Presents
Reggie Harris and Alastair Moock

Tickets: $20.00 ($25.00 at the door).
Purchase tickets through Eventbrite

Doors open at **6:30PM,**
Teachabout/sing-a-long at **6:45PM**
Show starts **7:30PM**

Community United Universalist Congregation
468 Rosedale Avenue,
White Plains, New York

REGGIE HARRIS is a well-traveled performer, lecturer, and cultural ambassador, and has earned wide acclaim and respect from peers and audiences alike throughout the world. He combines spirituals and roots music, historic inspiration, and moving original songs, often on the themes of unity and social justice. Reggie Harris has a passion for education. He has been affiliated with the John F Kennedy Center's Partners in Education program as a teaching artist for over three decades. Mentored early on by Dr. Charles Blockson (a foremost authority on the Underground Railroad) and with years spent researching connections to the leaders of the Modern Civil Rights Movement, Reggie is one of the premier interpreters of the use of music in historical movements for social change.

https://reggieharrismusic.com/

ALASTAIR MOOCK is a Grammy-nominated American folk and family music performer from Boston, Massachusetts, ALASTAIR MOOCK is known for his gruff voice, playful lyrics, and fingerpicking guitar style. The wearer of many musical hats, Alastair is a Boston Music Awards-nominated singer-songwriter and a much –loved provider of school assemblies and residencies for students of all ages. With his career "firing on all cylinders," Alastair performs for adults, kids, and everyone in between. Like the folk and blues heroes to whom he often pays tribute in his shows – Woody Guthrie, Leadbelly, Mississippi John Hurt, Pete Seeger – Alastair makes little distinction between his audiences, saying: "Music is music, people are people. I just want to tell stories."

https://moockmusic.com/

Raising Anti-Racist White Children, Online Workshop Series

Join the upcoming four part workshop! More information below and here. Register here!

Center for the Study of White American Culture, Inc.

Join our upcoming Online Workshop - 4-part series
Thursdays, March 2 thru 23, 2023 @ 6:30 - 8:00 pm Eastern Time

Raising Anti-Racist White Children

In this workshop you will learn the importance of a positive anti-racist racial identity in children – and especially white children – and how to develop it.

Research shows that children begin to absorb lessons about race and racism from their environment, beginning in their infancy. Avoiding discussion of racial matters does not produce anti-racist children; it instead leads to children who are ill-equipped to address racism and who will perpetuate systemic oppression. *Raising Anti-Racist White Children* workshop supports adults to do their own work of learning about race and racism, and to teach anti-racism to children.

This is an online, live and interactive workshop for parents, educators, other relatives/ caregivers, therapists, youth workers, and anyone else a part of the 'village' raising children.

For more infomation about this workshop: Raising Anti-Racist White Children | Center for the Study of White American Culture (cswac.org)

To Register for the Workshop: Raising Anti-Racist White Children, Mar 2, 9, 16 & 23, 2023, 6:30 - 8:00 PM ET - Brooklyn MM Zoom (constantcontact.com)

Andrew Courtney Photographs

A group of several WESPAC members had the opportunity to attend a very stimulating conversation at Temple Israel in New Rochelle with guest speakers Peter Beinart, Editor-at-Large for Jewish Currents, and Adina Vogel Ayalon, J Street Chief of Staff. The theme of the discussion was "**A Country For All Its Citizens: Reconciling Israel's Democratic and Jewish Character".**

Rog, one of the organizers of the Stop Cop City protest march in White Plains.

Connie Hogarth Celebration

In honor of the loving memory of our founder, Connie Hogarth, a group of WESPACers are putting together an afternoon to celebrate Connie, with Amy Goodman, Phyllis Bennis and Emma's Revolution among others, on Sunday, April 30th at 2pm at the Yonkers Riverfront Library Auditorium. Due to limited seating, RSVPs are required. You can fill out the brief RSVP form online here

Emma's Revolution is the music band coming to perform at Connie's celebration! See their past performances and music here