



March 2023 Newsletter



A message from Nada:

Dear Friends and Members of WESPAC!

April will be a very busy month with many advocacy days as we are in the heart of the legislative session, working with our partners to pass several bills on the social justice agenda. Please take the time to read about a few of them below.

I do hope to see many of you on April 30th at the Yonkers Riverfront as we celebrate the life of our beloved Connie with Amy Goodman, Phyllis Bennis, Emma's Revolution and many more. All details below!

Onward,

Nada

New York Public Banking Act

For years, WESPAC has been active in the statewide coalition effort to pass the [New York Public Banking Act](#) (S1754/A3352) – legislation that would pave the way for local governments move deposits of public money out of the big Wall Street banks and, instead, leverage those funds through public banks that invest in equitable local economic development needs like clean energy infrastructure, good jobs, and affordable housing. For a quick primer on public banking check out [this great 2-minute animated video](#).

Recently, the legislation crossed an important threshold with a majority of NYS Senators signing on as cosponsors. This is a huge milestone and the product of sustained organizing from groups all over the state. Now, all eyes turn to Westchester County as Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins must decide whether to advance the legislation to a vote.

TAKE ACTION: Please call NYS Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins and let her know that you're counting on her to bring S1754 - The New York Public Banking Act to a vote this year.

Her office can be reached at (518) 455-2585 or (914) 423-4031. If you're a constituent, please identify yourself as such when you call (for reference here's [a map of her district](#),

which extends from Yonkers to Pleasantville along the Western half of the county). Let her know you expect her to listen to a majority of her colleagues and side with community, environmental, and labor groups across the state over Wall Street lobbyists.

If you're interested in learning more or getting more involved in this effort please contact Delia Marx at deliamarx@gmail.com



Indian Point Safe Energy Coalition

Stop the Dumping of Radioactive Contaminants into the Hudson River!

Act Now!

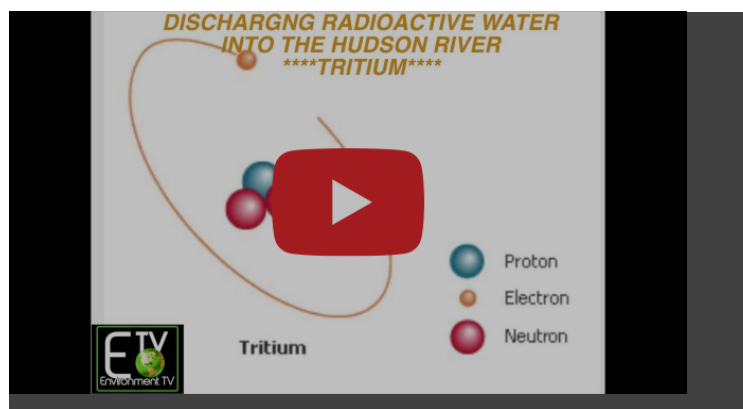
Watch the [video](#) and amplify it on social media or other lists.

Send a copy of the Resolution banning dumping in the Hudson River to your town officials.

Send them the link to this video. Make sure that your community gets involved.

Look at the description under the video for the Resolution and other helpful links

The Resolution for banning the dumping of radioactive water in the Hudson has really taken off! Municipalities in Rockland and Westchester have passed it and more are pending. NYS Senator Harckham and Representative Levenberg have cosponsored a bill that would prohibit discharging radioactive waste into New York water ways. The bill includes fines for violations. The Decommissioning Oversight Board will hopefully take this up as an agenda item. Their next meeting is 6 PM, April 27 at Cortlandt Town Hall. The meeting will also be on Zoom. To see a copy of the Resolution and for information with links to excellent sources visit .



Women Who Dare to Be Different Gala

Over 300 people attended the annual Women Who Dare to Be Different gala in Greenburgh on Saturday, March 25th, that took place at the Theodore Young Community Center. Colby Jenkins and her team kindly honored Nada for her years of

dedication, inspiration and community service to the movement for progressive social change! More photos will be posted on our social media. You can enjoy a video clip here: <https://youtube.com/shorts/HEG0q2U4TZM?feature=share>

Thank you, Colby and team!



Release Aging People from Prison (RAPP)

Please [RSVP today](#) to join our Parole Justice Advocacy Day in the New York State Capitol in Albany on Monday, April 17.

We need YOU to help make it as powerful as possible. So RSVP today at bit.ly/ParoleApril17.

On this advocacy day, we'll uplift our vision for safety and justice rooted in meeting peoples' needs, and not endless punishment. We'll be boarding buses from across the state and gathering in Albany for marches, rallies, legislative meetings, and a press conference, as we call on the New York State Legislature to pass the Elder Parole ([S.2423/A.2035](#)) and Fair & Timely Parole ([S.307/A.162](#)) bills.

Food and transportation will be provided.



SAVE **the** DATE

Join an Advocacy Day in Albany to demand **#ParoleJusticeNY**

MONDAY, APRIL 17

RSVP: bit.ly/ParoleApril17

2023 is the year for #ParoleJusticeNY! This is the year we must summon all of our people power to get these bills to the floor for a vote, passed, and signed into law!

Invite others!

In addition to RSVPing, please also forward this email to 5-10 people you know and encourage them to join! Please also consider promoting the day on social media. Here is a [social media guide with sample posts](#) and a downloadable version of the [flyer](#).

Concerned Families of Westchester

Concerned Families of Westchester is a peace & justice group organized in the wake of the 9/11/2001 events. We are based in the Rivertowns, from Yonkers up to Tarrytown.

Each Saturday we have a vigil/demo in Hastings. We also have a weekly newsletter (<https://cfow.blogspot.com/>) and a Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/705894016129650/>), and we meet frequently via Zoom. One of our activities this month was to focus on the March 20, 2003 invasion of Iraq, the lies that led up to it, and all the horrors that resulted from the war.



Our vigil on Saturday, March 19th, attempted to bring these messages to our neighbors.

Please join us!

AntiRacist Alliance

Deconstructing Racism:

A Path Toward Lasting Change

By Barbara Crain Major & Joe Barndt

Order your book from a [Black owned bookseller](#)

All are welcomed to join the Deconstructing Racism book discussion series at any point in the series. It is an open invitation.

March 28, 2023 PART 1: What We Have Learned About Racism

April 11, 2023 PART 2: Systemic Racism and The Church

April 25, 2023 PART 3: The Repeating Pattern of Racism and Resistance

May 9th, 2023 PART 4 The Pattern of Racism and Resistance in the Church

May 23, 2023 PART 5 Deconstructing Racism: Game Changer

June 6, 2023 PART 6 Deconstructing the Roots of Racism in the Church

Discussion facilitators: Sandy Bernabei, Judith Beville, Colleen Braithwaite, Lane Cobb, Brigid Lang, Mary Saliani, Laurie Storm. There may be a surprise visit by one of the authors.

- Register for the book discussions on Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/deconstructing-racism-book-discussion-series->

Save Buttonhook Forest

[Tickets are on sale!](#) Please join us for our Buttonhook Forest Earth Day Fundraiser on Tuesday evening, April 25th at the stately Chappaqua Performing Arts Center.

AN EVENING OF CELEBRATION to honor Earth's wonders in this culturally significant forested watershed and wildlife habitat and to preserve this Land for future generations.

AN EVENING OF BUILDING community, raising voices to protect Mother Earth and showcasing the importance of thinking globally and acting locally.

As the saying goes it takes a village, we welcome your support! Be a sponsor, donate an item or service for the silent auction, buy 50/50 raffle tickets, but most of all come to the event! We would love your presence and good energy!

Tickets are reasonably priced. Donations are greatly appreciated.

We can't wait to celebrate and collaborate with you! Any suggestions please drop us an email at preservebuttonhook@gmail.com



Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse Presents:

Sara Thomsen

April 8, 2023

Tickets: \$20.00 (\$25.00 at the door). [Purchase tickets](#) through Eventbrite

Doors open at **6:30PM**,

Teachabout/sing-a-long with audience participation at **6:45PM**

Show starts 7:30PM

Community United Universalist Congregation

468 Rosedale Avenue, White Plains, New York

SARA THOMSEN with a voice rich as the best Midwest soil, Sara Thomsen's songs carry you inward and outward — in to the particulars of your own life, and out — to the shared humanity of us all. A staunch supporter of struggles for human dignity and ecological sustainability, Sara's easygoing acoustic folk performance style is peppered with hints of jazz, country, Latin groove, Celtic, and bluegrass, as well as humor and depth. "Thomsen's soulful voice, poetic lyrics, and unforgettable melodies cut through to the heart and the soul of human experience." — Minnesota Women's Press

<https://sarathomsen.com/>

Tickets: \$20.00 (\$25.00 at the door). [Purchase tickets](#) through Eventbrite

Connie Hogarth Celebration



Celebrating Connie Hogarth:
Protest and Survive
1926 to 2022

Sunday, April 30th, 2023 at 2pm
Yonkers Riverfront Library Auditorium
1 Larkin Center, Yonkers, NY 10701 (across the street
from the Yonkers Metro North Train Station)

Join the WESPAC Community as we spend an afternoon
with Amy Goodman, Phyllis Bennis and others to celebrate
the life of our founder, Connie Hogarth.

In-person and virtual

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 and Phyllis Bennis 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](#)

