



May 2023 Newsletter



A message from Nada:

Greetings to all!

We are in the thick of the NYS legislative session with all the campaigns that we care deeply about for economic, environmental and racial justice at stake! There will be several lobby days coming up for Communities Not Cages, Clean Slate, Elder Parole, Parole Justice, NYS Public Banking Act, NY Heat Act, Climate, Jobs and Justice Package and more. Please participate as much as you can in helping to see our Justice oriented agenda passed in NYS.

NYS Assemblymember Zohran Mamdani has also just introduced a powerful bill that would remove the charitable status of any NY based charity that is sending funds to the settlers in the illegally occupied Palestinian Territories: A06943. More details below.

I would like to remind our friends and members that this is the last chance to register for the WESPAC Annual Awards Celebration where we will be honoring Our New Way Garden as well as American Friends of Combatants for Peace! I will be giving the caterer final numbers next week!

Forward and onward we march for a more just, peaceful and sustainable world!

With my very best wishes and appreciation for all the good that you do,

Nada

WESPAC Annual Awards Celebration

Please join us at the 2023 WESPAC Annual Awards Celebration! Seats are filling up so if you plan to attend, please make your contribution [here](#).

Due to the generosity of a WESPAC Board member, this year on Sunday, June 4th at 2pm at Wainwright House on the Long Island Sound, we will have two professional musicians at our annual Awards Celebration. The musical duo are Isabela Quines & Eric Eaton.

Violist, Violinist & actor Isabela grew up in a family of musicians and educators. She completed her undergraduate studies at NYU under the tutelage of Karen Ritscher and has since performed at Lincoln Center, Alice Tully Hall, the Majestic Theatre on Broadway, and various venues across the Tri-state area and internationally.

Born in Kansas City Missouri, Eric received his degree in Cello Performance from the Manhattan School of Music where he studied with David Geber. He regularly performs with many orchestras in the New York area including the Westchester Philharmonic, New York Chamber players, Urban Playground Chamber Orchestra, Orchestra Of The Bronx, New Haven Symphony Orchestra, and the Empire Chamber Orchestra.

The married duo recently enjoyed touring the world onboard the Holland America Line under the Lincoln Center Stage program.


SAVE THE DATE ☆ SAVE THE DATE ☆ SAVE THE DATE ☆ SAVE THE DATE

JOIN WESPAC
at our


ANNUAL AWARDS CELEBRATION

Help Us Celebrate 49 Years of WESPAC!
Sunday, June 4th at 2pm

Wainwright House
260 Stuyvesant Avenue
Rye, NY 10580



Our New Way
Garden



American Friends of
Combatants for Peace

This year we are lifting up the work of **Our New Way Garden** and **American Friends of Combatants for Peace** with a Special Guest Speaker, **Sarah Ludwig**, Founder and Co-Director of the New Economy Project.

Tickets are available at wespac.org or by returning the enclosed order form.

Please consider buying a journal ad and making an additional contribution to support the costs of this special event.

914.449.6514
wespac.org
wespacfoundation@gmail.com

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@WESPAC_NY

Facebook icon Twitter icon

Demand Albany act on Public Banking!



New York is closer than ever to passing the New York Public Banking Act but we need to fight hard to push it over the finish line!

Click here to [Call Albany Leadership and Demand Action on Public Banking](#)

The New York Public Banking Act would pave the way for local governments to establish public banks that leverage public dollars for investments in critical community needs like affordable housing and small business development, renewable energy infrastructure, and fair financial services (check out [this great 2-minute animated video](#) to learn more about public banking, also above).

Right now, leadership in the State Senate and Assembly is deciding what will be on the agenda for the remainder of the legislative session. Public banking has massive support from New Yorkers across the state and is co-sponsored by a majority of the Senate. However, Wall Street is lobbying hard behind the scenes to stop the bill.

We know that organized people can beat organized money, which is why it's time for New Yorkers to call Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie and demand that they stand with New York communities and bring the New York Public Banking Act to a vote.

[Call Albany Leadership Now and Demand Action on Public Banking](#)

WORKER COOPERATIVES IN ARGENTINA

ANOTHER WORLD JUST MIGHT BE
POSSIBLE

WHEN

June 15
7 PM

WHERE

WESPAC Office
77 Tarrytown Road,
Suite 2W
White Plains, NY 10607



Join us for a presentation by **Paul Wasserman**, a participant of the **2022 Buenos Aires tour**, who will speak about his experience during the tour, how much he learned about **Argentina's** history and current reality and, above all, about the **worker cooperatives** he visited during the tour.

Delia Marx, organizer and leader of the tour, will be there to **answer your questions**.

RSVP [here](#)



The next tour is **October 8**
through **15th 2023**.

Details at
<https://www.realitytours.org/tour/buenos-aires-a-journey-through-cooperative-experiences/>

WESPAC FOUNDATION GLOBAL EXCHANGE

On Thursday, June 15th at 7pm, **Paul Wasserman** will be speaking at WESPAC regarding his experience last year with **Delia Marx** on the Social Justice Tour of Buenos Aires! He will share highlights about what he learned regarding Argentina's history and current reality and, above all, about the worker cooperatives that they visited during the tour. **This report back will be hybrid, both at the WESPAC office with an option to join the presentation virtually by registering [here](#). The Zom link is [here](#)**

If you are interested in visiting **Buenos Aires** and participating in the next tour that will take place October 8th through 15th, 2023, please see details [here](#).

Westchester Commemorates 75 Years of Nakba

May 15, 2023





Photos courtesy of Andrew Courtney, and more on the [WESPAC Facebook Page](#)

Jewish Voice for Peace – Westchester & WESPAC Mideast Committee

A CRUEL HOAX

As many celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of Israel, the heinous reality is that 1948 witnessed the forced removal of three-quarters of a million indigenous Palestinians from their land, and the installation of a separatist government that ensures the privileging of Jews over Palestinians. The facts are clear. In order to create a "Jewish State", 15,000 Palestinians were killed, 85% of the Palestinian population was displaced, and to this day, 1.5 million Palestinians continue to live in refugee camps. **The founding of a Jewish state resulted in the "Nakba" or "catastrophe" for Palestinians.**

For Palestinians, the claim of Israeli democracy has been a cruel hoax. Israel is a place where Palestinian homes are destroyed on the whim of Israeli officials, Palestinian land is seized by gun-toting settlers with the active support of the army and police, Palestinians are jailed and killed with impunity virtually daily, and Israeli law explicitly states that Israel belongs to Jews and not to Palestinians. It is a place, according to Human Rights Watch, of "apartheid and persecution" involving "an institutionalized regime of systematic oppression and domination".



Palestinian Family in their demolished home. Photo by Andrew Courtney

As US Jews standing together with people of all faiths, we join with Palestinians who demand to return to their land and their homes, with dignity and justice. We look forward to the day when all people have equal rights from the river to the sea.

Jewish Voice for Peace – Westchester
WESPAC Mideast Committee

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://cfw.blogspot.com/>) and a "Say their Names" vigil in Yonkers. We also have a Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/705894016129650/>), and we meet frequently via Zoom.



On April 17th we held our annual "Tax Day" vigil in Hastings, with signs and leaflets about how much (50%+) of our tax money goes to war. Our next two vigils protested the plans of Holtec International to dump one million gallons of radioactive water into the Hudson. Most recently we joined with WESPAC, JVP, and hundreds of organizations across the USA to protest Israel's war against Gaza and to mark the 75th anniversary of Israel's ongoing Nakba against Palestinians – as pictured above/below.

Please join us on any Saturday at noon in Hastings to demand peace & justice!

Not on Our Dime Act



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

COMMITTEES
Aging Cities
Election Law Energy
Real Property Taxation

May 17, 2023

ALBANY, NY – Assembly Member Zohran K. Mamdani (D-Astoria) issued the following statement in response to a letter from Assembly colleagues regarding A6943:

"The Not on Our Dime Act only addresses charities that are found guilty of funding violations of the Geneva Convention. Characterizing an effort to bring NY in line with longstanding US foreign policy as purely being motivated by a desire to antagonize pro-Israel New Yorkers and sow division in the Democratic Party is not only disingenuous, it reveals how little regards there is for international law when it comes to Palestinians.

Organizations, including Jewish organizations that feed the poor, provide emergency medical care, and clothe orphans take up noble causes for which New York State should provide the benefits of charitable status. This is why the bill does not apply to such groups. The rhetorical tactics employed by this letter to suggest otherwise is an attempt to avoid the issue at hand: settlements.

This legislation will only impact organizations found to be supporting activities in violation of international law, such as aiding and abetting the demolition and arson of Palestinian schools, homes and agricultural land. Funding colonialism and violence is not charitable activity, and I look forward to working with my colleagues in our fight to make that explicit in NY state law."

What will 'Not on Our Dime!' do?

This bill squarely focuses on Zionist organizations registered as charities in NY that support illegal activities. It will help stop New York State support for Israeli settlements in three ways.

1. It clarifies, in the not-for-profit corporations law, that aiding and abetting illegal Israeli settlement activity is unauthorized, and therefore inconsistent with any "charitable purpose", which will remove the financial incentive to donate to these organizations.
2. It will allow the NY Attorney General to fine organizations that knowingly fund settlements.
3. Not on Our Dime! will also empower Palestinians to seek accountability from any New York-based charity that funded settler violence against them, providing them a day in U.S. court against those who knowingly bankroll the attacks against them.

Who's been driving this effort?

Many groups and individuals have contributed in the effort to reach this point. The organizations that have been consistent throughout are Adalah Justice Project, Center for Constitutional Rights, Jewish Voice for Peace NYC, Justice for Palestine Central New York, Palestinian Youth Movement, and the US Campaign for Palestinian Rights.

Ways to engage

1. Endorse the Not on Our Dime! Act:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfB4WAdtFKtFggycneHCnQouMsaZbXXrjxXOOYINGkVbEJkYQ/viewform>

2. View and share the experiences of Fayrouz Sharqawi, Basil Al-Adra and Mohammed El-Kurd from a May 4th event at The Peoples' Forum in NYC, detailing first-hand the effects of NY-funded illegal Israeli settler violence against Palestinians. The panelists clearly called on defenders of Palestinian Rights in the US to act now to help stop these settler organizations. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DpdN4R8OZdl>
3. Uplift the launch of the Act on social media using info in this toolkit: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1M7cg-aBeTwn9XuFMncKOfW-VI72xJ4v97XjzlbDiQk/edit>

Celebrating Connie Hogarth

We had a beautiful celebration of Connie at the Yonkers Riverfront Library on Sunday, April 30th. Phyllis Bennis, Amy Goodman and Pat and Sandy with Emma's Revolution joined us all to honor the life of our founder as well as share precious memories of times spent with Connie! We will be creating a permanent page on our website dedicated to Connie and we welcome your contributions, photos with Connie, as well as your stories with Connie! Please enjoy the slides below put together by Andrew Courtney.



Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse Presents: Tom Chapin, May 20, 2023

Tickets: \$25.00 (\$30.00 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



TOM CHAPIN's remarkable musicianship, great songwriting, and personal warmth shine through in his many award-winning recordings and videos, but especially in his concerts, which are special experiences for young and old alike. His career spans five decades and over 25 albums. Tom has been recognized with three Grammy awards and multiple other honors. Hearing a quiet singer such as Chapin sing a quiet romantic song is still one of the more serene pleasures of pop music. People Magazine

<https://www.tomchapin.com/>
Tickets: \$25.00 (\$30.00 at the door). [Purchase tickets](#) through Eventbrite

Restorative Justice Westchester

Por Favor unase a nosotros para un Taller de Justicia Restaurativa en Espanol Miercoles, Mayo 24, 2023 a las 6 - 9 p.m. en Sleepy Hollow Senior Center
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfYtjjoIQZg2japqdkECyvkahaDX0ZdxhmfE19PTEsmTi3U9VQ/viewform?usp=sharing>

Con la justicia restaurativa podemos:
Generar confianza en la comunidad
Desarrollar una comprensión más profunda de las perspectivas de los demás.
Comparte experiencias, encuentra objetivos comunes y más

Para más información:
Jill Sternberg (914)473-3774 o Diana Loja (914)438-7987
westchesterrj@gmail.com

Five Day Restorative Justice Circle Keeper Training

Restorative Justice Westchester and Cluster are happy to offer another Circle Keeper training this summer. Tentative July dates are: 12, 13, 14, 17 and 18.
For more information email: westchesterrj@gmail.com



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