

# Local Social Justice Events & Opportunities

*as of Wed Sep 19, 2018*

## **Phone Bank Volunteers Needed Tuesdays in September, 4:00 – 6:00 PM Westchester Disabled On the Move “Rev Up the Vote” Campaign**

[Westchester Disabled On the Move](#) is working on a campaign called “Rev Up the Vote” to increase voter turnout among Westchester residents with disabilities. The campaign includes mock elections where people can practice using Ballot Marking Devices Accessible voting machines. We are hosting a phone bank to remind voters to register and to sign people up for mock elections. Contact Laura Case ([LauraC@WDOM.org](mailto:LauraC@WDOM.org), 914-968-4717 x104).

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## **“Your Voice is Your Vote” Two-Part Workshop to Increase Voter Turnout Thu Sep 20 & Thu Sep 27, 7:00 – 9:00 PM Theodore Young Community Center, 32 Manhattan Ave, White Plains**

The nonprofit group Civic Engagement Table, in partnership with Citizen Action of NY, will facilitate a two-part voter turnout workshop designed to reach discouraged and disaffected voters and to build a sense of empowerment in order to increase voter turnout. Please plan to attend both sessions. Hosted by the Why Voting Matters Collaboration. RSVP: [westchester4change@gmail.com](mailto:westchester4change@gmail.com), 914-525-8886, [facebook.com/events/266697794120147](https://facebook.com/events/266697794120147)

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## **Ossining Documentary Series: [Capturing the Flag](#) Thu Sep 20, 6:30 PM Ossining Public Library Budarz Theater, 53 Croton Ave, Ossining**

Three old friends travel to the North Carolina county named 2016 “posterchild” for voter suppression, intent on proving that the big idea of American democracy can be defended by small acts of individual citizens. Their intimate journey as citizens of conscience uncovers stories about the strength and fragility of American democracy that are rarely heard in the current media storm. Panel discussion follows. <https://ossiningdocumentaries.org/>,

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**Know Your Rights Q&A: Information, Planning  
& Prevention for Immigrants  
Thu Sep 20, 5:00 PM  
Christ Episcopal Church, 43 S Broadway, Tarrytown**

Learn about your communities' legal rights, local resources, and other services. Presented by Catholic Charities and the NY Liberty Defense Project. Information: 914-476-2700 x219.

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**From [Riverkeeper](#): Protect the Hudson from  
Harmful Storm Surge Barriers  
Public Comments Invited through Thu Sep 20**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is considering construction of in-water barriers that could critically harm the Hudson River Estuary. The Corps has extended the public comment period through Thu Sep 20, to consider issues to include in its environmental review. Riverkeeper invites you to visit their Actions Page to [become informed](#) and [get involved](#).

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**“Breakfast” Run  
Sun Sep 23, 7:00am  
First Unitarian Society, 25 Old Jackson Rd, Hastings-on-Hudson**

Come help us prepare food, pack clothes, and distribute and interact with the homeless in NYC. Breakfast Runs are the perfect time to introduce kids and youth to the practice of service to others, so we encourage families to join us. You can also support us with donations of clothing and food. Contact: Art Lowenstein (arthur.lowenstein@gmail.com, 914-844-4189), Annie Patton (annie.k.patton@gmail.com, 914-588-4782).

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**Refugee Sunday: Day of Action for Refugees  
Sun Sep 23, 12:00 – 2:00 PM  
St John's Lutheran Church, 122 Fenimore Road, Mamaroneck**

Coordinated by Hearts and Homes for Refugees and hosted by St. John's Lutheran Church, this event includes lunch, a special presentation about refugees, asylees, and SIVs, with what's happening in Westchester, and a time for action (Postcards! Petitions! A Giving Tree! How to Sign Up!). Neighbors for Refugees and Students for Refugees are also participating in the event, and special guests include County Executive George Latimer and Mamaroneck Village Mayor Tom Murphy. Register: [eventbrite.com/e/refugee-sunday-tickets-49480206630](https://eventbrite.com/e/refugee-sunday-tickets-49480206630)

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**MLK Institute's Monthly Beloved Community Dinner**  
**Mon Sep 24, 6:00 PM**  
**Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Avenue, White Plains**

We gather as a community from many different places and over a shared meal to explore how the Beloved Community can be brought into reality in Westchester County. The Coming Home project will join us to discuss mass incarceration in Westchester. Please join us! RSVP by Sat Sep 22: [belovedcommunitydinnersept24.eventbrite.com](http://belovedcommunitydinnersept24.eventbrite.com). *This event is a Potluck dinner and dialogue. Your entry fee into the event is either a dish to share with 10-12 people OR a donation of \$10/person to help us cover dinner costs. Contact: 914-949-6555, [connect@mlkwestchester.org](mailto:connect@mlkwestchester.org).*

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**Film Screening: [Time for Ilhan](#)**  
**Thu Sep 27, 7:00 PM**  
**Jacob Burns Film Center, Pleasantville**

Ilhan Omar is a Somali-American woman, a hijab-wearing Muslim, and a candidate for elected office in Minnesota. This unforgettable story of a woman battling bigotry, sexism, nativism, and personal attacks is a must-see for anyone wanting to change the status quo. Post-screening discussion with Erin Vilardi, founder of VoteRunLead, on civic engagement and women running for office. \$10 (members)/\$15 (nonmembers). *Volunteer to be a "Know Your Government" moderator. Email [leaguevote411@gmail.com](mailto:leaguevote411@gmail.com), or call Marjorie Hsu (617-877-7067) or Susan Schwartz (914-715-1539). [burnsfilmcenter.org/booking/time-for-ilhan](http://burnsfilmcenter.org/booking/time-for-ilhan).*

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**Countering the Muslim Travel Ban and Deportations**  
**Sun Sep 30, 4:00 - 5:30 PM**  
**Ethical Cultural Society of Westchester, 7 Saxon Wood Rd, White Plains**

Religious discrimination, xenophobia, and racism are being channeled to close our borders to immigrants and asylum-seekers. This panel discussion will describe what is happening and how we can overcome it. Q&A with the speakers will follow.  
Forum sponsored by the Westchester Coalition Against Islamophobia.

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**Love Resists**  
**UUA Electoral Justice Phone Banking Day**  
**Tue Oct 9, 5:30 – 8:30 PM**

The UUA's Love Resists movement seeks to activate people of faith and conscience to resist the harm inflicted by criminalization. Love Resists is joining monthly UU Phone Banking Days to urge Florida voters to Vote Yes on Amendment 4 ([uua.org/loversists/blog/restore-voting-rights-14-million-people-florida-end-mass-incarceration-ohio-fall](http://uua.org/loversists/blog/restore-voting-rights-14-million-people-florida-end-mass-incarceration-ohio-fall)). **Anyone from any state can participate from home.** The movement to end criminalization can take a big leap forward and open up new ground to live out our values and collectively resist!

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**Henry Schwarzschild Memorial Lecture**  
**Bail Reform: Empire State of Incarceration**  
**Tue Oct 9, 7:00 - 9:00 PM**  
**Reid Castle, Manhattanville College, Purchase**

Thousands of presumed innocent people are in jail. Why? Because they can't afford bail. Lecture topics: "Empire State of Incarceration" with Insha Rahman, Vera Institute of Justice; "Presumed Innocent For A Price: The Impact of Cash Bail Across Eight New York Counties" with Nicole Triplett, New York Civil Liberties Union. Presented by NY Civil Liberties Union, Westchester Coalition for Police Reform, and the Connie Hogarth Center for Social Action. Information at [lowerhudsonvalley@nyclu.org](mailto:lowerhudsonvalley@nyclu.org).

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**Undoing Racism 2-1/2-Day Workshop**  
**Tue Oct 23, 6 – 8 PM; Wed Oct 24, 9 AM – 6 PM; Thu Oct 25, 9 AM – 3 PM**  
**Shaarei Tikvah Synagogue, 46 Fox Meadow Road, Scarsdale**

We invite you to be part of our movement to advance institutional change for racial equity. These unique 2 1/2 day workshops are offered by [The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond](http://ThePeople'sInstituteforSurvivalandBeyond.org), a national, multiracial, anti-racist network from New Orleans dedicated to ending racism and other forms of institutional oppression. Rev. Peggy Clarke of FUSW calls this "hands down, the best training I've ever attended." Info at [antiracistalliance.com/ARA-training.html](http://antiracistalliance.com/ARA-training.html). Register at [brownpapertickets.com/producer/7092](http://brownpapertickets.com/producer/7092).

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**Volunteers Needed**  
**Community Shower Program at the Yonkers Family YMCA**  
**Currently Mondays (men), Thursdays (women), 6:15 – 8:15 PM**

For the past year Community Voices Heard and Yonkers Family YMCA provide showers to our homeless neighbors twice a week. Volunteer staff distribute towels and soap, sign people up, and bring participants to the shower area. Volunteers supervise participants of their own gender. They are looking for volunteers to help them expand to more nights, and are also gratefully accepting donations of toiletries and towels. Contact: Laura Case (347-375-7081, [cinderquill964@gmail.com](mailto:cinderquill964@gmail.com)) or John Thompson (914-963-0183).

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**From [Riverkeeper](#): Support the New York State Bring Your Own Bag Act**

Reducing the use of single-use plastic bags is one of the most meaningful steps that New York can take to reduce pollution from single-use plastic. The NYS BYO Bag Act would ban single-use plastic bags and place a 10-cent fee on paper. The fee would help fund state parks, environmental programs, and free reusable bags for low- and fixed-income New Yorkers. Visit the [Riverkeeper Actions Page](#) to become informed and get involved.

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**UUSC Initiative: Fund Human Rights and Asylum**

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) advances human rights through grassroots collaborations. Join their latest initiative to send letters to Congress urging legislators to withhold funding for immigration detention, deportation, and border militarization, and increase accountability and oversight of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection. Learn more at [uus.org/initiatives/fund-asylum-not-abuse/](http://uus.org/initiatives/fund-asylum-not-abuse/)

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**Be an LGBTQ Mentor**  
**[Big Brothers Big Sisters of Family Services of Westchester](#)**  
**Throughout Westchester**

Make a difference in a child's life; become a mentor in one of our LGBTQ site-based programs. Being a Big Brother/Big Sister is one of the most fulfilling and enjoyable things you will ever do. We provide a thorough orientation and training in building mentor relationships and working constructively with youth. On-going support by dedicated staff is provided to the mentor, mentee, and mentee's family. Become a Big and help to start something big in a child's life. Sign up at [volunteernewyork.org/opportunity/a075A00000dKqA1](http://volunteernewyork.org/opportunity/a075A00000dKqA1)

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## **Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights** **Child Advocate Volunteers Needed**

A Child Advocate is an adult who volunteers to spend time with and advocate on behalf of an individual unaccompanied immigrant child while he or she is subject to deportation proceedings. There is a particular need for bilingual volunteers who speak Spanish. Sign up at [theyoungcenter.org/volunteer-at-the-young-center](http://theyoungcenter.org/volunteer-at-the-young-center). *The mission of the Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights is to promote the best interests of unaccompanied immigrant children with due regard to the child's expressed wishes, according to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and state and federal law.*

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## **Feeding Westchester** **Volunteers Needed**

Feeding Westchester relies on volunteers to help plant, weed, and care for vegetables at their farm sites; to sort and pack produce and goods at their warehouse; and to help at special events, in the office, or at Mobile Food Pantry distributions. Volunteer opportunities are 2–3 hours and they welcome one-time or on-going commitment at any time convenient for you – weekdays, evenings, and weekends. [feedingwestchester.org/take-action/volunteer](http://feedingwestchester.org/take-action/volunteer).

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## **Family-to-Family** **Sponsor a Family Program**

Sponsor a family in need with a monthly box of groceries. Family-to-Family, Inc., is a grassroots nonprofit hunger and poverty relief organization in Hastings dedicated to providing food, personal hygiene products, and other basic essentials to American families struggling with the challenges of poverty. By connecting donors one to one with specific families in need, Family-to-Family's mission is to bring the large and seemingly intractable problem of poverty into personal focus, one family at a time. [family-to-family.org/sponsor-a-family](http://family-to-family.org/sponsor-a-family).

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## **Election Information** **Available Now at VOTE411.org**

General Elections are Tue Nov 6. Are You Ready? LWV Vote411 provides you with all the election information you need to make an educated choice: The races, the candidates and where they stand on issues, polling locations, and more. Go to VOTE411.org and enter your address for information tailored to you.