Local Social Justice Events & Opportunities

as of Thu Sep 13, 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. We also need volunteers for our tables at Yonkers Riverfest on Sat Sep 15. Contact Laura Case (LauraC@WDOM.org, 914-968-4717 ext 104).

"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, 914-525-8886, facebook.com/events/266697794120147

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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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.

"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).

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

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, or call Marjorie Hsu (617-877-7067) or Susan Schwartz (914-715-1539).* burnsfilmcenter.org/booking/time-for-ilhan.

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 Islamphobia.

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/loveresists/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!

Undoing Racism 3-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, 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. Register at brownpapertickets.com/producer/7092.

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, cinderquil964@gmail.com) or John Thompson (914-963-0183).

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.

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 uusc.org/initiatives/fund-asylum-not-abuse/

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

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. *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*.

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.

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.

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.