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# THE WESTERN NEW YORK PEACE CENTER'S WEEKLY UPDATES

## January 28 to February 3, 2015

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Peacemakers,

This is the WNY Peace Center's official weekly email newsletter featuring news from our Task Forces, as well as events that are done by or coordinated with other organizations. A PDF has been included, in case you cannot fully access this email.

Also, don't forget to read our Allied Organizations News & Events / Other Items Of Note email blast on Fridays!

Thank you for supporting this newsletter! :-)

- Jeff O'Connell

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PLEASE CONTACT OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, CONCERNS, ACTIVISM IDEAS, AND/OR WISH TO VOLUNTEER FOR THE WESTERN NEW YORK PEACE CENTER! WE WILL PURSUE MANY ACTIVITIES FOR 2015! :-)

The Rev. Justo Gonzalez II  
Phone: (716) 989-9207  
Email: [jgonzo2@gmail.com](mailto:jgonzo2@gmail.com)

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We now have regular weekly office hours for drop-in visits and to accept direct calls! We are still working on getting accustomed to the schedule, but don't despair! In case we do not immediately pick up the phone, leave a voice mail, and we will call you back! :-)

MONDAYS: 1 to 3 p.m.  
TUESDAYS: 1 to 4 p.m.  
THURSDAYS: 1 to 3 p.m.

We are located at:

1272 Delaware Avenue (use back entrance and ring buzzer inside)  
Buffalo, NY 14209  
Phone: (716) 332-3904

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- I. WNY Peace Center Special Announcements, Board Meetings, Websites, Videos, Etc.
- II. Peace Center-Related Events This Week
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### I. WNY PEACE CENTER SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS, BOARD MEETINGS, WEBSITES, VIDEOS, ETC.

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### PEACE CENTER MEETINGS FOR JANUARY:

All meetings are held at the Network Of Religious Communities (1272 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209). We encourage everyone

to stop by and get involved!

The next Annual Dinner Committee meeting is Monday, February 2, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

The next Coordinating Board meeting is Monday, February 9, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

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SAVE THE DATE!!! SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

“2015 Cruise For Peace Aboard The Miss Buffalo II”

6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Dock Location: Entrance of Erie Basin Marina

79 Marine Drive

Buffalo NY 14202-4225

The WNY Peace Center cordially invites you to join us on a fun-filled fundraising 3-tour tour aboard the Miss Buffalo II! There will be food, an open bar, live entertainment, a beautiful view of the harbour, and much more!

Admission is \$35. Space is LIMITED (185 spots total), so inquire about reservations TODAY by writing us at [Cruise4Peace@wnypeace.org](mailto:Cruise4Peace@wnypeace.org) Spread the word! :-D

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CHECK OUT THESE NEW VIDEOS ON THE WNY PEACE CENTER'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL!

All videos below were filmed and uploaded by Charley Bowman.

ANTI-FRACKING RALLY AND CELEBRATION AT STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS IN ALBANY, NY (JANUARY 21, 2015)

“The Concourse”

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bCE-u\\_gSpI4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bCE-u_gSpI4)

“You've Been Fracked”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jwk3UoMCVeI>

“Josh Fox”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1o78jYFt00E>

“Sandra Steingrabber”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s5j4gAclIKw>

BONNY MAHONEY TRIAL IN DEWITT TOWN COURT

“Bonny Mahoney Pre-Trial News Conference”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lpl3HsNtjY>

“Bonny Mahoney Opening Statement: January 15, 2015”

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=diKl\\_1565po](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=diKl_1565po)

“Bonny Mahoney Closing Argument”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cLAEgR8wCp8>

“Assistant District Attorney (ADA) Jerrit Woodfork Opening Statement”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I6Y6YcUBsYU>

“ADA [Jerrit] Woodfork Closing Statement”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bwGoAV-wYQs>

“Bonny Mahoney Post-Trial News Conference”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OFHVxuNsTHA>

JAMES RICKS

“Change Of Heart”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hNLbB3XWRIM>

“The Deadly Makeover”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pyDl5m6jAj0>

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WNY PEACE CENTER WEBSITES (Check For Updates!):

Main Website: <http://wnypeace.org/new/>

Blog: <http://wnypeacecenter.blogspot.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WesternNewYorkPeaceCenter/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/WNYPeaceCenter/>

Vimeo Channel: <http://vimeo.com/user22770463/>

YouTube Channel: <http://tinyurl.com/kzlf2ac/>

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II. PEACE CENTER-RELATED EVENTS THIS WEEK (Listed in order of date):

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1. THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

“Resist Militarism! Task Force Meeting”

1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

The Daily Planet Coffee Company

1862 Hertel Avenue (corner of Hertel and Parker Avenues)

Buffalo, NY 14216

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2. THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

"Anti-Drone Vigil At Niagara Falls Air Force Base"

3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station

2026 Lockport Road (outside the Main Gate)

Niagara Falls, NY 14304

If you need a ride out to the base, contact Vicki at (716) 884-0582, or Russell at (716) 570-5200. You are also welcome to stop by the Resist Militarism! Task Force Meeting (mentioned above), as members there will proceed to the base immediately after the meeting. Signs are encouraged!

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3. THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

“VOTE SOLAR Webinar - 'Shaping the Future of Energy: New York's Perspective' ”

1 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time)

Your Computer

The webinar features our solar champ Richard Kauffman, NY Governor Cuomo's Chairman of Energy and Finance. Mr. Kauffman is

leading the Empire State's comprehensive strategy to build a cleaner, more resilient, reliable and affordable energy system.

Under Mr. Kauffman's leadership, New York has initiated groundbreaking regulatory and programmatic reform strategically designed to fundamentally re-think the state's approach to power with customer-driven clean energy at the center. Mr. Kauffman will share the most recent developments on these initiatives, including the Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) proceeding, NY Green Bank, The Clean Energy Fund, other ambitious state efforts.

Register Here: <http://action.votesolar.org/page/m/2051fdd1/56ef84bd/da46d76/4b8693ad/1652456501/VEsD/>

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4. THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

“Public Service Commission (PSC) Green Energy Public Hearings”

2:00 and 6:00 p.m. (Information Sessions)  
3:00 and 7:00 p.m. (Public Comment Hearings)

Buffalo Central Library  
1 Lafayette Square  
Buffalo, NY

CONCERNED ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE? Want to be sure that NYS Moves to Renewable Energy and that it is Affordable?  
Want to transform the energy system so that it is more democratic?

Raise your voice at the Upcoming NYS PSC Hearing!

We want to make our voices heard. Please use the link below to ask the Public Service Commission to SLOW the process down and actively seek community input!

Please use this link to comment: <http://tinyurl.com/laobxlj>  
Go here for suggested comments and topics: <http://tinyurl.com/ml4fwr>

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5. FRIDAY, JANUARY 30

“Poetic Justice Youth Poetry Slam!”

4:30 to 7:00 p.m.  
Grant Street Neighborhood Center  
271 Grant Street  
Buffalo, New York 14213

Some of Buffalo's Best Poets will be joining youth from the Grant Street Neighborhood Center and Buffalo Save the Kids to hear some poetry and share knowledge with the youth. The event features members of PURE INK Poetry and other poets from around Buffalo. If you have pieces you want to perform, please send us a message so we can get a idea of how many performers we have.

Facebook Event Page: <http://tinyurl.com/lqwk6ja>

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III. KEEP THE DATE OPEN (Events are listed in order of date):

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1. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5

“WNY Drilling Defense Community Meeting”

6:00 to 7:00 p.m.  
Crane Branch Library  
633 Elmwood Avenue

Buffalo, New York 14222

Facebook Event Page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/771361166253060/?ref=5>

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23

“Latin American Solidarity Committee (LASC) Coffeehouse: Anne Petermann & Orin Langelle”

7:00 to 9:00 p.m.  
Canisius College  
Science Hall  
2001 Main Street  
Buffalo, NY 14208

This month's coffeehouse will feature Anne Petermann, executive director of the Global Justice Ecology Project (<http://globaljusticeecology.org/>), and Orin Langelle, photojournalist and curator of ¡Buen Vivir! Gallery (<http://photolangelle.org/buen-vivir-gallery/>).

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#### IV. WNY PEACE CENTER TASK FORCE NEWS AND EVENTS

- Anti-Fracking (AF)
- Community Economic Empowerment (CEE)
- Global Economic Justice (GEJ)
- Latin American Solidarity Committee (LASC)
- Peaceful Conflict Resolution (PCR)
- Prisoners' Rights (PR)
- Renewable Energy (RE)
- Resist Militarism (RM)

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#### ANTI-FRACKING (AF)

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#### VIDEOS OF RALLY AND CELEBRATION AT STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS IN ALBANY, NY (JANUARY 21, 2015)

All videos below were filmed and uploaded by Charley Bowman.

“The Concourse”  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bCE-u\\_gSpI4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bCE-u_gSpI4)

“You've Been Fracked”  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jwk3UoMCVeI>

“Josh Fox”  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lo78jYFt00E>

“Sandra Steingrabber”  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s5j4gAclIKw>

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5

“WNY Drilling Defense Community Meeting”

6:00 to 7:00 p.m.  
Crane Branch Library

633 Elmwood Avenue  
Buffalo, New York 14222

Every week trains loaded with volatile crude oil fracked in North Dakota's Bakken shale travel through New York communities at 30 to 40 miles an hour. The DOT-111 tankers used to haul oil are defective and prone to explode in derailments. Bakken oil trains from North Dakota are traveling across New York State and through the City of Buffalo.

With very little public awareness and no study of environmental impacts, the oil industry has made New York a dangerous pipeline for crude oil that snakes thousands of miles by rail, barge and ship from oil fields in North Dakota and elsewhere, to refineries on both coasts. Because they present an immediate danger to public health, we must work to halt the transport of oil trains. Join us in stopping the bomb trains!

We will also be discussing next steps in the anti-fracking campaign in New York, including increased focus on renewable energy. These meetings are open to all!

Facebook Event Page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/771361166253060/?ref=5>

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THURSDAY, MARCH 5

“WNY Drilling Defense Community Meeting”

6:00 to 7:00 p.m.  
Crane Branch Library  
633 Elmwood Avenue  
Buffalo, New York 14222

Facebook Event Page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1394182137544482/?ref=5>

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ARTICLES: “Bakken Crude Oil Bomb Trains”

“Danger On The Rails” (Post-Gazette: February 13, 2014)  
<http://www.post-gazette.com/opinion/2014/02/13/Danger-on-the-rails/stories/201402130140>

“Crude Oil Transport” (NY Riverkeeper)  
<http://www.riverkeeper.org/campaigns/river-ecology/crude-oil-transport/>

“Hazardous Cargo: Shipping Highly Flammable Bakken Crude Oil By Rail” (Earth Island Journal :Summer 2014)  
[http://www.earthisland.org/journal/index.php/eij/article/warning\\_highly\\_flammable/](http://www.earthisland.org/journal/index.php/eij/article/warning_highly_flammable/)

“The Crude Gamble Of Oil By Rail: Bomb Trains” (VICE News: July 28, 2014)  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WpXfQMFR\\_Qs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WpXfQMFR_Qs)

Oil Train Blast Zone Tracker (courtesy of ForestEthics):  
<http://explosive-crude-by-rail.org/>

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ARTICLES: “Fracking Impacts”

“Toward An Understanding Of The Environmental & Public Health Impacts Of Shale Gas Development: An Analysis Of The Peer-Reviewed Scientific Literature, 2009-2014” (PSE Healthy Energy: December 10, 2014)  
<http://psehealthyenergy.org/site/view/1233>

Download Full Report: [http://psehealthyenergy.org/data/Database\\_Analysis\\_FINAL2.pdf](http://psehealthyenergy.org/data/Database_Analysis_FINAL2.pdf)

Download Bibliography: [http://psehealthyenergy.org/data/Database\\_Appendix\\_1.pdf](http://psehealthyenergy.org/data/Database_Appendix_1.pdf)

Download Infographic: [http://psehealthyenergy.org/data/PSE\\_Summary\\_rev51.pdf](http://psehealthyenergy.org/data/PSE_Summary_rev51.pdf)

“How Much Fracking Is Happening In The Gulf Of Mexico? (Grist.org: January 10, 2015)  
<http://grist.org/news/how-much-fracking-is-happening-in-the-gulf-of-mexico/>

"The Research Is In: Regulations Alone Won't Save Us From Climate Disaster" (EcoWatch: January 10, 2015)

<http://ecowatch.com/2015/01/10/regulations-wont-save-us-climate-disaster/>

"Poland's Shale Gas Revolution Evaporates In The Face Of Environmental Protests" (The Guardian UK: January 12, 2015)

[http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/jan/12/polands-shale-gas-revolution-evaporates-in-face-of-environmental-protests?CMP=share\\_btn\\_tw](http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/jan/12/polands-shale-gas-revolution-evaporates-in-face-of-environmental-protests?CMP=share_btn_tw)

LETTER: "Ban On Fracking Seeks To Protect Environment" (Buffalo News: January 13, 2015)

<http://www.buffalonews.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/letter-ban-on-fracking-seeks-to-protect-environment-20150113>

"Scientists Discover Two New Pollutants In Fracking Waste" (ThinkProgress.org: January 14, 2015)

<http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2015/01/14/3611503/two-new-fracking-pollutants/>

"Report: Fracking Imperils Southern California Residents, Wildlife" (KCET-TV: January 14, 2015)

<http://www.kcet.org/news/define/rewire/natural-gas/report-fracking-imperils-southern-california-residents-wildlife.html>

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"Petition To Ban Fracking In Amherst, NY"

It is time for Amherst, NY to protect our health and safety by passing a ban on fracking and its toxic waste.

Fracking for oil and natural gas has led to drinking water contamination, public health problems and dangerous explosions in states across the country. The toxic waste it produces is often radioactive, and it contains an array of cancer-causing chemicals. Yet due to oversight, it's mishandled at municipal treatment plants and has even been spread on local roadways as an ice-melting agent. There is no safe way to treat this toxic waste — which is why we need to keep it from being disposed of here in Amherst.

Now is the time to tell the Amherst Town Board to protect us from fracking!

Please sign the petition below. We'll deliver your signature and additional message directly to your elected officials.

<http://tinyurl.com/kgqsv/>

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WNY Drilling Defense / Anti-Fracking Task Force:

Rita Yelda

Phone: (716) 507-2077

Email: [ryelda@gmail.com](mailto:ryelda@gmail.com) and [wnydrillingdefense@gmail.com](mailto:wnydrillingdefense@gmail.com)

Frank Gage

Phone: (716)893-5584

Email: [snowbird1967@roadrunner.com](mailto:snowbird1967@roadrunner.com)

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/WNYDrillingDefense/>

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COMMUNITY ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT (CEE)

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 30

"Poetic Justice Youth Poetry Slam!"

4:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Grant Street Neighborhood Center

271 Grant Street

Buffalo, New York 14213

Some of Buffalo's Best Poets will be joining youth from the Grant Street Neighborhood Center and Buffalo Save the Kids to hear some poetry and share knowledge with the youth. The event features members of PURE INK Poetry and other poets from around Buffalo. If you have pieces you want to perform, please send us a message so we can get a idea of how many performers we have.

Facebook Event Page: <http://tinyurl.com/lqwk6ja>

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“The Responsible Banking Ordinance”

Make banks invest in our communities! Support the Responsible Banking Ordinance!

Responsible Banking has brought BILLIONS OF DOLLARS to communities around the country. Buffalo currently has its money invested in 3 major banks, one of which has no branches and doesn't give out any loans in the City of Buffalo. Why are we investing our money in a bank that gives nothing back to our community?

What does a Responsible Banking Ordinance (or RBO) do?

- \* Forces banks to make 2 YEAR COMMUNITY INVESTMENT plans to show how they will invest in our communities and make all of Buffalo a better place.
- \* Review all lending and Banking practices in the area to show people what they are doing for community, and how they could do it better.
- \* Gives the Community a voice when it comes to banking so we can hold banks accountable for Racial Discrimination and Financial Abuse
- \* Use the people's money to PUSH banks to start getting our money's worth for our City Deposits by telling banks we don't invest in them unless they INVEST IN US.

GET INVOLVED IN SUPPORT THE RESPONSIBLE BANKING ACT FOR THE CITY OF BUFFALO!

For more information, contact John Washington (Community Economic Empowerment Task Force co-ordinator for the WNY Peace Center, and Community Organizer for PUSH-Buffalo) at:

Phone: (716) 884-0356 (ext. 111)  
Email: [john@pushbuffalo.org](mailto:john@pushbuffalo.org)

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WNY Peace Center Community Economic Empowerment Task Force:

John Washington  
Phone: (716) 860-2848  
Email: [johnarchiewashington@gmail.com](mailto:johnarchiewashington@gmail.com)  
PUSH Buffalo Phone: (716) 884-0356 (ext. 111)  
PUSH Buffalo Email: [john@pushbuffalo.org](mailto:john@pushbuffalo.org)

Michael Zak  
Phone: (716) 868-2927  
Email: [michael.james.zak@gmail.com](mailto:michael.james.zak@gmail.com)

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GLOBAL ECONOMIC JUSTICE (GEJ)

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WNY Peace Center Global Economic Justice Task Force:

Eric Gallion  
Phone: (716) 310-4292  
Email: [egallion@verizon.net](mailto:egallion@verizon.net)

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LATIN AMERICAN SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE (LASC)

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23

“LASC Coffeehouse: Anne Petermann & Orin Langelle”

7:00 to 9:00 p.m.  
Canisius College  
Science Hall  
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This month's coffeehouse will feature Anne Petermann, executive director of the Global Justice Ecology Project (<http://globaljusticeecology.org/>), and Orin Langelle, photojournalist and curator of ¡Buen Vivir! Gallery (<http://photolangelle.org/buen-vivir-gallery/>).

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Latin American Solidarity Committee (LASC):

Phone: (716) 876-3872  
Main Website: <http://www.lascwny.org/>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/LASC-wny/143873822377380/>  
WNY Peace Center Page: <http://wnypeace.org/program/lasc.php/>

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PEACEFUL CONFLICT RESOLUTION (PCR)

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Victoria Ross  
Peaceful Conflict Resolution Coordinator  
Phone: (716) 884-0582  
Email: [victoryross9@gmail.com](mailto:victoryross9@gmail.com)

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PRISONERS' RIGHTS (PR)

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WNY Peace Center Prisoners' Rights Task Force:

Chuck Culhane  
Phone: (716) 228-2076  
Email: [culhane9@gmail.com](mailto:culhane9@gmail.com)  
Website: <http://wnypeace.org/program/Prison%20Action%20Committee.php/>

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RENEWABLE ENERGY (AE)

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

“VOTE SOLAR Webinar - 'Shaping the Future of Energy: New York's Perspective' ”

1 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time)  
Your Computer

The webinar features our solar champ Richard Kauffman, NY Governor Cuomo's Chairman of Energy and Finance. Mr. Kauffman is leading the Empire State's comprehensive strategy to build a cleaner, more resilient, reliable and affordable energy system.

Under Mr. Kauffman's leadership, New York has initiated groundbreaking regulatory and programmatic reform strategically designed to fundamentally re-think the state's approach to power with customer-driven clean energy at the center. Mr. Kauffman will share the most recent developments on these initiatives, including the Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) proceeding, NY Green Bank, The Clean Energy Fund, other ambitious state efforts.

Register Here: <http://action.votesolar.org/page/m/2051fdd1/56ef84bd/da46d76/4b8693ad/1652456501/VEsD/>

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

“Public Service Commission (PSC) Green Energy Public Hearings”

2:00 and 6:00 p.m. (Information Sessions)  
3:00 and 7:00 p.m. (Public Comment Hearings)

Buffalo Central Library  
1 Lafayette Square  
Buffalo, NY

CONCERNED ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE? Want to be sure that NYS Moves to Renewable Energy and that it is Affordable?  
Want to transform the energy system so that it is more democratic?

Raise your voice at the Upcoming NYS PSC Hearing!

Western New York needs Sierra Club members to put pressure on the Public Service Commission (PSC) to include the PUBLIC in the Reforming the Energy Vision (REV). New York State is writing the rules of how electricity works and who will have access and control over renewable energy—and all of it has been behind closed doors with utility companies and industry, no community.

We want to make our voices heard. Please use the link below to ask the Public Service Commission to SLOW the process down and actively seek community input!

We know what we need and want in our community – clean, renewable energy produced in a democratic and distributed system.

Please use this link to comment: <http://tinyurl.com/laobxlj>  
Go here for suggested comments and topics: <http://tinyurl.com/mld4fwr>

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“PSC Green Energy Hearings Message: Charley Bowman”

Please attend the Public Service Commission (PSC) hearings scheduled for Thursday, January 29 at 2 PM and again at 6 PM at the Buffalo Central Library near Lafayette Square, downtown Buffalo. The regulatory aspects of our renewable energy future is being decided, and knowledgeable people say there is an effort afoot to privatize all electricity production in NY State.

Renewable energy is actually a democratization of energy production: everyone will be able to do it. But Big companies are out to stop that democratization process. So you need to be at the PSC hearings in Buffalo.

For the first time since Stone Age people used home-based fire for heating and cooking, today's homeowners can once again heat and power their homes using increasingly cost-effective home-based generating systems. Homeowner dependence on regional utilities for electricity is slowly diminishing with the emergence of wind, solar PV and geothermal heating/cooling. Unlike cavemen, today's homeowners can also supply excess energy to the grid and be paid for it.

Everyone's a potential nano-utility. The economics of renewable energy is democratizing power generation: all people, be they real or corporate, can produce electricity and get paid to do it using fuels that are cost-free and ubiquitous.

This ongoing world-wide transition to renewable sources of energy is throwing the traditional model of regional power generators-supplying-electricity-to-the-grid for a loop. Investors owning nuclear, methane or coal plants are losing money hand-over-fist.

Examples abound in New York State: the Huntley and Dunkirk coal plants and the Ginna nuclear power plant. And it's not clear money can be made by switching coal plants to methane as the Lansing, NY coal plant experience indicates. And the transition to renewables is also throwing taxation mechanisms helter-skelter, especially in smaller communities. This upheaval in power generation is slowly consigning today's regulatory mechanisms to the trash heap.

Faced with the immense and continuing increase in solar, wind and geothermal infrastructure, the PSC is holding hearings on how all this should be regulated.

Who should be allowed to participate in the new energy democracy?

Should renters and homeowners be allowed to make and sell electricity? In areas distant from their homes? Should only big corporations be allowed to do so?

Should New York State transition to 100% renewable energy? How fast?

How will schools and towns be supported in the absence taxes derived from fossil fuels? How should rate payers be taxed to support the transition to renewable energy?

Should geothermal heating/cooling be supported in a manner similar to wind and solar PV?

Should the production of all electricity in NY State be privatized? If privatized, how should it be regulated?

There is no consensus, and the upcoming PSC hearings are intended to forge one.

Stone Age people likely had problems with their neighbors when fuel supplies (trees) diminished. We too repeatedly face the same problem, as well as newer ones, using fossil fuels and nuclear energy. The great advantage of renewable sources of energy is that everyone on the planet now has equal access to unlimited sources of energy: wind, solar PV, and geothermal heating/cooling.

Please make sure that equal access to renewable energy remains intact.

Attend the two PSC hearings at the Buffalo Central Library on Thursday, January 29, at either 2 PM or 6 PM. The PSC invites the public to speak at both times.

- Charley Bowman (Chair, Renewable Energy Task Force)

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"PSC Green Energy Hearings Message: Bill Nowak"

Dear Friends.

The PSC will be holding an important hearing on green energy in Buffalo, Thursday, 1/29. Below is a notice from the Sierra Club about the hearing.

If you think you might go, I'd like to ask you to consider including support for geothermal heating and cooling in your statement. I've attached links to several documents:

Geothermal Talking Points

<https://www.scribd.com/doc/254003528/REV-Geothermal-Talking-Points-2015-01-22>

Sierra Club New York State-wide Talking Points

<https://www.scribd.com/doc/254003534/Sierra-Club-Statewide-REV-Talking-Points>

A Buffalo News Op-Ed Article About The Hearings

<https://www.scribd.com/doc/254003529/Beahan-PSC-Offer-Another-Voice-Buffalo-News-2015-01-27>

A Favorable Article On REV From Vote Solar

<https://www.scribd.com/doc/254003545/Vote-Solar-REV-Article>

The PSC's Press Release On The Hearings

<https://www.scribd.com/doc/254003519/Buffalo-Press-Release-on-Public-Statement-Hearing-2015-01-21>

The Upcoming Energy Democracy Presentation By Aaron Bartley @ Sierra Club-Niagara's Monthly Writer's Group Meeting

<https://www.scribd.com/doc/254003532/Energy-Democracy-Flyer-2015-02-02>

In addition, there's more information about the REV proceeding at the AGREE website:  
<http://allianceforagreenconomy.org/content/reclaiming-energy-vision>

CONCERNED ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE? Want to be sure that NYS Moves to Renewable Energy and that it is Affordable? Want to transform the energy system so that it is more democratic?

Raise your voice at the NYS Upcoming Hearing!

- Bill Nowak (Sierra Club-Niagara Group)

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“EmPower NY”

EmPower is a NYSERDA program for low-income individuals to obtain free professional energy services to reduce their energy usage and costs. If they are approved for the program, families can receive up to \$7000 worth of no-cost home energy work, including energy-efficient appliance replacement, furnace updates and insulation.

EmPower New York is now accepting applications for no-cost energy efficiency services to low-income households. If your household meets eligibility requirements, you may be approved for free energy services provided by a licensed home improvement agency.

Improvements may include replacement of old light bulbs, refrigerators, dryers and freezers with new energy-efficient models, or insulation and air sealing may be provided to keep more heat in the home. Contractors also test your home for gas leaks and carbon monoxide which can be dangerous if undetected.

EmPower NY is a NYSERDA program and is available to renters or owners who live in buildings of 100 units or less and make 60% or less of the median NY state income.

Interested applicants may contact Colleen at the reference information below. More information can also be found on the NYSERDA website: <http://www.nyserda.ny.gov/>

Colleen Kristich  
Ivy Lea Construction  
440 Northwood Drive  
Tonawanda, NY 14223  
Phone: (716) 875-8654  
Fax: (716) 875-1574  
Email: [colleen@ivyleaconstruction.com](mailto:colleen@ivyleaconstruction.com)  
Main Website: <http://www.ivyleaconstruction.com/referral.php>  
Facebook Page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Ivy-Lea-Construction/371163939576963>

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WNY Peace Center Renewable Energy Task Force:

Charley Bowman  
Phone: (716) 688-2374  
Email: [CandABowman@verzion.net](mailto:CandABowman@verzion.net)  
Website: <http://wnypeace.org/new/projects.html>

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RESIST MILITARISM (RM)

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

“Resist Militarism! Task Force Meeting”

1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

The Daily Planet Coffee Company  
1862 Hertel Avenue (corner of Hertel and Parker Avenues)  
Buffalo, NY 14216

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1. THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

"Anti-Drone Vigil At Niagara Falls Air Force Base"

3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station  
2026 Lockport Road (outside the Main Gate)  
Niagara Falls, NY 14304

If you need a ride out to the base, contact Vicki at (716) 884-0582, or Russell at (716) 570-5200. You are also welcome to stop by the Resist Militarism! Task Force Meeting (mentioned above), as members there will proceed to the base immediately after the meeting. Signs are encouraged!

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"Bonny Mahoney: Trial & Outcome"

PRESS RELEASE FROM THE UPSTATE COALITION TO GROUND THE DRONES AND END THE WARS  
(<http://upstatedroneaction.org/>)

"Hancock Drone Resister Convicted on Unexpected New Charge " (January 16, 2015)

DeWitt Town Court  
5400 Butternut Drive,  
East Syracuse, NY

DEWITT, N.Y.: Bonny Mahoney of Syracuse, New York was convicted by Judge David S. Gideon in DeWitt Town Court on a single count of trespass stemming from her arrest during a nonviolent protest at Hancock Field Air National Guard Base on April 28, 2013.

When Drone Resister Bonny Mahoney arrived in court on January 15 for her jury trial on charges of obstructing governmental administration (OGA) and 2 counts of disorderly conduct (DisCon), she was arraigned on a new charge (trespass) stemming from the same event where she was arrested 17 months earlier with 30 other protesters. Her reasonable request for some time to modify her preparations was refused.

Lawyers Jonathan Wallace of New York City, and Daire Irwin of Buffalo, NY drove in from their hometowns to assist Ms. Mahoney during her 2 day trial.

Asked to comment on his interest in these cases, Wallace said "The steadfast commitment, personal integrity and humility of these activists, which echo the beliefs of Dorothy Day even though not all are Catholics, have made it an honor, and even more than that, a personal imperative, for me to help them in any way possible."

Regarding Ms. Mahoney's determination to defend herself, Irwin said, "They may be peaceful but that doesn't mean they aren't going to fight injustice everywhere; and that includes in court."

Ms. Mahoney brought the trial back to her concerns about drone victims, saying, "I consider myself lucky to be able to defend myself against charges I feel are unjust. US drone policy does not provide this opportunity for its victims."

Judge Gideon granted a pretrial motion by the attorneys to dismiss the OGA charge on the grounds that it didn't specify who was obstructed, or how, and the jury was also dismissed.

In the end, the only charge Ms. Mahoney was convicted of was the new trespass charge.

Attorney's Jonathon Wallace and Daire Irwin, who attended the trial to support Ms. Mahoney made arrangements to argue another motion before her sentencing hearing on February 12.

People have been protesting at Hancock National Air Guard Base since 2011 when the 174th began flying lethal Reaper drone missions

over Afghanistan.

During the past year, protesters opposing weaponized drones were arrested at Hancock, Creech, Whiteman, and Beale Air Force and Air National Guard Bases, as well as RAF Waddington in the UK and in the German Parliament.

There are monthly trials coming up in DeWitt this spring beginning with John Honeck on trial for OGA and DisCon February 11 and 12, followed by a consolidated Jury trial for Bev Rice, Ellen Barfield, Joan Pleune and Jules Orkin who are facing the same charges from the same action on March 10, 11 and 12.

Contact:

Bonny Mahoney, Syracuse, NY: (315) 475-2811  
Vicki Ross, Buffalo, NY: (716) 884-0582  
Judith Bello, Rochester, NY: (585) 733-4058  
Mary Anne Grady Flores, Ithaca, New York: (607) 273-7437 (Home) / (607) 280-8797 (Cell)

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ARTICLES ON BONNY'S CASE, AND THE ANTI-DRONE MOVEMENT IN SYRACUSE:

"Why Protest?" (Syracuse New Times: December 3, 2014)

<http://www.syracusenewtimes.com/protest/>

"Pakistan Witness On Trial In DeWitt For Drone Resistance" (Upstate Coalition To Ground The Drones & End The Wars: January 12, 2015)

[http://upstatedroneaction.org/documents/PressReleases/BonnyMahoney\\_Trial\\_PR.pdf](http://upstatedroneaction.org/documents/PressReleases/BonnyMahoney_Trial_PR.pdf)

"Pakistan Witness On Trial In DeWitt For Drone Resistance" (Voices For Creative Non-Violence: January 12, 2015)

<http://vcnv.org/pakistan-witness-on-trial-in-dewitt-for-drone-resistance>

"Syracuse Grandmother's Trial Starts Today For Drone Protest At Hancock Air Base" (Syracuse.com: January 15, 2015)

[http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2015/01/syracuse\\_grandmother\\_on\\_trial\\_today\\_for\\_drone\\_protest.html](http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2015/01/syracuse_grandmother_on_trial_today_for_drone_protest.html)

"Trial Begins For Drone Protester" (WCNY-TV: January 15, 2015)

<http://www.syracusenewtimes.com/protest/>

"Latest drone protester on trial plans to tell story of those who live in fear of drone attacks" (WRVO: January 16, 2015)

<http://wrvo.org/post/latest-drone-protester-trial-plans-tell-story-those-who-live-fear-drone-attacks>

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VIDEOS OF BONNY'S TRIAL, FILMED BY CHARLEY BOWMAN (WNY PEACE CENTER):

"Bonny Mahoney Pre-Trial News Conference"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lpl3HsNtjY>

"Bonny Mahoney Opening Statement: January 15, 2015"

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=diKl\\_1565po](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=diKl_1565po)

"Bonny Mahoney Closing Argument"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cLAEgR8wCp8>

"Assistant District Attorney (ADA) Jerrit Woodfork Opening Statement"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I6Y6YcUBsYU>

"ADA [Jerrit] Woodfork Closing Statement"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bwGoAV-wYQs>

"Bonny Mahoney Post-Trial News Conference"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OFHVXuNsTHA>

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PETITION: "Stop Torture! Accountability: YES – Impunity: NO" (Change.org)

This petition was initiated by two former UN Assistant Secretaries-General, UN Humanitarian Coordinators for Iraq: Hans von Sponeck and Denis Halliday.

"On 9 December 2014, the US Senate released its CIA torture report. The investigation confirmed what globally has been known for many years: the US Central Intelligence Agency and US-outsourced national authorities in Europe, the Middle East and elsewhere have been involved in an extensive range of torture applications.

"Compelling evidence has become available, especially since 2001, the beginning of the Afghanistan war, through investigations by the European Parliament and national judicial authorities, as well as two major reports presented by Swiss Senator Dick Marty in 2006 and 2007 to the Council of Europe, on secret CIA detention centres in Europe, the Middle East and elsewhere.

"The US Senate report makes it clear that cruel, degrading and inhumane treatment of captives by the CIA and its collaborators have been carried out on a continuous basis. Such treatment can not be justified in any manner, even if the US Government reservations with which it signed the UN torture convention in 1994 were to be taken into account.

"CIA personnel and others willfully participated in following executive orders and directives thereby violating the UN torture convention and the Geneva Convention III. In this way they have committed serious crimes for which they must be held accountable.

"The UN Special Representative on Counter-Terrorism and Human Rights, Ben Emmerson QC has reminded us that "torture is a crime of universal jurisdiction".

"The U.N. high commissioner for human rights, Zeid Raad al-Hussein, said it is 'crystal clear' under international law that the United States, which ratified the U.N. Convention Against Torture in 1994, now has an obligation to ensure accountability. He further added: 'If they order, enable or commit torture, recognized as a serious international crime, they cannot simply be granted impunity because of political expediency'

"US President Obama must be aware that not holding the perpetrators accountable is a victory for impunity and will have far-reaching implications for global security.

"We, signatories from all parts of the world, therefore urge the US Government and its Attorney General, to start a judicial process with a sense of urgency in compliance with principles of equality before the law. If they fail to do so, other international bodies, such as the International Criminal Court, will have the obligation under international law to assure that justice is done."

Sign the petition here: <https://www.change.org/p/us-government-stop-torture-accountability-yes-impunity-no>

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WNY Peace Center Resist Militarism Task Force:

Russell Brown

Phone: (716) 570-5200

Email: [hobadoxa@me.com](mailto:hobadoxa@me.com)

Website: <http://wnypeace.org/program/ResistMilitarism.php/>