

"Still Dancing" painting by Jonathan Labillois

## MAKING APPARENT THE HIDDEN

### MISSING & MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN, GIRLS AND TWO SPIRIT INDIVIDUALS (#MMIWG2S)

*By Ionah Scully*

With Halloween approaching, 'Pocahottie' costumes seem to be more prolific than actual Indigenous women. Not costumes, however, we are physicians, professors, chancellors, students, storytellers, parents, sex workers, store clerks, activists, teachers, and healers. Some are not cis. Some are nonbinary or Two Spirit. We are resilient, and most of us are many of these things at once and more. Not all of us are all still here, however.

The number of cases of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and queer/Two-Spirit (IWG2S) folks is astronomical. A 2016 U.S. Department of Justice report shows that more than 84% have experienced violence, 56% experiencing sexual violence specifically. The National Congress of American Indian Policy Research Center also noted in a 2018 study that the murder rate for IWG2S is more than 10 times the national average in some areas and that IWG2S are twice as likely to be raped than white women.

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STATE AND LOCAL ACTION TEAM OF CNY SOLIDARITY

### About the Cover

The idea for the title "*Still Dancing*" came from my little sister: "Dancers dance for those who cannot, the sick, the elders, and those who are gone. It's like all those women are still dancing thru her." — *Jonathan Labillois*

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## SPC Statement of purpose

The Syracuse Peace Council (SPC), founded in 1936, is an antiwar/social justice organization. We are community-based, autonomous and funded by the contributions of our supporters.

SPC educates, agitates and organizes for a world where war, violence and exploitation in any form will no longer exist. We challenge the existing unjust power relationships among nations, among people and between ourselves and the environment. As members, we work to replace inequality, hierarchy, domination and powerlessness with mutual respect, personal empowerment, cooperation and a sense of community.

Present social injustices cannot be understood in isolation from each other nor can they be overcome without recognizing their economic and militaristic roots. SPC stresses a strategy that makes these connections clear. We initiate and support activities that help build this sense of community and help tear down the walls of oppression. A fundamental basis for peace and justice is an economic system that places human need above monetary profit. We establish relationships among people based on cooperation rather than competition or the threat of destruction.

Our political values and personal lives shape and reflect each other. In both we are committed to nonviolent means of conflict resolution and to a process of decision-making that responds to the needs of us all.

# <educate • agitate • organize> SPC in Action

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## THANK YOU FOR DONATING

A very big thank you to everyone who donated to SPC following our recent fund appeal letter. It is with your support and participation that we are able to strengthen and build upon our work for peace and justice together. ☺

## BWAM'S ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION SPEAKER SERIES

The Beyond War and Militarism Committee (BWaM) continues our Alternative Education series at ArtRage Gallery, generally on the third Monday of the month. At our August 19 program we heard from Dahr Jamail, a *Truthout* staff reporter and author of several books, most recently *The End of Ice: Bearing Witness and Finding Meaning in the Path of Climate Disruption*. His presentation was a thought-provoking and sobering focus on his trips into nature and his intimate experience with the alarming evidence of climate destruction, chronicled in his book.

On September 17, we heard from the well-known author and S.U. professor Horace G. Campbell. Dr. Campbell's presentation, "The Quagmire of U.S. Militarism in Africa," alerted us all to the pressing need to resist the use of our tax money in restoring white supremacy on the resource-rich continent of Africa.

Our next program, on October 21, will be an opportunity to learn from Greta Zarro, the Organizing Director of World Beyond War (WBW). She will present on "Highlights from Limerick", where WBW organizers from around the world will gather this October for the No War 2019 International Conference. Her presentation will include guidance concerning the decisive question, "How Do We De-Militarize?" There may also be reports from local activists who attend the conference.

As a joint committee of SPC and the CNY Solidarity Coalition, BWaM continues to provide reports during Coalition meetings, emphasizing the connections between the resources taken from us by the War Budget and how those funds could be used at home.

— Ron Van Norstrand



Dahr Jamail shared insights on what we can each do in the path of climate disruption.  
Photo: Michaela Czerkies

## STREET HEAT

There are so many opportunities to stand up for what you believe in! Bring your own signs or use one of ours. Tuesdays' focus is on anti-war messages; Saturdays, all progressive signs are welcome. Contact Ann Tiffany or Ed Kinane at 315-478-4571. November through March, we are only at Hancock Air Base, and only on the first Tuesdays of the month.

**Tuesdays: 4:15-5pm**

**Oct 1 & 15** - Hancock Air Base

**Oct 8, 22, 29** - Corner of Adams and Almond (Rt. 81 underpass)

**Nov 5** - Hancock Air Base

**Every Saturday 9-9:45am (until November)**

Regional Market main entrance (Park St.)

*continued on next page*





## SAVE THE DATE FOR PLOWSHARES: DEC 7-8

Mark your calendars! Our annual Plowshares Craftsfair and Peace Festival will be Dec 7-8 this year, 10 am - 5 pm Saturday and 10:30 am - 4:30 pm Sunday. It's not too early to get involved in helping make Plowshares the vibrant event that it is. We have many volunteer needs in all areas of putting Plowshares together, such as pulling together the Silent Auction, and doing lots of publicity and outreach. Contact [michaela@peacecouncil.net](mailto:michaela@peacecouncil.net) or call the SPC office to get involved.

## JOIN AGREE'S COMMUNITY OF CLIMATE RESPONDERS

Our planet is in a state of emergency. It is burning. And flooding. We must act now!

AGREE (Alliance for a Green Economy) is assembling a statewide community of people willing to work together across regions to make sure we move our energy policy toward a carbon-free and nuclear-free energy system. **If we each do a part, we can accomplish a lot!** To that end, we invite you to join one (or more) of our teams to fill a vital role in this Commu-

nity of Climate Responders. Please join us in building community, collectively reducing emissions, and organizing to win the right and resources for a just transition to a carbon-free, nuclear-free energy system that can revitalize the economy and safeguard public and environmental health.

See [www.allianceforagreenconomy.org/join-our-community](http://www.allianceforagreenconomy.org/join-our-community).

— Andra Leimanis

## SHARING INDIGENOUS HISTORY WITH SYRACUSE 11TH GRADERS

As an extension of the very successful work NOON has done with the *Witness to Injustice/Kairos* Blanket Exercise, we're busily preparing to facilitate a specially-designed version of the workshop for Syracuse City School District 11th graders. Thanks to a grant received by the Skä•noñh – Great Law of Peace Center, we will be presenting the workshop 12 times for groups of about 30 students. We're working hard to tell the truth about the devastating history of the 'founding' of the USA for groups of young people who may have shorter attention spans. In addition, we're thinking carefully how to support young people whose own experience of trauma could be triggered by learning about the efforts to wipe out our indigenous sisters and brothers. To learn more, contact Cindy Squillace: [cindysquillace@gmail.com](mailto:cindysquillace@gmail.com).

Our annual **Indigenous Peoples Day Celebration event** will be on **Monday, October 14, at 5:00 pm** at the Syracuse Inner Harbor Amphitheater, with Haudenosaunee Social Dancing led by the Haudenosaunee Singers and Dancers. All are welcome!

— Andy Mager

## GROWING SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN CHILDREN'S RIGHTS



The Justice for Palestine committee has been busy getting petition signatures for Congressional representatives to cosponsor HR 2407, the "Promoting Human Rights for Palestinian Children Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act." This bill aims to advance justice and human rights for children globally by prohibiting US taxpayer funding for the military detention and ill-treatment of children by *any* country, including Israel. We are also looking for local community organizations and faith groups to sign on to our Resolution of Support for the bill. If you are part of a group that may be interested in signing on, and/or

would like a presentation for your group on the issue of Israeli military detention of Palestinian children, get in touch! We welcome volunteers to participate in our *No Way to Treat a Child Campaign* by helping with data entry, petitioning, and planning upcoming events and actions! To get involved, contact [michaela@peacecouncil.net](mailto:michaela@peacecouncil.net).

Join us for our weekly demonstrations in support of the people of Gaza, 4:30-5:15 pm every Friday (until at least November) at the intersection of E. Genesee St. and Erie Blvd. East in DeWitt.

— Michaela Czerkies

We gathered many petition signatures at SPC's booth at the Downtown Arts & Crafts Fair in July. Photo: Ursula Rozum

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# A CONVERSATION WITH CLIFFORD RYAN: OGS AGAINST VIOLENCE

by Coran Klaver

*Editor's Note: This conversation has been created from a transcript of an interview.*

Clifford Ryan is the founder of OGS Against Violence (a grassroots anti-violence organization recently incorporated as a 501c3 nonprofit) which hosts regular "On the Ground with OGS" walks in neighborhoods with high levels or recent instances of violence to bring visibility to these acts and create community unification. Clifford is the recipient of the 2019 Syracuse Community Choir's Annual Peoples Peace Award, to be presented on December 14. Rachel May recently presented him with the Liberty Medal, the highest civilian honor in New York State.



On the Ground with OGS Walk, June 12, 2019 in honor of a number of recent victims of violence on Syracuse's Southside.

*Coran Klaver: How did you get involved with violence interruption work?*

**Clifford Ryan:** I've been a victim of it. I've always been against gun violence, but when my son Durial Ryan was shot and killed in July of 1999, that spearheaded my advocacy. I began supporting the community with programs and community events geared towards anti-violence. It wasn't until 2015 that I began my own organization to advocate against the violence on myself. I've been a victim of it many times. The loss of a child was one of the core reasons why I began doing what I do. That played a role in me trying to step up to the plate and be an advocate for anti-violence.

*CK: What is your vision for OGS Against Violence as an organization?*

**CR:** The organization is primarily geared towards violence interruption. Beyond violence interruption, we want to offer services that prevent the breakout or eruption of violence—prevention, intervention, conflict resolution, mentoring, and supportive services, maybe even mental health services. We want it to have the strongest impact we can possibly have for the community and Syracuse as a whole.

*CK: How is OGS different from other violence reduction organizations and initiatives?*

**CR:** OGS is different in the sense that it is boots on the ground, direct violence interruption. Other organizations do similar

*Coran Klaver has worked with Clifford Ryan to organize the "On the Ground with OGS" community walks and is currently Co-Vice-Chair of the organization's Board of Directors.*

work, but the one thing they aren't doing is literally, physically stopping shootings/stabbings/brawls/fights/arguments through direct contact, even physical contact.

*CK: What does it look like to interrupt violence?*

**CR:** You may be in an area where you're canvassing—walking around, talking to people, getting a sense of the community. Maybe there's leftover tension and emotion from previous physical or verbal altercations between community members. You know about this past history, and if you come across two individuals arguing, you know that situation could easily escalate from a verbal to a physical conflict. You want to intervene in a way that's not disrespectful to either individual. It is very important to show them respect. They understand the organization represents nonviolence and most people respect that. Because they respect the organization and you; in turn, speak to them with respect. 90% of the time, OGS Against Violence helps those individuals resolve their problems without a physical altercation. This is important, because physical violence can lead to someone losing their life. If you can't resolve the conflict verbally, sometimes you physically get in between the two. I use my [OGS Against Violence demonstration] signs as a mechanism to (1) remind them and (2) to get in between them—to stop them from swinging on each other.

*CK: What makes you an effective violence interrupter?*

**CR:** People see that I'm serious about coming out in the community, reaching out from a sincere perspective. They know what I've been through and most of the time, I know what they've been through. What makes me effective is my approach and tactics—respect being the key.

*CK: You give people a way to back down without losing face. Because if they back down and you're not there, what would happen?*

**CR:** For that kind of culture, it makes them look like they're being weak. When you interrupt, both sides are getting out. That's a very important part of the interruption, giving them an out without having to back down; coming to a mutual agreement to stand down. I've had situations where two individuals were literally getting ready to shoot each other. That could have been a double shooting. But my intervention helps them to back down with pride as opposed to them showing any weakness or fear. ☮

## Syracuse Anti-Violence Expo

OGs Against Violence is hosting a city-wide Violence-Reduction Expo at **SALTSpace on Saturday, October 19th from 12 to 4 pm**. It will bring together anti-violence groups, programs, and initiatives in Syracuse which offer resources to those affected by or at risk of experiencing violence.



# "RECREATING HOME: PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE REFUGEE EXPERIENCE"

by Carl Mellor

"Recreating Home: Photographs of the Refugee Experience," Maranie R. Staab's solo exhibit at the ArtRage Gallery, focuses mostly on refugees living on the North Side of Syracuse. It's home to families who have fled war, dire poverty, environmental disasters and ethnic conflict. They've emigrated to the United States from around the globe—from Africa, the Middle East and other regions.

Staab's black-and-white images document everyday experiences such as working at a Popeye's Chicken restaurant or studying for a GED test. The photos also provide a sense of the neighborhood where most of the refugees live; there are images of children at a playground and teenagers hanging out near Star Market, a convenience store.

Beyond that, Staab has created intimate photos of people at home. In one shot, a mother and daughter string dried flowers. In another, a group of women share conversation and a meal. A third image shows

*Carl Mellor is a freelance writer who often writes about the visual arts.*

a mother making dinner. And Staab's lens captures moments of joy: two girls embracing; a teenager clapping enthusiastically. Finally, the 30-image show displays other incisive photos. For example, a young child looks at an iPad screen while eating Nepalese rice. A teenager prays. Two children stand near a doorway in a shot suggesting entry into a new realm.

"Recreating Home" not only stands on its own but continues the documentary work Staab has done for the past five years. She photographed the Zaatari refugee camp on the border between Syria and Jordan and completed "Forced from Home," a series discussing people who were driven from their homes in Mosul, Iraq. She continues to work on "Spoons and Country," a project dealing with the opioid epidemic in Pittsburgh, PA.

As she does her work abroad and domestically, Staab concentrates on human rights and social justice issues, looking at people impacted by violence, displacement and life on the margins of society. "Recreating Home" offers yet another project demonstrating her commitment



Staab's exhibit showcases resettled refugees and their new lives in the US.

to in-depth work. In order to create the intimate photos currently on display at ArtRage, she had to engage with her subjects and gain their trust.

Staab will deliver an artist's talk at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 2, at ArtRage Gallery, 505 Hawley Ave in Syracuse. That event is free and open to the public. Her one-woman exhibition runs through October 26, 2019. ☮

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## MY AMERICA

by Jess Tetro

My America was brown first  
Like the clay,  
the earth  
The rock

My Jesus was brown first  
Like the desert  
The cloth  
The sandals  
The mud

My culture was brown first  
The Italians  
Posing white to get hired  
Boasting a greater work ethic than  
Mexicans and Spaniards  
Distancing themselves from their brethren  
like Voldemort from half-bloods

Bleach white doesn't mean clean  
It means absence of culture  
I praise my freckles  
and my flaws  
I praise everything that doesn't make me perfect  
or white picket fence esque  
Artists, graffiti my body with tattoos  
Splash upon me paint  
Splatter my skin until you don't know the tone

My America was untamed  
the plains not so dusty  
the lakes not so grey  
My America was brown  
Healthy brown  
like protein and fiber  
Not bad carbs  
Not wonder bread  
Not McDonald's buns  
My America was venison  
My America was tan tarts  
with various berries and jams  
inside

My America was hides and furs  
Before it was chrome gowns  
And glam bags so sparkly  
The plastic sequin that falls off  
will choke your precious pure-bred  
Persian cat

My America was fuller and thicker  
Like rich bold coffee  
Not skim watered down milk

My America has always bled the same color:  
Red

## ASPHYXIATION

by Hilary-Anne Coppola

"16% more CO2"  
Surrounds the blue body  
Suffocating everyone

We did this,  
Our great accomplishment...  
Energy efficient and long-lasting  
If you've got the cash

God won't rescue us  
We must confront together  
Salvation and damnation

But we pump more oil  
Eat meat with contempt  
And buy fake plastic children  
For our own children to choke with

*Jess Tetro is a local poet, writer, and performance artist. She spends her days educating CNY youth and bringing the arts to local communities. More of Jess Tetro's work can be found at [www.facebook.com/TetroPoetry/](https://www.facebook.com/TetroPoetry/).*

*Hilary is the community organizer at the law office of Joe Heath and an inclusion coordinator for the Syracuse Community Choir. To submit creative writing or artwork for PNL, please email her at [hilcoppola@gmail.com](mailto:hilcoppola@gmail.com)*

# WALLS DIVIDE AND CONQUER: WE DIDN'T CROSS THE BORDER, THE BORDER CROSSED US

by Julia Ganson

Preparing for a recent presentation I was giving about Palestine, it started me thinking about walls as both morally repugnant and ineffective political solutions. Walls separate, divide, and increase the power imbalance and inequalities of people. I thought about the two sides of a wall, about the people who live on the opposite side than those who build and maintain the barrier, and how we “other” those people.

I lived in Occupied Palestine in 2017-18, on the other side of the Israeli Wall, constructed a decade ago. Living with its physical presence and all its meanings assaults one's vision and one's imagination in both conscious and subconscious ways. Although I am not Palestinian, I lived with Palestinians confined to designated spaces and experienced the injuries of the Wall that snakes 440 miles with menace through the cities and countryside. Traveling 12 miles from my home and university in Ramallah to Jerusalem took hours of time and much patience to endure the humiliation and fear that the Israeli soldiers create at the checkpoints in the Wall.

In May-June of this year, I spent two weeks volunteering in El Paso at a hospitality house for families seeking asylum when they cross the US southern border. The men, women and children were patient and friendly, even after having their belongings taken and having spent a long time in travel, detention at the border, and now wearing non-removable electronic ankle monitors. The partially built border wall currently exists

mostly in our collective imagination and on our collective tongues, as President Trump continues to advocate for its completion and dedicates all the resources he can muster for its construction. Trump points to the Israeli Separation Wall and its supposed great success as the model for a wall to be constructed and controlled by US at the Mexican border. Like the Israeli Wall, it looms large as a social, political, and moral reality.



Grffiti on the Israeli Separation wall that cuts through the West Bank. Photo: Flash90

## Two Sides of a Wall and Imbalance of Power

One also begins to ponder the so-called “two sides” of the walls and the so-called “conflicts” that helped create them. Walls indicate the presence of state and military dominance, rather than a mere conflict between people. One more powerful side creates a barrier and controls the movement of humans and other beings. The Israeli government built the Wall to exercise military control and occupation over Palestinians. Those on the other side are stereotyped as radical and dangerous terrorists. Palestinians seem not to deserve a more nuanced portrait of a people and individuals who have a rich, complex history and live under the enforced conditions of military occupation. Likewise, the US government and military claim control of the border

and passage of those on the other side. The others must manage, justify, negotiate, and work around it. Currently, thousands of them are held in detention facilities on the US side of the border or are living in tent camps on the other side.

## Dehumanization of the Other

The second defining characteristic of walls is their use as a tool in dehumanizing the less powerful side. The narrative about

Palestinians that has taken hold is supported by mainstream media with active contributions from US and Israeli governments. Palestinians are dehumanized and “othered” and turned into terrorists. The US Southern Border Wall—the very concept of it—is integral to defining those on the Mexican side as im/migrants, asylum seekers, refugees—“illegals.” Mexicans, Guatemalans, Hondurans, Salvadorians, and other Latinxs are turned into criminals and gang members.

We seemed to reach our moral limit last summer when we found out that such dehumanization had led to the large and increasing scale of family separations, children held in cages, and then the inability to return children to their parents because DHS didn't keep accurate records. It is The Wall at the US-Mexican border that haunts us now as Americans.

*We didn't cross the border. The border crossed us.*

The powerful slogan of the Immigrant Rights Movement speaks eloquently to historical facts of imperialist conquest. The U.S. Government stole through war much of the present-day American West. At the conclusion of the Mexican American War (1846-48), the US seized more than half of the landmass of Mexico, land that is now half of New Mexico, most of Arizona, California, Nevada, Utah, and parts of

---

*Julia Ganson is an activist who spent time assisting asylum seekers in El Paso, Texas in May and June.*



Colorado and Wyoming, and justified it with the political and religious ideology called manifest destiny: the conviction that the US had the [Christian] God-given right to occupy and “civilize” the whole of the North American continent, since the US could make better use of the land than did Native Americans, Mexicans, and Catholics. It was opposed as “consciousless [sic] land grabbing” by Henry David Thoreau at the time (and he was jailed for war tax resistance) and criticized by the future President Lincoln.

Both the US and Israel have occupied and annexed land via military operations and justified it with colonial ideologies (manifest destiny and zionism), creating arbitrary colonial borders the walls are designed to enforce. Zionism, the belief that God gave the land of Palestine to the Jews, became a national movement in the late 1800s, with the goal of establishing and protecting a self-ruling homeland for the Jewish people. Zionists claimed that Palestine was “a land without people for a people without a land”—except for the one million Palestinians who lived in 1948 in what is present-day Israel, just as tens of thousands of Mexicans and Native

Americans lived in what became US territory in 1848.

*No One is Illegal on Stolen Land.*

This Immigrant Rights slogan captures the truths of power, dominance, and curtailing freedom of movement as well as rights of political self-determination. It applies equally to Mexicans, Mexican Americans, Latinos, Palestinians, and Native Americans. When the US gained this land by conquest, Mexicans living there, land owners, people with a family history there, were treated as foreigners who had less right to be there than the white settlers who moved in.

### The Immorality and Ineffectiveness of Walls

Walls separate families and communities, block ideas, and disrupt ecosystems by preventing wildlife from migrating along natural corridors. Walls are also a huge waste of resources and ineffective in that they build hatred and sow the seeds of violence and destruction on both sides.

*The ingredients used to mix the concrete of the Wall have been equal parts*

*historical trauma, fear, violence, racism, fundamentalism, supremacy, profit and greed. It's a potent mix... The Wall imprisons Palestinians; it proclaims Israel's right to exist as a failed state.*

(Robert Shetterly, “Wailing at the Wall,” in *Extraordinary Rendition*, 2015, p. 320)

The moral and sociopolitical consequences are dire. Dr. Alice Rothschild, writing about the Israeli Wall, with its separation of peoples and the apartheid social structure it has created, wrote as a final verse in her poem “Inspired by a Poem from the First Intifada”:

*As they sang in South Africa:*

*Senzani na?*

*What have we done?*

(Ibid, p. 343)

It applies equally well to the US Southern Border Wall. As peace activists, human rights defenders, and builders of community, we should “Tear down that wall!” and stand against the building of more. ☮



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Cadaret, Grant are separate entities

SPC, continued from page 4

## THANKS TO OUR SUMMER INTERN

We're grateful to have had James Erdman, a Political Science junior at Syracuse University, join us at SPC as an intern this past summer. Drawn primarily to anti-nuclear work, James played an essential role in coordinating our annual Hiroshima Day procession, as well as launching the Nuclear Free World committee's Back from the Brink campaign efforts. He also participated in organizing around the proposed swimming beach at Onondaga Lake. James brought dedication, an openness to new projects and challenges, and a good sense of humor to his work. We wish him the best of luck as he continues with his studies!

— Carol Baum and Michaela Czerkies

## NUCLEAR FREE WORLD LAUNCHES LOCAL "BACK FROM THE BRINK" CAMPAIGN

At 12:00 pm on August 6, 2019 the annual silent procession commemorating Hiroshima Day wound its way through downtown Syracuse. A haunting drumbeat accompanied about 75 people who marched carrying puppets, banners, and peace doves, imploring us not to forget that 74 years ago the US dropped the atom bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The procession ended at the Everson Museum plaza where a letter from Miyo Hirano, a local Hibakusha, a survivor of Hiroshima, was read. As tensions around the world escalate and we are faced with the threat of nuclear war, local endorsers spoke about "Back from the Brink," a coordinated international campaign to abolish nuclear weapons. Initiated by Physicians for Social Responsibility and the Union of Concerned Scientists, the plan is to build grassroots support from community groups, then enlist local and federal officials, including candidates for office.

The Nuclear Free World is doing presentations about Back from the Brink in order to get organizational and political endorsements. If you know of an organization that might sign on and would be interested in a presentation, contact [drswords@gmail.com](mailto:drswords@gmail.com) or [margrit.diehl@gmail.com](mailto:margrit.diehl@gmail.com). For more information about Back from the Brink go to [www.preventnuclearwar.org](http://www.preventnuclearwar.org).

— Margrit Diehl



Thanks to Karen and Maxx at Syracuse Cultural Workers for helping make our Back from the Brink banner for the Hiroshima Day procession. Photo: Ray Trudell



"The New York Health Act: EVERYBODY IN!" Photo taken by Ursula Rozum at a recent NY Health organizing meeting.

## CNY SOLIDARITY COALITION HEALTHCARE COMMITTEE

CNY Solidarity Coalition's Healthcare Committee works to educate and advocate around the need for a universal, single payer healthcare system. We are primarily focused on supporting the passage of The New York Health Act ([www.nyhcampaign.org](http://www.nyhcampaign.org)) at the state level, which would provide comprehensive, progressively funded healthcare to every single New Yorker, replacing the wasteful, for-profit insurance system. We participate in outreach to the public, including business owners and the medical community, to help build the grassroots support needed to move this legislation past the finish line in the State Senate. We work closely with the CNY Solidarity Coalition State/Local Legislative Action committee to engage our local leaders. We will also be participating in the historic hearings finally being held in the State Legislature to illustrate why we believe that healthcare is a human right.

— Margaret Bombard

## THREE WAYS TO GET INVOLVED WITH SPC

**Help create the PNL** - The production of the PNL has many parts, from brainstorming topics and authors, to editing articles, to layout, to mailing and distribution. If you enjoy reading the PNL, you can participate in any of those pieces!

**Lend your artistic skills** - There is always a need for graphic arts skills in political organizing: making flyers for events; creating graphics for the PNL, website, and social media; hand-making or digitally designing signs and banners for demonstrations and tabling; you name it! We value your time and talents, and invite you to share them.

**Post flyers** - We regularly post flyers around town for upcoming events. It's a fun and easy way to help out and literally spread the word, and we have lists of the best locations for flyers ready for volunteers to use. Let us know if you'd like to be called on for flyer-posting when we have a need!

If interested in any of these, contact [michaela@peacecouncil.net](mailto:michaela@peacecouncil.net) or call the SPC office.



## THANK YOU WHITNEY AND ALL THE BEST!



Whitney speaking at our 83rd Birthday Dinner earlier this year. Photo: Julio Urrutia

Steering Committee member Whitney Garcia has left Syracuse to start a new phase of her life with her husband and an exciting job at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore. We are so grateful for all she did for SPC and the broader community.

We at SPC first connected with Whitney when she was hired by Peace Action New York State as a student intern at Syracuse University. She re-invigorated the student organization and set it up to survive for several semesters, a rare accomplishment when your membership keeps graduating! Whitney brought academic skills, such as communication and understanding of social inequalities, to life in her activism. After graduating, she stayed in the area, maintaining connection to SPC on the Steering and Nuclear Free World Committees. Whatever she took on, she carried out, down to the last detail. Her quiet but powerful commitment to social justice shone through whether tabling at events, teaching children to make origami cranes, or most recently, organizing with the Hiroshima/Nagasaki commemoration committee. This last commitment she completed long-distance, after her move in the beginning of August. Thank you Whitney, and all the best in everything you do!

— Diane Swords and Peter Swords

## SPC GARAGE SALE – SUCCESS

Hurrah! To this point we have raised \$1,954. There are usually some "after the event" sales, so we'll probably break \$2,000. Unless you are part of the volunteer team, it's hard to appreciate how much work is involved. Big thanks to: Lanny Freshman\*, Ann Tiffany\*, Deborah Rose\*, Ron Van Norstrand\*, Julia Ganson\*, Chris Riley, Carol Baum, Herm Bieling, Mary Jane Monsour, Dave Griola, Amy Zamkoff, Mary Kuhn, Betsy Burton, Mary Ann Keenan, and Laurie Kramer. (\* means effort above and beyond reasonable.) Celebration is in order!

On a more serious note, a growing number of folks are questioning whether the amount of effort is a good use of our time. While there is fun on sale day and wonderful solidarity on prep day, there is also less visible work and time involved that merits an overall evaluation of the event. I welcome your thoughts and suggestions about this—feel free to contact me at (315) 445-2840. Thanks too for the (as usual) amazing amount of items donated and to those who shopped. We'll keep you posted re: next year.

— Rae Kramer



### HEAR US ROAR

A Celebration of the upcoming  
**WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE  
CENTENNIAL**

Sunday, Oct. 27  
3-5:30 pm

**ArtRage Gallery**

505 Hawley Ave., Syracuse

**Speakers, Music, Storytelling  
and more**

SyracuseCulturalWorkers.com  
Mon-Fri 9-5 400 Lodi St. @ Hawley Ave

## Do you want your home to reflect your activist values?

- ☒ Sustainability
- ☒ Gardening
- ☒ Collective Living
- ☒ Working Together
- ☒ Activism
- ☒ Social Justice
- ☒ Renovation
- ☒ Consensus



Low Rent  
Shared Groceries  
Vegetarian Kitchen  
Weekly Potlucks  
Couples &  
Families Welcome  
Child Friendly



BreadAndRosesCollective.org  
info@breadandrosescollective.org 315-558-9105  
Find Us On Facebook and at ic.org

## Dance Salsa

con Corazón Abierto

Celebrate & Appreciate  
Cultures  
&  
Peoples

**Kanat Bolazar**

**315-471-2636**



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## MMIWG2S, continued from cover

Who is responsible? Before asking about Native-on-Native crime (please don't), both studies point out that in at least 96% of the cases, non-Natives (usually white, cis-het men) are responsible. This does not mean all non-Natives are perpetrators of violence, but neither does it absolve them of any culpability.

Let us turn to the #MeToo Movement. Originally created by Tarana Burke, a black woman, and already an ongoing conversation in Indigenous communities (as demonstrated in *An Indigenous Response to the #MeToo Movement*), the movement attempted to identify who were the perpetrators. It has been critiqued by many Black, Indigenous, and other women of color for questioning individuals rather than systemic causes of violence.

Black girls are blamed for their own sexual assault, amounting to the sexual abuse-to-prison pipeline wherein over 50% of girls in prison are survivors of abuse, evidenced by such cases as Bresha Meadows, Cyntoia Brown, and the New Jersey 4. While black women are often criminalized for their abuse, IWG2S are ignored. More than 5,700 cases of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two Spirit folks (MMIWG2S) were reported in 2016, but the DOJ only logged 116. In the US, there is no national inquiry into MMIWG2S, whereas (after much pressure) Canada recently conducted a national inquiry. Just 3% of Canada's population, IWG2S represent 10% or more of all homicide cases of women. Since Trudeau took office, an average of three IWG2S per month have been reported murdered.

A border patrol agent murdered four women, including Janelle Ortiz, a trans woman and mother-figure to her young sister. Amidst enactment of nationwide state-level abortion bans, first-time mother-to-be Marlen Ochoa-Lopez, a working-class woman of color, was killed and her to-be baby stolen from her body. This is similar to what happened to Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind (Dakota/Chippewa). A few days before the writing of this article, Bailey Reeves—a 17-year-old black trans girl—was killed.

Rather than asking simply who, we also have to ask what is responsible and why? Violence continues at rates so alarming that it is futile to simply chase the “bad apples” in the bunch because the whole bunch is rotten. The violence is rooted in structures and sustained by multiple actors with specific agendas. How do the lives of Black and other folks of color bear importance to these questions?

Why am I asking so many questions? To resolve a problem, you must first understand the problem. Trudeau accepted that the inquiry findings in Canada amounted to genocide. In the same breath, however, he proposed a solution and days later approved the Trans Mountain Pipeline, despite the fact that violence against IWG2S rises exponentially around pipeline construction sites. Always built on Native land (because what is now called

Canada and the US is Native land) oil pipelines are typically routed through densely populated Indigenous communities. The only thing blocking profits are Native bodies. Gender and sexual violence has and continues to be a prime way of obtaining land for profit by disappearing a whole category of Native people—IWG2S—via the production of toxic (or violent) masculinity. Pipeline construction sites attract already disenfranchised workers in a capitalist economy that drives down wages and drives up the gap between the rich and the poor. Many of these workers are cis-het men who, displaced from their loved ones, live in “man camps” or isolated, temporary housing that just grows and festers violent masculinity.

To prevent violence against IWG2S thus requires examining these larger structures and asking what they are, what they support, who supports them, and why they are in place. These questions unravel colonialism's attempts to disappear Native people: if Native people are relics, then the genocide that happened to us can be forgiven as a thing of the past and we can be honored via folklore, costumes, and mascots. The disappearance of IWG2S is testament to this legacy of erasure and the fact that the nation-state does little to acknowledge that it amounts to genocide. With Natives eliminated, Black bodies stolen from Africa can be exploited to work unceded land, as seen in the days of chattel slavery through today's school and sexual abuse-to-prison pipeline.

So, how do we solve these problems when they are so complex and intertwined? Some say it is not doable to break down all these systems and instead offer quick solutions. Given the continued violence, I would question whether these fixes are reducing any harm. Angela Davis came to Syracuse University in the Spring of 2019 and instructed that we should act as if it is radically possible to overhaul unjust systems. Kim TallBear (Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate), professor of Native Studies (University of Alberta) also noted in a Media Indigena Podcast (July 2019) that the Canadian and US systems of governance are but mere fractions of the millennia of Indigenous governance that has always been here. She reminds us that they will not always be.

Harm reduction is important because daily moving through this earth is violent and I am sick of losing loved ones, of moving through my own trauma, of worrying if it may be my cousin or mom or me next. So how do we heal and reduce harm right now while also moving toward Davis's and TallBear's radical possibilities of hope?

With erasure a foundational feature of Native oppression, we can continue to have these conversations instead of pushing them to the sidelines. Position your conversations about climate justice and pipelines as an Indigenous decolonizing project. Support organizations like Indigenous Women Hike and Sovereign Bodies. Cis men must examine their ideas of masculinity—and interrupt others'—calling into question preconceived notions of consent, ownership, and heteronormativity. Every time one makes a mistake, and it will happen, apologize, do better, and toss some money at the above-noted organizations or others doing the work to end the violence of #MMIWG2S. It can be scary to wash off the standards of masculinity and colonization in which one has been steeped, but far less scary than losing another sister or sibling. Literal lives depend on it. ♀

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*Ionah Scully (Michel Band) is a 2S doc student (she/they) in Cultural Foundations of Education at SU, professional Middle Eastern-style dancer, and decolonial biker in recovery. This piece is dedicated to Cindy Gladue, Deanna Desjarlais, Savannah Greywind, and all the #MMIWG2S who are now our ancestors.*

# RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Kanat Bolazar

Can justice be more than revenge? What does it mean to live in a just society? What happens when we put people in prison-cages for years? After a violent act or a dispute, how can a community heal?

**The “traditional” system of justice prescribes public revenge, punishment and retribution.**

This is by its nature an adversarial system, so when one party wins, the other one loses. Anything people say in this system can be used against them, so there is no incentive for affected parties to talk to each other, to admit any fault, to take responsibility for their actions and their consequences.

Instead of looking for a win-win, there might be a negotiation about what you have to say to spend fewer years in a prison-cage. At this point, instead of finding facts and being responsible for your actions, the horror of living in a cage may incentivize you to lie. People who are not “guilty” often admit that they are, to reduce the punishment they will receive. People who did do what they are accused of may never admit to it, hoping the doubt may free them from prison at some point.

Today, justice often means punishment that is merely measured in the number of months, years or decades we will force someone to live in a prison-cage. Laws and judges decide these numbers. Judges are imagined to be neutral individuals who are impartial and just. But they are human beings with egos, opinions, pet peeves, hunger, and irritability: A 2009 study of judges led by Jonathan Levav at Columbia University found that the likelihood of a favorable ruling started at 65% at the beginning of the day, dropped down to about 0% before taking a break for a meal or a snack, then shot back up to about 65% right after the judge ate something.

Imagine being that person trying to make a case and not go to prison in front of a hungry judge.

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*Kanat Bolazar, hails from Turkey, lives at the Bread & Roses Collective House, Inc., is on the PNL Editorial Committee, and teaches Salsa dancing. You can reach him at (315) 471-2636.*

**What does prison-cage provide other than isolation and public revenge?**

People in prison are cut off from anyone hurt by their actions, so they never have to listen to the affected parties; never have to accept fault; never have to apologize or promise to never do it again; never have to help find out how to reduce harm in future actions.

Actually, prisons are “criminogenic”; instead of rehabilitation, they cause people to be more likely to commit crimes in the future. According to a 2012 report by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, of those released from California's prison system, 65% returned within three years. Since 2012, over the years, these recidivism rates have been fairly steady.

One promising approach is prison reentry programs, which aim to reduce recidivism and improve adjustment back into society. In effect, reentry is trying to undo the damage caused by the time spent in prison; longer prison sentences make reentry harder.

So, why not replace punishment by prison with reentry back into society, from day one, when positive outcomes are much more likely?



Can a community find a way to heal itself? Adapted by Kanat Bolazar from a photo by “truthseeker08” at Pixabay.

**Alternative: Restorative Justice / Transformative Justice / Peacemaking**

These approaches bring all parties together to figure out a path forward, together. Today, these may be offered as a voluntary first-pass before disciplinary action or resolving disputes in a court.

In Syracuse, The Center for Court Innovation has created the Near Westside

Peacemaking Project, modeled after the traditional Native American approach to justice, which focuses on healing and restoring harmony in community rather than punishment. People affected by a dispute meet with trained peacemakers to talk it out, starting with hearing firsthand accounts of how people's actions have affected others, accepting responsibility, understanding the causes and expectations, and eventually, finding a path forward to repair harm and prevent recurrence of similar situations in the future.

This program uses a talking piece, an item that is held by affected parties and moves around the circle to allow each person to say all they need to say without interruption. This creates a space for affected parties to actually hear others in a non-adversarial setup. This has allowed high school students who have been fighting for a long time to feel empathy for each other and to even become good friends.

The Center for Court Innovation actually has started many programs, starting with the Red Hook Community Justice Center in Brooklyn, in 2000. After the success of this program, it received funding from government organizations and others to start similar programs elsewhere.

**“Restorative Circles”: A very promising specific approach to Restorative Justice.**

Restorative Circles sounds similar to but is quite different from usual Restorative Justice circles with a talking piece. It instead focuses on reflective listening. This approach was created in the favelas of Rio de Janeiro in the 1990s. It is currently practiced in Rochester and many other communities internationally, but not yet in Syracuse.

A few members of the Bread & Roses Collective House, Inc. have been learning about this approach and believe our community could benefit from Restorative Circles training in Syracuse.

If you are interested in participating in such a training session sometime in the future, please contact the author. ☯

# VOTER RIGHTS IN NEW YORK STATE: PROGRESS AND CONTINUING NEEDS

Elaine Wolf and Mary Kuhn,  
Onondaga VOTES!

The issue of voter suppression is predominantly identified with laws in Red States regarding voter ID requirements and voter roll purges. But more subtle, non-quantifiable forms of suppression also exist such as those that de facto limit access to the polls, make the voting process confusing for voters, and create obstacles to instituting registration and voting procedures that have proven effective in studies of voter turnout and satisfaction.

Fortunately, New York State has recently passed legislation that addresses these three concerns. In the 2019 legislative session, the Assembly and the Senate passed a number of voting rights reforms. These conform to designs advocated by various voting rights organizations—e.g., Let NY Vote:

- Expanding access to the polls: early voting and money for implementing it; additional polling hours from 6 AM to 9 PM; and a shortened party enrollment deadline.
- Clarity of election procedures: state and federal primaries taking place on the same day and easier-to-understand ballots in terms of readability and layout.
- Modern voter registration systems: electronic poll books available for each county and money to implement it; automatic updating of a person's registration when they move within New York State; and making 16- and 17-year olds eligible to pre-register.

In addition, the 2012 and 2013 legislative sessions, combined with a 2014 approval by voters, created new redistricting procedures, including a

*Elaine Wolf lives in Syracuse and is engaged in the work of Onondaga VOTES!, the League of Women Voters (LWV), and the Central New York Solidarity Coalition (CNYSC).*

*Mary Kuhn is a retired Clinical Social Worker, member of CNYSC, Onondaga VOTES!, LWV and CNY Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition, and candidate for County Legislature in District 7.*

nonpartisan system for implementing them, to follow the 2020 Census. They require the preservation of minority rights and the new districts to be equally populated, and to consist of compact and contiguous territories. In addition, State law requires that state legislative districts also take into account the historic and traditional significance of counties.

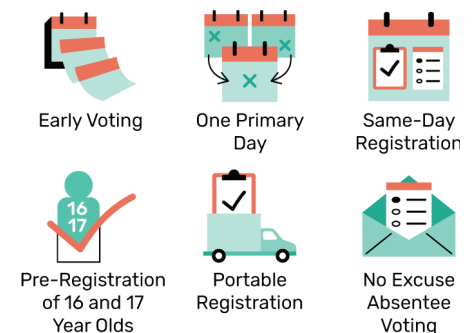
Furthermore, campaign finance reform is also needed to give people of all levels of financial means an incentive to engage in electoral life. The budget bill passed in 2019 charges a commission to create a small donor public financing program by the end of December 1, 2019. The Public Campaign Finance Commission is mandated to create a voluntary system for statewide and state legislative candidates to receive public matching funds in exchange for meeting certain fundraising and spending criteria. [brennancenter.org and gothamgazette.com]

Nevertheless, voting rights advocates still have work to do:

- Automatic voter registration, allowing registration when an eligible (by virtue of age and citizenship) NYS resident comes into contact with a state agency, has not yet made it through the legislative process and must wait until the next session, beginning in January 2020, to be debated and passed. [letnyvote.org]
- Same-day voter registration and no-excuse absentee voting by mail require an amendment to the state constitution following several years of legislative action and ballot referenda. [letnyvote.org]
- Disenfranchisement laws for people on New York State parole need to be changed. Currently the ability of parolees to register to vote is the result of Governor Cuomo having issued an Executive Order in May 2018 restoring the right to vote to parolees living successfully under community supervision. Voting rights advocates argue that the legislature should codify this so that this voting right is not dependent upon whatever Governor holds office.

Voter participation in Syracuse has been low historically, especially in

neighborhoods that have been largely neglected in terms of the quality of their schools, the housing stock, and job opportunities. What can be done to increase voter participation? Onondaga VOTES!'s strategy has been to focus on only a few Election Districts with exceptionally low voter turnout. We were encouraged to find that having gone door-to-door with voter information in hand and taking time to have one-on-one conversations with voters about the importance of voting, the relative increase in the voter turnout rate (between the midterm elections in 2014 and 2018) was 48 percent in the two Election Districts we targeted in 2018, compared with 35 percent for the City as a whole. Going forward, we are strengthening our message about the importance of voting, making people aware that there is a direct connection between who gets elected to City, County, State, and Federal offices and the likelihood of neighborhood revitalization.



Detail from "Let NY Vote" infographic (with the heading "We did it!") by Michele Rosenthal.

Onondaga VOTES! is a coalition of non-partisan, unaffiliated organizations focused on getting out the vote in Syracuse Election Districts that have historically had exceptionally low voter turnout. Our motto is "Your Vote, Your Voice, Our Power."

If you are interested in volunteering or knowing more about Onondaga VOTES!, contact The League of Women Voters at [syracuselwv@gmail.com](mailto:syracuselwv@gmail.com) or call (315) 396-8225. You can also follow us on Instagram and Facebook. (Don't forget to Like us!)





# A VOTER'S GUIDE TO LOCAL ELECTIONS

*By State and Local Action Team (SLAT)*

Before we focus our attention on 2020 to protect our democracy, we need to first focus on our local government. Local governments make decisions that impact our communities. County government decides how to fund important services and programs ranging from health services, infrastructure priorities, and where district lines are drawn. Over 60% of registered voters are missing the opportunity to vote for their representatives that live where they live. This November you have the opportunity to vote on over 12 representatives from Town Councilors to County Executive.

## Local Government Issues

### End Gerrymandering

In 2020, the census will occur as it does every 10 years. We need to make sure there is an accurate count because this information will be used to redistrict Onondaga County in 2021. On March 5th of 2019 all 12 Republican County Legislators voted against using a fair, non-partisan process to conduct redistricting.

### Transparency

We need more transparency at every level of government. Meetings need to be live streamed and accessible online for public viewing. Public input needs to be valued and considered while decisions are being made.

### Community Grid

After 10 years of study, the NYSDOT has announced the community grid as their preferred option. But local politicians keep fighting for the status quo without consulting their constituents. We need representatives that will move Onondaga County forward. The county, city, towns and villages need to work together to make Onondaga County better for all residents.

### Criminal Justice

The district attorney is the chief prosecutor for Onondaga County. They appoint deputy district attorneys, and this team is responsible for presenting cases against individuals who are suspected of breaking the law. They decide what cases to pursue and recommend sentencing. In Onondaga County, we have had the same District Attorney since 1992.

### Environment

Onondaga County has a Climate Action Plan but there has been little action taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Towns throughout Onondaga have no plans to work towards 100% renewable energy. There is plenty we can do at a local level to invest in clean energy, which will create jobs and get our communities off fossil fuels. We could install more electric vehicle charging stations and require any new government

buildings to reach a net zero energy status, helping us reduce our carbon footprint and saving taxpayers money.

## County and Local Races

Even though Onondaga County has a majority of Democrats, the County government has long been dominated by Republicans. Their super-majority in the Legislature has enabled them to block a number of initiatives, including a Sustainability Plan and an impartial redistricting process.

## Onondaga County

**County Executive:** Tony Malavenda (D/W), former sewer business owner, is running against incumbent Ryan McMahon (R) who was appointed last November. Since the position of County Executive was created in 1962, it has never been filled by a Democrat. The County Executive sets priorities in a \$1.3 billion dollar budget for the county.

**District Attorney:** Chuck Keller (D/W), a defense attorney, and Gary Lavine (C), a Republican attorney, are running against incumbent William Fitzpatrick (R), who has been in office since 1992. Fitzpatrick has only faced challengers twice in his 28 years as District Attorney due to abusing the power of his office.

**County Clerk:** Mark Kolinski (D/W) vs. incumbent Lisa Dell (R).

**County Comptroller:** Marty Masterpole (D/W) is challenging incumbent Matt Beadnell (R). Beadnell was appointed last January to finish the term of former Comptroller Bob Antonacci, who is now a state senator.

## County Legislature:

The following districts all present opportunities to move in a more progressive direction. To find your county district go to [www.voterlookup.elections.ny.gov](http://www.voterlookup.elections.ny.gov)

**1st District:** Justin Neal (D/W), a pharmacist, vs. incumbent Brian May (R), a management consultant.

**2nd District:** Nodesia Hernandez (D/W), a CEO of Minority Paralegal Association and Director of Community Outreach for Senator Rachel May vs. incumbent James Rowley (R), an Assistant Superintendent of Oneida City School District.

**4th District:** Kathy Zabinski (D), a Corrections Sergeant and retired union treasurer vs. incumbent Judith Tassone (R).

**5th District:** Jessica Bumpus (D/W), Communications Director for Senator Rachel May vs. incumbent Debra Cody (R), who was a constituent service director for Senator DeFrancisco.

**6th District:** Susan Scheuerman (D/W), a former NYS field investigator and current organizer for Honor House vs. incumbent Julie Abbott-Kenan (R), a former television journalist.

**7th District:** Mary Kuhn (D/W), a former social worker vs. Courtney Hills (R), a municipal and real estate attorney. Mary Kuhn won a huge victory in the Democratic primary, running on a pro-Community Grid platform.

*continued on next page*

*CNY Solidarity Coalition's State and Local Action Team (SLAT) uses advocacy to achieve progressive legislation, policies, and practices on the state and local levels. SLAT functions for CNY Solidarity to help defend New York State against the Trump regime's actions. Visit [www.cnysolidarity.org](http://www.cnysolidarity.org) to learn more and get involved.*

**9th District:** Gina Iliev (W), a health equity coordinator at Planned Parenthood of CNY, is challenging incumbent Peggy Chase (D), a registered nurse and Kevin Kuehner (R), a personal injury attorney.

**10th District:** Mark Matt (D/W), a former sales manager of a software company vs. incumbent Kevin Holmquist (R), a branch manager of Key Bank. Mark Matt lost by only 143 votes in the last election.

**11th District:** Irene Workman (D/W), a Navy Veteran and Licensed Practical Nurse vs. incumbent John McBride (R), District Director for Senator Antonacci.

**12th District:** Jennifer Blusk (D/W), an educator vs. incumbent David Knapp (R), an Army Veteran and salesperson.

**15th District:** Misse Ross (W), a community activist vs. Bill Kinne (D), a property manager and past county legislator, and incumbent Miles Bottrill (R).

## City of Syracuse

**Board of Education** has four seats to be filled. There are three incumbents running: Mark Muhammad (D), Dan Romeo (D/W), and Katie Sojewicz (D/W). Twiggy Billue (W), a long-time community activist and president of the local National Action Network, is running on the Working Families line. Tamica Barnett (D/W) has both Democratic and Working Families endorsement. Michael Hunter (R) and Eric Winfree (R) are also running.

**Common Council-at-Large:** Michael Green (D/W) is an incumbent. Rita Paniagua (D/W) and Frank Cetera (G). Two seats available.

**1st District:** Jay Subedi (W), a Bhutanese refugee and leader in the immigrant community, lost his Democratic slot due to some invalid petition signatures. He is supported by many Democrats as well as the Working Families party. He is opposing incumbent Joseph Carni (R), a financial adviser.

**2nd District:** Patrick Hogan (D), worked at the city parks department and is a past city councilor challenged by Bill Bass (G), an environmental scientist.

## Town Races

The town governments in Onondaga County and surrounding counties have long been dominated by Republicans. A large number of races in the towns show candidates of only Republican, Conservative, and Independence parties, with no opponents from the Democratic, Green, or Working Families parties. However, there are some progressives running.

**Town of Manlius:** John Deer, (D/W), Elaine Denton (D/W), Heather Waters (D/W) and Katelyn Kriesel (D) are running for four seats on the Town Board, against four Republicans.

**Town of Fabius:** Marguerite Dormer (D/W) is running for Town Supervisor against incumbent Melanie Vilardi (R).

Sharon Goodfellow (D/W) is running for one of two seats on the Town Board.

**Town of Clay:** LaToya Jones (D) is running for one of three seats on the Town Board.

*Editor's Note: (D) - Democrat (W) - Working Families (G) - Green (R) - Republican (C) - Conservative*

## Early Voting

Every election matters. Because of last year's election we now have early voting in New York State. You can vote at your regular polling place on Tuesday, November 5, or vote early on the following dates and locations.

## OCTOBER

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
9AM - 2PM	9AM - 2PM	9AM - 5PM
TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>
12PM - 8PM	12PM - 8PM	7AM - 3PM

## NOVEMBER

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
7AM - 3PM	9AM - 2PM	9AM - 2PM

## EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS

Voters can go to ANY of the following locations:

- ★ **Clay Town Hall Courtroom**  
4401 Route 31, Clay
- ★ **Dewitt Town Hall Courtroom**  
5400 Butternut Drive, East Syracuse
- ★ **LaFayette Fire Station #1**  
2444 Route 11 South, LaFayette
- ★ **Armond Magnarelli Community Center at McChesney Park**  
2300 Grant Blvd, Syracuse
- ★ **Southwest Community Center**  
401 South Ave, Syracuse
- ★ **Van Buren Town Hall**  
7575 Van Buren Road, Baldwinsville

NOVEMBER
<b>5</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>
<b>6AM - 9PM</b>

## ELECTION DAY

To find your polling place go to:  
[voterlookup.elections.ny.gov](http://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov)

