



## Lower Hudson Valley Chapter

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FEBRUARY 2010

# Immigrant Voices: Immigrants tell their own stories at public meeting

On March 16th we will sponsor a remarkable meeting at which several guest speakers will share their personal stories as immigrants in the Lower Hudson Valley region. To hear their stories, and learn more about the NYCLU's requirements for immigration reform, please come to this unique event.

Americans from across the political spectrum agree that our nation's immigration system is broken. The New York Civil Liberties Union is committed to working for comprehensive immigration reform in Congress this year.

Co-sponsors of this meeting are the Hudson Valley Community Coalition

and WESPAC, in addition to the Lower Hudson Valley Chapter of the NYCLU.

Here are some things you can do to help achieve Comprehensive Immigration Reform:

- Rally at Senator Schumer's office in March
- Send letters to the editor of your local newspaper
- Have your local groups send post cards to legislators
- Call our office for a power point presentation to show to your group

For more information on the NYCLU's position on immigration reform, see the article on page 2.

*Spend a memorable evening hearing...*

## Immigrant Voices

*...Telling their own stories*

March 16 at 7 PM  
Greenburgh Public Library  
300 Tarrytown Road  
Elmsford, NY

*For info call 914-997-7479*

## Join Us At Our Annual Dinner Honoring Champions of Immigration Rights

GAIL GOLDEN ♦ MARTHA LOPEZ ♦ BETSY PALMIERI  
MYRON ISAACS COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDEES

Introductions by ROBIN BIKKAL

Keynote speaker: VICTOR NAVASKY

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER, EMERITUS, OF THE NATION MAGAZINE

TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 2010 AT 6:00 PM

THE RIVERVIEW

1 WARBURTON AVENUE, HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NY

TICKETS: \$100 each, or \$90, if bought before April 15, 2010.  
STUDENT TICKET: \$50. To make a reservation or to purchase a Commemorative Journal Ad, please call 914-997-7479.

## Championing Immigrants

On June 8, The Lower Hudson Valley Chapter of the NYCLU will present the Myron Isaacs Community Service Award to three dedicated advocates at the forefront of immigrants' rights in the Lower Hudson Valley.

*Gail Golden* Co-chairs the Rockland Immigration Coalition and sits on the Board of Directors for the New York Immigration Coalition.

*Martha Lopez* is the former Westchester Director of Hispanic Affairs to the County Executive and was the Assistant Director of the Washingtonville Housing Alliance in Mamaroneck for the previous 18 years.

*Betsy Palmieri* is the Executive Di-

*cont. page 2*

## Record number students enter Bill of Rights Essay Contest.

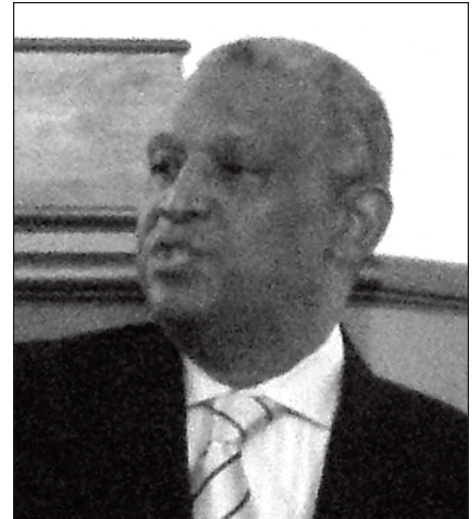
Nearly 150 high school students from lower Hudson valley schools participated in our annual Bill of Rights Essay Contest. The contest culminated in the announcement of winners at our annual Bill of Rights Day celebration at the St. Paul's National Historic Site in Mount Vernon.

They wrote essays analyzing the constitutional issues involved in a hypothetical fact pattern prepared by Professor Ralph Stein of Pace Law School, one of our board members. The issue involved disciplinary action taken by the principal against students for electronic

communication off school premises expressing opinions critical of the principal.

The Grand Prize was awarded to *Ashley Mango* of Blind Brook High School, and Second Prize was won by *Emily Bookman* of Clarkstown South. Four students were awarded Honorable Mention prizes: *Brittney McNab* of Nellie Thornton, *Madhuri Vastare* of Clarkstown North, *Rebecca Gaines* of Blind Brook, and *Tara Kutzbach* of Hendrick Hudson. Each winner received a certificate and a cash scholarship award.

The contest winners who were able to be present at the Bill of Rights Day event had the opportunity to read their essays.



Mount Vernon Mayor C. Young addresses students at Bill of Rights Day celebration.

## Immigration reform needed

New Yorkers, please contact your congressional representatives and ask them to support desperately needed immigration reform.

It's clearly a matter of justice and common sense. A sensible immigration policy would seek to accomplish the following goals:

1. Provide a realistic path to citizenship. Immigrants want to live in the country legally, but the current system makes that nearly impossible. It's impractical and immoral to tear apart families by deporting millions of people.
2. Respect immigrants' constitutional rights. When we deprive the vulnerable of due process and equal protection, we erode these vital constitutional protections for everyone. We must restore judicial review and basic fairness to the immigration system.
3. Treat immigrants in detention centers humanely. Nobody should be denied basic medical care while in U.S. custody. The U.S. detains 300,000 immigrants yearly.
4. Reject backdoor attempts to establish a national ID card. Senator Schumer has proposed requiring all

workers, citizens and immigrants to carry an ID card containing biometric data, such as their fingerprints. This system would endanger our privacy by enabling the government to electronically track our daily activities.

5. End local enforcement of immigration laws. When local police act as immigration agents it jeopardizes everyone's safety and wastes scarce resources.

Our chapter has made Comprehensive Immigration Reform (CIR) a priority. Partnering with the Hudson Valley Community Coalition and the Worker's Rights Law Center, we cosponsored a vigil in front of the Old County Courthouse in Carmel, in October, at Congressman John Hall's office, in support of immigration reform. *The Journal News* published a letter from Linda Berns, Director, responding to comments made by Congressman Hall on tightening border enforcement. In support of NYCLU's state-wide campaign, our chapter has created a Task Force of volunteers to promote the civil rights of immigrants through lobbying and letter-writing to our legislators.

## Championing immigrants, cont.

rector of the Hudson Valley Community Coalition, a coalition working to change the conversation about immigration in the Hudson Valley. She is also on the steering committee of the NY State Interfaith Network for Immigration Reform, and a member of the board of directors of the New York Immigration Coalition.

Victor Navasky, our keynote speaker, has served as editor, publisher, and now publisher emeritus of *The Nation*. He is also the George Delacorte Professor of Magazine Journalism at Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism, where he directs the Delacorte Center of Magazines and chairs the Columbia Journalism Review. He has served as an editor on *The New York Times Magazine*.

His books include *Kennedy Justice*, *Naming Names* (which won a National Book Award), and *A Matter of Opinion*, which won the 2005 George Polk Book Award and the 2006 Ann M. Sperber Prize.

The New York Times wrote that, "Anybody who has ever dreamed of starting a magazine, or worried that the country is losing the ability to speak seriously to itself, should read *A Matter of Opinion*...."

## Election Biographies: NYCLU/LHV Officers and Board of Directors

### Officers

#### Chair

**JOANN PRINZIVALLI, Esq.** Incumbent. Attorney. Founder and Director of New York Transgender Rights Organization (NYTRO). Member, Westchester County Executive's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Advisory Board. Democratic Party district leader (White Plains). Board member, Paul Rapoport Foundation, serving LGBT community. Chief Counsel, Insignia National Title Agency, NY, NY.

#### Vice Chairpersons

**ARLENE R. POPKIN, Esq.** Incumbent. Attorney. Former Chair of Lower Hudson Valley Chapter. Member, Board of NYCLU; Criminal Defense Lawyer, Legal Aid Society of Westchester County.

**LUIS QUIROS, M.P.A., M.S.W.**, Incumbent. WestCOP chairperson; Adjunct Faculty at Fordham Graduate and Undergraduate; Professor, Social Justice and Race, Class, Gender. Social Worker; community advocate.

#### Secretary

**LAWRENCE GRUNBERGER**, Incumbent. Former Chairperson of NYCLU/LHV. Retired physicist, technical writer, editor.

#### Treasurer

**ANTHONY WYNNE, Esq.** Incumbent. Homeless advocate; Principal Court Attorney with NYS Appellate Division, Second Department.

### Members of Board of Directors

(TERMS TO EXPIRE IN 2012)

**DR. LONNIE BARNES, JR.**, Incumbent. WestCOP board member; President, North Car-

olina A+T State University Alumni Chapter, N.Y.C.; Merit Badge Counselor, The Boy Scouts of America.

**JULIE DAVIS CARRAN**, Incumbent. Board Co-chair, Westchester Martin Luther King, Jr. Institute for Nonviolence Board; Advisory Board member, WESPAC Foundation.

#### SUSAN ELAN

Freelance journalist, enrolled in Master Program in Public Health at New York Medical College, Valhalla, NY.

#### MICHAEL J. HALL

Dutchess Community College, Instructor; NYCLU Board of Directors 2008-present; ACLU-Nebraska President 1996-2003; ACLU-NE First Vice-President 1996; ACLU-NE Treasurer 1995-1996; Delegate to ACLU Biennial Conference 1997, 1999 & 2001; ACLU-NE Board Member 1995-2003. "...consistently worked to make a difference in our world; passions include protecting the interests of labor, advocating for children and education, pursuing equality for the GLBTQ community and...civil liberties."

#### DENNIS HANRATTY, Incumbent.

Executive Director of Mt. Vernon United Tenants (MVUT). Over 20-year history of advocating for tenants' rights, affordable housing, and land use policy to benefit low and moderate income people; leader in campaigns for social and economic justice.

#### BARBARA HICKERNELL, Incumbent.

Executive Director, Engineering Conferences International; Past President and current Trustee, Westchester Library System Board of Trustees; Past President, Ossining Public Library Board of Directors.

#### CONNIE HOGARTH, Incumbent.

Co-founder, former Exec Director, WESPAC; Activist for peace, justice, civil and environmental rights. Active in Mid Hudson Progressive Alliance, Beacon; Board member, Climate Crisis Coalition; Defending Dissent Foundation, So. Dutchess NAACP Dutchess County; Democratic district leader; Founder, Advisor/Mentor, Hogarth Center for Social Action, Manhattanville College.

#### RALPH STEIN, Esq., Incumbent.

Senior professor at Pace University School of Law. Teaches courses on the Constitution, First Amendment, National Security, Privacy Law, Slavery, and the Civil War. Involved in First Amendment activities for over 35 years. Instrumental in bringing ACLU challenge to unlawful political surveillance activities of the Army. Chief field investigator for Senate Subcommittee on Civil Rights regarding military surveillance of civilians.

#### CEIL LAVAN, OP, Incumbent.

Social justice coordinator, Blauvet Dominican Sisters; adjunct faculty member, Metropolitan College of N.Y.; Coordinator, Dominican Justice Promoters of the Northeast.

#### RALPH MARASH, Incumbent.

Former Chair LHV Chapter, Portfolio manager. "We must continue our advocacy for the First Amendment across the broad reach of our chapter."

#### OLIVER SWIFT, Incumbent.

Retired public librarian. Coordinator, Amnesty Group 42. Ethical Action Chair, Ethical Culture Society. "Civil liberties don't defend themselves - an active ACLU and NYCLU are essential in today's climate."

**DON'T MISS!**

## IMPORTANT DOUBLE MEETING MARCH 16

**Greenburgh Public Library  
300 Tarrytown Road**

**6:30 PM: MEMBERS VOTE FOR BOARD**

**7:00 PM: "IMMIGRANT VOICES"**

**FOR INFO CALL 914-997-7479**

## BALLOT for 2010 NYCLU-LHV ELECTION of OFFICERS and BOARD

### Officers

(one-year terms)

#### Chair

Joann Prinzivalli

#### Vice Chairs (elect 2)

Arlene Popkin

Luis Quiros

#### Secretary

Lawrence Grunberger

#### Treasurer

Anthony Wynne

### Board Members

(two-year terms)

#### ELECT 10

Lonnie Barnes, Jr.

Julie Carran

Susan Elan

Michael J. Hall

Dennis Hanratty

Barbara Hickernell

Connie Hogarth

Ralph Stein

Ceil Lavan

Ralph Marash

Oliver Swift

#### Mail Ballot to:

Secretary, NYCLU/LHV

297 Knollwood Road, Ste. 217

White Plains, NY 10607

(To ensure that only ACLU members vote, please cut out your mailing address and tape as your return address on envelope.)

#### OR:

#### Bring Ballot to Annual Meeting/Election:

Greenberg Public Library, Elmsford, NY

March 16, 2010, 6:30 PM.

ALL BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED

BY MARCH 16, 2010

Note: JOINT MEMBERS MAY EACH VOTE

ON THE SAME BALLOT.



# NYCLU

NEW YORK CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

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Formerly Westchester Chapter

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