

New York City News



Mass Incarceration Launches Parole Preparation Project

The NLG-NYC Mass Incarceration Committee (MIC) has had an exciting summer! On June 11th, we held a training for volunteers interested in participating in the Parole Preparation Project. The Project aims to pair volunteers (law students, social workers, family and friends of incarcerated persons among others) with individuals who face long prison sentences and have been repeatedly denied parole. Approximately 40 people attended the training, most committing to working on the project over the next

six to nine months.

Volunteers will collaborate with parole applicants to gather necessary documentation for upcoming parole hearings, and work with them on practicing for the actual interview. Volunteers will also support volunteers in soliciting meaningful letters of support from friends, family, co-workers, and the Project will write letters of support as well.

The Project exists in response to our broken New York State parole system. The Board of Parole routinely violates its man-

date to look at risk, rehabilitation, readiness for release, and an array of other factors when determining an individual's eligibility for release, disproportionately emphasizing the seriousness of an individual's crime of conviction. The results are both unlawful and unethical. This flawed system weakens morale among those who have worked hard to rehabilitate themselves only to find their efforts go unrewarded as they are repeatedly denied release.

In addition, in part because of parole denials, nearly 9,000 elderly persons remain incarcerated throughout New York. Though these individuals recidivate at the low rate of approximately 3%, and many suffer from serious, life-threatening health issues, the Board of Parole has repeatedly shown a lack of common sense and human decency by refusing to grant their release.

The members of the NLG-NYC Mass Incarceration Committee are dedicated to fighting these inhumane Parole Board practices. Not only does the Parole Preparation Project aim to enable more individuals to be released, we hope to galvanize more individuals to participate in the fight against mass incarceration.

To increase our capacity to move this work forward, the Committee has enlisted the help of two summer volunteers, Claude Heffron and Cristina Lee. Both are committed to social justice and are working hard to coordinate volunteers and parole applicants in addition to preparing materials to simplify the parole preparation process.

On another front, the Mass Incarceration Committee participated in the Campaign for Alternatives to Isolated Confinement (CAIC)'s Lobby Day for their HALT Solitary Confinement Act, A.8588A / S.6466A. More than 140 people attended with CAIC, meeting with 70 legislators and participating in a statewide Rally Against Prison Injustice

Please consider joining us in support of the HALT Solitary Confinement Bill and our effort to assist individuals seeking parole. For more information about meetings, becoming a part of the NLG-NYC Mass Incarceration Committee, or volunteering with the Parole Preparation Project, please contact Nora at carroll.nora@gmail.com.

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Jan Susler, Hillary Exter, Daniel Meyers, Ellen Friedland, Kafahni Nkrumah, and Natasha Bannan march in the Puerto Rican Day Parade (see Guild in Action).

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LAWYERS GUILD
New York City News**

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COMMITTEES UPDATE

Animal Rights Activism Committee Completes Social Justice Cookbook

In the 1970's, the National Lawyers Guild compiled members' favorite recipes and published the Guild's first-ever Social Justice Cookbook. The last copy was sold at the 2013 Spring Fling. Now, the NYC Chapter of the NLG Animal Rights Activism Committee is thrilled to announce the completion of an updated edition of this radical cookbook, highlighting how today's struggles against oppression and inequality are directly related to what we eat.

The personal is political. Each time we sit down to eat, we make not solely a personal choice, but also a political one. This second edition of the Social Justice Cookbook addresses a variety of food justice issues, including environmental issues, sustainability, affordable access to healthy food as a right and not a privilege, and animal liberation.

As with other food justice and social justice issues, eating animals is no more a personal choice than oppressing other humans is a personal "choice". This cookbook aims to show animals as living, loving, and loved individuals, rather than as meals. On a broader scale, we hope this cookbook begins to make long-overdue connections between the radical Left and animal liberation. If we are truly an anti-oppression movement, then we stand in solidarity with all beings subjected to violence and oppression worldwide: the undocumented, the incarcerated, communities of color, the occupied, political dissidents, and those whose bodies are treated merely as reproductive machines, fabric, entertainment, food, and for

SOCIAL JUSTICE COOKBOOK



national lawyers guild

scientific torture/experimentation. We hope that, next time you sit down to eat, you make compassionate choices—and we hope that this cookbook helps you do that.

Copies will be available for purchase at the National Convention, or e-mail us at animalrights@nlg.org to pre-order your copy today!

Labor and Employment Committee Offers Programs for Workers Advocates

This summer the Labor & Employment Committee (LEC) continued to provide educational programs for workers' rights advocates in the New York City area. On June 18, the LEC and the Cardozo School of Law Labor & Employment Society co-sponsored a CLE at CWA Local 1180 entitled Organizing the Public Sector: Recent Developments and Future Challenges. The panelists covered the history of public sector bargaining and organizing in New York City and

State, the limits on concerted activity under the Taylor Law and the impact of those limits, and current issues regarding whether charter school teachers are covered under federal or state labor law.

Then on July 22, the LEC organized Workers' Rights on the Job: Safety and Health Issues, hosted by Outten & Golden LLP. The session focused on the critical relationship between OSHA and the NLRA, the practical use of health and safety law in

campaigns, and the scope of the protection of this activity under OSHA and the NLRA.

Building the Guild was on the LEC's agenda, too. On May 22, the LEC hosted a happy hour to congratulate our members in the graduating class of 2014. The LEC also gathered current law students, LEC members, and others in the workers' rights community for its annual Labor & Employment Intern Reception at Outten & Golden LLP on June 12.

President's Welcome

THESE ARE THE WELCOMING REMARKS BY CHAPTER PRESIDENT ELENA L. COHEN AT THIS YEAR'S SPRING FLING ON MAY 9TH AT RIVERSIDE CHURCH.

Welcome to the National Lawyers Guild-NYC Chapter's 2014 Spring Fling! This year, we are delighted to honor the Center for Constitutional Rights' Floyd v. City of New York team, Jonathan Moore, and law student Alex Gorman. As you will read in the articles that follow, the work of the CCR Stop and Frisk team, along with the community organizing and involvement so crucial to their success, has been monumentally inspiring and has already had a profoundly positive impact on over-policed communities in New York City. So, too, has activist and law student Alex Gorman's work with the Street Law team empowered marginalized youth to exercise their rights in the face of aggressive policing inside and outside of their schools.

It is also my pleasure to reflect upon the amazing work of our committees. Within the past year, the Chapter's Mass Defense Committee has provided volunteer legal observers at more than 100 demonstrations and coordinated over a dozen Guild attorneys who have represented defendants in more than 600 court appearances. The Anti-Racism Committee presented a CLE on community land trusts, while the Environmental Justice Committee filed a lawsuit against the NYCHA infill plan and successfully worked to stop the open-air burning of Sandy harbor debris at Floyd Bennett Field. The Muslim Defense Project provided legal and activist support for Muslim and Palestinian human rights activists facing government persecution in the courts, in addition providing defense to a Muslim civil rights activist in a defamation case designed to chill the speech of the community. The Street Law Team conducted Know Your Rights trainings throughout the city, focusing particularly on youth, people of color, and residents of over-policed neighborhoods. The Mass Incarceration Committee held a training on parole preparation and launched a Parole Preparation Project to assist people seeking parole release in New York State. The Next Generation Committee held another successful City-wide Disorientation, and the Labor and Employment Committee presented CLEs on organizing and lawyering for fast-food workers and on the constitutional, civil and labor rights under siege in Detroit. The Animal Rights Activism Committee, the Chapter's newest committee, held panels in NYC, Boston and at Yale's ReLaw conference, co-sponsored an event on the practicalities of making FOIA and FOIL requests, and is completing an updated NLG Social Justice Cookbook. These are but a few examples of the ways in which the Chapter's committees work everyday to continue the

Guild's struggle for social justice, both in New York City and well past our borders.

I am also extremely proud of the New York City Chapter for beginning to discuss how animal issues fit within the Guild's struggle against all forms of oppression, no matter how societally entrenched. Tonight's vegetarian meal is a meaningful and concrete reflection of these efforts, and reflects the Guild's historic place on the cutting edge of social justice. I am honored to be the President of this organization as it works through how we can recognize and work to end all exercises of power backed by violence.

I am further overjoyed that tonight we can celebrate the victory of our long battles to free Lynne Stewart, Eddie Conway and Jerry Koch. The Guild fought for fellow member and radical defense attorney Lynne Stewart, pushing against the government's attempt to silence Lynne and isolate her case from public discourse. While the government attempted to use her case to instill fear in others who defend the oppressed and advocate for dignity and human rights, Lynne stood her ground, just as she stood her ground defending those the rest of the world had long abandoned: Muslims, people of color, and those the government labeled "terrorists." We further applaud and celebrate the work of member Bob Boyle in the release of COINTELPRO target and ex-Black Panther Marshall "Eddie" Conway after 44 years behind bars, as well as the work of Moira Meltzer-Cohen, Susan Tipograph, Gráinne O'Neill and David Rankin in securing the release of environmental activist and anarchist Jerry Koch who was imprisoned for over 8 months without being charged with a crime, after his refusal to be coerced into cooperating with a federal grand jury subpoena. To this joyous list of releases we must note the sobering conviction and sentencing of Jeremy Hammond to 10 years in federal prison for leaking information that revealed that a private intelligence firm had been spying on human rights activists at the behest of the U.S. government. We also honor the memory of labor lawyer and former NYC Chapter President Ralph Shapiro.

Lastly, and certainly not least, I would like to thank the members of the Spring Fling committee for the immense amount of work they have put into planning tonight's gathering, Susan Howard for securing an alternate space for this event at such short notice, and to the Riverside Church for hosting us. Enjoy tonight's celebration, and I look forward to Building the Guild with all of you, for years to come.

THANKS FOR MAKING THIS YEAR'S SPRING FLING SUCCESSFUL AND INSPIRING

*Honoring the Floyd Stop & Frisk Team: Jonathan Moore;
Center for Constitutional Rights Team: Baher Azmy • Darius Charney • Ian Head • Sunita Patel • Chauniqua Young;
Law Student Honoree: Alex Gorman*

Photos by Jonathan Lantz



Ralph Poynter and Lynne Stewart



Alex Gorman at the podium



Joan Reinmuth and Steven Sandler



Radhika Sainath and Suresh Naidu



Vince Warren, Baher Azmy, Sunita Patel, Chauniqua Young, Darius Charney and Ian Head



Marc Steier, Dawn Kelly and Rena Dawson



Delaney, Madison, Jonathan Moore and Carol Sharpe.



Mark Taylor, Dave Rankin and Garrett Kaske



Carl Lipscombe



Michael Krinsky, Jim Reif and Ann Schneider



Shane Kadidal, Gowri Krishna, Michael Haber, Samantha Godwin, Diana Marino, and Daniel Gross



Martin Stolar, Eric Poulis, rear, and Alan D. Levine

SPRING FLING 2014

Photos by Jonathan Lantz



Beena Ahmad and Heidi Siegfried



Roger Wareham and friend with Robert Boyle



Elena Cohen opening remarks



Myron Beldock, Jonathan Moore, and Bill Goodman



Lauren Gazzola, Meejin Richart, Sunita Patel, Bina Ahmad, and Chauniqua Young



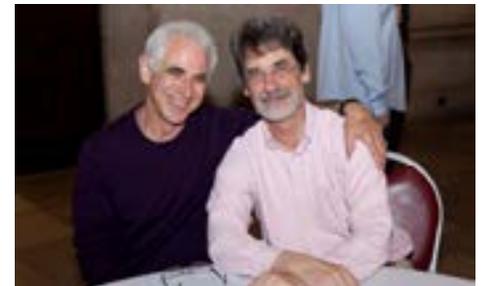
Deborah Rand, Alan D. Levine, and Rick Rossein



Danny Alterman, Sam Himmelstein, Craig Kaplan and Danny Greenberg



Evelyn and Michael Tariff Warren



Frank Handelman and David Lewis



Andy Izenson, Erick Sutterlund, Moira Meltzer-Cohen, Abigail Robinson and Rose Regina Lawrence



Paul Keefe and Amanda Jack



Martin Stolar and Ben Meyers



Moira Meltzer-Cohen, Dan Shockley, and Molly Knepfel



Josh Moskovitz center, Michael Leonard in background, with Ray Berti, Emily Brouwer, and Jon Moore, right.



Frank and Jeannie Mirer

Chapter treasurer **Carl Lipscombe** convened the NYC Chapter's first ever **Strategic Campaign Committee** on August 6 at NYU's Furman Hall. The committee will seek to implement the set of programmatic goals adopted earlier this year by the Executive Committee. The plan is to identify local campaigns for the chapter to engage as a coalition partner.

The **Labor & Employment Committee** presented a speakers panel and Q&A on *Workers' Rights on the Job: Safety and Health Issues* on July 22. The event was hosted by employee-side labor firm Outten & Golden, and focused on the affirmative use of health and safety laws in organizing and campaign efforts: "Workers and their representatives have extensive rights to participate in the enforcement of job safety and health laws. But few workers exercise those rights – even in unionized settings. This session will explore the critical role that workers and their representatives play during Occupational Safety and Health Administration inspections and related enforcement proceedings, and the ways that such participation can support efforts to fully secure workers' rights under the National Labor Relations Act and other laws prohibiting retaliation for safety-related activities."

On July 10, the chapter signed on to the amicus brief filed by the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF) in **Hassan v. NYC**, the lawsuit against the NYPD for its **indiscriminate surveillance of Muslims** in New Jersey. Plaintiffs include a decorated Iraq war veteran, Rutgers University students, the Muslim Student Association of Rutgers, a coalition of New Jersey mosques, and a grade-school for Muslim girls. Plaintiffs are seeking an order terminating the surveillance, destroying any records, and awarding damages.

Susan Barrie will represent the chapter on the 2014 **Independent Judicial Screening Panel** for candidates for the NY Supreme Court.

On June 18 the **Labor & Employment Committee** and the Cardozo School of Law Labor & Employment Society presented a CLE: *Organizing the Public Sector: Recent Developments and Future Challenges*. It was held at the Communications Workers of America, Local 1180 on Harrison Street in Manhattan, and was the ninth seminar in a series aimed at developing closer relationships among workers' rights advocates in NYC.

The **Labor & Employment Committee** held its annual legal intern reception on June

FIGHTING EVICTIONS

Nearly 30,000 families were evicted in New York City last year. Two-thirds of them had annual incomes below \$25,000, and two-thirds live with children under 18. Last year 250,000 New Yorkers were served with eviction papers, and 99% of them faced their housing court case without an attorney. The **NLG-NYC Housing Committee**, chaired by **Steve Dobkin** of Collins, Dobkin & Miller, has signed on as a member of the **Coalition to Bring Justice to Housing Court** which supports New York City Council **Intro-214**, which would provide legal counsel for low-income tenants who are subject to eviction, ejection or foreclosure proceedings.

The Housing Committee is also a member of the **Real Affordability For All (RAFA) coalition** which insists that housing policy should not be controlled by the 1%, and calls for a comprehensive program to preserve and produce affordable housing: non-profit initiatives; rent stabilization; Home Rule; Mitchell-Lama; Section 8; public housing; code enforcement; developer restrictions and incentives; Hurricane Sandy recovery programs; and progressive finance, zoning, tax, and land use strategies. Read the RAFA platform here: <http://coalhome.3cdn.net/1b1d743c30b064ba1ay7m6bnd7e.pdf>.

12. The event, hosted by Outten & Golden, allowed interns working for unions, union and employee-side firms, workers' rights organizations, and labor and employment-related government agencies to meet other students working in the New York City area, and to learn about job opportunities in the labor and employment fields.

The **NLG-NYC Mass Incarceration Committee** was part of a statewide coalition of groups which organized a demonstration and lobby day, *Convergence on Prison Injustice* in Albany on May 5: "Stop Solitary Confinement, Reform Parole, Release Elders, Create a Truth/Justice Commission". Cornel West was the keynote speaker, and the primary focus was lobbying for passage of **HALT, the Humane Alternatives to Long-Term Solitary Confinement Act**, sponsored by Assembly member Jeffrion Aubry and Senator Bill Perkins.

The **NLG-NYC Mass Incarceration Committee (MIC)** is hiring a second summer intern to work on its Parole Preparation Project, which is greatly expanding. The project works with long-termers in New York State prisons who are re-applying after have previously been denied parole. It gathers documents and letters in support of the applicant, and counsels the individual for his or her appearance before the Parole Board. **MIC** is part of a large coalition supporting parole reform in New York State. The project also welcomes volunteers, especially law students, who are frequently eligible to receive course credit. **MIC** held a Parole Prep

training/workshop for new volunteers at NYU School of Law on June 11.

A contingent from the chapter marched on Fifth Avenue in the **Puerto Rican Day Parade** on June 8. The theme was *Un Pueblo, Muchas Voces/One People, Many Voices*, and the parade organizers called for the release of long-time political prisoner, Oscar López Rivera, who was arrested in 1981 in the course of the struggle for the independence of Puerto Rico. Representing the chapter were **Beena Ahmad, Stephan Ali, Hillary Exter, Ellen Friedland, Danny Meyers, Hoda Mitwally, Kafahni Nkrumah, Vanessa Ramos, and Marty Stolar**.

The chapter co-sponsored *50 Years of Radical Lawyering since Freedom Summer*, a conference organized by the Bertha Justice Institute of the **Center for Constitutional Rights**. The conference, held at CUNY School of Law on June 6, celebrated the 50th anniversary of Freedom Summer by profiling global and domestic models of "movement lawyering". Freedom Summer was a campaign to register African-American voters in Mississippi in 1964. The **Bertha Justice Institute's** mission is "to build a new generation of lawyers and legal workers that have the vision, expertise and determination to create social change". NLG-NYC Executive Director **Susan Howard** and NLG Student Organizer **Traci Yoder** tabled at the event.

The **NLG-NYC Mass Defense Committee** held a *Legal Observer Training and Skills Brush-up* on April 30 at the Community Service Society.

On August 7, several tablesful of legal observers gathered in the back yard of DBA on the Lower East Side to socialize and enjoy each others' company at the **Mass Defense Committee's third annual Legal Observer Appreciation Night**. No TARU footage of the occasion was produced.

Jordan Winqvist and **Joel Kupferman** are working with NLG lawyers from the Sugar Law Center in Detroit on the water shut-off issue. The city has been cutting off citizens' water supply at a rate of 6,000 per month. In the past ten years Detroit residents' water rates have risen by over 100 percent, and the city council approved an 8.7 percent rate increase in June. The United Nations has issued a statement saying that the city's plan "constitutes a violation of the human right to water."

The chapter gained a new member when **Heidi Boghosian** stepped down after 15 years as Executive Director of the NLG national office to accept a similar position at the A.J. Muste Memorial Institute in NYC. A farewell party was held on August 1 at Mona's on Ave B.

Jeanne and **Frank Mirer** held a fundraiser at their home on July 17 following a benefit showing of the film "The Hand that Feeds", the story of the successful unionization struggle of workers at the Hot and Crusty bakery on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. Proceeds went to support the **Laundry Workers Center** which helped organize the workers.



Emily Jane Goodman (second from right) and NYC Public Advocate **Letitia James** (right) at the Brooklyn College Women's Activism Project on March 24, celebrating a new biography of **Shirley Chisholm**, the first African American woman elected to Congress.

On July 2 a federal jury in Manhattan awarded \$185,000 to four demonstrators who had been wrongfully arrested at the 2004 Republican National Convention in NYC. Judge Richard Sullivan had previously granted summary judgment on the unlawfulness of the arrests, and the trial was for damages only. Approximately 1800 other demonstrators arrested during the RNC had settled their cases in December, 2013 for a record-breaking \$18 million, but these four rejected the settlement and insisted on a trial. Each plaintiff was awarded \$40,000 in compensatory damages

but the true significance of the verdict was an award of \$25,000 in punitive damages against NYPD Chief Terrance Monahan who, as head of the Mobile Field Forces during the RNC, was primarily responsible for all of the convention arrests. The plaintiffs' legal team consisted of NLG lawyers **Michael Spiegel**, **Alan H. Levine**, **Martin R. Stolar**, **Susan Douglas Taylor**, and **Rick Best**. One of the plaintiffs was **Andrew St. Laurent** who had been working as an NLG Mass Defense Committee legal observer when he was arrested.

Continued on page 8

Reichbach Would Find No Comfort Under Marijuana Law

BY EMILY JANE GOODMAN,
NEW YORK LAW JOURNAL

The *Law Journal's* coverage of New York's medical marijuana statute in the News in Brief on June 23, "Pilot Medical Marijuana Program Passes in Albany," refers to the role of the late Justice Gustin Reichbach in advancing the dialogue and the legislation.

Shortly before his death from pancreatic cancer, Justice Reichbach made a plea for the availability and legality of marijuana for suffering patients like himself. He revealed that he had personally smoked marijuana to help him sleep, eat, and provide some relief from grueling pain. He did so in a *New York Times* opinion piece, which the *Law Journal* noted was consid-

ered "courageous." For him the benefit was in the marijuana he smoked, and not in other forms prescribed by physicians, including pills and liquids. Yet under the new law, just as before, the judge would be committing a crime, since, at the governor's insistence, sick and ailing adults may have access to vapors, but will still be prohibited from smoking marijuana.

There had been some discussion of calling the bill, "Gus's Law." However, having spent countless hours with Gus during the years of his illness, I can tell you that while others may, he would find no courage, comfort or relief in the incoming law.

Emily Jane Goodman is a retired New York Supreme Court justice

WE'RE MOVING!

As of July 1, 2014,
Alterman & Boop will be sharing
an office suite with
Neufeld, Scheck & Brustin, LLP

Our new address will be:
99 Hudson Street, 8th Floor
New York, NY 10013

The rest of our contact
information will stay the same

Continued from previous page

On June 25 **Brandworkers** released *Feeding New York: Challenges and Opportunities for Workers in New York City's Food Manufacturing Industry* at CUNY's Murphy Institute for Worker Education and Labor Studies on West 43rd Street. 150 people participated in a community discussion of the first-ever report on NYC's food manufacturing industry through the eyes of workers. Download the report here at <http://www.brandworkers.org/news/feeding-new-york>. **Daniel Gross** is Brandworkers' co-founder and Executive Director.

On June 11, the *New York Times* featured the story of Deborah McIntyre who was recently fired from her job at the Shubert Organization's Barrymore Theater. Ms. McIntyre has worked as an usher in Broadway theaters since 1975 when she was a teen. She was an usher for "A Raisin in the Sun" with Denzel Washington, but April 11 when President and Mrs. Obama were coming to see the play was her night off. So she stood in the mezzanine that night with the permission of the house manager. A few days later she was called in and fired by a Shubert vice president: "You didn't have a ticket and you breached security. What gives you this right? We're going to have to terminate you." Ms. McIntyre is African-American. "To see Barack and Michelle, watching a black cast led by Denzel? Oh. My. God. A suspension

In Memoriam: Allan Botshon



Economic Justice, the Rosenberg Fund for Children, and the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, among others. Allan loved classical musical, traveling, cherrystone oysters and gin with two olives. He loved the chapter and the Guild for its outspoken commitment to social struggle and the practice of people's law. Allan, and the Guild comrades of his generation who have passed, will be forever missed.

We are deeply saddened by the passing of Guild stalwart Allan Botshon.

Born on the fourth of July, 1926 in Pt. Richmond, S.I., Allan left Dartmouth at 17 to enlist in the army and serve in WWII as an administrator in the medical battalion. Earning accolades and a Victory Medal, Allan was honorably discharged at the end of 1946 and shortly afterwards entered Yale Law. After graduation, Allan started a storefront law office on the Lower East Side, taking all clients, including Lynne Stewart's former husband in their divorce proceeding. Allan, Lynne, and new partner Ralph Poynter soon became fast friends. Allan went on to start a practice with Maria Liz in Chelsea, focusing primarily in immigration law within the Dominican Community. Allan was a great supporter of the chapter, as well as Jews for Racial

of a month, or two or three, perhaps. But to be banned?" Ms. McIntyre has hired **Daniel Alterman** to represent her.

Hindsight is 20:20—Organizing Lessons Learned from Occupy Wall Street was the subject of a panel at Organizing 2.0's conference for organizers, techies, and activists held at CUNY'S Murphy Institute on June 6 & 7. "If OWS started again, what would we do differently? Organizers rarely have a chance to repeat history. But that doesn't mean they shouldn't conduct serious evaluation and understand which mistakes were made, and what it would look like to avoid repeating them. In what areas can we come up with specific, actionable and politically consistent 'fixes' to future mass protest movements?" **Yetta Kurland** was one of the panelists.

Yetta Kurland celebrated the official launch of the Kurland Group's new Lower Broadway location with a reception on May 29. Yetta has made her new office available to the chapter as the site of recent Executive Committee meetings.

On behalf of the Environmental Justice Initiative for Haiti and several European legal scholars, **Joel Kupferman** filed an amicus brief

on May 15 in the SDNY case *Georges v. United Nations*, a class action representing 8,500 Haitians killed and 700,000 sickened by the cholera epidemic that followed the earthquake there in 2010. The suit alleges that cholera was introduced to Haiti by the recklessly unhygienic practices of the UN peacekeepers. The brief argues that the court should balance the UN's general immunity against the plaintiffs' rights to a remedy, and find "reasonable alternative means" to provide a remedy to people who are harmed by UN operations. Joel is chair of the NLG's Environmental Justice Committee and Environmental Human Rights Sub-Committee.

Joel Kupferman was a panelist at *Turning Vacant Acres into Community Resources: A Conversation among Community Land Access Facilitators* on April 22-23 at The New School. The event explored best practices for promoting community access to land in New York City and in cities around the world. Panels included: "Identifying Opportunities & Facilitating Transformations: Creating Oases in All Our New Yorks"; "Protecting Community Access to Land, Keeping Our Greens"; and "Establishing Long Term Management: Developing Models for Predictable Land Tenure".

KEEP THE CHAPTER ROLLING OVER THE SUMMER

Make a commitment to
renew your membership and
get active in the Guild!

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your dues or make a contribution
online by going to
www.nlgny.org/how-to-join

A Note of Appreciation to the NLG Membership For Its Tradition of Service to the People

We are reprinting Heidi Boghosian's farewell remarks from Guild Notes.

BY HEIDI BOGHOSIAN

Arthur Kinoy once said that the test for a people's lawyer, legal worker and student is not the technical winning or losing of formal proceedings. The real test is the impact of legal activities on the morale of the people involved in the struggle. No matter how experienced or clever a legal practitioner may be, the most important element in the process is the informed support and participation of the people.

As a group, Guild members have dedicated their lives to serving, and taking their lead from, the many social movements and people directly involved in fighting for social change. Not until I began working here did I fully appreciate the true meaning of the word "guild," a like-minded community that nurtures its members and emboldens them to take risks that other bar associations and political organizations shy away from. In the past 20 years, from being a law student to a staff member, I too have been mentored and supported. You have shaped my life immutably.

Fifteen years ago, when I reported for my first day of work at the Guild offices I was thrilled at the prospect of serving the unique organization that I had joined in law school. Kevi Brannelly and Sarah Hogarth gave me a thoughtful orientation to the inner workings of the NLG, and my introduction to the membership a few weeks later at the San Francisco Convention was a preview of how a real "guild" operates.

The Guild tradition is a legacy of support. From defending our own members Mumia Abu-Jamal, Lynne Stewart, to the defense of Occupy protesters in parks and streets across the country, to the well-orchestrated 2000, 2004, 2008 and 2012 RNC and DNC defense efforts, it has been an honor to work with, and ultimately to serve, the very best and most committed practitioners in the field of radical law. In addition to working on behalf of others, we are also committed to improving how we work and treat one another. To paraphrase Tema Okun from Dismantling Racism Works, one of the impactful trainers that the Anti Racism Committee and The United People



Heidi Boghosian

of Color Caucus (TUPOCC) have brought to our national conventions: believe in my goodness, but challenge me to be my better self. TUPOCC has effectively done this for the NLG for a decade.

Increasingly, we are supporting the work of our students and NextGen members. They actively shape our response to the encroaching power and abuses of government and multi-national corporations. In 2006, for example, two New York City members were concerned about FBI targeting of animal rights and environmental activists; their apprehension was the impetus for our national Green

Scare Hotline. At the Austin convention that same year, another NextGen member met with Starbucks workers to talk about union organizing in the Radisson Hotel where we were staying. When Suffolk University invited Armenian genocide denier Abe Foxman to deliver their 2014 commencement, one NLG student organized a well-publicized campaign to draw attention to Foxman's record of hypocrisy. These members, and so many more, serve as inspiration to others in the Guild and remind us daily of the value in learning from each other's endeavors.

Thank you all for upholding the values inherent in the notion of peoples lawyering, a practice that began in 1937 and that is alive and well today in the remarkable NLG. I am so grateful to all of you for the work you've done in the past, and I very much look forward to continuing that work in the future as a fellow Guild member.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2014 LAW GRADUATES!

Brooklyn:

Setenay Akdag
Christina Bernardo
Mary Bruch
Alexander Goldman
Melissa Lee
Adam Lynn
Michael Benjamin Ward
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