

September 2013

PASI NEWS

Newsletter of Peace Action of Staten Island, www.peacesi.org 718-989-2881

Calendar:

- **SAT., Sept. 21, 5:45 – 8 PM. “Weaponized & Surveillance Drone Teach-In with Debra Sweet.”** Staten Island Museum, 75 Stuyvesant Pl. SI, NY 10301.
- **SAT., Sept. 21, Noon to 5 pm, Tabling at Black Heritage Family Day & Parade.** Tappen Park, Bay & Water St, SI. NY 10304.
- **TUES., Sept. 23, 2:30-4:30 PM. CSI Town Hall Meeting on ROTC.** The College of Staten Island, Lecture Hall, 2800 Victory Blvd, SI, NY 10314.
- **MON., Sept. 23 thru SAT., Sept. 28, 11 AM – 2 PM. No Drones educational actions during UN General Assembly.**
- **WED., Oct 2, 7 – 9 PM. Know Your Rights: The Path of a Criminal Case.** Forum organized by the Legal Aid Society. The College of Staten Island, 1P Recital Hall, 2800 Victory Blvd, SI, NY 10314.
- **MON., Oct. 28, 6-9 PM. Peace Action New York State honors CodePink Medea Benjamin with William Sloane Coffin Award.** The Greenhouse @ Scholastic, 557 Broadway. Get tickets from online at www.panys.org



Debra Sweet

<http://www.worldcantwait.org>

Weaponized & Surveillance Drone Teach-In (plus update on Syria!)

Speaker: Debra Sweet, World Can't Wait

Saturday, September 21, 5:45 to 8 pm

Staten Island Museum, 75 Stuyvesant Place

What do you know about Weaponized and Surveillance Drones? Come to our Peace Action meeting on Saturday, September 21st and learn more.

Surveillance drones use remote sensing technologies to monitor human activity. Weaponized drones, for example, the Predator armed with Hellfire missiles, have been used by the U.S. military to kill enemy soldiers on battlefields and for targeted killings in countries where we are not at war. Since they were first used in 2001 in Afghanistan, their use has been expanded to Pakistan, Yemen, Somalia and Yemen and are being considered by the Department of Homeland Security for use along the U.S.-Mexican border.

Join Peace Action of Staten Island as we discuss how we can and should respond to the use of weaponized and surveillance drones around the world by our own government. Get involved in a week of action planned for the annual meeting of the UN General Assembly from September 23-28 to bring drones to the attention of the public.

Debra Sweet is the Director of World Can't Wait, initiated in 2005 to repudiate the policies and programs of the Bush administration through a mass, independent movement. Based in New York City, she leads World Can't Wait in its continuing efforts to make our government accountable for its crimes, whether under the Bush or the Obama administrations, including the unjust occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan and unlawful torture, detention and drone killings, as well as reversing direction of the U.S. surveillance state and the criminalization of abortion and immigrants. She recently spearheaded the demonstrations around the country against U.S. military intervention in Syria.

The September 21st meeting is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

No Drones NYC Educational Actions Sept 23-28

The No Drones Coalition (which includes the KnowDrones.org, Granny Peace Brigade, World Can't Wait, CodePink NYC, Peace Action New York State and others) are planning No Drone educational actions the week of the meeting of UN General Assembly in NYC, from September 23rd to 28th from 11 am to 2 pm. Reaper drone replicas will be stationed in busy spots in Manhattan and volunteers will leaflet and educate passersby about weaponized and surveillance drones. Email grannypeace@gmail.com or call Joan at 718-855-2581 to get involved.

Peace Action of Staten Island

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PASI to Democrats, Republicans & President Obama: Hear the World. We Don't Want Another War!

On Tuesday, September 3rd, Thursday, September 5th, and Thursday, September 12th Peace Action of Staten Island asked both Democrats and Republicans to call their Representative and Senators to ask them to oppose U.S. military intervention in Syria. After originally endorsing President Obama's plan to bomb Syria and after receiving hundreds of phone calls opposing a strike, Rep. Michael Grimm reversed his position and came out publicly opposing the action.

Peace Action of Staten Island's press release on September 1st said, in part, "Diplomatic avenues need to be traveled to produce a negotiated settlement. The U.S. should support the International Criminal Court in arresting those committing war crimes such as the use of chemical weapons. Continued humanitarian aid and aid to refugees is needed to assist civilians."

As a result of the response of Americans opposed to another war, it is encouraging that on September 14th, the United States and Russia have announced a plan to remove or destroy Syrian chemical weapons by the middle of 2014 and has indefinitely stalled the prospect of American airstrikes.

Peace Action of Staten Island
P.O. Box 201
St. George Station
Staten Island, NY 10301

PASI 2013-14 Meeting Schedule

SEPT 20, 2013
NOV. 21, 2013
JAN. 11, 2014
MAR. 8, 2014
MAY 10, 2014
JUNE 14, 2014

Staten Island Museum, 75
Stuyvesant Pl.

Meeting Times
5:45 to 8 PM

For more information:
www.peacesi.org

What PASI Volunteers Did On Their Summer Vacation

This summer PASI volunteers took to the beach and the parks and distributed peace sign buttons and necklaces to and collected peace petition signatures from fellow Staten Islanders. We were at the LGBT Parade & Festival, Back to the Beach, the Kwanzaa Festival, Night Out Against Crime, and will be at the Black Heritage Parade and Family day on Saturday, September 21st.

Hundreds of people signed the petitions: Free Pvt. Manning, Put the Pentagon on a Diet, Ban Weaponized Drones from the World, Negotiate the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, and Open a Civil Right Case Against George Zimmerman.

We would like to give a big thank you to all the volunteers who smeared on sun screen and headed to the beach as part of our outreach campaign – Eileen, Rich G, Rich M, Rich F, David J, Sarah, Leslie, Mike, Dennis, Sally, and Michele. If this kind of outdoor, community volunteering appeals to you and you have an event where you want to set up the PASI table, email pasi.contact@gmail.com.