



ROSENBERG FUND FOR CHILDREN

Supporting the Children of Resistance Since 1990

116 Pleasant Street, Suite 348
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Erin McKeown, Gina Belafonte and Ellen Meeropol to headline an evening celebrating ARTISTS AS ACTIVISTS in Eastworks on Oct 17th

September 14, 2015, Easthampton, MA: Artists and activists ranging from Picasso to Pete Seeger, from Ani DiFranco to Angela Davis, from Chuck D to Eve Ensler, and dozens of others, have supported the Easthampton-based Rosenberg Fund for Children - and the family of its namesake, Ethel and Julius Rosenberg - for decades. In turn, as part of its work aiding children in the U.S. whose parents are targeted, progressive activists, the RFC has made, and supported the making of art, throughout its 25 year history.

For these reasons, the RFC is marking its 25th anniversary with an event spotlighting Artists as Activists featuring New York City- based **actress Gina Belafonte (daughter of Harry Belafonte)**, western MA resident and **musician Erin McKeown** who records for Northampton's Signature Sounds label, and **writer Ellen Meeropol**, of Easthampton, MA. The celebration begins at **8:00 pm on October 17th, on the ground floor (east end) of Eastworks**, at 116 Pleasant St. in Easthampton (where the RFC office is located).

The evening will include a moderated discussion with Gina, Erin and Ellen about how they navigate the intersection of art and activism; a short film featuring interviews about art and activism by RFC Advisory Board members Angela Davis, Holly Near, Public Enemy's Chuck D, and Mike +Ruthy, along with Pamela Means, The Nields, Peter Mulvey, and RFC founder, Robert Meeropol; and a concert by Erin McKeown opened by the *A Besere Velt* (A Better World), Boston Workman's Circle Chorus.

Tickets (\$25 general admission; \$15 student/limited income; \$125 Anniversary Circle including pre-event reception, reserved seating section and more) are on sale now at www.rfc.org/rfc25.

For information or interviews with Erin McKeown, Gina Belafonte, Ellen Meeropol, or RFC Executive Director Jenn Meeropol or founder Robert Meeropol contact Amber Black, (413) 529-0063, amber@rfc.org. Visit the event page at www.rfc.org/rfc.25 for details and www.rfc.org/pressreleases for downloadable, high res photos.



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Meet the Activist Artists



[Actress and artist Gina Belafonte](#) co-directs Sankofa.org, the organization her father Harry founded to encourage artists to use their platforms to bring attention to social justice issues. Born and raised in New York City, Gina Belafonte has spent her life in the arenas of entertainment and activism where her professional work thrives today. As the youngest child of Julie and Harry Belafonte, whose impact in these fields is among the most influential and progressive in the world, Gina's passions come as no surprise. Gina was the lead producer on the internationally acclaimed documentary film, *Sing Your Song*, exploring the extraordinary life and legacy of Harry Belafonte that was selected as the opening film for the Sundance Film Festival in 2011.



[Erin McKeown](#) is an internationally known musician, writer, and producer. With nine full length albums, two EPs, and numerous soundtracks to her credit, she has spent the last 15 years crafting a reputation as an original musical voice and compelling live performer. An active voice on social justice issues and culture, Erin was a 2011-12 fellow at Harvard's Berkman Center for Internet and Society. Recently, she's also added radio to her resume, blogging and hosting for WNYC New York Public Radio. A former board member of the Future of Music Coalition, McKeown also works closely with Revolutions Per Minute (RPM) on immigration issues. She is currently writing an original musical with Tony & Pulitzer Award winner Quiara Alegria Hudes for the world renowned La Jolla Playhouse.



[Author Ellen Meeropol](#) has been the artistic heart of the RFC since its inception, serving on first the Board of Directors and now its Advisory Board. She wrote all of the RFC's *Celebrate the Children of Resistance* scripts, and is the author of two novels, *On Hurricane Island* (released in 2015) and *House Arrest*, both published by Red Hen Press. A former nurse practitioner, a part-time bookseller, and literary late bloomer, Ellen is fascinated by characters balanced on the fault lines between political turmoil and human connection.



[A Besere Velt \(A Better World\)](#), who performed in the RFC's 2007 *Celebrate the Children of Resistance*, is proud to be a "voice" for justice. This 92-member community chorus weaves the heartache and irrepressible idealism of Yiddish folk music into a vision of justice and humanity for the 21st century. From haunting melodies to workers' anthems, the songs come alive with multi-layered harmonies.



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About the RFC

The [Rosenberg Fund for Children \(RFC\)](http://www.rfc.org), named after Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, is a public foundation that aids kids in the U.S. whose parents have been attacked because they're struggling to preserve civil liberties, wage peace, safeguard the environment, combat racism, and organize on behalf of workers, political prisoners, immigrants, member of the LGBTQ community, and others whose human rights are under threat.

Since 1990 the RFC has awarded grants totaling more than \$5.6 million. RFC grants often enable our beneficiaries to participate in artistic endeavors, exemplifying our mission of helping meet these young people's educational and emotional needs as much as the prison visits, school books, and myriad other services and resources we fund.

Robert Meeropol, younger son of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, founded the RFC in 1990 to aid children in this country suffering from nightmares similar to what he and his brother experienced when at ages six and 10, their parents were executed by the U.S. government in 1953, after being convicted of conspiracy to commit espionage in the "trial of the century" at the height of McCarthy era.