



Supporting the Children of Resistance Since 1990

116 Pleasant Street, Suite 348
Easthampton, MA 01027
TEL (413) 529-0063
FAX (413)-529-0802
info@rfc.org
www.rfc.org

STAFF

Jennifer Meeropol
Executive Director
Amber Black
Communications Director
Julia Johnson
Granting Coordinator
Jane Miller
Financial Coordinator

FOUNDER

Robert Meeropol

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

José Ayerve
Daniel Chard
Rafael Rodríguez Cruz
Jennifer Guglielmo
Nina-Alani Lessin-Joseph
David Maisey
Jennifer Meeropol
Robert Meeropol
Bruce K. Miller
William C. Newman
Christina Platt
Christopher M. Tinson

ADVISORY BOARD

Anthony Arnowe
Edward Asner
Harry Belafonte
Chuck D & Gaye Theresa Johnson
Angela Davis
Hon. Ronald V. Dellums
Eve Ensler
Martín Espada
Suheir Hammad
Richard Healey
Si Kahn
Ellen Meeropol
Michael Meeropol
Rachel Meeropol
Mike & Ruthy Merenda
Peter Mulvey
Holly Near
Mandy Patinkin
Leonard Peltier
Will Potter
Michael Ratner
Susan Sarandon
Kitama Seeger Jackson
Rabbi Sheila Weinberg
Haskell Wexler
Robert Zevin
Gilda Zwerman

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For information contact:

Amber Black

Rosenberg Fund for Children
(413) 529-0063, amber@rfc.org

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 including Picasso, Pete Seeger, Ani DiFranco, Angela Davis, Chuck D, 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, and **writer Ellen Meeropol**, of Easthampton, MA. The celebration – expected to draw up to 300 people – begins at **8:00 pm on October 17th, on the ground floor (east end) of Eastworks**, at 116 Pleasant St. in Easthampton (home to the RFC office).

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 about linking art and activism with RFC Advisory Board members Angela Davis, Holly Near, Public Enemy's Chuck D, and Mike +Ruthy, plus 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. Cash bar with beer from Abandoned Building Brewery and wine from Black Birch Vineyard.

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**.



Supporting the Children of Resistance Since 1990

116 Pleasant Street, Suite 348
Easthampton, MA 01027
TEL (413) 529-0063
FAX (413)-529-0802
info@rfc.org
www.rfc.org

STAFF

Jennifer Meeropol
Executive Director
Amber Black
Communications Director
Julia Johnson
Granting Coordinator
Jane Miller
Financial Coordinator

FOUNDER

Robert Meeropol

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

José Ayerve
Daniel Chard
Rafael Rodríguez Cruz
Jennifer Guglielmo
Nina-Alani Lessin-Joseph
David Maisey
Jennifer Meeropol
Robert Meeropol
Bruce K. Miller
William C. Newman
Christina Platt
Christopher M. Tinson

ADVISORY BOARD

Anthony Arnove
Edward Asner
Harry Belafonte
Chuck D & Gaye Theresa Johnson
Angela Davis
Hon. Ronald V. Dellums
Eve Ensler
Martín Espada
Suheir Hammad
Richard Healey
Si Kahn
Ellen Meeropol
Michael Meeropol
Rachel Meeropol
Mike & Ruthy Merenda
Peter Mulvey
Holly Near
Mandy Patinkin
Leonard Peltier
Will Potter
Michael Ratner
Susan Sarandon
Kitama Seeger Jackson
Rabbi Sheila Weinberg
Haskell Wexler
Robert Zevin
Gilda Zwerman

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.



Supporting the Children of Resistance Since 1990

116 Pleasant Street, Suite 348
Easthampton, MA 01027
TEL (413) 529-0063
FAX (413)-529-0802
info@rfc.org
www.rfc.org

STAFF

Jennifer Meeropol
Executive Director
Amber Black
Communications Director
Julia Johnson
Granting Coordinator
Jane Miller
Financial Coordinator

FOUNDER

Robert Meeropol

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

José Ayerve
Daniel Chard
Rafael Rodríguez Cruz
Jennifer Guglielmo
Nina-Alani Lessin-Joseph
David Maisey
Jennifer Meeropol
Robert Meeropol
Bruce K. Miller
William C. Newman
Christina Platt
Christopher M. Tinson

ADVISORY BOARD

Anthony Armove
Edward Asner
Harry Belafonte
Chuck D & Gaye Theresa Johnson
Angela Davis
Hon. Ronald V. Dellums
Eve Ensler
Martín Espada
Suheir Hammad
Richard Healey
Si Kahn
Ellen Meeropol
Michael Meeropol
Rachel Meeropol
Mike & Ruthy Merenda
Peter Mulvey
Holly Near
Mandy Patinkin
Leonard Peltier
Will Potter
Michael Ratner
Susan Sarandon
Kitama Seeger Jackson
Rabbi Sheila Weinberg
Haskell Wexler
Robert Zevin
Gilda Zwerman

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.

In September 2013, Robert's daughter, Jennifer Meeropol, took over as the RFC's executive director upon Robert's retirement.