



Not In Our Town e-News
for ordinary people transforming their communities

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Meet Darius Kemp, NIOT Civic Engagement Organizer

The Working Group welcomes Darius Kemp, who joined our staff this month as our new Not In Our Town Civic Engagement Organizer.

In a recent interview with NIOT Senior Producer Rhian Miller, Darius shared his background, his experience as a community organizer, and his involvement in the social justice movement. [Read the full interview.](#)



*Darius Kemp,
 NIOT Civic
 Engagement
 Organizer*



Mayor Paul Pontieri with students at the event. The red Patchogue Medford T-shirts were sold to raise funds for Lucero's funeral and to express the concerns of the local community.

Raising the Curtain on Unity in Patchogue, NY

Patchogue Theatre buzzed with excitement as the community came together April 20 for an evening of performance dedicated to unity and inclusiveness, five months after [a violent hate crime shocked the small community](#) in Suffolk County, New York.

The Not In Our Town team has been following the [story of community response](#) to the killing of Patchogue, NY resident Marcelo Lucero last November. Seven high school students were charged in the case.

Recently, the NIOT film crew traveled to Patchogue to document the "Raising



the Curtain on Unity" line-up of local musicians and dancers, including high school students, and a guest appearance by a leading cast member of [In the Heights](#), that performed to a sold-out house despite torrential rain.

[View a slide show and read stories from "Raising the Curtain on Unity."](#)



"We're trying to show the community that our school is strong," -- Melissa, member of the high school Latin dance team

"I came tonight because I thought we needed a change in the community. It's tragic what happened ... but we want to show everybody we are here together still" -- Step Dance team member



Protesters and local neo-Nazis demonstrate on opposite sides of Main Street in Phoenix, OR. Photo: Bob Pennell/Mail Tribune

Unity in Numbers: Oregon Community Counters a Neo-Nazi Threat

When neo-Nazis descended upon Phoenix, OR, a diverse cross-section of over 100 residents turned out for a peaceful counter-rally. NIOT Network leader Jim Willeford took part in the unity rally, and shared [his story on the NIOT blog](#).

Upstanders on TV: New Video and Key Conversations from Not In Our School

A high school student shares what it's like to be the target of an ethnic slur on Facebook. A teacher recounts how she intervened after an anonymous student left an ethnic slur in her class's question box. Young people offer strategies for standing up to bullying and harassment.

These are just a few of the powerful conversations that took place during last month's Not In Our Schools event held at the [Media Center](#) in Palo Alto.

Ready to be inspired? Check out the NIOT blog for two powerful [Not In Our School video clips](#).



Students from Palo Alto spoke passionately about their experiences dealing with ethnic and anti-gay slurs and cyberbullying at last month's Not In Our Schools event at the Media Center.

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