



Forty-nine elementary schools were closed in Chicago this year. School budgets were cut and 3,000 teachers and support staff laid off. PHOTO/SARAH JANE RHEE

INSIDE:

No justice, no peace!	2
'Moral Monday' protests	4
Dream Defenders	4
Detroit bankruptcy	6
50 th anniversary of March on Washington	7

STOP THE CORPORATIONS EDUCATE ALL CHILDREN

[Read story on page 3](#)

NO JUSTICE, NO PEACE!

EDITORIAL

The not guilty verdict in the George Zimmerman trial for the murder of Trayvon Martin has made clear the raw and growing disconnect between the humane and moral foundation of justice and the hard, cold immorality of some of the laws of the land. This verdict compels the American people to choose between justice and the law. There have been similar moments in the American revolutionary experience.

During colonial times, the King of England dictated the laws for the American colonialists. These laws, favoring the King, were unjust to the people. Revolution developed as the people were forced to choose between law and justice. However, they didn't just one day decide to become independent of the King. The struggle between law and justice was the battleground that educated the people and gave them a vision of a new society.

Some seventy years later, the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 was passed by Congress and became the law of the land. Slavery was clearly placed as an irreconcilable antagonism between law and justice.

The Abolitionists educated the public. Some, like Harriet Beecher Stowe, who in 1852 wrote Uncle Tom's Cabin, wrote and spoke for justice. Others, like John Brown did so by openly defying the law. Or, as Reverend Luther Lee, pastor of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of Syracuse, New York wrote in 1855:

"I never would obey it. I had assisted thirty slaves to escape to Canada during the last month. If the authorities wanted anything of me, my address was at 39 Onondaga Street. I would admit that and they could take me and lock me up in the Penitentiary on the hill; but if they did such a foolish thing as that, I had friends



Trayvon Martin protest in Detroit, Michigan.

PHOTO/DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

enough in Onondaga County to level it to the ground before the next morning."

Today we are witnessing the beginning of a movement that is clearly choosing between law and justice. In North Carolina, more than 900 people from the "Moral Monday" movement have been arrested for protesting unjust laws passed by their state legislators. The Florida Dream Defenders have occupied the State Capitol Building and are drafting Trayvon's Law, legislation designed to repeal Florida's Stand Your Ground Law. They are demanding an end to racial profiling by police and the repeal of the state's school policing

standards. More widely known cases such as those of Bradley Manning and Edward Snowden are part of this as yet disjointed, but growing ground swell demanding justice.

A flood of unjust and repressive laws is passed not only nationally, but in most states. Why? The ruling class is preparing for

the inevitable upsurge of the people who are not only losing their civil rights, but are becoming poorer. The ruling class cannot change the concept of justice, but we, the people can change the laws. The struggle for justice is becoming the battleground and we revolutionaries must bring clarity and vision to the fight.

SEND US YOUR STORY!

All editorials and cover stories are written by the People's Tribune Editorial Board. The rest of the paper is composed of voices from those who are engaged in the struggle to build a new society that is of, by and for the people. Send us your story.

WHY THE MOVEMENT NEEDS A PRESS

From the Editors

We are sometimes asked "Why does the movement to build a new America need a press?" The answer has to do with this moment in history. People are struggling just to get the basic necessities of life. Historical forces beyond anyone's control have set the stage for a new society to be built, but from this point on, how things turn out depends on what people think. This means that those of us who are seeking fundamental change are engaged in a battle of ideas, a struggle to win the hearts and minds of the people. If we don't raise the consciousness of the people and unite them around a vision of a better world and a strategy to achieve it, then we'll fail in our effort to build a just and free society. To win the battle of ideas, we need a press.

Visit us on the web at www.PeoplesTribune.org

PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE

An economic system that doesn't feed, clothe and house its people must be and will be overturned and replaced with a system that meets the needs of the people. To that end, this paper is a tribune of those struggling to create such a new economic system. It is a vehicle to bring the movement together, to create a vision of a better world and a strategy to achieve it.

Labor-replacing electronic technology is permanently eliminating jobs and destroying the foundation of the capitalist system. The people's needs can only be met by building a cooperative society where the socially necessary means of production are owned by society, not by the corporations.

We welcome articles and artwork from those who are engaged in the struggle to build a new society that is of, by and for the people. We rely on readers and contributors to fund and distribute this paper.

The People's Tribune, formerly published by the League of Revolutionaries for a New America, is now an independent newspaper with an editorial board based in Chicago.

PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE EDITORIAL POLICY: Articles that are unsigned, such as the cover story and editorials, reflect the views of the editorial board. Bylined articles reflect the views of the authors, and may or may not reflect the views of the editorial board.

Deadlines for articles and art: The deadline for articles, photographs and other art is the first of each month for the issue that comes out at the beginning of the following month. For example, the deadline for the June issue is May 1. Articles should be as short as possible, and no longer than 500 words. We reserve the right to edit articles to conform to space limitations.

People's Tribune Editor: Bob Lee

Editorial Staff: Bob Brown, Brett Jelinek, Sarah Menefee, Shamako Noble, Chuck Parker, Joseph Peery, Nelson Peery, Sandra Reid

Photo Editor: Daymon Hartley

People's Tribune, P.O. Box 3524
Chicago, Illinois, 60654
e-mail: info@peopletribune.org
Phone: 773-486-3551
Toll Free: 800-691-6888
Fax: 773-486-3552
Web: www.peopletribune.org

Publisher: People's Tribune
ISSN# 1081-4787

Reach us at:

Chicago 773-486-3551

Ann Arbor, MI
zetlir@gmail.com

Atlanta, GA
atlanta@peopletribune.org

Carbondale, IL
carbondale@peopletribune.org

Detroit, MI
313-438-6115

Houston, TX
P O Box 231281, Houston, TX 77223-1281

Los Angeles, CA
310-548-6491

Oakland, CA
oakland@peopletribune.org

STOP THE CORPORATIONS—EDUCATE ALL CHILDREN

COVER STORY

From the Editors

As schools get ready to open this year, angry and frustrated parents and teachers stormed out of the latest hearings on Chicago's austerity budget. Chicago Public Schools (CPS) closed 49 elementary schools this year. Then CPS cut the budgets of the remaining schools by \$68 million, and then laid off at least 3,000 teachers and support staff. CPS also approved new charter schools and increased funding to charter schools. Corporate charter schools are replacing public schools.

Across America, all of the commonly-owned, public property of the American people is being transferred to the privately-owned, for-profit corporations. One of the last sectors to remain in the public domain is public education. The current privatization of public education is rapidly changing that.

Corporations set the guidelines for massive increases in testing, what schools get funding, who teaches and who benefits from elite education. Corporations also determine who is relegated to indoctrination rather than education, and who travels on the school-to-prison pipeline.

Education is the poster child for the merger of the government and the corporations, without any concern for the interests of the people. The "jobless recovery" of the current depression reinforces the fact that the system no longer needs as many educated workers to resupply the labor market. The latest government jobs report shows that in all sections of the labor market, jobs are being replaced by electronics. The cor-



porations are not going to educate workers they don't need.

The corporate government is restructuring society to insure profits for the corporations in this era of technological change. For example, American cities go into debt to Wall Street, and rather than refusing to pay legally dubious loans from Wall Street, they further cut working class programs, teacher pensions and privatize.

For funding, school districts rely on the property tax. Wealthy areas can provide more of a funding base. Poorer school districts cannot. No locality can solve this problem on its own. Only national, equitable fund-

ing can guarantee equal education for all. As long as the federal government refuses to fund quality education for all, as long as corporations dominate education, we will not be able to shape education in our own interests. Parents know this!

People are beginning to realize that the Chicago experience is not just ignorant policy. Xian Barrett, one of the teachers recently fired, wrote, "This was not those who run the Chicago Public Schools System failing in their mission; it was them succeeding."

People throughout the country are struggling valiantly to hold their cities responsible for

the education of the children. In the long run, for the struggle to be successful, we need to take our country away from the corporations and build a cooperative society. This is not a choice, but a necessity.

The first step is to hold every politician accountable, force each to show where he or she stands on equal funding for all schools and the guarantee of federal resources for a world class education in every neighborhood. Taking over the corporations, making their property public, will give the people the chance to build the education—and the entire new society—that we want and need.

Contribute to the People's Tribune:
100% volunteer run
100% donation funded

The *People's Tribune* brings clarity to the growing movement. It unites the movement around a vision of a better world and a strategy to achieve it. It has no paid staff and gets no corporate grants. The paper is financed solely by our readers. We need your support to continue telling the truth.

One-time donations are welcome. If you can spare \$20 a month or more, you'll be a hero. Please make donations payable to People's Tribune and send to P.O. Box 3524, Chicago, IL 60654. You can also donate via Paypal at www.peoplestribune.org.

— People's Tribune Editorial Board

SUBSCRIBE TO THE PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE! ORDER BUNDLES

- Please send me a one-year individual subscription [\$20]
- Please send me a one-year institutional subscription [\$25]
- Please send me a bundle of _____ PTs [at 30 cents per paper]

Enclosed is my donation of:

- \$20 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$Other _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone/Email: _____

My check or money order made payable to "People's Tribune" is enclosed. Mail this coupon to: People's Tribune, P.O. Box 3524, Chicago, IL 60654-3524

'Forward together. Not one step back' – Moral Monday movement

By John Slaughter

ATLANTA, GA — 10,000 voices roaring as one shook the streets of Raleigh, North Carolina: "Forward together, not one step back!" After thirteen straight "Moral Mondays" in which more than 900 were arrested while protesting what they called the extreme politics of their legislature, they gathered for the final session, determined that this was a movement that would continue on. "This is no momentary hyperventilation or momentary protest. This is a movement," declared the Reverend William Barber, president of the N.C. NAACP.

The Moral Monday movement has been about protesting legislation and policies passed that can be viewed as nothing less than a direct attack on a new social movement that cuts across color, gender and every social identity. These draconian laws affect the very survival of many, including cuts to education, employment and benefits, health care, the very infrastructure of their lives. And particularly with regard to the passage of voting rights restrictions, they constitute a "crime against democracy," according to Rev. Barber.

As promised, the movement

continues. "Mountain Moral Monday" took place in Asheville, NC on August 5, the first of other gatherings to take place across the state. The specific issue affecting the citizens of Asheville was a new law that would take the municipal water system away from the city and put it in the hands of the state. "Theft by the state" is what some are calling it.

But those who are participating in the Moral Monday movement and who came to Asheville (between 8,000-10,000) are seeing that their movement is not just about single issues, but represents a uniting of many causes. Says Rev. Jasmine Beach-Ferrara of the Campaign for Southern Equality in Asheville, "We are part of every single community represented here. When you attack any community, you attack us. When you attack us, you attack every community."

In his remarks to the crowd assembled in Asheville about the meaning and significance of this movement, Rev. Barber drew comparisons between now and that period in Southern history that came on the eve of the defeat of Reconstruction and the installment of the counter-revolutionary "Redeemer" governments. Barber calls the movement today



People in North Carolina are standing up to resist what they see as a moral atrocity by the wealthy. Over 900 protesters have been arrested. The protesters are demanding a government that operates in the interests of the people.

PHOTO/MATTHEW LENARD

a "third Reconstruction," and the extreme reactionary governments today are not unlike the Redeemer governments of old. As Jeff Shaw of NC Justice puts it, the moral Monday movement "shows how a diverse army of people can band together to combat regressive political tactics."

Today is different. Today is something new. "We are de-

stroying the myth of the old white Southern strategy – that you can hurt some people without hurting everybody. We're all interconnected. This old divide and conquer is not going to work anymore," said Rev. Barber.

As the Occupy Wall Street movement expressed it, it's not just one thing; it's everything. The Moral Monday movement

takes it a step further. They assert a commonality of causes and a commonality of a class. And they are taking the battle right where it needs to go, directly before the corporate-government, not begging, but demanding: We must have a government that operates in our interest. "A new North Carolina, a new South, a new future."

Dream Defenders: Youth movement points the way forward

By Cathy Talbott

CARBONDALE, IL — A new student movement has sprung up in response to Trayvon Martin's murder and the subsequent acquittal of his killer, George Zimmerman. The Dream Defenders, a multi-racial human rights organization dedicated to defeating systemic inequalities in our communities through direct action, nonviolent civil disobedience, and rational organizing, coalesced about six weeks after the murder of Trayvon in colleges and universities throughout Florida. The Dream Defenders have occupied the Florida State Capitol, camping outside Governor Rick Scott's office since July 16, following Zimmerman's acquittal. Executive Director of the organization, Phillip Agnew, a student at Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, in an impassioned speech from the steps of the Florida State Capitol on July 19, stated they are a "unified, organized student and youth resistance standing against what seems to many to be an unmovable object."

The group is drafting the

Trayvon Martin Act which they intend to present to a special session of the state legislature that they demand Governor Scott convene. The Act is composed of three pillars. The first: End racial profiling. Second: End the school to prison pipeline, as Agnew defined it, "a prevalent and corrosive list of policies and disciplinary procedures

that funnel Black, brown and poor children out of schools and into prisons" and "perpetuates a generation of second-class citizens who enter high school with felony records" prohibiting them from having a voice and a choice over their futures. (Florida leads in more school-based arrests than any other state. In 2012 there were 12,000 students

arrested approximately 14,000 times in public schools.)

In an interview with *In These Times*, Agnew said, "We have from our onset talked about the criminalization of young people, people of color, of the poor, of folks not in a position of power in our community." He links many of these issues, like privatization of prisons and the de-

cline of public education back to the profit motive, the drive to boil down everything, even the lives of children, to a way for corporate entities to make money. "Kids are cash crops in Florida," he said. (*In These Times*, July 25, 2013)

The third pillar calls for a repeal of the Stand Your Ground laws. Not an amendment, but an absolute abolishment of the corporate-backed fascist law. Agnew went on to declare, "We will not be silenced. We will not be stopped. We will not be moved or co-opted. We do not honor the results of a task force that upholds a law that eradicates us based on fear and out of emotion... You cannot confront the world as it is without presenting a vision of the world as it should be, as it could be... We are presenting a way forward."

In drawing a line in the sand, these fighters for a better future are standing tall against a fortified corporate-state. They are sending a clarion call to the millions of us who have no future under a dying system, to join them, for their struggle is also ours.



The Dream Defenders, a new student movement, occupied the Florida State Capitol, camping outside Governor Rick Scott's office following George Zimmerman's acquittal for murdering Trayvon Martin.

PHOTO/PHIL SEARS, AP

San Francisco City College: The onslaught begins – corporatizing community colleges

By Peter Brown

The Accreditation Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) announced on July 3 it was revoking the accreditation of CCSF, the state's largest Community College with 85,000 students. Without accreditation, the school cannot get public funds; students cannot get credit. Now everyone understands that the gauntlet is thrown down.

The ACCJC is a private body, empowered to judge public schools! It is controlled and bankrolled by the Lumina Foundation, which made its money financing student loans.

ACCJC will close City College to make CCSF the example to reshape the mission of California community colleges in the corporate mold: less students, less campuses, only classes that fit THE JOB MARKET, less teachers, less democracy, more administrators with more power.

The faculty union, California Federation of Teachers (CFT), has filed a formal complaint against ACCJC, documenting scores of instances of improper, even illegal behavior by ACCJC in its investigation of CCSF.

This has the potential to force the issue out into the open, allowing us to see the forces at play more clearly.

This massive cutback is a fully bipartisan effort. Since 2009, California has cut hundreds of millions from community colleges under the guise of Austerity. The CCSF chancellor at that time stated: "You guys are talking about cutting classes, we don't believe in that. Cut... other stuff first, cut it until it hurts, and then talk about cutting classes." That was the school's real crime; they rebelled against cutting student needs.

The ACCJC is not "rogue"; it's following the demands of the Department of Education to base federal aid on performance and results. They want to end the mission of community colleges to guarantee lifelong learning, adult education, GEDs, and English classes for immigrants.

Now California has imposed a trustee on CCSF with total financial power. Michigan's "financial manager" dictatorship (Public Act 4) is spreading.

This shows the new economic and political reality we face. To fight and win, we need clarity about what we are up against. There is no possibility of com-

promise between public and corporate needs, no matter which corporate party promotes it; corporations or the public will win, our future hangs in the balance.

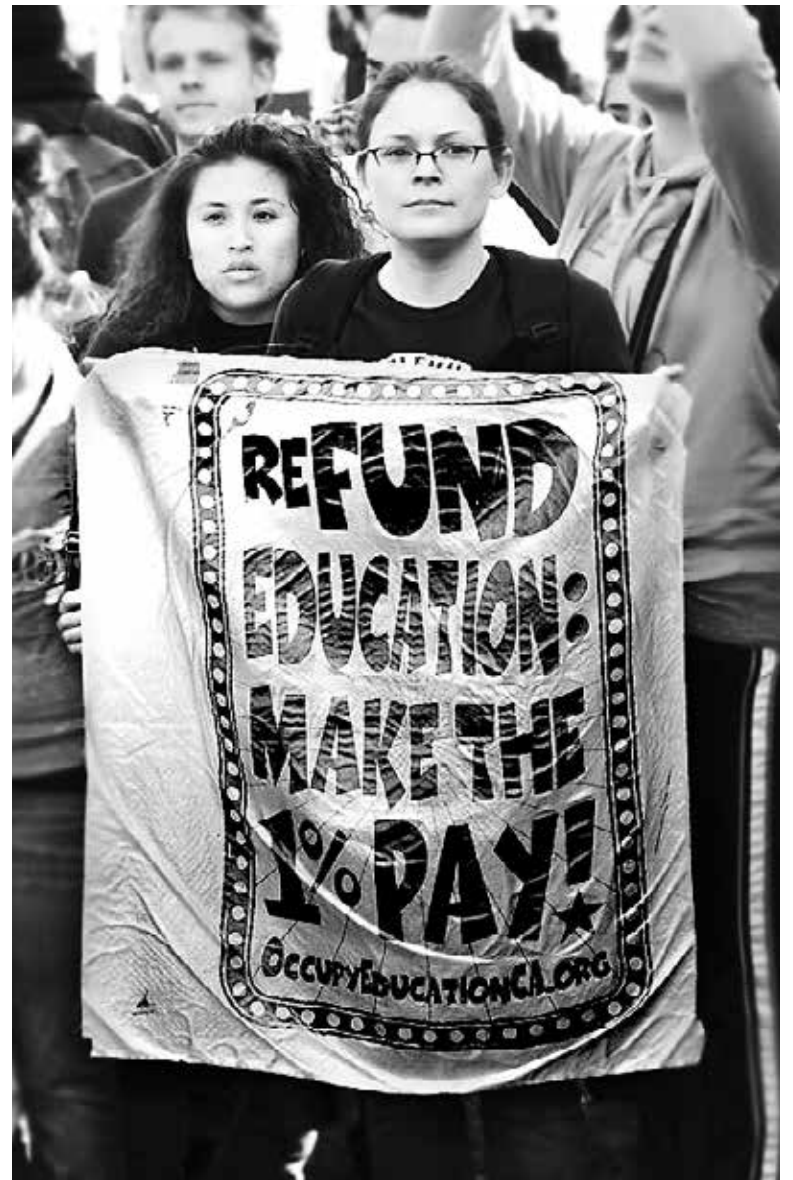
What must be understood to take the next steps is that no section of the corporate community is an ally of the public. We cannot rely on the corporate media to tell our story.

The Chicago Teachers Union showed the way – that the real corporate/government attack is to end access to college. They showed how to build a bond between teachers and their community. CCSF represents the future for the youth of the city. Every single public official must be held accountable and forced to take up its defense.

We will have to get out into the neighborhoods, parent meetings and churches to counter the lies being told about teachers and education, and to have the discussions that build the kind of class unity we're going to need to win for all of us.

Education protest at the California Capitol in Sacramento.

PHOTO/STEVE RHODES



Thousands of school books destroyed by unelected Emergency Manager



The unelected, tyrannical Emergency Manager in Highland Park, MI threw 1,000 school books in a dumpster against the community's wishes. The photo shows some of the remaining books still housed in the school. PHOTO/GLENDA MCDONALD

For the People's Tribune, Sandy Reid interviewed Linda G. Wheeler about the destruction of thousands of books in Highland Park, Michigan.

People's Tribune: How were 10,000 school books destroyed?
Linda G. Wheeler: We received a phone call from a parent volun-

teer that the (governor appointed) Emergency Manager for the Highland Park School District, Donald Weatherspoon, trashed the Highland Park Senior High School Library. He threw thousands of books—10,000—and also furniture and equipment, from the media center (library) into the dumpsters. We called

several citizens, and risking getting cut from glass, rescued 1,000 books out of the dumpster.

PT: What are people doing about this?

LGW: We formed Citizens for Highland Park Public Schools. We had two slow downs, on Woodard Avenue in front of the High School. We call them Slow Down In Motown, Highland Park Style. We shut down traffic for over 20 minutes. We passed out literature to motorists explaining why we're doing this and who is responsible and gave information on how they can contact the governor.

Gov. Snyder's office in Lansing has been flooded with calls. We also had a march and protest in front of the high school which was very successful. However, five of us received traffic violations for impeding traffic—\$150 each—but we are fighting this. We still want to be heard; this was a malicious act of destruction and mismanagement.

The Emergency Manager's response was, "It was a mistake.

I take full responsibility." He said he would give away the remaining books to a church or a foundation.

PT: Why do you think this happened?

LGW: It's a conspiracy to take over the public school system. The Emergency Manager is dictatorial—he can do whatever he wants. We the voters of Michigan voted against public act 72—the Emergency Manager law. Then the governor turned around and created another public act, which was unconstitutional. It overrode our vote and gave them

complete control to do whatever they want without notifying the community. It's a fascist rule. This is contemptuous.

When you deny people the history (as found in books) of who they are, you are trying to keep them repressed and confused. People need their sense of history.

PT: What is the next step?

LGW: We are joining coalitions with the Welfare Rights Organization; Stop the Emergency Manager organization and others. The next step is to be united and strong.

PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE READING GROUPS!

The People's Tribune encourages our readers to form groups to study and discuss, especially our cover stories and editorials. Call or email us to find out if there is a People's Tribune reading group in your area.

(800) 691-6888 info@peopletribune.org

DETROIT'S BANKRUPTCY REVEALS THREATS TO RETIREES AND AMERICA'S PENSION SYSTEM

By Johnny Wright

DETROIT, MI — On July 18, Detroit Emergency Manager Kevyn Orr filed a Chapter 9 bankruptcy, making Detroit the largest municipal bankruptcy filing in U.S. history. Bankruptcy law pays secured creditors first and unsecured creditors last or not at all. Bank of America, Chase, Citi, Goldman Sachs, etc. are secured creditors. Pension plans and retirement payments are unsecured creditors, facing cuts as the capitalist solution to the crisis of financing modern cities. Municipal Bankruptcy under Michigan's Emergency Manager Act (public act 436) is equivalent to placing the emergency manager on crack cocaine. Rather than smoking cocaine, the emergency manager places a lifetime of pension fund payments, retiree obligations, city services and public assets into the crack pipe to be smoked—consumed—by the banks.

Retired workers drawing pension checks and the pension plans of active workers head the top of the unsecured creditors list. If an emergency manager can take away 50% of retired workers' retiree monthly paychecks, why should an active worker put a portion of their wages into a pension fund for 30 years? Pensions are savings from wages rath-

er than a government entitlement.

Labor unions, which are legally prevented from negotiating for retirees, sued the city stating the bankruptcy petition violates the Michigan's state constitution. The state constitution protects public pensions for 10,000 city workers and 20,000 retirees. Article IX Section 24 of the Michigan constitution states: "The accrued financial benefits of each pension plan and retirement system of the state and its political subdivisions shall be a contractual obligation thereof which shall not be diminished or impaired thereby." The state constitution protects public pensions because these workers do not qualify for social security or protection from failed pension schemes by the government pension board.

Governor Snyder, who has sworn to uphold the Michigan Constitution when administered his oath of office, is part of the fascist state legislators enacting the Emergency Manager Law and reducing the state's retirees to poverty through pension theft. The bankruptcy places the General Retirement System of the city of Detroit and the Police and Fire Retirement System of the city of Detroit, as well as trustees associated with administering the pensions, at the top of the unsecured list, facing economic disas-



Protest at the first public meeting held with Detroit's unelected Emergency Financial Manager.

PHOTO/DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

ter with pending cuts to pensions.

We are seeing attacks across the country on state and city workers' pension plans and on other kinds of government spending that serves the people. In this era of high technology, with fewer and fewer workers needed, the corporations are restructuring government to take money away from workers they don't need and funnel it into the

pockets of the corporations.

The Emergency Manager system in Michigan is part of this process. The Emergency Manager (EM) is fascism. EM rule suspends local government, including the Mayor, City Council, elected schools boards, and gives an individual or corporation the authority to administer a political jurisdiction as a dictator. Michigan currently has 21 state-appointed

ed emergency financial managers. If the court allows the bankruptcy to go through as planned, it will be a move to privatization of all government services and public sphere assets. There is plenty of money in our country. The federal government needs to step in and guarantee that our public services and resources remain public, and that every person has the basic necessities of life.

Healthcare and civility spiraling out of control

By: Maureen D. Taylor, State Chairperson, Welfare Rights Organization and Michael Berger, R.N.

This article is part three of a three-part series.

DETROIT, MI — No, it is not true. Detroiters NEVER filed for bankruptcy, and we never would.

The Republican Michigan Governor, spurred on by his corporate buddies, seized onto this current crisis, then suggested the current solution. We don't want our city and our assets sold off to corporate interests as they salivate, targeting what we have built up over 300 years of development. This entire Emergency Manager issue is a scam that is being engaged to access Detroit and make it a border town along the river, where they can control commerce between America and Canada.

Billionaires taking junkets to Detroit in search of lake-front property they can buy and turn into playgrounds for the rich are all too common occurrences.

Even our beloved Belle Isle, the place where residents have always gone with our families to enjoy nature and outside events, is part of the Detroit fire sale—and we are fighting angry.

Technology is replacing hundreds of thousands of workers and this has had a tremendous impact on our quality of life. Hospitals closed, what a sight to see! Major hospitals open, with entire floors of empty hospital beds, while the emergency rooms on the first floor explode with indigent ill persons.

President Obama's "Affordable Healthcare Act" is the first medical initiative that the country has seen, and it is far from Universal Healthcare, which is what we all need. The extension of healthcare to all Americans is fought at every level.

The country should look at Detroit to see and better understand what is coming to other states which are experiencing the introduction of mass technology, and see what it means to local economies. What we are witnessing is

the frantic attempt by the 1% to make things work for them, when they are the reason for the layoffs, all over the world. They are in a hopeless situation—trying to maintain maximum profits as they lay off workers, who now cannot buy what the computers and robots manufacture. Their desperation is expressed as fascism, the last attempt to manage and control by destroying democracy, destroying unions, encouraging violence, disrupting voting rights, making middle income workers face poverty, making the poor poorer, etc.

The American worker is in full disarray and unsure about what steps to take next in the face of these mounting attacks. Few voices are demanding universal healthcare that covers all. Few voices are raising the call for zero homelessness. Few voices are demanding accessible public education for all children.

The country is under attack by these corporate pirates who are demanding that their standard of living gets better while the 99% loses ground. Civility is lost be-



Retirees from the auto companies rally at Cobo Hall in Detroit.

PHOTO/DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

tween opposing viewpoints, and now we are witness to a national act of violence in the form of the not guilty verdict in the Trayvon Martin case.

We will sink further and further into the depths of destruction if we continue to allow our sense of social justice and humanity to be destroyed by the rise of these

corporate pirates. They took pensions, but I said nothing because mine was not touched. They passed Stand Your Ground laws, but I said nothing because my children were not harmed. They closed hospitals, but I said nothing because I wasn't sick. We all know what happened next...

CHALLENGING UNJUST LAWS

From the Editors

The murder of Trayvon Martin and the freeing of the criminal who committed it has become a rallying point for all who cry out against injustice. We are witnessing the beginning of a powerful spontaneous movement that is challenging the confusion of 'respect for law' by demanding justice. This is happening at the historical moment when electronic production is replacing jobs and destroying our society. The gap between law and justice is where we must educate ourselves to form a vision of a new society with common ownership of the means of life, which will end forever the freedom to murder of our children.

Crowds took to the streets of Chicago (above), Lincoln Nebraska (middle), and Atlanta (below) to protest the killing of Trayvon Martin and the acquittal of George Zimmerman.

PHOTO (ABOVE)/BRETT JELINEK
PHOTO (MIDDLE)/JOSHUA REDLINE
PHOTO (BELOW)/ JOHN SLAUGHTER



50th anniversary march demands jobs and justice

By John Williams

DETROIT, MI — The theme of the August 24, 2013, 50th Anniversary March on Washington rally is “Rally for Jobs and Justice.”

While capitalism was expanding in 1963, it is contracting now. It is causing more conflict between the “owning class” and the workers. Conditions are worse and very different now than they were 50 years ago.

According to economic reports, 53% of all American workers make less than \$30,000 per year. More than 100 million Americans are enrolled in government “means tested” welfare programs. In 1950, one out of 50 Americans was on Medicaid. Today it is one out of six. The U.S. Census cites 146 million American as being poor or low-income.

In contrast, the wealthiest one percent has a greater net worth than the bottom 90% of Americans combined. Forbes states that the 400 wealthiest Americans have more wealth than the bottom 150 million Americans.

It is important to note that the capitalist system (the foundation of these problems) is undergoing a crisis because the privately owned technology (computers and robots) is replacing human labor. This is permanently wiping out jobs, and the result is there aren't enough people with money to buy everything that is produced, so the economy is collapsing. On top of this, those who are becoming permanently unemployed are a threat to the system, because their needs can no longer be met by capitalism. Therefore, the ruling class is on the offen-

sive to protect its private property. The brutal and savage attack on welfare recipients was the format for increasing the assault on the rest of the working class.

Governors in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota led the charge, culminating with President Clinton's “welfare to work.” In addition, the rulers and their cronies are attacking the work force by diluting the Voting Rights Act to reduce its impact to zero power. Having “emergency managers” take over many cities further negates the peoples' votes. Sequestration plans currently in effect (based on an agreement between the Democrats and Republicans in Washington D.C.) are having disastrous consequences for an increasing number of people. Social Security and Medicare, long thought to be untouch-

able, are on the table, impacting millions of Americans.

Workers are more receptive to new ideas today than they were 50 years ago. They are beginning to see that the current economic system is in contradiction to workers' needs. They can be alerted to the fascism we are facing and the form it is taking. They can be urged to reject the calls by the ruling elite and its cronies that “we are all in this together.” It's time to call for nationalization of the banks and corporations in the interest of the people. The schools and healthcare should be publicly owned. The corporate government took over the corporations and banks when it needed to in order to protect their profits. The people should be able to nationalize the corporations to make them serve the people's needs.

HAIKU FOR TRAYVON MARTIN PREY

Prey without a prayer
Jury followed
instructions:
Find George not guilty!

© 2013 Wardell
Montgomery, Jr.
(7-18-13)
wardellmontgomery@
sbcglobal.net
313-821-8660

Texas executes 500th prisoner: How many were innocent?

By David Atwood

HOUSTON, TX — Protests took place across Texas as the state executed its 500th prisoner since capital punishment started again in the state in 1982. Kimberly Clark, an African-American woman, was executed on June 26, 2013. She is the fourth woman executed by Texas in recent history, the other three being Karla Faye Tucker (1998), Betty Lou Beets (2000) and Francis Newton (2005).

Texas is the leading state in the nation when it comes to executing its citizens. It has more executions than the next six states combined (Virginia = 110, Oklahoma = 103, Florida = 77, Missouri = 68, Alabama = 55 and Ohio = 51). The high number of executions can be attributed to politics and a criminal justice system tainted with economic and racial biases. The racial biases recently came to light with the case of Duane Buck, an African-American man who was sent to death row after he was described by a psychologist as a danger to society because of his race. A petition for a new sentencing hearing for Duane Buck can be found on www.change.org.



Protests in Texas as the state executed its 500th prisoner since capital punishment started again in the state in 1982. PHOTO/JENNIFER SIMMONS

change.org.

As the 500th execution was approaching in Texas, many of us asked, “How many of those 500 people were actually innocent?” We knew that our criminal justice system was flawed since there had been 12 people officially exonerated and released from death row in the past 30 years, the last one being Anthony Graves. And there was strong evidence that several people

who had been executed, such as Cameron Todd Willingham, Ruben Cantu and Carlos De Luna, were actually innocent. It is not a stretch to say that, out of the 500 executions, 10 or more people could have been innocent.

Despite this dismal history, there is some good news on the horizon. Executions are decreasing in Texas as they are across the nation. Texas execut-

ed 16 people in 2012 compared to 40 in 2000. As of July 16, 2013, there have been 9 executions in Texas. There are several reasons for the drop in executions, one being that the citizens of the state are becoming more aware of flaws in the criminal justice system, such as mistaken eyewitness identification, false confessions and prosecutorial misconduct. Citizens are also becoming more aware of the cost

of the death penalty. A study by the Dallas Morning News in 1992 estimated the average cost of a death penalty case to be \$2.3 million dollars versus \$750,000 for a life sentence. The disparity is largely due to the huge legal expenses associated with capital punishment. The money wasted on the death penalty could be better used for effective crime prevention measures.

Six more executions are currently scheduled in Texas during 2013. Information about scheduled executions can be obtained by going to the website of the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (www.tcadp.org).

Whenever an execution takes place in Texas, it is covered live on **Execution Watch** on Pacifica Community Radio’s local station in Houston (www.KPFT.org). Past shows are available in the KPFT **Execution Watch** archives. Letters can be sent to Execution Watch, KPFT Radio, 419 Lovett Blvd, Houston, TX 77006.

David Atwood, Founder, Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty can be reached at dpatwood@igc.org

Fruitvale, Trayvon Martin and the value of human life in America



This California billboard promotes Fruitvale Station, a film created to share the story of Oscar Grant, an innocent man killed by BART police.

PHOTO/SILICON VALLEY DE-BUG

By Shamako Noble

SAN JOSE, CA — This weekend marked the release of *Fruitvale Station*, a film created to share the story of Oscar Grant. The maker of the film, Ryan Coogler, comments on CNN.com that he would be the same age as Oscar Grant if he were alive today. He is 27. Oscar Grant would have been 27. Trayvon Martin would have been 18. In an interview with CNN, Ryan reflected, “What gets glossed over is that we’re human beings too, like everybody else, young African-American males. Our humanity can often be found in our relationships with the people who are closest to us, and those relations aren’t often shown in headlines and whatever types of media you see us portrayed in. I hope the people can see a little bit of themselves in the character if they sit down and watch the film, and have a little bit of insight.”

Hip Hop said “Fuck the Police,” during a period and in an area of the country where history has shown time and time again that the “law enforcement”

agencies, far from being the servants and protectors of Black and Brown communities, are another force of repression, destruction and death. When songs like “Batteram,” which depicted military occupation tactics in an American urban city, long before a drone program was even being considered in the public arena, they spoke to a reality that virtually every person of color knows, the same reality that Black mothers and fathers now struggle sharing with their kids. The reality is that they must look their child in the eyes and somehow get them to understand, “They will kill you and there will be nothing we can do about it.”

It doesn’t have to be this way. On the very same day that the verdict arrived, the family of Steve Salinas found some justice when the San Jose Police Department was ordered to pay \$1 million in restitution for his death by taser some years ago. They were assisted by the support and leadership of the organization Silicon Valley De-Bug (www.siliconvalleydebug.com). Other organizations like the Women’s Economic Agenda Project in

Oakland (weap.org) are working to tie together the struggles of workers, mothers, youth, unions, educators and all of us who are impacted by the ideology of the 1 percent, to form solutions that leave nobody behind. And there is still the unfortunate reality of Marissa Alexander, a woman who got 20 years in prison, the mandatory minimum for firing warning shots against her abusive husband. This, as 30,000 prisoners in California, and thousands of other prisoners, strike against the inhumane conditions that Michelle Alexander refers to as “The New Jim Crow.”

There are many collectives and individuals working towards a different vision right as we speak. Will we successfully grapple with the demons of the past and rise to the challenges of the present quickly enough to secure a brighter future for generations to come?

For the complete version of this article, visit www.siliconvalleydebug.org/articles/2013/07/20/trayvon-martin-oscar-grant-and-value-human-life-america/

DC workers want a living wage – They confront corporations and their own mayor

By Rev. Dr. Edwin L. Jones, Sr.,
Pastor, Living Faith Baptist Church
and International Ministries,
Washington, DC



Unions, the faith community, community organizations, and low-wage workers in Washington, DC have been mobilizing to pass and to get DC Mayor Vincent Gray to sign the LRAA: the Large Retailer Accountability Act. LRAA is designed to make sure that the most profitable national retail chains pay a living wage to DC workers. These retailers gross more than \$1 billion a year and have stores larger than 75,000 square feet in the District. Given their size and wealth, they are best able to pay a living wage without a large impact on consumer prices. Retail workers in DC earn a third less than oth-

er workers, currently one of the widest gaps in the nation.

On July 10, 2013 the DC City Council passed the LRAA by a vote of 8 to 5. Corporations have poured millions of dollars to stop this bill and have been lobbying hard to insure that Mayor Gray vetoes it.

By signing the bill, Mayor Vincent Gray has an opportunity to stand up for DC workers at a time when many are being displaced by wages and rising costs of living. Signing this bill does not send a signal that DC doesn't want jobs; it says we demand the kind of jobs that allow DC residents to afford to live and work in the city.

Some of the opponents in City Council and the mayor's office argue that this legislation will cost jobs and maintain the lack of retail options in poorer parts of the city that need it the most. But big box stores that are already in DC, like Target, Home Depot, Best Buy, and Costco, have been very successful here and are not talking about leaving.

Retail is a major source of employment in the city, but wag-

es and benefits for these jobs tend to be very low and leave many working families in poverty. One out of ten people who work for District retailers live below the federal poverty line, according to an analysis of Census data by the Economic Policy Institute. This is three times the poverty rate of those who work in non-retail jobs in the city. Yet it doesn't have to be this way. Some DC retailers pay a living wage and succeed. Costco, which recently opened a store in the Fort Lincoln neighborhood, reports that it pays its workers an average wage of \$20.89 an hour and that 84% of their employees are DC residents.

The question is, will City Council and the Mayor represent workers, or will workers have to carry out this fight for basic necessities on their own?

*Rev. Jones can be reached at
christianeddirec@aol.com*

**Low wage workers protest in
Washington, D.C.**

PHOTO/RWEINHARD



GREEN PARTY ANNUAL MEETING IN IOWA CITY

By Shamako Noble

SAN JOSE, CA — The Green Party's annual national meeting was held in Iowa City, Iowa from July 25-28.

There were several notable outcomes of this year's Green Party annual national meeting. The most important was the sense of commitment to building the party in a healthy and sustained way. The level of seriousness of the party leadership exceeded my expectations.

We made a realistic assessment of both our successes and the challenges we face. The Green Party has had over 300 elected officials, including Mayors and city councilmembers, and 100 of them are still in office right now. This has been done in spite of enormous obstacles in place against ballot access for third parties.

At the same time, we understand just how far we have to go. To be effective we have to grow the membership and financial resources necessary for the big victories. One sign of our

seriousness was the hours of debriefs of the 2012 presidential campaign. These presidential campaigns are critical to building the party, and they offer an essential national platform for the local campaigns and organizing efforts.

Another outcome was the se-

rious grappling with issues of class and racial diversity. The focus on issue-based outreach, and intentional work on creating leadership space for people of color, indicated a new commitment to building a party that accurately reflects our base in the broad movement fighting for our

program. It was understood that a party that fails to do this is a party that will never get off the ground.

The 2012 Stein - Honkala campaign represented the growing convergence of the economic and environmental movements. Jill and Cheri like to joke that

since they began their campaign, Jill taught Cheri how to eat blueberries and Cheri taught Jill how to go to jail, but it is deeper than that. It is spelled out in the Green New Deal. The Green New Deal was the centerpiece of their campaign, and continues to serve as a visionary program to inspire the party going forward.

More and more, leaders of the resistance to economic austerity and leaders battling climate change understand that they cannot advance one without allying with the other.

Although the meeting produced a number of structural improvements, the most important accomplishment was the setting of a political tone for the times we live in. No political, electoral organization is better positioned to resist the devastation of corporate America today than the Green Party. The Green Party is an opening and a vehicle for the social movement that is arising in America today. It is up to us to take advantage of this opportunity.



Jill Stein, Cheri Honkala, and Shamako Noble are interviewed by Voice of Russia during the Green Party annual meeting.

PHOTO/STARLENE RANKIN

Saving jobs and job training programs: The Green alternative

By Dorany Pineda

LONG BEACH, CA — On January 23, 2013, the Board of Trustees of Long Beach City College (LBCC) surprised students and the community by terminating 11 technical and applied arts programs, including aviation maintenance, diesel mechanics, interior design and welding. Using the excuse of a budget deficit, the College President formed a plan to persuade the members of the Board of Trustees to cut these important programs.

Lead by the Lumina Foundation, a non-profit, conservative organization, the president and the Board of Trustees aim to turn a community college with 86 years of teaching skills into a college preparatory institution. Current articles have exposed the true intentions of the Lumina Foundation, whose hidden agenda is to corporatize public education, coated by a supposed interest in increasing graduation rates. The discontinuation of these programs doesn't simply deny many students the opportunity for bright futures outlined by the American Dream; it prevents them from becoming active members in their community, while also eradicating skills



Student protest at ribbon cutting ceremony for the bookstore (run by Barnes and Noble) and the New Student Center at the Pacific Coast Campus in Long Beach, CA—all built with taxpayers bond money.

that are essential to building a progressive society.

In addition to this, several members of the Board have betrayed the will of Long Beach City voters, essentially stealing their hard earned cash by misusing public funds. Voted by over two thirds of the electorate, \$700 million in bond money was given to LBCC to renovate and construct new buildings

that would house the trade programs and supply cutting-edge equipment to train students. It should be mentioned that three of the board members are liberal Democrats. Rather than fighting for the rights of these students, board members voted to shut down the trade and applied-arts programs, lock up the state of the art buildings, and leave thousands of students angry and

cheated, many of them a few classes away from completing their programs. Many student leaders have directed marches and protests across the campus against these cuts, including Student Board of Trustees member, Jason Troia.

But a new type of people's politician, Dr. Marshall Blesofsky, has entered the race in Long Beach as a candidate for

one of the board seats. A USC trained educator and an activist, he has worked with groups like Veterans for Peace, Occupy Long Beach, the Homeless Organizing Committee in the 90s, and the Long Beach Area Peace Network, fighting for peace and social justice. He is a member of the Green Party who is disenchanted by the dominant political parties. Although the race is non-partisan, his campaign is inspired by the Green Party presidential campaign of Jill Stein. He sees this upcoming election as an opportunity for educational reform, and to begin breaking the hold of corporate controlled political parties. .

"The upcoming elections give the people of Long Beach a chance to reverse these trends and restore the programs that are so important to our community and the young people of Long Beach," he says. If elected to a seat in LBCC's Board of Trustees, Blesofsky will commit to revitalizing and expanding the trade programs, turning LBCC into a student-centered, public institution rather than a corporate one, and preparing students for productive roles in a renewable, self-sustaining, green future.

PHOTO/XANDIAN PRODUCTIONS

SPEAKERS FOR A NEW AMERICA AND THE STRUGGLE FOR FREE, EQUAL EDUCATION

Our speakers are at the forefront of the struggle for free, equal education. Our speakers hold government responsible to guarantee equal funding for every child so that every single person can maximize their skills and human potential.

Speakers include:



William H. Watkins Ph.D is a leading educator, scholar and author, whose new book, *The Assault On Public Education*, brings together important critics of contemporary education to describe the state of war declared on public schools.



Steve Teixeira helps inner-city students on the university level close the gap between their academic skills and those from affluent communities. He is an officer of a statewide university union. He helped create EOP, Chicano Studies, and the learning skills center at California State, L.A.



Steven Miller is a retired science teacher in the Oakland, California public schools. He has written extensively about the privatization of public schools and other resources of society.



Lew Rosenbaum is an associate member of the Caucus Of Rank and file Educators (CORE), a member of Teachers for Social Justice, Rogers Park Neighbors for Public Schools and the Education Committee of Occupy Rogers Park-Chicago. He edits an on-line newsletter, the Chicago Labor and Arts Notes.



Kimberly King is a professor of Community Psychology and a faculty union organizer at California State University. Her research focuses on the psychological and social effects of poverty, race, class and gender discrimination and African American and low-income college student success and barriers.

To book a speaker in your city, or to receive a full listing of speakers, contact *Speakers for a New America* at 800-691-6888 or email info@speakersforanewamerica.com

SHOUT OUT POETRY READING

By Eduardo Castro

FRESNO, CA — On July 13, 2013, at Manchester Center, a program called Manchester Experiment presented a poetry reading entitled SHOUT OUT. The program was put together and organized by local artist Ramiro Martinez. It was a poetry reading of 10 amazing poets. They read their poetry to an audience of about 100 people. In a building that had no air conditioner the poets read their poetry with a lot of emotion and vigor. The audience enjoyed the subjects covered, which varied from political consciousness to everyday issues.

Ramiro Martinez indicated that the purpose of the program was to bring outside and regional poets to start a dialogue with Valley poets, hopefully on the art of creative discourse. This would lead to more creativity in the Valley. My intention was to bring poets from different regions together to read poems as a collective whole. Ramiro feels poets are a witness to all things occurring in society. They are

messengers for humanity to start engaging in society's needs with a humanistic approach. Poets express their own personal feelings, as themselves and to integrate other forms into real life society.

Ramiro Martinez acknowledged the presence of the People's Tribune and Tribuna del Pueblo. When people came to review the papers on the table, the distributor told them 'this is the Political Consciousness Table'. Ramiro told the audience that they needed to look over the papers in order to get a true perspective on what is really happening in our society.

Matt Sedillo, one of the poets, indicated that these two papers help explain why this country is in the mess it's in - the increasing denial by the ruling class of people's basic human needs in a country of plenty. It is the voice of those who are oppressed and being attacked by corporations and the government.

Ramiro Martinez further stated that poems show a command of the poet's feelings by looking at the reality of our present society. They envision a society



Pete Ramirez reads a poem in Fresno, California. The program brought outside and regional poets to start a dialogue with Valley poets. PHOTO/JOSEPHINE GILDERSLEEVE

that is communal and integrative, where everything is shared with the community, instead of the individualism of capitalism.

The future plans for Manchester Experiment are for a combination of visual arts, poetry, music, mural making and performance. One such endeavor is

the unveiling of a mural depicting movies with the theme of rebelling, or revolting. He visualizes the Manchester Experiment as an art form which he calls 'open heart surgery' - an art form that is autonomous and becomes one with the community.

The Manchester event showed

the potential for developing the political conscious of those being oppressed by those in power, be it the corporations, government and others. Those who see the need to fight together as a working class of whatever racial groups, to get back the necessities of life the ruling class has taken from us.

From the darkness of night, the light of a new day: Scipio Africanus Jones

By Raymond L. Smith

Editor's Note: This is part three of a four-part series.

NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR — Organized, formal education for African-Americans in North Little Rock began as early as 1900. Noteworthy academic progress was continuing while facilities improvements were also experienced during the decades. Initially, elementary grades were the focus of the system. However, in 1911 high school courses were added. The school's name changed several times during this developing stage. Another construction project was completed in 1928 and the school's name was changed to Scipio Africanus Jones. Still improving, Scipio A. Jones moved into a new building at Tenth and Cedar Streets in 1952. Jones was officially classified as a Junior and Senior High School housing grades seven through twelve. The elementary classes remained at their old location, and the school also received a name change.

Scipio A. Jones was a beacon of light for the African-American community in North Little Rock. Although during the beginning years there were several principals, all living former stu-

dents remember—Mr. Eliza H. Hunter. According to sources, Hunter joined the staff in 1935. His tenure as principal was from 1942 until 1970.

The philosophical views that made up the Jones High institution were the collective views of the Jones High staff. Mrs. V. R. Robinson was one teacher in whose name a scholarship has been established by alumni. Other staff members were Mr. E. R. Brittnum and Jones graduate Coach Andrew Beavers. We cannot mention all the names, but we are compelled to randomly mention a few. Other prominent staff were Coach Cledic Jackson, Mr. Willie A. Vincent, and Jones graduate Coach Curtis Clay. The commitment of the staff was supported by their willing agreement to prepare themselves as thoroughly as possible. Also they were dedicated and committed to the students. On the staff over the years were Mrs. A. E. Eskridge, Mrs. Geraldine C. Kay, and Mr. Frank J. Boyle. Boyle was the band director from 1958 through 1970. He inherited a group that was already popular on campus and developed "The Marching One Hundred," known throughout the state.

The school colors were navy blue and gold and the mascot was

the "Mighty" Dragon. S. A. Jones High nurtured its students and prepared them to meet the challenges of life. Many may wonder what a school needs to produce successful students. The staff at Jones instinctively developed curiosity in the minds of their students, then helped incubate it with love and discipline (self-esteem). That curiosity and encouragement created a burning thirst for knowledge. In their quest to quench that thirst, students were motivated to work to achieve that knowledge. Knowledge is the first step toward success. The teachers and staff agreeably adhered to the curriculum mandated by the state. They also aggressively and willingly improvised to meet the needs of the students. High expectations of all students were a daily reality. Teaching the students was not just a means to maintain a job. It was also a mission to change and improve lives.

As far back as the forties and fifties, Jones' graduates were leaving their mark in the military and also becoming educators. In the fifties and sixties, several alumni of Jones were playing in the NBA and the NFL. An untold number of graduates became successful business people or embarked on governmental careers.



Low wage workers walked off their jobs to march for justice on August 1 2013. Technology is causing mass unemployment which is driving down wages. If workers owned the economy, then no one would have to worry about living in poverty. The necessities of life would be distributed based on need, without money. The workers in this photo are protesting in Chicago. PHOTO/BOB SIMPSON



Benton Harbor is the first municipality where Emergency Manager powers have been used to strip power from all of its elected officials. PHOTO/BRETT JELINEK

Positive news from Benton Harbor

By Reverend Edward Pinkney



BENTON HARBOR, MI — A city income tax will help restore the city of Benton Harbor. A Michigan-based research group, citizens research—council of Michigan, says city income tax appears to work best in smaller cities like Benton Harbor. The income tax works extremely well for cities with a population between 2-11,000. A new income-tax will provide an infusion of a lot of corporate revenue to support our city.

Marcus Muhammad, an outspoken City Commissioner and Committee Chairman, spoke during a meeting of the City Commission's Legislative Committee, which endorses the tax plan. Muhammad said the committee set the tax rate on corporations and residents at 1% and on non-residents who work in the city at 0.5%.

Muhammad also said several businesses that receive tax breaks would now have to pay the city income tax, because there are no loopholes. Those businesses include Whirlpool, Atlantic Automotive and many others companies who do not pay taxes. He said the city income tax would also include money from the television revenue generated from the senior PGA tournaments, which are schedule for 2014, 2016, and 2018.

Also, the president of Whirlpool, Jeff Fettig, who makes over \$15,000,000 a year, would have to pay one per cent of his income. Harbor Shores, Senior PGA players, including the television personnel, each and every one of these wealthy individuals who draw a check, will have to pay.

With a 6 yes, 2 no and 1 abstaining, the City Commissioners adopted an ordinance approving the tax to be placed on the ballot. Come November the citizens of Benton Harbor will vote on whether or not they want to enact the city income tax. The campaign for the passage begins now.

I am supporting the income tax to take back our city and restoring it. I am backing this legislation because it is high time that the corporations and wealthy pay at least some of their fair share.

Green Shadow Cabinet on Immigration

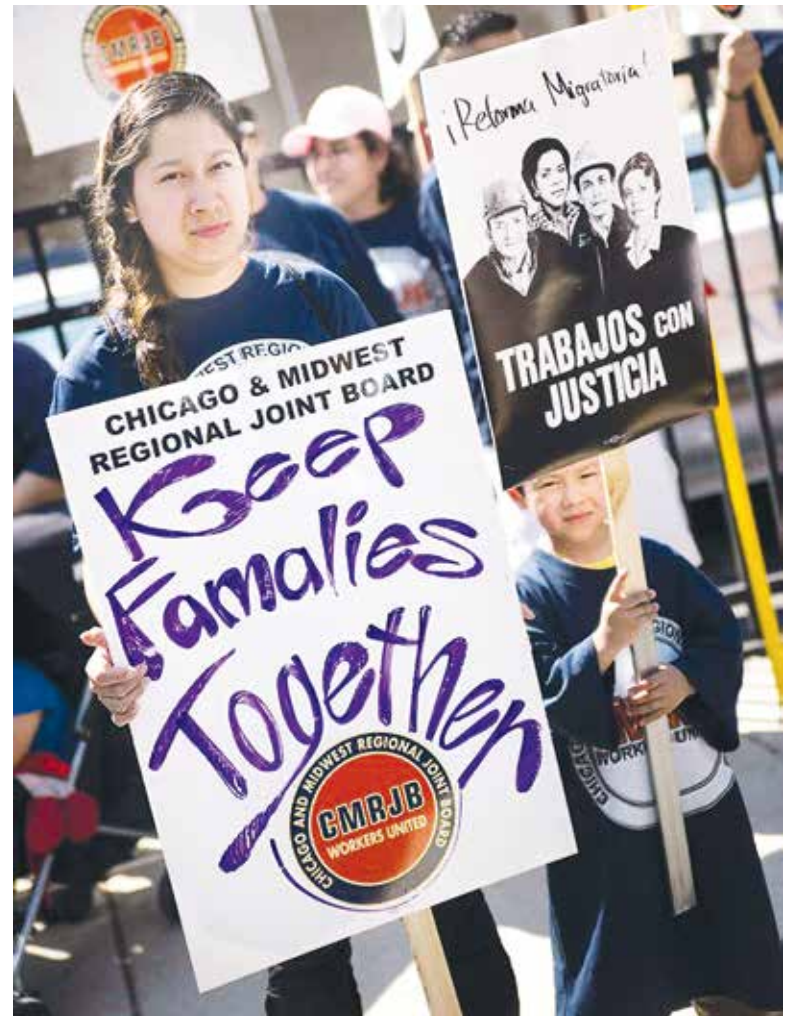
Editors Note: This is excerpts from an interview with Gloria Meneses Sandoval, Secretary of Immigration, for the Green Shadow Cabinet. It appeared in our sister publication, the Tribuno del Pueblo.

Tribuno del Pueblo: Could you explain to our audience what the Green Shadow Cabinet is?

Gloria Meneses Sandoval: It is an idea borrowed from Mexican and some European counterparts to show resistance and opposition to the established and monied interests who have bought, stolen, or swindled their way into elected office. By providing timely responses to current events we can raise the bar for just, sustainable solutions to the crises we face in the U.S. This exposes the self-serving intentions of the ruling parties, as well as showing that normal, everyday people like me can propose solutions that are humane, just, and cost-effective, unlike the austerity and repression that the established parties offer.

TP: What is the importance of a Green Shadow Cabinet on Immigration?

GMS: In the face of all the anti-immigrant rhetoric and hysteria, as well as all of the belt-tightening that the average American is being told is necessary, we offer a balanced and humane way to look at the phenomena of immigration, and show how in the end we are all in the same boat together. Ultimately, we have to educate ourselves as to the rea-



Woman marches with son for immigrant rights.

PHOTO/ADRIAN GARCIA

sons people immigrate in the first place, and how this fits into what makes America what it is today.

TP: What specifically does the Green Shadow Cabinet on Immigration call for?

GMS: First of all it calls for an immediate moratorium on deportations. We cannot be talk-

ing of just and humane immigration reform while the current administration is deporting more people than all the combined Republican presidents ever did, as we speak. We need humane, just reform, preserving family unity, decriminalizing human beings, and providing a path to citizenship, in a way that is affordable.

Don't be a robot

Don't be a robot, don't be a sheep.
Don't be scared to take a leap.
Freedom isn't free — you must fight for your right.
In this age of darkness we will find light.

— Julianna Cheng

BANCO JUSTICE FUND DINNER

Keynote Guest Speaker:
Danny Glover, actor, activist, UNICEF Ambassador
Other speakers include **Dr. Jill Stein**,
Rev. Al Sampson, and **David L. Lowery, Jr.**

When: October 5, 2013
Doors Open: 6PM
Dinner and Program: 7PM

Where: Lake Michigan College,
2755 E. Napier Avenue,
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Admission: \$50
Please mail payment to:
BANCO, 1940 Union Ave., Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Phone: 269-925-0001