

# PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE

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DONATION \$1



Eli, age 3 (lower left) and his mother, Samantha, 24 (upper right) asleep on 4th Avenue in Portland, Oregon, across the street from City Hall. PHOTO/JOHN RUDOFF

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# ABOLISH POVERTY: BUILD A NEW SOCIETY

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# Morally bankrupt: Pensions under attack

## EDITORIAL

It has been said that a society is judged on how it treats its elders. In America, our judgment day is fast approaching. Our economy is in collapse and cities, counties, and states have taken on debts—often to criminal Wall Street banks and corporations—to continue providing public services and meet their pension responsibilities. Yet local governments continue to find themselves in financial hardship because the capitalist system itself is falling apart. Rather than provide for people, we are seeing these governments conspire with the corporations to steal the money that public workers already paid into their pensions, handing over workers' money to Wall Street profiteers under the guise of "deficit reduction" and "fiscal responsibility."

Detroit is the first major city to file for bankruptcy since the Great Recession began in 2008, threatening the pensions of its workers yet promising to pay off Wall Street loans. Within two years, Chicago, America's third largest city, will be unable to meet its obligations to fund its pensions because of an ever-increasing debt—which now stands at nearly \$29 billion. Debts are mounting nationwide.

We have a moral obligation to provide for retired workers and all elderly people. When pensions are cut, yet Wall Street loans are paid off, the corporations are looting the workers.

The financial crisis we are facing is based off of a lie: "there is not enough money." The "Great Recession" officially ended in June 2009 as profits and stocks rebounded. The rebound was made possible through a major shift of wealth as trillions of federal tax dollars were funneled into the financial institutions and corporations. Additionally, the private sector has boosted its profits by streamlining their ef-



**Detroiters' protest in front of the Federal courthouse on the first day of hearings around City retiree pensions. The pensions are at risk because the corporations won't pay for labor they don't need. The Emergency Financial Manager appointed by the governor is enforcing this.**

PHOTO/DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

iciencies through the use of advanced technology, increasingly exploitative working conditions, and permanently laying off millions of workers.

The truth is: US companies are sitting on about \$2 trillion dollars, according to JPMorgan. This is dead money, just sitting there unused. Corporations are reporting their highest profits in history, and the working class is seeing none of it. Never in history has there been this much productivity and wealth with so

few workers. This amassing of wealth is the result of increasing production with automation and electronics rather than with human labor. With labor being eliminated, corporations simply won't pay for the wellbeing of workers they no longer need. Profits are their only priority.

Despite massive inequality, we are living in an age of plenty. There is no excuse not to provide for our retirees. It is inhumane and criminal to let seniors go without food, housing, and

healthcare when there is so much to go around! For more and more people, capitalism simply is no longer able to provide a living, let alone a retirement. The only way retirees, indeed everyone, will have a secure future is to join together and fight for a new society where the people as a whole own the means of producing everything we need to live, unleashing abundance for everybody.

## 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.

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## 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](http://www.PeoplesTribune.org)

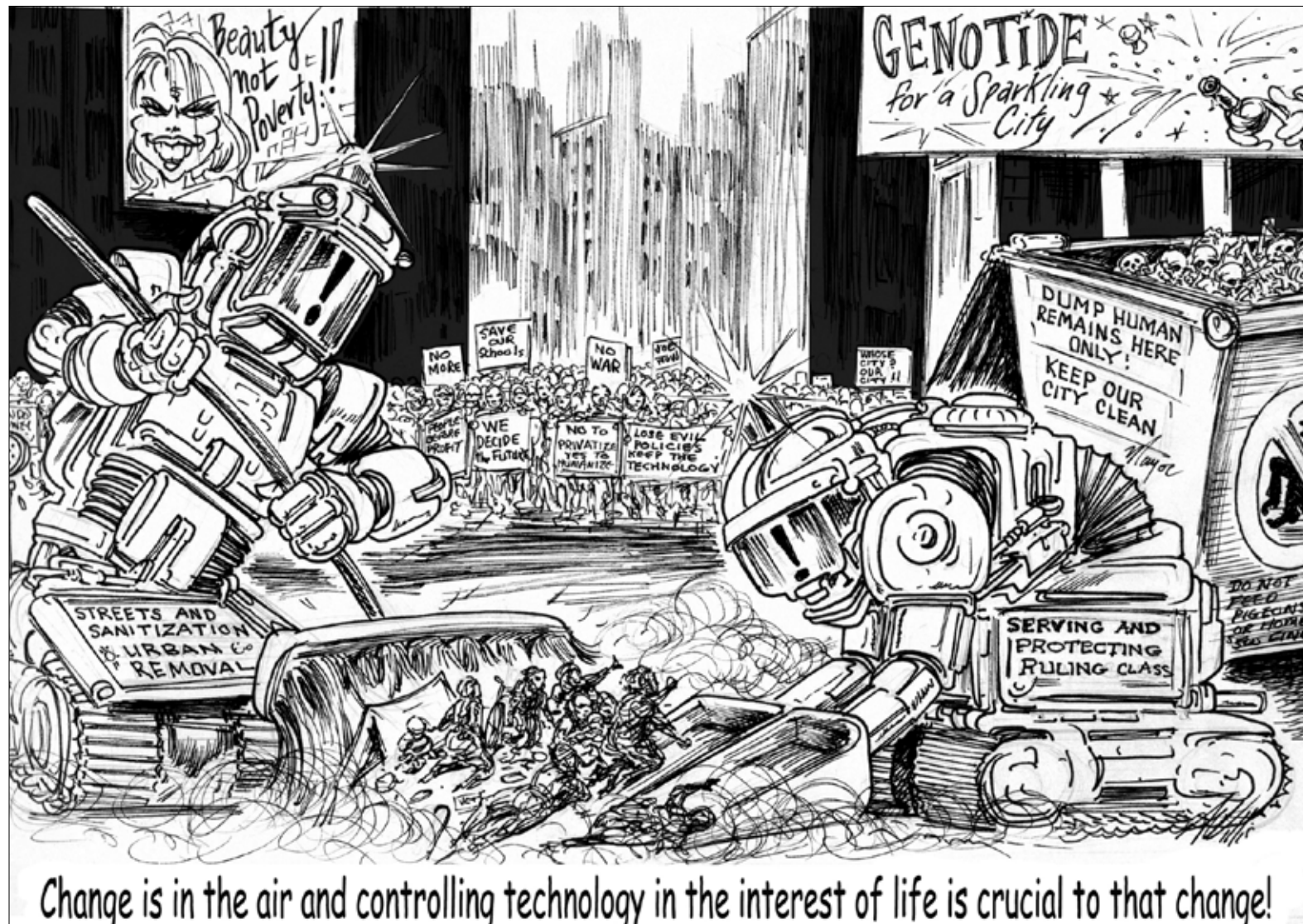
# ABOLISH POVERTY: BUILD A NEW SOCIETY

## COVER STORY

An old saying goes, “Poverty is like punishment for a crime you didn’t commit.” Columbia, South Carolina now punishes its homeless citizens by arresting them on sight. The city council recently unanimously passed its “Emergency Homeless Response Plan” with a hotline to report the homeless to police. Once arrested, the homeless are confined to a 24-hour “emergency shelter” on the outskirts of town—which is more like jail because they are not permitted to leave. There is no due process in a court, no judge and no sentence.

Arrest even extends to anyone attempting to feed the homeless. In Raleigh, North Carolina, police told church volunteers who have been feeding the homeless for years, “Now if you pass out food, you will go to jail.” At the same time, billionaire Mayor Michael Bloomberg of New York City has made it illegal to donate food directly to homeless shelters. These are not just the acts of a few mean-spirited city administrations. It is systemic and nationwide. More than 50 other cities around the country including Los Angeles, Phoenix, and San Diego have such laws.

These laws criminalize the homeless as well as anyone who may want to help them and deny basic rights we take for granted. If this reminds you of something in our country’s past, it should. The Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, nicknamed the ‘Blood Hound Law,’ turned the entire country into slave catchers and defenders of an inhuman system. It threatened anyone who aided or refused to retrieve runaway slaves with huge fines and jail. Anyone accused of being a



CARTOON/ANDY WILLIS

runaway slave had no rights to defend themselves or speak in court. This led to many previously free people finding themselves in chains. Preservation of the right to own human beings as private property in a dying slave system was the goal of that law.

Today as in the past, laws passed by politicians cannot cancel out economic laws. Electronic automated production is killing jobs and destroying the foundation of capitalism which is based on the buying and selling of labor power. Workers are pushed further into poverty, unable to buy back the very neces-

sities of life their labor has produced while corporate profits soar. In a move to save the dying system and maintain profits, all things in the public domain, including the government, are becoming the private property of the corporations. Government, which should be responsible for the well being of *the people*, attacks first the most vulnerable, and then everyone else with austerity measures and the sequester. Children, the elderly, disabled war veterans—in short, anyone pushed toward destitution is blamed for their own plight and then stripped of their rights.

We, the people, must go on the offensive. We need to build a powerful movement based on the interests of those who are forced out of the system into poverty. We must demand that corporate government be replaced by a true people’s government that provides the abundance, now produced with the new methods of production, to all based on need. This is the first step toward creating a new cooperative society where private property, now in the hands of the corporations, becomes public property, to be shared by all.

### People’s Tribune annual subscription drive

The People’s Tribune brings clarity to the growing movement. It strives to unite the movement around a vision of a better world and a strategy to achieve it. The People’s Tribune is financed solely by its readers. We can never allow corporate funders to tell us what to say or not say. Our annual subscription drive in October and November helps with our ever-rising production costs. We need your support! Please renew your subscription today. If you are not a subscriber, please subscribe. Order subscriptions as holiday gifts. Donate via paypal at [www.peopletribune.org](http://www.peopletribune.org) or send to PT, PO Box 3524, Chicago, IL 60654-3524.

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# Education for all: The fight for democracy



Parents and students march in front of the Chicago Public Schools headquarters on August 28. They are part of a national Journey for Justice. PHOTO/SARAH JANE RHEE

By Lew Rosenbaum

CHICAGO, IL — August 28, two days after school opened and on the 50th anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington, students, teachers, and parents marched outside the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) Board of Education. They declared that the dream Martin Luther King

held 50 years earlier, had not yet been fulfilled in Chicago. They boycotted and demonstrated for an elected school board, for libraries in every school, for the restoration of art and music classes, for the use of hidden tax moneys (TIFs) to fully fund the schools now.

Chicago schools opened with anxiety and anger in the commu-

nities affected. An historic number of schools closed, and those remaining open were hit with devastating budget cuts. The city created “safe passage” zones to compensate for situations where children were forced to walk across unsafe territory to get to school. Hundreds of volunteers and new-hires were deployed, and hundreds of police officers

were diverted to the appropriate corners.

In every major city in the country the Chicago story is being repeated: education is being restructured to fit an economy that no longer can provide jobs.

The Chicago demonstration was one of many organized around the country under the name Journey for Justice. Most of the schools closed in Chicago were in communities where African-Americans are concentrated, a fact replicated around the U.S. Chicago activists have long argued that the school actions disproportionately attack low-income, Black and Latino communities. Rousemary Vega, whose three children attended the now closed, award winning Lafayette elementary school, told the crowd outside the CPS headquarters: “Fifty years ago they marched for justice and freedom, today we boycott to remind them, if we don’t get no justice, then they don’t get no freedom.” ([www.progressillinois.com](http://www.progressillinois.com))

That Chicago’s response echoed across the country shows that we need a national solution to a capitalist system in crisis.

Students have actively resisted the Chicago school “reform” program. From the student walk-out at Social Justice High School last September to the occupation of Lafayette, student voices opposed educational destruction; and at the Free Minds Free People conference held in July in

Chicago’s Uptown, students proposed a student bill of rights nationally. On August 7, the newly formed Chicago Students Union, held a public meeting. They demanded collective bargaining rights with CPS. Students echoed comments reverberating across the city, that the unelected school board and the elected mayor do not listen when community issues are raised to them.

Once again the school board did not listen to the community. They passed the budget with all its cuts. Some parents were worried about how it would affect their children’s school record; for others a day off work was not an option. While CSU students plan to reach their goal of reaching every CPS student, a visible protest was made here and, according to Alliance for Education Justice organizer Mustafa Sullivan, in Alabama, Atlanta, Philly, NYC, Mississippi, New Orleans, Baltimore, Boston, Kansas, Kentucky. Were they successful? “I think they were. They were of different sizes and were symbolic, i.e. showing that on this 50th we are still oppressed, school closings are still happening” Sullivan said.

One of the reasons for the push for an elected, representative school board is the underlying recognition that our political “leaders” must be held accountable for their actions. The fight for education for all is emerging as a leading fight for democracy.

## Non-tenured faculty fight against their conditions

By Ana M. Fores Tamayo

DALLAS, TX — Non-tenure track faculty (part-time and full-time) makes up 75% of the academic workforce. We have been called many names, but the newest is “tenuous faculty.”<sup>1</sup> Many call us adjunct, but we cannot really be adjunct because we do the same things as regular faculty. We are tenuous, though, unsubstantiated, fragile. Are we therefore weak, afraid, invisible? We are **not** an appendage either, as the word *adjunct* indicates, and as universities would like to think—an arm to help schools make money. Tuitions increase, administrations are bloated, yet faculty salaries remain stagnant. Why? The compensation levels of 75% of Higher Ed’s faculty—this tenuous faculty—do not warrant unconscionable tuition hikes.

Do you know the living and working conditions of tenuous faculty? Many work at or under

the poverty line, without health insurance. Though some may be lucky to teach the equivalency of full time, many cobble together a living at several universities. Even those fortunate enough to teach under better circumstances have no academic freedom and suffer under precarious conditions. If we are “dismissed,” many remain ineligible for unemployment benefits. Yet we all deserve a living wage. Earning \$2700 per course, as is the average pay nationwide for tenuous faculty, without benefits<sup>2</sup>, is not equitable pay.

We do research, prep classes, grade—unless, of course, we are star professors who get help from graduate students—another grossly underpaid and exploited group. We email students, hold office hours, attend meetings and professional development, write letters of recommendation. We lecture. And the following semester, we do not know

whether we will be given the same course, or any course for that matter. Moreover, where do we hold office hours? At least six of us are assigned to an adjunct office, so more often our office becomes the library, the cafeteria, the hallway, the trunk of our car... There are so many things contingent faculty should have, yet do not have. How is this fair to students? Teacher working conditions **are** student learning conditions. Thus, we encourage everyone to sign the petition for Adjunct Justice: [www.signon.org/sign/better-pay-for-adjuncts.fb1?source=c.fb&r\\_by=426534](http://www.signon.org/sign/better-pay-for-adjuncts.fb1?source=c.fb&r_by=426534)

To fight for parity, this year we are holding Campus Equity Week (CEW), falling the week of October 27th. We want to draw special attention to our working conditions and plight. During CEW, we want to focus on academic quality, student success, and public policies that include pay equity, security and lack of

benefits. From the astronomical rise in student tuitions, to the sabotage of loan repayments through predatory banks to the unprecedented rise of tenuous faculty, students and faculty should rise together. We can send this message across the country, along with other plans—social dramas, legislative town halls—our imagination is the limit. We want to show the public in whatever way we can that **we are going to fight back**. Let’s begin our own education revolution, 21st century style! Learn more at [campusequity.org](http://campusequity.org).

Endnotes

1 Dr. Chris Nagel presented the paper “The Ethics of Tenuous Faculty.” This term is used with special permission from the author.

2 CAW: *Coalition on the Academic Workforce*, [http://www.academicworkforce.org/CAW\\_portrait\\_2012.pdf](http://www.academicworkforce.org/CAW_portrait_2012.pdf)



Over 12,000 people march in Austin, Texas for funding for K-12 and all levels of public education. PHOTO/ANA MARIA FORES TAMAYO

# Healthcare now and beyond the Affordable Care Act

By Rita Valenti

ATLANTA, GA — Rollout of the “market-place insurance exchanges” created by the Affordable Care Act (ACA), so-called Obamacare, begins October 1 with the bulk of ACA implementation set for January 1, 2014. It’s a two-edge sword. On the one hand, Americans with incomes between 100% and 400% of poverty (that’s an annual income between \$11,500 - \$45,690 for an individual and \$23,500-\$94,000 for a family of four) can buy private health insurance and qualify for a federal subsidy to offset some of the cost of that insurance. The less you make the higher the subsidy. On the other hand, the mandate to buy private health insurance backed up by federal subsidies is a prop for the very industry that has left over 50,000,000 uninsured. It’s the fox watching the hen house.

The never-ending policy debate about the good and bad of the ACA has obscured the strategic political substance of the structural changes occurring in healthcare.

First is the economic integration and consolidation of the healthcare delivery system. Subsidized by public funds, electronic medical records and Medicare industry-setting reimbursements

that are broadly based on patient outcomes, have been introduced. Conditions of living in poverty, food scarcity and limited access to comprehensive and compassionate healthcare are not factored into ‘outcome’ based healthcare. These changes are accelerating the closure of countless small community hospitals, ‘safety net’ hospitals, clinics and rural healthcare institutions.

Second is the failure of 17 states to expand Medicaid, with Southern States at the forefront of reaction. The Supreme Court’s ruling on the ACA reinforced states rights by permitting states to decline Medicaid expansion even with the Federal government paying 100% of the cost for three years. The most dispossessed section of the working class surviving below 100% of poverty will remain uninsured in states refusing Medicaid expansion. To add insult to injury is the exclusion of undocumented workers from any access to health insurance, public or private and the five-year waiting period for ‘documented’ immigrants.

The scope of these changes are felt throughout the working class. Multi-employer union contracts that cover their workers between periods of employment are at risk. UPS is dropping

spousal coverage to 15,000 of its non-union workers who qualify for insurance from their own employer, thus requiring a family to pay twice for coverage. More employers will use the excuse of the “mandate” to further erode employment-based insurance. Public employees and pensioners are painfully aware of how vulnerable their access to healthcare has become.

The time is now to confront this massive governmental support for corporate healthcare.

A strategic response can build critical class unity by elevating the program of those with no ties to a corporate agenda or their political parties. Medicaid must be expanded! The undocumented cannot be ignored. A united working class agenda for equal, comprehensive compassionate and publicly distributed healthcare based on need, not on degrees of income or identity differences, is necessary now to win healthcare for all!

**Hunger strike for “health care for all” at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago. Protesters say Northwestern refuses to add their undocumented family members to organ transplant lists.**

PHOTO/STEVE RHODES



## Fast food workers: ‘Up The Pay’ in the East Bay rises

By Shamako Noble

OAKLAND, CA — On August 29, fast food workers in Oakland joined fast food workers all over the country in taking a stand against big corporations. Many of us have stopped in at a KFC, McDonalds or Jack In The Box to grab a bite to eat. Corporations like the ones named above reap massive benefits, while the workers break their backs with no health care benefits. McDonalds alone has “served billions” and made billions because of it. The emergence of the fast food workers’ strikes represents a significant motion in the U.S. A new social contract must be implemented in the interest of the working class as a whole.

The Oakland event hosted over 300 people, and included unions and community organizations such as SEIU 1021, ILWU-Local 10, the Peralta Federation of Teacher’s Union, the Women’s Economic Agenda Project (WEAP), and the Al-

liance of California for Community Empowerment (ACCE) as lead organizer of this action. Many speakers graced the state, including Rep. Barbara Lee, Our Walmart leader, recently fired Dominic Ware, and WEAP’s, Ethel Long Scott. The action was energetic, organized and powerful. Even more significant, however, is what the fast food workers motion means for all U.S. workers.

The demands made by the workers of “East Bay Up the Pay!” are not only in unison with national efforts around the country, but also echo the voices of those who are engaged in similar struggles around a living wage, health care for the 99 percent and basic values like dignity and humanity. As reported by the “East Bay Up the Pay” White Paper, “there are over four million people working in the fast food industry. Their average age is 28 with a median wage of \$9.08 an hour. These wages fall far beyond the federal pov-

erty line for a worker who is able to work 40 hours a week, without ever getting sick.” Contrast this with McDonalds’ earnings of over \$5.5 billion in profit last year, and that company is one of many in which these workers often struggle.

At the heart of this struggle, undiscussed and carefully leveraged by owners and CEO’s, is laborless production. The economic revolution of the 1970’s resulted in the ongoing replacement of workers by machines. More and more we are seeing the automation of jobs ravage the U.S. workforce and undermine opportunity for many workers. These workers find themselves in low wage fast food jobs, and are becoming members of the class of dispossessed. Teachers, radio station DJ’s, bank tellers and fast food workers are among the jobs that continue to be targeted by the process of automation.

Ethel Long Scott, when asked about what the event represents said, “This vast, sweeping eco-



Fast food worker strike in California.

PHOTO/STEVE RHODES

omic shift taking place for over 40 years is now being responded to by workers who are recognizing that when the people can’t pay for the goods, a new social contract must be established to address that. These strikes are proposals for a new vision, and

the Women’s Economic Agenda Project supports that, as is reflected in the Resolutions of Action that came out of the World Courts of Women on Poverty in the U.S.” (See article on Page 9.)

# WAR AGAINST THE HOMELESS AND POOR GOES ON



Housing takeover for a homeless family in Tampa, FL.

PHOTO/DONATED

By Rev. Bruce Wright

ST. PETERSBURG, FL — With Tampa, Florida's city Government's recent passage of a "No camping or sleeping on the Streets" ordinance, another law is passed criminalizing the homeless. With Florida taking the lead in criminalizing the homeless, the juggernaut goes on with the Police States war on the poor. Increasingly, the only "solution" to this problem of the poor is arrest, incarceration or putting "these people" into government or Department of Corrections facilities, such as tent cities or so-called "Safe Harbors" run by law enforcement.

Cities, such as St. Petersburg, Florida, continue to profile the homeless. Routinely, members of the homeless community are harassed, profiled, searched, and arrested in city parks, such as Williams Park in St. Petersburg. In a

recent "sweep" of several homeless individuals, a young African American man named Omar, was arrested on minimal charges, and then was nearly "beaten to death" by jail guards of the Pinellas County jail. These jail guards are part of the Sheriff's department. This young man ended up being hospitalized. A report about what the jail guards did was given to internal affairs and did not result in either criminal charges or suspension of said officers. The three white guards, including a sergeant were implicated in the beatings and a slew of racial epithets, but nothing happened!

My own recent arrest by Police for simply attempting to video and question Police, as they were harassing individuals for just sleeping or resting on the grass in a park, is just another in a series of injustices. Even though my case was won, they were still

able to trespass me from a public park. This case is now going to federal court on 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment arguments.

Another case of someone trying to stand up for the poor against injustice resulted in the Police setting up a bishop of a small denomination in Tampa, and arresting him. This bishop is with a small Independent Liberation Theology oriented Catholic Church. This bishop was known for supporting "housing takeovers" for poor families, helping addicts and prostitutes, and assisting the homeless. This is just another injustice.

The time has come to end this War against the poor! To create a society based on justice and cooperation. To unite with this class of the poor... "Woe to you who make unjust laws to deprive the Poor of their rights..." Isaiah 10:1-4

## HOUSING IS MY RIGHT

By Reginald Black  
Da' Street Reportin' Artist

WASHINGTON, DC — Even though the homeless do not have "a place" per se, that does not mean that they are totally without rights or have to be silent about having rights.

Take my story for example. I became homeless when my father and I could no longer co-exist. I've spent six months in my neighborhood panhandling and scraping to find employment. Things changed when I discovered *Street Sense*. *Street Sense* is a street paper and it has been helping me financially. I can write and sell the paper and earn somewhat of an income. During the last five years writing for and selling the paper, I have encountered, from action after action, one thing is clear. People who are experiencing poverty need a little more from the community at large.

Since the early 2000s, we in the District of Columbia have lost more than half of the affordable units for low-income residents. On a wage of \$8.25/hour, Washington residents would have to work at least 140 hours a week to afford the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment, according to Eugene Sanford, Assistant Director of People for Fairness Coalition. Although the City Council has passed a measure that raises wages for workers at large retail stores (the Large Retailer Accountable Act of 2013 - LRAA), there is no mention of involving the homeless, and the bill still faces an expected veto by Mayor Vincent C.



Reginald Black (left) and Robert Warren (right) are leading the Washington DC Right to Housing Campaign. PHOTO/TIM D'EMILIO

Gray. It is as if Washington is saying to its workers that we do not want you to live here.

That is why I believe something like the Right to Housing is so important. It will make the District look at its Human Rights Committee and start to call for this committee to not just "learn" about human rights, but act on this obvious disparity present in the city. For me, this means being able to secure housing and furthermore, establish a specific timeline for ending homelessness. The only way to get there is to raise as much awareness as possible. Awareness, for instance, of Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, signed by the United Nations:

"Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of him/her-

self and the family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his/her control."

With that awareness, we get politically organized. We will go on the offensive to require that DC upholds and implements its commitments to human rights. Every District resident deserves the best quality housing available and District officials need to support any policy that will meet the public's need. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is not a ceremonial gesture. It is an agenda for our survival.

Reginald Black can be reached at [streetreporter227@gmail.com](mailto:streetreporter227@gmail.com)

## PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE READERS SPEAK:

"I believe the People's Tribune does more than any other paper to chronicle the breadth of extortionist acts and injustices that are being perpetrated on a daily basis against the people in our country. I love to carry extra copies with me to give away. People rarely refuse to take one, because there is always a story or image on the cover that they recognize as related to their own lives. The paper is like a beacon that calls out to those who are suffering and exploited under capitalism, while not supplying doctrinaire explanations. PT articles and editorials instead model solutions based on analysis, discussion, cooperative action and the forging of larger alliances. The paper further does a yeoman's job, across the nation, for publishing the stories that no other paper will."

— Sarah Lewison

"I was looking for information on the shutdown of the Maytag plant in my hometown of Herrin, Illinois. I searched the Internet and, other than some stories in the local paper and one especially egregious story in USA Today, could find almost nothing. The only paper to carry the story and place it in any kind of context was People's Tribune. And in continuing to read the Tribune, I have further seen how the events in Herrin are fundamentally connected to those in my mother's hometown of Benton Harbor, Michigan, where my grandmother once worked in the Whirlpool factory."

— David Cochran

"I like the People's Tribune because it brings to light stories that otherwise don't get told. They also allow writers and artists to contribute stories and ideas about what can be done to solve social problems that the mainstream media ignores. This helps to bring about more major fundamental change. Stories that reflect the views of the editorial board are left unsigned and for me, it encourages contributing authors to offer ideas they might otherwise be hesitant to say. I have learned about many courageous and outstanding people through articles featured in the People's Tribune. And when meeting some of these people at gatherings they were every bit the wonderful virtues they appeared in print."

— Morningstar

# TENANTS BATTLE HOUSING CUTS

By Sandy Perry

SAN JOSE, CA — Over 100 tenants and their allies took action against the crushing rent increases caused by the Federal government sequester in a rally August 29 at City Hall. Some families received astonishing increases of \$900 or more. Altogether, some 17,000 tenants on the Federal Section 8 housing program in Santa Clara County received rent hikes ranging from 10% to up to 900%.

Mainstream media propaganda claims that sequester effects have been minimal, but the lives of Section 8 tenants have been turned inside out. 57% of voucher holders in Santa Clara County are seniors or disabled and 61% are on fixed incomes. There is simply no way they can afford rent increases of this magnitude. In many cases the result will be homelessness, dislocation, and destruction of families.

The government is further threatening to continue to do nothing, which will result in additional unbearable cuts next year.

Tenants called for immediate reversal of the sequester and allocation of adequate affordable housing funds to meet the needs of the American people. According to our constitution, the role of government is to promote the

general welfare of the people, not the private benefit of corporations. The corporations were instrumental in instigating the sequester with their endless lobbying for corporate tax breaks.

Silicon Valley is the richest area in the richest country in the world, and it is richer now than ever before in history. There is nothing except shortsightedness to prevent us from taking care of our most vulnerable people. There is nothing but a lack of social vision to prevent us from putting the needs of our residents before tax breaks for corporations. There is nothing, except a tragic moral blindness, that prevents us from paying attention to the human suffering going on right here in our own community.

To address these issues, CHAM Deliverance Ministry and other groups are planning a March to Heal the Valley from one side of Silicon Valley to the other this October 7 – 11. It will be a pilgrimage from the working class streets of East San Jose to the leafy corporate campuses of the North County to search for the true soul of Silicon Valley.

More than anywhere in the country, Silicon Valley has come to symbolize the glaring polarization of wealth that is destroying America. Marchers will crisscross the diverse neighborhoods and



Maryellen Juarez and Pastor Raquel Ordoñez address the San Jose tenants' rally on August 29.

PHOTO/SANDY PERRY

gather the unemployed, the people with little or no health care, the disenfranchised, the foreclosed, the underpaid, and people of conscience. Together they will march to the gates of the wealthi-

est corporations in the world to see who will join the campaign for a compassionate economy.

Marchers are calling on the corporations to contribute the billions of dollars and resources

necessary to fund the housing, employment, health care, and education needed to end poverty.

To participate or for more information: Call 408-977-1275 or email [healthethevalley@spiralcc.net](mailto:healthethevalley@spiralcc.net)

## Homelessness grows while public money is squandered



Childcare center for low-income families in Michigan. Families today are receiving a smaller share of assistance than prior to welfare "reform."

PHOTO/JIMWESTPHOTO.COM

By Diane Nilan

NAPERVILLE, IL — "Josh" and his mom were halfway out the door when Barb, the shelter director, stopped them to introduce us. His backpack drooped on his 7-year-old shoulders as he mumbled "hello." His mom explained

they were late getting him to school when he interrupted.

"Today is show-and-tell, and I don't have anything to show," he uttered. Bad enough he's staying at a homeless shelter, but to go to school late and without a show-and-tell item. Excruciating.

My mind scrambled. I had

nothing except business cards... and the shirt on my back. My lame effort to create a big deal with the business card was, well, lame. That's when my friend Barb chimed in, "You see her 'These Little Piggies Are Homeless' t-shirt," she pointed out. Both Josh and his mom responded, "Awww."

I retrieved one of my shirts I had just donated and handed my Piggies shirt to Josh. Barb gave him pointers to make sure he wasn't going to be traumatized by revealing his homelessness. And they left.

I recalled my pre-HEAR US shelter director days when birthdays, show-and-tell, Halloween parties and science fair projects increased the challenges of accommodating a growing number of kids with their parents who were homeless. Kids like Josh matter, over 1 million homeless students at last count.

Their shelter is the only shelter in 14 southern Indiana counties, a former church with a ca-

capacity of 50; now holding 80+, children with parents, single men and women, in an unavoidable dysfunctional communal setting.

Barb shared the plight of 50+ men and women living under the nearby Interstate bridges. They're about to be displaced with nowhere to go.

Not all is bleak in this Ohio River town across from Louisville, KY. Because of federally-funded Interstate highway construction, Jeffersonville gets to spiff up their downtown.

Under the guise of "historic" housing, up to 10 houses are being moved to make way for Interstate exit ramps. Somewhere, in the cash-strapped state of Indiana, someone managed to cobble together \$4 million for this moving project. Barb showed me five houses that had already been moved. My jaw dropped.

One house had obvious value, historic or at least structural. The others were unoccupied "shanties" of little value, a waste of \$4

million.

So Josh, his mother, and dozens of other babies, toddlers, children, teens, parents and single men and women struggle to survive indescribable challenges of severely overcrowded communal living. Dozens of other homeless men and women, lepers in their own town, can be uprooted and scattered like yesterday's garbage, landing in even worse straits than they are today. The quality of life for the entire community is jeopardized.

But \$4 million can be spent to relocate empty, limited-value houses?

Maybe Josh's next show-and-tell project can be a tour of these houses to call attention to how it's OK to use federal and state money for useless projects while dozens of homeless kids and adults languish. I'll be happy to drive Josh for that tour.

Links:

<http://hearus.us>

# A weekly open mic show Flight School soars in southern California

By Hank G

CULVER CITY, CA — Flight School is a weekly open mic show in Culver City, California. The night started with an idea to have a place that artists from all over Los Angeles can come by and perform their songs and poetry with the element of a live band to back them up. The musicians and the open mic'ers don't know what will happen on any given night and this makes for a surprise every week.

We live in this creative soup of Los Angeles as different ingredients and all of us have our own flavor to add to the mix, but we breathe the same air and see the same sunsets. Flight School is a congregation, a moment in time where we get a chance to share our souls and our perspective of life, love, injustices, frus-

trations and the like, with the option of doing it with a band. When you go on stage you become the captain of the ship, sailing in unknown waters, and the musicians are the crew. I think that's exciting, and it really tests the artist's ability to adapt to the moment.

I started playing bass seriously as a preteen and grew up in a musical household, always tinkering with the drums, guitar and keys as well. Having played in several bands throughout the years I've learned a lot about perceived success and failure as a musician. The biggest success one can have in music is to be able to transfer emotional energy through sound and word to an audience. To connect, as it were. Without that connection, there will be no momentum for the art. When the crowd feels it, that's



Flight School open mic band in rotation.

PHOTO/HANK G

the money shot. Sing and play from the heart first, that's not all it takes but without that you're building a house on sand.

100,000 Poets and Musicians for Change has the mantra of "Peace and Sustainability." What more do we need in life? To me that means utopia! Sustainability is a challenge but not impossible. We use water to flush toilets and

to water our lawns. Grass is a fad from the past, public spaces should be used to grow edible or otherwise useful plants. We have the power to not be lemmings. However we must sit in the driver's seat of our own lives and work at it every day. Peace to me does not mean a lack of fighting, it means an open forum society and action toward common

goals. It means work, it means when we do fight we resolve it with communication.

Flight School, as the name implies, is a place where we learn to take flight; that is, as a metaphor for accelerating our dreams and elevating our game as musicians and poets. It's an open runway to test out your craft.

## Defending Public Education from Corporate Takeover

### Book Review

By Lew Rosenbaum

Many voices speak from the pages of *Defending Public Education from Corporate Takeover*, the new book edited by Todd Alan Price (University Press of America). These are voices of academics and activists, teachers and parents. One message comes through loud and clear. This is not just a battle for what goes on in school. This is a battle for democracy, for what kind of society we will live in.

The essays in this book form a broad range of topics and geographical areas. While focusing on rust belt Chicago and Milwaukee with a side trip to Ohio, the book takes up the examples of Haiti and New Orleans for comparison.

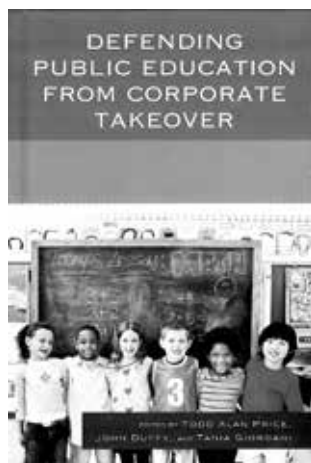
There is a resistance narrative in the book, one which shows how communities are fighting the effects of austerity valiantly. The victory over vouchers and mayoral takeover in Milwaukee is rendered bittersweet by the statewide political tactics of Governor Scott Walker.

Some of the authors look beyond the immediacy of the battle

or the classroom to engage larger issues. Terry Jo Smith describes her experiences with the structure of standardized testing as terrorism and systemic violence, and "because the source is outside of the education system itself, it must be fought in the national political arena." Jack Gerson argues that austerity budgets—"do more with less"—inevitably exacerbates poverty, homelessness and contributes to the decline in education. Even more, it concentrates more power in the hands of the corporations, which really is their "New Corporate Agenda."

Todd Alan Price, in "Corporate Siege and Growing Resistance," points out that the election of President Obama, despite his affirmation that "...change has come to America," solidified an educational policy that "mirrored Wall Street's interests." Price and his co-editors John Duffy and Tania Giordani describe the assault on public education as the Commercial Club Curriculum. This refers to the leading elements of capital that guide Chicago's financial and industrial community and have engineered the restructuring of education within a wider plan for the city.

In the concluding essay,



Duffy and Price argue that there is a democratic curriculum model, distinguished from the model of the Commercial Club, a "curriculum for expanding popular democracy" and for "envisioning schools as liberatory organizations." There is a caveat, however, that pervades the pages of this volume: despite the battles that have retarded the attacks on public education, the corporate and state monitored assault continues to undermine not only education but the rights and welfare of the people.

This book is an important weapon in learning the defensive tactics to oppose the corporate takeover of education. It has much to teach about the need for holding the government responsible for providing for the interests of the people.

## 7.1

I can not find you in a happy place  
There are no ribbons tonight  
the world has gone grey  
the land is obliterated with ash  
and downed trees  
there is no color in my dream tonight  
there are holes in the earth  
the pockets of methane  
have exploded  
and so have the faults  
the wabash  
and the new madrid  
awake and in a fury  
shake loose the flea of man  
smell of burnt  
everything  
through a lens of destruction  
we sat and cried

— Tabitha Tripp

Note: "7.1" refers to the richter scale for earthquakes



# World Court convenes in Philadelphia October 18-20

By the U.S. Court of Women on Poverty, Eastern Region

PHILADELPHIA, PA — The World Courts of Women Against Poverty in the United States began at the 2010 United States Social Forum in Detroit, Michigan. A People's Movement Assembly Resolution of Action was developed from discussions among activists, and a plan was launched to host three regional World Courts of Women Against Poverty across the U.S. The first such court took place in Oakland, California in May of 2012, and it was led by the Women's Economic Agenda Project. Organizers in Pennsylvania led by the Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign have been working to organize a second U.S. World Court of Women Against Poverty in Philadelphia in October 2013.

The Courts of Women are where people can come to share stories that are heard and recorded, with the aim of making them visible in a world, in a nation that wishes to silence, hide and ignore them. These words of peo-

ple's lives, and even wisdoms, are to shape both a social and political movement for the recognition of the U.S. as a nation that creates poverty in the world, including in its own backyard. It ignores its history of producing poverty and everyday violence that people live in cities, in rural communities, in reservations, on borderlands. The World Courts of Women pull back the curtain on what the U.S. has been ignoring through fore-fronting those voices and presences that come from the margins.

The World Courts of Women exist to rewrite our histories, reclaim our memories, and find new visions for our times. The Courts of Women are public hearings that exist to share voices of survival and resistance from the margins. Those gathered at the World Court on Poverty in the U.S.: Disappeared in America People's Movement Assembly, along with the host organizations, seek to break the silence on poverty as a violation of both women's rights and human rights. We reject the myth that dire poverty only exists



Children and others protesting the growing poverty in Philadelphia.

PHOTO/DONATED

outside of the boundaries of the U.S. and demand an end to the tremendous violence of poverty that impacts our children, our families, and our communities. The effects of globalization, the increase in wealth disparity, and the dismantling of the social safety net have pushed our communities into destitution while corporate powers and banking

institutions have profited tremendously at our expense.

We link our struggles here in the U.S. to the struggles of poor people throughout the World. We are committed to uniting the poor as the leadership base for a broad movement to abolish poverty everywhere and forever. This resolution of action is a reflection of decades of work and

we are lifted up by the efforts of many organizations that have fought tirelessly to eliminate injustice.

*The court is taking place October 18, 19 and 20 at West Kensington Ministry, 2140 N. Hancock, Philadelphia, PA. 19122. All are welcome. Register online today at [economichumanrights.org](http://economichumanrights.org).*

## DEMAND BETTER CONDITIONS FOR ALL!

### *African American and Latino communities join forces at school board meeting*

By Idalia Alvarez and Jessica Osornio, Wayside summer interns and Richmond Public School students who helped organize the events described

FABER, VA — On July 15, two different causes joined forces at the school board meeting to fight against injustices. Groups from mainly Latino and African-

American communities, came together to fight against school closings, segregation and discrimination in the schools. Each group supported the other in

their demands and showed how communities can come together in solidarity with each other.

Students from Huguenot High School returned for a second time to demand equal treatment for all students, and for neutral interpreters. They also want threats against students based on their immigration status to stop. Students and parents want a welcoming and inclusive environment. Huguenot High School students also wanted the school board to know that they don't accept the Multicultural Task Force (which formed in response to their protest) because it does not include the people directly affected.

The Richmond Coalition for Quality Education came to let the school board know that they want all schools to remain open. They oppose Option C because that measure separates kids by race and they want segregation to stop in schools! They want schools to be more open to diversity and integration of races.

One of the kids present at the protest talked about how he doesn't want to change schools because the school he attends currently is a good school

and welcomes all students. A mother also decided to speak up for her child, and she demanded the schools stay open.

At a press conference outside and during the public comment session inside, each group supported and amplified the demands of the other, making a greater impact than either could have alone.

This is only a little of what can come from joined communities. Yet it still makes a big difference just by seeing how two groups that are the target of discrimination and oppression can still stand strong!

See more at: <http://www.waysidecenter.org/african-american-and-latino-communities-join-forces-at-school-board-meeting-demand-better-conditions-for-all/#sthash.NbzJTcO5.dpuf>



African American and Latino Students and Community Protest at Richmond, VA School Board Meeting in July.

PHOTO/WAYSIDE CENTER FOR POPULAR EDUCATION 2013

# Speakers for a new America presents: Visionary Artists

The following is an interview with three visionary artists: two-time national slam poet Matt Sedillo, professional spoken word artist David A. Romero, and punk/folk singer-songwriter Marlon Stern. To bring these artists to your city, email [info@speakersforanewamerica.com](mailto:info@speakersforanewamerica.com) or call 800-691-6888.



*People's Tribune:* Please speak to what kind of new society you would like to see.

**Matt Sedillo:** I would like to see a society wherein people are free to live their lives in accordance with their natural talents without having to sell themselves to the highest bidder and simultaneously underbid one another. Ultimately, I would like to see a world where everyone is free.

**David A. Romero:** I'd like to see a world where there are no borders, no walls, and no fences saying "prohibited," "do not cross" or "private property." I want to see the full productive capacity of humanity (as expressed in such amazing new technologies as the 3D printer) fully unchained. Let's all become poets, artists, philosophers and scientists!

**Marlon Stern:** I want to live in a world where food, shelter and healthcare are not things that have to be earned; a world where the stress of survival in the attainment of these necessities of life is replaced with a feeling of belonging, and possibility, and knowing that the short time we are here on earth can be used instead to search for the deeper meanings of existence. I especially want to see an elimination of all the social side effects of millions of people who feel powerless in relation to the horror and alienation of private industry; an end to the cyclical domestic violence and abuse rooted in frustration.

*PT:* What is the role of poets in the revolution?

**Sedillo:** It is like that of any artist in the midst of a revolution: to reflect the revolutionary values and demands of whatever side they are on. For a peoples poet, his or her role is to advance the values and thinking of creating a society in the interest of the people.

**Romero:** It is to push the revolution; to educate people, to speak about issues that others might feel uncomfortable with speaking about; to speak out with confidence the things that other people might be afraid to talk about, but that they feel deep down in their bones; and, by doing so, give them the urge, the push, to make these ideas they have, a reality.

**Stern:** Poets are important to capture the imaginations of people who have been told for generations that they do not have a choice but to participate in this perpetual cycle of oppression and misery. Poets have an imperative to get out there and plant the seed that will grow, to say, "This can change."

## Memorial for Jimmie H. Apsey

Jimmie was born December 22, 1937 in Detroit, Michigan. He graduated from Lawrence Technical University in 1961 with Bachelors Degree in Electrical Engineering. General Motors recruited him in the infancy of the modern "computer age" when only the US military had computers and corporate America was just learning to incorporate them into industry.

Jim worked for General Motors both as an employee and as a contractor in the General Motors Computer Science Department from 1961 until 1995. He worked enthusiastically to implement the computerized automation that now dominates the manufacturing sector. His transition from employee to contractor reflected the fact that computer workers were among the sections of workers that put themselves out of work first by implementing the very machines and computer software that eliminates work from manufacturing. There were mass layoffs throughout the 1980's and 1990's in the computer worker sector as well as all other manufacturing sectors nationwide, and within General Motors, as computers and robots replaced workers.

Jimmie was a family man



**Jim Apsey, December 22, 1937 - April 22, 2013**

who always wanted the family to stay together and work together. He was a lifelong Peace and Justice activist and prophet, speaking his mind on injustices he observed, regardless of how that would effect him personally. He lived with a conviction that the society we live in can become much better for all people and not just for a few of the privileged class, and worked diligently to bring justice to all people. He became conscious

of class interests and joined with LRNA to be a better worker for the peace and justice he strived for all his life.

He retired in October 2009 when he had a debilitating stroke and passed away peacefully in the hospital after a struggle with complications of diabetes and heart disease.

Memorial donations should be made to Central United Methodist Church, 23 E. Adams, Detroit, MI 48226

### "We had a Co-op"

We had a co-op  
 But it died  
 Got busted by the cops and the FBI...  
 We had community  
 But it died  
 They stabbed us in our backs  
 With some silver knives...  
 A whole 99 shipwrecked  
 By 1's risin' tide  
 This life is the question  
 Askin'  
 Why we even try?  
 Well, it's the beating o' my heart  
 The look in yo' eyes  
 'Tis the rage in our fists  
 On an October night  
 'Tis the fadin' o' the light  
 The changin' o' the times  
 T'was when we held our hands  
 High together  
 Just like protest signs  
 'Tis romantic  
 And 'tis heavy  
 Mostly, 'tis the hunger in our bellies!  
 Hey, we gotta stay alive!

— David A. Romero

# REFLECTIONS ON THE 2013 MARCH ON WASHINGTON



50th anniversary of the March on Washington.

PHOTO/JOEL SOSINSKY

## By Andi Sosin & Joel Sosinsky Remember the Triangle Fire Coalition

NEW YORK, NY — On Saturday, August 23, 2013, we, along with over 200,000 people of all races, gathered around the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 1963's "March on

Washington for Jobs and Freedom," at which Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his vision of racial equality and a just society in his "I Have A Dream" speech. In the tradition of the activism that followed the Triangle fire of 1911, which resulted in legislation protecting worker safety and unionization, the 1963 March on

Washington was instrumental in passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. This year, unions, churches and community organizations again made it possible to travel to Washington DC from all over the U.S., because despite the progress made towards a more just society since 1963,

clearly our goals have not yet been attained.

We carried the shirtwaist kites that have become symbolic of the Remember the Triangle Fire Coalition as we walked along with thousands of people toward the Lincoln Memorial. All morning people just kept coming—soon the whole area around the Reflecting Pool was consumed by the crowd, just as it had been 50 years before. Home-made signs decried the injustice of Trayvon Martin's murder and the unfairness of Stand Your Ground laws, racial profiling, and Stop & Frisk. We distributed copies of the People's Tribune to people who walked near us, and we were gratified by their interest.

We were impressed by civility of people coming together in solidarity. While there were passionate conversations and loud expressions of support during the speeches, people in the crowd were cordial to one another; we didn't witness any altercations, pushing or shoving, or even any nasty words exchanged. Even the people standing on the long lines that formed for the porta-potties were agreeable; when a mother with her young son asked to cut in line, they were accommodated by the

waiting adults with no problem.

Simultaneously, we felt a sense of history, a sense of anticipation, a sense of peace and a sense of hope. From the podium, speakers exhorted the crowd to pledge to vote in every election, and to protest unfair incursions on the right to vote. We heard complaints about reactionary and regressive government policies—the gutting of the Voting Rights Act, restrictive immigration policies, and reactionary Supreme Court rulings along with other corporate and ALEC-inspired laws that have cut off economic opportunities and limited freedom for so many, especially people of color and immigrants.

This March on Washington to commemorate the 1963 March is but one instance in a long and unending struggle. Protests following the Triangle fire and all the mass demonstrations before it and since show the power of activism. On our bus ride home, we all expressed a sense of hope that this March on Washington will result in greater and swifter progress toward a more moral and decent society. For more information, visit [rememberthetrianglefire.org](http://rememberthetrianglefire.org).

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

By Raymond L. Smith

*This is part four of a four part series.*

NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR — Some of the graduates of Scipio A. Jones High School are the following:

- Songwriter, producer, and former President of Stax Record Company, Alvertis Isbell (Al Bell). Isbell is also President of Bellmark Record Company.
- World-renowned jazz composer, arranger and saxophonist Pharoah Sanders (Ferrell Sanders). Sanders arranged, recorded and performed with the legendary John Coltrane. Sanders now resides in Los Angeles.
- Former North Little Rock School District Administrator/Educator and now School District Board Member, Dorothy J. Stephenson Williams. Whether it is for her church, sorority, or community group, Williams works tirelessly to make a positive difference.
- A longtime professor of music at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (formerly AM&N), Milton Jackson is a graduate of Jones. After serving in the U. S. Navy, Jackson was

a member of The Lyrics, a well-known local rhythm-and-blues jazz band of the late sixties and seventies. With The Lyrics, he appeared often on locally-produced television shows, including "Minor Key," a show hosted by the late Art Porter, Sr. Jackson is now one of the most sought-after jazz guitarists in the region.

- Former State of Arkansas Assistant Attorney General and now private law practitioner and administrator of the historic Haven of Rest Cemetery, Attorney B. J. McCoy. McCoy is a noted community activist.
- Employed for 35 years at the North Little Rock City Hall is another Jones' graduate: Charlotte Holloway Thomas is an Administrative Assistant in the mayor's office. Thomas is an advocate for individuals and organizations within the city.
- Graduating in the class of 1964 is retired communications corporate executive, extraordinary percussionist, and Presiding Elder (East District) of the CME Church-Arkansas region, Larry W. Ross. He serves on the Boards of several corporations, including a local financial institution. Ross was recognized

nationally as a premier percussionist, and in the seventies he was an important element of The Art Porter Trio. Before Porter, Ross was on the beat, providing rhythm with Henry Shead.

- Another 1964 graduate, Linda Joyce Handy Lee (October 9, 1946 – January 18, 2011) retired after many years as a Circuit Court Coordinator in the First Division of the Sixth Judicial District of Pulaski County.
- Also graduating in 1964, retired State Juvenile Detention professional, accomplished percussionist, C.M.E. Pastor, Rev. Charles E. Holloway, Sr. Holloway was the band leader of a popular local group, The Lyrics, of the late sixties and seventies. The Lyrics was one of the last highly respected bands to perform on the historical West Ninth Street in Little Rock. The Lyrics performed at most of the colleges and universities in the state, including Shorter College, Philander Smith College and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Later, Holloway was a member of the local recording group, The Gospel Lyrics.
- Tuskegee University Dean and Research Director, Walter A. Hill, PhD. He is a respected researcher, in-

spired by both George Washington Carver and Booker T. Washington. Hill graduated from Jones in 1964, and was a noted academic in high school.

Although all of the staff and students realized the injustices of the time, all cherished what they had. All marveled at the success of the school and the students. And yes, all realized that from the darkness of night, the light of a new day was about to spring forth.

The legacy of Scipio Africanus Jones continues through the lives of the many former students and their descendants. It is a legacy of hope, compassion, and justice. In an historic building located at 14<sup>th</sup> and Pine Streets in North Little Rock, Jones High paraphernalia and artifacts are housed for review. This facility is maintained by Jones' graduate Ms. Artis Boykin, Director. The last verse of the school's alma mater reads: "Wherever we may go—what ever we may do—we'll be forever true to you—Dear Ole Jones." The school closed at the end of the 1970 school year as a result of public school consolidation.

# BENTON HARBOR SCHOOLS IN SHAMBLES

## SCHOOL BOARD CALLED 'CROOKED'

By Rev. Edward Pinkney



BENTON HARBOR, MI — Benton Harbor is under misguided leadership, corrupted from the top to the bottom. The schools are in shambles. The school district has its own dictator, Leonard Seawood, who controls three members of the School Board. It is no secret that Seawood, and the three board members, Lue Buchana, Willie Lark, and Martha Momany, support the interests of Whirlpool Corporation, and not the interests of the people. The school board does not care about the students.

done since we have a crooked board.” (Herald Palladium)

“Taylor criticized Board President Martha Momany for not moving quickly to call a meeting to appoint a new school board member before the 30-day deadline ran out.” “She knew (the timeline) was going to expire on the thirtieth.” “Momany illegally adjourned the meeting on August 26, without a vote, which is against Robert’s Rules.” (Herald Palladium) Clearly, Seawood, Buchana, Lark and Momany wanted to insure that the fourth school board member would be someone that also supported the interests of Whirlpool.

Now we are recalling these three board members. Lue Buchana and Willie Lark are being recalled for violating the public trust by failing to exercise his or her duty to appoint a seventh member to the Board of Trustees by Aug 31, 2013, and Martha Momany is being recalled for violating the public trust by not adhering to the Open

Meeting Act. We are living under the power of the corporations and dictators and the city of Benton Harbor is a great example. We must fight the corporations, bankers and dictators. We, the people, must organize and organize and



Benton Harbor youth at a protest against Governor Rick Snyder, who put an undemocratic, non-elected Emergency Manager in Benton Harbor. PHOTO/BRETT JELINEK

## DETROIT IS BETTER THAN THAT



Detroiters speak out at the first meeting of their non-elected Emergency Manager. PHOTO/DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

By Rev. Dr. Wendell Anthony

The following is part one of a press release about comments made by Detroit’s Emergency Manager.

DETROIT, MI — The recent comments made by Detroit’s Emergency Manager, Kevyn Orr, in an interview with the Wall Street Journal strike at the very heart and soul of that which clearly demonstrates two different world views of the same condition. Mr. Orr’s comments were callous, insensitive, disrespectful, stereotypical, and most disdainful of not only the African

American citizens in the City of Detroit, but in particular thousands of blue collar workers who have given their sweat and blood in building this city. He said to one of America’s foremost conservative and socially indifferent news outlets, “Much of Detroit’s dysfunction is also due to simple complacency. For a long time the city was dumb, lazy, happy and rich.” Mr. Orr, neither the citizens of Detroit nor its leaders are dumb, lazy, happy with current circumstances and very few, if any, are rich.

Further, Mr. Orr’s attempt to explain his characterizations of

the City of Detroit and its people is even more arrogant and callous. It is without apology, possessing no sensitivity or a concern for the very people he has been “selected” to so-called manage. One has to wonder if these comments are also the sentiments of the man who appointed Mr. Orr in the first place, Michigan Governor Rick Snyder, who said he accepts Mr. Orr’s comments and the intent behind them.

The question must be asked, how can one effectively restructure Detroit when he does not respect Detroit? How can the Emergency Manager effectively manage the City of Detroit and its image around the world when he tears it down, disrespects the people and uses language couched in the appearance of concern that is really what one expects from the likes of a Rush Limbaugh or George Will. Shame on you Mr. Orr! Many of us have attempted to avoid name-calling and personal denigration of you and your office. We find that you have now crossed the line reflecting a historical demonization while demonstrating the most base and vile contempt for citizens in the City of Detroit.

Lest we forget, Detroit workers have built the nation’s middle class. Detroiters have taxed

themselves to build schools, stadiums, to hire police officers and fire fighters, and to improve city services for the past 50 years. Can Mr. Orr say the same thing about his friends on Wall Street?

Our leaders have unfortunately been given the task to raise cities and communities up from the ashes after years of neglect and economic disenfranchisement from previous leaders who occupied public office. Detroit’s economic downturn did not begin with Mayor Coleman Young. Further it has not increased absent the negative economic de-

pression within our nation.

Mr. Orr, as a so-called turn around expert brought in to carry the City of Detroit through the process of bankruptcy, did not use the terms “dumb, lazy, happy and rich” when he was working to restructure Chrysler or GM. Mr. Orr has not used those terms to describe the cities of New York, Pittsburgh or Miami. Moody’s investors services has even downgraded the State of Illinois’ credit quality. Moody’s stated that Illinois’ fragile finances could translate into less money for cities, villages and towns.

### 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