



With the massive job loss due to automation, home foreclosures are spreading. This march is in Michigan. PHOTO/DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

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# FORECLOSURES: SYMPTOM OF A DYING SOCIETY

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# Why the fascist attacks on youth?

## EDITORIAL

Children and young people are a sacred generation in any society. They embody the hope and potential that the society holds for its future. Then what does it say about American society that one in five of our children experience hunger and poverty? That our schools have been turned into detention centers? That our children are subjected to fascism, brutalized in our schools, and even killed by police in our streets?

The graphic video from South Carolina of a 16-year-old young woman tossed and beat up by a school police officer exemplifies the brutality and criminalization the youth face today. Another video from a Kentucky elementary special education classroom shows an 8-year-old, 52-pound boy (with PTSD and ADHD) yelling in pain as school police handcuff him above his elbows after experiencing “disability-related difficulties” and disobeying his teacher. Incidents like these are commonplace across the country. Young people are also the targets of police killings; as of November, over 180 people under the age of 25 have been killed by the police in 2015. The brutalization of our class starts immediately. They don’t wait for us to become adults. Why is this happening?

Society is undergoing a technological and economic revolution where our work is becoming automated, and moving toward a future where workers will not be needed. We face a future where a whole generation of the working class will have no opportunity under capitalism. This is why schools increasingly operate like

prisons, why children are brutalized by police and vigilantes, and why government is letting more and more children go hungry and homeless. Where is the outrage?

The ruling class is fostering a culture where we are told that young people are out of control, that force and violence is the only way to keep them in line—this is fascism. Fear-mongering and media manipulation is used to justify more police, more militarization, more surveillance—at the expense of programs that provide for people’s basic needs and promote the common good.

The reason we are seeing this fascist violence is because the ruling class cannot provide for us. The ruling class cannot provide for those who it can no longer exploit in the workplace—there’s no profit to be made. What is happening to young people in America is something that the entire working class is facing.

Our society is at a crossroads. Will we accept the fascist vision the ruling class is bringing to reality? The capitalists are doing everything they can to keep the working class divided, fighting amongst ourselves, so that they can push their agenda forward.

We must envision a new kind of society, one of peace and freedom, a future made possible by the technological revolution. These new tools, if controlled by the people for the people, can put an end to hunger, homelessness, and brutality. If we unite in struggle, and unite in vision, we can take our future back from the ruling class and build a future that will truly benefit us all.



Protest over the Chicago police killing of 17-year old Laquan McDonald. Today, poverty is increasing as automation destroys jobs. The rulers are imposing a police state to stop the movement for a democratic society. PHOTO/FRANK JAMES JOHNSON

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— The Editors

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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.

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# Foreclosures: Symptom of a dying society

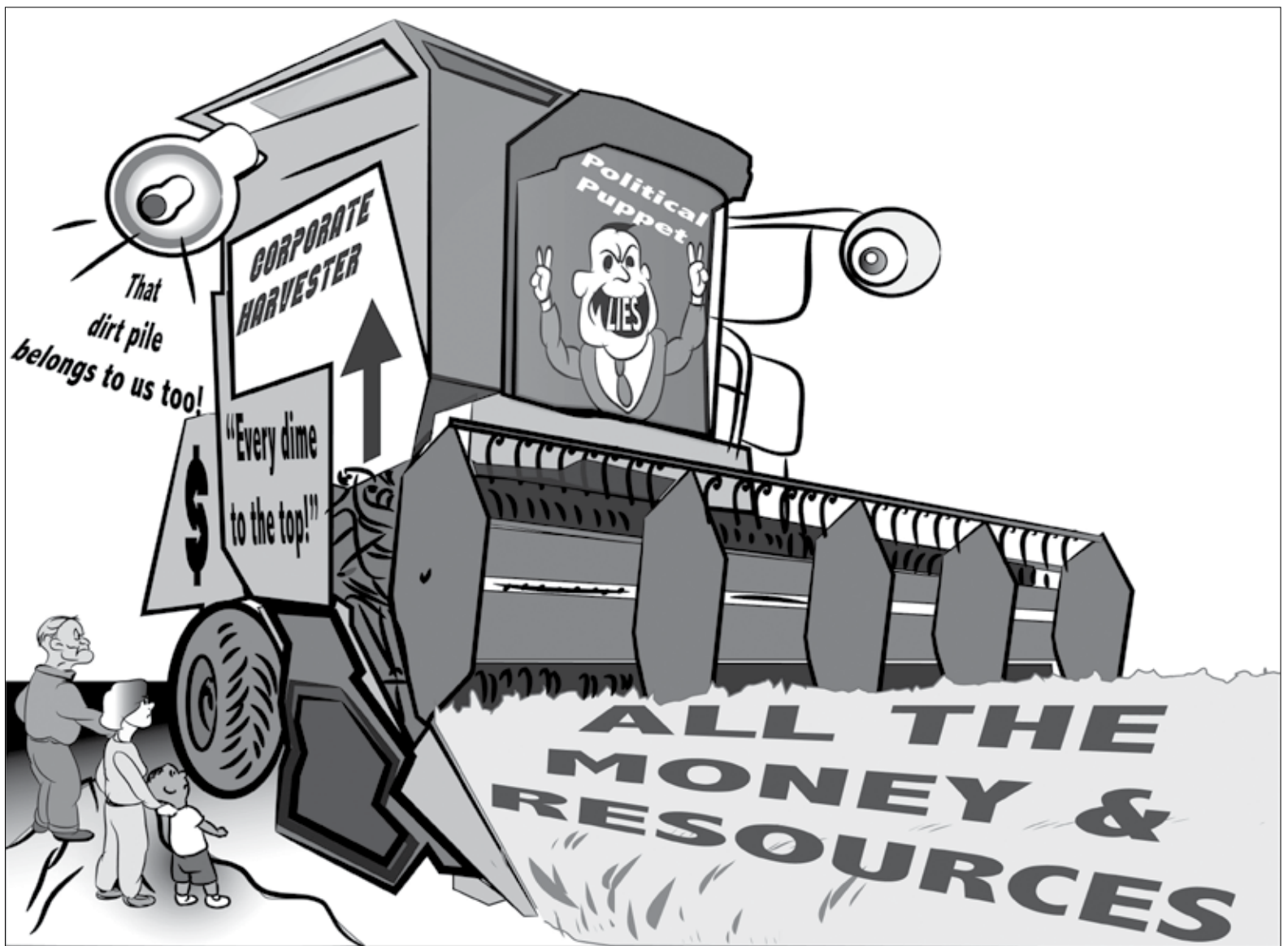
## COVER STORY

For most of us, home ownership is the epitome of the American dream. In a 2015 Wells Fargo survey, 65% felt that homeownership is “an accomplishment to be proud of” and/or a “dream come true.” The growing nightmare of mass foreclosures, eviction and homelessness is shattering that dream, and along with it, any notion that our government serves the people. At the root of the problem is a dying capitalist system that is changing from industrial to automated production.

It doesn't matter if you are Black, white or Latino. When the robot comes into your factory, you are laid off. The capitalist class is not going to house workers that don't make profits for them. It follows from this that when these kinds of permanent lay offs occur, mass foreclosures and evictions follow no matter what ethnicity your community is.

The area around Detroit, Michigan is a perfect example. When the big three car manufacturers introduced robotics onto the production line, those jobs were decimated forever. Wages fell, population dropped and 40% of the city became impoverished. The result is 70,000 homes are going through foreclosure in Detroit. It was just a matter of time before this same process spread to the surrounding suburbs dispelling the myth that it was confined to Detroit and it's majority African American working class population.

In Garden City, MI, an overwhelmingly white working class suburb of Detroit, growing numbers of workers are losing their homes due to loss of jobs, unpaid taxes, resulting fees, and medical issues. Many were unaware



CARTOON/ANDY WILLIS

their home had been sold until they got eviction notices. In some cases the City acquired properties and sold them to corporate developers who then flipped them for profit.

When people showed up at a City Council meeting in early November to plead for their homes, the meeting was adjourned by the mayor who said they were going to a pizza party instead of hearing them. One homeowner, when interviewed by the media, asked, “Why are they dealing with the developer and not giving us the same opportunity to buy (the house) back for the taxes?” The whole situation

brings to light that the “they” the gentleman is referring to champion corporate rights to profit over any right you thought you had to stay in your home because “they” are corporate government—the government of the ruling class.

That same ruling class is replacing workers with robots, but in the process, creates a new class of ever more deeply impoverished workers who are without jobs or homes. How are people to survive? As a first step, the government must release the hundreds of thousands of foreclosed homes it owns to those who need them. This is part of the fight for a new society.

Previously separated by segregated communities and divided by every inequality imaginable, the possibility now exists for a section of this new class of workers to unite based on a common experience of being pushed out of the capitalist system into an equality of absolute poverty. Without unity, it is not possible for this new class of workers to envision a future society free of poverty, racism and want, let alone build one. The role of revolutionaries is to educate to make that possibility a reality.

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# 'It's going to take national collaboration,' says WV fighter



Paula Swarengin expressed the solidarity of the Appalachians with everybody in the country struggling for water at the Detroit Gathering on Water and Affordable Housing. PHOTO/DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

*Editor's note: The People's Tribune interviewed Paula Swarengin, part of the Direct Action Welfare Group and the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition in West Virginia.*

WEST VIRGINIA — I come from a long line of coalminers. My grandfather died of black lung. My dad died of cancer and black lung. My stepfather died of heart disease and black lung. My

uncle died of black lung. Here in West Virginia we have a singular industry based economy. Most of our economic value depends on this one industry.

In the little coal towns where

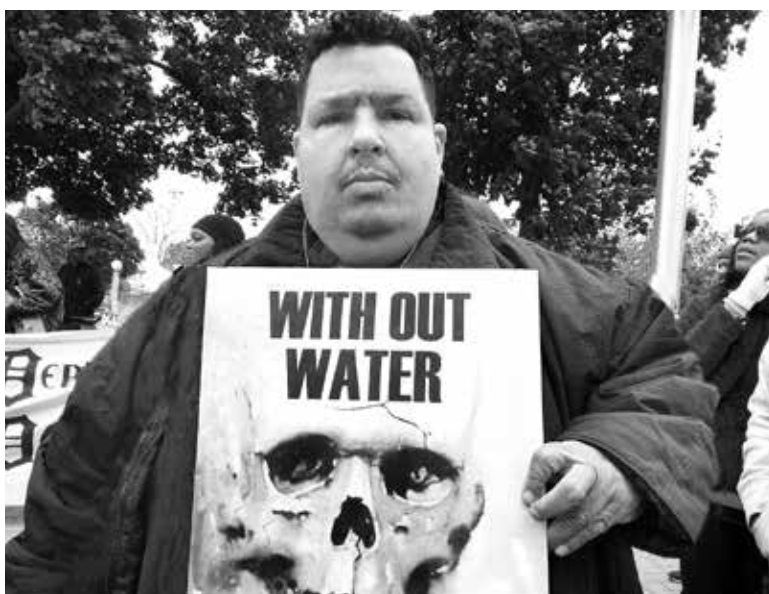
we grew up, everybody's water was filthy dirty with manganese and other toxic coal industry chemicals. I was sick all the time. Back in the '80s my step-dad got laid off from the coalmines and my family had to move to North Carolina to make a living. I remember thinking how clean and beautiful it was. I didn't have to breathe the coal dust and we had water that was clean and fresh, not dirty. The water that came out of the faucet in West Virginia was thick and orange, full of chemicals. My mother gave us a bath and it had purple film on top. My hair was orange when I moved. Half of my little brother's graduation class had lost their teeth. A lot of people had mental diseases, come to find out it was the water. This is what happens here. Nobody puts value on us. It's like living in a sacrifice zone. They say, "Let the poor die, lets go ahead and dig that coal."

After the unions came into West Virginia, we said "we have value, we're human beings, we don't want to live like this anymore." But back in the '80s they busted the unions. They brought in non-union coal companies that the miners called scab mines. They dangled a carrot in front of people's noses. People got may-

be \$15 an hour, nicer houses and vehicles. Then came another bust and they were living on welfare again.

The leadership here doesn't really support us. We have the best-paid politicians the coal industry can buy. They own us. It's like the mafia.

Today, coalminers are worrying about putting food on their table, and the water is still toxic. They're saying, "You're poisoning my child." But we're divided in this state. There needs to be an awakening, but our government and the coal industry pit us against each other. I want to organize an environmental event in Washington, DC, for humanity with our allies in other cities. It seems like the government is taking everyone's basic needs; if not water, then basic utilities. It's going to take national collaboration. I went to the water gathering in Detroit [where thousands have been cut off water] to find some solidarity. I want to let everyone know that, white, Black, any nationality, when you are poor, you're ready to unite against injustice, and the poor from Appalachia are willing to stand with any community to make it better.



Eban Morales from Highland Park, MI at a Detroit March for Justice Rally. PHOTO/DONATED

By Eban Morales

or harmony of life and earth.

HIGHLAND PARK, MI — It is not a choice made, this birth. It is the direct result of the implantation of injustices, fertilized by greed and unconcern, that impregnates certain individuals in life when injustices fall on their door step, and a realization that existence and humanity as a whole are under attack, and that the powers that be have no respect for the people, the land

This involuntary manifestation occurs in these particular individuals as injustice sparks consciousness, and their eyes now open, they not only begin to see what was once hidden to them in the darkness but their senses become awakened to the pains of the people, community and world. They know what others seem to be blind to, that there is a war in affect and no, it is not being waged with

## The birth of an activist

bombs that fall from the sky, or projectiles fired from tanks nor ammunition that zing through the air, but the casualties are just as severe, as children fall by the thousands as schools are closed and education and hope for a future is stripped from them. Water is turned off as a means to control them and strip them of dignity, while their homes are being taken, reminding them how little humanity means in comparison to profits. Neighborhoods die and people disappear and the ones that remain become targets no matter how still they be, hoping to be unnoticed by the trouble that surrounds them.

So come these individuals of no particular background, birthed by circumstance and often rage, that choose not to run, bow down or comply, but instead they resist, stand their ground, unify and push back in their refusal to not be heard, demanding respect for existence and fairness for the people. They make signs, form chains, scream chants, fists raised high

while pounding pavement and bearing heat, wind, rain and cold, they keep long hours as they rally, educate, support and plan, not for recognition, reward or fame but simply for Justice for everyone.

These activists now born face odds greater than themselves as they struggle to wake a sleeping people that they now defend against entities that do

not recognize law or humanity unless it serves a purpose for themselves or profit, yet the activist is seldom deterred and pushes back nevertheless. Claiming each small step a victory. I never gave much thought to how an activist comes to be until that day an activist was born inside of me.

I slept three hours  
on the BART train  
last night he said  
to keep warm  
.  
his new red cap  
his sign that still  
says LOVE

— Sarah Menefee

# Threat to democracy and jury system in water trial



In a threat to democracy and the jury system, two of nine protesters charged with disorderly conduct as they blocked trucks hired by the city from leaving their facility to turn off the water of Detroit's poorest families, had their trial abruptly stopped shortly before it went to the jury. PHOTO/DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

DETROIT, MI — In July of 2014, nine protesters were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct as they blocked Homrich trucks hired by the city from leaving their facility to turn off the water of Detroit's poorest, by the thousands. Two of those arrested, long time activists,

Rev. Bill Wylie-Kellerman and Marian Kramer, requested jury trials, granted after a 16-month wait. The trial, which began November 20, was abruptly stopped on December 1, before it was to go to the jury. Rev. Bill Wylie-Kellerman gives his account of what

happened as follows:

"Marian Kramer repeatedly remarked how it galled her each time the prosecutor called herself 'the People' as in, 'The People object to this testimony, your Honor.' We represent the people of Detroit in our action and wit-

ness way more than the prosecution does."

"I'd say the jury of Detroiters represents the people— and by an "ex parte" motion and judicial maneuver (surreptitious and one-sided), the jury has been sent home without deliberating. Even this one remaining democratic forum under Emergency Management [a system of corporate dictatorship where state appointed Emergency Managers replace local, elected officials] is suppressed and precluded. We are still fighting to get this case back to the seated, sworn, and instructed jury-in-exile. This motion was brought surreptitiously to Judge Hathaway during our trial by the highest ranking lawyers in Mayor Duggan's Law Department."

And the jury will continue to be idle until the presiding Judge lifts his stay on the trial and either rules a mistrial or to continue.

Rev. Wylie-Kellerman further states: "Its barely an irony that when arraigned last year we demanded a jury trial because under Emergency Management three-fourths of Black elected officials in the state and ALL the elected officials in Detroit had been replaced by Emergency Management. A jury was then, and even now perhaps, the last vestige of democracy in Detroit. Now we are pre-empted even from putting

this case to a vote of the jury."

"During arguments, the prosecutor explained that they waited until the very end of the trial to file this stay because they had hoped the Thanksgiving break would "dissipate" some of the jury's focus on the wider issues, but then the defense called water shut-off victims to testify."

"Returning the case to them at this point is a very long shot. The administration does not want people to hear the results of that vote," says Wylie-Kellerman.

The prosecution wanted this case to be about disorderly conduct. The defense made it about the immorality of raising water bills so high the poor could not possibly pay them. And then the poor face the threat of removing children from families whose water had been cut off. Newborns, the chronically ill, the elderly and disabled are all denied the human right to water so that corporations can come in and make untold profits. This case woke people up to the true nature of our society and who the real criminals are, so the powers that be shut it down.

"The courtroom was packed and we give thanks for the support," says Wylie-Kellerman. "We are considering a variety of legal and street actions."

*Waging love,  
The Homrich 9*

## Water wars escalate in Flint, Michigan



Melissa Mays (left of podium), of the group *Water You Fighting For*, prepares for a press conference on a class action lawsuit. Flint, MI residents have been subject to E. coli, TTHM's, and now lead poisoning from their water. PHOTO/DONATED

By Claire McClinton

FLINT, MI — "The thought of people being put out of their homes because the water has been cut off and it's been cut off illegally is very emotional to me." — Val Washington, Flint attorney fighting back tears at court hearing challenging water rate hikes

"It has become clear to me that unacceptable lead levels were a failure of government at every level." — Congressman Dan Kildee in letter to EPA demanding a Federal investigation into toxic water issues

"Things are much better but

the water is still not safe." —Mark Edwards, Professor, Virginia Tech, whose test of Flint water led to switching back to Detroit in October

The move to return to Detroit as a water source was a huge victory for the "water warriors" here in Flint. Still, Flint continues to

reside in water Hell until we find out the lasting effects on our health and the impact on our children and infants.

After bouts of E. Coli, TTHM's, and now lead poisoning, embattled Flint residents are taking their grievances to Federal court and to the EPA in Washington, D.C. A federal class action lawsuit has been launched for punitive damages and accountability. Donations of water and filters have flooded in from everywhere to help the people.

Meanwhile, the battle for affordable water is being fought out on Capitol Hill where wife and mother, Leanne Walters, shared her story in a recent hearing. When her 4-year-old son was diagnosed with lead poisoning last year, her persistence led to a Virginia Tech study and Hurley Medical Center exposé of elevated lead levels in infants and children. Legislation is being sought to close loopholes in the EPA guidelines to prevent another child or another city from going

through this nightmare.

The decision to use Flint River as our water source was orchestrated under the notorious Emergency Manager law. Emergency Managers are dispatched throughout the state by the governor to impose "fiscal discipline" on local municipalities and school boards. Their real job is to sell off public assets and privatize public services. Not satisfied with selling off public parks and senior centers along with privatizing garbage collection and more, they came after our most precious asset—our water. In their zeal to turn water into a commodity, water rates soared and water quality was ignored. Early on in the demonstrations held, one sign read: ARE THEY TRYING TO KILL US?

This system of corporate rule has put our lives at risk. The governor, a corporate shield, says he can't live without the corporate agenda. We the people say we can't live with it. The struggle continues.

# Homeless protesters create ‘Liberty City’

By Mike Zint, founding member, *First They Came For The Homeless*

BERKELEY, CA — For two weeks a group of homeless have



Anna Davis, Henry Yoder, and Mike Zint at the Berkeley City Hall “Liberty City” occupation. PHOTO/SARAH MENEFFEE

occupied City Hall in protest of the new anti-homeless laws. We protest for equal rights, equal protection, and demand we be allowed to care for ourselves in

the commons. The city wants to shuffle, harass, and torture us, drive us out of town. This is the tactic most cities use, instead of dealing with the problem. The homeless community is the same as the housed, but without hard walls. We want the same things as the housed.

Since “Liberty City” has been occupying, we have accomplished the following: We have provided shelter and storage for over 60 people; one hot meal per day at the cost of \$1 in food stamps; vaccinated and registered the protesters dogs and cats; handed out over 100 blankets and over 50 jackets for the cold weather; provided safety, security, privacy and stability for the protesters.

This was all accomplished by us, with community support. We have demonstrated success at almost no cost to the city. We have handled 7% of Berkeley’s homeless in two weeks. Our protest is threatened with 647e, “illegal lodging.” The law clearly states “without the per-

mission of the owner.” We own the commons, and have given ourselves permission to be there. The Berkeley Police Department insists on referring to the occupation as an encampment. This is a blatant attempt to create an excuse to violate our rights.

“Liberty City” is the solution, not the problem. Criminalizing the homeless is the problem. In two weeks we have proven success, Allow us to relocate “Liberty City” to a mutually agreed upon location. Help us centralize services. Observe the lessons running a recycling business teaches. See community evolve a government of consensus-based self rule. Watch as the “Liberty City” community helps deal with the homeless crisis. Solutions come from community. We have these solutions.

*Update (from Sarah Menefee for the ‘First They Came For The Homeless’ and the People’s Tribune):*

On December 4, Berkeley

police raided “Liberty City,” confiscating tents and possessions, arresting Mike Zint, Anna Davis, and Casey Hosier. The day after being released, Mike made this statement: “Banners are going up and signs are being made. Tonight, these homeless are without the shelter thanks to the city’s unconstitutional action of removing our occupation.” Since then a symbolic tent has been erected and more signs painted, protesters sitting on chairs in front of City Hall and under a tarp to shelter from the rains. Davis and Hosier were again arrested for “lodging” under this tarp.

“Liberty City” remains as a shining example of how people can take care of themselves and each other. Imagine if the whole economic and political system was in our hands and run that way, freely sharing the abundance that we ourselves create? Only the profits-only laws of capitalism and their fascist enforcement prevent this. Stop the criminalization! Housing for everyone!

# Tens of thousands affected by displacement in Silicon Valley

By Peggy Elwell

SAN JOSE, CA — Tenants and members of the homeless community protested early in the morning outside the hearing of the California Senate Committee on Transportation and Housing on November 12 at the County Building in San Jose, California.

Tens of thousands of low-income seniors, people with disabilities, and working people are being forced out of their Silicon Valley homes, while Congress and the State Legislature have not taken effective action to stop the crisis. Rents in San Jose have risen 10% or more every year since 2010.

The following speakers at the rally were interviewed by the *Peoples Tribune*:

“The laborers are the lowest paid workers in the construction industry. They help build houses and don’t make enough to rent housing in this area. They have to live far from here and so they are already tired when they get here. Some of them sleep in their cars. They have to be away from their families a lot and it causes social problems. We have the right to live where we work!”

— Salvador Muñoz, *Business*

*Agent Local 270 Laborers International Union of North America*

“I have a 35-year-old son with his own infant son who have to live with me because they can’t afford a place even when he is working. I am losing four neighbors because their rent was jacked up from \$1700-2200. I hear from my co-workers for the state that their rents are increasing, although we are not receiving any pay increases. Although we have some support on the San Jose City Council for rent control and renter’s rights, there is a lot of influence from big developers also. This is our town, now Greedsville.”

— Shirley Stager, member *SEIU, Low-Income Self-Help Center and Silicon Valley Rising*

“We have faced three evictions in three months. We operate safe houses to keep people off the streets and bring about transformation in their lives. We give life skills education, help in restoration court, assist in job placement—we rebuild lives.

“The first one was a safe house in Stockton with eight women and four children; one of them used to live in the former Jungle homeless encampment in San Jose, with a 4-year-old that



Salvador Munoz of the Laborers Local 270 speaks at rally against displacement in Silicon Valley.

PHOTO/SANDY PERRY

was born in the camp. The house is owned by sisters in trust and they decided to sell—there was no just cause for our eviction. We live by faith and prayer; an attorney came to help.

“The second eviction was a co-ed home in San Jose with four children, two women and seven

men that were all homeless. One has a housing voucher who can’t find a place. We have been there for three years and were served with a 60-day notice. The owner wants to divide the house into sections and get \$5000 a month instead of the \$2650 that she is getting now.

“The third eviction was my own home; I got a 90-day notice because the owner is going to sell. I am trying to get them to wait until February so that I can use my tax refund to get into another place.”

— Pastor Raquel Ordonez from *Exodus to Serenity Ministry*

# The new homeless are families, veterans, and children

By Richard William Peete

CLEARWATER, FL — Hi everyone. I'm Rick and I live in Clearwater, Florida. Homelessness is not necessarily what you think or what you've been led to believe. I was your classic middle class American with a family, career and home. And all of it was lost in the recession.

It's no longer the guy you see pushing a shopping cart around or digging in a garbage can. That's the old homeless. The new homeless are families and veterans and children and single men and women.

Does any one believe that every homeless person in America woke up one day and said well, I think I'll give up everything in my life and go live on the street and be a drug addict or alcoholic? Of course not. Something happened to them.

When I was homeless I was told that I was lazy and stupid and my life really didn't matter.

In 1980 I graduated with my masters degree in economics and I carried a 3.8 GPA for five years. No one can afford to predetermine who a homeless person is.

Now for the issues. The criminalization of homelessness and the criminalization of helping the homeless does nothing to solve the core issues. Cities would rather spend valuable tax dollars on laws and policies that directly affect the homeless. My question is, why not spend those tax dollars on policies and programs that will help them?

Second issue. Violence against the homeless. Three of the past four years Florida led the nation in this category. In those three years, over 300 homeless people were systematically attacked resulting in 180 deaths. Every month in America at least one homeless person will be killed for no other reason than the fact that he or she is homeless. If any other group was targeted like this there would be a national out-

cry. But the homeless are still the one group that is safe to hate. And they prove it every chance they get. Just recently in Jacksonville, Florida two 12 year old boys went out and shot a homeless man to death.

What I want to see, is a national homeless bill of rights. Eight states have passed such legislation and we are trying to get Florida on board. I want to see the housing first program go nationwide.

I want the community to look outside of themselves and see how blessed they are to have what they have in life and so many have nothing. It doesn't cost you a dime to go into the community and sit with someone and give them a hug. Who knows, you just might change a life. And trust me it will change yours.

*For research on homeless issues: search the National Law Center on homelessness; Take Me Home documentary about hunger and homelessness in central*

*Florida; 60 minutes October 1st 2006 Bum Hunting; Hand up ministries on gofundme for how you can help; for the content of Enact Floridas homeless bill of rights on change.org.*



Richard William Peete of Hands Up Ministries with his girlfriend, Tracy and her granddaughter, Chloe in St. Petersburg, Florida.

PHOTO/???

## The cost of higher education contradicts its purpose

By Alex Engel

TAMPA, FL — College attendees have become history's new proletariat—their famous hammers and sickles now traded for exorbitantly priced text books and greasy spatulas. The students of America, who've only just left home to attend college, are already encompassed in a debt that will negatively influence their lives until they are middle aged. The fundamental issues of capitalism that have inhibited human growth and wellbeing since its enactment have pervaded our once most progressive institutions—our universities—and are bringing about this lower class, the likeness of which has not existed before. It is a class which exists only in the context of a single generation.

The unfortunate truth is that universities are run like businesses, with their ultimate aim to cultivate the most prestigious reputation and procure the most funds, *not* to offer the highest quality education to their students. Competition between colleges paired with these objectives causes students to be overlooked and abused, as business-like establishments operate for the accumulation of profit above all

else, and will continue to raise tuition and increase their profit margins at the cost of their students for as long as they are allowed, or until their standing significantly suffers.

Despite this exploitation, students cannot simply refuse to attend universities without jeopardizing their futures. College education has become a necessity in modern America as jobs offering high enough salaries to feasibly sustain a person in our culture become less in number and extremely high in demand. It is the nature of capitalism that necessities be made extortionately priced, coveted commodities with consumers unable to refuse to patronize the purveyor of this good.

The universities will not naturally restrict themselves—regulation must be instituted to protect the education of the students of America, and, subsequently, the future of American society. The statistics exemplify this issue of necessity vs. price: although there have been small declines in college enrollment recently, overall undergraduate enrollment is projected to increase to 19.6 million by 2024, while 69% of public four-year college graduates exit-

ed college in debt with an average debt of \$28,950 per borrower in 2014. Meanwhile, tuition has reached a record high, costing on average \$22,958 per year for out-of-state public four-year college attendees in 2015. Our educational system will remain locked in this detrimental trend unless actions are taken to undermine the existing processes of these powerful institutions.

Our youth are sent to universities to flourish and become empowered—to better their futures and that of the world with the experience and knowledge they will hopefully gain. But the nature of poverty is that the poor's conceptions be confined to immediate necessities, like the allocation of food, money, and utilities, with little else allowed to breach consciousness.

This contradicts the entire purpose of education. Students cannot learn in our current cultural climate, yet our universities become increasingly expensive with every year. We have stunted the intellectuals of our era; we must now collectively rescind our current state before the damages wreaked are irreparable.

## Attacks on homeless are an attack on us all

From the Editors

“Battling Fresno’s Panhandlers” is a program that aired on a Fresno, California news station. Its mean-spirited message is: “Don’t feed the homeless. Don’t give them money. Don’t help them. They will take advantage of you.” This carefully designed propaganda was intended to blame the homeless for their poverty rather than an economic system that cares only about the interests of a billionaire ruling class.

The reality is that homelessness, under capitalism, is insoluble in an era when electronic production is throwing millions out of the workplace permanently. The rulers aim to drive a wedge between the homeless, their supporters and the soon-to-be homeless in order to thwart a common struggle for the only solution: a new society where society’s abundance is distributed to all, regardless of if you have money to pay or not.

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People's Tribune Radio podcasts are available at [peopletribune.org](http://peopletribune.org). Hear from people at the forefront of the struggles for a new America.

# Fighting Chicago police violence, the fight for a new society

By Allen Harris

CHICAGO, IL — The execution in 2014 of Laquan McDonald by a Chicago cop has sparked the city's worst scandal in decades and growing calls for "Mayor 1%" Rahm Emanuel and Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez to step down.

Chicago Police Supt. Garry McCarthy was fired, sacrificed by a mayor who insisted he would not leave office.

Emanuel and some of his City Council allies lamely attempted to frame the cover-up of the dashcam video of McDonald's killing as merely a problem of "bad apples" and dysfunction in the police department.

The problem is not just bad apples. The problem is the whole apple tree—root, trunk and branch. This means the entire economic and political system, controlled by a billionaire corporate class, who are the owners of the giant corporations that have taken over our government. The police are the guardians of their private property. For this reason, we fight police violence every step of the way, understanding that we can't stop the rising police state without getting rid of the capitalist system.

Emanuel's official title is mayor, but his real role is to be an agent of the corporate class who have backed him. Their vision is a "world class" Chicago, but only for themselves and a small, highly skilled work force.

That is why, for example, Emanuel and his billionaire masters are wrecking public education in order to privatize it. Chicago used to be a mighty industrial center that employed

millions of workers. But now those jobs are gone. The billionaires who own the industries do not need today's children as tomorrow's workers and so they will not pay to educate them. Robots are today's workers.

As far as Emanuel and the capitalist elites are concerned, the unemployed, the underpaid, the homeless and the sick—regardless of race—can all go jump in the lake.

Or, just get the hell out of Chicago so it can be developed into a private, gated paradise. If the police violence worsens, the poverty deepens and life in the working-class neighborhoods gets so bad that the poor will just give up and flee, that is fine with the ruling class. The poor are not wanted here.

Increasingly, the city's mass movements against Emanuel have noted this reality and see Laquan McDonald's murder in this light. They are bringing their answer to the doorsteps of the rich. Literally.

This and other actions show that people are beginning to understand that the murder of Laquan McDonald and the political cover-up did not happen in a vacuum. It is connected to the crisis of a dying capitalist system.

As we celebrate the departure of McCarthy and look forward to the fall of Emanuel and his henchmen, we know we will have to fight for our survival under any new administration. To end forever the freedom to murder our children, we will have to fight for a new society where the people make the decisions and where the abundance the robots make possible belong to us all.



Protesters of the police killing of Laquan McDonald blockaded nearly all store entrances of Chicago's Michigan Ave. shopping area, demanding an end not only to police terrorism, but to all injustice.

PHOTO/A. ANINON

## What we must do to stop the rising police state

From the Editors

The recent publicity around the 2014 murder of Laquan McDonald by Chicago police has again focused a spotlight on the campaign of terror the police are waging against the people.

While the corporate media paint police violence as solely an issue of racism; it is this—and more. It is an assault on the working class and on democracy itself. Police brutality and killings are the face of the drive toward a complete fascist takeover of America.

Today, automation has created massive permanent unemployment and poverty. This will inevitably lead to social upheavals as the people fight for their survival. The ruling class is moving to impose a militarized police state to maintain order and protect their wealth, power and property.

Given American history, their assault falls first and heaviest on workers of color. The result is that the class nature of the attack is hidden. Their goal is to make it appear that the attack is solely because of color in order to isolate one section of workers from the rest of the class. This division paves the way for a full-fledged police state.

The role of revolutionaries is to show the people that the rulers are using the race question to hide the fact that they are step-by-step imposing a police state on our entire society. To stop a complete police fascist takeover, every instance of police violence and disregard for constitutional rights must be fought. We must reject the rulers' deception.

Fight for justice for Laquan McDonald!

## About Black Lives Matter

By John Williams

DETROIT, MI — As a result of a series of police killings of Black working class persons, the slogan of Black Lives Matter has become very popular. Whereas Black lives do matter, the question is whether it is an identity or class problem, and how to win real and lasting change.

My contention is that to label and pursue it as a 'race' question masks the class problem in the most disturbing times. Most importantly, it does not focus on the ruling class and their exploitation and oppression to protect private property.

The Guardian reported that 776 people were killed by police

since November, 2015. Of those, 385 are white, but this fact is hidden. Two Princeton economists revealed in a study that white Americans between the ages of 45 to 54 died at a rate equal to 500,000 between 1999 to 2013. This is equivalent to a rate that is 40 times the number dead in the West African Ebola crises. The report further states that the reason for the deaths were the loss of jobs as manufacturing and construction were lost. They turned to alcohol, suicide and drug poisoning.

Our task is to unite the working class around these common elements and bring Black Lives Matter under the banner of the dispossessed and consolidate the

fight against the owners of private property.

It is extremely important to understand that the police, National Guard and Armed Forces are the protectors of private property.

As robotics and computers continue to replace human labor at alarming rates, the ruling class will utilize fascist tactics to protect its private property. Therefore, we cannot leave any element of our permanently and underemployed class to become fodder for the ruling class, or as some say, the one percent.

We must continue to make Black Lives Matter, but connect it to the struggle it belongs to. That is, the fight of the working class



Protesters at Chicago City Hall after the release of the videotape of the police killing of Laquan McDonald.

PHOTO/SARAH-JI

to end exploitation and oppression in a new society of equality, peace and happiness.



# Police with guns in high schools



Protesting armed guards at high schools in Los Angeles.

PHOTO/???

By Ezra Messer and  
Chris Venn

LOS ANGELES, CA — I am a high school student in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). Even back in middle school, I have always been aware of police on my school campus. The first thing I notice when I see one patrolling is the hand gun strapped to their hip. Students on my high school campus are quite used to there being an officer, but you can tell that no one wants to get too close to them. Every year there is always some poor kid who gets pulled out of class in the middle of a lesson and has to be escorted to the office by one of the policemen.

I feel sorry for my cousin who just started high school because security is becoming tighter with the new “safe campus campaign” and it is becoming more like a prison every year. Today other schools across the U.S. are also increasing their security with police men patrol-

ling the halls, drug sniffing dogs checking backpacks, chain link fences caging in students while metal detectors line the entrance. In 1996 there were 9600 school resource officers (SRO’s.) Today there are 170,000. Why has it become this way?

The creation of public schools was fueled by industry. Workers needed to learn basic skills to get the job done. With the growing mechanization of labor, industry is becoming less dependent on workers and more on robots to complete their standard procedures. Now that industry has less of a need for workers, there is beginning to be a loss of hope for these student’s futures.

With the culture of fear constantly being fueled by school shootings and drive-bys, SRO’s are the fastest growing segment of law enforcement. Schools are becoming a place of punishment, repressive holding centers for youth.

Schools allowing police

to work in schools is a mistake. With police on campus, kids can be sent straight from a classroom to jail. It’s called the “school to prison pipeline.” With armed officers there, any student could be shot given the right excuse. The presence of an armed officer changes the values taught and the atmosphere at school. At a young age students are learning to fear the police.

What kind of system promotes the presence of armed police in schools in the first place? Instead of the \$59 million the LAUSD spends on its annual police budget (LA Times, Nov. 30, 2015), this money could be spent for more counselors, social workers and student support staff.

In a society of such obvious abundance, a vision is possible that values students and their contributions for a just and peaceful world.

## ‘You must step up!’ says union leader

Richard Monje is Vice President of Workers United. He was master of ceremonies at the Chicago memorial for Nelson Peery, a revolutionary for over 75 years, who died in September, 2015. He gave these closing remarks.

CHICAGO, IL — Nelson touched people on so many different levels. I saw him with children. I’ve seen him with families, not just with comrades who bring their children around. He would be on a bus or a plane, and he’d immediately make friends and keep in contact and continue a conversation. He touched people in so many ways.

I met him when I was like 18-years-old, after the walk-outs, after the Chicano moratorium, and after I’d been shot by police in the back of the leg and was angry on so many levels at what had happened in East L.A. over that period of time. Our community, my family, people who look like me, were being terrified, harassed by the police walking back from playing baseball at the playground. And to go from that to the thought that the principle strategy for revolution in this country is based in class was very profound for me.

Where we find ourselves today is in a growing revolution-

ary movement, not a movement of reforms and extracting concessions from capitalism. Will they adjust the capitalist system to feed the poor? To help the children? To create places for the mentally ill to go? To take care of our elderly, our disabled? Will they take care of the growing impoverishment of the working class?

Everything has been broadened out to a different level, and there’s a task placed before those of us who are enlightened about what’s right and what’s wrong. Will we go back to having orphans living in the streets? Is it acceptable to us, whether we’re revolutionary communists or just individuals, to turn away children who are starving? Whether or not we’re communists, it’s become a practical question: how do we save our country? It’s not ideological. You must come forward and do what is necessary, and enter that stage of understanding, of self-consciousness: what are you going to do?

I barely made it. I owe my life to a lot of the communists in this room and to Nelson. I was once on the border of going to jail or getting hooked on drugs. How many people around us face that today as the only alternative to surviving the growing misery they feel in their families

and communities? Let alone the murders that are going on. We have union members in St. Louis whose children grew up with Michael Brown in Ferguson. This is not just something that’s isolated to certain small communities as it once was. It’s widespread across this country.

So the question comes to us: what are you going to do? And are you going to let your ideas, your individual opinions keep you divided when our entire history is one of banding together, fighting together, not individually, not without organization, but with organization and discipline! That’s the only way we change this country and this world, and you must step up! Thank you.



Richard Monje speaking at Nelson Peery’s memorial in Chicago.

PHOTO/BRETT JELINEK

### Celebrate the life of Nelson Peery

Saturday, January 30, 2016 • 2:00 p.m. Reception • 3:00 – 5 p.m. Program  
Los Angeles Trade Technical College, Aspen Hall, 2100 S. Grand Ave., L.A., CA 90015

Friends, you are invited to a memorial service in Los Angeles, CA, that will be a celebration of the life, struggle and legacy of the late Nelson Peery, a genuine American revolutionary. He was a founder of the People’s Tribune. Come and join friends and colleagues for an afternoon to honor the memory of Nelson Peery.

For more information call 310-548-6491, or email [lalna@gmail.com](mailto:lalna@gmail.com).

# In the bullseye of health insurance pain!

By Rita Valenti

ATLANTA, GA — In front of the mammoth Blue Cross and Blue Shield headquarters in downtown Chicago chants of, “Hey Hey! Ho Ho! — Blue Cross/Blue Shield has Got to Go!” and “What do we want—Single Payer!” and “When do we want it—Now!” rang out. Led by dozens of energetic medical students from Physicians for a National Health Program, hundreds of healthcare activists and professionals rallied at the October 30 demonstration.

Marchers demanded the elimination of the private insurance industry to be replaced by a governmental publicly accountable ‘single’ insurer with “Everyone IN and No One Out!” Healthcare-NOW, the Organization of Single Payer States, Physicians for a National Health Program, Labor Campaign for Single Payer and over 400 hundred organizers converged for a weekend of strategy conferences. It was one of the largest gatherings of its kind since the passage of the Affordable Care Act in 2010.

Patient experiences five years after the Affordable Care Act has made it painfully clear

that buying health insurance on the ACA ‘market place exchanges,’ or from shrinking choices at work or even Medicare Advantage or supplemental plans are no guarantee that the healthcare you need will be covered by the insurance purchased. Over 32 million in the U.S. remain uninsured today.

The overwhelming majority without health insurance live in the South, including 90% of 4 million people caught in a ‘coverage gap’ due to those states’ refusal to expand Medicaid. This ‘coverage gap’ hits people with incomes below \$16,242 for an individual and \$27,724 for a family of three! The ‘state’s rights’ to refuse Medicaid expansion only serves to deepen poverty and its healthcare disparities. Further, all undocumented immigrants are locked out of any health insurance and ‘legal’ immigrants are forced to wait years for eligibility.

Healthcare insecurity has actually expanded, not diminished over the last decade, increasingly thumping the shrinking numbers of workers who have employment-based health insurance. On-the-job premiums

increased over 61% with those costs falling directly on the worker. In the mid-1990’s, 74% of the health insurance was employment based. Today that number is less than 57% and falling. In the bull’s-eye of this decline is trade union negotiated healthcare benefits but any employment-based health insurance is targeted, especially when the so-called “Cadillac Tax” hits in 2018, a tax on decent (not Cadillac) on-the-job health insurance.

It’s a sign of the times: Healthcare in a capitalist system is held hostage to corporate interests. Increasing health disparities. No coverage for the undocumented. Widening erosion of on-the-job benefits.

To win, class unity that’s based in the interests of the most dispossessed, excluded, unemployed and underemployed is a strategic key. Single payer is a link in a broader struggle to totally transform the healthcare system from private to public; from unequal to universal; from absurdly fragmented to nationalized; from corporate to common and from money driven to need met. Everyone In and No One Out! Healthcare for All!



Healthcare activists and professionals rally at the October 30 demonstration in Chicago in front of Blue Cross/Blue Shield for a single payer healthcare system. PHOTO/HEALTHCARE NOW

## A nation of immigrants

By the People’s Tribune

Immigrants have always been part of the U.S. working class, as these passages from the *History of the American Working Class* by Anthony Bimba illustrate:

*“The United States IS a nation of immigrants. The colonization of America was the result of revolutionary changes taking place in the methods of producing the necessities of life which upended the old feudal system in Europe. As the old economic system and social order based on serfdom disintegrated and a new system and social order based on wage labor arose, hundreds of thousands of “free” men and women, forced from the land, migrated to the cities seeking employment, shelter and food. By the 17th and beginning of the 18th centuries, the destitute masses of Europe were ready to risk any danger to save themselves from starvation. They begged to be taken to America by the colonizers.*

*“In the beginning the colonies were nearly all settled by ‘chartered’ companies (corporations)*

*with commercial purposes whose success depended on securing immigrants. The colonizers were the same commercial adventurers (speculators), capitalists, exploiters, wealth seekers, and privileged ‘masters’ of Europe. They were given large tracts of land in America by their governments which said in effect, ‘Take these wretches of the cities and villages, transport them to America and exploit them to your hearts’ content.’ It was these destitute workers who, along with the captive African slaves, by their blood, sweat, and tears (and lives) laid the foundation for the wealth and power of the American ruling class.”*

The need for labor by the capitalist class to fuel the expanding capitalist system in America has in the past determined America’s immigration policies. Throughout the history of expansion of capitalism, workers were pitted against each other for the financial and political gain of the capitalists.

Today we are in a period of technological revolution that is destroying the foundation of capitalism. Labor-replacing, electron-



Immigrants have always been an integral part of the American working class. The American ruling class tries to hide this reality. They pit workers against workers to thwart a common struggle. PHOTO/DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

ic production is creating a new class of workers worldwide who cannot compete with the robot.

Migrant workers today are uprooted by the corporate capitalist class as it remakes society in the age of high technology. Pushed off the land when they could not compete with high-tech corporate farming, they face the same enemy as American factory workers who are thrown out of their jobs by high-tech, computerized robots.

Immigrant and native-born workers share a common destiny of starvation if the potentially liberating new technologies are left in the hands of the corporate ruling class. This class writes the laws that make the survival activities of immigrants as well as destitute native-born workers illegal. But it is their private ownership of the production of the means of life that should be outlawed. It is a scourge on the wellbeing and future of humanity and the

earth itself.

It is time for immigrants and native-born workers to unite around our common interests and target the economic system that drives millions into poverty. During the U.S. Civil War, for example, the North could not have been victorious until a good section of the American people came to realize that it was the whole system of slavery that they must destroy. Today, we have a world to win.

# Former teacher on hunger strike after losing job and home

By Tobin Sterritt

DETROIT, MI — For 22 years Baxter Jones was a certified gym teacher in the Detroit public school system. He had purchased a home in Jackson County that he had planned to retire to, when an automobile accident in 2005 that left him with a closed head injury and spinal cord damage changed everything. Following two years of intense rehabilitation, Baxter returned to work. Although capable of performing his job and willing to do so, he was refused his old job back. Baxter was bounced around between several schools, given overloaded classrooms, until his deteriorating health forced him to go on medical leave under the FMLA. With a system under the control of an Emergency Financial Manager, Baxter was fired in 2010, losing the benefits and pension he'd worked for.

Baxter's home went into foreclosure in 2011 when he fell behind on his mortgage during

his struggle to obtain his benefits. His mortgage had been paid up through 2010. Wells Fargo, a servicer for Fannie Mae, refused to grant any forbearance or modification to his contract that would allow him to keep his home, in direct violation of federal regulations. Wells Fargo made an offer to sell his home, valued at \$58,000, back to Baxter for \$254,000.00. By this point Baxter had sold off almost everything he had. Baxter only qualified for Social Security disability, the only income he could get, and he filed for bankruptcy in 2012.

Starting in 2013, Baxter made repeated attempts to buy back his home at market value, and was denied every time, in spite of the FHFA approved buy-back policy that allowed home owners to repurchase their foreclosed homes at market value. In a cruel twist, Fannie Mae sold Baxter's home for \$100,000 before a stay of eviction issued by a District Judge was up.

Baxter began a hunger strike

on the September 13, 2015. He wants the government to protect the most vulnerable and to hold accountable those who violate laws that protect people who need help.

In the last several years, Baxter Jones has been a highly visible activist, for himself and for others in Detroit, taking his fight to social media and the streets. He was one of the Homrich Nine, arrested for blocking the trucks belonging to Homrich, a private company hired by the city to shut off residents' water. He has been a visible and vocal advocate for others in Detroit who are facing foreclosure, and a staunch advocate for the vulnerable and disadvantaged, through a Facebook page named after his familiar calling phrase "Beat Back the Bullies."

Baxter's story is an all-too-common one: people are daily discarded by a system that values profits over the wellbeing of people. Baxter's fight is our fight. His hunger strike continues. Where



Baxter Jones speaks to the Detroit Gathering on Water and Housing. PHOTO/DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

it goes is far from certain. Institutions such as Fannie Mae and Wells Fargo will do what serves their best interests first and foremost. A system that cannot provide for the most vulnerable

members of society is a system in decay. It is time to "beat back" the bullies who profit from suffering and fight for a new system.

Reach Baxter at [www.advocates4baxter.org](http://www.advocates4baxter.org)

## Why we need the Peoples' Tribune



By Minister Alfreda Chi Mauuso

WASHINGTON, DC — If you are a community person, you need to be able to interpret local events as a reflection of what's happening in the rest of the country. I distribute 50 or more copies of the People's Tribune to my neighbors, to all of the local businesses and through my affiliation with the Afrikan Women's Networking Group.

The Peoples' Tribune is a

wake-up call about the untold truth of what's really going on in our communities and what/who is behind it. It covers what the mainstream media does not. It explains what's causing the chaos in our society in the first place, and is not afraid of reporting the truth.

The Peoples' Tribune writers give me a perspective I can relate to my community. Its national perspective prepares us for what's coming down the pike. The People's Tribune should be distributed to every high school and college, as required reading.

*Minister Alfreda Chi Mauuso, born in Philadelphia, has been a resident of the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area for over 35 years. She is an ordained Elder in her church and has been elected twice as Commissioner of her Advisory Neighborhood Commission, 4C01. ChiMauuso@yahoo.com.*

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## Moral Mondays

The church folk are gathering on Mondays now.

Have you seen them?

Marching through downtown,  
Linking arms outside the Board of Trade to block the entrances,  
Shutting down business as usual,  
Like Jesus throwing over the money table in the temple.

They are chanting:

*Love thy neighbor as thyself,  
Tax the rich and share the wealth!*

(Pretty straightforward, no?)

What I like is how things look different today  
on LaSalle and Jackson -

At the feet of the Federal Reserve Bank,  
thousands are singing, chanting, & holding signs.  
There is even a sousaphone!  
That's not something you see every day - not yet.

Some things, though, remain the same.  
Frank is still outside Garret's Popcorn in his walker,  
panhandling for his lunch.  
And the evangelists are still on the corner  
(though no one seems to notice),  
with their sign that reads:

What does the Bible really teach?

— Adam Gottlieb, 9/2/15

# 'So many young people are involved now,' says Dorothy Pinkney



(Left to right) Pati Heinz, Dorothy Pinkney, and Polly Hughes at a conference in Detroit to defend Rev. Pinkney. PHOTO/DONATED

*Editor's note: The People's Tribune interviewed Dorothy Pinkney about Benton Harbor's history and Rev. Pinkney's unjust incarceration.*

BENTON HARBOR, MI — "I was four-years-old when my parents moved to Benton Harbor's countryside. When we moved to the city, I saw a different side to

Benton Harbor. I remember walking around as a teenager. I saw beautiful homes, a beautiful Main Street with many retail stores and restaurants. It was a city booming with factories and jobs. Men came here, got a job, and then sent for their families in Memphis, Arkansas, or Mississippi." This was the era when mechanization of southern agriculture

forced millions in the rural South to migrate north.

"When my parents moved to the city, it was mostly Caucasian. As African Americans moved in, resources like the courthouse and factories were moved to St. Joseph, which became a largely white city. Blacks were no longer welcome.

"Today, there's nothing left in Benton Harbor. Whirlpool is the dominant corporation that rules the region. As Whirlpool and other factories closed their industrial operations, people became poorer. Now you see abandoned houses, no jobs, and a lot of homelessness." That poverty has spread into cities with a large Black population, and beyond.

"When my husband got involved as an activist, he told me stories that opened my eyes to injustice. Then an uprising occurred in 2003 when the police murdered Terrence "T-Shirt." My husband went out to the community to connect with the young

people. They were dealing with police harassment and felt they weren't being heard.

With the merging of government and corporate power, Emergency Financial Managers were brought into Benton Harbor to take more resources away from the community, an attack on our democracy. We got involved with recalling Glen Yarborough, a commissioner-at-large who was selling the residents out to Whirlpool. Whirlpool wanted to buy up city resources. First they wanted the underground cable. Then the lakefront property. My husband and others were opposed to this. This was the beginning of the government's attack.

"During my husband's trial [for unproven charges of changing five dates on petitions to recall the mayor], the government brought the community organization he leads, BANCO, into the courtroom. BANCO speaks out against injustice and court watches. It is seen as a threat.

"Whirlpool and the government are trying to destroy the Benton Harbor movement for justice through the attack on my husband. But the ousting of the mayor in the last election shows that people are rising up. The new mayor, Marcus Mohammed, got 90% of the young vote, another indication that the movement hasn't died. The people are ready for a change.

"I appreciate the hard work and continued support, national and international, to get my husband released from prison. We have to continue the work, even when he comes home. People are poorer than ever. There are no jobs and unemployment is at an all time high. Robots have come in and taken over. The lives of the young generation are at stake. We see so many young people involved now. I don't think they can be stopped. What they have done is create a generation that is saying, "We're fighting back at any cost."

## Resistance to fascism grows in Michigan

From the Editors

Fascism, the merger of the corporations and government, is developing further in Michigan, as is the resistance to it.

Once the robots began replacing workers in factories and poverty began to spread, the corporations began to impose fascism to contain the workers and guarantee their profits.

The rulers appointed dictatorial "Emergency Managers" to come in to Michigan cities and slash public services, cut off people's water, take over school districts, and transfer public assets into corporate hands. Elected officials no longer had authority.

As a result, a movement arose. In Benton Harbor, one of the first cities to get Emergency Managers, the people fought to oust their Emergency Managers. They also utilized the electoral process to oust politicians that represented the big corporations such as Whirlpool. Rev. Pinkney, a leader of this movement and a spokesperson for the most destitute workers, was jailed on phony charges in an attempt to stop the movement. Much to the dismay of corporate power, the movement has not stopped. It is growing.

The same process is unfolding in other Michigan cities. Emergency Managers, who gave the green light for water cutoffs to thousands in Detroit and the poisoning of the water in Flint, now stand exposed as agents of the corporate-state.

The struggle is showing that capitalism, a system based on the private property interests of the few, is a dying system. It can't and won't provide for those it no longer can exploit. It offers only fascism. The question is: how are people to survive?

There is an old saying that without a vision a people will perish. Either the society is going to be run in the interests of the corporations or the people will take the corporations over and run them in the people's interests. Imagine the world we could have! Spreading this vision can inspire millions to join this fight.

Use the People's Tribune to educate about fascism, the attack on our leaders, the vision of the new society—and to defend Rev. Pinkney. A movement has to defend its leaders.

## Benton Harbor rally for Rev. Pinkney

By Pati Heinz

BENTON HARBOR, MI — On Nov. 24, 2015, Benton Harbor activists gathered in front of the Berrien County Court House to rally for Rev. Ed Pinkney's freedom. He has been incarcerated for nearly a year on bogus charges, because he stood up to Whirlpool and the local governments. The group plans to demonstrate on a regular basis, possibly weekly, even through the holidays. Injustice doesn't take a break, so as activists, and humanitarians, we can not either. It is a constant fight we can't just walk in and out of.

At the rally, Dorothy Pinkney stressed that the community should not fall silent concerning the injustices carried out by Berrien County. She said, not only was Rev. Pinkney a victim of their system, but hundreds of others are as well.

Benton Harbor resident, James Duncan joined us. He is 3rd Ward Commissioner Juanita



Reverend Pinkney.

PHOTO/DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

Henry's husband and a long time activist (going back to Watts in '68). He said, "It doesn't matter that there is only a few out here, the message is still being brought. But persistence is key. I will try to be out here whenever you come out!"

Emma Kinnard, a long time

community activist for justice in Benton Harbor, said, "I think we should step it up, and come out here every week, or every other week. What's a couple hours a week? The Rev. is doing time for us all."

## FREE PINKNEY!

Rev. Pinkney was jailed because he is a spokesperson for the poor in their fight against corporate power. Support this fight. Order copies of the People's Tribune. Call 800-691-6888 or email [info@peopletribune.org](mailto:info@peopletribune.org)