

## CHARLOTTESVILLE: UNITING IN THE FIGHT FOR OUR COMMON HUMANITY



Protest following Charlottesville in Atlanta, GA. People of all colors and nationalities stepped forward, in the South, and across the country, to voice their moral outrage at white supremacy, and to show their love of humanity, and their desire for unity and equality. PHOTO/JOHN E. RAMSPOTT

Public education is under attack: **Why?**

Read the story on page 4





# 'My health care shouldn't be a market!'

## EDITORIAL



"Our Lives Are on the Line" rally for healthcare in Chicago.

PHOTO/CHARLES MILLER

"Without health care coverage I'm dead or bankrupt!" said one person in the audience. "Health insurance as a for-profit business is immoral", shouted out another, to applause. "My health care shouldn't be a market! When did we become a society that doesn't care about each other?"

These truths were voiced by people at a Republican-sponsored Town Hall meeting in Willington, NJ (as quoted in a May 2017 *Rolling Stone* magazine article).

Demanding healthcare as a right, people all over the country are organizing to pressure the government to provide single-payer free healthcare, where none are left out and everyone covered, with no deductibles or co-pays, paid for largely by taxes on the wealthy.

The attempt to repeal the already-inadequate and profit-driven ACA (Affordable Care Act, or 'Obamacare') and replace it with one that would have deprived 20 million people of coverage, and given the wealthiest an estimated \$800 billion tax break, raised public resistance and fury. People are speaking up and organizing for a universal healthcare system that provides for their needs instead of lining corporate pockets. H.R. 676, Congressman Conyer's Single Payer healthcare bill, is one of these proposals. Bernie Sanders is mobilizing a nation-wide campaign to support similar legislation he will introduce in the Senate.

Medical technology is so advanced today that prosthetic limbs can be made with a 3D printer, and millions of medical records read and digested by a computer program. Cutting-edge research on nutrition, prevention of disease and cures are constantly adding to medical knowledge, yet these healing arts are out of reach for more and more working and poor people, because of their crushing costs and the dysfunctions of the profit-driven healthcare system.

Under capitalism, labor-replacing production, with computers and robots doing the jobs

humans used to do, means the capitalist class of billionaires have no reason to keep alive those they no longer need to exploit. On the other hand, people are demanding that the government provide them with what they need to survive. The battle over the necessity to have healthcare is a flashpoint now, as the ruling class moves to make it completely pay-to-play, and everyone else can go die. The government must take over these giant healthcare conglomerates and run them in the people's interest.

The assault on healthcare is one shot in the war against a whole growing class of people

the capitalist system has abandoned. The struggle for the right to healthcare is in reality a demand that the government provide for the needs of all. This can only be done under a cooperative economic and political system.

Will we have the rule of the people, true democracy, or corporate rule, with obscene wealth for the few who profit from such corporate enterprises as the monster pharmaceutical and insurance companies? Will healthcare be a commodity for sale, or a priority and a guaranteed right? The struggle for that right is one that will help define what kind of a future we as a people have—one of health and wellbeing, or needless death and misery for millions? The fight for universal healthcare is a fight for the kind of society and culture that provides these things for all, according to need.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**People's Tribune Editor:** Bob Lee

**Editorial Staff:** Ran Dibble, Brett Jelinek, Sarah Menefee, Joseph Peery, Sandra Reid, Cathy Talbott

**Photo Editor:** Daymon Hartley

**National Office:**  
People's Tribune, P.O. Box 3524  
Chicago, Illinois, 60654  
e-mail: info@peopletribune.org  
Phone: 773-486-3551  
Toll Free: 800-691-6888  
Web: www.peopletribune.org  
Facebook: fb.com/peopletrib

**Publisher:** People's Tribune  
ISSN# 1081-4787

**Reach us locally at:**  
**Chicago, IL:** 773-486-3551  
peopletribunechicago@gmail.com  
**Ann Arbor, MI:** zettlir@gmail.com  
**Atlanta, GA:** atlanta@peopletribune.org  
**Carbondale, IL:**  
carbondale@peopletribune.org  
**Denver, CO:** info@peopletribune.org  
**Detroit, MI:** 248-629-0897  
**Houston, TX:**  
P O Box 231281, Houston, TX 77223-1281  
**Los Angeles, CA:** 310-548-6491  
**Merced, CA:** TPPT2017SJVC@gmail.com  
**Oakland, CA:**  
oakland@peopletribune.org  
**Washington, DC:**  
pt\_in\_dmv@yahoo.com

## Donate to the People's Tribune!

We are reader supported. We get no corporate funding. We have an all-volunteer staff. Won't you subscribe, order bundles or donate today? The future is up to all of us.

— The Editors

## SUBSCRIBE TO THE PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE! ORDER BUNDLES

- Please send me a one-year individual subscription [ \$20 ]
- Please send me a one-year institutional subscription [ \$25 ]
- Please send me a bundle of \_\_\_\_\_ PTs [ at 50 cents per paper ]

**Enclosed is my donation of:**

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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





Some of the 40,000 protesters in Boston fighting for a humane world and against white supremacy following the Charlottesville killing of Heather Heyer.

PHOTO/STEPHEN WADE THOMSON, WWW.PLOMOMEDIA.COM

# Uniting in the fight for our common humanity

## COVER STORY

In the wake of the hatred and violence exhibited by a group of fascists who reared their ugly heads in Charlottesville, people of all colors and nationalities stepped forward across the country to voice their moral outrage, their love of humanity and their desire for unity and equality. Tens of thousands demonstrated against hate in cities across the nation, far outnumbering any white supremacist marchers that may have appeared. In Boston, 40,000 turned out to denounce the politics of hate and division.

In Charlottesville, 1,000 people filled an auditorium to celebrate the life of Heather Heyer, who was murdered by the fascists there. The list goes on.

When a country falls into a deep economic and social crisis, as America has, the powerful are under threat of losing their wealth and power. So they take steps to divide the people and pit them against each other. We saw the Nazis do this in Germany in the 1930s, and we are seeing it in America today, although under new conditions. Charlottesville was an example.

The neo-Nazis, the KKK, and other racist, fascist groups represent something rooted in the ugliest chapters of our history,

and they are unacceptable. Their ideas pose a danger to our society, and Trump's racist statements have given them cover.

But people are rejecting Trump and the fascist street gangs, and they are also fighting the other part of the fascist threat: the merger of the giant corporations and the government. Fascism ultimately is the corporations imposing a dictatorship on the country. The corporations are using the government to guarantee their power and profits in the face of a failing system, and trying to create a militarized police state to stifle democracy and dissent. This policy is supported, in one way or another, by most politicians in both the Democratic

and Republican parties, the twin parties of big business. Fascism has been consolidating further under Trump, but it's not just about Trump.

Why are the corporations moving to impose fascism now? Because increasingly, our labor is no longer needed, no matter what color we are. The computer and the robot are taking the jobs. We see this in the growing poverty. If we cannot be employed, we are a threat to the system, because our demands for food, water, housing, healthcare and other basic needs cannot be met by the existing system. For the powerful, this means containing us by getting us to fight each other and eliminating our rights.

But the massive show of unity following Charlottesville (which was similar to the popular outrage over the Muslim ban and the ongoing attacks on immigrants) shows that a huge cross-section of the people are rejecting racism and fascism. People want a humane society based on justice, equality and democracy, where the people are in control and the abundance we have is shared by all. Creating such a society is the only way to have real justice, equality and democracy. We are in a fight for that society. As one person wrote on Facebook in response to Charlottesville, "We can have all we want if we join together. Why fight each other?"

## Voices from the people after Charlottesville

*Editor's note: The following quotes from Facebook following Charlottesville illustrate that the American people are sharpening their thinking in the fight for a humane world. The next step is discussing solutions in humanity's interests.*

"The powerful elite of this country has had us at each other's throats forever. That way we can't see them destroying this planet in the rush for more and more money and power. Unfortunately they seem to have forgotten we all reach the gates of heaven with what we entered the world with: NOTHING, absolutely nothing."

"One day black white brown yellow red will unite... they will fight off the true enemy... the ones that deprive us of our pride... love... life... freedom... we will take down anyone and anything in our way that portrays themselves as a wall, a gate, an obstacle. We will climb the highest of mountains to reclaim our freedom... No matter what race you may be... dear America I would die standing on my feet than live on my knees."

"I believe all this to be by design... these people that actually run this country, along with the rest of the world, are many, many steps ahead of everyone else... They think in terms of generations, and decades, where we, the general public are thinking in years and months... They have this situation exactly how they want it."

"We have to change the way we think. It's the only way you can know that you can be deceived."

"If more people would understand that all presidents are puppets I bet the two party system would be flat on its face."

"Maybe Humanity has finally realized that it's not about being Black or white or any other color but about being a Human Being and trying to love one another and at least try and overcome the obstacles we are facing."

## Bill Bunting on love, peace, and the need to 'think'

*Editor's note: Following Charlottesville, Bill Bunting received tens of thousands of positive messages about his videos from people of all walks of life who want love and unity. Please view his videos at [facebook.com/bill.bunting.9](https://facebook.com/bill.bunting.9) or at [peopletribune.org](https://peopletribune.org). Bill is a fan of the People's Tribune and encourages everyone to subscribe or order bundles of the paper from [peopletribune.org](https://peopletribune.org).*



Bill Bunting

Good Morning Y'all,  
WOW... what a week. Lots of extremes from both sides of our energy... meaning lots of hate and lots of love. But from what I saw love won this week's battles. Many people opened their eyes as well as their hearts and brains and saw some of the lies that divide. And many of those swore to never look back at those lies but instead move forward with our brotherhood. I see a great unity brewing. And I see a lot of stereotypes being busted... people seeing that you can't judge a book by its cover. Realizing a brother or sister who truly has your back can come in any shape or size... be anyone.

So seeing that made me have hope that we can drop what we see with our eyes and begin to look with our souls.

Think about that. What does your mind's eye show you. Hmmm.

Peace  
THINK

# Public education is under attack: Why?

From the Editors

A crisis is taking place in our educational system. Public schools are being closed or underfunded while for-profit private and charter schools get public funds and are on the rise. For many of us of the older generation who grew up during the golden age of public education, it was in social studies or history class where we learned how the invention of the steam engine gave rise to the Industrial Revolution which put an end to the rule of monarchs, feudal lords and kings as well as their mistreatment of “we the people.” One of the leaders of the French Revolution (1789 to 1799) described the role of education at that time when he said, “The secret of freedom lies in educating people, whereas the secret of tyranny is in keeping them ignorant.”

That history repeated itself in August in a Detroit, MI courtroom where seven students are suing Governor Rick Snyder and state education officials for denying them and their peers an education. The lawsuit cites over-crowded classrooms with no teachers (one class was taught for a month by an eighth grader), no books, no homework, lack of desks and school supplies, freezing cold in winter, sweltering hot in summer, overrun with vermin, saturated with the smell of dead rats and mold, along with bathrooms that don't work or are in



Thousands of Philadelphia students gathered at the Board of Education to protest the lack of school funding. Communities throughout the country are fighting the attacks on public education. PHOTO/HARVEY FINKLE

disrepair. Lawyers representing the state argued that, “students have no right to literacy” because the Bill of Rights makes no mention of it. The state also argues that the state has nothing to do with Detroit public schools, yet the school district has been run by state-appointed emergency financial managers since 2009, which has led to these deplor-

able conditions.

Denials don't end in Detroit. Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel has denied that he ever told Chicago Teacher's Union President Karen Lewis, “Twenty-five percent of these kids are never going to be anything, never going to amount to anything and I'm not going to throw money at it.” He later closed 54 public

schools in the poorest communities citing budgetary reasons.

However, a recent investigative report by *Crain's Chicago Business* and the Better Government Association shows that at the time when those schools were closed, the mayor diverted \$55 million in Tax Increment Financing (TIF) money away from those schools

to the building of a luxury hotel at McCormick Place and then to the tourist industry at Navy Pier. By law TIF money is supposed to be spent on schools, libraries and blighted communities. Meanwhile teachers are laid off 1000 at a time and there are 20,000 homeless students attending Chicago public schools.

Similar stories are told all over the country. They are indications that just as the steam engine and the industrial revolution put an end to the previous social order, in like manner the new digital, electronic revolution with its computers, robots, microprocessors and 3-D printing is putting an end to industrial manufacturing. Industrial manufacturing required a large, disciplined, well educated workforce. Since no single privately owned capitalist enterprise could accomplish that, nationalized government-run public education was built.

As the electronic revolution replaces the old industrial worker with a new class of permanently homeless and hungry workers, to that same extent, public education is being transformed into privatized education. The children of this new class face a future where the private owners of education decide whether they get an unequal education or no education at all.

Any system that forces children into such a fate has no moral claim to power and must be replaced.

## Teachers Union president on challenges faced by teachers and students

*Editor's note: In anticipation of the challenges of the new school year in Chicago, Lew Rosenbaum interviewed Chicago Teachers Union President Karen Lewis for the People's Tribune. Here is what she told us.*

*Lew Rosenbaum: What do you think union work means under the changed conditions of today?*

**Karen Lewis:** The major attacks of corporate-style takeovers of the public sphere have emboldened the “bosses” or ruling elites to take as much as they can from workers, and that the narrative out there is “You should be happy to have a job.” So they will continue to hold that and the neoliberal austerity agenda over workers' heads. It means focusing on enforcing the contract while engaging members to do much of the internal enforcement through training, support, and rigorous demands that reflect the needs of all workers.

I believe the union movement has not been able to break through myths of “we only take care of our own” because until recently, they haven't. The general public sees no value in our work if they don't get “results.” For educators, that looks like test scores and every child attending a highly selective college. For public service providers, it means everyone looks like a movie star on their driver's licenses or each addict never succumbs to the temptation of another “fix.” All impossibilities, but it seems as if taxpayers want the impossible for their hard-earned dollars.

The conditions of work are much harder as employees are often treated as if they are “at will” instead of under a binding contract. Part and parcel of the problem is that the union movement never bothered to include all workers in their demands for fair treatment at work.

*LR: What are the challenges you expect to face in the new school year?*

**KL:** The biggest challenges will be the closing and consolidations of schools next year. There seem to be some “done deals” in the works, but CPS has a tendency to pretend to be transparent while ignoring the concerns of parents and community members on the decisions they make.

Another challenge continues to be the budget which has seen massive cuts (approximately \$400M over the tenure of Forrest Claypool) and the devastating cuts to Special Education students and their programs, which leave the most vulnerable students and their rights unprotected.

*LR: What is your view of what 21st century education should be like?*

**KL:** A truly amazing education would be where students work on their own interests at their own pace, and are provided the supports, a culturally relevant curriculum they need which does not skimp on the visual and performing arts, physical education, and the opportunity



Chicago Teachers Union President Karen Lewis.

PHOTO/ BILL SIMPSON

to interrogate the systems of government (through systematic research) that control their lives, in a restorative, just place (not a highly militarized environment) that is technically resourced and full of adults who can provide social/emotional supports in addition to academic support. Students would be able to present their competencies based on careful analysis and self-critique of their work. Testing would be limited to teacher created assessments and whatever requirements are used by higher education.



# Homeless and tortured

*Editor's Note: Robert Allan Tigro, Jr. lives on a boat in the Gulf of Mexico on the west coast of Florida. While in a Florida jail for a misdemeanor, he witnessed the torture and murder of a man jailed for panhandling, who was put in a restraint chair and tased to death. Tigro has gone to the press with these revelations. This is his response to a story about how police had confiscated \$234 from a panhandler.*

**By Robert Allan Tigro, Jr.**

... being homeless and being given \$234 still means you're broke and still homeless... they have killed people in jails for holding signs like this or even one that said i love jesus please help... city council members get calls... they don't like the problems our cities face so out in the open... then the police get called... they find a man who has maybe gone to war for his country lost friends and family and everything he has to be out on the street and then the police tell him we are taking your last bit of possessions and what little freedom you thought you had and taking you to jail... if you resist we will subject you to chemical weaponry electric shock torture or maybe we will just kill you... when they let you back out your money is gone to what they call due process and that piece of cardboard you had was kept because it was evidence... this is the state of america all america most of you have no clue if you're not already homeless you're probably just a few steps away... wake up people stop treating others like dirt

# How Skid Row saved my life

**By Stephanie Williams**

LOS ANGELES, CA — I'm taking a stand on 5<sup>th</sup> and San Pedro and I refuse to leave until everyone is off the ground.

I was standing on 6<sup>th</sup> and San Pedro on one leg after the police officers broke my leg then dumped me from jail. They call that police dumping. So I cried out for help and Skid Row saved my life and one guy I didn't know brought me a wheelchair. Someone else brought me food. They brought me clothing then they pushed me to 5<sup>th</sup> and San Pedro where I ran into Community Support Center. There was a nice man inside. His name was Lawrence. He let me in his office and I asked him if I could do free alterations for the community. I owe my life to Skid Row and I'm never leaving. I'm going to be that little old sewing lady and I'll be the last to leave. Outside in this community you get the support. People come here to get away.

**Skid Row saves lives.**

It's a damn shame to have to fight for our rights. I don't go for life's rules. I pray for them, whatever happens. I don't think we should have to vote for our

rights.

Tents up, house down. Take your house down and tell me how you like it. I have to take my tent down at 6 AM. If I refuse to take it down then I go to jail. I complied with their rules and I got sick. I had to wait until 9 pm to put up my tent. LA CAN (Los Angeles Community Action Network) and community leaders got a restraining order against the police. The police stressed me out so bad I thought, how do I change things? Stop police terror. I can't get a good night's sleep because I'm afraid I won't wake up by 6 AM. The police are terrorizing the homeless.

Skid Row doesn't need the police. Courtney was shot in the head by her lover and the community here chased down her killer and held him for the police. The cops are gangbanging. They gangbang us. They're just another Ku Klux Klan and they've been getting away with murder. And I'm here to spread the news about what the police are doing. We don't need the system or the jail. Accidents happen. Skid Row was a heavenly place. Whatever happened to 'Officer Friendly'?

I'm so respected on 5<sup>th</sup> and



**Stephanie Williams, who lives on Los Angeles's Skid Row, says its caring community saved her life. Stephanie does free alterations for the community.**

PHOTO/CHRIS VENN

San Pedro. They call me the governor. All we need is for the police to leave us alone. Nobody wants us. The police don't want us. Our families don't want us. You can't end the homelessness. They don't want to provide us with resources. See what they do here? Everyone helps you. In rich neighborhoods people won't talk with anyone. People don't need money when you've got community. Community is when everyone pitches in.

Why can't I have a picnic every day? If everyone pitches in then no one has to work hard. There's a gift in giving.

# Government finances private condos, homeless live in warehouses

**By Simuel Ramey**

OAKLAND, CA — "Few of Many" is a statement stenciled on one of the newly built condos in Oakland CA. What does it mean? Is it alluding to the fact

that many buildings are needed for the many homeless people who are sleeping in warehouses and encampments all over the City of Oakland?

The city asserted for years that the developer was using its

own funds in building these condos; but at the July city council meeting, the City admitted using H.U.D. money to help finance all these buildings under the City Housing and Community Development Department.

Under the H.U.D. policy, one-third of housing units built with H.U.D. funding must be for low-income persons. LOW-INCOME, not AFFORDABLE. The City of Oakland and many other big cities have transposed the words. In the reality of day-to-day living, these two words do not have the same meaning, and this is in violation of H.U.D. policy. The use of this language is forcing seniors, physically and mentally disabled people, low-income working people and families, people on welfare and General Assistance into homelessness.

Because their income does not enable them to move into these "affordable units", many people have been forced to move into warehouse buildings and encampments that are not up to code. This has resulted in fires like the "Ghost Ship" that tragically claimed 36 people's lives. The next Oakland fire claimed six people's lives after the code enforcer passed the building four or five days before the fire.

At a recent City of Oakland council meeting, a council member admitted that a couple of seniors were sleeping in their cars in front of the council

member's home. (I wrote in the Nov-Dec, 2010 issue of the *People's Tribune* about seniors sleeping in America's streets. See [peopletribune.org](http://peopletribune.org).)

According to government regulations under the Steward B. McKinney Act, Section 903 and 904, a closed government facility is to be repaired and rehabilitated for the homeless and people of low-income usage with the ten million dollars that come with it. However, in one facility, the city of Oakland has torn down units and not replaced them with anything, claiming contamination of the land. In another, the established housing units were torn down and replaced with "AFFORDABLE" condos /townhouse units. According to one City Council member, the displacement of nonprofit organizations that could help with the housing crisis is due to the dramatic increase in rental cost.

At the July city council meeting, I recognized one of the city's younger residents, eight-year-old, A.J. Jackson. He used his own money to buy bottled water for the homeless. To support A.J. Jackson in his cause, contact: Tamara Edward at 510-541-2181.



**An altar where fire destroyed the artist live/work space known as "The Ghost Ship" in East Oakland last year, claiming the lives of 36 people. Developers take advantage of such tragedies to transform spaces into expensive living units, giving rise to greater homelessness.**

PHOTO/WAYNE HSIEH



## 'We need a clean environment and jobs,' says WV candidate



Lissa Lucas, West Virginia House of Delegates candidate.

Editor's note: Lissa Lucas is running for the West Virginia House of Delegates from Ritchie County. This is the first time she's run for office. There is natural gas frack-

ing going on in northern West Virginia where she lives, and she said a key thing that motivated her to run is the plan by Antero Resources to build a fracking wastewater treatment plant and landfill a few miles from her rural home. She is running as a Democrat, but is unhappy with both the Democratic and Republican parties. She was interviewed by Bob Lee of the People's Tribune. Learn more about her at [lissalucas.com](http://lissalucas.com).

By Lissa Lucas as interviewed by Bob Lee

Something like 215 out of 250 households in Minden, WV, have had someone with cancer because companies disposed of PCBs there in the 60s. My county may be the next Minden.

With fracking, they pull the

water out of the creeks, they drill down, shoot the water out and try to split the strata apart. When it comes back up that water is filled with radioactive materials, heavy metals, and toxins.

Antero Resources wants to distill all that out. They'll re-use the water for more fracking, truck the radioactive sludge somewhere out west, and pack what's left into 500 acres of our hollers. It'll be put on landfill liners that only last 30 years. Where does that put us in 30 years?

This technology has never been used before, but they had the gall to site their dump within the peripheral zone of concern of the only drinking water intake in Ritchie County so far as I know. Substances in frack waste can be carcinogenic even when they're not radioactive, and on top of that

there'll be 600 trucks a day—one every 2 1/2 minutes—going in and out, chugging pollution on what used to be peaceful countryside.

No one I've talked to while cavassing had even heard about the dump, much less the details. When Antero proposed it, they put a fine-print legal notice in the paper. If you don't get the paper or don't read the legal notices, too bad. Even if you do, they don't say 'we're putting a dangerous, experimental frack dump too close to your water source, and here are your risks.'

Fracking is the central issue here. If you don't get this dump stopped, my community's going to be devastated.

Here's the thing, though. On the left we do a great job of saying we don't want to poison ourselves, but what we're real-

ly terrible at is saying 'and I care about your jobs.' Fracking is the lucrative job here. We can't pretend that doesn't matter. We need to do our best to get good jobs to distressed areas like mine where workers don't have any other employment choices. We have to reach out and show them we're not just about shutting down, we're about lifting up.

I decided to run because my representatives don't listen, don't care. If you can't pay them to support your policy, they don't want to hear about it. I'm not sure about my chances to win here, but if I can holler loud enough, it'll change the conversation, and hopefully we can at the least save my county from becoming the new Minden, WV.

## Nebraskans fight construction of Keystone XL Pipeline

Editor's note: Art Tanderup of Bold Nebraska, a group fighting construction of the Keystone XL pipeline, talks with Sandy Reid of the People's Tribune about the final public hearings on the proposed pipeline route through Nebraska. In previous articles, Art has described the potential for danger to the Ogallala Aquifer, the largest fresh water aquifer in existence, and the destruction of native lands and farmlands by the pipeline.

By Art Tanderup, as interviewed by Sandy Reid

There was a big rally of pipeline fighters and water protectors on the steps of the state capital on August 6, and a march with lots of speakers and banners. We had the Native American horse riders that were made famous in Standing Rock come down and they rode the ponies. It was an awesome event, which included a press conference. By far, the public did not come to support TransCanada.

At the public hearing, landowners, tribes, Bold Nebraska, our lawyers and others put up fantastic arguments against the pipeline. I think they all did a great job of educating the Public Service Commission, which makes its final decision by November 23. Landowners talked about problems with reclamation, the poor

soil and danger to the aquifer.

One of the sad things about the way the law was written on this process is that we couldn't talk about potential spills or leaks.

TransCanada lobbied heavily with our state legislature and when the actual rules were written, the deck was stacked. For example, we could talk about water as long as it didn't relate to a spill, and we couldn't talk about the one-sided easement that leaves pipes in the ground forever.

They limited the testimony of the tribes, which I thought was a terrible thing to do. The cultural part, artifacts, Trail of Tears, campsites and burial grounds is a real concern and we don't think it got adequate discussion. In discussion with the Ponca Chairman and their lawyer, all agree that depending on how you look at the map, the pipeline crosses the Trail on two locations and the third is questionable. The Ponca Trail of Tears is on our farm and crosses on the next farm over. This is a big issue for us.

Also, the lawyers brought out that TransCanada has so many layers within its corporation that if they go broke, or bankrupt, liability will be limited.

If approved, Bold Nebraska pledged to fight the pipeline all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.



March to give Keystone XL the boot in Lincoln, Nebraska, following the final state public hearing on the pipeline route. The pipeline has potential for damaging the largest fresh water aquifer in existence, native lands and farmlands. PHOTO/ALEX MATZKE

### WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

The People's Tribune welcomes your comments, especially on our covers and editorials. Your feedback helps us stay on course as a paper that points the way forward to a new cooperative society. Email [info@peopletribune.org](mailto:info@peopletribune.org) or call 800-691-6888 toll free. — The Editors

## Water is Life: Strengthening the Great Lakes commons

### Summit opposing commodification and privatization of water

By Peggy Case

FLINT, MI — Water is Life. There can be no contesting this fact. Yet all over the world greedy corporations and individuals are determined to remove water from the commons, control it for profit, and rob the commons of its life blood. The result is loss of life for people and ecosystems and pollution and illness for what remains. The work of water protectors is never ending. More threats arise each day and our unity is key to our victories.

A conference will be held September 29-30 in Flint, Michigan to focus on the many faces of the privatization and commodification of water and the movement for united action to protect it for all. The gathering is sponsored by a coalition of Canadian, US and Indigenous groups, coming together to continue building unity of action specifically focusing on the Great Lakes Region. We

began with agreement that water must be secured for the commons and must not be privatized, polluted or taken from anyone. We join together to examine strategies for its protection.

Over 100,000 people have been denied water in Detroit. The entire city of Flint has been robbed of clean water. In both cities, State takeover of the democratic processes and installation of "emergency managers" to pursue corporate interests is to blame. The entire state of Michigan is being turned into a toxic waste dump with the blessing of State government at all levels, threatening fresh water throughout. In Canada and Michigan Nestle is trying to increase its control over fresh water aquifers for profit while the people of Detroit and Flint are shut off and poisoned. First Nations are denied fresh water infrastructure and treaty rights as corporations seek to increase their private access to water.



Protest in Lansing, Michigan at the Department of Environmental Quality office. One sign says, "Say no to Nestle's water grab." PHOTO/PEGGY CASE

The free conference will highlight these struggles and more, with the goal of educating and motivating participants to united action. Speakers include Maude Barlow (Council of Canadians), Jim Olson (For Love of Water) Holly Bird (Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa), Lila Cabbil (People's Water Board), Sylvia Orduno (Michigan

Welfare Rights), Claire McClinton (Flint Democracy Defense League). A panel from grassroots groups such as Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation, Wellington Water Watchers, People's Water Board and other regional water protector groups will focus on specifics for action and lead into workshop sessions where participants can continue

the work of building a water protector action agenda. Conference details and registration information will be found soon on websites of sponsoring groups and on a Facebook event page. Stay tuned and join us.

Peggy Case is President of Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation.

## Implement the Water Affordability Plan! Keep water public!

Editor's note: The Water Affordability Plan, charging residents only what they can afford to pay to avoid shut offs, was approved by the Detroit City Council and the Detroit Water Department in 2006. It has not been implemented. As a result, the city has seen tens of thousands of residents have their water shut off for inability to pay the skyrocketing price. Families face serious health issues without running water. Children in homes without water can be taken away by family services. Underlying the refusal of the City to implement The Water Affordability Plan is the corporate drive to privatize the region's water. Water is the new gold. The corporations want to own it. Water must remain public! No one has the right to own our water and no one has the right to deny anyone from having it.

Below is an abbreviated version of the Water Affordability Plan:

1. The DWSD (Detroit Water and Sewerage Dept.) agrees to implement the Plan for water users in the following categories:

- Water customers with incomes at or below the Federal Poverty level are eligible to be enrolled;
- Water customers with incomes up to 2% greater than the Federal Poverty level will be enrolled into the W.A.V.E. (Water Assistance Volunteer Enrollment) Program, operated by DWSD.
- Low-income customers will be charged a monthly rate that equals 4.5% of their gross annual income. (Example: a person receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) of \$773/month earns \$9276/annually. 4.5% of that amount is \$417.42, divided by 12, equals a monthly payment of \$34.75 toward a water bill.
- In addition to this formula, contributions from un-billed residential water customers (apartment dwellers, public housing residents, etc.) and others will be solicited using the following formula:
  - An annual request for \$2/month, or \$24/year will be requested from apartment/public housing dwellers who are not DWSD customers;
  - Along with their standard



Water is Life protest in Detroit during the 2nd International Gathering of Social Movements on Water. PHOTO/VALERIE JEAN

charges, an additional donation of \$4/per month, or \$48/per year will be requested from municipal, educational, and religious locations that are DWSD customers;

4. There are 238,000 registered as low-income DWSD customers in Detroit, who can make monthly payments of \$35 toward a water bill, equaling \$8.3 million per month. This amount along with the other solicited funds and a monthly check-off amount

requested from those with higher incomes of 50 cents per month, will help to right-size the DWSD while providing an income stream in perpetuity. A six-month pilot plan is recommended.

5. The Water Affordability Plan includes all income levels, and doesn't ask for a rate structure change. Those with limited and/or fixed incomes can participate.

6. Enrolled water customers in compliance are protected from shutoff.

7. Eligible customers with past arrearages will be directed to Social Services to apply for emergency help.

8. Water conservation specialists will prepare "how-to"

brochures that demonstrate water saving practices.

9. The Plan eliminates mass water shutoffs levied against low-income customers throughout the DWSD system.

10. The Water Affordability Plan requires an annual accounting published in detail, listing what revenues were collected, what expenditures were made, and what percentage of customers defaulted.

To receive an on-line copy of the full water affordability plan, email a request to: [www.mwro.org](http://www.mwro.org).



# More people are speaking out, says WV Senate candidate

*Editor's note: Paula Jean Swarengin, a coal miner's daughter, is challenging the coal industry's candidate, Democratic U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin, in the 2018 primary election in West Virginia. Among other things, her campaign opposes mountaintop removal, favors renewable energy, fights for clean air and water, backs Medicare for all, demands that miners get the pensions and healthcare they were promised, and favors investment in the people and infrastructure of West Virginia to create jobs and boost living standards. Below are excerpts from a recent conversation between the People's Tribune and Paula Jean.*



**Paula Jean Swarengin, West Virginia primary candidate for Senate**

"I don't think Charleston understands exactly what we're going through in the coalfields, but I've seen so many new faces in the progressive movement that it brought me to tears. One, I think that coal miners, their eyes are opened because they went hungry and they're still going hungry, and Donald Trump's not fulfilling his promises. But Bernie Sanders won all 55 counties

in the primary here, and that's very telling in itself. I think that opened some eyes.

"I'm glad to see more people speaking out. I have met so many people through this campaign that want to make things better. We've had this divide between people fighting for clean water and clean air, and people fighting for jobs, and I think they're starting to realize there's no reason for us to be divided. And that's the reason I'm in this campaign. Whether I win it or not, on a national level, West Virginia and our troubles are known again. I really don't like to be the limelighter, the

poster child for that, but at the same time, other voices are being amplified.

"We don't want to see our neighbors starve. We (activists) were talking about renewable energy years ago. It's not like we were going to be a bunch of psychopaths and go after people's jobs in coal and have nothing left here. The push for renewables should have started years ago. Joe Manchin put out an article I think in 2006 about diversifying the economy in Appalachia and he listed coal and gas first and he put renewables way on the end of his platform back then. Coal was declining when it was at its peak here. Renewables give people independence—you can put solar panels on your roof and not be tied to the grid. They don't want people to do that.

"A united water front is needed in this country that could keep everybody's issues in the limelight. Right now, West Virginia is in the limelight because of the Senate race, but Flint, Standing Rock, you're not hearing anything about them now. These problems are everywhere."

## 'Energy companies should do more for the workers'

*Editor's note: The People's Tribune interviewed Richard Ojeda II, state senator from West Virginia, who is running for a seat in the US House from WV's 3rd District. His campaign shows that taking controversial positions in states where big energy is dominant can be challenging.*

Last year, Richard Ojeda was brutally beaten and hospitalized. He believes it was politically motivated. The retired U.S. Army veteran had been filing Freedom of Information Act requests to try to expose corruption in the county. However, he said that the incident fueled his resolve to keep fighting. "My job is to represent!" he told the People's Tribune.

"I will not be bullied into casting votes because of the party or any other legislators. I am tired of listening to legislators say people need to learn to live within their means when the legislators saying those words have wealth. They have no concept of what life is like for a single parent or a person who has been out of work and just trying to keep their electric on."

On energy, Ojeda said, "I think our state still has the ability to be a major player for our country. Our state deserves to be compensated by those who enter our state and get rich from our resources. Our state is in financial crisis and we cannot continue to place the burden on the backs of the working class people.

"It's time for big energy to show more appreciation to the state that has made them independently wealthy and the men and women that work for them."

On mountain top removal coal mining, Ojeda said, "If a mountaintop is to be removed there should be a specific purpose for that mountaintop. We are the mountain state. I would like to see hemp, medical marijuana and lavender on the tops of those mountains because those crops can allow growers to create decent paying jobs for folks who find themselves out of work."

Visit [voteojeda.com](http://voteojeda.com) for more information about the Ojeda campaign.

# Standing Rock water protectors honored at Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe 150<sup>th</sup> Pow Wow

By Joseph Carrillo

SWST, OLD AGENCY, SISSETON, SD — The Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe (SWST) is originally from "The land of cloud-tinted waters," known today as the state of Minnesota.

For thousands of years, the ancestors of the "Dakotas" lived generation after generation in Minnesota. The Dakota Sioux were the first to negotiate with the U.S. government the 1851 Treaty of Traverse des Sioux and were the first to resist with arms during the Minnesota-Dakota Sioux War of 1862 against government tyranny.

After many broken treaties, hordes of German immigrants flooded into their land from Chicago and Cincinnati. There were 30,000 of them in 1854 and 150,000 of them by 1857. And after outright starvation tactics used against them

by crooked businessmen and corrupt government agents, the Dakotas struck back, under Chief Little Crow, in August of 1862.

For six weeks, Chief Little Crow and the Dakota Sioux warriors fought an armed struggle against all oppressors, resulting in the defeat and final removal of the Dakotas from their ancestral homeland of Minnesota.

Thirty-eight Dakotas were hanged as a result of the war on December 26, 1862 in Mankato, Minnesota after being condemned to death in "trials" that lasted fewer than five minutes. This still remains the largest American mass execution and is one of the lesser-known acts of President Abraham Lincoln.

During an on-reservation interview with SWST member Wakan Awachin Win ("Richelle L. Solorio"), she stated: "Just like in the 1800s, the money-hungry business vultures have

reached into the land of my people to do harm by force, subjecting all my people to poisons that will flow into our water sources and down into everyone else's from the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL).

"I look at my history, specifically Chief Little Crow at this time, and I realize it's been one continuous struggle. We can never give up opposing anything or anyone that harms Mother Earth and the people who walk upon her.

"I believe Standing Rock was just the beginning of the Water Protection Movement. At the Pow Wow, I was proud to pay my respects to the Water Protectors, who bravely faced severe injury and death by armed DAPL agents at Standing Rock.

"In the Dakota Way, everything that God created is related to us. This is just the beginning."



Sophia Wilansky was seriously injured by a concussion grenade fired by DAPL militarized police at Standing Rock. She nearly lost her arm. She was honored at the 150th SWST Pow Wow for her bravery and sacrifice. PHOTO/WAKAN AWACHIN WIN (HOLY SEEKING WOMAN) R.L.SOLORIO

# There is no democracy in Texas

*Editor's note: The People's Tribune's interviewed Manuel Torres of the South Texas Resistance Movement about the enactment of an undemocratic new law in the state of Texas to stop cities from giving sanctuary to undocumented immigrants.*

*People's Tribune: Manuel, please tell us about the dangers of this new bill (SB 4).*

**Manuel Torres:** The bill is against sanctuary cities. It is part of an executive order that President Trump enacted in his first 90 days in office.

Texas will be the first state to implement a law that forces cities and towns to not become sanctuary cities. If people do lend support to undocumented immigrants, the law will cut them off from state and federal funds. Cops, politicians, elected

officials will be fined and jailed and removed from office if they don't follow the law. In colleges and universities, students can be asked about their immigration status.

There is now no democracy in Texas. They can remove our elected officials. What kind of democracy is that? People say you must know your rights in case you are stopped, but with this new "show me your papers" law, there are no rights. If there is no democracy and no rights for some, it will eventually affect everyone.

Anybody who "looks" Mexican can be stopped that fits the profile of being undocumented, and they can ask you for your papers. This is already happening.

The bill will go into effect September 1. Between now and

then, a federal judge, Orlando Garcia, will for sure let SB 4 be implemented.

*PT: What is the next step for the movement?*

**MT:** The conditions are forcing people to start thinking. People start with fear. People start thinking. People start acting. For this movement to get into motion, we need to keep organizing within our communities. We need to reach the undocumented. We need to educate the country of the necessity of uniting as one.

What the powerful want is for us to fight each other. Whether it is Charlottesville or Houston, whether we are native born or undocumented, we will not be fooled. We know what they are doing.

The people who are barely making it are awakening and

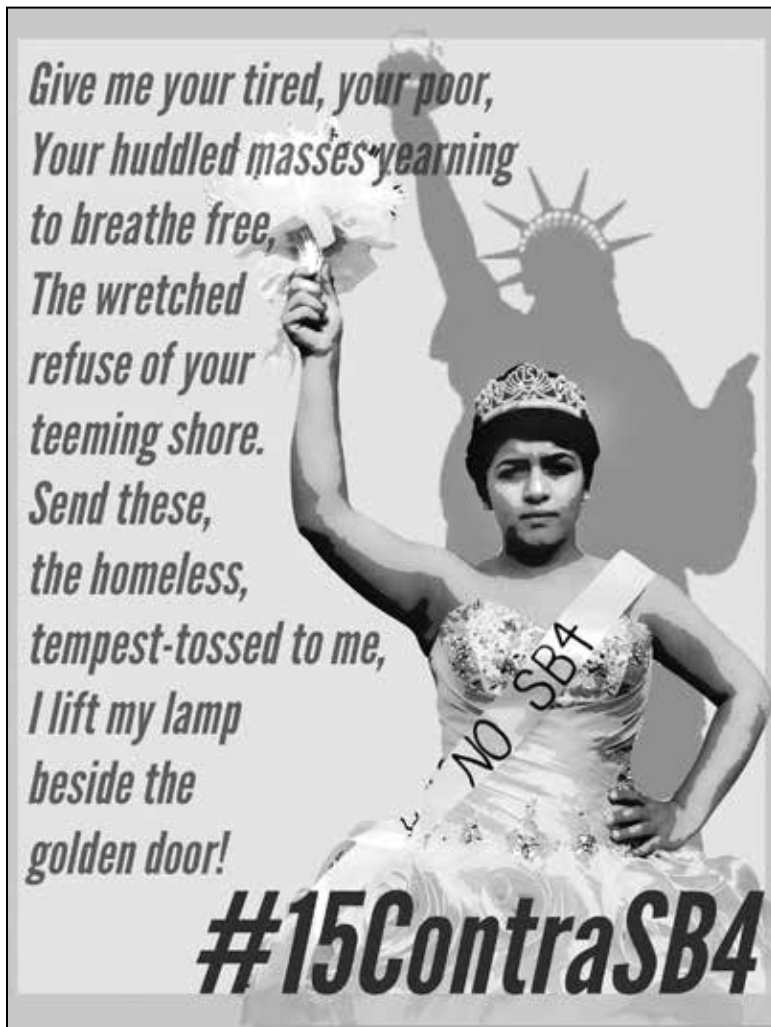


**Rally at the U.S. Courthouse in Detroit to stop the deportation of a father of two who has lived in Ann Arbor, MI, for 20 years.**

PHOTO/DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

we have to educate and organize them to come out and say something. Under this law, you have

no rights. But you have a right to stand up for your right to eat and your right to live.



On July 19, a group of 15 teenage girls dressed in brightly colored gowns, like the young woman in this photo, stood in front of the Texas State Capitol in Austin to participate in one of Latin American culture's most cherished traditions: the quinceañera. But this quinceañera was more than simply a coming-of-age celebration. Instead, it was a public protest against one of the most viciously anti-immigrant pieces of legislation in Texas' recent history: SB 4, the "sanctuary cities bill." JOLT founder and executive director Cristina Tzintzú, explained to *Portside*, "For us, it's not just this one day of action to celebrate our culture and community, to answer hate with love and pride. It's also the launching of a long-term movement to build power for the Latino community, to win our community the respect and dignity that we deserve." IMAGE/JOLT TEXAS

## Death in the fields

*Editor's note: this story is compiled from information from hispanicnewsnetwork.blogspot.com*

On Sunday, August 6, Honesto Silva Ibarra, an H2A guest worker, passed away—the result of horrible working conditions on his job picking blueberries at Sarbanand Farms near Sumas, WA.

Coworkers reported Honesto was told to go back to work after complaining of being ill from working in the 90° heat with little or no water and breathing the thick smoky air caused by fires in nearby British Columbia.

After Honesto was rushed to the hospital, many of the workers went on a one-day strike in protest of the conditions that included 12 hour or more long working days, dirty water, no shady areas to take breaks in, untreated infections and not enough food.

The company fired those workers for insubordination and gave them one hour to vacate themselves from their living quarters. The company also held onto their checks as well as their new visas in that their old visas had expired. With



**Farmworkers march in protest of working conditions at Sarbanand Farms after a fellow worker, Honesto Silva Ibarra, 28, died on August 6.**

PHOTO/MEGAN FARMER, © 2016 UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON. USED WITH PERMISSION BY UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON AND KUOW PUBLIC RADIO. NO ENDORSEMENT OF PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE OR ITS CONTENT IS INTENDED.

no food, no water, no transportation and no way to return home, they walked approximately four miles before receiving help from locals.

The whole thing would have probably been swept under the rug except that they continued marching and protesting and telling their story on Facebook and in the news. After the bad press, the company put out a statement denying bad working con-

ditions or any part in Honesto's death.

Some of the workers say they will stay and fight because if they don't it will happen again. When people are not valued as human beings and seen only as sources of profit, we must ask ourselves how far have we come from slavery? If today it is the immigrant worker, then tomorrow it could be any one of us.

### PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE DISCUSSION GROUPS!

Call or email us to find out if there is a *People's Tribune* discussion group in your area.

(800) 691-6888 | info@peopletribune.org





(Above and right) Our Lives Are on the Line Health Care Rally in Chicago in July. PHOTOS/CHARLES MILLER



## Healthcare: Microbes don't care about borders or politics

By Chris Peery

TUCSON, AZ — People are looking at the healthcare debate and debate in completely the wrong fashion. The issue isn't only money or insurance or entitlement. The issue is the spread of disease. It is extremely difficult for most microbes to take hold in a healthy organism and, whether large or small, any group of humans clustered together is very much a living organism.

If the population is unhealthy, it gets sick. The greater the percentage of infection within a given population, the more likely it is that a disease will spread. Just look at the 1918-1920 Spanish Flu pandemic. Influenza is the most common and one of the deadliest contagious viruses. It is spread mainly when people with flu cough, sneeze or talk. Saliva droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people from as far away as six feet and can even be inhaled into the lungs. People can also get flu by touching a surface or object that has live flu viruses on it and then touching their own mouths or noses.

World War I lasted four years and by its end in 1918 had killed 17 million of the 1.8 billion people on the planet. In the span of eight weeks during that same year, the first round of the Spanish Flu killed 20 million. The subsequent resurgence of the virus over the next few years infected a third of the planet, killing another 60 to 80 million people. During that same time, life expectancy in the United States dropped by about 12 years, and it is said that this flu killed more people in a year than the

Black Death killed in a century.

In 1914 the Earth's population was a quarter of what it is today. The fastest way to travel back then was by boat or train and it took days, if not weeks, to get from one population center to another. Now we can fly anywhere in a day and most of the people still do not have adequate healthcare.

Based on National Center for Health Statistics mortality surveillance data (July 27, 2017), 5.3 percent of the deaths occurring during the week ending July 8, 2017 were due to pneumonia and influenza. While this percentage is below the epidemic threshold of 6.1 percent, what about next week, or the one after that?

As George Santayana put it, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Without healthcare for everyone, repeat it we will.

Just remember, microbes don't care about borders or politics. They don't care how much money you have or what color your skin is. They don't care where you live on the planet, how many guns or bullets you have, what gender you are or who you love. Pandemics only care about one thing: whether you are a viable host.

The only way to make sure that you are not a viable host is quality healthcare for you, your family, your friends, your neighbors, your co-workers, anyone who handles your food, bottles your water, delivers your packages, or breathes the same air.

Simply put, if you don't care about someone else's health, then you aren't caring for your own!

## What's in the Single Payer, Medicare for All Act?

*Editor's note: Here are some highlights from the Medicare for All bill (H.R. 676) introduced on January 24, 2017 in the House of Representatives by John Conyers Jr. (D-MI):*

- Establishes the Medicare for All Program for all individuals residing in the United States or U.S. territories with free health care that includes all medically necessary care, such as primary care and prevention, dietary and nutritional therapies, prescription drugs, emergency care, long-term care, mental health services, dental services, and vision care.
- Only public or nonprofit institutions may participate. Nonprofit health maintenance organizations (HMOs) delivering care in their own facilities may participate.
- Patients may choose from participating physicians and institutions.
- Health insurers may not sell health insurance that duplicates the benefits provided under this bill.
- Funding is from existing sources of government revenues for health care; and includes increasing personal income taxes on the top 5 percent of income earners, and by a tax on stock and bond transactions.
- The program must give employment transition benefits, retraining and job placement to individuals whose jobs are eliminated under this bill.
- Establishes a National Board to provide advice on quality, access, and affordability.

## The next battle for guaranteeing healthcare access for all

By Retirees for Single Payer Health Care

The leadership of both parties in Congress appear to be headed for some kind short-term, bipartisan deal on healthcare access. They should be fighting for the expansion of Medicaid in the 18 states that have refused to do so.

The leadership of the healthcare movement must prepare and carry out a battle for the expansion of Medicaid in those states. It is somewhat like the battle against the extension of slavery in the 1850s. We have to fight for

the extension of Medicaid as part of the war to pass H.R. 676, the Expanded and Improved Medicare for All Act.

This means we have to replace the state legislators and governors who oppose expansion of Medicare with leaders who will fight for it. This will be one of the key struggles in 2018 and 2020.

The other key struggle in 2018 and 2020 is to elect leaders in the House and Senate who support H.R. 676 instead of the leaders in the recent battle to defund the Affordable Care Act who refused to introduce H.R. 676 in the Senate.

In 2020, we will elect the next president. Our candidate must support H.R. 676. There is no other choice. This struggle for healthcare access is too important for the people of this country to leave in the hands of the present leaders in Congress. And that is precisely what the Trumps, Scaramuccis and their ilk would like us to do.

So, healthcare movement, get it together. John Brown fought against the expansion of slavery in our past history. He would fight for the expansion of Medicaid today and for H.R. 676 in the coming years.



# You and the People's Tribune: We need each other

In the decades before the Civil War, the movement to abolish slavery printed thousands of newspapers, pamphlets, leaflets and books. The abolitionist press played a key role in helping people understand the moral and practical necessity of ending slavery.

Today we face a similar struggle against a system that is destroying democracy, practicing injustice, driving us toward nuclear war, and denying millions of us the most basic human needs—food, water, housing, healthcare, and more. Just as the abolitionists did, the movement today needs a press to give it a voice, a perspective and a strategy. The People's Tribune is striving to be that press.

With technology eliminating

labor, we are heading toward a jobless economy. The billionaires and corporations need to suppress the millions who are standing up to fight for a new society that will provide for and protect everyone. The billionaires' efforts at suppression include their massive propaganda machine. A development we should all be alarmed about is that Sinclair Broadcasting, which puts out the ideas of Donald Trump, recently got the ability to reach 72% of American households. The People's Tribune is needed more than ever, because it publishes the voices of those in struggle, and offers a vision of the just, peaceful, cooperative society that is possible if the people end the rule of the billionaires.

The People's Tribune needs

those in the fight to write for the paper, donate photographs, help us with our website, distribute the paper in their area, and help raise money for it. We are an independent, reader-supported press with an all-volunteer staff.

We have a national audience of those in struggle, but the increasing threat to the people means we need to reach an even larger audience. We need to connect with more writers, bloggers and photographers; reach more people with audio, video, social media, and public events; print more papers, and more frequently; and improve our website and update it more frequently.

Our annual subscription drive begins Oct. 1. Please subscribe and also donate whatever you can in addition. Send us arti-



cles about your struggle, photographs, and links to things you've published online. A movement is a cause and a press. Help make the People's Tribune the voice of

the movement for a new, cooperative society free of poverty and injustice and controlled by the people.

## Music, poetry, and art of all kinds can bring us a change of heart

By JED

CHICAGO, IL — I got my first guitar when I was 7 and I haven't stopped making music since. It is the most important part of life to me and I'm so grateful that I'm able to spend so much time with it.

When I'm not making music, the #1 priority is to address the very grave issues that we face here in Chicago, as a country, and as a planet. Among the many prices we pay for capitalism and colonialism are climate change, racism, sexism, transphobia, homophobia, xenophobia, terrorism, and white supremacy. We cannot afford to pay these prices any longer. When, as a rule, white supremacist police murderers are acquitted in the face of video evidence—when Republicans ask for anti-establishment leaders and elect billionaires—when those billionaires choose to harm the planet in ways that will significantly hurt them later in *their own lifetimes*—it is clear. It is clear that we're not fighting a battle of wits and the battle will not be won with debate or intellectual discourse. We will have to pursue other strategies. I believe that one of those strategies is art.

Real reversal of selfish thinking often happens not on an intellectual level but on an emotional level. Music, poetry and art of all kinds will bring us to the emotional place where an effective change of heart can occur.

As a white male, I will never know what it's like to be anything but that. However, I am com-

mitted to a global, anti-capitalist class movement that makes the world a better place for all of us. I aim to play a role in that collective effort where I'm listening as much as I am acting. I'm committed to making my privileges and resources available to the movement as tools for revolution and not tools of oppression. Obviously, this is a learning process and we live in a quickly changing world.

This album, *Nitemare*, reflects (some of) the opinions I have at the time it's being released. My greatest hope for these songs is to inspire conversation, mobilization, and strategic revolution. Let's talk about what works, let's also talk about what's problematic with this record. Together—so long as those with power of all forms are willing to listen and make real sacrifices and those without power have a modern, all-inclusive analysis that drives collective action—I do believe we can fix the world.

As my music is mostly bringing focus to struggles that I don't experience first-hand, it's important to me that I don't profit off those struggles. It's also beautiful to me to think about art leading directly to action. With all that in mind, my promise to you is that 90 percent of the profits from my music will be given to a relevant organization, which will rotate on a monthly basis. You can always visit the "ACTION" page of [jedsongs.org](http://jedsongs.org) to see this month's cause and learn how to get involved with them.

Hear JED's new record *Nitemare In Driemland* today at [jedsongs.org/music](http://jedsongs.org/music).

### *Too Old Young Men*

We're a couple of too old young men  
Who keep going back, again and again

Calling each other on the phone  
Time's passed, neither leave it alone

Caught in dark delusions  
Fears fed by nightmarish illusions

Our memories explode  
Upon those desert roads

Telephonic recollections  
Disharmonic introspections

Our Hysterical ramblings  
On the historical trampling

Of an Arab nation  
In an empirical aggregation,

Of power and petroleum  
And a dream that we sold 'em

With the butt of a gun  
'Neath their hot desert sun

Just a couple of too old young men  
Who keep going back, again and again

— Stephen Handlin



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.



# Charlottesville: We must organize the people

By Rev. Edward Pinkney

BENTON HARBOR, MI — While I feel very good that there has been a quick response by some to denounce the intimidating, harassing, threatening, violent behavior of the White Supremacists and neo-Nazis, I am challenged that many of my fellow Americans are not surprised by the actions of this country's leadership and the growth of racist, anti-Semitic marchers.

Under the guise of preserving white culture and supporting confederate monuments, most of which were erected in the Jim Crow era in an attempt to symbolize white supremacy, Charlottesville, 2017, shined no different light than Birmingham, 1963. Some people mistakenly believe that all of the necessary work on race was accomplished by Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War, which aided the end of slavery.

I do not have the luxury to turn off my television and do nothing. I see that Charlottesville, Virginia, showed us unequivocally that confederate statues, confederate monuments, and symbols offer pre-existing acts of racism.

We must take advantage of this shameful display of White Supremacism at its best in Charlottesville, Virginia. We must start to organize and mobilize the country, city-by-city, county-by-county, state-by-state. We must educate and confront the White Supremacists.

The White Supremacists will go to any length to silence anyone who resists their criminal behavior, generation mind games, and racist bull.

While we cannot hide from our history of slavery, the torturing of Blacks and the continuing torture of Blacks today, the time has come to make clear the differ-

ence between properly acknowledging our past and glorifying the darkest chapter of America history of slavery and it must end.

I personally found that when opportunities were measured, including education levels and poverty, Michigan, Mississippi, and Wisconsin were three states at the bottom for providing opportunities for Blacks.

I personally feel that General Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson statues, the confederate flag and all other confederate symbols should be removed. But if we are going to protest the confederate symbols and flag, we should also protest the American flag, the red, white and blue, because Black people have caught just as much Hell under the red, white and blue as the confederate flag and symbols.

The Charlottesville, Virgin-



Rev. Edward Pinkney of Benton Harbor, MI, was imprisoned twice, persecuted by the corporations and government for his uncompromising stance for the people, democracy and against corporate power. Here he celebrates his welcome home (from prison) party with supporters. PHOTO/DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

ia incident has given the good people of this country an opportunity to organize and mobilize together to confront the White Supremacists.

## Let's unite to create a society in which we can thrive

### Labor Day 2017

From the Editors

*"It seemed like as soon as they first put the robots in, they made the announcement about layoffs a month later. I'll never forget that day,"* said a Carrier worker of 25 years.

Labor Day 2017 finds the workers worldwide facing a very uncertain future. Forty percent of the American workforce are now part-time, contingent, minimum wage and below minimum wage workers. Another 92 million are structurally unemployed, and these include millions who are destitute and homeless.

As stated in the January 2017 report of the McKinsey Global Institute, "Recent developments in robotics, artificial intelligence and machine learning have put us on the cusp of a new automation age. Robots and computers not only can perform a range of routine physical work activities better and more cheaply than humans, but they are also increasingly capable of accomplishing activities that include cognitive capabilities once considered too difficult to automate successfully such as making tacit judgments, sensing emotion, or even driving."

There isn't one area of the economy that will remain untouched. Jobs in all sectors are subject to automation and the basis for capitalism, wage-labor, is being eliminated on a global scale. In the U.S., even if some of the outsourced manufac-

turing jobs return, corporations will have to utilize robotics to remain competitive, thus providing nowhere near the jobs needed.

This technological revolution in society is causing a polarization in wealth and poverty like nothing we have seen before. In 2012 alone, over half of U.S. income went to the top 10 percent. There are now 540 billionaires in the U.S. Eight billionaires now own as much wealth as 3.6 billion people on earth. The ruling class fights to maintain its wealth and privilege in a dying system at the expense of millions of us being displaced and devalued by automation.

These technologies at the same time hold the potential to create a world of abundance and a cultured life for all, but are owned by a few as their "private property." In a new society built around these technologies, owned in common, we could all have what we need and finally put an end to all the false divisions that have historically kept us fighting each other over crumbs.

This Labor Day 2017, let us declare our intentions to unite based on our common need to survive the corporate class's growing assault on our rights as human beings to thrive peacefully in a world of abundance. Let's declare our intentions to build such a world from the social wealth accumulated from generations of our labor. We have a world to win.



In factory after factory, American workers are being replaced by robots. How are people to live? If the people of the world owned the now privately owned robotic equipment, the abundance of things the robots produce could be distributed to all based on their need, not money. PHOTO/NDOELJINDOEL

### *The Mystic Trumpeter (excerpt)*

Rouse up my slow belief, give me some vision of the future,  
Give me for once its prophecy and joy.

— Walt Whitman