The Monthly Voice

September 2016 - ONE DC Newsletter

"We've got to come together as a community and fight for what we want. Our voices have to be heard. But in numbers." -Adriann Borum, **Brookland Manor**Resident & ONE DC Member

Sponsor ONE DC's Presentation of Dance Place's What's Going On: Life, Love, & Social Justice

For one night only on Friday, November 18th, ONE DC will be hosting Dance Place's very special Marvin Gaye-inspired performance: "What's Going On? Life, Love & Social Justice." In Dance Place's first full-length production, taking inspiration from 1971's inimitable What's Going On, Marvin Gaye's insights into life, love and social justice are given fresh perspectives with new choreography by Vincent E. Thomas, Ralph Glenmore and Sylvia Soumah. The evening-length work features Modern, Jazz and West African dance and seeks to spark conversations to ignite change in each community it touches.



Dance Place has generously dedicated the performance of "What's Going On" on November 18th to be a night of fundraising for ONE DC. The evening will begin with a reception at 6pm, followed by the performance, lasting until 9pm.

By sponsoring this event, you will contribute to our efforts to raise over \$1 million to fund the opening of ONE DC Black Workers Center, as well as to fund #Another10Years of organizing for our human rights to housing, income, & wellness in DC. Securing sponsors will also enable us to offer free/reduced price tickets to this event for our long-time members.

 Fight for Justice - \$500 – Two tickets to special showing of the Dance Place's "What's Going On? Life, Love & Social Justice" Marvin Gayeinspired performance and reception on November 18, 2016, ONE DC 10th Anniversary T-Shirt.

- Organize for Equity \$1,000 Four tickets to special showing of the
 Dance Place's "What's Going On? Life, Love & Social Justice" Marvin
 Gaye-inspired performance and reception on November 18, 2016, ONE
 DC 10th Anniversary T-Shirt, copy of Ella Baker and the Black Freedom
 Struggle by Barbara Ransby & Freedom is a Constant Struggle by Angela
 Y. Davis.
- Path to Liberation \$2,000 \$5,000 Ten tickets to tickets to special showing of the Dance Place's "What's Going On? Life, Love & Social Justice" Marvin Gaye-inspired performance and reception on November 18, 2016, ONE DC 10th Anniversary T-Shirt, copy of Ella Baker and the Black Freedom Struggle by Barbara Ransby & Freedom is a Constant Struggle, Opportunity to speak on-stage during special performance of "What's Going on?"

Click here to become a What's Going On? sponsor!

To make your sponsorship donation offline, please mail check to ONE DC, PO Box 26049, Washington, DC, 20001, or contact Dominic at 202-232-2915, dmoulden@onedconline.org.

You can also buy your ticket to the event here

ONE DC Welcomes New Staff!



From Left: Nawal Rajeh, Delonte Wilkins & daughter Taylor, Madeline Hernandez, Nia Nyamweya

Delonte (Tae) Wilkins was raised in the Green Leaf community of SW as a child, then later moved to the Eckington area of NE, attending schools such as Amidon Elementary, Jefferson Junior High, then Dunbar Senior High, where he graduated. Like many youth in his era, Tae experienced violence from all angles in his life-- from street violence, poor education, to police profiling-- all forms of violence leading up to a hopeless community. Struggling to stay positive in a community of hopelessness, Tae experienced severe anxiety, accompanied with stress and depression, which led to poor choices which later landed him in

prison. While in prison, Tae educated himself. He read history, law, political theory, and books on various organized rebellions. After educating himself, he learned that his condition was a result of a systematic agenda that purposely created the hardships he has endured . Shortly after his release, Tae began to organize with ONE DC after hearing about the organization from a friend in the neighborhood. Hearing the group discuss the "People's Platform," recognizing human rights as the foundation in which a nation should be built on, sharing the same vision, Tae immediately stayed on board, motivated to help in any way possible. Tae is a part-time apprentice organizer focusing on the Black Workers Center.

Contact: dwilkins@onedconline.org

Nawal Rajeh is the daughter of Lebanese immigrants who fled the country's 16-year civil war and settled in Youngstown, Ohio. It was during her youth that she learned firsthand of the hardships that accompanied injustice and ignited her passion for organizing. Before coming to DC, Nawal was a community organizer in Baltimore, where she worked on joblessness and youth programs. She cofounded By Peaceful Means, which continues to run two summer programs for children in East Baltimore. Upon moving to DC eight years ago, Nawal began facilitating youth programs focusing on peace and conflict resolution in DC Public Schools. She has been a member of ONE DC for three years and is excited to continue learning and building on the legacy of resistance and alternative vision for the city that ONE DC and its members have been fighting to preserve and create. Nawal is a part-time apprentice organizer focusing on the Black Workers Center.

Contact: nrajeh@onedconline.org

Nia Nyamweya is a Kenyan-American, intersectional feminist organizer and activist. She is from Silver Spring, MD and received her BA from Towson University in Women's and Gender Studies with a minor in French. Nia began organizing after college in St. Louis, Missouri when she worked with youth in the Normandy District to end the school-to-prison pipeline. Ending environmental racism and healing oppression of black women is her passion. She works part-time with the National Organization for Women (NOW) and Institute for Policy Studies (IPS). Nia happily joins ONE DC to create spaces that center black women's voices and create alternative economies. In her free time, she practices yoga and dances salsa. Nia is a part-time apprentice organizer focusing on the Black Workers Center.

Contact: nnyamweya@onedconline.org

Madeline Hernandez was born in Washington, DC on September 1, 1998 to Salvadoran parents. Her parents immigrated to the United States a couple years before she was born, escaping from the civil unrest El Salvador was undergoing in the hopes of providing better for themselves and their future. Madeline was raised uptown in the Brightwood/ Fort Totten area where she attended the city's public schools, such as Rudolph Elementary (before it became Latin Public Charter) and Truesdell Education Campus. She is a 2016 graduate from School Without Walls Senior High School, and it was here there that her passion for political activism and critical thought began to blossom. Her perspective as a Latina of low socioeconomic status was enough for her to have something to say in classrooms that were dominated by kids in various positions

of privilege. She owes the development of her consciousness to being raised during the birth of Black Lives Matter in such a politically active city and having teachers in high school that openly discussed Feminist Theories. After graduating high school, she decided to take gap year to pursue experience in the field she plans on entering, (a double major in Women's Studies and Social Services or Latino Affairs) and that is how she stumbled upon this organization. Her attraction to ONE DC came from hearing one keyword: radical. For years, Madeline used "Radical" as her social media platform because she described her thought process as one that got to the root of issues by constantly asking why. Ultimately, coming to the conclusion that the institutions put in place are to blame for all of society's issues, especially when it comes to race, a conclusion that ONE DC reached years ago in its beginnings. She's determined to channel her passion into making change within her community. Madeline is a part-time intern organizer.

We also welcome back returning interns Vincent DeLaurentis (Georgetown), Noah Wexler (George Washington), K Me (Georgetown), Citlalli Velasquez (Georgetown), and welcome Samantha Lemieux (George Washington), Jennifer Hosler (University of Maryland, Baltimore County), and Gregory Lee (Montgomery College) as new fall interns & fellows!

Turning the Light of Truth: #RentersDayofAction at Congress Heights

On Thursday, September 22nd, ONE DC, Justice First, tenants of Congress Heights, Brookland Manor, Museum Square, and our members and supporters rallied in solidarity with renters in DC and nationwide for the Renters Day of Action. Across the country, in more than 50 cities, renters rose up in powerful demonstrations of the power of everyday people standing up for racial, economic & social justice. **Renters are making four major demands:**

#RentersDayOfAction National Demands



In DC, residents living at a Congress Heights property are making another demand. Department of Housing and Community Development must take control of 3200 13th Street SE from the current owners to prevent known slum

landlords and developers from gaining site control to move forward with their development plan in which they seek to displace Congress Heights tenants. Affected residents at Congress Heights and the larger neighborhood must be given priority as to determining alternative plans to create the affordable housing originally intended for the site in a manner that is beneficial to and determined by the community. Additionally, DHCD must take action to recuperate the missing \$1 million from the owners of 3200, and commit to reinvesting it back into the development of 3200 to create much needed income-based affordable housing on the property as was originally intended.



















Workers with <u>Project Retail</u> also shared their experience with displacement in DC & request support for their <u>petition</u> for fair access to public transportation.

Photo Credit: O. Michael Leslie

Organizing & Coalition Building Updates

People's Platform

On September 7, members of ONE DC's Shared Leadership team held a report-back with several members about decisions made during the annual Shared Leadership retreat about the future of the People's Platform. The People's Platform is a visionary framework that guides ONE DC's work, whether it be through our Right to Housing campaigns, the Black Workers Center, Cooperation DC, our resource organizing, or any other work. We seek to accomplish our goals by centering the leadership of working class black women; being funded by our base; prioritizing political education and leadership development in our work; always seeking to build a deeper analysis and assessing our work; building alternative institutions; learning from past movement's successes and limitations; championing non-reformist reforms; and always seeking to be a part of a broader movement that is multi-national, multi-ethnic, multi-gender, and multi-class.

A full-time community organizer is expected to join ONE DC this fall. Monthly People's Platform General Body meetings will be held to serve as unifying political education & leader development spaces for ONE DC members across all campaigns & committees. We also seek to build up the membership of our Organizing & Member Development Committee, which will ensure our organizing, coalition building, community learning, & member development efforts are all member-led, strategic, & done interdependently.

Click here to read more about the People's Platform

Members from the Black Workers Center and Cooperation DC sat down with DMPED's Sharon Carney on September 15th to share information about the worker cooperative landscape in DC. The Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED) is beginning to develop a new economic strategy and is interested in cooperative development as part of a broader economic strategy for DC. <u>To get involved with Cooperation DC</u>, click here.

ONE DC Black Workers Center staff also attended a presentation by the Workforce Investment Council's Executive Director Odie Donald on September 15th. The Workforce Investment Council is "responsible for advising the Mayor, Council, and the District government on the development, implementation, and continuous improvement of an integrated and effective workforce investment system." We attended to learn more the state of workforce development in DC. ONE DC Black Workers Center members demand a shift from failed training models that don't result in actual employment, to paid, on-the-job apprenticeships.

Click here to RSVP for next monthly Black Workers Center Meeting
October 20th

Upcoming Events

Admin & Organizational Management Committee Meeting

Tuesday, September 27 - 6:00 PM

ONE DC Office - 614 S St NW, Carriage House

Admin Committee meets monthly to identify what tasks need to be completed that month, assign tasks to members, & discuss long-term committee strategy. Committee oversees some of the following: website, member database, social media, enewsletter & communication, strategic planning, member events & more.

Click here to RSVP

All Out for Barry Farm! Rally & Hearing to Protect Public Housing



Empower DC needs everyone who can to turn out in support of Barry Farm public housing residents. They are fighting to remain in their homes in the midst of the City's effort to privatize the property and relocate them. The Zoning Comission has already approved the demolition, however the Barry Farm Tenants and Allies Association is appealing the decision in court. Join us to send the message that dislocation IS hardship, and the DC Housing Authority is violating the law by not protecting the needs of residents.

Click here for more info & to RSVP

Black Women Activists Needed Ages 18-50 for Focus Groups

Wednesday, September 28 - 5:30 PM

Howard University, 239 Fredrick Douglass Building

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the strategies and practices of Black women ages 18-50 years old participating in movements against police brutality and killings. These interviews will help us to better understand the attitudes of Black women activists. Additionally, factors that contribute to, or mitigate the effects of police brutality and killings on Black women activists will be explored. Assessing activists' perceptions of and experience with dealing with police violence will provide a more comprehensive picture of activists' strategies for future research and practice implications for social movements.

Refreshments provided & chance to win a gift card! Contact Shaneda Destine at shaneda.destine@bison.howard.edu (IRB Case 16-CAS-35)

Investing in the Ecosystem of Social Change

IDENTIFY-LEARN-DISRUPT Systemic challenges today, like inequalities in bousing, education, income, mass incurreration, and healthcare are far from separate issues. These challenges are noted in a deep and extangled history of politics, practices, and processes that remain unrevealed and misunderstood.

Articlet one of the most polarised decritor olimates, and during the historic opening of the National Museum of African-American Culture and History, designing the MT. FAREFURES, Import Hubb DC, and other portries will custe a past to poseen journey of our most prossing and interconnected social challenges. This experience will provide thought, questions, and disalignes around the policies, practices, and irrestructed that not only accentuate systemic disporities and inequalities, but impede the full potential of democracy.

It is within this context that we invite you and your respective networks to become a part of these intentional gatherings meant to cultivate meaningful interactions that easible a strong WE necessary to impire progressive action.

For More Into Visit anywdesigningtheue cum/amithus

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6 PM | Impact Hub DC Pop-Up Closing Reception 8 PM | Impact Hub DC Scan QR Code From Your Phone thicket

Thursday September 29 - 6:00 PM

Impact Hub DC - 419 7th Street NW, 3rd Floor

A salon-style discussion focusing on the following questions: What are the models and initiatives that brings us closer to a more just, vibrant, and equitable human experience? How are these models creating impact? How can we support these models?

Click here for more info & to RSVP

From #BlackLivesMatter to Black Liberation - Author Talk with Keeanga Yamahtta-Taylor

Monday, October 3 - 7:00 pm

The Potter's House - 1658 Columbia Rd NW

The eruption of mass protests in the wake of the police murders of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri and Eric Garner in New York City have challenged the impunity with which officers of the law carry out violence against Black people and punctured the illusion of a postracial America. The Black Lives Matter movement has awakened a new generation of activists. In this stirring and insightful analysis, activist and scholar Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor surveys the historical and contemporary ravages of racism and persistence of structural inequality such as mass incarceration and Black unemployment. In this context, she argues that this new struggle against police violence holds the potential to reignite a broader push for Black liberation.

Click here for more info & to RSVP

ONE DC Bit of Good News

ONE DC is excited to announce that our Resource Organizer Dominic Moulden, in partnership with Dr. Mindi Fullilove and Derek Hyra, have been selected as a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Interdisciplinary Research Leader Fellow.

Interdisciplinary Research Leaders will bring together researchers and on-the-ground change agents, and equip them with advanced leadership skills and a clear focus on health and equity. Together they will break down silos, address health disparities and build fundamentally healthier communities. They will build bridges between the myriad factors that have such an enormous influence on people's health—education, neighborhoods, transportation, income, faith, and so on. They will transform our culture at every level, putting health and equity at the core.

Click here to read more

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Do you want to be a writer or editor for the *Monthly Voice*? Email organizer@onedconline.org

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