

# The Monthly Voice

March 2017 - ONE DC Newsletter

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"Mid-City is destroying families. We can all remember what happened to little Relisha at DC General. We are feeling like throw-away people. You're throwing us away like we're trash, like if you don't see us, that's the best thing in the world. I really feel that they're trying to destroy families." -Yvonne Johnson, Brookland Manor resident

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## **"Forewarned is Forearmed" - In the Face of Displacement, We Must Educate Ourselves**



### Reflections from an Interview with **Ms. Jourgette Reid-Sillah**

"We get very comfortable in our lives, and it sometimes takes a tragedy to wake us up," Ms. Jourgette – a survivor of breast cancer and soon-to-be graduate of the University of DC – explains why she is striving to form a tenants association. She is not waiting for the tragedy of displacement.

"I need to know what's happening. I want to be prepared. I need my community to be prepared," Ms. Jourgette expressed. In Congress Heights, she has heard rumors that the rent in the new developments is well above the current rates in

her neighborhood. What will happen to her neighbors who have lived in her building for over 40 years?

Ms. Jourgette recognizes that the displacement happening at Brookland Manor, at Barry Farms, and in too many communities in DC is spreading to Congress Heights. And in response to this displacement, we must educate ourselves. As her mother used to say, "forewarned is forearmed." That's why Ms. Jourgette [became a member](#) of ONE DC: she sees the changes coming and is preparing her community to fight for their homes.

ONE DC stands on the principle that there is [power in political education](#). We must understand the city policies, the laws, and the tools available to us, in order to ensure they work for us. For Ms. Jourgette, forming a tenants association in her apartment building in Congress Heights is an important step towards educating her community and preventing the tragedy of displacement.

**In Ms. Jourgette's words: "It's my duty to at least say that whatever happens, I did not let my community not be aware, and not be ready."**

[Click here to RSVP for the next People's Platform Meeting Thursday, March 30](#)

### **Brookland Manor Update**

Two urgent housing actions to support the tenant-led struggle at Brookland Manor will take place on April 13th (daytime) and April 24th (evening). Public support for these two actions is critical to continue the momentum and win the fight. A full update on the status of Brookland Manor, with additional details regarding the above-referenced actions will be coming next week. Stay tuned!

**If you want to support either of these actions, email Yasmina at [ymrabet@onedconline.org](mailto:ymrabet@onedconline.org)**

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### **Celebrate Emancipation Day and Support ONE DC's 10th Anniversary Fundraising with a Special Performance of *Pike St.***

Friday, April 14th -- Woolly Mammoth Theater Company, 641 D St NW

#### Schedule

**6:45 PM -- Pre-Show Reception with ONE DC** Woolly Mammoth Rehearsal Hall. Light refreshments provided

#### **8:00 PM -- *Pike St.* Performance**

From the one-woman dynamo who brought the Obie Award-winning *No Child...* to Woolly in 2008 comes a rich slice of Puerto Rican immigrant life that “glows with humor” (New York Times). If you’ve ever seen Nilaja Sun’s virtuosic performance style, you’ll want to experience it again...and if you haven’t, you must not miss the chance to be transported to Pike St.

On the Lower East Side, a mother works hard to keep the electricity flowing for her daughter’s respirator while a hurricane looms nearby. As she prepares for disaster, a vibrant host of characters—a decorated war veteran, her ne’er-do-well father, her octogenarian downstairs neighbor—bring new meaning to the phrase “it takes a village.” (85 minutes)



#### **9:30 PM -- Community Conversation**

Led by Woolly and ONE DC, join us for a post-show conversation with fellow audience members about the vital questions raised by *Pike St.*, the personal resonances, and larger societal implications.

**[Click here to purchase your \\$50 tickets!](#)** Proceeds benefit ONE DC!

A limited number of \$25, pay-what-you-can, and free tickets are available. Please call 202-232-2915 or email [organizer@onedconline.org](mailto:organizer@onedconline.org) for more details.

Please consider sponsoring this event:

- *Carry the Water* - \$100 - 1 Ticket to *Pike St*, ONE DC 10th Anniversary T-Shirt or Black Workers Center T-Shirt, Listing in program & on website
- *Fight for Justice* - \$500 - 4 tickets to *Pike St*, ONE DC 10th Anniversary T-Shirt and Black Workers Center T-Shirt, Listing in program & on website
- *Organize for Equity* - \$1,000 - 6 tickets to *Pike St*, ONE DC 10th Anniversary and Black Workers Center T-Shirt, copy of *Collective Courage* by Jessica Gordon Nembhard, Listing in program & on website
- *Path to Liberation* - \$5,000 - 10 tickets to *Pike St*, ONE DC 10th Anniversary and Black Workers Center T-Shirt, copy of *Collective Courage* by Jessica Gordon Nembhard, Listing in program & on website, Special Feature in upcoming ONE DC newsletter

[Click here to become a sponsor](#)

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#### **ONE DC Black Workers Center**

At our March meeting, we had members write down ideas for projects they would like to see run through the BWC. By the end of our session we came up with three unique action steps:

- 1) Open mics: In addition to organizing open mic events, this committee will work to secure funding for a sound system, food, and transportation for events.
- 2) Political education: This committee will work on assembling literature and talking points connecting the BWC to issues facing individuals at work and in the district.
- 3) Outreach: This committee will focus on creating a mobile "know your rights training" as well as conducting outreach and dispersing literature.

**To join, email [bwc@onedconline.org](mailto:bwc@onedconline.org)**

#### **Brunch with a Purpose**

**Sunday, April 9 - 1:00 - 3:00 PM**

Black Workers Center at the United Black Fund - 2500 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE

Are you a software developer? Are you interested in mentoring beginners? Are you ready to invest your skills to ensure greater equity in your field? If so, please join us for a fundraiser brunch.

**To RSVP, email [bwc@onedconline.org](mailto:bwc@onedconline.org)**

#### **Monthly Black Workers Center Meeting w/ Cooperation DC - Coops 101**

**Thursday, April 20th - 6:00 PM**

Black Workers Center - 2500 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE

Cooperation DC invites you to the Black Workers Center to learn about worker cooperatives, the emerging East of the River Childcare Cooperative, and to share your own coop ideas. [Cooperation DC](#)'s mission is to expand dignified employment opportunities in low-income communities of color through the development of worker cooperatives, businesses owned and managed democratically by their employees. Food and childcare will be provided at the workshop. **For more info, email Cooperation DC coordinator Nia Nyamweya at [nnyamweya@onedconline.org](mailto:nnyamweya@onedconline.org).**

[Click here to RSVP](#)

#### **Black Workers Center Chorus**

The BWC Chorus will not rehearse next Tuesday, April 4. Alternative rehearsals

will take place at Franklin Square on Sundays at 11AM. For more details and to join the chorus, **contact Luci Murphy at 202-234-8840.**

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### **We Demand Full Funding for the NEAR Act**

The NEAR Act stands for the Neighborhood Engagement Achieves Results Act of 2016. The law, which passed the D.C. Council unanimously, was the product of a District-wide conversation around policing and public safety. The NEAR Act sought to establish a framework to ensure residents safety while also addressing police abuses.

The Act aims to reset the conversation on policing to recognize that public safety can't be produced through mass incarceration or racial profiling. It lays out the frameworks for establishing community-led violence prevention efforts. These programs have extraordinarily good results. Cities as diverse as Chicago, New York, Baltimore, and Richmond, CA, have seen between 40% and 70% reductions in shootings, sometimes in just one year. They work by empowering respected community members to act as conflict mediators, combining that with particularly tailored access to social programs to help people change their circumstances.

[Click here to sign the petition](#)

As **Stop Police Terror Project DC** continues the campaign to fully fund the NEAR Act, there are some important events in the upcoming days, and one important request we have for you. **This Saturday April 1st there will be a [mass rally](#)** demanding, among other things, that Mayor Bowser fully fund the NEAR Act. It will gather at 1pm at Congress Heights Metro and march to the 7th District Police Station.

**Saturday April 8th at 12 Noon**, the Stop Police Terror Project-DC will be having a General Body Meeting. This will be an opportunity to get updated on the campaign to Fully Fund the NEAR Act and how to get further involved. Also, we will be discussing some other important criminal justice issues in the District of Columbia and our plans concerning them. This event will take place at 617 Florida Ave. NW.

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**May Day!**



[Click here to RSVP for May Day 2017](#)

### May Day Planning Meeting

Friday, March 31st - 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

New Community Church - 614 S St NW

The International Workers of the World (IWW) & ONE DC are inviting labor and community groups to participate in an international day of action for worker solidarity. We intend to celebrate our past victories as well as find strength to continue the struggle for ending war, racism, while bringing justice to working families everywhere. We look to showcase local and international struggles for economic and social justice by taking our collective voices to the streets and marching through Washington, DC.

Committees:

- 1) Logistics:** Preparing space at Malcolm X Park and coordinating the march including speakers for the march, tabling, permits, and organizing multilingual spaces.
- 2) Media / Press / Outreach:** Messaging and sharing of information associated with May Day.
- 3) Arts:** Producing signs, banners, puppets, flags, and other visuals for the march.

[Click here to register for a committee](#)

### DC On Strike!

On the morning of May 1, MLOV invites all DC movement organizations with an active campaign to hold an action with the words "DC ON STRIKE" visible along with their main demand. We envision May 1st being a day where local demands to protect communities under attack can coalesce and multiply the campaign's visibility. At noon, we invite you to rally with MLOV and our members in a collective demonstration and celebration of unity in Mount Pleasant, after which we will march to the White House to join the regional strike.

[Click here to RSVP and for more info](#)

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**Upcoming Events & Actions**

### **DC Fair Elections Campaign Launch**

**Saturday, April 1 - 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

Douglass Hall, Metropolitan AME Church - 1518 M St NW

Many DC residents feel big donors and developers have a greater voice in DC politics than we do, the DC Fair Elections Coalition is working to change that. But we need your help - Join us Saturday, April 1 to hear about how the DC Fair Elections Campaign can put more power back into the hands of everyday District residents and native Washingtonians and be part of passing the bill this year!

[Click here to RSVP](#)

### **Ghosts Of Seattle Past - Author Talk with Jaimee Garbacik**

**Thursday, April 20 - 7:00 - 8:30 PM**

The Potter's House - 1658 Columbia Rd NW

Join us in welcoming author & activist Jaimee Garbacik on Thursday, April 20 at 7pm. Jaimee will present her newest work Ghosts of Seattle Past: An Anthology of Lost Seattle Places, a collection of interviews, essays, comix and art commemorating places in Seattle lost to development, gentrification, and neglect. Jaimee will be joined by artist Josh Powell, and the pair will show how the project grew from a community-sourced atlas of memories into a time capsule of a changing city. They will present Josh's beautiful, hand-drawn maps, as well as stories of lost Seattle places, and then open the floor to attendees to share memories of places they have lost in their own city, and to pin them on a digital map of Washington D.C. Come join the discussion!

[Click here to RSVP](#)

### **People's Climate March**

**Saturday, April 29 - Washington DC**

On Saturday, April 29th in Washington DC, we will come together for one massive march to bring our demands to the streets. We will march for our families. We will march for our air, our water, and our land. We will march for clean energy jobs and climate justice. We will march for our communities and the people we love. And we will be louder and stronger than ever before.

[Click here to RSVP](#)

### **Service to Justice Conference**

**Thursday, May 11th through Sunday, May 14th**

Service to Justice (S2J) is a collective of Washington, DC social service organizations, impacted community members, and supportive institutions who recognize that the social service industry perpetuates the current arrangement of power that maintains systemic poverty and structural racism.

[Click here to register](#)

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## **ONE DC Political Education Calendar**

### **IWW Organizer Training: "Building the Committee"**

Saturday, April 22 - 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Sunday, April 23 - 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

ONE DC Home Office - 614 S St NW

Please join the IWW for two days of organizing training at the end of April. The 'Organizer Training 101: Building & Maintaining The Committee' is one of the

most comprehensive trainings of its kind aimed towards rank and file workers, union members, and worker organizers. The training is a great opportunity to inspire workers and provide the the basic tools needed to organize so we can live and practice the idea of "every worker a leader." Simply put, the training is about giving workers the confidence they need to begin organizing with their fellow workers. The IWW are asking people to register by April 10th, 2017 to insure that they can provide sufficient training materials, breakfast & lunch for everyone. Registration is **FREE** but a suggested donation of \$10 is appreciated. Please plan to attend the *entire* two days of training! **All workers are welcome.** [Click here to register](#)

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#### **Community Announcements**

**ONE DC has on-going need for volunteers in the following areas:**

- childcare at meetings & events
- providing transportation for other members to/from meetings & events
- interpretation/translation (most urgent: ASL, Spanish, Amharic)

[Click here to sign up for any of these volunteer roles](#)

#### **Center for Third World Organizing - The Movement Activist Apprenticeship Program**

Established in 1985, MAAP brings activists together for eight weeks to learn the art and science of organizing through in-the-field training and skill development with a labor or community organization. MAAP interns receive a weekly stipend, housing and local transportation during their field placement. MAAP is for people of color at least 18 years old, with an interest in pursuing a career as a community or labor organizer. The deadline for this application is **May 20th, 2017**. To apply for this year's MAAP cycle, please click [HERE](#). For questions contact Avery Bizzell, Program Coordinator by email [avery@ctwo.org](mailto:avery@ctwo.org) or by phone at (646) 926.1287

#### **Girls Rock! DC - We Rock! Camp**

Girls Rock! DC is excited to announce that applications for their 3rd annual We Rock! Camp are now open! The camp is for women, trans, and gender non-conforming adults age 19 and up. At the camp you'll have the opportunity to learn an instrument, form a band or DJ crew, collaborate to write an original musical expression, and perform for a live audience all in one weekend. No musical experience necessary to be a camper at We Rock! Camp. The deadline for applications is **Friday, April 7th**. If you're interested in attending or volunteering please click [HERE](#).

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#### **ONE Bit of Good News**

Thank you to The Keep for choosing ONE DC as beneficiary from the DC Blues+Fusion Global House Party & Racial Justice Fundraiser!



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Do you want to be a writer, editor, or designer for the ONE DC *Monthly Voice*? Email [organizer@onedconline.org](mailto:organizer@onedconline.org)

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