

frontlines

FROM THE

the Bread & Roses community fund newsletter | 2012 | Issue 2



Honoring Labor Heroes: 2012 Tribute to Change

Not only can you rely on Bread & Roses to fund the best and most effective community organizations in our region, but you can also count on us to throw a great party.

Bread & Roses' annual gala, the *Tribute to Change*, is a progressive's version of the Oscars—the place where those of us who believe in and fight for social change get together to honor our own.



The arrival of Lawrence strikers' children in New York City.

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the workers' strike that Bread & Roses is named after, this year's *Tribute to Change*, will spotlight local labor and worker's rights heroes.

In 1912, roughly 25,000 textile workers led a strike through the streets of Lawrence, Mass., with a simple demand: bread *and* roses. They wanted not just better wages and treatment on the job, but also art, love, and beauty in their lives.

This year's *Tribute to Change*, will honor these Philadelphia labor organizers, activists, and community leaders:

Kathy Black, Paul Robeson Lifetime Achievement Award. *This award is given to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to social change recently or throughout his or her lifetime.*



PAUL GOTTLIEB

People of color networking event a huge success

More than 250 people, most of them new to Bread & Roses Community Fund, came to a networking event for professionals of color in February. The event was organized by Bread & Roses intern Yolanda Washington, who says: "I wanted a chance to have that down-to-earth conversation that's been aching to get out."

Significant input Bread & Roses received during its visioning process last year highlighted the need to reach out to more people of color and more young people.

"The networking event strengthened my sense of purpose because everyday people got up and spoke about how Bread & Roses had supported them in making a direct impact in the lives of other everyday people," said Aurora Sanchez, teen outreach specialist and advisor to a teen philanthropy board.

According to Tarsha Scovens, coordinator of alumni relations at Community College of Philadelphia and co-founder of Let's Go Outdoors: "It was an informative, exciting, and casual event that allowed me to connect with wonderful and like-minded individuals. My interest in Bread & Roses has been heightened."

Romeeka Williams, from *Phoebus Criminal Justice Initiative* grantee Youth Art & Self-empowerment Project (YASP), told newcomers at the event: "Without Bread & Roses I would have never been hired at YASP, and that goes for many more people that work with us in our organization."

A working group has been formed to plan future discussions, town halls, and networking events. To learn more, contact Ray Murphy at ray@breadrosesfund.org.



LAUREN HANSEN-FLASCHEN

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Casey Cook

SIMBA MADZVIA

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear friend,

Last year, Bread & Roses Community Fund embarked on a visioning process for the organization. With the help of a dedicated committee and input from hundreds of donors and

organizers like you, Bread & Roses has been able to renew and refine its role as a foundation for change.

Throughout this newsletter you'll find examples of how Bread & Roses is already growing.

We're doing more to reach out to young people and people of color. We're strengthening relationships with organized labor. And we're breaking down the issue silos that sometimes put changemakers in isolation from one another.

Most importantly, we're spending more time connecting donors to the work of the organizations Bread & Roses supports and figuring out how to raise more money to make them stronger.

The future of Bread & Roses relies on inviting more people around the city and region — especially younger people — to support community

organizing for real change.

Many Bread & Roses donors already tell me that they wish they could get their friends, family neighbors and especially their children more involved in our collective effort to support social justice in the Delaware Valley. Our road map to change, which you will read about in this newsletter, will create ways to help you do just that.

With more people giving to support a movement for change, Bread & Roses will be able to implement the changes you asked for like bigger grants; a fellowship program for organizers; and strategic trainings for grantees.

And before too long, with your help, there will be a bounty of resources for people who are working to make social justice a reality in our region.

Yours,



Casey Cook
executive director

MEET THE GRANTMAKERS: FABRICIO RODRIGUEZ

Fabricio Rodriguez' organizing career began in New Mexico when he saw the injustices his father and fellow miners suffered fighting for their rights.

"If I do my work right and I can build institutions that are led by working people, they will always be there to set the priorities and drive towards a more just future," Fabricio says.

Fabricio has been organizing in Philadelphia since the early 2000s. Formerly the executive director of Philadelphia Jobs with Justice, he played a pivotal role there co-founding the Philadelphia Security Officers Union, a current Bread & Roses grantee.

Fabricio has served as a member of Bread & Roses' Community Grantmaking Committee since 2007.

"I thought it was very unique and very different for a foundation to go out of its way to nurture the grassroots, to help organizations rise to that level where they had a better shot of getting funded in the future," he says.

Fabricio now works as the coordinator at the Restaurant Opportunities Center of Philadelphia (Philly ROC), which organizes around issues that restaurant workers face, including low wages and lack of sick time.



EMILY RANDLE

Recently Fabricio was selected to participate in the prestigious Windcall Residency program, which hosts retreats in Puget Sound for seasoned organizers.

"Their whole mission is to prevent burnout, which is common enough in the work that we do. And the thing is that we can't afford to lose good people that have dedicated themselves to this work," he says. ✍️

Tribute to Change continued from page 1

Janet Ryder, Trailblazer Award. *This award is given to an outstanding leader in community organizing who has helped to pave the way for others.*



Janet Ryder has served as a mentor and muse for countless women and people of color looking to become leaders in the fight for worker's rights.

Before retiring last September, Janet was vice president of labor participation for the United Way of Southeastern PA and the Philadelphia Council AFL-CIO and a board member for the Philadelphia Workforce Investment Board and the Philadelphia Parking Authority. She also served as president of Omega Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and the PA Coalition of Union Women. She began her career as an educator and then worked for the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers as the union political director and legal services fund administrator.

Now living in Florida, she remains deeply committed to achieving social justice in Philadelphia and the world.

Germán L. Parodi, Emerging Leader Award. *This award is given to an individual who is beginning to make their mark as a community organizer.*



HARVEY FINKLE

Germán L. Parodi has achieved an impressive number of victories in his short career as an organizer and has proven that the fight for workers' rights won't be won with workers alone.

Germán is a college student and the vice chair of Racial and Economic Justice Fund grantee Disabled in Action of PA. He serves as the chair of the Pennsylvania Consumer

Workforce Council and played a key role in its creation. He served as lead negotiator during contract talks with the United Homecare Workers of PA, a joint effort by AFSCME and SEIU, which ratified a contract in April. He has also been a leader with Philly ADAPT.

Philadelphia Unemployment Project, Community Empowerment Award. *This award is given to a community organization, union, or campaign that has accomplished a great deal for change, not charity.*



Since 1975, the Philadelphia Unemployment Project (PUP) has organized poor and unemployed people to fight for economic justice, bringing diverse groups together to effect major change in millions of lives.

PUP's most recent victories include leading a coalition to successfully raise Pennsylvania's minimum wage and the launch of a national campaign to use federal funds to help homeowners facing foreclosure, which saved the homes of over 3,000 Pennsylvania families.

PUP has been led from the start by executive director and lead organizer John Dodds, who was inspired by the anti-war and civil rights movements of the 1960s.

Workers at the Southwest Philadelphia, Marcus Hook, and Trainer oil refineries, Community Empowerment Award. When Sunoco and ConocoPhillips announced plans to sell three area oil refineries and lay off thousands of workers last fall, members of United Steel Workers' Locals 10-1, 10-234, and 10-901, as well as Steamfitters Local 420, Boilermakers Local 13, and others



BARBARA RAHKE

united to fight the plant closures and highlight corporate greed.

This coalition of workers—which is still active—has organized hometown rallies, enlisted the help of local municipal leaders, and organized a lobby day in Washington and a 600-person march to Sen. Bob Casey's office to try to keep the refineries open.

Kairys, Rudovsky, Messing & Feinberg LLP, Robin Hood was Right Award. *This award is for an individual or organization making an outstanding contribution to social change philanthropy in the Greater Philadelphia area.*



Kairys, Rudovsky, Messing & Feinberg is being recognized for their generous financial support for Bread & Roses as well as the thousands of hours of pro bono legal representation they have provided to the grassroots organizations Bread & Roses helps to fund.

Kairys, Rudovsky, Messing & Feinberg is a private law firm at the forefront of the field in the litigation of cases vindicating civil rights and liberties including police misconduct, the rights of prisoners, free speech, and unlawful discrimination.

In addition to these amazing honorees, this year's *Tribute to Change* will be chaired by two long-time labor organizers: Kati Sipp, executive vice president at SEIU Healthcare PA and Barbra Rahke, director of PhilaPOSH. You can find more detailed descriptions of this year's honorees, the planning and host committees on our website, www.breadrosesfund.org.

Even if you can't make it to the *Tribute to Change*, please consider buying tickets to donate to those who can't afford them and check out sponsorship opportunities on our website.

All proceeds raised from the *Tribute to Change* fund grants to support grassroots organizing campaigns. 🗳️

Meet Mary Ellen, a Bread & Roses volunteer

Three days a week, Mary Ellen Weber walks from her Center City home to volunteer at Bread & Roses. From processing Lax Scholarship applications to community outreach to watering the office plants, Mary Ellen does it all.

Mary Ellen retired from a job at a showroom in the Marketplace Design Center where she worked for 16 years. But retirement did not end Mary Ellen's desire to work—especially in pursuit of justice.

“Social justice defines what kind of society we live in,” says Mary Ellen.

Mary Ellen left rural Ohio where she grew up at age 18 to become a TWA flight attendant. She eventually got married and spent her days managing a home, raising her children, volunteering and attending classes.

In the 1970s, she became involved in the League of Women Voters and fighting for the passage of the Equal Rights Amend-



Mary Ellen Weber and her husband Robert Stern.

ment. Her activism led to a job in the New Jersey legislature.

“I was one of the first in my women's consciousness-raising group to get a job,” she says. “And I remember telling the other women how easy work was compared to being a homemaker!”

Mary Ellen has never stopped working to make the world a better place. She has volunteered at the Philadelphia Athenaeum, Philadelphians Against Santorum, the Philadelphia Parks Alliance, MoveOn.org, Jobs with Justice, and Fredrick Douglas

Elementary School.

“There have been monumental changes to the fabric of our nation since the 1960s,” says Mary Ellen. “But you have to be vigilant. Especially looking at steps backwards like the incarceration epidemic and the chipping away of abortion rights.”

She has been volunteering with Bread & Roses for two years, but it's difficult to imagine how the office ever ran without her. “Bread & Roses is a wonderful place to be. If anyone has a few hours to spare, we could use your help with all kinds of special projects,” Mary Ellen says. “And volunteering here is good for your soul too!”

If you'd like to meet Mary Ellen or learn more about volunteering your time at Bread & Roses, please contact Maura Kelly, office manager at (215) 731-1107 x204 or maura@breadrosesfund.org.

Thanks for all your hard work, Mary Ellen!

Bread & Roses receives Founder's Award

Fifteen years ago, Bread & Roses made a grant to a small organization that planned to create puppets and build community as a way to make social change. Like many of Bread & Roses' grants, this one was a risk. But that organization, Spiral Q Puppet Theater, went on to do amazing things marrying art and social change in a unique way.

In February, Spiral Q honored Bread & Roses with its Founders Award at their annual event, Q-Licious: “Radical trailblazers in the philanthropic community for more than 30 years, Bread & Roses has provided critical support to grassroots movements and organizations working for social change.”

Bread & Roses board members and staff were in attendance to receive the award. But the people who made this award possible were donors and supporters like you who make Bread & Roses' unique grantmaking happen. Thank you!



PABLO VIRGO

Connecting the dots



In April, Bread & Roses hosted *Speed Networking for Organizers*. The goal of this event was to help area social changemakers connect outside of issues they normally work on.

RAY MURPHY

A road map to change

The goal of the founders of the People's Fund (which became Bread & Roses Community Fund) was to raise money to support organizing that would bring about huge change in Philadelphia. “We believed we could fund a grassroots people's movement that would redirect government to serve human needs and address oppression in all of its forms,” says Bread & Roses' co-founder Molly Frantz.

There have been amazing victories over the years—from raising the minimum wage to reducing pollution from oil refineries—all funded by a vast network of local donors committed to social change. But Bread & Roses—and its supporters like you—are still trying to figure out how big picture change can really happen.

Last year, a committee was formed to examine Bread & Roses' mission and programs. With input from hundreds of stakeholders, they drafted recommendations to strengthen Bread & Roses' role in supporting community organizing for social change, like: providing more and larger grants, offering strategic training to make grassroots organizations sustainable, and helping to convene coalitions.

Now the board is drawing a “road map to change” to set goals to help Bread & Roses implement these changes over the next several years.

Visit www.breadrosesfund.org to learn more about the road map for change and find out how you can get involved.

DONOR PROFILE

Michael Lazenka

A Philadelphia native, Center City resident, and graduate of Temple University and Archbishop Ryan High School, Mike Lazenka is deeply committed to social justice for everyone in our region.

“As a younger gay man, I focused on organizations that impacted the gay community,” Mike says. “As I have gotten older, I’ve become more sensitive to the threads that connect all of us, and to the lasting impact that social injustice can have on people from all walks of life.”

Recent political and economic events have prompted Mike to increase his giving: “I wanted to barf at the 2010 election results, so I doubled the amount of money I gave to Bread & Roses.”

“From challenges to free speech to anti-gay groups to pervasive racism at the city, state and federal level, there are a lot of reasons to be angry. But an organization like Bread & Roses also gives me hope,” says Mike. “Bread & Roses has become for me the group that best allows me to ‘pay it forward’ and address the needs of



society as a whole.”

Mike gives to Bread & Roses through the Penn’s Way campaign. Workplace campaigns are active at many area employers, including the University of Pennsylvania, Drexel University, the Curtis Institute of Music, Bryn Mawr College, the City of Philadelphia, and countless other workplaces through the United Way. Workplace donors like Mike agree to have a certain amount deducted from each paycheck and sent directly to Bread & Roses.

“The continuing softness in the economy coupled with the efforts to expand the scope of services and support provided by Bread & Roses prompted me to increase my contribution again in 2011 by 50%. Even with these increases, my monthly contribution—deducted automatically from

Michael Lazenka
Donor since
2008
Occupation
Coordinates outreach and communications for the organization that provides support to technical professionals at the University of Pennsylvania
Why I give
I firmly believe that as individuals we must be sensitive to how our decisions impact society and we must collectively work to ensure that everyone is granted the opportunity to have a better life.

my pay—is really manageable for me. And I hope to increase the amount I donate every year,” he says.

If you would like to learn more about workplace donor campaigns, visit www.jointheworkforce.org.

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

The Food Organizing Collaborative

“Everyday folks who have been growing food for 40 years in community gardens in Philadelphia understand the barriers that make growing healthy food difficult, and the solutions that could make it easier,” says Gina Giazzoni, a founding advisory board member of The Food Organizing Collaborative (FORC).

FORC is working to make sure that everybody in the city of Philadelphia has access to organic and local food options. FORC, which received a grant from Bread & Roses’ *Future Fund*, is a collaborative effort of several urban farming and community garden groups.

Legal barriers to land use are a central challenge faced by urban growers. To create the political will to make land available to city farmers and gardeners, FORC used their Bread & Roses grant to organize a city-wide network of gardeners.

“We had an awesome representation of the diversity of food growers in our city at



ELIZABETH MASSA

Lea Elementary School students on a visit to Mill Creek Farm.

the two community meetings we have held so far,” says Jade Walker, a FORC advisory board member and the co-founder and co-director of the Mill Creek Farm. “Folks from all different neighborhoods, ages, growing experiences, and ethnic backgrounds were represented which made the conversation dynamic.”

FORC co-hosted one of the meetings with the Garden Justice Legal Initiative which is a project of Bread & Roses board member Amy Laura Cahn (and was recently featured

in *Grid* magazine). This new pro bono legal program provides support to community gardeners and urban farmers in historically disinvested sections of the city.

Through these and other organizing efforts, FORC hopes to make access to healthy and affordable food—as well as control over how local food is produced—a reality for all Philadelphians.

“We wanted to support our city’s food system and our neighbors’ sense of self reliance. We started FORC to organize and lift up all parts of our food system; workers, growers, and eaters,” says Chris Bolden-Newsome, also a FORC advisory board member and food grower at Bartram’s Farm.

Bread & Roses grants to groups like FORC are supporting a movement for food justice and getting more young people involved in the struggle for social change. Your last gift to Bread & Roses helped make this possible. Thanks!



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frontlines

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GRANTS IN ACTION

Achievements

- In April, Community Grantmaking Committee member **Dr. Rufus Lynch** was awarded a prestigious Stoneleigh Fellowship to explore and address some of the barriers to fathers' involvement with children.
- In March, the *Philadelphia Gay News* named Bread & Roses executive director **Casey Cook** one of Philadelphia's top LGBT "movers and shakers."

America Starts Here, the Hate Stops Here! 1% Fund grantee JUNTOS brought hundreds of people to Harrisburg in May to tell legislators to end discrimination against immigrants.



HARVEY FINKLE

In November, *Future Fund* grantee **Chester Upland Citizens for Education Progress** president Charles Warren was elected to the Chester-Upland school board positioning him to lead the fight for students in the ailing school district. In January, in response to a petition filed by Chester Upland Citizens for Educational Progress, the Public Interest Law Center, and Education Law Center, federal judge Michael Baylson ordered the state of Pennsylvania to advance money to the district to keep its doors open.

Youth United for Change, a *Racial & Economic Justice Fund* grantee, received an award from the Schott Foundation for "activists and organizations who have demonstrated exceptional commitment and achieved extraordinary results in advocating for equity in public education."

In a huge reversal, Congress voted this month to reinstate the ban on federal funding for syringe exchange. *Racial & Economic Justice Fund* grantee **ACT UP Philadelphia** organized a demonstration following the announcement. This ban comes after 20 years of organizing by ACT UP groups to get Congress to repeal the ban, which they did in 2010.

The *Phoebus Criminal Justice Initiative* is a unique donor-advised fund that brings organizers together with the members of the Phoebus Fund, established by Phoebe Valentine and Doc Hopkins. Thanks to a tip from Miles Smith—one of Valentine's children and a trustee of the foundation—**Youth Art & Self-empowerment Project** was awarded a \$30,000 grant from a national foundation in addition to their Phoebus grant.

See all of the 2012 *Phoebus Criminal Justice Initiative* grantees on our website at www.breadrosesfund.org

