

Thu, Aug 15, 2024

CALIFORNIA



Good morning! In this issue...

- Responding to Gov. Newsom's encampment sweeps
- Recaps: Remembering Hiroshima and Nagasaki
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Announcement



Stop the sweeps!

We urge Gov. Newsom to stop demonizing our unhoused neighbors

In light of the SCOTUS decision on Grants Pass and Gov. Newsom's [Executive Order N-1-24](#), the California PPC is showing up in solidarity with all people who are unhoused or homeless—and so can you.

Criminalizing homelessness does nothing to solve the underlying problem: disinvestment in public and subsidized housing alongside stagnant wages.

When unhoused people are displaced, it is a huge disruption to their lives, making it even harder for them to take care of themselves. They lose vital documents, they lose connections to services and they lose their community. Repeatedly forcing people to start over adds unneeded stress and is a cruel waste of time and resources. We must focus on the solutions that solve homelessness.

The Wood Street Commons in Oakland is one community on the ground bearing the brunt of the escalating attacks on our unhoused neighbors. The tone was somber as a crowd gathered for a press conference on Monday under the freeway where they have been pushed by repeated sweeps. Community member Moose began by dedicating the press conference to Tara, yet another Woods Street resident who had died—just the night before.

“Since the separation of our community there’s been a lot of news like this... something needs to be done about it,” he said. He went on to call for public land for public good, citing land nearby owned by CalTrans that could be made available for them.

CA PPC quad chair Nell Myhand said, “Across the country there are over 10 million people without housing or on the brink of homelessness. We can guarantee everyone the right to a decent house to live in. It is possible to end housing insecurity, to end the criminalization of homelessness and sweeps and evictions of tent cities.”

One of the PPC’s core principles is that people should not live in or die from poverty in the richest nation ever to exist. And the most concentrated and visible expression of poverty in the U.S. today is homelessness.

So what can you do? Contact Gov. Newsom today. [Click here](#), select “Fair Employment and Housing” from the dropdown topics, and share this message:

Stop demonizing our unhoused neighbors—stop the sweeps! Reverse course on Executive Order N-1-24. Encampment evictions are not a solution to homelessness.

We know that when you lift from the bottom everybody rises.

Read more about how unhoused individuals are being affected by the executive order up and down the state in [CalMatters](#).

Recap



From the Bay to L.A., activists call for nuclear abolition

Members of the California PPC family were among the 100+ activists who gathered in the East Bay last Tuesday to mark the 79th anniversary of the U.S. bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki—and to call for the global elimination of nuclear weapons.

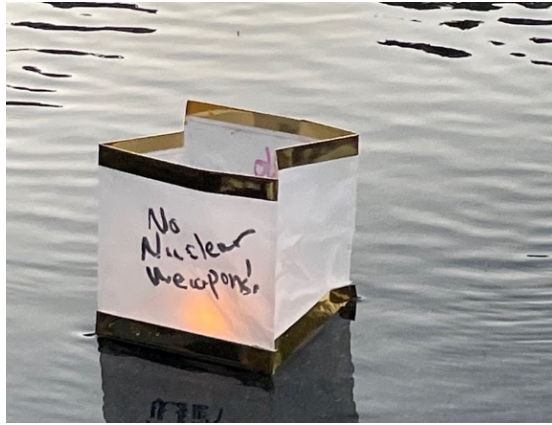
The event took place outside Livermore Lab. The lab is central to the escalation of the nuclear dangers we face, and is one of two locations in the country that continues to design and develop all U.S. nuclear warheads.

Speakers provided compelling insights and actions for the engaged audience. They included Maylene Hughes of Back from the Brink Campaign and Physicians for Social Responsibility; Scott Yundt of Tri-Valley CAREs; journalist and author Norman Solomon; Patricia Ellsberg, social activist and wife of Daniel Ellsberg; Hideaki Ito, director of the documentary *Silent Fallout*; and Reverend Monica Cross of the CA PPC.

The Rev. Monica Cross, pastor at First Christian Church of Oakland and a California PPC quad chair, noted that 69 cents of the federal discretionary budget—our tax dollars—go to the military. “We’re paying for our own annihilation, but nobody thinks about it,” she said.

Participants were then led in a Japanese tradition of *Bon*, performing symbolic dance steps in the road to remember the nearly quarter million who died 79 years ago. At the end, 23 people took part in nonviolent direct action by blocking the gate to the Lab. They were cited and released.

You can read more about the day [here](#).



On Friday, at the Grand Park Fountain Plaza in downtown Los Angeles, a mostly young crowd of activists marked the U.S. bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Kikuko Otake, a survivor of the atomic bomb in Hiroshima and author of *Masako's Story: Surviving the Atomic Bombing in Hiroshima*, shared her family's horrifying experience. Several students spoke of the urgency of ending nuclear weapons to protect our future. After a moment of silence, participants released paper lanterns into the plaza's fountain, each individually decorated, to honor the victims of the bombings.

Meetings & events

Faith All-Call meeting

Wednesday Aug 28, 6:30pm | [Online](#)

Our Faith All-Call meetings are a space especially for those who are moved to take action through the lens of faith. This month we'll be discussing how faith communities can work to get out the vote among poor, low-propensity voters, especially young people, Spanish speakers and homeless and unhoused folks. We'll hear examples of work that's already underway and organize to amplify and grow our efforts. All are welcome!



Freedom Church of the Poor: Black August Series

Sundays in August | [Join online](#)

Kairos Center's Freedom Church of the Poor is sponsoring Black August 2024, a series to confront the pervasive state violence affecting our communities. From the ongoing

genocide in Palestine, to the criminalization of our homeless siblings, to the growing political influence of white Christian nationalist ideology and the increased repression of our movements for justice, we face many challenges. In these times of crisis, it is crucial to cultivate clarity of mind, body and spirit, drawing strength from our ancestors who have given us powerful tools to sustain ourselves during periods of struggle.

This Black August, we honor the moral and political leaders and patron saints of the movement—like Bernice Johnson Reagon and Paul Robeson, who taught us how to unite and organize in challenging times. Together, let's lift up their legacy and build a stronger, more committed community.

Come Sunday, we hope you'll [join in](#).

We are the swing vote! Join our GOTV team!

*“The greatest fear of the greedy oligarchs in this country is for the masses of Black people to connect with the masses of poor white people & form a voting block that could fundamentally reshift the economic architecture of the country. **By working together, organizing together, and voting together, we can save the heart and soul of our democracy.**” —Bishop Barber*

We are mobilizing 15 million poor and low-wage workers and people to the polls this November. You can be part of this effort.

SIGN UP HERE

In the media

“The political reckonings of a progressive church”

Eliza Griswold, a New Yorker contributing writer and Pulitzer Prize-winning author, appeared last week on MSNBC's [Morning Joe](#) to discuss her new book, *Circle of Hope: A Reckoning with Love, Power, and Justice in an American Church*. During the discussion she compared the influence of conservative and progressive evangelicals.

“What we're seeing in the leadup to November is that these progressive evangelicals—I'm thinking of people like Bishop Barber—are able to mobilize voters and to peel away evangelicals who are uncomfortable with Trump,” she said. “It is much more accurate to read ‘love your enemy’ in the Bible than it is to read ‘Trump is Jesus.’ It's powerful messaging, it's simple messaging, and it's really returning Scripture to what it actually says on the page.”

Thanks for reading. If you have any questions, you are welcome to reply to this newsletter or email california@poorpeoplescampaign.org.