

Thu, Aug 8, 2024

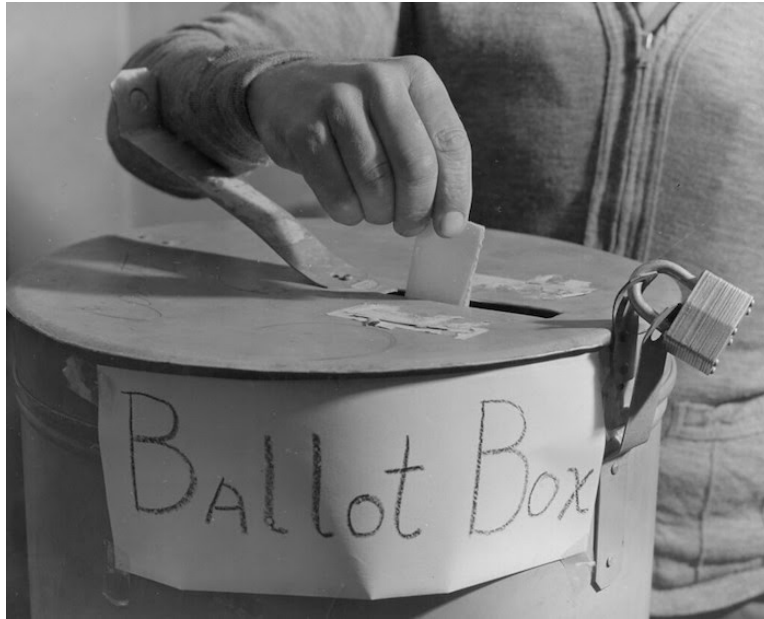
# CALIFORNIA



Good morning! In this issue...

- Big updates on our GOTV actions
- Remembering Hiroshima and Nagasaki
- A Tisha b'Av for L.A.'s tourism workers
- Red Letter Christians and Supreme Court Prayers

## Announcement



### **GOTV 2024 kicks off!**

At an online meeting attended by over 450 leaders and activists this past Tuesday, 90 days before Election Day and on the 59th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, National PPC outlined plans for a major GOTV campaign. It will include a national textbanking program starting in late August and running through November 5, targeting poor and low-wage voters, and two weekends of coordinated canvassing across the country.

The textbanking will focus on 16 states where we can make the biggest difference in increasing voter turnout. Bishop Barber reminds us that “poor and low-wage people now make up more than 30 percent of the electorate. In so-called battleground states where the margin of victory was within 3 percent in the presidential race in the last election, poor and low-wage people make up 40 to 43 percent. Together, we can organize and mobilize this sleeping giant of voters.”

While California isn't a battleground state, we have this opportunity to play an important part in a historic time for the nation.

Here at home, we'll also be educating our communities on state ballot measures and the logistics of voting (do you know when early voting starts?) and developing campaigns to reach young people, Spanish speakers and those who are unhoused.

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.](#)

## Meetings & events



### Lanterns of Hope: Remembering Hiroshima and Nagasaki

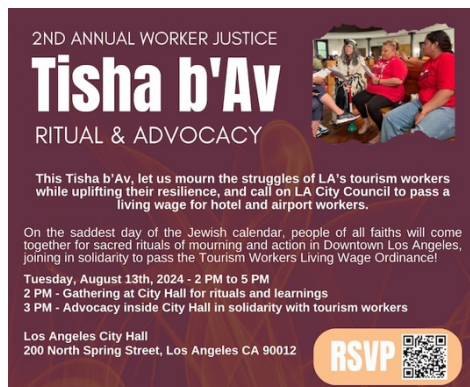
Friday Aug 9, 6pm

**Gloria Molina Grand Park (Fountain Plaza; 200 N Grand Ave, Los Angeles 90012)**

Angelenos will mark the 79th anniversary of the U.S. bombing of Nagasaki with a traditional Japanese village dance performance, speakers and a moment of silence, followed by the release of paper water lanterns, each individually decorated, to honor the victims of the bombings.

Kikuko Otake, a survivor of the atomic bomb in Hiroshima and author of *Masako's Story: Surviving the Atomic Bombing in Hiroshima*, will share her family's experience. Other speakers include Dr. Jimmy Hara, board member of [Physicians for Social Responsibility—Los Angeles](#); Eddie Laiche, student activist and cofounder of [Students for Nuclear Disarmament](#); and Manon and Kanon Iwata, student activists and founders of [Teens 4 Disarmament](#).

The event is sponsored by Physicians for Social Responsibility—Los Angeles, Back from the Brink, Teens 4 Disarmament and Students for Nuclear Disarmament.



### Support L.A.'s tourism workers

Tuesday Aug 13, 2pm | [RSVP](#)

**Los Angeles City Hall (200 N. Spring Street)**

On Tisha b'Av, the saddest day of the Jewish calendar, people of all faiths will come together for sacred rituals of mourning and action in downtown Los Angeles, joining in solidarity to uplift the Tourism Workers Living Wage Ordinance. A coalition of several groups, including CLUE and UNITE HERE Local 11, organized the event. Please join us!

Background: L.A.'s hotel and airport workers are struggling to survive. Their wages are hardly enough to keep up with skyrocketing rent or to secure quality family healthcare. As Jewish Angelenos and interfaith allies, we know that low-wage workers are indispensable members of our communities, whose vibrancy is dimmed when people aren't paid enough to survive.

Our elected officials must strive toward righting the injustice placed on the city's tourism workers and the inequity of their low wages, by passing the Tourism Workers Living Wage Ordinance as soon as possible!



## 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, you're welcome to [join in](#).

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We are the swing vote! Join our GOTV team!

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**JOIN THE TEAM**

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## In the media

### “Christians, Get Out and Vote”

In a moving blog post on [Red Letter Christians](#), Bishop Barber and peace activist Shane Claiborne highlight the importance of voting—that “it is a gift from God, and we must use it to serve our neighbors and reconstruct a society that works for all of us.”

So what’s a Red Letter Christian? They explain that the term “refers to the words of Jesus that are often highlighted in red font. We like to say that we are aspiring to ‘live as if Jesus meant the stuff he said.’ When we pay attention to the red letters of Jesus’ teachings, it becomes impossible to reconcile Christianity with the policies and rhetoric of Trump. For this reason, Christians must vote—not only to stop Trump, but to build up a society where everyone does better.”



### Bishop Barber leads second Moral Monday prayer gathering at Supreme Court

In their second week coming together, a group of faith leaders met at the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court to pray together as part of a Moral Mondays prayer series that will continue until the November election.

During the prayers, Bishop Barber said, “My Jewish friends taught me that the words for ‘voice’ and ‘vote’ are the same in Hebrew. Something is deeply wrong when any candidate says, ‘Vote for me and I alone can fix things. Vote for me and it will be the last time.’”

Read more about the Moral Mondays [here](#).

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*Thanks for reading. If you have any questions, you are welcome to reply to this newsletter or email [california@poorpeoplescampaign.org](mailto:california@poorpeoplescampaign.org).*