

Thu, Oct 19, 2023

CALIFORNIA



Last week saw a powerful array of leaders gathering in L.A. for a summit on eradicating poverty. We have an extensive recap below, plus info on an event featuring the former First Lady of Haiti and more great insights from Shailly Gupta Barnes on the policies that can ensure the economic dignity we all deserve.

Announcements

Stand With Haiti!

STAND WITH HAITI!

featuring **Madame Mildred Aristide**
Former First Lady of Haiti and Member of the Board of Administration
of the University of the Dr. Aristide Foundation (UNIFA)

Sponsored by the Haiti Emergency Relief Fund and Haiti Action Committee

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21 • 3-5 PM

First Presbyterian Church of Oakland • 2619 Broadway, Oakland

Live music: Tarika Lewis & Destiny Muhammad • Francisco Herrera

Emcee: Dr. Nia Imara, Board Member, Haiti Emergency Relief Fund

Speakers: Pierre Labossiere, Co-Founder, Haiti Action Committee and
Walter Riley, Co-Chair, Haiti Emergency Relief Fund

We urge all who can to come to our in-person event and greet Mme. Aristide. For those of you outside the Bay Area or who are unable to attend in person, the event will be live-streamed on the Global Exchange YouTube channel here: youtube.com/@GlobalExchangeGX/streams

To donate for Haiti:

Saturday Oct 21, 3pm | [Livestream](#)

First Presbyterian Church of Oakland (2619 Broadway)

This Saturday, please help us welcome Madame Mildred Aristide, wife of the first democratically elected President of Haiti, the first Black republic in the western hemisphere. Mme. Aristide will share an update on the work of the University of the Aristide Foundation (UNIFA) amid the deepening crisis in Haiti. Read more about the event and supporting partners [here](#).

We urge all who can to come to the in-person event and greet Mme. Aristide. For those unable to join us at First Presbyterian, the event will be livestreamed on the [Global Exchange YouTube channel](#).

THE INSTITUTE FOR NONVIOLENCE IN LOS ANGELES

Invites you to join Feel the Bern - San Fernando Valley Dem Club
and the N.E. Valley Poor People's Campaign

For a
DAYS of DIALOGUE
Facing Racism and
Bigotry in
Los Angeles

A facilitated community
conversation about
equity and healing
with a focus
on the leaked LA City
Council Audio Tapes!

When Sun Oct 22, 2023
Time: 3:00pm - 6:00pm
Location: Granada Hills
Fire Station 87
10124 Balboa Blvd,
Granada Hills

RSVP tinyurl.com/DaysofDialogue
www.daysofdialogue.org/daysofdialogue/

Day of dialogue: Facing Racism and Bigotry in Los Angeles Sunday Oct 22, 3pm | [RSVP](#) Granada Hills Fire Station 87 (10124 Balboa Blvd)

Our CA PPC Northeast San Fernando Valley region is teaming up with the San Fernando Valley "Feel The Bern" Democratic Club for this nonpartisan community dialogue on racism and bigotry in L.A. Our focus will be the leaked L.A. City Council tapes, allowing a safe space for folks to come together and relate to one in another and to foster healing and understanding.

Rally for Rent Control
Wed. October 25th, 2023
12:00pm
at the State Capitol!
Sacramento

**Join us for a massive
letter drop to the Governor!**

*We are delivering 732,177 letters to the
Governor from Californians up and down the
state, urging the Governor to support
Rent Control!*

Rally for Rent Control Wednesday Oct 25, 12pm | [RSVP](#) State Capitol, Sacramento
Is your rent too high? Join this rally, press conference and march to urge the Governor to support rent control. California PPC is an endorser of the [Justice for Renters](#) ballot measure. [RSVP](#) for details.

Recap



The L.A. Summit on Poverty and Homelessness

Last Friday, the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor hosted an historic Summit on Poverty and Homelessness. Held at the IBEW Hall and attended by hundreds, the day brought together labor, political and community leaders to discuss solutions to poverty and homelessness in Los Angeles. The day began with a fact-filled presentation by L.A. County Federation of Labor President Yvonne Wheeler, who drove home how hard it is for people—even those who are working—to make ends meet. She noted that more than 2 million people are living in poverty in L.A. County, and many are one paycheck away from being homeless.

We also heard from elected officials including Mayor Karen Bass and County Supervisors Holly Mitchell and Janice Hahn. Workshop sessions centered on closing the wage gaps for all workers, creating unity with public-sector unions and community organizing efforts, and scaling up efforts to build affordable housing.

The surprise of the morning was Laphonza Butler, our new U.S. senator, who gave a heartfelt introduction to the keynote speaker: our very own Bishop Barber. And before he

spoke, PPC theomusicologist Yara Allen energized the audience with a rousing call-and-response rendition of “Somebody’s Hurting My People.”



Bishop Barber began by reminding us that we must face up to the realities of poverty—that the numbers are higher than we’ve been told, that we continue to blame people for their own poverty and that we need to stop believing that the poor will always be with us (and how that phrase is an intentional misrepresentation of Scripture).

“What is the cost of poverty?” he asked, “it’s losing a trillion dollars due to child poverty...and losing 1.3 trillion due to corporate tax breaks.” He then fired us up as he repeated that “it’s time to have a meeting”—a community-wide, nationwide coming together across lines of division to eradicate poverty once and for all. “It’s time to solve this!” he said.

We left inspired and motivated to march toward that goal while strengthening connections between unions and the greater community. Read more about the summit in the [Los Angeles Sentinel](#).

Support the California PPC!

When over 140 million Americans are poor or living with low-wages, it's time for systemic change. We are building a movement led by poor and impacted folks, building across all lines of division, in order to topple the interlocking pillars of racism, poverty, militarism, environmental destruction and this country's distorted moral narrative. Please help us achieve this goal by clicking below and chipping in whatever you can.

DONATE

PPC in the media

“A Wake-Up Call on Poverty”

In a recent opinion piece in [Other Words](#), Shailly Gupta Barnes, policy director at the Kairos Center and PPC advocate, reminds us what worked during the pandemic era programs (the Child Tax Credit, among others) and that child poverty has doubled since

the end of them. She emphasizes the importance of understanding the U.S. Census numbers, in particular the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) and the number of low-income Americans with incomes just above the thresholds.

“Only when we appreciate the breadth and depth of this insecurity can we develop the appropriate social policy response,” she writes. “As Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote in 1967, ‘The prescription for the cure rests on an accurate diagnosis of the disease.’”

The impact of government programs is made clear when we see that in 2021, the number of poor and low-income people was brought down from 139 million to 112 million. And as programs expired, we see a return to nearly the same as before the pandemic, with 135 million. “For policymakers, this should be a wake-up call. We know what works—now let’s do it.”

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