

Newsletter: A Día de los Muertos reflection, a preview of next year's actions and more

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CALIFORNIA



With Día de los Muertos approaching, we're sharing numbers on poverty-induced death in America—as well as some solutions. We also have recaps of a talk given in Oakland by Haiti's former First Lady and a gathering to discuss racism in L.A. Speaking of L.A., Angelenos are urged to join the next regional meeting, where we'll go over some big plans for 2024. Forward together!

Announcement



Remembering those lost to poverty

As we approach Día de los Muertos (the Day of the Dead), we remember those we have lost—including loved ones and neighbors taken before their time by poverty.

Celebrated on Nov. 1 and 2 in Mexico and Central America as well throughout California, Día de los Muertos is when the spirits of the dead are believed to return home and spend time with their relatives. To welcome them, families build altars in their honor.

During a time dedicated to the recognition of mortality, our minds also turn to facts like these (from the PPC [California fact sheet](#)):

- Across the country, approximately 1,000 people are still dying from COVID every week and millions of people lack access to health care.
- During the most intense period of the pandemic, 2,704,300 people were uninsured. With the ending of continuous eligibility for Medicaid, 2,633,500 more people are estimated to lose access to health care.
- Also during the pandemic, moratoria on evictions and utility disconnections saved lives. If enacted earlier, they could have reduced COVID deaths by 40 and 15 percent, respectively, across the nation. Universal health care could have saved 330,000 lives.
- Between 2019 and 2020, California experienced a 1.9-year decline in average life expectancy.

It doesn't have to be this way. The [Third Reconstruction Resolution](#) points to solutions that could end this cycle of poverty and unnecessary death. Share these facts and solutions with your family, neighbors and elected officials. (Don't know who represents you? The League of Women Voters has this handy [tool](#).)

Upcoming meeting

Los Angeles regional meeting Sunday Nov 5, 3pm | [RSVP](#)

This month we'll lay out more detailed plans for 2024, including coordinated statehouse assemblies on March 2 and the Mass Poor People's and Low-Wage Workers' Assembly and Moral March on Washington and to the Polls on June 15. Who do you know who could go to the statehouse in Sacramento? If you can't go yourself, there will be lots of other ways to help: phone banking, media and social media work, signs, banners and more. Join us to learn more and add in your ideas. Invite your neighbors, families and friends—all are welcome.

Recaps



Planting the seeds for Haiti's future: Mme Mildred Aristide at Stand with Haiti!

The turnout was fantastic last Saturday, welcoming former First Lady of Haiti Mildred Aristide to Oakland. After music and introductions focused on Haiti's history and ongoing struggles, Mme. Aristide spoke about pivotal moments in Haiti's history and inspired hope through her updates on the work of the University of the Aristide Foundation (UNIFA), where she is a board member.

Since 2011, UNIFA has graduated more than 1,000 doctors, nurses, dentists, scientists and lawyers. Many of these graduates, as well as other medical students in training, are providing much-needed assistance to the victims of the 2010 earthquake.

Mme. Aristide also reflected on the recent UN Security Council decision to send foreign troops into Haiti. "Solutions to Haiti's complex problems will not come easy, and they will certainly not come from outside," she said. "Solutions must be pursued by and with Haitians, simultaneously on many fronts and with equal resolve. What is certain in this moment, as we search for solutions: Access to education at every level must continue and must at all costs be protected."

Aristide thanked the tireless work of Haiti Emergency Relief Fund and Haiti Action Committee, the event's organizers. Watch her riveting talk in the event [recording](#).



Day of Dialogue: Facing Racism and Bigotry in Los Angeles

Last Sunday, PPC members and other community residents participated in a “Day of Dialogue: Facing Racism and Bigotry in Los Angeles” roundtable discussion. The event’s aim was to bring people from diverse experiences and perspectives together for an open, honest and deep conversation about the leaked L.A. City Council tapes. That recording’s derogatory, offensive, racist language, and the divisive maneuverings it depicted, reflect a profound crisis in leadership.

A key takeaway is that, although we are faced with many adversities and obstacles, and regardless of race, creed, or personal identity, we have a common need for justice and equity. Dialogue can build connections, raise our understanding and help us collaboratively come up with strategies to address the many faces of racism, the lack of care and the numerous systems of oppression that impoverish us all.

We left more determined to deal with the complexity and necessity of demanding ethical politicians and an end to poverty policies.

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

“It’s a poverty emergency, and we must act”

In their latest [Common Dreams](#) opinion piece, Bishop Barber and Rev. Dr. Theoharis spell out the crisis of poverty in America, where 41 percent of the populace is poor or low-

wealth. The shorter lifespan of this group is, they write, “a moral indictment of a society that is abandoning millions amid abundance.”

Referencing a recent *Washington Post* series on declining life expectancy in the U.S., they add that “135 million people cannot afford a couple hundred dollar emergency. This reality is an emergency, and anyone who claims to value life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness must treat it as such.”

The Common Dreams article also marks the first public call to convene in Washington, D.C. on June 15, 2024, for another Mass Poor People’s and Low-Wage Workers Assembly and Moral March. [Read the article](#) for more info.

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