

Thu, Dec 7, 2023

CALIFORNIA



On December 4, 1967, the Poor People's Campaign was launched. As you'll see in the announcements and articles below, the vision laid out by Dr. King and his PPC cofounders is very much alive. Read on and learn about hotel worker actions, war tax resistance and other ways the PPC is marching toward a brighter future.

Announcements



A Worker's Posada with UNITE HERE Friday Dec. 8, 4pm Sheraton Gateway Hotel (6101 W. Century Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90045)

Join in a traditional posada (a Christmastime celebration observed in some Latin American communities) as we seek justice for striking hotel workers and their families. It will begin at the Sheraton Gateway Hotel and end at the Four Points by Sheraton LAX, where there will be refreshments. The posada is part of [UNITE HERE's](#) Occupy LAX event; keep reading.

Occupy LAX

Wednesday Dec. 6–Sun Dec. 10

Sheraton Gateway Hotel and Four Points by Sheraton LAX

Hundreds of room attendants, cooks, dishwashers and community allies are occupying Century Blvd. this week in a multi-day, round-the-clock action. It's running day and night as workers and community members demand wage increases that accommodate the skyrocketing cost of living in Los Angeles. You can visit for morning prayers between 7am and 9am, take a meal or walk the picket line during the day or bring hot drinks at night.

Learn more and see the action in progress on UNITE HERE's [Twitter account](#).

A poster for a workshop titled "WAR TAX RESISTANCE 101". At the top, it says "NATIONAL WAR TAX RESISTANCE COORDINATING COMMITTEE". The main title "WAR TAX RESISTANCE 101" is in large, bold, black letters. Below it, it says "WORKSHOP ON ZOOM THURSDAY, DEC 14, 2023, 7PM CST". On the left, under "LEARN:", there is a bulleted list: "• How to get started", "• Methods & Risks", "• WTR resources", and "• Much more!". On the right, there is a graphic of a black money bag with a red shopping cart wheel, with the text "I'm not buying it." above it. At the bottom right, the website "www.nwtrcc.org" is listed. The poster has a red curved shape in the top right corner.

Workshop: War Tax Resistance 101 Thursday Dec. 14, 2023, 5pm PT | [RSVP](#) (online event)

Since the violence erupted in Israel and Gaza, the [National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee](#) office has been inundated with requests for information and more online War Tax Resistance 101 workshops. They have since streamed two

introduction sessions that were each attended by over 150 individuals and viewed by hundreds more on [YouTube](#). Their [TikTok page](#) offers short videos on different aspects of war tax resistance; in the last month, the videos have received over 130,000 views.

Nearly half of U.S. tax dollars are directed to past and present military expenses, and the U.S. provides over \$3 billion in military support to Israel each year. If you would like to stop paying for this, we invite you to join the upcoming session. The first 30 minutes will cover the basics of war tax resistance, followed by plenty of time for Q&A. The session will also examine the actual risks of war tax resistance, including the risks associated with different methods. It will not be recorded.

To register, [click here](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Questions? Contact Lincoln Rice at nwtrcc@nwtrcc.org.

News



The PPC turns 56: picking up Dr. King's campaign

Commemorating the 56th anniversary of the Poor People's Campaign, launched on December 4, 1967 by a coalition that included Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., two articles share important lessons from the early years, as well as the efforts we carry on today.

[TruthDig](#) covered the PPC's origins and Bishop Barber and Rev. Theoharis's revitalization of the campaign five years ago. Stunning photos of the movement are featured alongside links to a photo essay and our 2023 fact sheets.

The article quotes remarks made by Bishop Barber upon the release of the [fact sheets](#): "The facts show that poverty is devastating, deadly, and cannot be denied as a major domestic problem that's creating an impoverished democracy. We are determined to push it to the forefront of Americans' public policy agenda of change. We can't and we won't be silent about this crisis anymore."

In the nonprofit news outlet [MLK50: Justice through Journalism](#), executive editor Adrienne Johnson Martin recalls some of the lesser-known moments in PPC history and thinks critically about what is needed in the year ahead. She writes that the campaign might have been "King's most difficult and dangerous plan because it sought to unite all the poor, regardless of race, which means it was uniting the most vulnerable against the most powerful."

Read the articles in [TruthDig](#) and [MLK50](#).



**Freedom Church of the Poor’s “Winter Offensive” marches on
Next service: Sunday Dec. 10, 3pm | [RSVP](#)**

On Sunday, Rev. Theoharis shared the [live broadcast](#) of the latest Freedom Church of the Poor’s Advent of a Revolution / Winter Offensive service, titled “Hope is a four-letter word.” The Freedom Church of the Poor, together with partners from various fronts, are using nine Sundays from Thanksgiving to MLK Day to hold a spiritual space of prayer, song, learning and community for our movement leaders.

They will use this time to invite in new leaders and organizations to share their insights and experiences, to get organized and to continue to unite the poor across lines of division. They will lift up the true revolutionary power of the story told during this season: the birth of a poor brown-skinned Palestinian Jewish leader from the backwaters of empire who helped bring “down the mighty from their thrones” and revealed a new way of peace—one rooted in truth, justice, and love.

During the service (the second out of nine), people from different faith backgrounds shared their voices through readings, poetry, songs, and built a virtual advent wreath together. Watch the [recording](#) and join upcoming Advent of a Revolution services by registering [here](#).

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

“What pro-democracy activists can learn from their adversaries”

With the next election less than a year away, and in the face of rising Christian nationalism, Rev. Theoharis and Rahna Epting, executive director of MoveOn, wrote an opinion piece in [The Chronicle of Philanthropy](#) reminding pro-democracy activists to pay more attention to the strategy and tactics employed by those gaining momentum.

In particular, they argue that we must learn from the patient, persistent groundwork of so many who have been winning local elections, which has amounted to a major political party becoming the anti-democratic MAGA party.

“To better understand the movement’s success, we conferred with organizers, faith leaders, journalists, academics, and people across the political spectrum,” they write. “We found that white Christian nationalist organizations are growing in no small part because they’ve made community-building and meeting people’s everyday material and spiritual needs a priority.”

In discussing the path forward, they highlight many pro-democracy philanthropic organizations doing critical community outreach and important movement-building work. They encourage us all to understand the realities and needs of those who are open and ready to join forces with us in order to save our democracy.

Read their piece in [The Chronicle of Philanthropy](#).

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