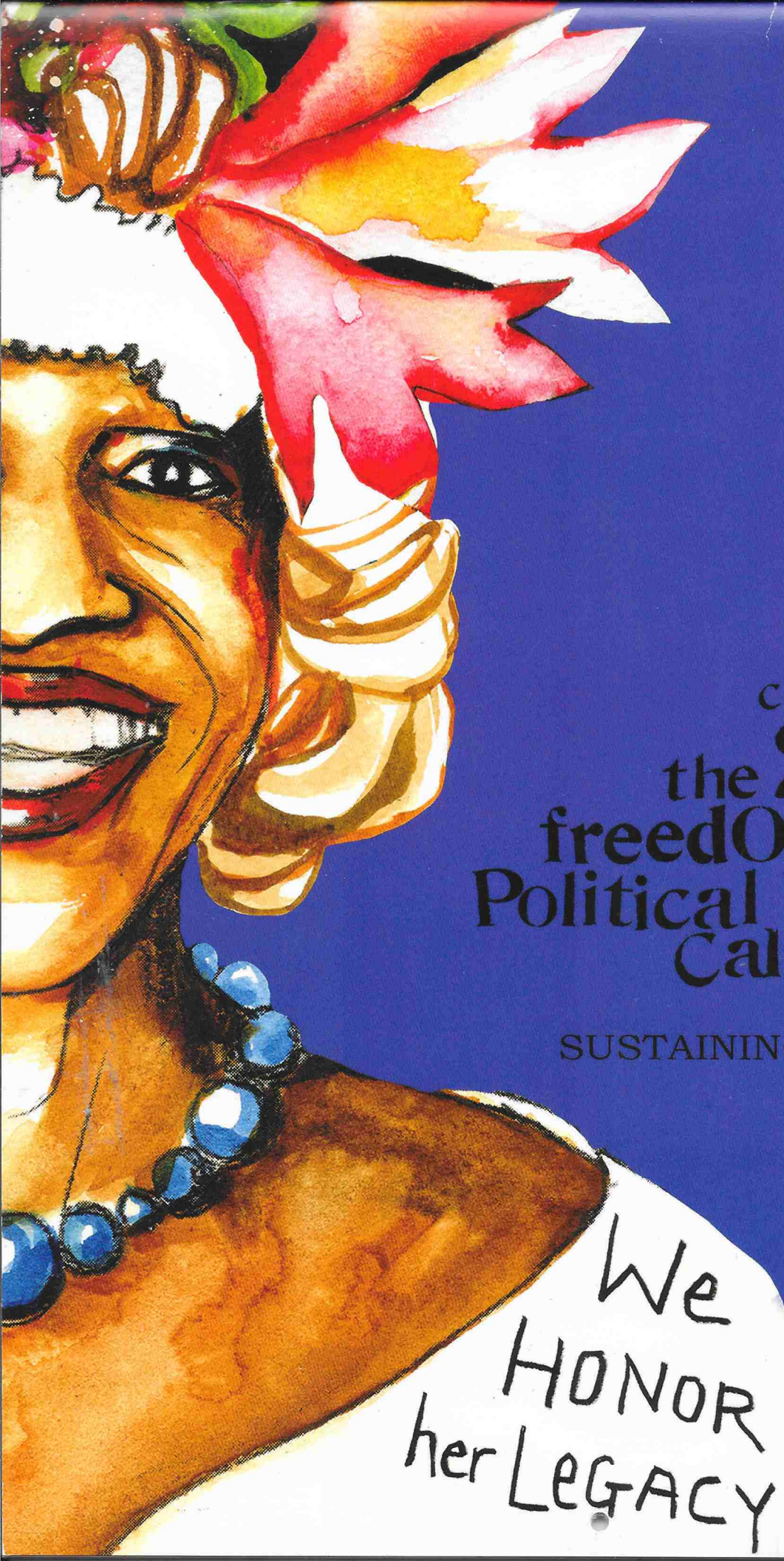




certain DAYS:
the **2017**
freedOm for
Political Prisoners
Calendar

SUSTAINING MOVEMENTS

We
HONOR
her LEGACY

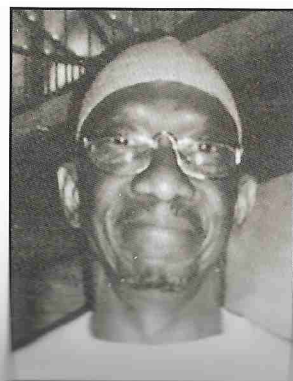
intro- ductions

Who we are: *The Certain Days: Freedom for Political Prisoners Calendar* is a joint fundraising and educational project between outside organizers in Montreal, Toronto, and New York, in partnership with three political prisoners being held in maximum-security prisons in New York State: David Gilbert, Robert Seth Hayes and Herman Bell. The initial project was suggested by Herman in 2001, and has been shaped throughout the years by all of our ideas, discussions, and analysis. All of the current members of the outside collective are grounded in day-to-day organizing work other than the calendar, on issues ranging from migrant justice to community media to prisoner solidarity. We work from an anti-imperialist, anti-racist, anti-capitalist, feminist, queer- and trans-liberationist position.

The calendar: Today's struggles for liberation, and against capitalism's permanent war, ecological destruction and colonialism, are rooted in the history of earlier struggles for justice, including the mass movements of the 1960s and 70s. Many political prisoners and prisoners of war featured in this calendar were organizers during that period: members of the Black Panther Party or the American Indian Movement, Puerto Ricans fighting for their homeland, or white anti-racist allies working in solidarity with oppressed peoples. Many of them have been in prison for 40 years or more. Even more organizers have been locked up in the decades since. Yet these prisoners are not relics of past movements. They are still active in their political work, and despite the hardships of organizing in prison, they continue to organize for justice in the present day, behind bars and on the streets. The dates from movement history noted/commemorated in the pages of this calendar serve to educate/remind us of that rich and ongoing tradition of resistance. Given that prison robs people of the ability to mark time—having access to calendars was one of the demands of the 2011 California prisoner hunger strike—creating a calendar that talks about prisons is an act of resistance in and of itself. We hope our work together on this calendar can act as a bridge between our various contexts: inside and outside the prison walls, the differing realities of the U.S. and Canadian states, and between the movement generations.

Robert Seth Hayes was arrested in 1973, after police opened fire on his apartment while he was home with his wife and child. This occurred as a result of the U.S. government's illegal Counterintelligence Program (COINTELPRO), in a climate dominated by portrayals of Black militants as murderers and cop-killers. Seth, a former member of the Black Panther Party, was convicted for the death of a NYC transit cop and for the attempted murder of the cops who stormed his apartment. He received a sentence of 25 years to life.

In 1998, Seth was diagnosed with diabetes, and has been struggling with prison administrators to get quality healthcare for his disease. Seth became eligible for parole in 1998, but despite an excellent prison record, has been denied every two years. In 2015, Seth started experiencing intense health issues including an abdominal mass and shortness of breath. Supporters have been campaigning for these issues to be treated quickly by the NY State Department of Corrections with some success, especially on the Hepatitis treatments, but much work remains. Seth went to the parole board for the tenth time in June 2016 and was denied yet again.

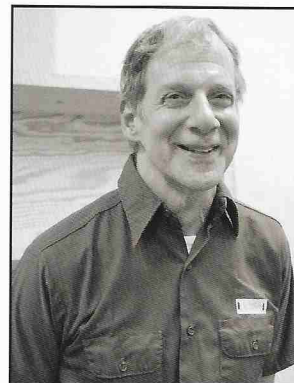


kersplebedeb.com/sethayes

Robert Seth Hayes #74A2280
Sullivan Correctional Facility
P.O. Box 118
Pittsford, NY 14226 USA

David Gilbert is a longtime anti-imperialist. He became active around the civil rights movement in 1960, and later organized against the Vietnam War. He spent 10 years as part of an underground resistance to imperialism. Working as an anti-racist ally of the Black Liberation Army in 1981, David and others were captured in connection with an attempted expropriation (theft for political reasons) of a Brink's truck in Nyack, NY.

David was sentenced to 75 years to life and is currently being held at Wende, a maximum-security prison in New York State. In 1986, David became active as an advocate and educator around AIDS in prison after his codefendant Kuwasi Balagoon died suddenly of AIDS while still in custody. He is the author of *No Surrender: Writings from an Anti-Imperialist Political Prisoner* (AK Press) as well as *Love and Struggle: My Life in SDS, the Weather Underground and Beyond* (PM Press). He is also the subject of a mini-documentary, "Lifetime of Struggle," which is available from Freedom Archives (freedomarchives.org). He reprinted his 2014 calendar article as a pamphlet (featuring an interview with Bob Feldman), "Our Commitment Is to Our Communities: Mass Incarceration, Political Prisoners, and Building a Movement for Community-based Justice."

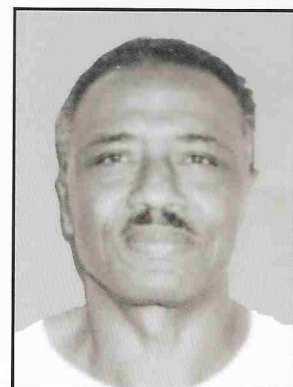


David Gilbert #83-A-6158
Wende Correctional Facility
3040 Wende Road
Alden, NY 14004 USA

Herman Bell has been a U.S. political prisoner for over 43 years. A former Black Panther, he was involved with political community work and subsequently went underground because of relentless FBI and police attacks on the Party. Herman was captured in New Orleans in 1973 and illegally extradited to New York to stand trial with Albert Nuh Washington, Jalil Muntaqim, Francisco Torres and Gabriel Torres on charges of killing two NYC police. Though the jury could not reach a verdict the first time, the NY District Attorney persisted and used many illegal tactics to obtain convictions for Herman, Jalil and Nuh. Herman was also a founder, along with Carol Dove and Michael Vernon, and core member of the Victory Gardens Project, a collaboration between inner city and rural community groups in the northeastern U.S., in which food, as the organizing tool, was grown and distributed free of charge back into the communities. Herman has been denied parole seven times (since 2004). In spite of his remarkable achievements while imprisoned, the denials are based solely on the original charge of his conviction, something he cannot change. He was denied again in March 2016 and goes to the board next in 2018. Herman continues to support the Release Aging Prisoners Project and the SAFE Parole Act, both of which would help thousands of New York State elder prisoners obtain long-deserved release on parole.

freehermanbell.org

Herman Bell #79-C-0262
Great Meadow Correctional Facility
11739 State Route 22, P.O. Box 51
Comstock, New York 12821-0051 USA



Certain Days 2017: SUSTAINING MOVEMENTS

As we prepare to print this calendar in July 2016 (many months before it may reach your wall), it seems as though a societal shift may be on the horizon. The Black Lives Matter movement and anti-austerity demonstrations are mobilizing people against oppression worldwide. At the same time, the spectre of fascism looms large, both with the impending U.S. presidential elections and elsewhere.

Yet history has shown that if we want to make fundamental change we need to be prepared for a protracted struggle—a lifetime (or several) of work. But what sustains a movement? What visions and strategic orientations position us to win? What lessons can be drawn from past victories and defeats? What keeps us from burning out, giving up, or being crushed by repressive forces? These are some of the questions that informed this year's edition of Certain Days.

Although the day-to-day tasks of any organizing campaign are certainly enough to take up all our time and energy, it's vital that we pause to reflect on these questions if our movements are to survive, and to succeed. A critical analysis of the way we work allows us to become more effective over time, and to respond to changing conditions in the world—be they upsurges in popular mobilization, policy changes, or new forms of repression. Beyond looking at our own work, we need to learn from those who have come before us. The rewriting or erasing of our histories keeps us from incorporating lessons that have already been learned time and again. Looking to movements in other eras and places also gives us a window onto conditions of struggle that we haven't had a chance to experience in our own lives.

Our movements are strongest when they can involve people wherever they may be—across prison walls and borders, and across divides like gender, race, and class—with leadership and meaningful participation from those most affected by a particular issue. For true unity, we need a genuine willingness to resolve internal conflicts and to grow as people and as organizations. A willingness, but also concrete tools, as we are bound to reproduce the divisive relations of the

dominant society, and it will not teach us to undo them. This growth work needs to be coupled with a sense of connection with those who share our vision, a commitment to each other and our common goal, even in times of disagreement. Easier said than done, of course. Over the years, our own small collective has struggled with sustainability, and has at times failed to enact these growth practices.

If we are truly in this for the long haul, we need to think in terms of time frames longer than any one person's involvement.

We need ways to make movement spaces accessible to children and parents, and to involve multiple generations in our organizing. Just as studying history can teach us valuable lessons, movement elders like those paid tribute to in the art and writings of this calendar—Kuwasi Balagoon, Marsha P. Johnson, Marilyn Buck—provide inspiration and a sense of continuity. With each passing year, more of our elders join the ancestors. We remember their contributions, and honour their legacies.

Given the role that prisons play in keeping people down, it's especially important that any work for social transformation include prisoners—not just organizations that work with prisoners, but grassroots involvement from prisoners themselves. Some of the most militant organizing on this continent at present is happening in prisons, such as the prisoner work stoppages in the U.S.,

and the hunger strikes underway at two Canadian migrant detention centres in Ontario.

But none of these ideas can provide a complete roadmap. To fully understand what sustains a movement, we need reflection and analysis, but we also need to dream, to imagine what has yet to be built. In the following pages you'll find art, poetry and essays that invite that kind of dreaming. We offer you this year's Certain Days calendar, and look forward to seeing what it helps to build.

The Certain Days Collective: Sara Falconer, Helen Hudson, Daniel McGowan



Image by Josh McPhee - justseeds.org

Rest in Power - 2016

March 11: **Wopashitwe Mondo Eyen We Langa** (David Rice, 68), political prisoner of 45 years, died at the Nebraska State Penitentiary. Mondo was one-half of the 'Nebraska 2' (with Ed Poindexter), a Black Panther sentenced to life as an innocent man. <http://n2pp.info>

March 22: Secwepemc elder William Jones "**Wolverine**" Ignace (84) gained international recognition after the 1995 Gustafsen Lake standoff. He was surrounded by family in his home on Secwepemc territory when he passed.

April 3: **Abdullah Majid** (65) died from what appears to have been a preventable illness, while in the custody of the New York State Department of Corrections. He and Bashir Hameed (d. 2008) were both members of the Black Panther Party convicted in the shooting of two police officers in Queens in 1981. Abdul never gave up his

struggle to prove his own innocence, nor did he abandon the larger struggles for black liberation.

April 14: Apache-Mestizo prisoner **Luis Rodriguez** (60) left us surrounded by his family and friends. Songs and prayers were offered to honour him from the four directions. Luis was innocent and fought with determination to prove his innocence for 37 years in the California prison system.

June 8: **Roger Clement** (64) was a long-time and well-loved Ottawa activist who served four years in prison after pleading guilty for the 2010 arson of a Royal Bank of Canada. He passed away while visiting loved ones in Cuba.

proceeds

Thanks to all who
have made this
calendar possible,
including

this calendar is a fundraiser

*all of our proceeds
will be divided
between
the following
organizations:*

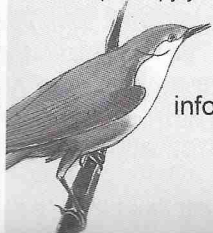
Unist'ot'en Camp is a non-violent homestead created with authority of the traditional Hereditary Chiefs of the Unist'ot'en people. Freda Huson, who is Unist'ot'en along with her partner Toghestiy have been occupying Unist'ot'en traditional lands for the past six years to protect it from industrial destruction. We have many visitors that have come in to assist in protecting our homelands through preparing meals for occupants, and building various projects. Most recent project we are raising funds for is a healing centre which is being done in three phases. The healing centre will be used to bring healing to our people from many traumas, from residential schools and child apprehensions. These entities were set up to take the Indian out of the child. Our holistic healing of restoring culture, spiritual, mental and physical healing to our people and many others. Heal the people and we will heal the land.

unistoten.camp

Sell Certain Days & raise funds for your project/group

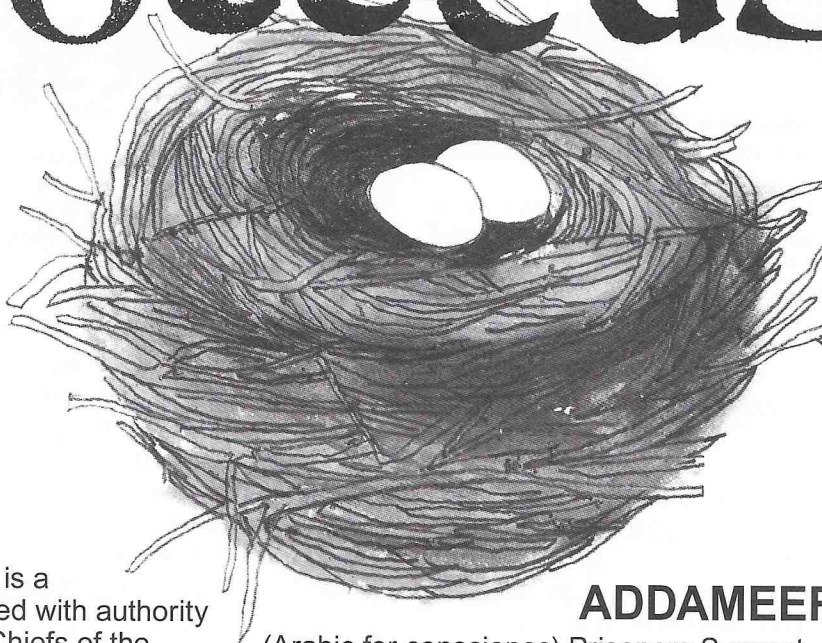
distribute the calendar in your community
sell the calendar at your events

Bulk orders (10+ copies) \$8 each
Make \$4 per copy you sell



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ADDAMEER

(Arabic for conscience) Prisoners Support and Human Rights Association is a Palestinian non-governmental, civil institution which focuses on human rights issues. Established in 1992 by a group of activists interested in human rights, the center's activities focus on offering support for Palestinian prisoners, advocating the rights of political prisoners, and working to end torture through monitoring, legal procedures and solidarity campaigns.

addameer.org

Based in New York state, **Release Aging People in Prison (RAPP)**

works to get elderly and infirm people out of prison. The RAPP Campaign mobilizes currently and formerly incarcerated people, their families, and other concerned community members. We work alongside other prison justice advocates to:

- (1) raise public awareness about the destructiveness of mass incarceration and the benefits to society in releasing aging people, including those convicted of violent crimes who do not threaten public safety; and
- (2) promote the use of key mechanisms for releasing elderly people, such as parole, compassionate release, and policy changes.

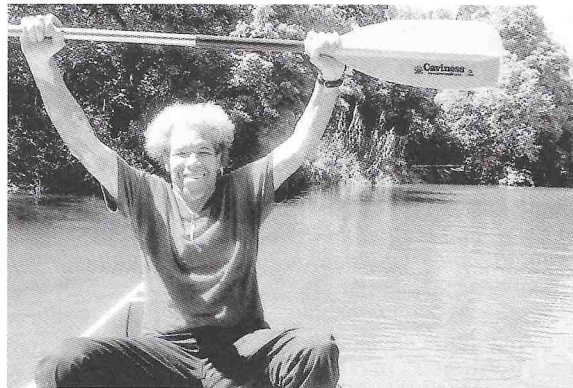
rappcampaign.com

Addameer
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Alexander Dwinell
Ali Cat. Leeds
Amanda Priebe
Amy Schwartz
Aric McBay
Beit Zatoun
Benjamin Haas
CAAMI
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dequi kioni-sadiki
Dolores Chew
Elisa Lee
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Kojo Bomani Sababu
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Leonard Peltier
Maggie Tobin
Marius Mason
May First Tech Collective
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Micah Bazant
Mumia Abu-Jamal
Nancy Jacot-Bell
Naomi Jaffe
Nate Buckley
Noah E
Noelle Hanrahan
Oscar López Rivera
Peter Werbe
QPIRG Concordia
Rochelle Bricker
SAWCC
Scott Braley
Sekou Odinga
Sophia Dawson
Tasha Zamudio
Termite Collective
Twitch Entropy
Veronza Bowers
Walidah Imarisha

updates

2016 RELEASES

February 19: After over 40 years in solitary confinement, on his 69th birthday, the last of the Angola 3, **Albert Woodfox** (pictured right) freed from prison. angola3.org



April 1: Anti-fascist activist **Jason Hammond** released after two years in prison for his role in the Tingley Park case, where a white supremacist meeting was broken up by antifa militants. freejasonhammond.blogspot.com

April 11: Eco prisoner **Rebecca Rubin** released to a halfway house in Oregon to finish the last year of her five year sentence for various Earth Liberation Front actions.

April 29: **Gary Tyler** released from Angola prison in Louisiana after four decades inside. He had been falsely accused, at age 16, of shooting and killing a 13-year-old in the middle of a race riot at Destrehan High School in Louisiana. freegarytyler.com

May 25: **Kevin Johnson (Olliff)** released from prison after serving time for releasing animals from a fur farm in Illinois. He was charged under the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act. supportkevinandtyler.com

July 25: **Luke O'Donovan** was released from prison after serving a two-year sentence for self defense. letlukego.com

NEW AND ONGOING CASES

February 2016: **Mutulu Shakur's** scheduled release was in February but he was not released for unknown reasons. mutulushakur.com

February 23: The New Jersey Supreme Court reversed a lower court decision ordering the parole of **Sundiata Acoli**. sundiataacoli.org

February 25: Palestinian activist **Rasmea Odeh** scored a legal victory when the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals determined that the trial judge who sentenced her wrongfully barred an expert torture witness from testifying. Rasmea was convicted of a politically-motivated immigration charge in 2014, and sentenced to 18 months in prison and deportation. justice4rasmea.org

March 23: Animal rights activist **Tyler Lang** was sentenced to six months each home imprisonment/community confinement, and one year of supervised release along with \$200,000 restitution. This sentence is for freeing 2,000 mink from a fur farm with his codefendant Kevin Johnson (Olliff). supportkevinandtyler.com

April 11: **Jay Chase** pleaded guilty and will receive an additional sentence of one year in Illinois prison. He was accused of throwing feces at a guard at Cook County Jail while in solitary confinement. Chase is already serving an 8 year

sentence stemming from the NATO 3 entrapment case. freethenato3.wordpress.com

May 2: **Joseph Buddenberg** was sentenced to two years in federal prison for conspiring to violate the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act. In a non-cooperating agreement, he pleaded guilty to conspiring to free thousands of animals from fur farms throughout the U.S. and to cause damage to businesses associated with the fur industry. supportnicoleandjoseph.com

June 28: Anarchist **Eric King** was sentenced to ten years in federal prison for his attempt to throw a hammer and two Molotov cocktails through the window of the empty office of a U.S. congressperson from Missouri in 2014. Eric accepted a non-cooperating plea. supporterick.org

MEDICAL NEGLECT

Due to a pressure campaign mounted by supporters, **Robert Seth Hayes** finally received a pacemaker in May 2016, after being taken to an outside medical facility. While there, he was diagnosed with COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease). Seth also continues to struggle with managing his diabetes and having access to an adequate diet in NY State prisons.

On March 11, **Mumia Abu-Jamal's** lawyers filed their motion for a preliminary injunction ordering the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections to provide him with treatment for his Hepatitis C. It was shown that Mumia has a chronic Hepatitis C infection that is progressively attacking his liver, causing scarring, a severe, itchy, painful skin rash that has lasted more than 18 months, and anemia. A decision is expected soon. freemumia.com

All year **Jay Chase** has struggled with medical neglect of his Huntington's disease and Hepatitis C despite frequent requests and outside call in campaigns. Jay was assaulted by staff in December 2015 and had potential facial injuries which were never evaluated by medical staff. freethenato3.wordpress.com

As **Leonard Peltier** wages a four-decade legal battle, he also struggles with declining health, including diabetes, a heart condition, multiple jaw surgeries and loss of vision and motor function due to a stroke. Most recently, he was diagnosed with an abdominal aortic aneurysm—a swollen aorta that can amount to a tiny ticking time bomb if left untreated. whoisleonardpeltier.info

PAROLE DENIALS

February:
Eddie Africa

March:
Herman Bell

April:
Mutulu Shakur

June:
Debbie Africa
Janet Africa
Janine Africa
Seth Hayes
Sundiata Acoli
Jalil Muntaqim



Some Thoughts on Prisons & Political Prisoners

We offer the following thoughts and terms not as perfect or cast-in-stone definitions, but as a starting point for discussions on how the prison system functions. More analysis can be found in the resources below. Our thanks to friends of the calendar who helped us to revise our previous list of working definitions.

Make no mistake about it, today's bloated and brutal prison system isn't broken. It's doing exactly what it's intended to do: keep people repressed and divided so that capitalism can continue to roll forward. The ruling class, feeling threatened by the high tide of resistance in the late 1960s, launched a vicious counter-offensive to turn back the revolutionary movements spearheaded by the **Black liberation struggle**. The U.S. government's illegal programs, such as **COINTELPRO**, to kill, imprison, or disrupt radical activists were soon followed by the "**wars**" on **crime and drugs**. Thus it's no accident that the number of people being imprisoned began its breathtaking ascent in the early 1970s, at a time when the vested economic interests of the prison industrial complex were still relatively minuscule. The decimation of revolutionary leadership and the giant holes left by mass incarceration have been terribly destructive to the Black, Latino/a and Indigenous communities.

Canada has followed suit when it comes to getting "tough on crime," though the **realities in Canada and the U.S. are not identical**. Importantly, the ways in which Canada's colonial strategies have differed from those of the U.S.—particularly the legacy of residential schools—have led to Indigenous people being incarcerated in much greater numbers (proportional to each country's population) both overall, as well as within other categories of oppressed people, such as women, youth, and people living with mental health or addiction issues.

We who want a just society, where the human spirit can flourish, need to challenge both the holding of political prisoners and the travesty of incarceration overall.

Political Prisoner (PP): Someone who is held in confinement for actions, support of, or membership in a group struggling for freedom from oppression, an oppressive government, or exploitation of peoples, animals or the Earth. PPs were active in liberation movements prior to their imprisonment.

Prisoner of War (POW): Someone held in confinement for armed struggle in support of people struggling for self-determination or independence from an oppressive, colonial, or racist governmental regime or its policies. Some class war prisoners identify as prisoners of war.

Politicized prisoners: Many prisoners—such as Ruchell Cinque Magee, George Jackson, Peter Collins, and the Angola Three—were not initially imprisoned for their political actions but became politically conscious and active while in prison. Despite harsh state repression for their organizing, many such prisoners are leading nationwide struggles in the U.S. against prolonged isolation (torture), such as the Pelican Bay hunger strikers who led a unified action of over 30,000 people in California.

The distinction between PPs, POWs, and politicized prisoners is fluid and arguably quite arbitrary: all contribute to movements for justice within and outside prison, and need our solidarity as all are continually subject to state repression. Politically active prisoners contribute to liberation movements as writers, artists, jailhouse lawyers, through HIV/AIDS peer education programs, study groups, and more. They are instrumental in educating people outside prison about conditions on the inside. This is the interplay between mass incarceration and political imprisonment: support of politically active prisoners and broader work to dismantle the prison system are tightly intertwined.

We believe that all forms of imprisonment are political, as the so-called "justice" system and its prisons are state weapons of social control. In Canada and the United States—and elsewhere around the world—people are targeted by the police and sent to prison in the context of capitalism, colonialism, white supremacy, patriarchy, homophobia, and transphobia. It is therefore no surprise that Indigenous people, people of colour, youth, trans and gender non-conforming people, and poor people are disproportionately represented in prison.

Gender and prison: Though overall there are far fewer women in prison than men, their rates of incarceration are growing faster than those of men both in Canada and the U.S. Most women in prison are mothers. The majority are in prison for economic crimes, such as cheque forgery and illegal credit card use. Of the women convicted of violent crimes, the vast majority were defending themselves or their children from abuse. On a community level, poor women and racialized women are also impacted by men's incarceration as they are left to care and provide for stressed/traumatized families alone in a depressed economy.

Trans people are overrepresented in the prison system due to acts of self-defence and crimes of poverty associated with being marginalized, as well as with the high costs of transitioning. Out of all trans people, trans women of colour are the most overrepresented in the prison system. These women are also the most likely to face violence in prison—from guards as well as other inmates. Since prisons are gender-segregated, transgender and gender non-conforming people most frequently end up being held in institutions that don't match their gender, and are placed in "protective custody" (i.e. solitary confinement). Trans people in prison are often denied access to healthcare needs such as hormones and gender reassignment surgery.

Queer people are also overrepresented in the prison system—particularly those who are trans, people of colour, youth and/or poor people. Queer people in prison are subject to extremely high rates of humiliation and other violence—including sexualized violence.

Migrant detention criminalizes asylum seekers for fleeing from conditions created by the same governments who now detain them: war, poverty, environmental devastation. The constant threat of detention and deportation is used as a tool of social control to keep migrant communities compliant. Racial profiling is tightly bound up with this, even for those who have citizenship: from the internment of citizens of Japanese origin in both the U.S. and Canada during WWII to the current systemic targeting of Arabs, Muslims, and people of South Asian descent, imprisonment is used against people who are deemed "undesirable" or politically threatening to the social order.

Mental health and incarceration: People living with mental illness are overrepresented in the prison system in both Canada and the U.S. Being involuntarily remanded to a psychiatric hospital is in itself a form of incarceration, with many of the same injustices as the "correctional" system—long wait times for hearings, inadequate legal representation and explanation of rights, and systemic sexism and racism. As mental health services (both those accessed voluntarily and involuntary ones) are cut, people with mental health or addiction issues are increasingly locked up in general-population prisons, where they receive no treatment of any kind, and where life inside and/or sudden withdrawal from their medications worsens their conditions. What's more, who gets remanded into psych wards versus who gets imprisoned for the same set of circumstances reflects social oppressions (gender, radicalization, economic status, indigeneity).



Aging prison population: Because keeping people in prison serves capitalists' needs, not many people get paroled. The U.S. in particular metes out some of the longest prison sentences in the world. Politically active prisoners, especially, are singled out for de facto life-without-parole sentences, even though most continue to go before the parole board time after time. As the prison population ages, more and more prisoners are facing health and disability issues, and increasing numbers of people are dying behind bars. Medical neglect, substandard care, poor diet, lack of exercise, and the stress of being incarcerated all exacerbate the health risks that come with growing older. Requests for medical attention or

accommodation for disability are often ignored by prison staff, further reducing prisoners' chances of healing or living comfortably with their health issues or disabilities.

Prison represses not only those behind bars, but whole communities: by taking parents away from children, wage earners out of families, and elders out of neighbourhoods. The economic and social stresses this causes mean that people from communities that have already been ravaged by the prison system are much more likely to end up in prison themselves.

SOME BOOKS WE LIKE:

Escaping the Prism: Fade to Black. Jalil Muntaqim. AK Press and Kersplebedeb.

Love & Struggle: My Life in SDS, the Weather Underground, & Beyond. David Gilbert. PM Press.

Lucasville: The Untold Story of a Prison Uprising, 2nd edition. Staughton Lynd. PM Press.

Defying the Tomb: Selected Prison Writings & Art of Kevin Rashid Johnson featuring exchanges with an Outlaw. Kersplebedeb.

Resistance Behind Bars: The Struggles of Incarcerated Women. Vikki Law. PM Press.

Settlers: The Mythology of the White Proletariat. J. Sakai. Morningstar Press.

Are Prisons Obsolete? Angela Davis. Open Media.

Assata. Assata Shakur. Lawrence Hill Books.

Wild Poppies: A Poetry Jam Across Prison Walls. (CD) Marilyn Buck. Freedom Archives.

Fascism, Blood in My Eye, & Soledad Brother. George Jackson.

Igniting a Revolution: Voices in Defense of the Earth. Ed. Steven Best & Anthony J. Nocella, II. AK Press.

Between Torture and Resistance. Oscar Lopez Rivera. PM Press.

Let Freedom Ring: A Collection of Documents from the Movements to Free U.S. Political Prisoners. Resistance in Brooklyn. PM Press/Kersplebedeb.

The War Before: The Writings & Speeches of Safiya Bukhari. ed. Laura Whitehorn. Feminist Press.

Green is the New Red. Will Potter. City Lights Publishers.

Prison Writings: My Life is a Sun Dance. Leonard Peltier. St. Martin's Griffin.

Captive Genders: Trans Embodiment and the Prison Industrial Complex. Ed. Eric A. Stanley and Nat Smith. AK Press.

Normal Life: Administrative Violence, Critical Trans Politics and the Limits of Law. Dean Spade. South End Press.

Maroon the Implacable: The Collected Writings of Russell Maroon Shoatz. PM Press.

Out of Control: A Fifteen-Year Battle Against Control Unit Prisons. Nancy Kurshan. Freedom Archives.

A Soldier's Story: Writings By A Revolutionary New Afrikan Anarchist. Kuwasi Balagoon. PM Press/Kersplebedeb.

Jailhouse Lawyers: Prisoners Defending Prisoners v. the USA. Mumia Abu-Jamal. City Lights Publishers.

Flying Close to the Sun: My Life and Times as a Weatherman. Cathy Wilkerson. Seven Stories Press.

The Struggle Within: Prisons, Political Prisoners, and Mass Movements in the United States. Dan Berger. PM Press.

Prison Roundtrip. Klaus Viehmann. Kersplebedeb Publishing.

Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee: An Indian History of the American West. Dee Brown. Picador.

An American Radical: A Political Prisoner in My Own Country. Susan Rosenberg. Citadel.

The New Jim Crow. Michelle Alexander. The New Press.

An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States. Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz. Beacon Press.

Undoing Border Imperialism. Harsha Walia. AK Press.

Disability Incarcerated: Imprisonment and Disability in the United States and Canada. Palgrave Macmillan. Ed. Liat Ben-Moshe, Chris Chapman, and Allison C. Carey.

The Real Cost of Prisons Comix. Ed. Lois Ahrens. PM Press.

Lumpen. Ed Mead. Kersplebedeb Publishing.

For Love and Liberty. Tom Manning. Freedom Archives.

Angels with Dirty Faces. Walidah Imarisha. AK Press.

WEBSITES:

Denver Anarchist Black Cross denverabc.wordpress.com

NYC Anarchist Black Cross nycabc.wordpress.com

National Jericho Movement thejerichomovement.com

Open Door Books opendoorbooks.wordpress.com

Prison Justice prisonjustice.ca

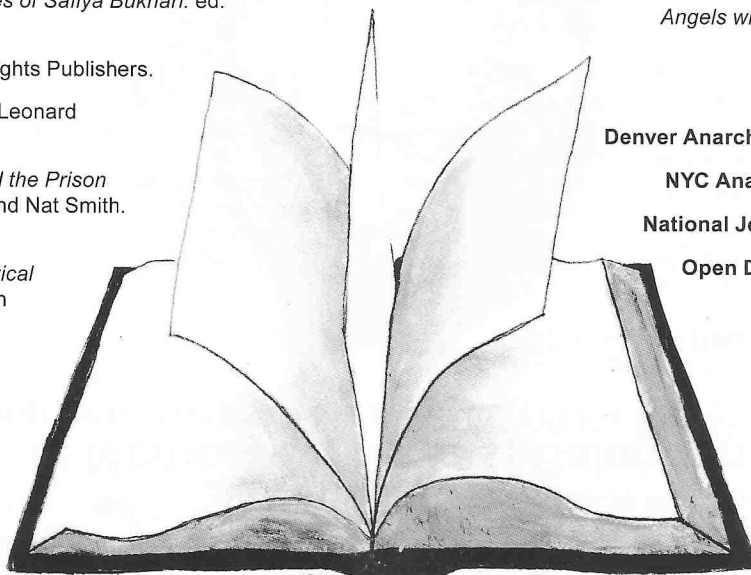
Prison Policy Initiative prisonpolicy.org

Tracking the Politics of 'Crime' & Punishment in Canada
tcp-canada.blogspot.com

Books To Prisoners bookstoprisoners.net

4strugglemag.org

A longer list of books and websites is available at certaindays.org, or can be mailed to you upon request.



resources

Ray Luc Devassieux
January



In Memory Of Kuwasi Balagoon

Died of AIDS, 12/13/86, nine days short of his 40th birthday

by Sekou Odinga

Tenant organizer, member of the New York-Bronx/Harlem section of the Black Panther Party (BPP).

Kuwasi joined the BPP in New York in 1968 and immediately got involved in BPP activities. Because he was already a tenant organizer, he became a champion of tenants' rights. He was also an ex U.S. army man so he always had a military leaning. He helped train BPP members militarily.

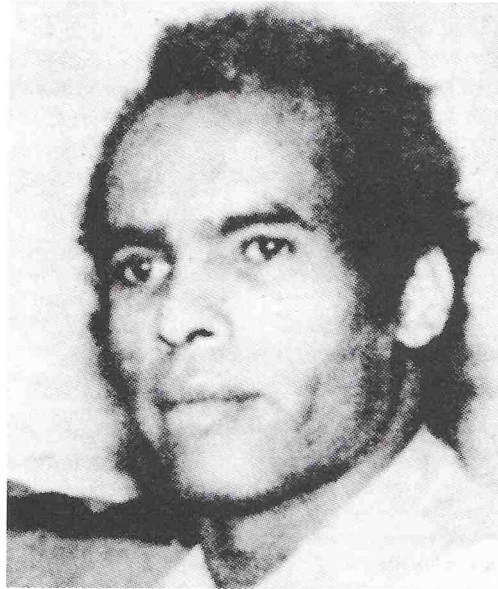
Kuwasi was a very down-to-earth Brother. He loved people, especially children. He had a genuine love for people, not only Black people, but all common people. But he hated oppressors as much as he loved regular people.

Kuwasi was a fearless Black Liberation Army (BLA) soldier fighting for his people—Black people. He aided other soldiers in escaping the enemy and broke himself out of jail more than once. Kuwasi believed it was his duty to struggle for his and his people's freedom by any means necessary. He never forgot that and always practiced it.

Kuwasi Balagoon was a revolutionary freedom fighter extraordinaire.

Long live the Revolutionary freedom fighting spirit of our Brother Kuwasi Balagoon!

As Salaami Alaikum
Free the Land
Peace



by David Gilbert

Kuwasi Balagoon (Kuwasi means Born on Sunday, Balagoon means Warrior) was a New Afrikan Freedom Fighter and anarchist and all around wonderful human being—creative, courageous, principled. He had been a light heavyweight boxer in the Army, then a tenant organizer in Harlem, and also a sparkling poet who read on the same programs as the Last Poets (considered the 1960s precursors to hip hop). In 1969, he was indicted as part of the Panther 21, the most notorious case of the police bringing false charges to suppress political organizing, and he went underground to avoid arrest. Later, with incredible daring and brilliance, Kuwasi managed two different escapes from New Jersey state prisons. Each time he was out and clear, and only got caught later because he continued to try to free other comrades. Kuwasi was a free

spirit and loving human being who didn't feel bound by the gender binary. In his last year, at Auburn Correctional Facility, he whistled jazz tunes, painted surreal watercolours, and got up at 5:00 a.m. to work in the kitchen so that he could bake for friends. He had a deep commitment to both uphold militant struggle and to openly admit and analyze errors—and was in the process of writing about that when he died. His sudden and surprising death led three of his close friends to initiate the first comprehensive peer education project on AIDS in a prison.

authorS Sekou Abdullah Odinga

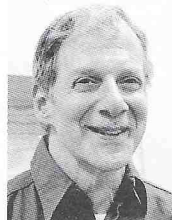
grew up in Jamaica, Queens, New York, in a family of nine. He is a husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. Inspired by the revolutionary principles of Malcolm X, he joined the Organization of Afro-American Unity, followed by the Black Panther Party and the Black Liberation Army. He is a Muslim, a citizen of the Republic of New Afrika, and for 33 years was a u.s.-held Political Prisoner of War. In 2009,

Sekou was "paroled" to the New York State prison system after having reached his mandatory release date for his federal conviction in connection to the liberation of Assata Shakur. He was released on November 25, 2014.



David Gilbert

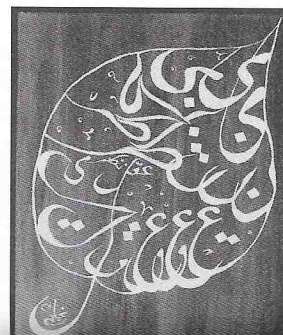
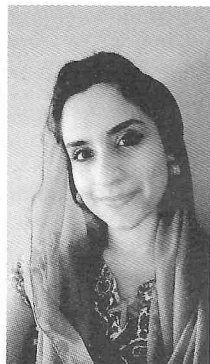
Please see David's bio on page 1 of the calendar.



artist Farha Najah is a Racialized settler based in Tio'tia:ke (montreal), unceded

Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawk) territory. Her art practice is inspired by breaking isolation related to trauma and burnout within social justice movement building; intersectional feminism; and anti-authoritarian and empowerment-based art learning. She learns from artists across generations who teach her about creativity, rule-breaking and storytelling (such as those from DecolonizingStreetArt.com). The Urdu

calligraphy in this calendar breaks down the word aql nazree ("imagination") into its individual letters. It conveys the importance of each moment of imagination. It demonstrates the pertinence of every thought and individual informing beautiful collective visions of freedom. farha-najah.com



A Call to Free Our Elders

A few months ago, right after losing one of our political prisoners, a friend said to me, "Get ready, because in a few years, we will be raising funds for burials and memorials every couple of months." At the time, I found the comment a little fatalistic, but months have passed and Mondo we Langa passed away, followed by Abdul Majid. Maybe my friend is right, but what I find myself coming back to is this: should we wait for the time to fundraise for burials, or is there another way?

I dedicate much of my energy to freeing long-term political prisoners for a variety of reasons: respect and solidarity for their movements, an act of active anti-racist resistance, an appreciation for the people themselves or their supporters, and the huge amount of time in as well as the problems that this fact implies. I do not want to see another political prisoner die behind the walls.

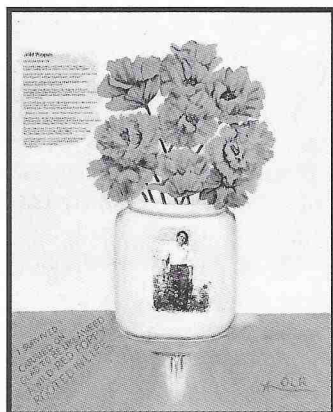
Seeing people from our movements die behind the walls was once a rare event that is sadly now becoming common. It is a numbers game, an eventuality in working to free people who have been imprisoned for 30, 40+ years. We need ways to free our people and capitalize on the growing current against mass incarceration, before the list of political prisoners shrinks to a tiny group of newer political prisoners.

Groups like Release Aging People in Prison (RAPP) in NY have done great work in spreading the word about the problems inherent in incarcerating our elders. Health costs, surgeries, and chronic care all cost the government a massive amount of money—and this cost should be exploited to increase our chances of bringing people home. Parole projects that are working with prisoners inside to put forth solid release plans and packets are popping up all over. We can utilize the implications of new laws (juvenile justice reform, etc.) or create options via the courts. Case in point, the persistent campaign that freed Marshall Eddie Conway was accomplished via a change in legislation and court advocacy.

artist

Puerto Rican political prisoner
Oscar López Rivera

has served 35 years in prison (12 in solitary confinement). He was convicted of seditious conspiracy and given a sentence of 70 years for his commitment to the



independence of Puerto Rico.

He is 73 years old. In 1999, President Clinton commuted the sentences of 11 other Puerto Rican political prisoners. Oscar is the only prisoner of his generation to remain in prison. There is an international campaign, which is supported by the entire Puerto Rican nation—from congresspeople to church elders to community members—asking President Obama to commute his sentence.

boricuahumanrights.org



authOr

Daniel McGowan

Mild-mannered prisoner advocate by day, extreme composter by night, this former political prisoner from Queens is hiding a superpower: he's more Canadian than most Canadians (he even listens to Rush!). Rumour has it that he was bitten by a radioactive tiny raccoon, and after his probation ended in 2016, he joined forces with the Certain Days calendar league. He continues his epic quest to keep his email inbox totally clear.



Sanjivita Accl #39794-066
(Square) P.O. Box 3000
USP Allenwood
White
U.S.A.

february

MAILED FROM
U.S. PENITENTIARY

Certain Days 40 QPIRG Concordia
1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. O.
Montreal QC
H3G 1M8 CANADA

00101/1503

Mailbox#1503

PARAVION AIR MAIL

21 FEB 2007

Creating Intergenerational Movements

march

Sustained efforts to transform the world need contributions from people throughout their lives. Rahula Janowski, an anti-racist organizer in San Francisco, lays this out clearly: "mono-generational movements that do not include people in all stages of life will neither move nor win. We need communities that are strong, that can withstand difficult times and challenges, and that can nurture and support their members to continue the work. A community of resistance that is multi-generational will have a continuum of memory, will carry lessons from one generation to the next, and will be a base for strong multi-generational movements."

We still have a ways to go before we have movement cultures in which most people stick around as they grow older, particularly as they have children. In radical activist scenes, people tend to "age out" by their thirties, if not earlier. But lately I've been encountering more and more people who are serious about intergenerational movement-building. Doing this well, they suggest, will require growing in at least a couple of directions.

One is about opening space for kids and families. It's no coincidence that the strongest advocates for intergenerational movements are mothers. They bring sharp perspectives about the ways in which many radical initiatives, mostly unthinkingly, exclude children and caregivers. They also highlight benefits of welcoming families in movements: more intentionality around caregiving activities, deepened relationship-building, new opportunities for organizing, more play, and greater participation and leadership from the women and gender non-conforming people who overwhelmingly tend to care for kids.

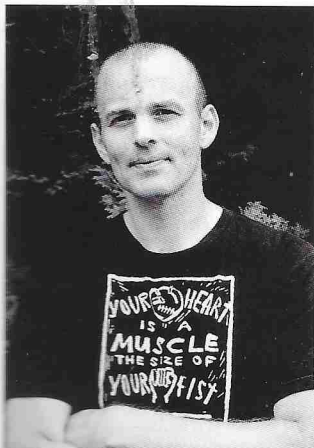
Some of the most tangible efforts to take up this work in North America are radical childcare collectives, many of which loosely coordinate through the Intergalactic Conspiracy of Childcare Collectives. Closely collaborating with grassroots organizations, these collectives provide childcare for parents involved in political activities while developing broader kid-friendly movement culture. Such efforts offer much to build on.

Another direction for intergenerational growth is opening space for people beyond their early adulthoods and especially in their later years. It's striking how much younger and older radicals, particularly in bigger cities, rarely interact. This kind of generational segregation is debilitating for movements. It deprives older people of the energy and insight of younger people, and it cuts younger people off from the endurance and knowledge of older people.

What can we do to change this? For one, we could really use more organizations that hold and nourish people as they age, encounter new life demands, and continue to stay involved politically. Also, a crucial starting point is disability justice. This partly means creating organizations and campaigns with multiple points of entry and engagement, rather than simplistically assuming that people are either available for everything or not serious activists. Across ages and abilities, people have a beautifully wide array of contributions to make. We just need the structures and culture to invite and facilitate them.

We can also learn from those who have been cultivating cross-generational relationships. In Vancouver, No One Is Illegal has been conducting and filming interviews with older radicals and making the videos available through its Inheriting Resistance project. People involved in supporting political prisoners tend to be especially deliberate about this kind of relationship-building. As one Montreal anti-prison organizer explains, "the state actively tries to separate generations of organizers." That is, many dedicated revolutionaries of earlier generations have been imprisoned or murdered, and thus significantly cut off from younger generations. This is partly what motivates Certain Days as a cross-generational collaboration. These and other initiatives like them point toward the vibrant intergenerational movements that, with intentionality and creativity, we can grow.

authOr



Chris Dixon,

originally from Alaska, is a longtime anarchist organizer, writer, and educator. He serves on the board of the Institute for Anarchist Studies and the advisory board for the activist journal *Upping the Anti*. Dixon lives in Ottawa, Canada, on unceded Algonquin Territory,

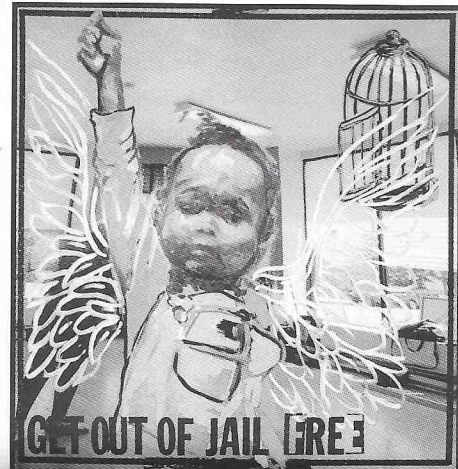
where he is involved in the Punch Up Collective. His recent book is *Another Politics: Talking Across Today's Transformative Movements*, published by University of California Press. Find him at writingwithmovements.com



is currently a working and teaching artist, art administrator, and financial coach.

Sophia Dawson, 28, is a Brooklyn-based visual artist who has dedicated her life's work to exposing the stories and experiences of individuals who are striving to overcome the injustices they face both individually and collectively. Her work has recently been exhibited in Rush Arts Gallery and the Bronx Museum for the Arts. Some of the subjects of her work include mothers who have lost their children to police brutality both past and present, the Central Park 5, and political prisoners from the Black Liberation movement that are still incarcerated within the United States. She

artist



Resilience and Solidarity: Palestine

A trip to Palestine in 2016 with the U.S. prison, labour and academic delegation left me with indelible impressions of things that sustain a movement. Brightly coloured Arabic words on a ceiling in the Ibdac community centre in Deheisheh refugee camp—the names of some of the 500-plus villages destroyed when Israel seized and occupied Palestinian land in the Nakba (disaster) of 1948, establishing the Zionist state of Israel. Land Day rallies in the Naqab, where a yellow Caterpillar bulldozer waited to uproot a Palestinian village and replace it with yet another illegal Israeli settlement, and at the gate of the Ofer military court, where Palestinian youth are punished for challenging the occupiers. A family in Sheikh Jarrah, East Jerusalem, fighting for their home, forced to live in just one part of their house because Israel had confiscated the other half and installed Jewish settlers there. Tarps stretched over stalls and streets in Hebron's Old City to protect Palestinian shoppers and shopkeepers from the human waste thrown down on them by settlers occupying apartments above. Meeting nearly 100 Palestinian people and finding that almost all had been imprisoned at one time. The glow of solidarity and love as former political prisoners greeted the former U.S.-held political prisoners in our delegation. The collectivity conveyed as Palestinians told their own stories not as individual tales, but as examples of a shared history.

These images constitute the stuff of resilience, steadfastness—a quality of persistence that illuminates the Palestinian struggle.

Something else sustains this movement in the face of daily encroachments, genocide, human rights abuses, and Zionist ideology geared to destroy Palestine: an awareness that liberation is the goal, that the struggle is for national liberation, not just an end to human rights abuses by the oppressor. It is a radical view. It means fighting for a secular, inclusive Palestine and refusing to accept apartheid Israel, with its "democracy" only for those who are Jewish.

WI Books to Prisoners
% Madison Infoshop
1019 Williamson St. #B
Madison, WI 53703
608-262-9036
www.madisoninfoshop.org



april
00101/1803

Certain Days
% QPIRG Concordia
1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. O.
Montréal, QC H3G 1M8
CANADA

In the larger world as well, I believe that solidarity with oppressed nations and national liberation movements is not only my responsibility but also my privilege, and that belief infuses how I think about sustaining movements here. Dividing up the issues—seeing each war or attack by the U.S. as a separate incident, say, or thinking that we can abolish the U.S. prison system without abolishing the U.S. imperialist state itself—produces temporary fluxes of resistance but not consistent and lasting movements. Identifying the root of the problem as imperialism and white settler colonialism, and seeing the struggles of oppressed people in the U.S. as the key energy in resisting those systems, creates movements that can last. Understanding solidarity, not only as support for one another, but also as love, based on strategic connections, provides strength of heart and purpose.

In the movement of support for Palestine our solidarity shouldn't aim only to stop the occupation that began in 1967. "End the occupation" hedges the bet. Our movement must embrace—and refuse to apologize for embracing—anti-Zionism. We must confront those who call this anti-Semitism, as we confront those who insist that Black Nationalism means being "anti-white."

One last thought about our trip to Palestine: everywhere we went, Palestinian political prisoners were revered. We returned to the U.S. determined to keep promoting awareness that the U.S. holds political prisoners and fighting to release them. To become a sustaining movement and not simply a career choice, the U.S. Left needs to demand: Free All Political Prisoners.

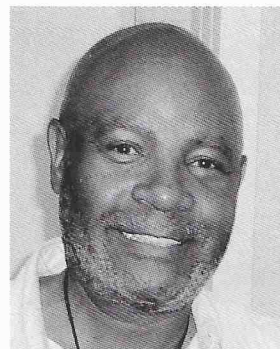
author **Laura Whitehorn** spent 14 years in federal prison for the "Resistance Conspiracy" case. Released in 1999, she works in Release Aging People in Prison/RAPP (RAPPCampaign.com) and the NY Taskforce for Political Prisoners, both committed to ending prison injustice and freeing political prisoners. Laura edited *The War Before* by the late Safiya Bukhari, member of the Black Panther Party, political prisoner, and co-founder of the Jericho Movement (feministpress.org).



She helped organize the 2014 exhibit "Self-Determination Inside/Out" at Interference Archive in Brooklyn, showing how the struggles of incarcerated people have affected social movements outside from the Attica rebellion to today (interferencearchive.org/self-determination-insideout).

Emory Douglas

created the visual identity for the Black Panther Party. His iconic images came to symbolize the struggles of the movement.



As the Revolutionary Artist and Minister of Culture for the Black Panther Party from 1967 until the 1980s, Douglas's work was often featured in the newspaper *The Black Panther*. His work was characterized by strong graphic images of young African American men, women, and children. He used the newspaper's popularity to spur people to action, portraying the poor with empathy, and unapologetic and ready to struggle for basic human rights. Douglas continues to create art with social and political concerns transcending borders.

artist





december

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february

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january

Su M T W Th F S

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

first quarter

1959 - Cuban revolution
victorious
1994 - Mexico: NAFTA
signed; Zapatista uprising
1804 - Haitian
independence is won
New Year's Day
Chanukah Ends
Last day of Kwanzaa

1973 - San Quentin
prisoners strike
New Year's Day
Observed

8 9 10 11 12 13 14

full moon

1912 - South Africa: ANC
founded

1915 - New Westminster,
BC: Anti-racist martyr
Mewa Singh hanged

1970 - CA: W.L. Nolen,
C. Edwards & G. Miller
murdered by Soledad
prison guards

2012 - G20 protestor
Mandy Hiscocks
sentenced to 16 months

2014 - CeCe McDonald
released

2011 - Tunisian President
Zine El Abidine Ben Ali
flees to Saudi Arabia

15 16 17 18 19 20 21

last quarter

1983 - BPP member
Lorenzo Kom'Boa Ervin
released from prison

**Martin Luther King
Jr. Day**

1969 - L.A.: Panthers
Bunchy Carter & John
Huggins murdered

1991 - U.S., Canadian
& other imperialist U.N.
forces attack Iraq

2006 - OR: Jonathan
Paul arrested for horse
slaughterhouse arson.
Later sentenced to 51
months

2001 - U.S. anti-
imperialists Linda Evans
& Susan Rosenberg
released

2001 - Teddy "Jah" Heath,
former Panther, one of the
NY 21, dies of cancer in
prison

22 23 24 25 26 27 28

new moon

2007 - San Francisco 8
arrested

1787 - MA: Shays'
Rebellion. Farmers revolt
against imprisonment for
debt

1944 - Angela B. Davis
born

1974 - Minnesota
Prisoners Union
formed at Stillwater

Chinese New Year

29 30 31

1972 - Derry, Ireland:
Bloody Sunday

1968 - Tet Offensive
begins in Vietnam

"The other thing, I think, that maybe just needs to be painted into the picture is how many people died... So, that takes a sort of emotional toll on people. But I think AIDS ACTION NOW! for a while really rode this energy of - we were actually making a difference. People were getting access to drugs and treatments... It wasn't just symbolic; it was actually making a change and a difference in people's lives, and people were living longer as a result of what we did. And that was really important." - Gary Kinsman, aidsactivisthistory.ca

Wild Poppies

BY MARILYN BUCK

I remember red poppies, wild behind the school house.
I didn't want to be there, but I loved to watch the poppies

I used to sit in the window of my room, sketching charcoal trees
what happened to those magnolia trees, to that girl?

I went off to college, escaped my father's thunderstorms
Berkeley. Rebellion. Exhilaration!

the Vietnam war, Black Power, Che took me to Chicago
midnight lights under Wacker Dr. Uptown. South Side. Slapped
by self-determination for taking Freedom Wall photos
without asking

on to California, driving at 3:00 in the morning in the mountains,
I got it: what self-determination means
A daunting task for a young white woman, I was humbled

practice is concrete ... harder than crystal-dream concepts

San Francisco, on the front steps at Fulton St.
smoking reefer, drinking "bitterdog" with Black Panthers and white
hippie radicals, talking about when the revolution comes

the revolution did not come. Fred Bennett was missing
we learned he'd been found: ashes, bones, a wedding ring
but later there was Assata's freedom smile

then I was captured, locked into a cell of sewer water
spirit deflated. I survived, carried on, glad to be
like a weed, a wild red poppy,
rooted in life



I SURVIVED
CARRIED ON
GLAD TO BE LIKE A WEED
A WILD RED POPPY
ROOTED IN LIFE

★ OLR

january

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march

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february

Su M T W Th F S

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first quarter

1960 - Greensboro, NC:
Sit-in against segregation

1913 - Rosa Parks born

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11

full moon

1976 - Canada: AIM
member Leonard Peltier
captured by police

1997 - CA: Norma
Jean Croy released
from prison

1968 - SC: Orangeburg
Massacre. Police fire into
crowd of anti-segregation
protestors, killing 3.

2011 - Egyptian President
Hosni Mubarak resigns,
following 18 days of
widespread protest

12

13

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16

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18

last quarter

1971 - Raiford Prison, FL:
63 peaceful hunger
strikers shot

Civic Holiday (BC)

Valentine's Day

2003 - Oakland: After 35
years, Lil' Bobby Hutton's
gravesite receives
tombstone

2008 - ON: Algonquin
spokesperson Bob
Lovelace sentenced to 6
months

19

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25

1942 - 120,000 Japanese-
Americans sent to
internment camps

Louis Riel Day
Civic Holiday
(ALTA, SASK, MAN & ON)
President's Day (U.S.)

1965 - NYC: Malcolm X
assassinated

2006 - Olympia, WA:
Joyanna Zacher &
Nathan Block arrested

1976 - SD: AIM activist
Anna Mae Aquash found
dead
Día de la Bandera
(Mexico)

26

new moon

27

28

1973 - SD: Oglala Sioux
& AIM seize town of
Wounded Knee

1989 - Caracas,
Venezuela: Popular revolt
against neo-liberal policies

2004 - U.S. troops remove
democratically elected
Haitian President Jean-
Bertrand Aristide

"It is hardest to be a revolutionary in a non-revolutionary period. There is cynicism, despair, defeat, and self-protectiveness and, of course, that monster, 'fear.' A whole generation has grown up under such conditions.

I think about Bertolt Brecht's observation: There are those who struggle for a day and they are good. There are those who struggle for a year and they are better. There are those who struggle years and they are very good. But there are those who struggle all their lives, and they are the indispensable ones." - Anti-imperialist political prisoner Marilyn Buck (1947-2010), from *Enemies of the State* (AK Press)



GET OUT OF JAIL FREE

february

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april

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march

Su M T W Th F S

This month's art depicts Assata, the granddaughter of Abdul Majid. The beloved son, father, grandfather and long held U.S. political prisoner died on April 3, 2016. Abdul was imprisoned for more than three decades due to targeting by the FBI COINTELPRO program, which sought to eliminate leaders of the Black Panther Party and other radical Black organizations.

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4

1954 - Washington, D.C.:
Puerto Rican Nationalists
attack U.S. congress

2006 - SHAC 7 convicted
& sentenced to 3-6 years

International Sex
Workers' Rights Day

5

6

first quarter

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11

1857 - Dred Scott decision

1970 - NYC: 3 members
of Weather Underground
die in accidental explosion

1971 - PA: "Citizens
Commission to Investigate
the FBI" raid FBI office
exposing COINTELPRO
documents

International
Women's Day

1976 - WA: George
Jackson Bridge member
John Sherman liberated

2016 - NE: Former Black
Panther Mondo We Langa
dies after 44 years in
prison

12

13

full moon

14

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1976 - WA: George
Jackson Bridge member
Mark Cook captured

Daylight Savings
Time begins

1988 - 500 Palestinian
police resign in protest of
Israeli policies

1973 - North Carolina
Prisoners' Union formed

International Day
Against Police Brutality

1968 - My Lai massacre
of South Vietnamese
civilians by American
soldiers

1792 - Denmark becomes
first Western country to
outlaw the slave trade

2003 - Palestine: ISM
volunteer Rachel Corrie
killed by Israeli forces

1992 - Escaped Puerto
Rican political prisoner
Luis Colón Osorio is
recaptured

19

20

21

last quarter

22

23

24

25

2008 - The K16, aboriginal
leaders opposed to mining
on First Nations land,
sentenced to 6 months

Spring Equinox

Human Rights Day
(South Africa)

2016 - BC: Wolverine,
former PP from Gustafsen
Lake standoff, dies

1977 - NJ: Assata Shakur
convicted of murder &
sentenced to life + 33
years in prison

26

27

28

new moon

29

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31

César Chávez Day
(CA & TX)



march

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april

may

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Su M T W Th F S

Develop a broader, deeper, more durable understanding of why we seek revolution to increase the likelihood of achieving it. Maintain and hone the tools of the struggle and improve facility with them. A book, a magazine, a newspaper is a sawn bar, a cut fence, a hole in the wall, at least for a time. Learn how to do something material—electricity, welding, mechanics, computers—whatever. We are material beings in a material world, and knowing how to manipulate material will also raise the probability of achieving revolution. And on material, don't neglect the body, the most basic tool of struggle. It cannot be disparaged as merely the meat; the mind and the body are symbiotes, both essential elements of our potentially revolutionary beings. Exercise can be done in virtually any circumstances. Nor is exercise strictly physical; it is therapy, and it steals time back from the apparatus. — Anarchist political prisoner Bill Dunne, preface to *Prison Round Trip*

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first quarter

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1968 - Memphis, TN:
Martin Luther King Jr.
assassinated

1980 - Chicago, IL:
11 Puerto Rican FALN
Nationalists captured

1968 - Oakland, CA: BPP
member Bobby Hutton
murdered by police

1999 - 3,000 unarmed
Zapatistas retake San
Andrés from Mexican
Army

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full moon

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Passover begins

1988 - NY: Japanese
American anti-imperialist
Yū Kikumura captured

2006 - ON: Millhaven
Prison hunger strike &
uprising

1971: ON: Kingston
Penitentiary riot lasts 4
days; 2 prisoners killed

Good Friday

16

17

18

19



last quarter

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22

1965 - SDS leads 1st
national march on DC
against Vietnam War

**Palestinian Prisoners
Day**

1977 - Leonard Peltier
convicted of killing 2 FBI
agents

Last day of Passover

1981 - Sekou Odinga gets
life sentence for Brinks
robbery

1914 - CO: Ludlow
massacre; National Guard
attack striking coal miners
& families

2008 - ON: Week-long
standoff at Tyendinaga
Mohawk territory; Shawn
Brant & 11 others face
charges

Earth Day

Easter Sunday

Easter Monday

23/30

24

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26



new moon

27

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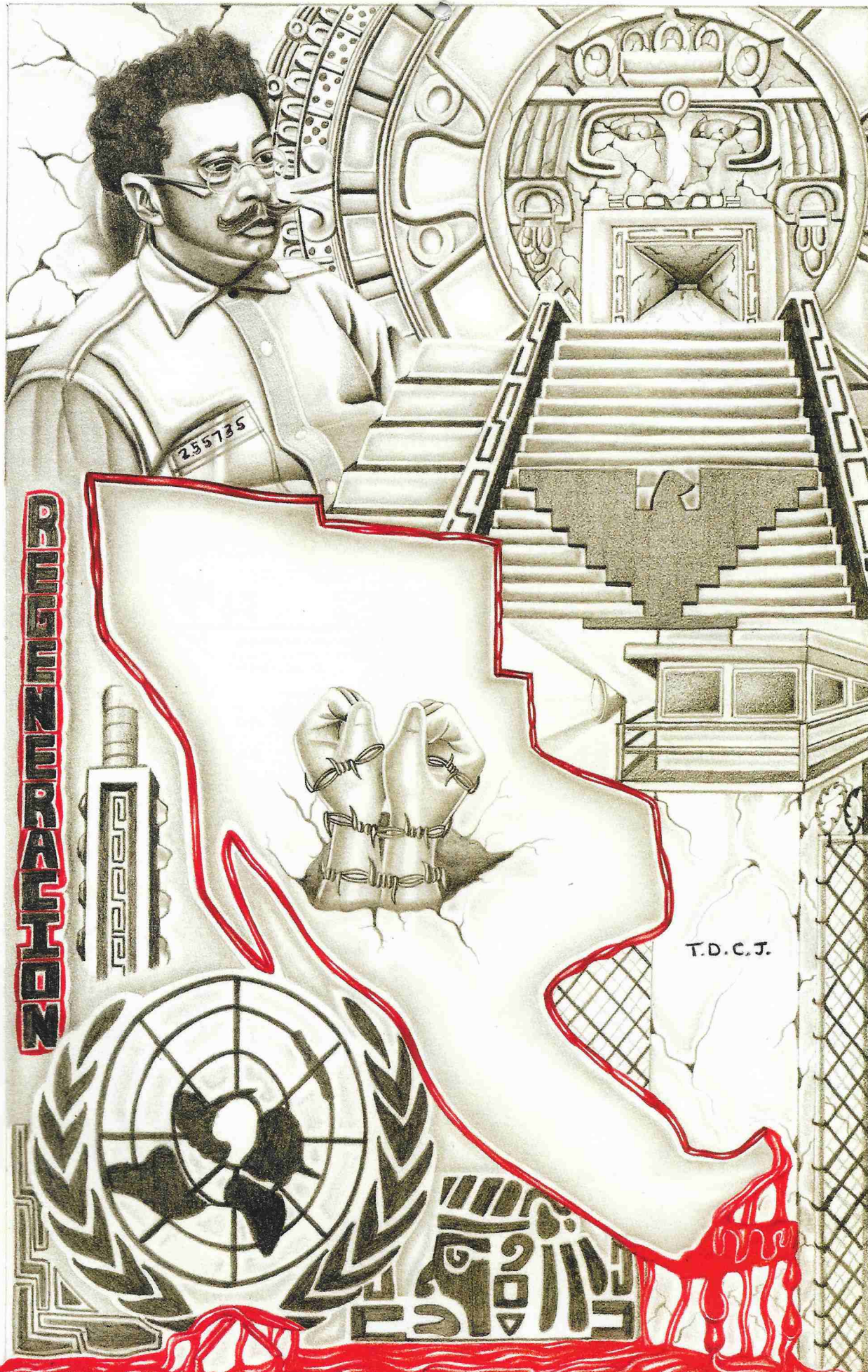
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1975:
Saigon surrenders;
Vietnam united

**Holocaust
Remembrance Day**

2000 - Coxsackie, NY:
Black Panther Albert Nuh
Washington dies of cancer
in prison

1899 - Warner, ID: 1,000
miners dynamite their
mine protesting working
conditions



GENERATION

T.D.C.J.

april

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june

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may

Su M T W Th F S

1 2 3 4 5 6

first quarter

2013 - FBI puts \$2M
Bounty on Assata Shakur,
calls her 'most wanted'
terrorist

1970 - OH: National
Guard open fire on
student protestors at Kent
State, killing 4

1973 - NJ Turnpike:
Sundiata Acoli captured

Cinco de Mayo

7 8 9 10 11 12 13

full moon

1954 - Vietnam: Battle of
Dien Bien Phu ends

1800 - Abolitionist John
Brown born

1857 - Beginning of Great
Mutiny against British
Imperial rule in India

1985 - Philadelphia: Police
drop bomb on MOVE
home, killing 11 people

14 15 16 17 18 19 20

last quarter

1970 - MS: Police open
fire on student protestors
at Jackson State, killing 2

Mother's Day

2004 - Poet & activist
Gloria Anzaldúa dies

Nakba Day
(Palestinian
commemoration of the
nakba (catastrophe) of
1948)

1954 - U.S. Supreme
Court declares school
segregation illegal

1890 - Ho Chi Minh born
1925 - Malcolm X born

1996 - Abdul Haqq
released from prison

21 22 23 24 25 26 27

new moon

Journée nationale des
Patriotes (QC)

Victoria Day (Canada)

2001 - NC: Eddie Hatcher
sentenced to life without
parole

1974: Reyes Martinez,
Neva Romero, and Una
Jaakola (first 3 members
of Los Seis de Boulder)
killed in car bombing

Ramadan begins

28 29 30 31

1974: Florencio Granado,
Heriberto Teran, Francisco
Dougherty (second 3 members of
Los Seis de Boulder) killed in car
bombing

2008 - 7 aboriginal leaders (K16
& Bob Lovelace) freed from jail
after blocking mining on their land

Memorial Day (U.S.)

1921 - OK: Tulsa race riot;
group of whites violently
attack the black community

In 2016, prisoners organized in the Free Alabama Movement, the Freedom Movement, and the IWW's Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee organized work stoppages throughout the country. Strikes were over slave-wages, overcrowding, inhumane treatment, and high fees for medical care among other demands. The strikes sent the U.S. prison system into a standstill, and forced demands to be met. Write to Kansas City IWOC, P.O. Box 414304, Kansas City, MO 64141

NO PRIDE for SOME of US without
LIBERATION for ALL of US



MARSHA

"Pay It No
Mind" JOHNSON

was a mother of the
TRANS+QUEER Liberation
movement. She dedicated
her life to helping TRANS
youth, sex workers and poor
and incarcerated queers.

We
HONOR
her LEGACY
by Supporting TRANS
Women of COLOR to
LIVE+LEAD.

may

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july

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june

Su M T W Th F S

Veronza Bowers Jr. is a former Black Panther Party member framed for the murder of a U.S. Park Ranger. He is being illegally held past his 30 year sentence, making him one of the longest-held political prisoners in U.S. history. He was scheduled for mandatory parole in April 2004, was actually twice granted it (and twice the parole commission rescinded it). On June 21, 2005, the (then) United States Attorney General, Alberto Gonzales personally intervened and urged the commission to deny his release. Veronza is still in federal court hotly contesting these illegal actions. veronza.org

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first quarter

2007 - Joyanna Zacher & Nathan Block sentenced to 7 years, 8 months

1975 - WA: George Jackson Brigade bombs DOC headquarters in support of Walla Walla prisoners

1863: Harriet Tubman's Combahee River raid

2011 - Geronimo ji-jaga dies of a heart attack in Tanzania

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full moon

1972 - Angela Davis acquitted of murder & kidnapping charges

1989 - China: Tiananmen Square massacre

2000 - Kingston, ON: Prison for Women formally closes

1997 - L.A.: Geronimo ji-jaga released after 27 years in prison

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last quarter

1971 - Classified documents on Vietnam (Pentagon papers) released

1983 - Toronto: Bulldozer prison abolition journal raided by police

1976 - Soweto, South Africa: 700 students killed in uprising against apartheid

International Day of Solidarity with Marius Mason and Eric McDavid

18

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24

new moon

1953 - Ethel & Julius Rosenberg executed by the state

Lailat al Qadr
Summer Solstice
National Aboriginal Day (Canada)

St. Jean Baptiste Holiday (Quebec)

Father's Day

Juneteenth

25

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first quarter

1859 - San Quentin prison: Francisco Lario leads mass breakout of Chicano & Indian prisoners. 40 escaped & 10 killed

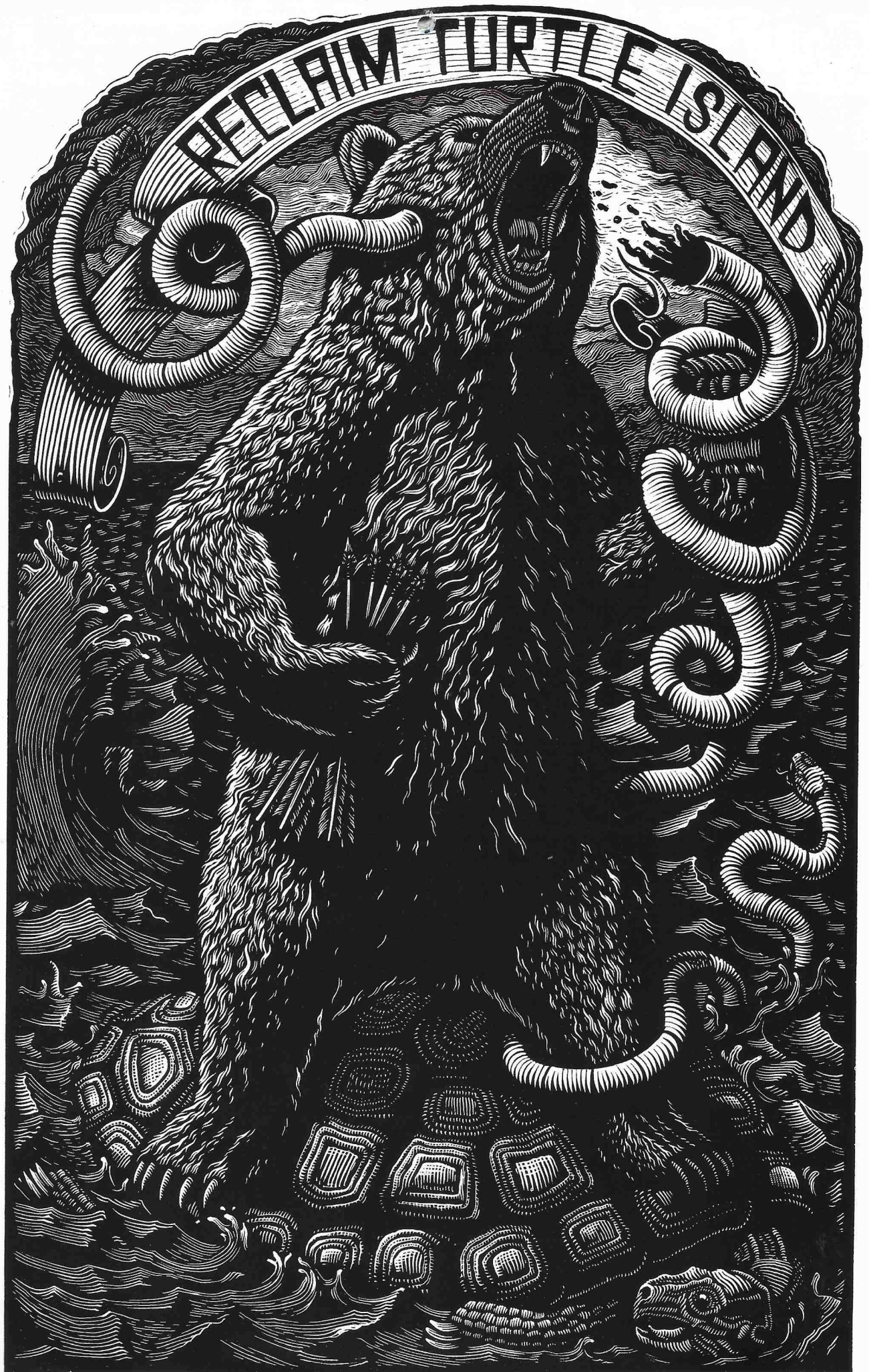
1975 - Shoot out at Oglala between AIM members and FBI

Eid-al-Fitr

Discovery Day (NFLD)

1969 - NYC: Stonewall resistance

1905 - IWW founded



june

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august

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july

Su M T W Th F S

Capitalist society's only guarantee is poverty or imprisonment. Whether we're surrounded by concrete walls and razor wire fences or the more subtle prison of starvation-wage economics of the "free market," the only course of action in which we can maintain our humanity is collective revolutionary struggle. But no one said it was going to be easy: facing setbacks, failures, burnout, not to mention advanced counterintelligence operations targeting our movements, sometimes it's hard to keep going. In stressful times I listen to these prison halls echo with the shackled footsteps of warriors who have persevered the most brutal conditions ever devised, who even after decades of solitary confinement refuse to be silenced. Then at mail call I'll read a letter or a zine and become inspired by stories of our comrades in the streets putting work in, fighting for a new world without prisons or politicians. We stay defiant, stay strong, stay struggling because we got no choice, no future except the one we're building together. – Jeremy Hammond, freejeremy.net

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1977 - SD: Leonard Peltier receives 2 life sentences for deaths of 2 FBI agents

2011 - Indefinite hunger strike begins at Pelican Bay & other prisons throughout California

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1963 - CA: Soledad prison food strike

Canada Day observed

1977 - WA: George Jackson Brigade plants bomb at state capitol in support of striking segregated prisoners

Independence Day (U.S.)

9



full moon

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1971 - Terre Haute, IN: Prisoners stage 3-day strike

Nunavut Day

1978 - NY: Women at Bedford Prison strike to protest beatings & harassment

1990 - Quebec: 500 police attack Mohawks in Kanehsatake

2006 - Israeli Defense Forces begin 33-day bombing of Beirut & South Lebanon

2010 - Marilyn Buck is paroled

16



last quarter

17

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1981 - New Afrikan Freedom Fighter Day

1848 - Seneca, NY: Women's rights convention

2013 - CA: Guards at Corcoran State Prison ignore distress calls & hunger striker Billy 'Guero' Sell dies in his cell

23/30



new moon

24/31

25

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29



first quarter

1898 - U.S. colonization of Puerto Rico begins

Victory Gardens Project
Food For All!

NYC

VICTORY
GARDEN



july

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september

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august

Su M T W Th F S

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1979 - California: Veronza Bowers attempts self-liberation from USP Lompoc

2010 - San Juan: Former Puerto Rican PP Lolita Lebrón dies

2010 - NY: Marilyn Buck dies of cancer

6

2009 - Sydney, NS: Donald Marshall Jr. dies

1945 - Hiroshima: U.S. drops atomic bomb, killing approx. 150,000

1990 - UN economic sanctions against Iraq begin

1999 - Laura Whitehorn released

7

1979 - Maliki Shakur Latine arrested

1970 - Marin County, CA: Jonathan Jackson, William Christmas & James McClain killed during liberation attempt

Civic Holiday (Canada, except QC, NFLD)

 8

full moon

8

1977 - NY: Napanoch Prison Rebellion against klan guards

9

1945 - U.S. bombs Nagasaki, Japan, killing approx. 80,000

International Day of the World's Indigenous People

10

1970 - Tombs Prison, NY: Prisoners stage rebellion

Prisoners' Justice Day

11

1999 - U.S.: 11 Puerto Rican political prisoners granted clemency

12

1968 - Ohio Penitentiary: Prisoners take over for 3 days

2015: CA - Hugo Pinell killed in prison

13

2015: ON - Peter Collins dies in prison

14

 15

last quarter

15

16

17

1955 - NY: Strike at Comstock prison

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1985 - OH: Prisoners take over supermax unit to air grievances over radio

2003 - Anti-imperialist Kathy Boudin granted parole

21

 22

new moon

1971 - San Quentin Prison, CA: George Jackson assassinated by prison guards

1831 - Nat Turner slave rebellion begins

Discovery Day (Yukon)

22

1989 - BPP founder Huey Newton killed

23

1927 - MA: Anarchists Sacco & Vanzetti executed

24

2003 - NY: Black liberation fighter & political prisoner supporter, Safiya Bukhari dies at 53

25

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first quarter

30

1970 - Chicano Moratorium Against the War. 3 killed by LAPD in anti-war protest

31

Political prisoner Wopashitwe Mondo Eyen we Langa died March 11, 2016, at the maximum-security Nebraska State Penitentiary. Read his powerful final poem "When It Gets to This Point" at prisonradio.org: in honour of Michael Brown, Trayvon Martin, Eric Garner, Tamir Rice, John Crawford, Akai Gurley, Amadou Diallo, Sean Bell and "so many more before and since."

"The

ROSENBERG

execution had nothing to do with
national security; it was part of
trying to destroy

the political movements of the 30's." - Noam Chomsky



august

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october

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september

Su M T W Th F S

In a major setback to a Liberal government still refusing to repeal the repressive Bill C-51, the Federal Court [in May 2016] found unreasonable the secret trial security certificate against the long-suffering Mahmoud Jaballah, almost 20 years to the day that the Egyptian refugee and his family arrived in Canada seeking asylum from the Mubarak dictatorship. While the written decision for this finding has yet to be released, this hopefully brings to a close an 18-year legal fight that helped spur an international campaign of condemnation against Canada's use of secret trials, indefinite detention, deportation to torture, and the patently illegal practices conducted by Canada's spy agency, CSIS. – Matthew Behrens, rabble.ca

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1971 - Jackson, MI:
Prisoners form
labour union

1973 - New Orleans:
Herman Bell captured
Eid-al-Adha

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full moon

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Labour Day
(U.S. & Canada)

1971 - NY: Attica Prison
Rebellion begins

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last quarter

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16

2001 - NYC: Planes
destroy World Trade
Center, Bush's "war on
terror" begins

1973 - Chile: U.S. helps
overthrow Allende

1977 - South Africa: Steve
Biko killed in prison

1971 - Massacre at Attica
Prison: NY state troopers
fire; prisoners & guards
killed

1973 - CA: Veronza
Bowers captured

1982 - Lebanon:
Massacre at Sabra &
Shatila refugee camps,
hundreds of Palestinians
murdered

**Mexican
Independence Day**

17

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new moon

22

23

1968 - Mexico City: Army
invades UNAM university
in response to protests

1971 - KS: State prison
food strike

Rosh Hashanah

**Al-Hijra (Muharram
New Year)**

**Native Americans'
Day (CA)**

Autumn Equinox

1898 - Birth of the Puerto
Rican Nation, El Grito de
Lares

2005 - Puerto Rico: FBI
assassinates Filiberto
Ojeda Rios

24

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first quarter

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2000 - PA: Political
prisoner Jihad Abdulmumit
released from prison

2000 - Palestine:
2nd Palestinian
Intifada begins

Yom Kippur



september

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november

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october

Su M T W Th F S

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

full moon

Ashura

1968 - Mexico City:
Tlatelolco Massacre,
thousands killed during
protest

2001 - U.S. begins
bombing Afghanistan

8 9 10 11 12 13 14

last quarter

Day of the Heroic
Guerrilla

1967 - Che Guevara killed
in Bolivia

Day of Mourning
(Colonial holidays
known as Canadian
Thanksgiving/U.S.
Columbus Day)

2008 - NYC: Jericho 10th
Anniversary National
March to UN

Cuban Independence
Day

Día de la Raza (Mexico)

1970 - Angela Davis
captured

1979 - DC: 100,000
people at 1st march for
lesbian & gay rights

1968 - Presidio Mutiny,
military prisoners strike
against Vietnam War

15 16 17 18 19 20 21

new moon

1966: Oakland, CA: BPP
founded

1968 - U.S. federal court
prohibits use of whips on
prisoners

1859 - WV: Abolitionist
John Brown leads attack
on Federal Armory

1969 - LA: BPP member
Walter Toure Pope
murdered by cops

Diwali

1981 - Nyack, NY: Brinks
robbery by BLA & allied
anti-imperialists

1963 - Folsom, CA: Strike
protesting 4 cents/hour
wage

22 23 24 25 26 27 28

first quarter

National Day Against
Police Brutality (U.S.)

1967 - Oakland, CA: Huey
Newton arrested

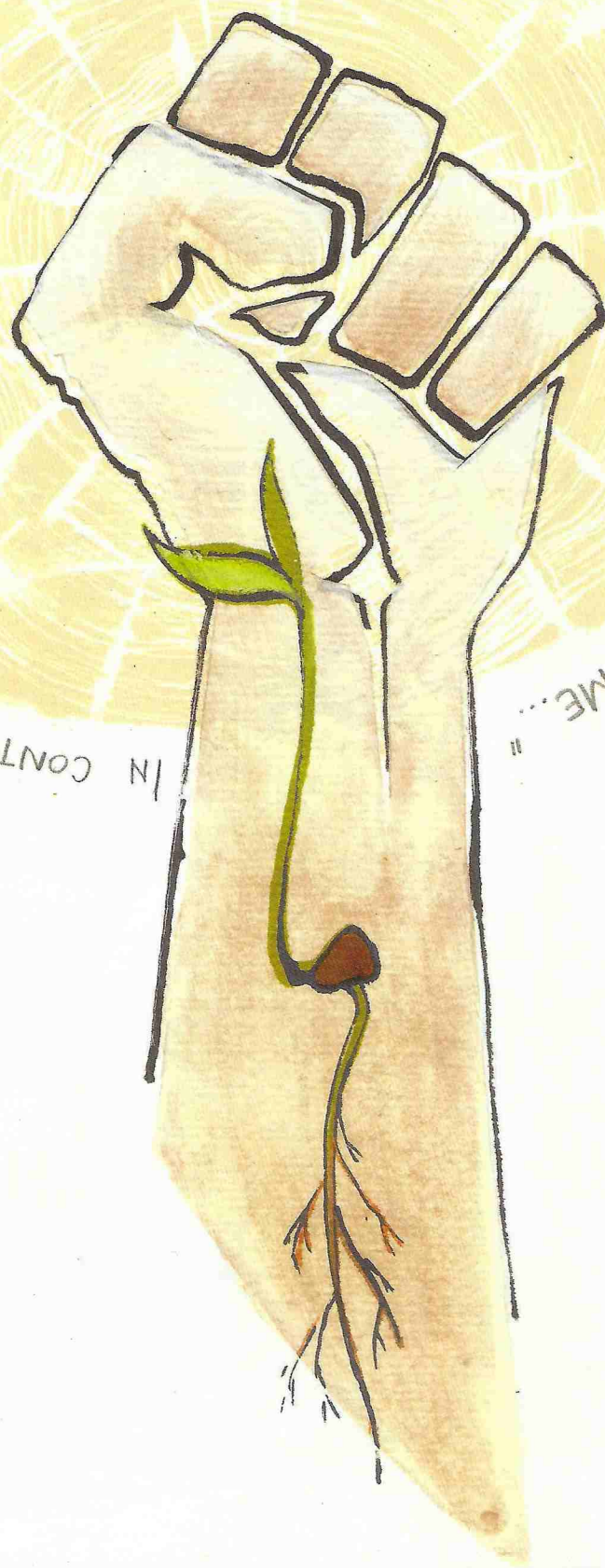
29 30 31

1984 - Millhaven, ON:
Doug Stewart, of the
Vancouver 5, ends 27-Day
Hunger Strike

Halloween

"For the Chican@ movement we are nurtured by the Third World daily which is at our door step and beckons us. Mexico keeps Aztlan pregnant with conviction as an unbroken line is maintained like an umbilical cord to the Mother country. For Chican@s our confidence cannot fully be bought off by living in the First World because the Third World which perpetually pours into the Chican@ Nation will not let us. This keeps us keeping the drum of resistance beating."
- Jose H. Villarreal, Pelican Bay State Prison

IN CONTRAST TO TRADITIONAL STORIES THAT BEGIN WITH "ONCE UPON A TIME...", ZAPATISTA STORIES BEGIN WITH "THERE WILL BE A TIME..."



october

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december

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november

Su M T W Th F S

"Despite the 20 years that have passed since the Ts'Peten standoff, the core issues that so forcefully clashed against each other remain at the forefront of the hearts and minds of Indigenous people. That is our right to self-determination, autonomy and protection from the dispossession of our lands and territories." – William Jones "Wolverine" Ignace (1932–2016), in a letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau demanding an inquiry into the Gustafsen Lake standoff

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full moon

1855 - Osceola leads fight against forced Seminole removal

1950 - Puerto Rican activists attempt to assassinate U.S. President Truman

Day of the Dead (Mexico)

1979 - NJ: Assata Shakur liberated from Clinton Women's Prison

1970 - NY: Rebellion at Auburn prison

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last quarter

Daylight Savings Time ends

1972 - NJ: Work strike at Clinton Women's Prison

1831 - VA: Slave rebel Nat Turner hanged

1887 - IL: Haymarket martyrs hanged

Veteran's Day (U.S.)
Remembrance Day (Canada)

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new moon

1969 - Chicago: BPP member Spurgeon "Jake" Winters murdered by police

1983 - Mexico: The Zapatista National Liberation Army is born

1803 - Victory of Haitian revolutionaries in anti-slavery & independence struggle at Vertières

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1969 - Alcatraz Island: Indian occupation demands return of island to original inhabitants

1922 - Leavenworth Prison: Ricardo Flores Magon assassinated

2011 - Alleged G20 co-conspirators strike plea bargain together that frees 11 while 6 serve jail terms

Day of Mourning (Colonial holiday known as U.S. Thanksgiving Day)

1999 - Seattle, WA: Demonstrations against the WTO

International Day Against Violence Against Women

26

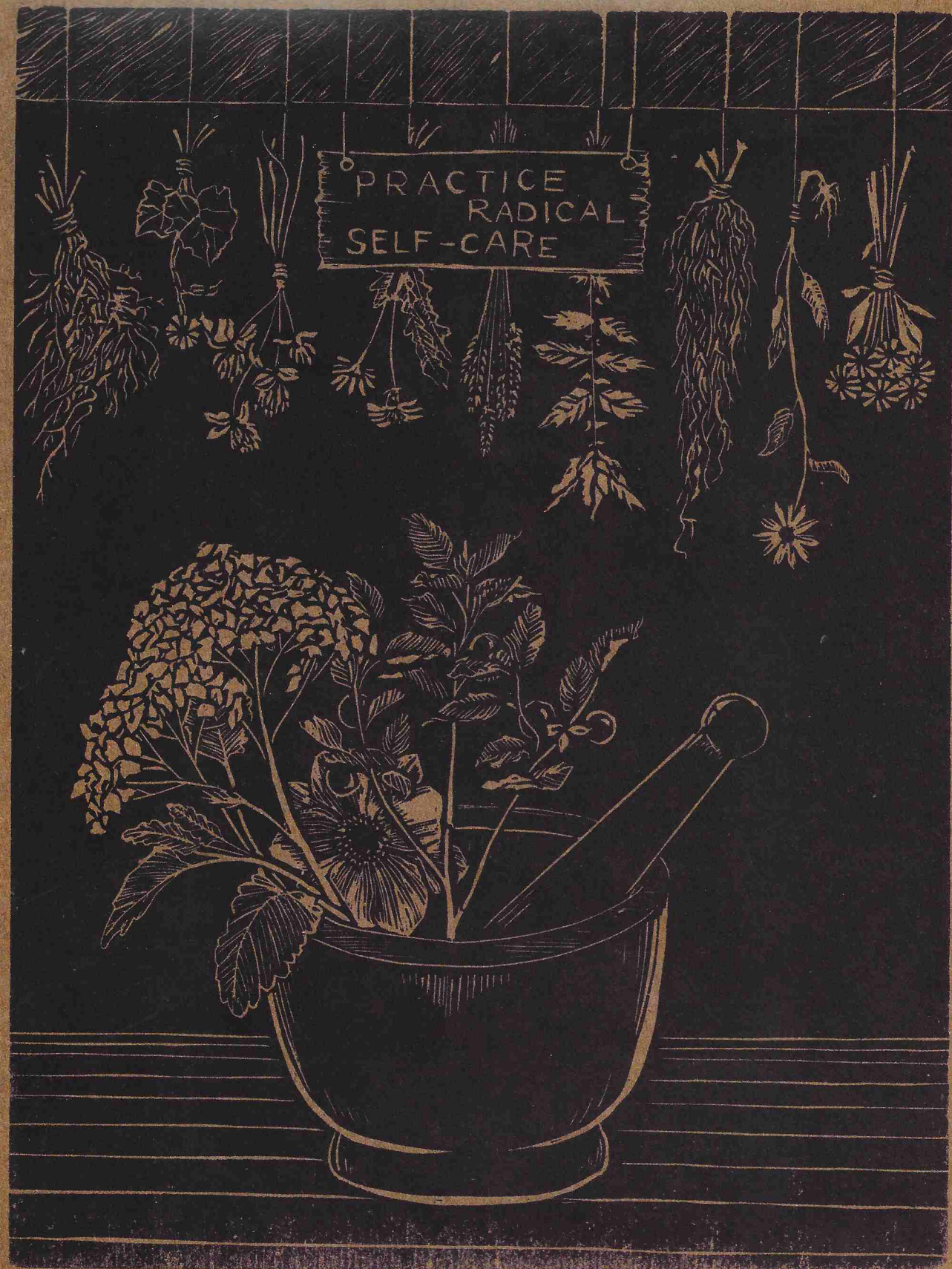
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first quarter



"Self-Care"

Ab. Cat. Leeds
2016

november

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january

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december

Su M T W Th F S

In order for support to grow it must make inclusive sounds from the youth movements. Their voices are germane to to our struggle especially since many of us from the 1960s are dying and aging rapidly. Infusions of their ideas should be promising because this world is going to be left to them. It is time for every one of us to mentor our youth to make sure the progression of this struggle will have momentum instead of prolongation.
-Kojo Bomani Sababu, New African Political Prisoner

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1955 - AL: Activist Rosa Parks refuses to give up bus seat, leading to bus boycott

World AIDS Day

Mawlid al-Nabi (Sunni)

1859 - Abolitionist John Brown hanged

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○ 4

full moon

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1989 - 14 women killed by anti-feminist in the Montreal Massacre at Ecole Polytechnique

1987 - 1st Palestinian Intifada begins

Mawlid al-Nabi (Shi'a)

2005 - Daniel McGowan & Bill Rodgers arrested

1981 - Philadelphia: Mumia Abu-Jamal shot & accused of killing a cop

Human Rights Day

1969 - Chicago: Panthers Fred Hampton & Mark Clark killed by Chicago police

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last quarter

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2010 - Mohammed Bouazizi sets himself on fire in protest of harassment by repressive state police, sparking massive protests across Tunisia

1979 - FL: Puerto Rican POW Angel Rodriguez Cristobal assassinated

2012 - Daniel McGowan released

1903 - Ella Baker born

1986 - former Black Liberation Army & a New Afrikan anarchist PP Kuwasi Balagoon dies

Chanukah begins

1972 - Framingham, MA: Women prisoners strike

1890 - ND/SD border: Sitting Bull (Tatanka Iyotaka), chief of Lakota Sioux, killed by soldiers

1972 - Walpole, MA: State Prison run by prisoners for 4 months

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new moon

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2011 - G20 protestor Leah Henderson sentenced to 10 months

Chanukah ends

Winter Solstice

2005 - Bill Rodgers dies in jail of an apparent suicide

2006 - SF, LA: Former Panther & grand jury resister John Bowman dies

24/31

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○ 27

first quarter

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Kwanzaa begins

Boxing Day (Canada/UK)

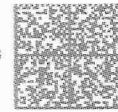
Christmas Day

A Chance to Change the World

Michael Davis Africa May 97:
Box 244
Graterford, PA 19426-0244

may

INMATE MAIL
PA-DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS



UNITED STATES POSTAGE
02 11
0004375158
MAY 11 2005
MAILED FROM ZIP CODE 19426
\$ 00.60⁰⁰

AIR MAIL

LLJA!*

Dear sisters, brothers, comrades and friends;

As I write these words, I envision you reading them. Who are you? And why are you—well, reading these words? Every writer worth her/his salt thinks about these things, before a word leaves her/his pen or finger.

The answer dictates not just what is written, but how it's written. It's central to the enterprise.

Notice I used the word: 'enterprise'. I ain't discussing the ship of the Star Trek variety (or for that matter, the slave ship which DuBois mentions in his writings on the Trans-Atlantic slave trade).

Unless I miss my guess, you're an activist, moving in the environs of the nationalist, prisoners, sex rights or human rights movements, right? These are folks who are interested in movements.

How do we build our movements? The answer is surprisingly simple.

We sell it.

Some of us, especially 'hard core' brothers and sisters will sneer at such a suggestion. Yet, a true revolutionary considers all options (Malcolm said, "By Any Means Necessary!"). Those of us who feel that such an approach sullies us forgets what Marx (and experience)

has taught us: In the writings of Marx, he observes that 'capitalism is a revolutionary force' which 'tears down all Chinese walls'. If we have to borrow from the class enemy to whip the enemy, why not?

Remember, 'the ideas of the ruling class permeates consciousness'. How do you suppose we reach folks so disposed? More pedestrianish, in the 'great American novel' (*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*), the protagonist convinces his friend that painting the post is 'fun'. The guys can't wait to paint the post.

We have to sell young folks on the fun and joy of organizing, activism, protesting—and raising hell. We have to do this; or we fade into the sundown of history. I don't know about you, but being a young Panther was the happiest time of my youth. To fight against the System; to stand for the People; to serve the People—was sheer, unadulterated joy. Yes, at times, it was scary as hell—terrifying even. But it was worth it. How many of us elders would've given up such an experience?

I know many, many brothers and sisters of movements of that era; they may be in their 60s, 70s or 80s, but when they think back, they smile.

They shine.

We owe that to the youth.

A chance to raise the banner of Revolution.

A chance to Change the World.

*editors' note: LLJA! = Long live John Africa

artist



**Xinachtli
(aka Alvaro Luna
Hernandez)**

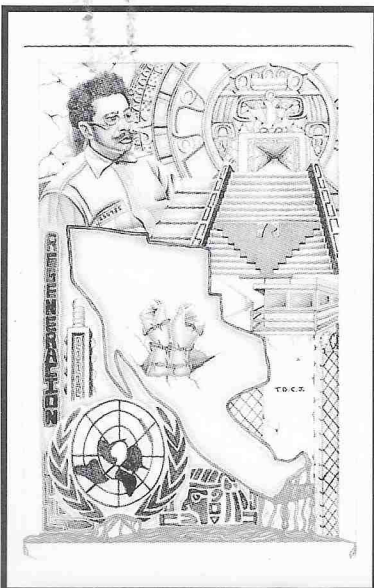
is a 64 year old Chicano-Mexicano Political Prisoner. In 1996 he disarmed a sheriff who was trying to arrest him without warrant on an aggravated robbery charge. The prosecutors held a drug charge over the attorney's head, allowing them to block key evidence that proved Xinachtli never acted threateningly or pointed a revolver. The sheriff recanted his original story to the media at trial. Captive since June 1997, he has spent 14 of his 19 years in 23/7 Maximum Security (Ad-Seg.). He is serving a 50-year sentence and becomes parole-eligible in 2021. freealvaro.net

author



Mumia Abu-Jamal

is an award-winning journalist and political prisoner. He is the author of nine books—from *Live from Death Row* (Harper Perennial, 1995) to *Writing on the Wall* (City Lights 2015). He has spent 34 years in prison (29 years on death row). Mumia's work inspires worldwide resistance and mutual aid. *Mumia: Long Distance Revolutionary*, a feature documentary by Stephen Vittoria, documents this journey. Currently doing a life sentence without parole, Mumia is fighting for his freedom. freemumia.com



june

one generation could do alone. For me personally, I've had to rise to the occasion to become an elder, to put all my experience at the service of our collective work. The reward is seeing the work of justice being carried forward.

How does generation intersect with other aspects of your identity in your CAAMI organizing?

CL: I believe I do have more opportunities to lead causes and speak up for myself both in the identity of being black and being a woman. I find that I do organize more strongly from my racial identity than my gender identity. Age only fits in the big table when experience and innovative organizing strategies come into play.

TA: It's impossible to pull those identities apart for me because they are all so interconnected. I think my role in life has always been as a conduit between communities and identities, and the same is true for my work in CAAMI.

NJ: It's hard to mesh my different identities. As a white person, I am very conscious of my role in relation to anti-racism. So sometimes I forget to integrate my feminism. Add to that my role as an elder, and it takes a lot of thoughtfulness to hold it all together!

Does being multigenerational contribute to CAAMI's long-term vision and sustainability?

CL: I believe that CAAMI has a strong collective vision for long term goals and that it is in part because we are multigenerational.

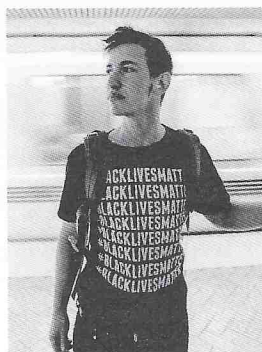
TA: I believe multigenerational organizing is essential to the sustainability of CAAMI. I find that the younger people tend to want to move more quickly with organizing than the older folks in our group wish to, and it is the push and pull of this energy that will allow us to find the right pace to make our work last for the long haul.

NJ: It's too soon to tell...

Capital Area Against Mass Incarceration (CAAMI)



C.A.A.M.I.
CAPITAL AREA AGAINST
MASS INCARCERATION

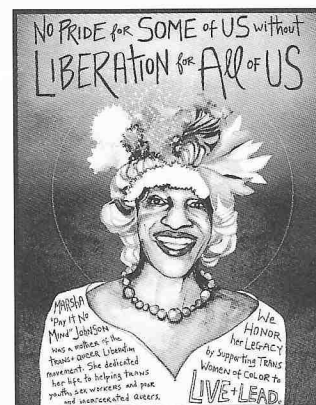


artist

Micah Bazant is a visual artist who works with social justice movements to make change look irresistible. They create art inspired by struggles to decolonize

ourselves from white supremacy, patriarchy, ableism, and the gender binary, and by ways of reimagining ourselves in right relation to the planet in the face of climate change. Micah is also a trans, gender nonconforming, anti-zionist jew.

micahbazant.com



BY & FOR WOMEN — The South Asian Women's Community Centre (SAWCC)

july

SAWCC is a feminist service, support and advocacy organization for the empowerment of women, founded in Montreal in 1981 (unceded Kanien'kehá ka Mohawk territory). We have always welcomed all women and their families, including men, which has made us from time to time an object of curiosity or query among other women's groups. We began our work to combat violence against women and help bring newly arrived women from South Asia (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal) out of domestic isolation and into the mainstream in Quebec and Canada. Later, responding to developing needs, we assisted refugees from Sri Lanka, then Bangladesh and most recently Afghanistan (even though the latter is geographically not included in 'South Asia'). We have become a strong advocating voice, learning as we go. Our centre provides a full range of services and support, provided by a staff totally committed to the goals of SAWCC, supported by a very active hands-on Executive Council (EC) and many dedicated volunteers.

SAWCC struggles in its work with limited resources, living like many other small community organizations, under the shadow of government austerity measures and whims, where minorities are manipulated for neoliberal priorities—as commodities with little regard for the human and social capital we contribute. However, for 35 years, we have maintained our commitment, dedication, and passion for who we are and what we do, even as we constantly challenge paradigms that generate systemic inequality, racism, and misogyny. When some members are unable to contribute due to family or personal reasons, others step in. Sisterhood and genuine solidarity have sustained us. Like many other 'middle-aged' organizations there is the challenge of continuity—passing the baton. SAWCC founders were the same ages of our current youth members—who are very engaged, contribute new perspectives and energy, serve on the EC, and conduct innovative programs of empowerment for girls in local schools, but they are not very

numerous. We need to do more work in this area to encourage more youth to get involved in ways that speak to their experience and priorities.

We also believe our strength comes from governing principles: non-hierarchical, non-denominational, encouragement of members and staff towards realization of capabilities. We are vigilant in maintaining this unique environment, decisions being arrived at sometimes with struggle, but always by consensus and with respect. Our current structure, where the EC might be seen as the apex body, is due to governmental and institutional requirements, but in our practice we strive to flatten hierarchies. We have decided our own path: service provision with activism.

We have also found sustenance working with organizations with shared interests, e.g. I'R, a network of women's centres in Québec, or the Fédération des femmes du Québec. We take to the streets with other like-minded groups on issues such as immigration policies, colonialism, war, and violence against women. We celebrate International Women's Day, with Women of Diverse Origins of which we are a founding organization. We share a perspective on changing the world through grassroots action, making it a better place for all generations to come. And we stay in touch with sister organizations here and elsewhere.

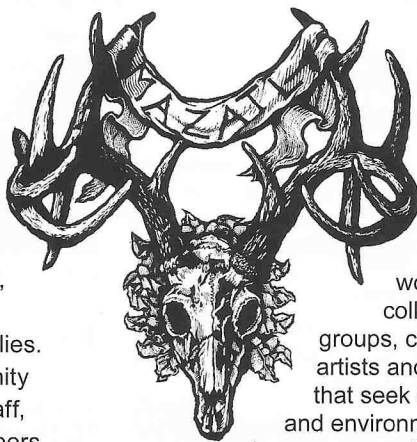
SAWCC will be up and running until patriarchy is vanquished; until equality rights in their fullest meaning are achieved. In this we work with our allies to offer the alternatives of equality, justice and peace. And this much we have learned, change does not take place overnight, it is a slow process, but with tenacity and conviction, it will happen.

authOr

For the past 35 years in Montréal, the

South Asian Women's Community Centre

has been a place of friendship, sisterhood, and solidarity for women and their families. It is a vibrant community of women—centre staff, volunteers, and members who find the sense of feminist community nourishing, re-affirming, empowering, and joyous. The centre is open to anyone who wishes to drop by, participate in our programs and access our services. sawcc-ccfsa.ca

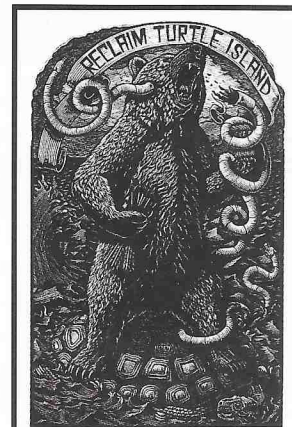


Mazatl is a graphic maker who uses the public space as his main way to communicate ideas and emotions, seeking to create conversations towards collective liberation. Mazatl's work is characterized by interventions of large scale woodcuts in the public space, as well as graphic murals. He dedicates a large part of his

work towards collaborating with groups, collectives, other artists and movements that seek social, political and environmental justice in our communities. Aside from

Justseeds, he is also a member of APC (Animal Power Crew), an international graffiti crew devoting its efforts to creating interventions in the public space.

artist



What Did We Do Today?

What did we do today?
Did we find new ways
to move beyond hate?
Existing beyond stale dogmatic
boundaries of the state?
Despising chains, but we still create
rules, walls, borders
Did we listen to new voices
hear new songs?
Or block out youth opinion
using experience as a status symbol,
privilege as a pattern?
Using new words but stale actions
isolation within factions
What we need to evolve & grow
is a desire to evolve & grow
We have the seeds that we need to sow
exclusion doesn't breed creativity
or much of anything

Eric King
Anarchist political prisoner

august



authOr



In 2014 vegan anarchist **Eric King** was arrested in Kansas City and charged after an attack of Congressman Emanuel Cleaver's office. A window was broken and two Molotov cocktails were thrown inside that failed to ignite. After a year and a half pre-trial, he has taken a 10-year, non-cooperative plea deal. While awaiting charges he

has been held at a private CCA prison and has experienced various forms of oppression. Eric is 30 years old and an avid writer. His poems and support information can be found at supporterickking.org



Marius Mason is an anarchist, environmental, and animal rights activist serving nearly 22 years in federal prison for acts of property damage carried out in defense of the planet. He pleaded guilty in 2009 to arson at a university lab researching GMOs for Monsanto and admitted to 12 other acts of property damage. He is incarcerated in a high security unit in Fort Worth,

Texas. Marius came out as transgender in 2014. Previously known as "Marie Mason," he changed his name, uses male pronouns, and is seeking a medical diagnosis allowing him to receive gender affirming surgery and hormone therapy. supportmariusmason.org

artist



Carry it Forward and Pass it On: The Rosenberg Fund for Children

September

Across the U.S., activists are being attacked as they struggle to preserve civil liberties, wage peace, safeguard the environment, combat racism and police brutality, and organize on behalf of workers, immigrants, the LGBTQ community, political prisoners, and others whose rights are under threat. When these activists are parents, their children suffer too.

The Rosenberg Fund for Children (RFC) is the only organization in this country that directly supports progressive activist families. Our grants pay for services that meet these children's educational and emotional needs. The RFC also provides grants for the educational and emotional needs of targeted activist youth.

The Rosenberg Fund for Children (www.rfc.org) is a public foundation but it springs from personal history. My grandparents, Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, were convicted of conspiracy to commit espionage for allegedly giving the secret of the Atomic Bomb to the Soviet Union. They were executed on June 19, 1953, when my dad and uncle were six and ten. My father, Robert Meeropol, founded the RFC in 1990 to help children today who are experiencing the same kind of nightmare he endured as a child.

We made our first awards on May 10, 1991. Two grants, totalling just over \$800, allowed the son and daughter of a political prisoner to attend summer camp. Fast forward more than two decades and we've grown dramatically: the RFC has made awards for almost \$1.1 million in the last three years to help hundreds of children in every region of the country. As we start our next quarter century, the RFC has over 10,000 supporters nationwide and is awarding approximately \$370,000 in grants annually.

Some of the activists' particulars have shifted over the years. We've made more grants to environmental organizers as people

resist corporate assaults on our air, water, and land despite the risk of being labelled as "terrorists" and sentenced to lengthy prison terms. And we've seen an increase in grand jury resisters, often supported through our targeted activist youth (TAY) program, as the next generation of activists refuses to participate in current witch hunts against others working for social justice. All too often, these courageous young people face incarceration for years under harsh conditions.

Labor activists—fighting for \$15/hour and against Walmart and other predatory employers, among other struggles—continue to stand against the powerful forces chipping away at previous generations' hard-won gains for workers' rights. We've also significantly increased our support for children whose parents are working for racial justice and against police brutality, reflecting the growth of Black Lives Matter actions and subsequent repression. Throughout our history, close to 20 percent of our beneficiaries have come to the RFC because one or both of their parents are or were political prisoners. This reality and the special needs of the children of prisoners led us to launch our prison visit program in 1995. These Attica Prison Visit Fund awards help pay for children, grandchildren and, in a few cases, great-grandchildren to visit their incarcerated loved ones. As of December 2016, we've awarded more than \$250,000 for these visits to the young family members of Black Panthers, AIM members, international solidarity activists, war resisters, and animal rights activists.

I'm proud of the incredible organization my father has created in honour of his parents. For more than 25 years, the Rosenberg Fund for Children has been committed to building the more just and humane society my grandparents envisioned and today's movements are still working to achieve.

authOr

Jennifer Meeropol is the Executive Director of the Rosenberg Fund for Children (RFC). The RFC is a public foundation created to honor Jenn's grandparents, Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, by assisting the families of today's activists who are experiencing repression. The fund aids children in the U.S. whose parents have been attacked while struggling

to wage peace, preserve civil liberties, safeguard the environment, combat racism, and organize on behalf of workers, political prisoners, the LGBTQ community, and others whose rights are under threat. Before joining the RFC in 2007, Jenn received her B.A. from Harvard University and her M.A. from Brown University. rfc.org



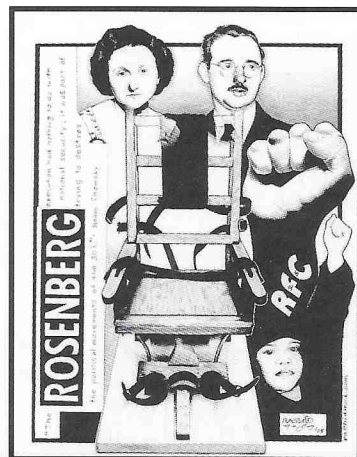
artist

Kevin "Rashid"

Johnson entered prison as a young man

over 20 years ago, one of countless consigned to lifelong incarceration by the post-civil rights policies of anti-Black genocide. Behind bars, Rashid encountered the ideas

of revolutionary Black nationalism and Marxism-Leninism, and along with other prisoners, helped found the New Afrikan Black Panther Party-Prison Chapter. Using both his artwork and writings to advance the liberation for all, Rashid is the author of two books published by Kersplebedeb and available from leftwingbooks.net: *Defying the Tomb: Selected Prison Writings and Art of Kevin "Rashid" Johnson* featuring *Exchanges with an Outlaw* and *Panther Vision: Essential Party Writings and Art of Kevin Rashid Johnson*.



Campus Organizing in the 1960s

October

The 1968 Columbia University strike was an exciting example of the high tide of the radical student movement. On 4/23 students seized five campus buildings and held them for five days, until brutally evicted by the police; the spring semester never fully resumed. The lead demands were for Columbia to end its research aiding the U.S. war in Vietnam and to stop its appropriation of scarce Harlem park land to build a university gym. Spearheaded by the Student Afro-American Society, hundreds of white students also participated (and eventually achieved majority support) in closing down an elite institution from within—and, most importantly, in solidarity with Harlem and Vietnam.

The context back then was different, with revolutions and resistance raging worldwide and within the U.S., but some of the debates about how to best build a movement may still be relevant today: dramatic action as a catalytic force vs. patient education to build a base; national demonstrations vs. being rooted in local work; fighting the big issues vs. organizing people around their immediate needs. As products of a competitive culture, we overly polarized our differences. Those who set off the strike had the right sense of the moment; yet, that potential electricity had built up in the preceding years of consistent organizing, including several years of activism by the Congress of Racial Equality. The Independent Committee on Vietnam (ICV), formed in March 1965, had often gone door-to-door in the dorms and maintained a literature table on campus for intense, one-on-one conversations. The ICV always had a rhythm that alternated between education and action; each forum had flyers for the next protest, which in turn announced the next educational. That led to Students for a Democratic Society and more confrontational actions such as disrupting recruiters for war industries and the CIA.

Another debate counterposed grassroots efforts to national demonstrations, but when kept in balance they actually reinforce each other—local organizing brought more people to national protests, which in turn inspired and energized work in the communities. In a similar argument, many leftists insisted people could be reached only around their immediate needs, such as student power or workers' wages. The Ford Foundation played on that to try to deflect the strike from radical solidarity with the oppressed by funding a group that said the only real issue was for students to have more say in university affairs. But the Columbia strike showed that people can be most highly motivated when they have ways to act around the main crises in society. Some of the most favourable terms for mass militant struggles developed when organizers found local expressions of those overriding concerns.

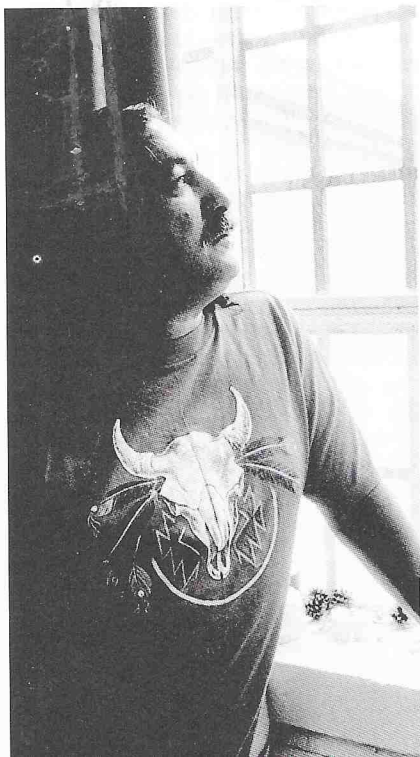
The successes did not mean we had it all together, not by a long shot. White radicals, for all our anti-racist passion, still had a lot to learn about how to build principled solidarity with people of colour struggles. While women were key organizers, visible spokesperson-type positions were promoted and monopolized by men. We hadn't struggled yet with homophobia within our ranks or in society. We certainly didn't solve the challenge of how to be both democratic and effective when under pressure. But the Columbia strike did show that a combination of patient organizing with well-conceived militancy, the synergy between sustained local work and major national actions, and finding local expression of the burning issues of racism and imperial wars, could all contribute to building sustained and effective struggles.

Indigenous
rights activist

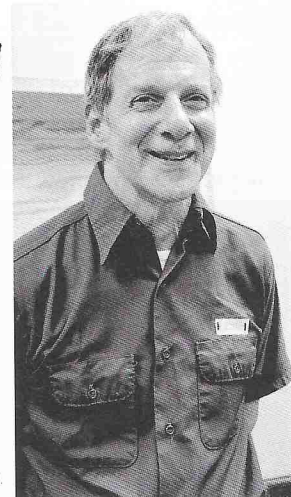
Leonard Peltier

was wrongfully convicted in connection with the shooting deaths of two agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 1977. Imprisoned for 40+ years—currently at the federal prison in Coleman, Florida—Peltier has been designated a political prisoner by Amnesty International. Nelson Mandela, Desmond Tutu, 55 members of Congress and others—including a judge who sat as a member of the court in two of Peltier's appeals—have all called for his immediate release. Widely recognized for his humanitarian works and a seven-time Nobel Prize nominee, Peltier also is an accomplished author and painter.

www.leonardpeltier.info



author



David Gilbert

Please see David's bio on page 1 of the calendar.

Eighteen Years And Counting: Seven Tips For Sustaining Prisoner Justice Work

no v e m b e r

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2013
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Calendar Committee

Movements are groups of people taking action to meet certain goals. The Termite Collective, established in 1999 and based in Quebec, Canada, is positioned within the broader prisoner justice movement with the mandate to fight to improve the conditions of those in prison and on parole, build links between the inside and outside worlds, and foster popular education about the carceral system and the experience of prisoners in Canada. Our collective is made up of people inside prison, on parole, and on the outside. We attempt to meet the goals of our collective through regular meetings both inside and outside, during which we balance much-needed social time with work on creative social and political projects. Reflecting on our eighteen-year history, we propose the following seven tips to sustain prisoner justice work:

DEFINING GOALS. When our collective started, it took over six months of negotiation with both inside and outside members to decide on our group's mandate, and the shape that the group would take. Inspired by other anti-oppressive, non-hierarchical movements, our mandate reflects both our political and social values, as well as the needs of those inside. Having an explicit mandate and set of goals helps to sustain the work that we do and offers guidance in times of conflict, uncertainty and fatigue, or when facing external pressure.

STRICT MEMBERSHIP criteria have been the cornerstone of our group's sustenance. We are all lifetime members, committed to regularly attending weekly meetings. A strict vouching process informs member selection, and we are expected to be committed, respectful, discreet, trustworthy, and honest about why we want to join the collective.

CONNECTIONS and a sense of community keep us going. We begin every meeting with updates from our lives, and make time for fun and games in order to foster the trust and mutual respect needed to build ties—despite the prison walls. Hearing about our personal struggles allows us to learn from each other, become invested in one another and the group, and build relationships that will persist for years to come.

COMMUNICATION that is constant and honest allows room for dissent, creative brainstorming and conflict resolution among our members. A healthy communication environment depends on all group members and a unity in vision.

LEADERSHIP is necessary to get projects off the ground and keep things rolling. Leadership activities include taking on background tasks, keeping discussions focused, and proposing ideas for new projects. Often we need someone to spearhead projects, but leadership in this case depends on the resources and opportunities for communication that are unequally distributed inside and outside of prison. It's important to foster opportunities so that all have the potential to be leaders.

CELEBRATING WINS—that is, any outcome that meets our goals or brings us closer to freedom—keeps us going. This means working on projects with tangible results and celebrating when we are able to make connections, when we see people get out and stay out.

SELF-REFLECTION. We are still learning about how to sustain our group over time. The challenges we face include repression from the prison administration, time constraints, and lowered capacity due to family life, school, or work (read: capitalism). Sustaining our work means asking what we can do differently to balance work with self- and community-care, meeting our objectives, and equitably sharing power and resources. Having regular visioning meetings fosters both structured and organic opportunities for leadership and reflection. Most importantly, we are learning to take the time we need to get where we need to go, because how we achieve our goals is as important as the end goals themselves.

artist

Amanda Priebe

is a printmaker and mixed media artist interested in building connections between artists, radical theorists, academics, and grass

roots community projects. She believes that the voices of artists and unique insights possible through the arts are fundamental in both speaking back to existing systems of power and imagining different futures. Originally from Treaty 6 Territory (Edmonton), Canada, and currently based out of Istanbul, Turkey, Amanda's work focuses on overlapping sites of personal and political conflict. She is a collective member of *Abolition: A Journal of Insurgent Politics*, with work featured by several radical journals, publications and walls internationally.



authOr

Based in Quebec, Canada, the

Termite Collective is a group of creative and concerned people who want to expose the increasingly repressive nature of prison through writing, workshops, political parody, and criminal cabaret. Founded in 1999, our collective is made up of people inside prison, on parole, and on the outside.



So Say We All

december

And one day they shall come
The fallen women
The Jezebels
The Mary Magdalenes
Those who defy gender borders
Demarcations of who we may love
How we may resist

They shall come
Like avenging fallen angels
Clawing out of suspect scriptures
weighted with the tears of centuries

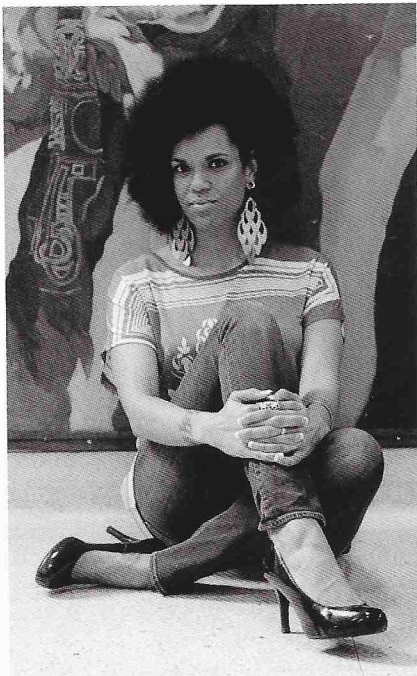
millions of discarded souls
will dance on mass slave graves
turned consecrated ground
wanza trees scarred into their backs
Chanting the names of prophets
Harriet Tubman
Marsha P Johnson
Who both looked to blazing North STARS
and followed them to liberation

The day will come
When the sistas
unleash their tongues tears
fists laughter love spears
And it shall be a tumultuous storm
As unstoppable as Nzingha
Laying siege to Masangano
Fearless as Assata Shakur
Defying prison walls

And on that day
As these unholy books
tighten like nooses around throats—
unto you falls this task:
crack the spines
Return the pages from whence they came
unto the breathing earth
become your own saviours
We must embrace every single one
Of our people
For no one may look upon
The face of freedom
Alone.

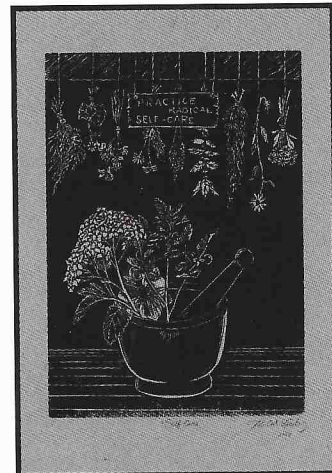
**Walidah
Imarisha** is
an educator, writer,
public scholar, and
poet. She is the editor
of two anthologies,
including *Octavia's
Brood: Science Fiction
Stories From Social
Justice Movements*.
Imarisha is also the
author of the non-
fiction book *Angels
with Dirty Faces:
Three Stories of
Crime, Prison and
Redemption* and
the poetry collection
Scars/Stars. She
was a nominated
for Oregon's Poet
Laureate, and was
awarded one of two
2015 James Tiptree
Jr. Fellowships for
her science fiction
writing that explores
the intersections of
identities.

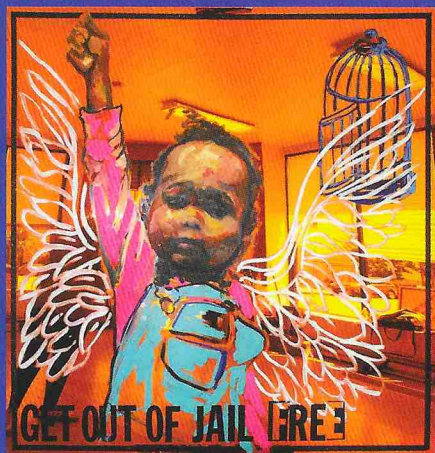
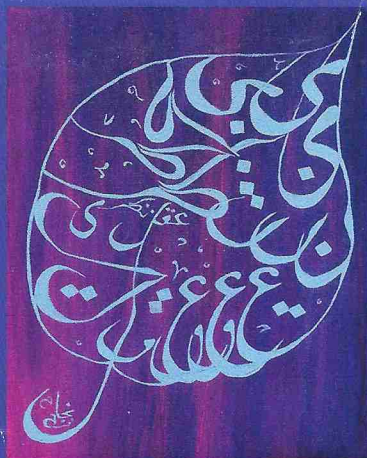
authOr



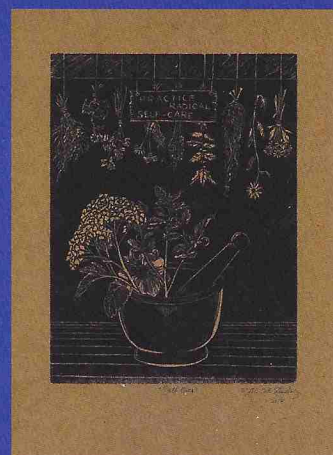
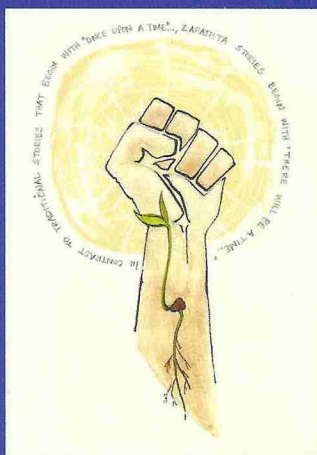
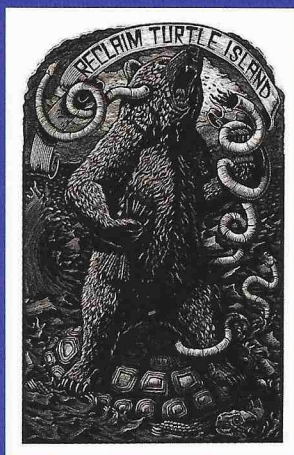
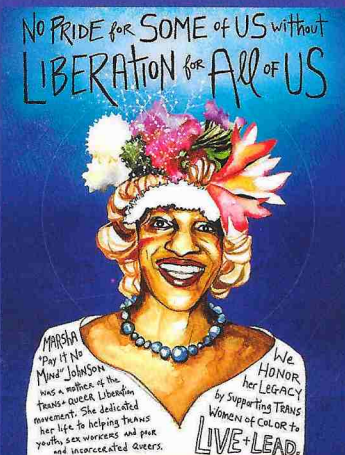
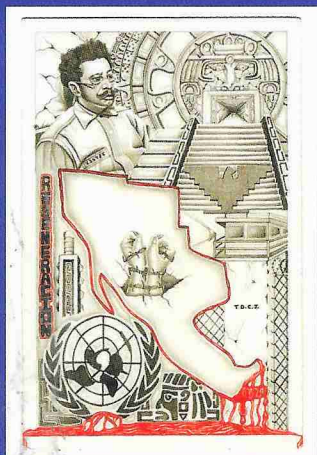
artist

Entangled Roots Press is the artwork of
Ali Cat. Leeds. She is a
Portland, Oregon-based printmaker who
draws inspiration from people's movements
and the "weeds" growing up through cracks
in the concrete. Ali works towards supporting
activist, grassroots organizations through the
sales of her work along with the spreading
of the ideas she portrays. She is currently a
member of Flight 64 Studio, a member-run,
not-for-profit print studio in Portland.





Featuring: Farha Najah • Sekou Odinga
David Gilbert • Daniel McGowan • Oscar López
Rivera • Sophia Dawson • Chris Dixon
Emory Douglas • Laura Whitehorn
Mumia Abu-Jamal • Xinachtli • Micah Bazant
Capital Area Against Mass Incarceration
South Asian Women's Community Centre • Mazatl
Marius Mason • Eric King
Kevin "Rashid" Johnson • Jennifer Meeropol
Leonard Peltier • Amanda Priebe
the Termite Collective • Ali Cat. Leeds



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www.certaindays.org
info@certaindays.org

certain days c/o QPIRG Concordia
1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. O.
Montreal, QC
H3G 1M8 CANADA