

February 19, 2015

Michael Jacoby Brown
training & coaching

*Helping organizations achieve their goals
through recruiting and motivating others*

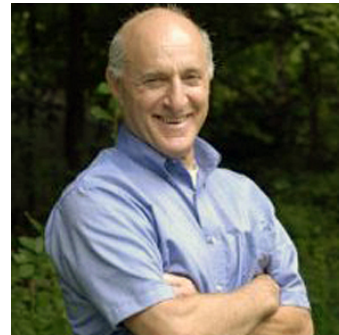
Organizer's Edge ►

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From Michael Jacoby Brown

The Wall Street Journal and Me

I turned some soon-to-expire frequent flyer airline miles into a subscription to the *Wall Street Journal*. It's has been a healthy exercise for a social justice organizer to read what they write.



"So-Called Dreamers" and "Dreamers"

A Feb. 9, 2015 WSJ editorial, "Can the GOP Change?" challenges the Republican Party to think more strategically in budget negotiations. The editorial first refers to young immigrants as "the so-called dreamers." Later on the same editorial suggests "legal status for the dreamers," dropping the "so-called." This reminds me of the importance of the words we use to describe our constituencies and policy goals. The fact that the Student Immigrant Movement invented and kept using the word "dreamers" was public relations genius. (Who first thought this up, I wonder?). "Dream" conjures up "the American dream." Graduation speeches routinely tell students to follow their "dreams." [Read on](#)



Darnell Johnson, Right to the City organizer

Darnell Johnson is the regional coordinator for Right to the City Boston Alliance. Darnell joined RTC's staff in 2014 after years of community and labor organizing focusing on the intersections of race, class, gender and oppression. Darnell is a founding member of the African American Theatre Company at the University of Louisville and has been seen on stage with Actors Theatre of Louisville, the Kentucky Opera and the Juneteenth Legacy Theatre.

Darnell Johnson asks:

How do we, as we organize, take care of ourselves in this work, and how do we bring all of ourselves to this work?

How do we keep our humanity in this work?

How do we find the time and space to discuss what brings us to this work, from our heart?

What is the inter-connection between our work, our spiritual self and our play and can we integrate this within our own community?

Some ideas I have about how to do this are to:

Break bread with folks. It is important to share space with people and learn about each other and what motivates us.

Take the meetings out of the board rooms and go somewhere else - involve the community and the activities of it into the work.

Don't talk about protest, but be the protest in how you live and relate to others.

It is one thing to plan and another thing to be in the action. We need to take ourselves beyond the lip service and be into the actual work.

We want to hear from you, your reactions, ideas, what is at the edge YOUR "envelope." Just go to...

MichaelJacobyBrown.com/Contact

Who else you will hear from.....

We are just starting, but so far you can expect to hear what the following people are thinking:

Jessica Tang: Boston Teachers Union, AFT

George Luse of the Mass Teachers Assn,

Scott Reed with the PICO Network, ,

Cathy Howell, in Oregon and El Salvador, formerly with the AFL-CIO,

Caesar McDowell of the Interaction Institute for Social Justice,

Diana Bell of Community and Labor United,

David Hernandez of the California Education Assn,

Linda Honold, of Wisconsin Voices

Attica Scott, now an elected official in Louisville, KY,formerly with Jobs with Justice,

Quinn Rallings in Alabama with the PICO Network,

Bob Van Meter with the Local Initiative Support Corporation in Boston,

Walter Davis, in Tennessee, of the National Organizers Alliance,

Deb Askenase, of Community Organizing 2.0,

Deb Fastino, of the Coalition for Social Justice in New Bedford, MA,

Rebecca Gutman, with SEIU-1199,

Tim Dean, of SEIU-1199,

Claudia Horwitz, of Stone Circles in North Carolina,

Mary Ochs, long time organizer in Los Angeles

and others, hopefully, including YOU

Other Useful Links

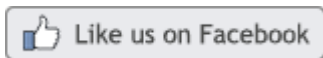
<http://michaeljacobybrown.com/>

[National Organizers Alliance](#)

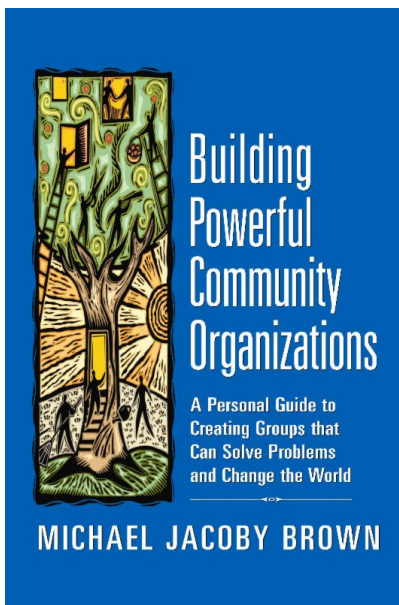
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