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January 2018

**Michael Jacoby Brown**  
training & coaching

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

**Organizer's Edge** ▶



## An Inter-Generational Conversation

I put out a call for an "Inter-generational Conversation" among social justice organizers. I thought maybe 20 people might show up and 70 did! -- many people told me they really wanted to come but had conflicts -- We had about half people of color, half white, and a wide spectrum of ages.

The young people were interested in hearing what the elders had to say. The elders listened to the younger people. . .

Some of the young people said they felt demeaned and not respected because of their youth. Some people met people they only knew as Facebook friends. Some Gen-Xers spoke about the need for elders, to develop new leadership and move on. Across generations organizers spoke about their need to make enough money to simply support themselves.

### **Different Money**

When it came time to "pass the hat" to collect money to pay for the hall, one young person stood up and asked for money from Venmo. One elder asked, "What is that?" Then he said, "We even have different money!"

We handed out some pages from [Working Across Generations](#), by Frances Kunreuther, et al.

### **And Across Race**

We spoke about the need to look at race. Many of the Black folks in the room, said with the rapid gentrification of Boston, in five years this meeting would have to be held in some other place, since so few Black people will still be able to live in Boston.

### **New Relationships Across Difference**

We hope by seeding new relationships we can work across the silos of issues, race, place and age, and build a movement and organizations that can work more effectively for justice. Next meeting is Feb. 27. Stay tuned.

### **Feedback Welcome**

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

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### **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,

**Attica Scott**, State Rep Louisville, Kentucky

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

**Walter Davis**, of the Tennessee, Health Care Coalition.

**Debra 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,

**Mary Ochs**, long time organizer in Los Angeles

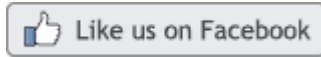
and others, hopefully, including YOU

### Other Useful Links

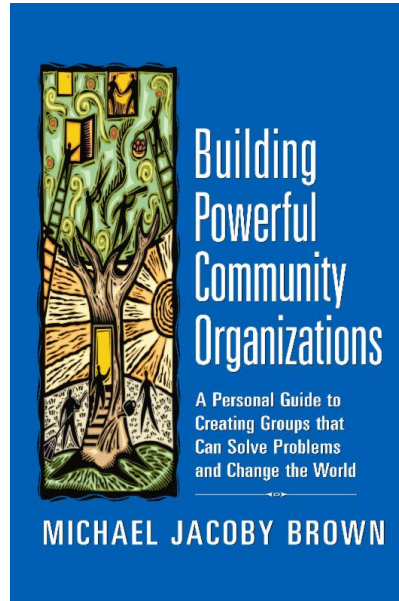
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