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November 2015

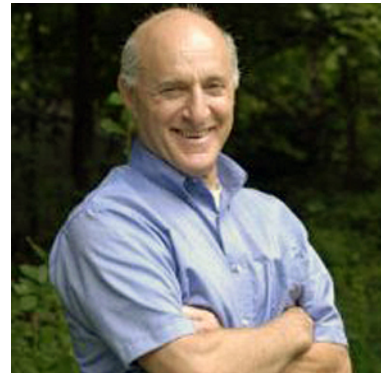
Michael Jacoby Brown
training & coaching

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

Organizer's Edge ►

Lessons about teaching resistance

This month we feature [Kamau Marcharia](#), veteran organizer and an elected official, (County Commissioner, Fairfield County, South Carolina). Kamau's reflections on how culture and conditioning affects us today is an important lesson for anyone who is trying to motivate people and organize for justice. I hope you read all of this inspiring piece, and also read thru his biography -- longer than our usual short bios but worth it.



A Culture of Positive Resistance

By Kamau Marcharia

As surely as erosion shaped the Grand Canyon, erosion of the human spirit can tear down the will to resist oppression. Many people live under the illusion that freedom can be obtained by exchanging their own values and culture for inclusion into the larger society. Many people ask me why young people are acting out in such negative and destructive ways drug abuse, carjacking, guns, violence and murder. They say they can't understand. I do understand.

In our day to day lives, when we witness ten or twelve years old addicted to drugs and selling their bodies for a \$4.00 fix, and we are not angry, then something is wrong. We fail to resist.

When we can witness millions of children being both physically and mentally abused and we seek to cover it up and are not angry, we fail to resist. When, living in the most affluent society, technologically and economically, we see people eating out of garbage cans, dying daily from



curable diseases, and we are not angry, then something is wrong. We fail to resist.

When we see thousands of young people carrying guns to school for protection, it is a strong indication that we failed to resist the negative social impacts that made this a reality. Young people see this reality, too, and they don't see a positive culture of resistance.

The lessons we learn early in life are the most difficult to unlearn.

[Read on...](#)

Kamau Marcharia, Bio

Councilman Kamau Marcharia/
District 4, Fairfield County, SC.

District 4, Fairfield County, SC.

Councilman Kamau Marcharia has had long career and community life as an activist, speaker, organizer and public official for over 40 years. His extensive work and public presence are difficult to capture in a short biography.

In the 1970's, before returning to his family roots in South Carolina, Marcharia worked to reform the criminal justice system in New Jersey and succeeded in passing legislation to institute a system of contract parole. During those years he was a keynote speaker at events at both Princeton and Temple Universities and worked with the American Friends Service Committee. [Read on for the rest of Kamau's bio](#)

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

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Michael Jacoby Brown Story

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

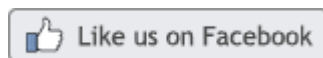
<http://michaeljacobybrown.com/>

[National Organizers Alliance](#)

[Road Map Consulting](#)

[Visions-Inc](#)

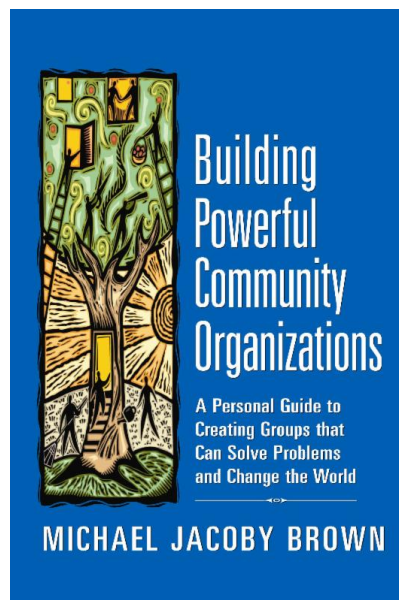
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