

October 15, 2014

# Michael Jacoby Brown

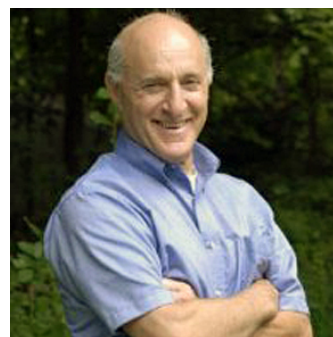
training & coaching

## Organizer's Edge ►

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### From Michael Jacoby Brown

We feature the "edge" of New Orleans based organizer **Tronn Moller** who challenges us to organize using the "gifts" of the people we work with. And a "review of the novel ***Animal Dreams***, by Barbara Kingsolver, recommended to me by my friend Rob Leikind. Glad I have friends to recommend novels, since I gravitate toward reading non-fiction -- "helpful" books like *Capital* by Thomas Piketty (see last month.) There is much wisdom and food for thought in *Animal Dreams* -- for organizers and other humans.



**Tronn W. Moller** is a historian, theologian, leadership coach, facilitator, speaker, and trainer. Tronn is the Owner of Kairos Consulting Group, Executive Director of Faith & Community Development Institute, and a History Instructor at Delgado Community College. He has a Masters from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary and a B.A. from Xavier University of Louisiana.

Tronn Moller works at the [Faith and Community Development Institute](#), in New Orleans, LA who works with faith-based community organizations described his "organizer's edge" this way:.

*"God is at work in the community. How are you living out God's vision and God's plan in the community? How are you living out the work that God is calling you to do in the community? How are you living out this calling yourself?"*

*"I can work on this challenge in my neighborhood by connecting my gifts, connecting and mobilizing my gifts, and connecting gift to gift."  
"It is a struggle to get people to talk about their gifts, to get them to think about their gifts. I have to pay attention to the emotional reaction people*

*have to asking about my gifts - as opposed to asking what is wrong?"*

Tronn Moller can be reached at Email: [Tronn@fcdinstitute.org](mailto:Tronn@fcdinstitute.org) Phone: 504-701-6478

### ***Animal Dreams, a novel by Barbara Kingsolver,***

combines a wonderful story that touches on love, politics, environmental awareness, family, and finding meaning in life and work. It is a great book for organizers or anyone, who wants to take the time to reflect on our world and why we do what we do.

She describes the spiritual basis for environmental awareness and how we treat -- or should treat -- the planet, in the dialogue between an Anglo woman and her Native American boyfriend.

..."the spirits have been good enough let us live and use the utilities, and we're saying: We know how nice you're being. We appreciate the rain, we appreciate the sun, we appreciate the deer we took. Sorry if we missed up anything. You've gone to a lot of trouble, and we'll try to be good guests...."

[Read on..](#)

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

[MichaelJacobyBrown.com/Contact](http://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,

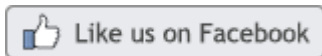
Mary Ochs, long time organizer in Los Angeles

and others, hopefully, including YOU

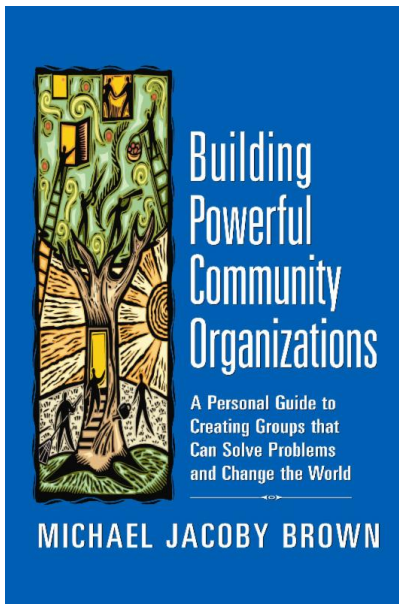
### **Other Useful Links**

<http://michaeljacobybrown.com/>  
[National Organizers Alliance](#)  
[Road Map Consulting](#)  
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