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Augusty 2013 Organizers Edge Newsletter

**Organizer's Edge** ►

August 15., 2013

**From: Michael Jacoby Brown**

Fred Ross, Sr, the organizer who worked for Saul Alinsky and trained Cesar Chavez, said, "The essence of organizing is reminding."

This month veteran organizer, **Heather Booth**, reminds us of the importance of organizing. Too often we can see the bad news, listen to those in authority who tell us "no." We stop organizing.

This almost happened to campaign I have been involved in to lower the fares on a train that runs through a low-income section of Boston. We planned a large public meeting. Then it seemed like too much to do, and we could never win. We were ready to cancel the meeting when one brave soul spoke up and pushed us to go ahead. We organized and had over 100 people at our meeting, many mayoral candidates, all of whom pledged to work for lower fares. And you know what. A month later we won the lower fares! This makes a real difference in the lives of many people, now who can get to work in less than the quarter of time it takes on the bus and at a third of the price!

Veteran organizer, **Ken Galdston**, reminds us to ask the right questions.

And **Thomas F. Wylie** offers a poem. I hope you are enjoying this season of harvest and renewal.



### **From Heather Booth:**

If we organize we can change the world for the better.  
But it will only happen for most people, if we organize.  
We've seen the power of organizing.

As a teenager I was a volunteer in Mississippi in 1964. We were able to stop lynching and more because we organized. [...Read On](#)

### **From Ken Galdston, Director/Lead Organizer, the InterValley Project (IVP), New England**

"What should we be demanding? Our work as organizers is always within a much larger context and the currents of the times we live in. So, first, what are the currents and conditions today that are unique to this time? Second, given these currents and conditions, with whom should we be organizing? And, third, what should we be agitating them and ourselves to demand, and from whom?"

The context and currents include these three, for sure:

- o Our population is aging rapidly as baby boomers enter early old age. What are the opportunities and necessities that this presents in organizing for justice?

- o Home health care workers, in part based on this first development, [Read on](#)

## **Transaction**

*At a flea market in Rutland, Vermont*

*Why do you display and sell this Nazi stuff?*

This is for sale like everything in America; lots of people want a piece of WW II history.

*This gun and this bayonet with swastika symbols could have been used to kill my grandparents at Dachau*

Look, this is war memorabilia and very popular; it helps me make a living, OK? If you don't like it move on.

*These are symbols of fascism, hate, and genocide; does that mean nothing to you? You make a living off these terrible symbols?*

Move on will you or I'll call security; you are scaring my customers.

"Hey Mom look a swastika decal, I want one for my bicycle."

"OK, here's three dollars, just one."

T. Wylie, tfwrun@comcast.net

[We want to hear from you, your reactions, ideas, YOUR edge of YOUR envelope. Just go to... <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:

Roger Newell with the Teamsters Union and Jobs with Justice in Washington, DC,  
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,  
Cesar 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,  
Cherie Andes, of the Industrial Areas Foundation,  
Avi Green, with MassVote,  
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  
Fred Azcarate, of the AFL-CIO  
 and others, hopefully, including YOU

### **Other Useful Links**

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

**Road Map Consulting,**  
**Visions-Inc**  
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