

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)

September 2013 Organizers Edge Newsletter



Organizer's Edge 

Visit our website

September 16, 2013

From: Michael Jacoby Brown**Partnering with Government Agencies?**

Community organizations have traditionally pressed government to support issues and policies the community needs. During such campaigns, when, how and why might we partner with a government agency? This is what is at the "edge" of this organizer's thinking these days.

Lately, I have been helping organize a long-standing campaign to get the Boston area transit agency (The Metropolitan Boston Transit Authority - MBTA, or "The T" as it is known in these parts) to include an old commuter rail line into the regular subway system. This old commuter rail line runs thru a mostly low-income corridor of Boston. Being part of the subway system would mean much more frequent service, including weekends, and one fare for a ride on this Line as well as any other train or bus throughout the system. One short-term goal has been to lower fares..... [Read on...](#)

Poem for September...

How does one become afraid of spiders?

Or of heights?

Of not having enough money?

Of making too much money?

Of stepping out of your place? or race?

Of taking up too much space?

Or going on stage? Of speaking up in public

About the indignities you face
 Every day
 Waiting for the bus in the rain
 Not expecting more
 I think of the Chicano cannery workers, who before they went on strike,
 Voted not to be afraid

Reading for Organizers

Just read ***The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down, A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors and the Collision of Two Cultures***, by Anne Fadiman. This is a great book, first published in 1997.

Anyone interested in multi-culturalism, in building multi-racial organizations (which should be just about every organizer!) should read this book. The chronicles the illness of a Hmong girl and describes in detail the rich Hmong culture and world-view of souls, health, community and lives. _

[Read on](#)

Forthcoming from Monthly Review Press in November,

Save Our Unions: Dispatches From A Movement in Distress brings together recent essays and reporting by labor journalist and former CWA organizer Steve Early.

[Read on...](#)

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

[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,

[Ceasar 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](#)

ViHOther Useading

Michael Jacoby Brown Training and Coaching | | mjbrown246@gmail.com | <http://www.michaeljacobybrown.com>
10 Brattle Terrace
Arlington, MA 02474

Text | Link

Copyright ♦ 2013. All Rights Reserved.