

September 23, 2014

Michael Jacoby Brown

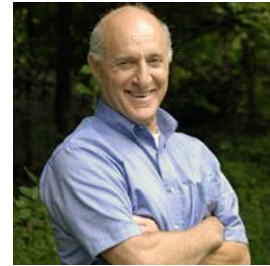
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From: Michael Jacoby Brown

As summer ends, and many of us return to old (or new) routines it is a good time for a veteran organizer to reflect on the importance of life outside of organizing. I also suggest a couple of books, not your typical beach reading.



Reviews:

One of my favorite parts of Daria Roithmayr's book, ***Reproducing Racism: How Everyday Choices Lock in White Advantage*** is where she describes the Polya Urn math model. Mathematicians have discovered that if you start with an urn with two different colored balls and randomly pick out one and add one of the same color, over time, the color ball that you picked early on becomes the dominant color in the urn... Click [here](#) to read more.

Just read Thomas Piketty's ***Capital in the Twenty-First Century***. , Piketty, a Frenchman, provides a broad, long-range, international view of labor and capital.

I like his proposal to lessen inequality by taxing **wealth**, not only income. He describes great inequality in income and even greater inequality in wealth. And, of course, the wealthiest, receive much of their income **from** their wealth (interest and rents)... Click [here](#) to read more.

Roger Newell-

Chair Emeritus, DC Jobs with Justice, Long time organizer, Newell, currently works for the Teamsters and has served as chair of Washington, DC Jobs with

Justice. Newell, a DC native, is a graduate of Columbia University and has worked for the AFT and also serves on the Board of the National Organizers Alliance



One thing in terms of issues from a personal perspective, as an organizer, you need a life outside the organizing effort. You got to have something that gives you pleasure as well as taking on power. It helps to have some R and R that gives you some creative space, helps you find something you like to do and pursue that, so it has direct dividends when you do the direct organizing.

Spending some time in the gym, keeping the family relationships tight, not ignoring your significant other -- you need something that allows you to do something other than just organizing.

And have a group of friends outside of organizing so you get a different perspective on what you are doing. For all intents and purposes, this is like a focus group, a group of people to run ideas by, to see whether or not it clicks, so you can have a good idea of whether it will fall flat if you never tested it.

And add to that good organizers are always learning, so you should pursue any opportunity that comes about to enhance your skill set and keep abreast of new changes and tactics that are happening in the movement. So whether it is taking courses at a local community college so you can better understand politics in your area or taking courses from non-profits so you can better understand how your work relates to community issues, keep yourself open to new information.

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

[MichaelJacobyBrown.com/Contact](https://www.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

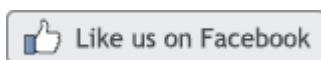
<http://michaeljacobybrown.com/>

[National Organizers Alliance](#)

[Road Map Consulting](#)

[Visions-Inc](#)

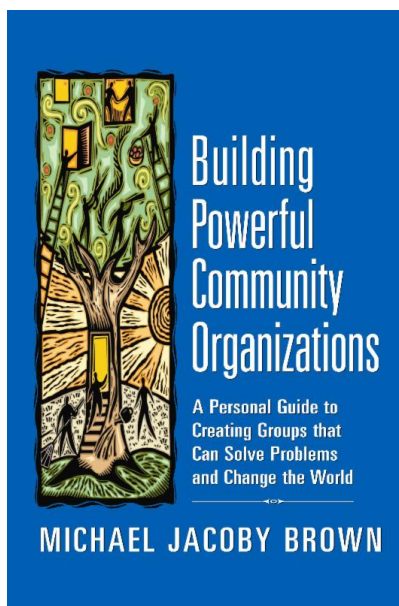
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Michael Jacoby Brown Training and Coaching | mjbrown246@gmail.com | <http://www.michaeljacobybrown.com>
10 Brattle Terrace | Arlington, MA 02474