



**Funding
Exchange**

"Change, Not Charity"

NATIONAL OFFICE NEWS

Low Fat & Underfunded

The Funding Exchange 2001 - 2002 Grantmaking Docket will be available soon. This year's docket bears a special introduction by activist-scholar Angela Y. Davis.

Through the work of the featured 48 organizations, donors can support community control of

natural resources, livable wage-earning, equitable and quality education practices, and the preservation of sacred lands and cultures, to name only a portion of the docket's scope. The docket contains descriptions of each group's work, which reflects both the ongoing efforts that sustain the justice movement, and the new challenges facing progressive communities in the current political environment. It also includes grants made by Funding Exchange activist-advised panels as well as articles and commentary by progressive leaders

Congratulations!

To San Diego Fund for Change, our 16th Member Fund

Criminal Justice Initiative Makes Its First Grants

We are proud to announce the nine recipients of our 2001 Criminal Justice Initiative grants. The grant recipients are: Beyondmedia Education, Chicago, IL; Citizens for Quality Education, Lexington, MS; Critical Resistance in 11 Southern States (Alabama,

Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia); Girl Talk, Chicago, IL; INCITE! Women of Color Against Violence, Santa Cruz, CA; NationCorps, Inc., Selma, AL; Prison & Jail Project, Americus, GA; Sister Outsider, Brooklyn, NY; and Western Prison Project, Portland, OR.

Each of these nine exceptional organizations will receive a grant of \$20,000 to develop and implement innovative models of dialogue, bringing together diverse constituents and perspectives. We define "dialogue" in its broadest sense, not limited to traditional conversations around a table, conferences, or facilitated discussions. We believe that these dialogues will add a new dimension to the national debate around "justice" and "safety."

The Criminal Justice Initiative was created and developed in 2001 by Funding Exchange donors and activists from across the country who are concerned with prison expansion and its disproportionate impact on low-income communities, women, people of color and other disenfranchised populations. We hope to generate additional resources to continue the Initiative in 2002

Organizing the Disappeared

There are thousands of untold stories that will never make it to the attention of the mainstream media after the devastating events of September 11. Like the stories of the staff and volunteers of Asociaci\u00f3n Tepeyac de New York (www.tepeyac.org) who have been working nonstop since 9-11-2001. Asociaci\u00f3n Tepeyac has had to put all of the community building work they normally do on hold to deal with the incredible task of organizing around the issue of undocumented workers who are still missing from the World Trade Center disaster. Hundreds of undocumented workers were employed in and around the WTC area. Many of the cooks, busboys and delivery people were undocumented workers from countries like Mexico, Guatemala, Colombia, Honduras, Ecuador, and Nicaragua.

Tepeyac's stated mission is to promote the social welfare and human rights of Mexican immigrants, specifically the undocumented in New York City. Tepeyac organizes, informs and educates immigrants and their families about their rights and resources. It is the only public resource dedicated to organizing Mexican immigrants in the five boroughs of New York City.

We spoke with Joel Magallan Reyes, Director of Asociaci\u00f3n Tepeyac De New York, and asked him about the emergency work they have been providing the victims, families, and friends of the disappeared. The organization seems almost overwhelmed by the present crisis. Their 14th Street office is buzzing with people answering phones and interviewing workers affected by the terrorist attacks. Even trying to name the people that worked in or around the WTC is a daunting task. Undocumented workers often cannot reveal their real names, and it is rare that employers ask for last names. Most workers interviewed were concerned about their coworkers who had worked in or near the WTC and hadn't been seen or heard from since the day of the attacks. The web of undocumented employees is being put together in the main office and hallways of the association. The constant flow of people coming and leaving the office is staggering. The main hallway is full of chairs with people waiting to speak to a volunteer. Some leave

happy, informed that a friend or coworker is fine. Others come to ask about missing friends and receive no answers.

Joel explains that Tepeyac is working on two levels. The Red Cross is helping undocumented workers and families of the missing. They are working with Tepeyac to identify and list missing workers and are relying on Tepeyac to provide translation. Meanwhile, Tepeyac is organizing undocumented workers left jobless. They are assisting the newly unemployed to inform each other of different jobs and opportunities. In some cases, they give advice on how to return to their countries of origin without proper identification. Joel says, "Flying is out of the question for most, and the train and buses are becoming increasingly more difficult." He mentions, "the phones that are still working are always ringing and we have to deal with everything from families calling in from Latin America asking about missing relatives, to the Consulates forwarding the names of families and of the people they think may be missing. Everything else is on hold -- English classes, AIDS awareness, community programs."

The situation at the border is even more dangerous. White ranchers are taking advantage of this time of heightened tension and xenophobia to shoot anything or anyone that moves near the border. Undocumented people returning to the US or Mexico via traditional underground border crossings are being harassed, shot at or taken into custody. Unemployed families who want to return to their country of origin feel trapped in the US. Staying in the US may leave some families homeless; returning may mean death at the border. In spite of all this, the staff at Tepeyac are still friendly, helpful and also optimistic. They have been working nonstop since the morning of 9-11 and are committed to helping the poor and those in need to come together and organize as workers, families and friends. Many of their bills have gone unpaid and their phone service has been limited to only 3 lines, continuously ringing since September 11. Organizing the disappeared and undocumented workers of the World Trade Center disaster seems like an impossible task but the Asociaci\u00f3n Tepeyac has stepped up to face the challenge

You've Helped

Almost immediately after the September 11 tragedies, some groups approached us for help in working with the affected communities, many of whom lost loved ones or employment due to the attacks. Some groups who had applied to us for funds to organize protests against the International Monetary Fund (IMF) meetings in Washington, DC -- originally scheduled for September 28-30 -- shifted their focus to pro-peace efforts when the meetings were canceled and were still able to receive our support.

The Funding Exchange was able to provide an immediate source of support for groups engaged in alternative relief efforts and pro-peace mobilizations. We named our newly created fund the Peace and Racial Justice Fund, linking the two concepts critical to the work at hand. We received a very good response from our donors when we launched our fundraising campaign at the end of September. Within a short period, we were able to raise over \$50,000.00.

Right now and for the foreseeable future, the Peace and Racial Justice Fund will continue to make grants to provide disaster relief; support organizing activities to promote peace, racial justice and civil liberties; and support media efforts that increase the visibility of those of us who desire peace and racial justice and provide an alternative source of information and analysis

Robeson 15th Anniversary Celebration A Great Success

Over 100 FEX friends and supporters spent Monday evening, September 10, 2001 with friends, comrades and media activists enjoying one another's company at The Culture Project in New York City...drinking, eating and discussing the importance of independent media. Now, we all recognize that the need to support and highlight independent film makers and radio journalists is even more important than ever.

Before the world changed on 9/11, we heard from former Film Fund and Robeson Fund staff person and media activist Lillian Jimenez about the evolution of progressive funding for radical media projects. Radio journalist Amy Goodman of "Democracy Now!" and filmmaker Stephanie Black -- whose film, "Life and Debt" was screened to an appreciative audience -- each commented on the scarcity of support for projects which challenge the status quo.

Since then, listening to the pundits and politicians in this time of crisis only reinforces our conviction to continue to raise money for the Paul Robeson Fund for Independent Media. Critical voices and voices of dissent must be heard at this time. We need them now, not 5 or 10 years from now

In response to the disasters of September 11 the Funding Exchange announces:

THE PEACE AND RACIAL JUSTICE FUND

The Peace and Racial Justice Fund was established to honor those who lost friends and/or families in the disasters of September 11, throughout the country.

In their name, the Fund will support activities in the following areas:

1. **Provide disaster relief.** We are concerned that some communities will be ignored by large-scale relief efforts now underway. We will support local relief efforts through progressive community organizations in poor communities, communities of color, housing projects and subsidized housing units. Additionally, we will offer support to families of low-wage workers who were killed and are now left without pensions and/or other sources of income or are left without jobs and means of income. Finally, we know that many immigrants, especially undocumented people, will be afraid to access the resources that are available and to which they are entitled. We will support community organizations that seek to address this issue.

2. **Support organizing activities to promote peace, non-intervention and justice here and abroad.** We will support community-based organizations who are actively protecting human rights and civil liberties for (1) people of color, especially Arab, Muslim, South Asian and Central Asian peoples; and (2) people who dissent from US government policies.

3. **Support media efforts to increase the visibility of those Americans who desire peace and racial justice.** We will support work to build the media capacity of organizations working in immigrant communities and communities of color. In addition, we will support media work that promotes issues of peace and racial justice within the mainstream media.

For more info or to contribute call 212-529-5300 or visit www.fex.org

"A Healthy Baby Girl"

A week before New York was drowned in sorrow, the FEX National Office staff had something to celebrate. Joy Linscheid, Assistant to the Director, gave birth to a baby girl, Alison Christine Linscheid Nolan on September 6. The baby and Joy are doing very well and we already had a few occasions to enjoy their company at the office.

Some Folks Never Felt Safe:

The Truth Behind National Unity

BY Tim Wise

"We stand united," comes the proclamation from America's political leaders and national media. "Americans are pulling together like never before," say still others, in the wake of the horrific attacks of September 11. American flags are popping up everywhere: on lapel pins, car antennae, hastily printed T-shirts, and as inserts in the newspaper.

And so it is amid this outpouring of manufactured and marketed patriotism, this presumption of national unity, that one might take note of the lingering signs that we are, in point of fact, anything but one nation. Osama bin Laden aside, and duly noting the ability of a common enemy to oftentimes paper over existing divisions for the time being, the simple truth is, fissures are everywhere.

One such fault line emerged this past week, when Officer Stephen Roach, of the Cincinnati Police Department was acquitted on all charges stemming from his April shooting of Timothy Thomas: the 15th young black man killed by police there in the last few years.

Were such things extraordinarily rare, one might be inclined to chalk them up to aberration. But in fact, it is all too common for people of color to be on the receiving end of police brutality, even to the point of death. As the Stolen Lives Project has documented, there are hundreds of cases in the last few years of persons killed by law enforcement officers; an overwhelming number of these unarmed, and black or brown. And it is the rare instance when even one of these results in anything more severe than an administrative punishment for the offending cop. In fact, it is just as likely that the officer involved in such an incident will receive a raise and commendations, as it is that they will ever serve a day in jail.

And so despite the rhetoric of national unity, the deep divisions in our criminal justice system, especially regarding police misconduct towards people of color, rear their ugly head again and remind us that unity is, after all, just a word.

Or more to the point, unity is in the eye of the beholder, as are most things. Perspective is shaped by experience; and not just one experience like the World Trade Center attacks, but a multitude of experiences over one's lifetime. Perspective grows directly from one's position, for it is

from that position that one surveys the stuff of everyday existence. For those who are used to feeling safe and secure, the events of this past month will no doubt have had a particularly jarring effect. But for others, terrorism from abroad may only feel like a more extreme manifestation of everyday life.

Amid the horror of September 11, many a voice has been raised to exclaim that "now, we Americans finally know what it's like" to be the targets of someone else's hatred. Of course, were it not for the resurgent hyper-nationalism that has characterized the past few weeks perhaps we might have noticed that some Americans have long understood what it means to be targeted for who they are. To be terrorized, attacked, even killed. All the "we're all in this together" blather aside, there are millions of Americans who never felt safe. Never felt secure. Never assumed that their citizenship protected them from anything, for indeed it never has.

For far too many people of color, poor folks of all colors, and gays and lesbians, there was no sense of security to shatter. No feeling of invincibility to which Osama bin Laden could even theoretically lay waste. For these Americans, the possibility of being the victims of targeted violence or institutional neglect is all too real, and those they have learned to fear are anything but foreign.

Whether the violence of individual thugs, organized hate groups, police, or lawmakers who turn the other way as poverty, infant mortality and inadequate health care ravage entire communities, the result is the same: injured is injured, and dead is most certainly dead. Dying as the result of a plane crash or crumbling building may indeed be more dramatic, and the thought of it is certainly more ghastly. But I doubt it is any more painful or any more final than any of the multitudinous ways that tens of thousands of our nation's least powerful have been dying for many a year now.

Of course, a nation that is proud of its selective memory – only remembering the parts of our past that flatter us while studiously avoiding mention of the rest – won't be able to see any of this. A nation whose dominant majority never heard of the Tulsa Race Riot of 1921 – which really wasn't a riot so much as a white orgy of violence against the city's prosperous black business community – will naturally think terrorism on American soil is a recent phenomenon.

A nation whose dominant majority has no idea what happened in Rosewood, Florida, and that has forgotten the lynching parties, known as "Negro Barbecues" that were a common occurrence in the South not so long ago, will naturally be stunned at the barbarity of the Arab or the Muslim "fanatic." That white-on-black race riots were a common thread linking North, South, East and West for most of the first fifty years of the twentieth century, ultimately costing hundreds of lives and destroying millions of dollars worth of property, remains unspoken – presumably.

So too the terroristic enterprise whose actions led to the founding and building of the United States in the first place: namely, the marauding bands of cavalry, assorted soldiers and so-called pioneers who instigated vicious and depraved attacks on Indian peoples. And this they did, not only so they could take their land, but also so as to break down their resistance, instill fear in their hearts and minds, and force them to retreat against the advance of our collective vision. Pretty much the textbook definition of terrorism, truth be told.

And just as the heinous destruction of 6,000 or so lives at the hands of hijackers this month will be remembered forever, so too must these other acts of terror. That individually they may have involved lower body counts, and that we didn't get to see the damage done on live television seems fairly irrelevant. Terrorism is not defined by the enormity of its death toll, after all.

So while the majority of Americans (especially whites) may see the recent attacks by presumed outsiders as souvenirs in their nation's history, for many Indian peoples, African Americans, and others who have been the victims of targeted, hate-inspired violence, the tragedy, while appalling, had the ring of the familiar to it. Even if it is only part of the collective memory and historical consciousness of such folks, such a knowledge that one is never safe so long as one lacks power and resources, is a vital truth which must inform our current analysis.

At the very least, it should give us pause when we presume a national unity, a collective brother and sisterhood, or a common experience. Our experiences are not common. Our treatment is not equal. And nothing about that has changed since September 11

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"Making the World Safe for Capitalism"

An Interview with Peter Reilly by Peter Diaz

On October 16, barely one month after the attacks of September 11, the Funding Exchange held our Fall Board Meeting in New York City. Meeting at a midtown hotel rather than our usual spot in the middle of Ground Zero, it was good for us to see, hug, talk to one another, and take care of FEX business. The day after the board meeting I had the opportunity to talk with Peter Reilly, a long-time FEX activist-donor from Berea, Kentucky. Peter is a Donor Representative to the Funding Exchange board and has been very active with the network for over 20 years. He was also a member of the organizing committee of the Appalachian Community Fund. We spoke for just over an hour at the FEX National Office.

Quickly realizing that a normal conversation about grantmaking and strategic funding wouldn't be possible after the devastating terrorist acts of 9-11, we talked about the causes and effects of our very own "chickens coming home to roost." "People outside of New York wanted to help with the disaster of 9-11. A lot of media attention and web sites have focused on the Red Cross and United Way or the Fireman's Fund," Peter noted. In order to contribute quickly despite his misgivings, "I gave a small gift to the Red Cross since I couldn't come and help." While recognizing the humanitarian responses called forward by the horrific loss of life that day, we discussed some root causes. Peter mentioned that "oil may be the primary motivation behind the war in Afghanistan." He noted that if in fact the evidence proves Osama bin Laden is responsible for the terrorist acts of September 11, then "bin Laden should be brought to justice;" but we also spent a great deal of time talking about US economic interests as well.

FEX In Person

It was disturbing to me to listen to Peter repeat what would become the mantra of our conversation -- "making the world safe for capitalism." As a long-time peace and social justice activist with a wide range of interests in the US and internationally, he has given much time and attention to the issues of progressive change within a capitalist system. So much of US interest in Central Asia has to do with geo-political thuggery and oil. Justice or the rights of women and ethnic minorities in Afghanistan have never been at the heart of US foreign policy. And domestic policy, especially civil liberties, is also sacrificed. Peter and I discussed the fact that, even now as the US continues to bomb Afghanistan, we too are being bombarded with half-truths and blatant lies. "If the US was really interested in ending terrorist training camps they could start with The School of the Americas or at CIA headquarters. Or Florida's anti-Castro fanatics."

Throughout our conversation, I realized that the parade of "news sources" or "journalists" on soap boxes like CNN, FOX, ABC, NBC and CBS were simply foaming at the mouths for ratings, at the expense of our rights and the countless lives that will be taken to secure US hegemony. The media's time to harvest fear has come. Peter observed that "the concentration of media [corporations] leads to, well, making the world safe for capitalism." He added that the Left hasn't been as strategic in its funding of alternative news or policies. "The Right has been successful, setting up think tanks for when these sorts of things happen. The talking heads and experts are now cashing in on years of right-wing funding of academic "inquiry" and military mouth pieces.

At the end of our talk, I realized that Peter had not told me as much about himself as I would have liked. We were simply too caught up in the current crisis. For me, our conversation emphasized the fact that, while our years of fundraising and grantmaking at FEX to groups on the Left have been important, they are not enough. Now more than ever, we need activist-donors like Peter Reilly to "question authority" while challenging the capitalist status quo

TAKING STOCK & REACHING CLARITY

The Funding Exchange member funds are currently engaged in an exciting national political dialogue process. As many of you know, the Funding Exchange network was founded in 1979 by six alternative community foundations which were organized in the early to mid-seventies:

Vanguard Public Foundation in San Francisco; Liberty Hill Foundation in Los Angeles; North Star Fund in New York; McKenzie River Gathering in Oregon; Haymarket People's Fund in Boston; and Bread and Roses Community Fund in Philadelphia. They had a common commitment to "change, not charity."

The funds were organized to: (1) advocate both inside and outside the broader philanthropic community; (2) develop strong networks of progressive donors and increase the funds committed to social change philanthropy; (3) establish new community funds capable of serving all regions of the country; (4) vest the power of grantmaking decisions in the hands of those traditionally excluded from power; (5) provide a vehicle for people with a wide range of financial resources to support local grassroots organizing; and (6) expand the methods and techniques available for redirecting wealth.

From the beginning, these Funds had differences in how they interpreted their shared goals. The founding of the Funding Exchange, in fact, became a catalyst for many political discussions about how to fulfill the mission, the role of donors and donor-advised funds, and the role of progressive foundations in building movements for social justice. These discussions, and the decisions to move ahead in forming the Funding Exchange despite the differences, laid the groundwork for the kind of "collective autonomy" which the individual funds, and the network as a whole, now enjoy.

But, politically, things have changed radically since those days. In the last 25 years, we have seen the global corporatization of the world; the consolidation of wealth and power into an increasingly small, elite class; the destruction of a governmental "safety net" for poor and working people as part of the worldwide triumph of neoliberal policies aimed at the privatization, and elimination, of social services. We are also dealing with huge demographic shifts in the US, most notably the influx of immigrants into the West and in the South, and massive changes and advances in technology, communication and media which have altered movement-building in ways that were unimaginable a short time ago.

So, at the same time that the political conditions have changed, so our work has grown. The needs and perspectives of the member foundations have changed. For some, the FEX network is not as central as it once was; for others, it continues to be a major resource. Not all member funds continue to accept or apply the original membership criteria in the same way. The result is that the common commitments of the member funds are now not as clear as they need to be to keep moving forward as a network.

And so throughout this year we have been engaged in a board-level process of re-examination and re-commitment. It has never been more important for each member fund, as well as for the network as a whole, to clarify needs and political vision. Our discussions may result in a new formulation of the purpose and functions of the network or the national office, or bring about changes in membership categories or criteria. At the very least, we hope that it will help us come to a deeper understanding of the core political vision of the FEX network today, with race as a central concept. We also seek agreement on a direction for FEX and its role in philanthropy in the 21st century. This work is challenging, and sometimes exhilarating, as we debate old issues and sort out new ones, while continuing our fundraising and grantmaking at the local, national, and international level. We believe it is critical to our future as a network of progressive funders



Ellen's Corner