



“The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members”

- [*Coretta Scott King*](#)

NOVO Community Day!

This past September, tenant associations from three HFA DC Campaign buildings hosted a community day in order to raise awareness and consciousness among tenants. The three buildings—The Franklin, The Edwards, and The Carrollton—are all owned by the same property management company, and came together as a community to show solidarity with one another, as well as discuss concerns they have in each of their buildings, respectively. At this community day event, there were food, drinks, face painters, and even clinics put on by the Washington Lawyers Committee and the Howard University Fair Housing Clinic to help tenants become more aware of their rights as tenants and members of tenant associations.



Black Workers and Wellness Center (BWWC) Updates

Free Movie Screening - Oct. 4 @ 6pm

On Oct. 4, ONE DC is partnering with DC Delegate Candidate Freeman4congress.com to host a free movie screening of ***They Are Trying to Kill Us***.

They Are Trying to Kill Us is a documentary exploring the intersection of food justice, health disparities, and racial inequality in America. Directed by John Lewis and Keegan Kuhn, the film highlights how communities of color are disproportionately affected by chronic diseases due to limited access to healthy food. Through interviews with health experts, activists, and celebrities, the documentary delves into the systemic issues surrounding diet-related illnesses. It ultimately calls for change by advocating plant-based diets as a solution to address both personal and public health challenges.

After the movie, there will be a brief introduction to The Community Grocery Co-op, BJ's Sister support group and the Attention Nutrition discussion group. Popcorn will be provided, all ages are welcomed. We hope you will join us and bring a friend.



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PACA Political Education - Oct. 9 & Oct. 23

On Wednesday, October 9 & Wednesday, October 23 from 7pm-9pm, Pan-African Community Action (PACA) will host political education sessions with the Assata Shakur Study Group. The Assata Shakur Study Group is a place for in-depth and meaningful discussion about important ideological issues and political events. In order to encourage full participation by as many people as possible, we ask participants to practice Step Up-Step Back.

Study Group sessions often include advance readings, which are published on the PACA Events Calendar on the website <https://pacapower.org/events>. Participants are encouraged to read in advance in order to make time for nuanced discussion about the reading. Important passages will be read together during the session. Study Group sessions can also include short videos and break-out groups. Some topics are covered over the course of several meetings.



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LEAP #6

A foundational tenet of ONE DC's vision is that we are organizing for a new system. Because ONE DC is a learning organization, we seek to identify the root causes of injustice and not to simply reform the system. We examine the interconnection of issues like capitalism, white supremacy, patriarchy, as well as the need for personal and community healing and wellness.

This September, the Black Workers & Wellness Center and ONE DC hosted the 6th class of our Leadership Education for Action & Power (LEAP) course. This session was meant to give the students a deeper understanding of colonizing ideologies, such as white supremacy, racism, and patriarchy, and give us space to think of ways we can better reject these ideologies. This class, and all other LEAP classes, are taught by members of ONE DC to members of ONE DC with the purpose of creating an environment where we can come together to envision the world that we are fighting to create.



LEAP #7 - Oct. 17 @ 5:30pm

The next LEAP session will be Thursday October 17th, we hope to see you there!

This will be the final session of the seven part Leadership Education for Action and Power (LEAP) course. LEAP is a membership popular education program designed to help us understand the root causes of poverty and the injustices that we face and develop our leadership. ONE DC believes the first step to building a citywide movement is bringing together a collective of members who are willing to plan and devise a plan to build PEOPLE power citywide.

The topic of this final session will be Histories of Washington, DC Part II—Tracing Racial Capitalism and Devaluation of Black Housing (With a Right to the City component), Facilitated by Rosemary Ndubizu and Brook Hill. Food and childcare will be provided. If you would like to attend, please send your RSVP to Poncho, poncho@onedconline.org.



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BWWC Space Usage

The heart of activism beats strong at ONE DC as the Black Worker's & Wellness Center opens its doors for event bookings. Whether you're planning a workshop, political education, outreach event, health & wellness session or simply a gathering of kindred spirits, we welcome you with open arms and full hearts.

Booking your space is as simple as a few clicks or a friendly call. You can visit the ONE DC's [website](#), and fill out the short space usage form, or dial 202-902-3944 and speak with Poncho to secure your spot. We believe in accessibility for all, which is why our rental fee operates on a sliding scale for members and supporters, ensuring that financial barriers don't hinder the voices that need to be heard. Dates fill up quickly so we ask that you try to book with as much advance notice as you can, a minimum of 21 days before your event. To see the events calendar visit [this link](#).



The BWWC is more than just a rental venue; it's a sanctuary for radical ideas and worker and community power. From grassroots movements to community building, our center stands as a beacon of empowerment for our people.

Join us in reclaiming our power, and forging a future rooted in justice and equity. Together, let's transform our dreams into actions and our actions into a better world. The Black Workers & Wellness Center awaits, ready to amplify your voice and ignite the flames of change.

Homes for All DC Updates

HFA Circle Meeting

At September's Homes For All DC Circle Meeting, tenants from various different buildings across the District came together to discuss a variety of issues. At the forefront of the conversation were plans for upcoming actions meant to put pressure on landlords and city officials to do right by the tenants and residents of the District. Be on the lookout for upcoming events you can get involved in! The next HFA DC Circle meeting will be on October 12th, be sure to come out!



Heritage at Shaw/Lincoln Westmoreland Update

After years of solidarity and support, the tenants association at Lincoln Westmoreland 2 officially voted to become members of Homes For All DC! We welcome them to our organization and campaign with open arms, and hope for many more years of cooperation in the struggle for tenants rights across our city.



Honoring Fannie Lou Hamer

Fannie Lou Hamer Day - Oct. 6

Sunday, October 6 is Fannie Lou Hamer Day.

Fannie Lou Townsend Hamer rose from humble beginnings in the Mississippi Delta to become one of the most important, passionate, and powerful voices of the civil and voting rights movements and a leader in the efforts for greater economic opportunities for African Americans.

Hamer was born on October 6, 1917 in Montgomery County, Mississippi, the 20th and last child of sharecroppers Lou Ella and James Townsend. She grew up in poverty, and at age six Hamer joined her family picking cotton. By age 12, she left school to work. In 1944, she married Perry Hamer and the couple toiled on the Mississippi plantation owned by W.D. Marlow until 1962. Because Hamer was the only worker who could read and write, she also served as plantation timekeeper.

In 1961, Hamer received a hysterectomy by a white doctor without her consent while undergoing surgery to remove a uterine tumor. Such forced sterilization of Black women, as a way to reduce the

Black population, was so widespread it was dubbed a “Mississippi appendectomy.” Unable to have children of their own, the Hamers adopted two daughters.

That summer, Hamer attended a meeting led by civil rights activists James Forman of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and James Bevel of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). Hamer was incensed by efforts to deny Blacks the right to vote. She became a SNCC organizer and on August 31, 1962 led 17 volunteers to register to vote at the Indianola, Mississippi Courthouse. Denied the right to vote due to an unfair literacy test, the group was harassed on their way home, when police stopped their bus and fined them \$100 for the trumped-up charge that the bus was too yellow. That night, Marlow fired Hamer for her attempt to vote; her husband was required to stay until the harvest. Marlow confiscated much of their property. The Hamers moved to Ruleville, Mississippi in Sunflower County with very little.

In June 1963, after successfully completing a voter registration program in Charleston, South Carolina, Hamer and several other Black women were arrested for sitting in a “whites-only” bus station restaurant in Winona, Mississippi. At the Winona jailhouse, she and several of the women were brutally beaten, leaving Hamer with lifelong injuries from a blood clot in her eye, kidney damage, and leg damage.

In 1964, Hamer’s national reputation soared as she co-founded the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP), which challenged the local Democratic Party’s efforts to block Black participation. Hamer and other MFDP members went to the Democratic National Convention that year, arguing to be recognized as the official delegation. When Hamer spoke before the Credentials Committee, calling for mandatory integrated state delegations, President Lyndon Johnson held a televised press conference so she would not get any television airtime. But her speech, with its poignant descriptions of racial prejudice in the South, was televised later. By 1968, Hamer’s vision for racial parity in delegations had become a reality and Hamer was a member of Mississippi’s first integrated delegation.

In 1964 Hamer helped organize Freedom Summer, which brought hundreds of college students, Black and white, to help with African American voter registration in the segregated South. In 1964, she announced her candidacy for the Mississippi House of Representatives but was barred from the ballot. A year later, Hamer, Victoria Gray, and Annie Devine became the first Black women to stand in the U.S. Congress when they unsuccessfully protested the Mississippi House election of 1964. She also traveled extensively, giving powerful speeches on behalf of civil rights. In 1971, Hamer helped to found the National Women’s Political Caucus.

Frustrated by the political process, Hamer turned to economics as a strategy for greater racial equality. In 1968, she began a “pig bank” to provide free pigs for Black farmers to breed, raise, and slaughter. A year later she launched the Freedom Farm Cooperative (FFC), buying up land that Blacks could own and farm collectively. With the assistance of donors (including famed singer Harry Belafonte), she purchased 640 acres and launched a coop store, boutique, and sewing enterprise. She single-handedly ensured that 200 units of low-income housing were built—many still exist in Ruleville today. The FFC lasted until the mid-1970s; at its heyday, it was among the largest employers in Sunflower County. Extensive travel and fundraising took Hamer away from the day-to-day operations, as did her failing health, and the FFC hobbled along until folding. Not long after, in 1977, Hamer died of breast cancer at age 59.



Upcoming Actions

Due to poor housing conditions in multiple buildings that are associated with ONE DC's HFA Campaign, we will be holding two important actions in the coming weeks that you should be on the lookout for.

St. Pauls Church Action - Oct. 5th

This upcoming Sunday, October 5th, we will be holding a protest at St. Pauls Church in Landover, MD, in response to the owners of the Church not fulfilling their duties as the landlords of Wayne Place Senior Living. The senior tenants in this building are dealing with a plethora of housing code violations, while the owners of this apartment complex have shown little remorse or willingness to make conditions better for the senior tenants that live in this building. If you are interested in coming out to support the tenants at Wayne Place in their action, click [here](#) to get more information on the event.

Wilson Building Elevator Action - Oct. 15th

Additionally, we will be holding another protest at the Wilson Building here in DC, to put pressure on the city council to do something about the elevator issue that is plaguing many buildings throughout the city. Multiple buildings associated with ONE DC's HFA Campaign have reported a repeated history of issues with the elevators in their buildings, with little to nothing being done to resolve the situation in any of the buildings. Some of these tenants have even reported that their elevators have not been working for over three months now. If you are interested in coming out to support tenants across DC in getting more access and help to safe and functioning elevators, click [here](#) to get more information on the event.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Free Movie Night - *They're Trying to Kill Us*

Friday, October 4th at 6pm

Right to Resource Committee Meeting

Tuesday, October 8th at 6:30pm

The ONE DC Resource Development Committee is responsible for grant writing and fundraising. Join a dynamic team to help raise funds for our organizing work! **RSVP [Here!](#)**

PACA (Pan African Community Action) - Assata Shakur Study Group

Wednesday, October 9th at 7pm

Wednesday, October 23rd at 7pm

Homes For All DC - Monthly Circle Meeting

Saturday, October 12th from 10:30am - 1pm [RSVP Here!](#)

LEAP (Leadership Education for Action & Power)

Thursday, October 17th from 5:30-8pm

RSVP [Here!](#)

[You can find past editions of the Monthly Voice here.](#)

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Email organizer@onedconline.org



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