



"Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today."

-Malcolm X

Luci Murphy's Trip to Nicaragua



Luci Murphy is a long-time ONE DC member and a member of the Black Worker Center Chorus. Last month, she had the opportunity to travel to Nicaragua and shared her experiences with us.

NICARAGUA 2022 January 8-17

The Avianca flight from Dulles at three something in the morning arrived in San Salvador around breakfast time, and after a short layover I boarded the flight to Managua. As the plane landed we could see how green the city is, with trees growing on many blocks. And as we travelled through the country, we saw more trees, red flowers and yellow flowers growing everywhere.

On our arrival in Managua, the delegates on the plane which included Black Alliance for Peace members Margaret Kimberley, Jemima Pierre and me, were met by Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry staff Quelra Brooks Hodgson who ushered us through customs and immigration to a special lounge for their guests. We learned that Quelra works with Michael Campbell. Michael is the son of Nicaraguan Ambassadors to the U.S. Francisco Campbell and Myriam Hooker. Michael Campbell who is from Bluefields is a special advisor to President Daniel Ortega on Caribbean affairs. Margaret, Jemima and I were taken to Coleen Littlejohn's house in a residential area of the city. Coleen is a naturalized Nicaraguan citizen originally from the U.S. who has supported the Sandinistas for many years.

At Coleen's we met two more visitors from the US (young men from New York State and Oregon) who were visiting the ATC (Asociacion de Trabajadores del Campo). Having flown through the night, we rested up for the welcoming dinner that evening hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Relations. The dinner took place in the courtyard of the Foreign Ministry (MINREX) building. At the dinner I met Sofia Clark. Sofia is Jill Clark-Gollub's sister, Rita Clark's daughter, and the niece of the former Foreign Minister, Father Miguel d'Escoto. She is taking care of her mother, Rita in her home in Nicaragua. Her mother ran the U.S-Nicaragua Friendship Office on Capitol Hill in Washington for years and called on me to sing for various events.

We also met [Dorotea Granados](#), Dorotea is a U.S. citizen of Mexican and Filipino background from California. She is a nurse who came to help the Sandinistas in the 80s and decided to stay. A hospital has been named for her. I was pleasantly surprised to see two Afro-Latina delegates, Argentina and Maribel whom I had met in the Conference of African Descendants in Caracas, Venezuela in November of 2019. Maribel Nuñez, from the Dominican Republic who holds an annual symposium on Frantz Fanon [Maribel Nuñez](#). Maribel Nuñez | Front Line Defenders Maribel Nuñez is a feminist, journalist, an Afro anti-colonial activist and a human rights defender of Haitian descent. She is a member of [Acción Afro-Dominicana](#), an organization that seeks to make racism and its consequences visible. Argentina attended with her husband Rev. [Fred Morris](#) from the United States. The couple now lives in Nicaragua. We were entertained with live music provided by a marimba ensemble [MARIMBA RITMICA](#), directed by Manuel Gonzalez

The following day we went to Olaf Palme for an open air dinner organized for the delegates on the plaza. There was a larger instrumental ensemble which played a variety of music from the 70s and 80s. Unfortunately, they were positioned in an area removed from the listeners. There we met [Ben Norton](#) a journalist from the GrayZone and Moderate Rebels and Camila Escalante from [Kawsachun News](#). Danny Shaw was also there from New York. Perhaps the only other CPUSA member in

attendance. I did not realize that Danny was ill, because he was so gregarious, but when I called him to plan visits, he was at the clinic seeking treatment.

The following day was Monday, the big day. Margaret Kimberley of [Black Agenda Report](#) and [Black Alliance for Peace](#), and I received calls from Quelra letting us know that we would be platform guests at the inauguration. I discovered that this meant we would be close to the president, his wife, as well as the presidents of Venezuela and Cuba. I wore a traditional Ethiopian dress and matching turban which had been given to me by my neighbor, Zelekawork. The largest continental African population in Washington is from Ethiopia.

Guests were ushered to a green room where I got to talk to [Brian Willson](#), the Vietnam veteran and peace activist who lost his legs in an attempt to prevent one of Ronald Reagan's illegal shipments of arms to the contras in Nicaragua. A train with the arms refused to stop for the civilians on the track. He now lives on the farm of a compañera in Nicaragua. Along with Brian, we were joined by [Dan Kovalik](#), the attorney and political analyst. We also talked to Omeima Sheikh-Eldin who accompanied the ambassador from Yemen. She is originally from Sudan and knew my friend Amal Nourelhuda, a well known singer in Sudan who is a member of the D.C. Labor Chorus. Maria Candida Pereira Teixeira, the Angolan Ambassador was also there. They had flown in from Cuba with President Diez-Canel.

We walked to the plaza which had been decorated with thousands of flowers and candles. The audience was mostly students in their school uniform. The President Daniel Ortega and his wife, the Vice President Rosario Murillo walked into the stadium to sustained applause. The president took a moment to greet each platform guest.

If you would like to read about the rest of Ms. Luci Murphy's trip, you can [read it here on our website](#).

HFA Richman Apartments Hot Chocolate Social!

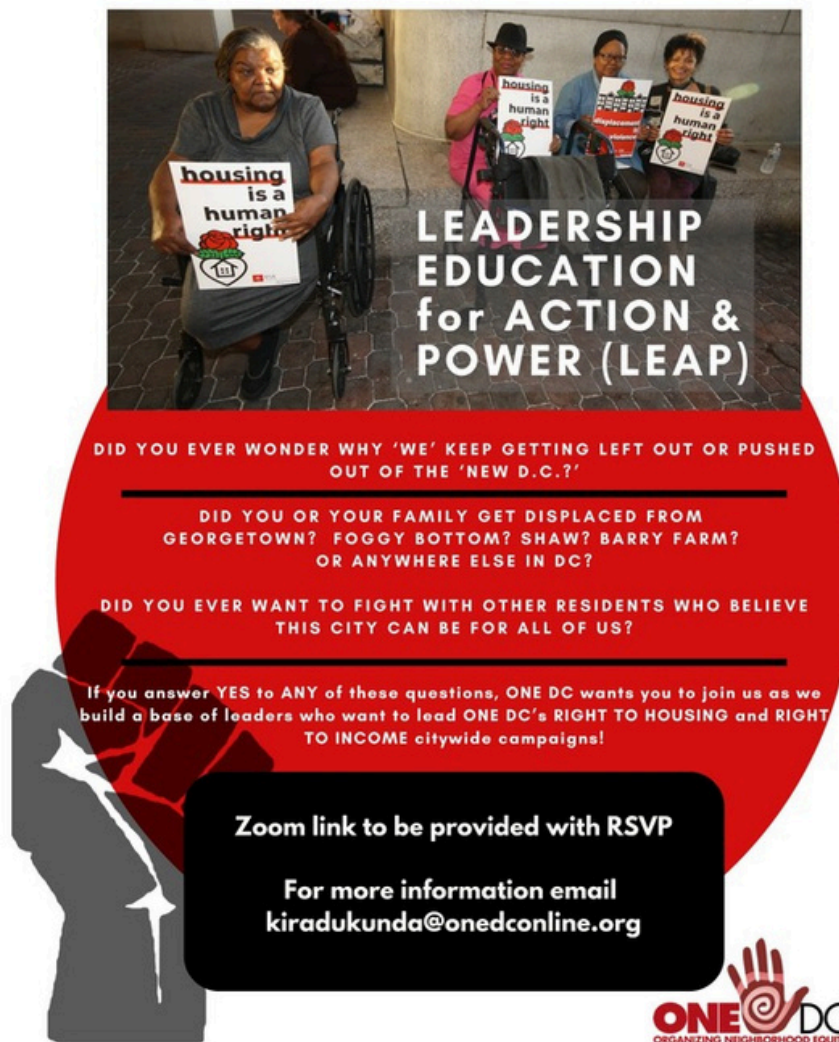


Pictured from left to right; ONE DC Member Ms. J, Communications Organizer Grace, HFA Organizer Melody and ONE DC Intern Liam

Earlier this month, ONE DC's HFA hosted a Hot Chocolate Social in Richman Apartments with the help of Ms. J, a tenant at Richman and a Co-Chair of ONE DC, to get to know tenants and talk about starting a tenants association in the building. Tenants gathered together, enjoyed hot cocoa and other treats and got to know one another while discussing the changes they would like to see happen in the building.

If you are interested in learning more about starting a tenants association in your building, please contact Melody Zhang at mzhang@onedconline.org

LEAP 2022



housing is a human right

LEADERSHIP EDUCATION for ACTION & POWER (LEAP)

DID YOU EVER WONDER WHY 'WE' KEEP GETTING LEFT OUT OR PUSHED OUT OF THE 'NEW D.C.'?

DID YOU OR YOUR FAMILY GET DISPLACED FROM GEORGETOWN? FOGGY BOTTOM? SHAW? BARRY FARM? OR ANYWHERE ELSE IN DC?

DID YOU EVER WANT TO FIGHT WITH OTHER RESIDENTS WHO BELIEVE THIS CITY CAN BE FOR ALL OF US?

If you answer YES to ANY of these questions, ONE DC wants you to join us as we build a base of leaders who want to lead ONE DC's RIGHT TO HOUSING and RIGHT TO INCOME citywide campaigns!

Zoom link to be provided with RSVP

For more information email kiradukunda@onedconline.org

ONE DC
ORGANIZING NEIGHBORHOOD EQUITY

Our Leadership Education for Action and Power Series will be starting again **this spring!** The LEAP program meets once a month, on Saturdays from 11-2pm, for 7 months. These 7 workshops are

designed to further one's political knowledge and deepen one's understanding of ONE DC's Mission, Vision, and Values. We ask, if you are interested, for your commitment to attending as many (if not all) of the workshops as an integral part of ONE DC's organizing strategy and as part of your own leadership development.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Kelly Iradukunda at kiradukunda@onedconline.org

ONE DC History of Black Worker Cooperatives (Cooperation DC)



In Honor of Black History Month, we want to highlight the success and the power of Black Worker Cooperatives that ONE DC has been a part of.

Black people experience the worst economic and social outcomes in DC due to a history of housing discrimination, job discrimination, gentrification. We focus on the Black working class in our political analysis as a grassroots organizing strategy to center and uplift the leadership of the most impacted.

The devastating effects of imperialism, colonization, racial, capitalism and political austerity (decreased government spending) have on our material conditions as individuals and as a community offer no other alternative but to build revolutionary strategies toward self determination and communal power. ONE DC has spent years studying political movements of the oppressed in the US and beyond to gain collective control of land, housing and labor. Current conditions of labor, especially in the age of Covid, make it difficult to envision a future of work that is not exploitative, sexist, racist, and soul crushing. We believe that the power belongs to the people and follow a history of Black movement thinkers and leaders who struggle in the fight for economic liberation.

2015

- In 2015, Cooperation DC, a project of ONE DC, began to organize and move forward with developing worker-owned cooperatives in the District. Here are a few highlights from our third year and what to expect in 2017. Given the 2016 presidential election results, we fully understood that our work was even more important than ever.

2016

- **NW Childcare Cooperative:** A Latina women-led and owned childcare cooperative in NW, the group of 15 women spent the entire year learning about collaborative decision-making as they developed the framework for their cooperative. They also worked on creating a business plan in collaboration with the School of Social Enterprise at American University and began to explore legal aspects with the support of the University of the District of Columbia.
- **Starting the DC Chapter of the Working World Peer Network:** Cooperation DC is one of 27 grassroots organizations that have launched the nationwide non-extractive finance peer lending network to support locally-owned and controlled cooperatives.

2021

- **Becoming a Peer of Seed Commons:** Partnered with BCI to establish a loan fund to create better economic control over finances and businesses in the solidarity economy as well as give out loans to beginning worker cooperatives. This will help create and sustain jobs as well as bolster a broader cooperative capital lending system as opposed to going to bank and taking on debt.

2022

The Cooperation DC Steering Committee is currently preparing to form a member study group.

But going forward, our work will focus on:

1. Political Education Study Groups
2. Cooperative Events and Organizing Trainings
3. Community Learning Journeys
4. Technical Assistance to beginner cooperatives
5. Relationship building with cooperative network partners

If you're interested in learning more about Cooperation DC, please contact Imani Fox at ifox@onedc.org



We envision a cooperative movement in DC whose leadership and knowledge is informed by Black working class people and traditions of Black cooperative thought and practice. Cooperation DC organizing and education is grounded in the history of Black -indigenous methods of cooperation as well as contemporary Black cooperative economic practice. We envision Cooperation DC and our politics to inform and transform the Black cooperative movement in DC to build transformative and powerful alternatives to capitalist labor models.

For more information about Cooperation DC, contact Imani Fox at ifox@onedc.org

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Communications Committee Meeting
Tuesday, March 7th at 5:30pm.

If you have an interest in being creative on social media, writing blog posts for our website, helping create the monthly newsletter, or just being involved in anyway with telling the story of ONE DC then we'd love to have you!

[BSVP here](#)

Right to Resource Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 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!

[BSVP here](#)

New Member Orientation

Tuesday, March 29th at 6:00pm.

Join us for ONE DC's next Member Orientation, where you will learn about ONE DC mission, vision, & values, our organizing model and principles, our history, shared leadership model, and organizational structure, and what it means to be a ONE DC member

[BSVP here](#)

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

Do you want to be a writer, editor, or designer for the ONE DC *Monthly Voice*?

Email organizer@onedconline.org

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