



# STORM WATCH

A MIAMI WORKERS CENTER PUBLICATION

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Storm Watch is a newsletter published by the Miami Workers Center, originating back to the early years of MWC. The present edition of Storm Watch is produced for members to be informed about our projects, organizing efforts, as well as educate themselves about the social, economic, and political issues that impact our lives. This newsletter is made possible by Communications Staff and members on the Communications Committee.



## HAITIAN HERITAGE MONTH

*OUR CITY, OUR MOVEMENTS, AND OUR ORGANIZATION WOULD NOT BE THE SAME WITHOUT THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF HAITIAN PEOPLE*

[Read More - Page 2](#)



## FIELD NOTES

*MIAMI WORKERS CENTER IN ACTION*

- Mother's Day Mutual Aid Market
- Circle of Consciousness
- Women's Circle
- Community-based Research
- Storytelling Workshop

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## WE ARE NOT POWERLESS

*7 INSPIRING LESSONS FOR RESISTANCE*

We are heading down a perilous road. Vulnerable communities face growing threats. So what can we do? We build. We shift away from reform – away from tweaking broken systems – and instead direct our energy toward creating entirely new ones. And the beauty of this method is: we don't have to start from scratch. We can draw from history.

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## PEOPLE-LED SOLUTIONS

*CHICAGO TEACHERS UNION TO BEGIN PROCESS OF CONVERTING VACANT SCHOOL BUILDINGS INTO HOUSING FOR THE PEOPLE*

The Chicago Teachers Union won a historic bargaining contract that includes agreements on building safe, sustainable, and affordable housing for low-income families.

[Read More - Page 5](#)

## GENERAL BODY MEETING

JULY 19 @ 6PM

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND TRAININGS

- 6/5 Facilitation Training
- 6/7 Phone Bank
- 6/21 Juneteenth Event
- 6/28 Member Orientation

[Full Schedule and Details - Page 8](#)

Artwork by Haitian artist @lalucien

## HAITIAN HERITAGE MONTH

**REFLECTIONS**

by Yoly Belizaire

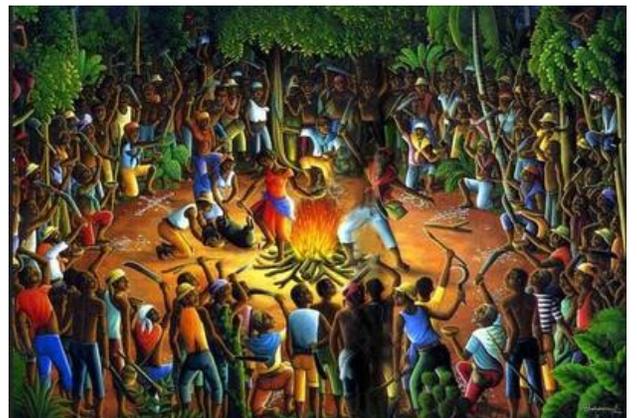
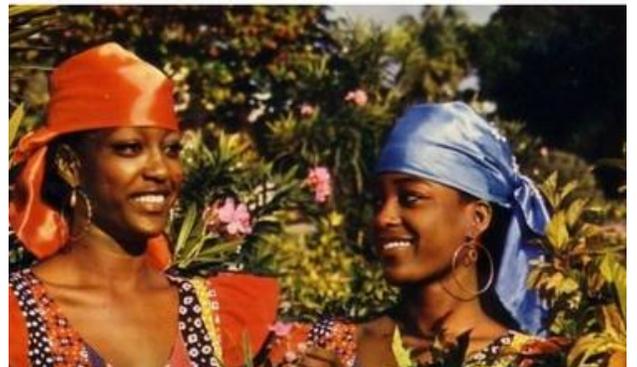


Haitianness is the beginning of my consciousness. It was the first language that I spoke and my first understanding of who I was. It's hard to describe it but before I knew I was black, I knew I was Haitian. It was the way kreyol rolled off the tongue of my mother and aunties. It was in the Haitian hymns that my father would have us sing before bed. It was the rich flavor of our food and the way it danced in our mouths. It is with joy and pride that I celebrate Haitian heritage month and its rich culture of revolutionary organizing and folklore mythologies that inspire me to dream of new worlds. I often think of Erzulie Dantor, a Deity in Haitian Spirituality that represents the protector of women and children. She was one of the many catalysts of the Haitian Revolution. She reminds me of our fierce leaders here at Miami Workers Center that continue to fight and show up despite the repressive conditions living in a hostile climate like Florida.

What an honor to organize at such a time as this. It is easy to let despair boggle us down but I often pull inspiration from my ancestral homeland Ayiti. Despite the gang violence and instability happening currently, various feminist and Haitian groups continue to organize actions and sit-ins in Port Au Prince to draw attention to the plight of Haitian mothers, both within Haiti and abroad, demanding that the Haitian government take concrete steps to support and protect mothers. I think to myself wow if they can organize amongst the ceaseless violence and instability then we can too.

Our celebration felt different this year. We celebrated with conviction. After witnessing our homeland go through insurmountable heartache and what feels like rock bottom for the past year – we celebrated with our whole hearts. Alice Walker proclaims “Hard times require Furious dancing” and throughout the month of May, that is exactly what I saw. Haitians gathered to dance, break bread, and honor this resiliency that is our inheritance, our light and our ability to dream of new ways of being free.

***Happy Haitian Heritage Month!***



# FIELD NOTES: **MWC IN ACTION**



## **Mother's Day Mutual Aid Market**

Our Mother's Day Mutual Aid Market brought together 70+ people for an afternoon of celebrating the mothers and caregivers in our community through art, photography, activities for the babies, and resource sharing.



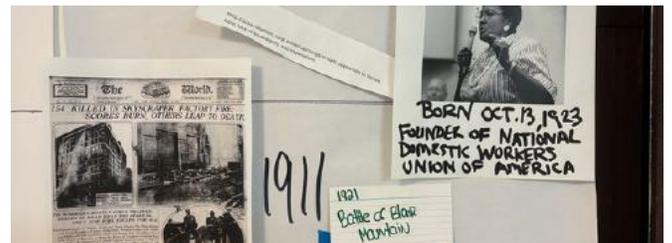
## **May Day**

On May 1<sup>st</sup> International Workers Day, we rallied with UNITE HERE! union workers as they fight for a fair contract and an end to the attacks on immigrant workers.



## **Circle of Consciousness**

In May we collaborated with Miami DSA (Democratic Socialists of America) to lift up stories of the international labor movement. Members learned about the solidarity campaigns between the Black Panther Party and the United Farm Workers, the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire, and the Haitian Revolution.



FIELD NOTES: **MWC IN ACTION** *(continued)*

### Women’s Circle: Preparing for Extreme Weather

Our Women’s Circle this May was focused on getting ready for extreme weather season – hurricanes, flooding, and intense heat. CLEO Institute provided members in attendance with emergency kits, and members Mary Reese and Caprice brought fresh produce to share.



### Community-based Research

A major milestone was accomplished! 10 members completed the Participatory Action-Research Fellowship, and together they collected over 1,000 surveys – data that will be integral to the report we will be releasing later this Fall. Our research will continue into the next phase of conducting focus groups and 1:1 interviews with tenants, to uncover how families are being impacted by housing injustices.



### Transformative Storytelling Workshop

At the end of the month, members gathered for a storytelling workshop hosted by the Communications and Narrative Committee. Together we learned about how to tell our own stories in service of developing our own leadership, and building a broad movement for justice.



## PEOPLE-LED SOLUTIONS

# CHICAGO TEACHERS UNION TO BEGIN PROCESS OF CONVERTING VACANT SCHOOL BUILDINGS INTO HOUSING FOR THE PEOPLE

After more than eleven months of bargaining, working without a contract throughout the entire school year, and for the first time in more than 15 years of doing so without a strike or strike vote, the members of the Chicago Teachers Union resoundingly approved what they are calling a 'turning\_point' contract to improve Chicago Public Schools, negotiated by the union's big bargaining team made up of 65 rank-and-file members.

The new Tentative Agreement has nearly 50 provisions that have never been addressed in any CTU contract before: from enforceable supports for unhoused students, to a wage floor for paraprofessionals, and additional librarians.

## CTU's new contract shows the power that workers can win to bargain for the common good.

The CTU's contract includes major wins for improving the working and learning conditions within Chicago Public Schools. It also goes further and includes agreements that go beyond education – protections for tenants, immigrant families, mental health services, LGBTQIA+ people and women's healthcare.



CHICAGO  
TEACHERS  
UNION



### Housing for All

This tentative agreement also includes enhanced support for Chicago Public School students who are living in precarious housing situations. These advancements matter to ALL educators because the lack of affordable housing pushes families out of the district, creating more instability in their school communities. The contract includes:

- Creating committees with Chicago Public Schools to coordinate city's housing services for students experiencing housing instability
- Creating process with Chicago Public Schools to convert vacant school buildings to affordable housing for low-income students and families and/or non-congregate temporary sheltering places for CPS families experiencing homelessness.
- Advocating for the expansion of affordable housing and rental assistance with the goal of providing housing for all CPS students experiencing housing instability

WE ARE NOT POWERLESS

Distilled version of [article](#) from Waging Nonviolence

## 7 INSPIRING LESSONS FOR RESISTANCE

We are on a perilous path: authoritarianism is rising, democracy is eroding, and vulnerable communities face escalating threats—from climate chaos to the dismantling of public services. While the right advances a dangerous vision, the left often lacks compelling alternatives. The solution? **Build**. Rather than merely resisting or reforming broken systems, we must create new ones, drawing from history's lessons. Gandhi's independence movement succeeded not just through protest but by constructing alternatives—"constructive programs"—that laid the foundations for a just society within the old. True resistance isn't just rejection; it's building a future worth fighting for.



### GROWING RESILIENCE, ONE SEED AT A TIME

Corporate agribusiness monopolizes our food systems, prioritizing profit over people—leaving us vulnerable to disruptions, price hikes, and ecological harm. But communities worldwide are fighting back, reclaiming food sovereignty through **urban farms, co-ops, and farmer partnerships**.

The Michigan Urban Farming Initiative **transforms abandoned Detroit lots into thriving community gardens**, proving that local action can reclaim food sovereignty from corporate control. Every homegrown harvest strengthens resilience—turning empty land into empowerment, one plot at a time.



### RECLAIMING SHELTER AS A HUMAN RIGHT

In cities across the globe, real estate speculation and corporate landlords have turned shelter into a commodity — driving rents sky-high and pushing working people into precarious living conditions or homelessness. But communities are not powerless.

In **Sweden**, nearly 25 percent of all housing is cooperative — a structure that has sparked national debate around housing as a public good, not a commodity. And **in Oakland, California**, the East Bay Permanent Real Estate Cooperative is charting a bold new path. This Black- and Indigenous-led initiative removes land from speculative markets entirely, demonstrating how marginalized groups can reclaim agency — on their own terms.



### HEALING WITHOUT PERMISSION

Globally, health care is often controlled by profit-driven corporations or underfunded systems, leaving millions without basic care—but alternatives exist, like the Black Panther Party's free clinics or China's Barefoot Doctors program. Communities can reclaim care through local health circles, cooperative funds, and education in preventative and traditional medicine, shifting power from institutions to people. Healing should be a partnership, not a monopoly.

*CONTINUED NEXT PAGE...*



**LEARNING TO RESIST,  
LEARNING TO BUILD**

Education is now a battleground as authoritarian forces push book bans, curriculum censorship, and the dismantling of public institutions—but history shows resistance is possible. When Norway’s teachers defied Nazi indoctrination by holding secret classes in homes and forests, they proved that grassroots education can outlast oppression. Today’s fight for uncensored learning isn’t just about schools—it’s about preserving democracy itself.

Communities can reclaim education by defending public schools from privatization and creating liberated learning spaces—from banned-book clubs to underground workshops on marginalized histories. These acts of resistance do more than preserve knowledge; they build the foundation for a society rooted in critical thought, solidarity, and collective liberation. When we teach freely, we plant the seeds of a just future.



**TAKING BACK OUR POWER**

Big energy companies leave us vulnerable to blackouts, high bills, and pollution. But we don’t have to depend on them—communities worldwide are creating their own clean, affordable energy systems. In Germany, neighborhoods own their wind and solar projects, cutting out corporate middlemen. In Puerto Rico, a community-run hydro system kept the lights on during hurricanes when the main grid failed. How to start small:

1. Save energy first: Team up to insulate homes or seal drafty windows.
2. Pool resources: Group-fund solar panels or efficient stoves for outages.
3. Build together: Share skills, apply for grants, or create a tiny “microgrid” with neighbors.



**RECLAIMING THE DIGITAL COMMONS**

Big Tech companies control most of the internet—tracking us, selling our data, and deciding what we see online. But regular people are fighting back by creating their own community-run internet networks.

For example, in Spain, neighbors built **guifi.net**—a DIY internet system that now serves thousands, without corporate control. In Oakland, locals set up **free Wi-Fi networks in underserved areas**. You don’t need to be a tech expert to help—just a willingness to learn and work with others.

**By sharing knowledge and resources, we can take back the internet from Big Tech and make it work for us, not profit.**



**FROM CONTROL TO CARE**

Around the world, communities are creating better ways to prevent harm and handle crises without relying on police. In Australia, neighbors team up to watch out for each other through communication, not confrontation. In Oregon, medics and mental health workers—not cops—respond to crises like homelessness or addiction, with far better results.

You don’t need permission to start.

- Form a group to check on vulnerable neighbors.
- Share skills like de-escalation or first aid.
- Plan together for emergencies (blackouts, extreme weather, conflicts).

Small steps build real safety—not from fear, but from trust.

**UPCOMING EVENTS & TRAININGS**

**FREEDOM  
UNFINISHED**



**JUNETEENTH TEACH-IN**



**LIBÈTE ENKONPLÈ**

KONFERANS ANSÈYMAN **JUNETEENTH**



**LIBERTAD INCONCLUSA**

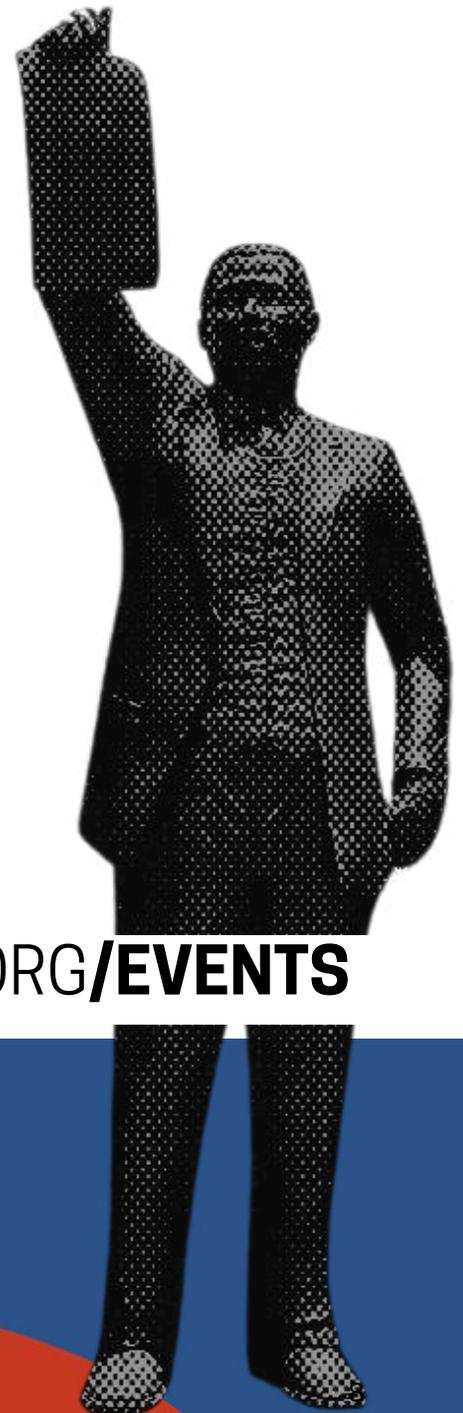
NOCHE DE EDUCACIÓN POPULAR DE LA  
HISTORIA DEL **JUNETEENTH**

**SAT, JUNE 21 • 6-8:30 PM**

**SAMDÌ 21 JEN • SÁB, 21 DE JUNIO**

**MIAMI WORKERS CENTER  
720 NW 55<sup>TH</sup> STREET**

**RSVP – MIAMIWORKERSCENTER.ORG/EVENTS**



**UPCOMING EVENTS & TRAININGS**



**Miami-Dade County Eviction Diversion Project**



Commissioner  
Danielle  
Cohen Higgins  
District 8

**Know Your Rights as a Tenant**

**FREE Event**

**Saturday - June 21, 2025 | 3pm – 5pm**

Coral Reef Branch Library

9211 Coral Reef Drive, Miami, FL 33157

Miami Workers Center

720 NW 55th Street, Miami, FL 33127

(786) 833-7078

evictiondefense@miamiworkerscenter.org



SCAN to apply  
for legal services

The Miami-Dade County Eviction Diversion Project is a collaborative partnership that is empowering renters with information about their rights and how to get support when facing eviction. Join our **FREE** events to learn more about how to defend your rights as a tenant in Miami-Dade County and access legal assistance.

**Conozca Sus Derechos Como Inquilino**

**Evento GRATUITO**

**Sábado - 21 de junio, 2025 | 3pm – 5pm**

Coral Reef Branch Library

9211 Coral Reef Drive, Miami, FL 33157

Miami Workers Center

720 NW 55th Street, Miami, FL 33127

(786) 833-7078

evictiondefense@miamiworkerscenter.org



ESCANEE  
para solicitar  
servicios legales

El Proyecto Alternativo al Desalojo de Miami-Dade es una asociación colaborativa que faculta a inquilinos con información sobre sus derechos y cómo obtener apoyo si se enfrentan a un desalojo. Únase a nuestro evento **GRATIS** para aprender más sobre cómo defender sus derechos como inquilino en el Condado Miami-Dade y cómo acceder a asistencia legal.

**Konnen Dwa w Kòm yon Lokatè**

**Evèman GRATIS**

**Samdi - 21 jen 2025 | 3pm – 5pm**

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9211 Coral Reef Drive, Miami, FL 33157

Miami Workers Center

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(786) 833-7078

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ESKAN  
pou aplike pou  
sèvis legal yo

Pwojè Divèsyon Degèpisman nan Miami-Dade an ap bay lokatè yo pouvwa enfòmasyon sou dwa yo ak sou fason pou jwenn sipò si yo fè fas ak yon degèpisman. Antre nan evènman **GRATIS** nou an pou w aprann plis sou fason pou w defann dwa w antanke lokatè nan Miami-Dade County ak sou fason pou w jwenn asistans legal.



**STORM WATCH**

MAY/JUNE 2025

**UPCOMING EVENTS & TRAININGS**

# Membership Orientation

**Orientación de Membresía  
Oryantasyon Manm**



**SATURDAY, JUNE 28**

**SÁBADO 28 DE JUNIO**

**SAMDI 28 JEN**

4-8PM • 720 NW 55<sup>th</sup> Street  
[miamiworkerscenter.org/events](https://miamiworkerscenter.org/events)



**UPCOMING EVENTS & TRAININGS**

# General Body Meeting

**SATURDAY, JULY 19 - 6 - 8:00 PM**

Get updates from the Executive Director, Staff, and Member Committees about what MWC has been up to, and how you can get involved!

# Asamblea General

**SÁBADO 19 DE JULIO - 6 - 8:00 PM**

¡Reciba actualizaciones de nuestra directora ejecutiva, personal y comités sobre lo que MWC ha estado haciendo y cómo puede participar!

# Asanble Jeneral

**SAMDI 19 JIYÈ - 6 - 8:00 PM**

Resevwa mizajou nan men Direktè Egzekitif nou an, anplwaye yo, ak komite yo sou sa MWC ap fè ak ki jan ou ka patisipe!

