

Thank You Lisa!

Dr. Lisa Brock's time on the DPSP Board has come to an end. With increased commitments at the Arcus Center for Social Justice Leadership at Kalamazoo College, scholarly research and writing and travels to Cuba, where she is a part of the black intellectual community, Lisa is taking a step back from DPSP. Since 2011,

Lisa has brought enthusiasm, creativity and revolutionary love to our board. As a historian and as a lifelong radical activist herself, Lisa has kept us grounded in movement history while staying connected to current organizing realities. We will miss you Lisa and thank you for your service and commitment to our grantees and our movements!

About the Fund

The Davis-Putter Scholarship Fund was created in 1961 as a memorial to Marian Davis, a teacher and advocate for peace, racial justice and the rights of working people. Founded by her husband, Horace B. Davis, the Fund honors Marian and her family's long history of standing up to McCarthyism. Norton Putter was a civil rights activist who brought needed resources and new energy to the Fund in 1987. Our grantees have been at the forefront of virtually every major progressive social movement as artists, scholars, people's lawyers and frontline organizers and have been integral to the work for peace and justice with the same commitment and passion modeled by Marian, Horace and Norton.

Davis-Putter Scholarship Fund grantees are building the power of the people and you can help!

- Donate! There is no endowment and we seek no corporate support.
- Amplify! Share DPSP with friends who might support and student activists who might apply at www.davisputter.org. April 1 application deadline.
- Invest! The future of the Fund depends on you. Make a planned gift today.

Founders: Chandler Davis, Terry Davis, C. Quentin Davis, Mina D. Caulfield

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Building the Power of the People



2019 2020



Jessie Lloyd O'Connor Scholar – Nissa Tzun



Each year the Fund selects a grantee who honors the legacy of commitment to peace and justice modeled by Jessie Lloyd O'Connor, a labor journalist, organizer and an early and beloved member of our Board, who with her husband Harvey, opened heart and home to activists seeking respite. Our **Jessie Lloyd O'Connor Scholar** this year is **Nissa Tzun**, the co-founder and editor-in-chief of the *Forced Trajectory Project*, an award-winning guerrilla media outlet reporting on policing issues nationwide with a special focus on Southern Nevada established in 2009. As a family advocate for families impacted by police homicide for the last 10 years, Nissa has participated, sustained and helped establish multiple anti-police violence organizations including the October 22nd Coalition, Justice for Kenny Coalition, Families United 4 Justice, and the Las Vegas Police Accountability Coalition. Nissa is a communications fellow with Community Change and a media consultant for Mass Liberation Project. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in Journalism & Media Studies and Social Work at University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Anne Braden Award – Zyahna Bryant

The **Anne Braden Award** was created to honor this long-time civil rights activist and Davis-Putter Trustee. The award recognizes an undergraduate working in the South, keeping racism central to all aspects of their movement work. This year's recipient is **Zyahna Bryant**, an award-winning student activist, community organizer, and author who published her first book, a collection of poetry and essays titled, "Reclaim" earlier this year. Zyahna founded the Charlottesville High School Black Student Union at the age of 14 and wrote the petition calling for the removal of Confederate statues from Charlottesville's park. She was recently appointed as the youngest member of Virginia's inaugural African American Advisory Board to advise on issues that impact African Americans across the commonwealth and works to amplify the work of student leaders and grassroots organizers who are actively working to bridge the gap between the Charlottesville community and the University. Zyahna is attending the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, with a double major in Sociology and Political Science.



Welcome Sandra and Nathalie

We are excited to welcome **Sandra Castro Solis**, a 2012/13 DPSP grantee and **Nathalie Meza Contreras**, a 2007/08 and 2015/16 grantee to our board.

Sandra is a Xicana feminist and passionate human and civil rights advocate from the southwest that has spent the last 12 years working with immigrant and frontline communities. She organized the first human rights tribunal in the Southwest region of the United States to expose human rights violations against Indigenous peoples, immigrants, African Americans, and members of the LGBTQ community in 2014 and her work is highlighted in *The State of Arizona* (PBS Documentary) and *Under Arpaio* (Documentary). Sandra earned her BA in History at Arizona State University, a Certificate in Transborder Studies and a master's in Human Rights Studies-International Affairs from Columbia University. She is currently the National Membership & Movement Building Director for the US Human Rights Network.



Nathalie Meza Contreras

Nathalie began her radical organizing work in LA with the October 22nd Coalition Against Police Brutality and as a union organizer with UNITE Here, SEIU and the Teamsters where she learned and put into practice the power of grassroots mobilization. Her decision to go to law school was rooted in her desire to build radical transformative change in her community, focusing on the intersection of critical legal theory, race and power. She was admitted to the CA Bar in 2018 and currently practices Employment Law representing workers who have been wrongfully terminated, discriminated against, and to assist them in recovering unpaid wages. She is on the faculty and board of the Peoples College of Law and is an active member of the Los Angeles Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild.

Go to www.davisputter.org between January 1 and April 1 to apply for a scholarship

Davis-Putter grantees are building the power of the people — organizing inside and out against mass incarceration, over-policing and deportation.

They are navigating the dangerous work of challenging white supremacy and are mobilizing for environmental, racial and gender justice. We invite you to read about them here and spread the word about them everywhere — because we need this good news, we need these activists and they need your ongoing support!

DPSP Class of 2019/20

Fernando Aguirre-Urbina is the last known participant of the 2014 Northwest Detention Center Hunger Strike, was recently released as a result of his own struggle and the support of *La Resistencia* and will now study Writing and Journalism at Seattle Central Community College. **Israt Audry** is a working-class Bangladeshi, a leader in the gender, immigrant and racial justice work of the South Asian youth organization, Desis Rising Up and Moving (DRUM) and is currently pursuing an MSW at the University of Washington. **Roya Banan** focuses activism and academic work at the confluence of movements against mass incarceration and for environmental justice with Rising Tide Seattle and The Campaign to Fight Toxic Prisons, while completing a bachelor's degree in Geography this year at UC Berkeley.

Jenny Bencomo-Suarez recently began organizing with SEIU labor and continues working on immigration rights, reproductive justice, and climate justice with Abolish ICE and Sunrise movements, while studying Latin American/Latino Studies and Middle Eastern/Islamic Studies at University of Louisville. **Tanya Bernard** has been a central leader of the Black Lives Matter movement, dreaming the annual BLM Black Futures Month (February), was the lead organizer for the Movement for Black Lives gathering and is completing a master's

in Nutrition and Dietetics at NYU, engaging in the fight for food sovereignty in oppressed communities.

Aliyah Blackmon was politicized by the Dream Defenders as a 14-year old, joined the S.O.U.L. Sisters Leadership Collective for "girls and femmes of color to interrupt cycles of state violence, poverty, and oppression" and is beginning a BSW at Alabama State University. **Kryssia Campos** advocates for the rights of Central American refugees as an organizer with the Human Rights Alliance for Child Refugees and is currently a first-year medical student at Michigan State University committed to transforming the health of underserved communities by shedding light on systemic inequalities. **Ivette Casas** organizes around health autonomy in the Southwest, focusing on increasing access to medical knowledge and care for undocumented and underserved peoples, while studying Biology.

Daniel Casillas organized against arming campus police, focused on threats to the LGBT, immigrant, undocumented, and Muslim communities and participated in anti-white supremacy actions and an Occupy ICE encampment, while working on a degree in Ethnic Studies/Administration of Justice at San Mateo Community College. **Laura Elaine Daza** worked on campus campaigns against budget cuts, organized with Latinx tenants in San Francisco fighting for their right to dignified and affordable housing and is currently pursuing a master's in Urban and Regional Planning with a concentration in Housing at UCLA. **Erika Franco Quiroz** founded Apoyo, NC to organize poor and working-class undocumented communities in neighborhood mobile home parks, factories, and schools to defend themselves against ICE raids while pursuing an MSW at University of North Carolina to gain tools for her organizing work.

Oloth Inxyiengmay has focused his activism on the impacts of incarceration on API communities, keeping youth out of prison and organizing to stop the construction of a youth jail in Seattle while enrolled at the University of Washington, studying History and Law, Societies and Justice. **Jonathan Janvier** co-founded a political education group on school to prison pipeline, restorative justice and police brutality, leads an ongoing Invest/Divest campaign in the Miami-Dade public schools in response to over-policing and is beginning a bachelor's degree in Philosophy and Sociology at the New College of Florida. **Fiona Joseph** is a youth organizer with Make the Road NJ, building power for working-class and immigrant youth and hopes to further pursue workers' rights and educational justice in Washington, DC where she will study International Affairs at The George Washington University.

Robert Kell is the cofounder of the Young Appalachian Patriots, fighting for economic prosperity and democracy in the mountains by connecting the issues of young whites with those of the Black Lives Matter and Dreamer movements and now is a graduate student at Vanderbilt Divinity School studying religion and economic justice. **Oly Kelly** is a queer and trans rights activist organizing around mass incarceration, food justice, living wages, and student unionization, while responding to white supremacy actions on campus with a racial justice coalition and studying Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies and Social Thought, Political Economy at University of Massachusetts, Amherst. **Colby Lenz** continues working to change sentencing policies, focusing on clemency with people who are facing deportation and is creating a "Me Too Behind Bars" campaign with women and gender-nonconforming folks, while completing a Ph.D. in American Studies



Fernando Aguirre-Urbina, Israt Audry, Roya Banan, Jenny Bencomo-Suarez, Tanya Bernard, Aliyah Blackmon, Kryssia Campos, Ivette Casas, Daniel Casillas, Laura Elaine Daza, Erika Franco Quiroz



Oloth Inxyiengmay, Jonathan Janvier, Fiona Joseph, Robert Kell, Oly Kelly, Colby Lenz, Erika Martinez, Anahi Mendoza, Yemisi Odetoynbo, Kanyinsola Oye, Citali Perez, Yasmeeen Perez, Simone Salvo, Angel Two Bulls

Marilyn Buck Award



Tara Belcher



Sandra Brown

Marilyn Buck was a political prisoner and poet who worked in solidarity with Black Liberation struggles to end white supremacy. She received grants from the Fund in 2003 and 2004, and died of a rare cancer in 2010. Marilyn supported the Fund with regular donations and supportive notes from her jail cell, and with a generous bequest following her death. To honor her memory and legacy, **The Marilyn Buck Award** is given to an incarcerated or formerly incarcerated activist working for justice. **Tara Belcher** and **Sandra Brown** share this year's Marilyn Buck Award. **Tara Belcher** has spent her years of incarceration challenging the inhumane and abusive treatment by corrections officers and policies of the Alabama Department of Corrections. She has organized for real change in policy and treatment of women inside the prison. She has advocated for voting rights, religious freedoms and is currently leading a letter writing campaign advocating on behalf of abused women who are serving LWOP for crimes against their abusers. She will continue studying through Adams State and Colorado State Universities to complete a BSW and use a restorative justice model to make change in her community once released. **Sandra Brown**, a first-year doctoral student at California Coast University, is pursuing an EdD in Organizational Leadership. This poet/playwright/activist remains passionate about helping other women empower themselves through education. Her most recent activities include advocating for fairer sentencing policies & reentry opportunities for prisoners in Illinois punished excessively by Truth in Sentencing laws. Upon release, Brown plans to create & teach college courses for incarcerated students while speaking & advocating for incarcerated women working for justice.

at University of Southern California.

Erika Martinez is a youth organizer at Make the Road NJ, a community organization building the power of immigrant and working-class folks and continues to advocate for the passage of a clean DREAM Act as a second-year student at Rutgers University-Newark studying Sociology and Political Science. **Anahi Mendoza** works to provide equal access to justice and due process to immigrants in deportation proceedings, representation to Central American asylum-seeking women and children detained along the U.S.-Mexico border and is a first-year student Columbia Law School. **Yemisi Odetoynbo** works to achieve Black liberation with Detroit Black Youth Project 100 and is a leader with the Detroit Safety Team, an attempt by grassroots organizers to build alternatives to the police, while pursuing an MSW at Wayne State University.

Kanyinsola Oye works to ensure POC students have and keep their right to vote and founded a women's empowerment organization which she will expand to her home community in

Lagos this year, while working toward a bachelor's in Political Science & History and African Studies at Howard University. **Citali Perez** is a member of Assata's Daughters organizing around over-policing in schools and community, against family separations and for education equity in Chicago and is a freshman studying Journalism, Latino Studies and Political Science at DePaul University. **Yasmeeen Perez** is a community organizer in racial and economic justice, youth liberation, and LGBTQ left movements and is working on issues of displacement and housing justice while pursuing a master's degree in Urban Planning at the University of Washington.

Simone Salvo is a cultural producer and strategist, leveraging the power of artistic expression to inform and mobilize the public on issues of climate change, poverty, and the family separation crisis at the US-Mexico border while pursuing a master's degree at the Interactive Telecommunications Program at NYU. **Angel Two Bulls** focuses her political work around generational trauma combined with informed healing with American Indian Movement leaders and those involved with Standing Rock activism and Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women while working on a PhD in Counseling at Oregon State University.

Read more about our 2019/20 grantees at www.davisputter.org