

DPSF Leadership Updates

Gratitude to **Walter Putter** for his 40-year commitment to the Fund as a trustee, honoring his parents, Norton and Ruth's legacy. As Walter stepped back from the board this year, colleagues shared some words of thanks at our 2025 Annual meeting: "Walter has offered institutional memory and a gentle sense of humor. He has shown a true enthusiasm for each student we grant and a generosity of spirit." Thank you, Walter - you will be missed!

As we continue building our board of directors, we look to past grantees. They have embodied knowledge of just how integral Davis-Putter is for student activists. This year, we are excited to welcome **gabriel sayegh**, who was a DPSF grantee in 2001- 2003 while an undergraduate student at The Evergreen State College. He is a longtime organizer for racial and economic justice and is a co-founder of the Katal Center for Equity, Health, and Justice, where he serves as executive director. Thank you, gabriel - we look forward to you sharing your knowledge, experience and passion with DPSF!

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, along with family and friends, 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, now totaling 1156, 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.

DPSF grantees bring hope through resistance - will you support them with a gift today?

Donate! There is no endowment and we seek no corporate support - we are grassroots!

Amplify! Share DPSF with friends who will support with a donation 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: Mina D. Caulfield, Terry Davis. **Rest in Power:** C. Quentin Davis, H. Chandler Davis, Horace B. Davis, George and Janet Faxon, Sara Gordon, Robert and Jane Hodes, Jessie Lloyd O'Connor, Leonard Radinsky, Dirk Struik, and Ann and Katherine Timpson.

Sponsors: Huwaida Arraf, Lisa Brock, Margaret Burnham, Noam Chomsky, Johnnetta B. Cole, Angela Y. Davis, Lennox S. Hinds, Nancy J. Hodes, Robin D. G. Kelley, Jill Nelson, Jan Phillips, Walter Putter, Barbara Ransby, Paul Schachter, Andrés Torres, and Mary Helen Washington.

Trustees: Matt Birkhold, Karen Buenavista Hanna, Manuela Delnevo, Ben Graham-Putter, Mia Henry, Cedric Johnson, Amanda Katapang, Carol J. Kraemer, Nathalie Meza Contreras, Laura McSpedon, Lenina Nadal, Swati Rayasam, gabriel sayegh, Rachel Stocking, PG Watkins, and Megan Ybarra.



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HOPE through RESISTANCE



Artwork by Favianna Rodriguez, © [2014]

2025
2026



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Davis-Putter grantees bring hope through resistance

Davis-Putter grantees bring hope through resistance in times of deepest despair. We welcome this sixty-fourth grantee cohort, committed to creating transformative movements even as state sponsored violence and repression attempt to stop them from building a world for all of us. Through their resistance and organizing, our grantees honor the lasting legacy of the Davis-Putter Scholarship Fund, and the decades of student activists who have come before. We're still here and our grantees are boldly leading the way!

DPSF Class of 2025/26

Nataly Barragan is a formerly incarcerated student pursuing her Master's Degree in Chicano/a/x Studies at California State University Northridge, researching the criminalization of vulnerable populations while organizing mutual aid, direct action, movement building, and restorative justice. **Abaki Beck** is an organizer, writer, and public health PhD student at the University of Minnesota whose passions lie at the intersections of Indigenous resistance, prison/police abolition, and community driven action for health equity. **Emily Bosworth** is an organizer within historically marginalized communities and is a leader in the graduate student workers' union at the University of Miami, while seeking a PhD in



Nataly Barragan



Abaki Beck



Emily Bosworth



Teja Davis



Cameron Driggers



Dulce Garcia Cleto



Rosen Turquoise Gordon



Ingrid Guandique Gonzalez



Jose Herrera



Me Me Hlaing Oo



Ashley Huesca



Delilah Jabbour



Kole Ko



Reggie Lewis



Kahelelani Mahone



Julia Montej



Natalie Monzon



Cesar Mosquera



Rosa Navarro



Michael Owens



Michael "Chaos" Ralston



Isaac Resendiz



Eleni Sefanit Retta



Ryan "Flaco" Rising

Adams State University to continue supporting civil litigation for elderly, disabled or trans folks inside. **Isaac Resendiz** is a queer, Latine, first generation, working class cultural worker and organizer deeply invested in the environmental justice movement, holding the liberation of land and people as central, while attending San Francisco State University as an Ethnic Studies major. **Eleni Sefanit Retta** is a life-long D.C. area native, labor organizer, and multidisciplinary creative who works to support compensation and benefits of journalist and publishing workers with the Industrial Workers of the World's Freelance Journalists Union, while seeking a Master's in Law at UPenn.

Ryan "Flaco" Rising is an abolitionist organizer, scholar, and PhD candidate in Criminology, Law and Society at the University of California, Irvine and the founder of West Coast Credible Messengers, a network of formerly incarcerated leaders building transformative systems of healing, accountability, and liberation across California. **Nakia Wallace** is a co-founder of Detroit Will Breathe, an anti-capitalist organization addressing police violence, evictions and gentrification, and has been organizing events focused on police repression of protesters in support of Palestine while attending Law School at Wayne State.



Drawing above created by Kahelelani Mahone during a group share about lineage on a recent virtual grantee gathering. Reflecting on the call they said, "Hope is a challenging thing to connect to right now, but it is a powerful anchor. I am feeling hopeful hearing from all of you."

Read about more DPSF grantees on the back page

Jessie Lloyd O'Connor Scholar

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

Bella Week who is studying to

become an investigative reporter at CUNY's Graduate School of Journalism. For over fifteen years, they have been active in movements for prison abolition, queer and trans liberation, immigrant justice, and youth power. Since 2019, Bella has organized with public school educators, students, and families to dismantle policing and build restorative justice in NYC schools. More recently, they helped build a coalition of 30 organizations that coordinated three citywide school walkouts against US support for Israel's genocide in Gaza. Bella aims to use investigative reporting to expose injustice, hold power accountable, and equip communities with information that strengthens collective resistance.

Anne Braden Award

Following Anne Braden's death in 2006, the Fund created an award to honor this long-time civil rights activist and Davis-Putter Trustee that recognizes an activist in the South who keeps



racism central to all aspects of their work. **Loan Tran** is our awardee this year - a southern based organizer with over 15 years of movement building experience across a number of struggles,

namely immigrant, racial, youth, and student justice and organizing. They currently serve as the National Co-Director of Rising Majority, a national formation aligning social movements around a shared vision and power building strategy. Loan also serves on the board of directors of Highlander Center and is a member of Viet Left Power. Loan is interested in the question of faith and spirit as it relates to movement building and the restoration of the social fabric in the U.S. and around the world.

Marilyn Buck Award

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 continued connection through supportive notes from her jail cell. To honor her memory and legacy, The Marilyn Buck Award is given to an incarcerated or formerly incarcerated activist working for justice. **Kinzie Noordman** is this year's awardee.



Kinzie is currently pursuing a M.A. from CSU Dominguez Hills in Humanities minoring in Punishment and Abolition. Her advocacy work started as a teen fighting for LGBTQ rights and environmentalism. Today, she works as a Research Advocate for the UC Sentencing Project and alongside advocacy groups focusing on social justice reform. She serves as an editor for the prison newsletter, The Razor Wire, and uses her lived experience and education to fight for a future without violence, hate and inequality. Kinzie is passionate about advocating for incarcerated women, restorative justice and using the power of narratives to change individuals and systems of oppression.

Brock/Ransby Award

The Brock/Ransby Award was created to honor the international solidarity and racial justice work of Dr. Lisa Brock and Dr. Barbara Ransby both Chicago-based historian/scholar-activists who organized against South-African Apartheid. This award is given to a graduate student activist with an international solidarity focus, rooted in racial justice. **AJ Kurdi** is our awardee this year. AJ is a Ph.D. student in the Department of



Ethnic Studies with a Designated Emphasis in Gender, Women, and Sexuality at the University of California, Berkeley. His research focuses on transnational social movements, immigration

and diaspora studies, policy diffusion, and queer of color critique. AJ's dissertation examines the circulation of ethnicity and race within intersectional queer organizing, and its impact on mainstream movements and public policies across Europe and North America. A significant aspect of his work involves studying Palestinian activist circles in Europe, where he has been actively involved for years as a student. AJ's research is deeply informed by themes of immigration policies, imperialism, and Islamophobia from a relational framework across various Global North contexts, aligning with his commitment to advocating for interconnected struggles on a global scale.

**Read more about our
2025/26 grantees and
DPSF leadership at
davisputter.org**

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