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May 2024

Dear Friend of Davis-Putter,

Earlier this spring, members of this year's grantee cohort, plus staff and board members, came together for a powerful weekend gathering at the Highlander Center for Research and Education. Together, we explored the inextricable link between the historical legacies of Davis-Putter and Highlander, and how our individual political lineages and ongoing work strengthen, support and reflect those legacies. We were able to connect as movement community, rest and rejuvenate and find inspiration for the continued journey! Some ah-ha take-aways from the weekend shared by grantees:

"The extent of Davis-Putter legacy. The history of Highlander and the sacredness of the space. The work and energy of everyone. All of the amazing folks who came here before us."

"Others were thinking about/struggling with similar questions and feeling in need of community/political home."

"Cross-solidarity potential is both possible and infinite."

"I was surprised I was able to connect and relate to the other people in my cohort in the short amount of time we had together."

"We're a large community of people doing their best every day! Hope is alive! We are struggling together, that's power!"

That struggle, that power is reflected below in the highlights of our grantees' work for radical change over the past few months. As you read about their ongoing work and the impact they are able to have because of your past support, please know how grateful we are for your generosity. I know you will want to continue your support for our next class of grantees with a donation to Davis-Putter!



Alec Bates relocated from Nashville to Minneapolis where he immediately became involved with the movement for a Ceasefire in Gaza, while continuing work on alternative communication systems for comrades back in Tennessee. **Derrick Braddock** is currently awaiting a date for a parole hearing while continuing work toward a BA in Sociology with an emphasis on legal studies and addressing disability discrimination in the Michigan DOC system. **Stella Caban** was called to re-activate the Mauna Medic Healers Hui acting as grassroots frontline support for disaster relief following the Maui wildfires, while organizing direct actions including visibility, art builds, and lobbying in support of Palestine sovereignty and indigenous solidarity from Hawai'i to Palestine.

continued inside

continued from page 1

Rene Cabrera worked to form a student group organizing for a living wage and support for student employees on Washburn University's campus, while participating in protests for Palestine in the KC metro area. **Ivette Casas** deployed as a street medic and trainer for numerous direct actions including at Cop City in Atlanta and in DC for mass marches for a free Palestine. **Jorge Corona** continues as a mentor to Writer's Guild Initiative workshopers and joined the picket line with the Writer's Guild for their historic contract (Shown photo right with his son on his first picket line!), while completing his short film, *The People In Costume*, about an immigrant, without a social security number, who asks to be paid for work they did in a Times Square office.

New to Boston and law school, **Jaylen Cavil** joined the Black Law Students Association, the Committee Against Institutional Racism and the National Lawyers Guild, training in legal observing for protests and actions, while organizing direct action and mobilizations with Northeastern's chapter of Law Students for Justice in Palestine. **Paige Chung** conducted fieldwork in Vietnam with QT Việt Cafe Collective of Artists and Healers, a subsection of the Asian Refugees United Organization and Asian Americans for Civil Rights and Equality and in Thailand with Triple Edge, a human rights activist and hip-hop collective. **Chichi Castillo** organized with the academic student union, UAW 4123 and deepened her work on anti-colonial cinema, while being in solidarity to the struggle for a free Palestine, providing jail and court support for the Bay Bridge 78.



Lucille Elliott continued creating the Riot Ghoul RVA Zine, including a comprehensive breakdown of Virginia's economic ties to the IDF and began hosting Riot Ghoul Radio on WVCW, while joining in actions in solidarity with Palestine. (Photo left weekly march in Richmond, VA). **Aysia Gilbert** has focused on racial equity and accessibility since arriving at Duke and remained connected to her work with the Jacksonville Community Remembrance Project, supporting efforts years in the making to take down a Confederate statue in a downtown park. **Dustin Gordon** is working to complete an M.A. in Humanities from CSU that focuses on Prison Abolition and Liberation by 2025, while assisting incarcerated folks fight back against a white supremacist judicial system and organizing them to speak out against the inhumane prison industrial complex.

Nicholas Greven founded the Abolition Law Organization, a student group at CUNY and joined National Lawyers Guild as well as his neighborhood tenants union, searching for a radical movement home

after moving from Indiana to New York. **Nur Jannah Kaalim** focused on Critical Refugee Studies and organizing solidarity with Gaza while continuing the work to strengthen grassroots movements for immigrant and refugee inclusion and a commitment to the global fight against militarism, state violence, and displacement. **Banah Khamis** worked to create a solidarity network to connect Queers for Palestine and the Philadelphia Palestine Coalition with the Save Chinatown and the Save UC Townhomes collectives, building cross-movement solidarity to address displacement of marginalized and minoritized peoples in Philadelphia and across the world in Palestine.

Jelina Liu continued leadership development and political education with GW Dissenters, joining with other organizations to create the GW Student Coalition for Palestine, organizing marches and actions on the George Washington campus as well as calling for the university to divest from the weapons industry. **Shayna Naranjo** continues working to strengthen Indigenous community capacities for health, community care, and well-being—health equity through her work

for Indigenous youth support, sacred site protection, and ethnic studies and will graduate this spring with an MPH from Yale School of Public Health. **Ijeoma Okoro** was selected as a good accelerator fellow based on her work with the commission on juvenile justice to include more minorities in medicine while creating the ORAUSA youth volunteer program dedicated to connecting igbo Nigerians in America to those in Nigeria.



Leslie Perez co-presented on how to teach academic writing to multilingual peers and researched “historical Indigenous commons” as it pertains to Indigenous communities, while remaining connected to community organizing efforts with *Fight Toxic Prisons* and *Atlanta Survival Program*.



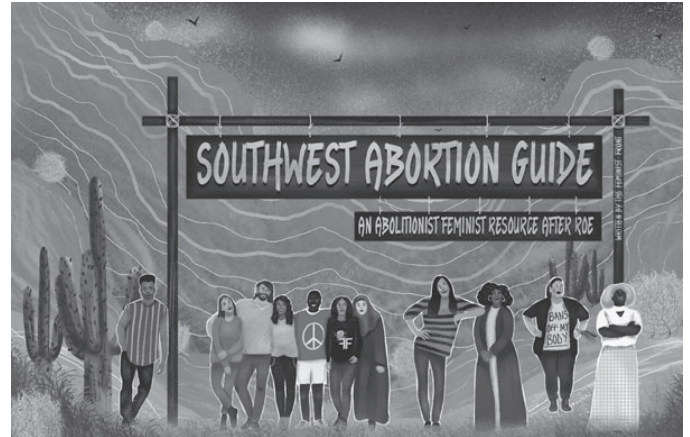
Monique Orozco continued her Chicana and American Indian cultural work of

ceremony creation, healing and activism, organizing a *Celebrating Indigenous Artists* event (pictured left) creating visibility for the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives crisis. **free Pierre** was a part of the *Decarceral Visions* planning committee, bringing together hundreds of advocates and organizers dedicated to the abolition of prisons and policing to discuss and to strategize together on what is needed for decarceration efforts.

Chanravy Proeung bridged grassroots work with academic

work through a comprehensive case study on Haymarket People’s Fund and blended her reproductive justice work by interviewing doulas and SISTA Fire members about racial disparities in birthing and breastfeeding.

Alex Prolman organized healthcare workers for Palestine pressuring Congress members to sign onto a ceasefire resolution (*Photo in banner*), while laying groundwork for future healthcare worker union organizing as a nursing student at UNC Chapel Hill. **Somdeng Danny Thongsy** organized with Immigrant Rights San Joaquin Valley through Ice Out Stockton Coalition, strategizing and planning for anti-deportation campaigns for formerly incarcerated immigrants. **Cassandra Villanueva** focused on electoral organizing, voter registration and anti-hate and anti-discrimination efforts on Eastern New Mexico University campus .



Cassie Rubio continued as the co-chair of The Feminist Front, a national gender justice organization who helped produce a FREE Abolitionist Abortion Guide (see above), while partnering with Palestinian Feminist Collective to author an organizational pledge calling for a ceasefire in Gaza.

I'm sure you feel as inspired as I do by the commitment and power in the collective work of our grantees. The applications of our Class of 2024/25 are currently being reviewed and interviews are taking place. We are so grateful for your past giving and ask for your continued support to directly impact the amount of funding we can award at the end of June. Will you give generously today in support of our Class of 2024/25? Thank you for your commitment to our grantees and the legacy they are building.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carol J. Kraemer, Director

P.S. Will you consider joining our Monthly Movement Building Circle by setting up a recurring gift at www.davisputter.org? Support the future of the Fund with a designated planned gift to ensure our sustainability! Contact me at davisputter@davisputter.org.

Rest in Power Darrin Lester - DPSF Grantee 2023/24

With sadness and rage we share that our grantee, Darrin Lester died of kidney failure this past year. He had been released in June 2021 after serving numerous incarcerations, including 12 years at Mt. Olive Correctional Complex. While incarcerated, Darrin created The Olive Tree, bringing together a group of men holding each other accountable to promote and encourage change and launched several unique programs within the West Virginia Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation. As an MSW candidate in 2023, Darrin was working closely with formerly incarcerated folks in hopes of helping them understand past trauma and ways to heal from those experiences. He was a staunch advocate for education within the prison industrial complex, working with the Appalachian Book Project. DPSF Trustee, Megan Ybarra said, "While it is a punch in the gut every time someone passes due to state violence, it is a comfort to know that we remember and continue the work in solidarity so they can rest in power."



Congratulations DPSF 2024 Graduates!

Alec Bates, BA Middle Tennessee State University

Derrick Braddock, AA Adams State University

Ivette Casas, BA Spanish UC Santa Barbara

Jelina Liu, MA, Political Communication, George Washington University

Shayna Naranjo, MA, Social and Behavioral Science, Yale University Public Health

Chanravy Proeung, MPH, Yale Public Health

Alex Prolman, BA, Nursing, University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill

Somdeng Danny Thongsy, BA Sociology, UC Berkeley

Davis-Putter Scholarship Fund

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