



On Thursday the 13th, the **Jan 17, 2011**
'class class' invited folks from **5:24 PM**
organizations that have been
inspirational to our work to come share a potluck
supper and discuss their specific experiences
building multi-racial and multi-class membership
organizations. Below are some of the things that
folks talked about.

Claudia Horowitz, the Stone House

Around class, "our bottom-line is never to turn
anyone away, which isn't really enough". Some
programs are free, while others are sliding-scale
with scholarships available. The overall goal
is to make all programs at least 50% people-
of-color. For most program, like their 'Soul

In commemoration of the birthday of Rev.
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., **news of another**
sanitation worker's struggle, today in Chapel
Hill:

On Oct 29, Town Administration under
Manager Roger Stancil fired the Sanitation
2 – Mr. Clyde Clark and Rev. Kerry Bigelow,
Public Works Sanitation workers. They were
fired after helping lead workers in filing
grievances, and speaking out to Mayor
Kleinschmidt and Town Council about
racism and dangerous conditions. Clark
and Bigelow are stewards of UE 150, NC
Public Service Workers Union. The Town
paid CAI – an anti-worker, anti-union outfit
– \$150/hour for a biased "investigation"
based on unsubstantiated charges that goes
against Town policy. The UE150 Statewide
Municipal Council calls for the following
support: Contact Chapel Hill Mayor and
Council: 919-968-2714; mayorandcouncil@
townofchapelhill.org to demand: Rehire the
Sanitation 2 Immediately! For more, see
www.iwjc.org.

Sanctuary' retreat for activists, the Stone House
(TSH) holds places open for people of color and
keeps a waitlist when there are too many white
applicants. So far, their outreach has mostly been
through word-of-mouth, and Claudia stressed
the importance of cultivating key allies for
outreach. One of TSH biggest challenges has
been meeting their cost needs (as a land-based
center with a large mortgage and a number
of employees) while still staying relevant to
struggle.

Dr. Alexis Pauline Gumbs, the Eternal Summer of
the Black Feminist Mind

Eternal Summer is an experiment, like the
bakery. Alexis said it "comes from a question
of how education can happen differently, and
it's also sort of like an on-going rent party and
a constant experiment in what it means to be
community-supported". She talked a lot about
different kinds of accountability: to elders, to
ancestors ("what does it mean to have dead
black feminists be your primary accountability
community?"). Alexis also stressed the power of
putting out clear and bold intentions for her work,
even using percentages or numbers as goals.

Some themes and thoughts from the study
session on co-ops and political economy,
part 2

A lot of the co-ops we read about had
co-operative economics classes – which
makes us think about doing this sort of
thing, or political education, as part of the
bakery. It takes a lot to be able to step
away from capitalism to envision and
plan other economic structures – so this
sort of learning and discussion space is
important.

Collective assets – what are the ways in
which the bakery is an asset? The Color
of Wealth talks a lot about wealth – assets –
and how much more access white people
have had to wealth creation, than people
of color. How do we structure the bakery
so that it is a collectively held asset? We
talked about whether a legal structure felt
important to us, or whether a feeling of
trust was more important, or both. Trust
seems crucial, but also relies on people
coming in who already trust Noah and Tim

One of the things that has happened recently
with the Eternal Summer is a decision to set
and communicate clear intentions for the work
that the Eternal Summer does. That means that
some spaces are set aside specifically for folks
who can be physically present, while others
incorporate online components (Alexis talked
about the experience of knowing that people in
Berlin, for example, were contributing money to
support the Eternal Summer even for programs
that they couldn't take part in). In addition to
creating "spaces specifically inspired by and
focused on the brilliance of black women and
black queer people that are open as a space of
study and worship for everyone who is ready
to be inspired and transformed", the Eternal
Summer is also incorporating "programs that
honor the intentionality and value of space that
is more specifically and intentionally aligned".
That means creating some spaces specifically
for black women, others for women and gender-
defiant folk of color.

Caitlin Breedlove, Southerners on New Ground
Caitlin brought some deep analysis around
the connection between experiments in

(because legally we are the ones who are
the bakery "owners") – which very much
limits the ways in which we could expand.

In the Piece, Other Economies Are Possible,
we read about co-ops in Venezuela that
are being supported by the government
there. We read about the need to be
part of a broader movement, because
if you are a co-op alone in a capitalist
economy, you are bound to be co-opted
into competition and other capitalist ways
of being, in order to survive. What are the
other networks we could connect with –
solidarity economy and co-op networks in
the South and Eastern US; other folks doing
lots of different types of work locally?

Bread Uprising Bakery
816 Yancey St., Durham, NC 27701
breaduprising@resist.ca
<http://breaduprising.wordpress.com>

community economics like Bread Uprising and
concrete reform work that focuses on creating
opportunities for "people to fight and discover
the limitations in systems", and discover their
own power through concrete struggles. She gave
us the advice to "keep in mind that people are
out there fighting on the front lines to hold space
open in hopes that you'll do this work", and that
therefore we should "play our position strongly
... with the full responsibility of the people who
come after us, because this is a hugely critical
time".

Caitlin echoed Alexis in talking about the
usefulness of setting clear numerical/percentage
goals in terms of membership. From this point
forward in the United States, 'multi-racial' by
default is going to mean majority people-
of-color, just in terms of the make-up of the
population. SONG has moved towards having a
leadership that's more like 75% people of color.
Another organizational practice they've found
crucial is always having a part of SONG that is
a people-of-color only space (whether that's an
annual retreat, caucuses, etc.), and normalizing
that practice as something that strengthens the
organization as a whole.

Herbed foccacia (580g/portion)

Contains: Durham water (29%), OG ww flour
(24%), OG white flour (24%), Onions (7%), NC
Farmers Market tomatoes (5%), Olive oil (4%),
Capers, Pizza seasoning, Salt, Yeast

Half-wheat sourdough sandwich (840g/loaf)

Water (36%), OG ww flour (30%), OG white
flour (30%), veg oil (3%), NC Honey (1%), Salt

Whole-wheat sandwich bread (840g/loaf)

OG ww flour (57%), Water (35%), Vegetable oil
(4%), NC Honey (2%), FT Molasses, Salt, Yeast

Dilly carrot bread (740g/loaf)

Ingredients: Water (34%), OG Unbleached
bread flour (28%), OG Whole wheat bread flour
(20%), OG carrot (9%), OG cornmeal (3%), Dill
seed (2%), Dry basil (1%), Salt, Dry dill weed

Lemon Poppyseed muffins (476g/half-dozen)

Ingredients: OG ww pastry flour (39%), NC
Honey (24%), Pecan milk (15%, NC pecans,
water), Lemon juice (12%), Poppy seeds (7%),
Canola oil (3%), Flax egg replacer, Baking
Powder (1%), Lemon zest, Lemon extract, Salt