

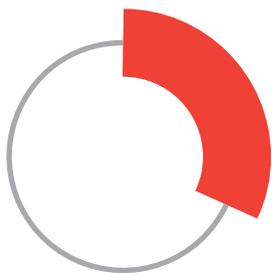
The Philadelphia Partisan

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the Cesar Andreu Iglesias community garden

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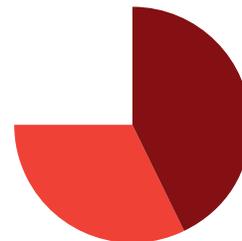
BY GEOFF REED



only 32% of Americans have a favorable opinion of mass media according to a 2016 Gallup poll

1,813%

increase in the number of gentrifying Philadelphia neighborhoods since 2000



people under 30 have a more favorable view of socialism than capitalism, 43% versus 32%, respectively, according to a 2016 yougov poll

The Shovel and the Fist

Guerrilla gardening as resistance

by Willow Zef
January 15, 2017



BY GEOFF REED

Back in 2013, the Philly Socialists broke ground on a garden in North Philadelphia. Built on the principles of taking unproductive land, reinvigorating the abandoned earth, and building community relationships. What better way to grow roots than by digging into the land and planting seeds?

The years since have seen many hands working the gardens soil and many gatherings of neighbors. Fuego Nuevo, for example, a dance troupe led by Cesar Viveros (whose sculptures also grace the space) have been performing ritual dance in accordance with the Spring & Fall Equinox, both to welcome in the new planting season and to give thanks for the harvest. Cesar's work is inspired by Toltec & Aztec culture; a statue of Quetzcoatl, the feathered serpent, proudly sits at the entrance of the garden.

Alongside Fuego Nuevo, the Philly Socialists have hosted a pig roast and mini-concerts. Most recently, there was a back-to-school party where they gave away school supplies to neighboring kids. The event gave everyone an opportunity to eat from the land. There was face painting and a blow-up jumpy castle too!

The garden itself is playfully alive, some might call it unruly, with a number of wild edibles & medicinals like red clover, dandelion, chicory, mugwort, lambs quarter, and plantain (not the cooking banana though, but the low growing

plant used most often to soothe bug bites and prevent infection in minor cuts & speed up their healing). There are three mulberry trees on the outskirts of the garden that are abundant with juicy berries in the late Spring. This past season, they added to the tree collection by planting a tiny elderberry sapling dug up from La Finquita (a few blocks south at Lawrence & Master) as well as two pawpaws (a fruit tree native to the northeast region of the country). It will be a few years before they produce fruit, but in the meantime, they've grown everything from corn to watermelon to calendula.

Currently, because it's winter time, the garden will rest without any of the hardier Fall & Winter greens like kale.

When Spring & Summer roll around, they look forward to planting anew and seeing what pops up (like the lima bean plants that travel from Miss Katy's house next door), expanding the garden into the empty lots across the way, and continuing the community gatherings and workdays. Keep your ear to the ground for up-

“What better way to grow roots than by digging into the land and planting seeds?”

dates. Philly Socialists have a couple specific projects in the making, including a medicine crafting workshop and a cooking class for kids in the neighboring community. Ingredients for the garden will be utilized for both.

If you'd like to volunteer or become more involved, the next clean up day for the garden is scheduled for Saturday, February 4th 2017. Feel free to email willowzef@gmail.com with any questions, and like the garden on Facebook @ Cesar Andreu Iglesias Community Garden, and perhaps most importantly, visit the garden whenever. It's located on Lawrence & Arlington (right near Cousins on 5th). 🍷



BY CESAR VIVEROS

17-17

G. Reed

the colors born with the masses
come bound in a book of matches
less seen - still never not at hand,
friction made from any demands
to strike and fan red yellow flames,
black smoke calls to a past we must reclaim



BY MARA HENAO

Fighting for a Just Cause

Is there a way to distribute power amongst neighbors in order to fight gentrification?

by Jason Werley

January 15, 2017

Suppose you've rented a house in, say, Kensington for 10+ years. You've accumulated years of memories, watched your kids take their first steps, grown sentimental. It's your home. Suddenly, you see the neighborhood changing. All your familiar neighbors seem to be disappearing, replaced by young professionals from out of town. Then your landlord informs you he isn't renewing your lease. You may try to fight this in court, but truth be told, you won't be able to put up much of a struggle. In Philadelphia, there is no legislation protecting tenants from this kind of practice. Why would your landlord do this? You've paid your rent, taken care of the property, and upheld your part of the lease. Well, your new neighbors are most likely paying much higher rent than their predecessors and your landlord wants a piece of the pie. He understands you would struggle with a rent hike and wants you out of the way. All

a natural consequence of a socio-economic situation that places a landlord's individual profits above a renters right to decent housing.

This is what gentrification looks like for many Philadelphia residents. Philadelphia's rate of gentrification is the second highest in the nation, outpaced only by San Diego. Gentrification is the process of wealthier residents moving to an area and the changes that occur due to the influx of wealth. As wealthier, often white newcomers begin populating a neighborhood, the surroundings begin to change as well. This process often is accompanied by what developers and city planners refer to as "urban renewal" intended to "clean up" the area, code for the colonial-like eviction of long-term poor, largely black and latino residents and businesses. Developers and city officials love gentrification. For them, the rich and influential, it means increased profits

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From Discourse to Defiance

A Letter from the Editors

January 15, 2017

"The sun will rise in America", Obama told the nation the day after the election. And so the members of Democratic party leadership have, one by one, shown their necks and promised unity to the president-elect. Our political moment could not get much stranger.

This is not the first time in history a liberal establishment has met the fascist menace with open arms. The last rise of fascism in the West was greeted with similar cowardice, with the German liberal ruling class choosing to defend its narrow interests (namely the interests of the capitalist class, many of them open Nazis) rather than the interests of the vulnerable population. Their ambivalence cost the world tens of millions of lives. We could not afford their cowardice then, and we cannot afford it now.

We the workers, the students, the unemployed and underemployed, the dishwashers and teachers, the mothers and fathers: We the beating heart of society itself. We cannot and we will not allow fascism to take root again.

The corporate media has offered a fairly pathetic resistance: it mocks the members of the working class who decided to vote for Trump or not at all, and points the finger at familiar cold-war scapegoats (Russians, the Left, etc). Constrained by capitalist ideology, their "objectivity" amounts to a dog-and-pony show where debates are neutered and inconvenient facts simply discarded in order to shamelessly appeal to their Washington masters. They refuse to imagine a future

free of fascism, of exploitation, of hunger, or of capitalism. It falls to us.

The ruling class and its media lackeys believe as long as they don't discuss the horrors facing us, the worst will never come to pass. So we must break through their wall of silence and to imagine that fairer, more just future in conversation with our friends, our family, our peers, and our co-workers. We must sing the insurrection with our every breath. We must tell our story, our history, to learn and move forward with precision and accuracy against the forces that would keep us down. We must uplift the voices that power would silence. We know what power has in store for us: According to former federal reserve head Alan Greenspan, the health of **their** economy (of capitalism) is based partly on **our** insecurity - the insecurity of workers. But our insecurity arises from our isolation, and our isolation keeps us from dissenting effectively.

Our dreams and our interests have been obscured for too long behind media spin and capitalist greed. We need new platforms, including one for the working people of Philadelphia to voice real concerns and propose our own solutions that the corporate news would not dare suggest. We have a new world in our hearts, and neither the condescension of liberals nor the violence of fascists will stem the radical democracy this moment is calling forth.

In Solidarity.

Philadelphia Partisan Editorial Staff 🇺🇸

New Day 2 Come

by Lindo Yes

January 15, 2017

Obama look like a freeman,
Giving his house to the Bounty Hunter.

After endorsing the former slave owner, who put us on plantations. He is trying to convince us, that this is as American as apple pie. As if we didn't get a slice of it at the dinner table,

With Jim Crow, Uncle Sam and Uncle Tom giving us the Trayvon Verdict.

We are hurt

We are scarred

And America wants us to cover our scars with emotional makeup, You know, grin and endure.

Maybe hold up a fist in silence

But there been too many riots of the Unheard,

We finna to turn up the volume of the speaker, Make alot noise!!!!

Break alot glass ceilings, stomp on alot floors, leave the ground breaking!!

Because we been carrying America on Our aching...lynch back for so long.

And tell me what's more patriotic than that?!

To love a country that keeps reminding you that it hate you

I mean

The Electoral College looks like a red carpet for the KKK

So we finna to cut a rug

Do a One Two-step

Until we leave footprints of a giant Because they are trying to birth a nation

We going to abort that ignorance

Plan Parenhoods that raise sons and daughters to a new day to come and I know they going to come for me,

Asking me to say sorry,

But I have been to unapologetic lately

Because I have too much faith in my culture

Too much faith in my people and too much faith in a new day to come 🇺🇸

from foot traffic with disposable incomes and higher property values. For everyone else it translates to “higher rent, higher taxes, higher expenses.” It means the displacement of long term residents, unable to afford the rising cost of living. It means families losing their homes.

According to statistical data measuring low income census tracts in the nation’s 50 biggest cities, the pace of gentrification nationally has more than doubled since 1990. But in Philadelphia, the pace of gentrification has increased by more than 1,800 percent over that same timeframe. In the decade between 1990 and 2000, only four low-income Philly census tracts were deemed to be gentrifying by the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. Since 2000, however, 84 tracts have begun gentrifying. That means between 1990 and 2000, only 1.5 percent of the city’s low income neighborhoods experienced gentrification. Since then, 28.7 percent of those neighborhoods are gentrifying, a staggering 1,813 percent jump. Analyzing Census data from the past 15 years, you can find that Philadelphia lost a fifth of its housing units that rent for \$750 or less, which is the rent range deemed “affordable” to the city’s average renter by the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia.

Before you start packing up your belongings and searching craigslist for a new residence, remember: resistance is possible! The Philadelphia Tenants Union (PTU) is a tenant-led organization dedicated to winning safe, decent, and affordable housing for every renter in Philly. One way it does this is through a push for legislation called Just Cause Eviction. Just Cause Eviction legislation has already been successfully passed in cities like Seattle and San Francisco to great effect. It’s a way to create a legal protective process to keep tenants in their homes. It gives tenants the ability to match the power of the landlords. After all, it’s the tenants that lose their homes. Landlords only lose some profits and we firmly believe the shelter of our fellow Philadelphians should always take precedence over the earnings of landlords who do nothing to earn those profits other than owning property.

Just Cause Eviction laws are legislation preventing landlords from evicting tenants for reasons outside of an approved list. This list includes:

- Failure to pay rent or late payments after written warning more than four times per year
- The tenant has failed to correct a violation of the lease or laws concerning public nuisance, sanitation, unlawful business, or habitually causes warnings to be issued with corrections made
- The owner’s family is moving into the unit and no adequate other units are available
- The sale of a single-family home
- Tenant-employees who are no longer employees
- Renovation, demolition, or conversion to nonresidential use
- Violation of a legal requirement, such as building suitability or number of occupants
- Tenants who live with the owner
- If drug or health and safety-related crimes are committed (by the tenant or with the tenant’s consent) on the property, street, or neighboring properties

Getting this kind of ordinance passed will be an uphill struggle. Landlords and developers dismiss these kinds of laws as forms of rent control, what they see as government interference with the mechanisms of the free market. But keeping our neighbors (and ourselves) in our homes should be much more important than the workings of abstractions like the free market. Not to mention the fact that rent control itself is absolutely necessary to retain Philly’s working class character. The city’s ruling elite don’t see it that way and they have the wealth and political connections to try to prevent Just Cause from seeing the light of day. That’s why the PTU needs all the help it can get to fight for this important piece of legislation. They already have a petition with 1000+ signatures and are planning a direct action at the first city council meeting of the year on January 26th. If you would like to support these important struggles for tenant justice contact someone at PTU via Facebook at [facebook.com/phillytenantsunion](https://www.facebook.com/phillytenantsunion) or call them directly at 267-753-9637. 🇺🇸

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 20

12pm

Student Walkout on Trump’s Inauguration

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, CONVERGE ON THOMAS PAINE PLAZA AT 3PM

3pm

The People’s Inauguration

THOMAS PAINE PLAZA

January 21

10am

Women’s March on Philadelphia

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN PARKWAY

4pm

RADICAL SOUP

What Does Socialism Mean for Me?

WEST KENSINGTON MINISTRY

January 28

1pm

CAMP CADRE

Philly Socialists 101

NORTHERN LIBERTIES COMMUNITY CENTER

January 30

West Kensington Branch Meeting

TIME AND LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED

Cada lunes

6:30pm

Clases de Ingles GRATIS

CIRCLE THRIFT, 1125 S. BROAD

Every Monday

6:30pm

FREE ESL Classes

CIRCLE THRIFT, 1125 S. BROAD

Cada martes

6:30pm

Clases de Ingles GRATIS

TOWEY REC CENTER

Every Tuesday

6:30pm

FREE ESL Classes

TOWEY REC CENTER