



*I'm a man who loves you all and  
this spinning ball so much that  
I'm going to fulfill my childhood  
promise to myself to be noble.'*

*I want to free every nigga in jail  
and then  
Smoke a blunt  
I want to kill every cop every ice  
agent  
And afterwards we  
Will smoke a million blunts  
For every  
Body lost*

*I really don't give a fuck anymore  
We've been at war for a long time  
And it's about time*

*We harnessed love into firearms  
And fulfilled the promise  
Made by Garcia Lorca  
To himself in  
The back of  
Guardia's car*

*Roque Dalton is reciting poetry in  
an ocean  
so many martyrs we could never  
put lips too  
I want to  
Crip walk on  
Crackers  
Like its 92'  
smoke  
Blunts  
And even  
Briefly  
Be free  
It's the end  
Of the american century  
And our best  
And most noble  
Are rotting in  
Hospitals  
Or already  
Dead*

*I'm drinking my kidney  
Away  
And dreaming of smoking  
A blunt  
On the grounds  
Of the  
White house  
After its  
Been burnt to the stone  
Tablet  
gnawed on  
a blind black Moses  
False peace among a  
Lattice work sky  
I dream  
Pirouettes and  
Vengeance  
For what has been done  
To us  
In time  
We weep  
The whirlwind  
But before that.  
Let's smoke a blunt  
And begin to lay waste  
To ruins.  
To prepare ourselves a gold robe  
And slippers  
To smoke a blunt  
Under a bone tree.  
  
A liberated forest.*



**SOLIDARITY, MY ASS!**

A new MTA anti-hate crime propaganda campaign playing on themes of "kindness, respect and solidarity" was unveiled on January 27, 2020, timed to coincide with the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. This campaign also comes after three months of principled and growing resistance to the fare system, racist policing, harassment of performers and vendors, inaccessibility and police brutality in the subway, joining movements growing worldwide. This optical move is reportedly justified by an increase in acts of anti-Semitism in the city and tri-state area, as well as an attack on a trans woman journalist on the C train earlier in January. Without minimizing the severity of these incidents, we must question whose safety is prioritized, and whose perceived vulnerability is turned into an example. We call bullshit on the idea that an increase in "hate crime" punishment will lead to any decrease in hateful behavior in the subway. This campaign is a flimsy, sugar-coated attempt to justify the addition of 500 new transit cops, which we know means an increased likelihood of police brutality, primarily endangering Black and Brown people.



You can be sure that the 19-year-old Black teenager slammed on the floor of a 4 train by police officers at gunpoint in October over \$2.75 isn't the recipient of this freshly spun narrative of kindness and protection. We refuse this propaganda told in a regurgitated language bit off from our own movements, this false story that twists queers and Jews into a fragile appendage of white supremacy. Why would we trust Adrian's assailants to protect anyone but their own vested interests? The state loves to stoke anti-Black scapegoating within other marginalized groups as a key to assimilation and personal gain. Conflict between Jews and Black people in NYC is a historic tension with many factors, all pointing back to larger symptoms of white supremacy and the poisonous American project. Outlive Them NYC, a coalition of anti-fascist Jews, has been working to synonymize the struggle against anti-Semitism with the abolition of prisons and policing. We must not use the cry of anti-Semitism as a veil for increased endangerment of Black New Yorkers. There is nothing healing or pacifying about increasing police presence in Jewish enclaves abutting Black neighborhoods. We will put an end to the co-optation, erasure, and misuse of our ancestors' traumas. We refuse state condescension, criminalization and fearmongering that further obscures our common enemies. And you can be sure that some blue lives matter shit will consider cops as a reasonable group of people to experience "bias." The technicality of including graffiti as a hate-crime opens the door to even more script-twisted trickery. Can a justified "FTP" scrawled over an ad for \$200 bedsheets be classified as hate speech? How convenient! As queer and trans people, we refuse to have our perceived vulnerability used as a tool by the police to further carry out their program of harassment, racism and reckless endangerment. We know that the state wants to keep us in a suspended state of fear and anxiety in order to divide and isolate us. An increase in policing and encouragement of civilian snitching will never create an atmosphere of solidarity, respect or kindness. Let these deceptive ads communicate one message clearly – the MTA is shook by the protests and feels the need to save face and further confuse us. But we won't be fooled! This optical display proves they can see, hear and feel us, and they are afraid of our collective, dispersed power. We must practice fearlessness together. *We keep us safe!*

◦FEBUARY CALENDAR◦

- Mon. Feb. 10th:** Three (Trans) Lives: Readings by Cecilia Gentili, Torrey Peters, and McKenzie Wark. 7-9:30pm @ Bluestockings
- Wed. Feb. 12th:** War on the Weekends: Hong Kong in a Year of Uprisings (discussion). 7-9:30pm @ Bluestockings
- Fri. Feb. 14th:** ABC NO RIO in Exile Presents: A Benefit for Puerto Rico Earthquake Relief ft. Chaste, Salvaje, Waterlogged, La Milagrosa, & Dave Rata @ Sabbath's Lair, BK. All Ages. \$8-12 Sliding Scale. 8pm - Sat.
- Feb. 15th: Benefit For Leigha's Lungs (Asthma Surgery Funds) ft. Máti, After, DJ Military Scientist, & Special Guest: Reconstructive Dereconstruction. 9pm @ Venus in Furs 990 Broadway, BK.
- Sun. Feb. 16th:** Black & Pink letter writing. 3-5pm @ Bluestockings
- Solidarity Room Project - Benefit with DJ Dave Rata & DJ 7PLY. 7pm till late @ Santa Salsa 234 Starr St, Brooklyn
- Wed. Feb. 19th:** Self-Defense Workshop with POP Gym. Learn introductory skills. All ages. Open to beginners and those with experience. Free. 7-9:30pm @ Bluestockings
- Fri. Feb. 21st:** Documenting Black People's Stories Through Zine Making - Discussion with Neta Bomani and Mariame Kaba on their new zine collaboration, "Groundhog Day: The Killing of Bonita Carter". 7-9:30pm @ Bluestockings 172 Allen St NY, NY
- Sat. Feb 22nd:** 7pm Anarchist Assembly @the base
- Sat. Feb. 29th:** Junta, Cørvo, Scalple, & Ztupid. \$8. All Ages. 8pm @ Bohemian Grove,

*A man In the Bronx ambushed 2  
cops in a police van on Feb 9<sup>th</sup>, then  
12 hours later, walked into the 41<sup>st</sup>  
police precinct and opened fired. He  
laid down on the ground and sur-  
rendered his weapon and was beat-  
en by police. 2 cops were wounded in the attacks. tHoTs aNd PrAyErs*

WEEKLY/BIWEEKLY EVENTS

- Mondays** Books through Bars - send books to incarcerated people. Every Mon. at 7:30 pm @ Freebird Books (123 Columbia St., BK)
- Tuesdays** NYC Anarchist Black Cross - write letters to incarcerated people and enjoy a free vegan dinner. Every other Tues Jan. 7th and 21st at 7 pm at The Base (1302 Myrtle Ave, BK)
- Wednesdays** Times Up! - free bike repair open workshop. Every Wed. at 6:30-8:30 @ 99 South 6th St (BK) // Books through Bars - send books to incarcerated people. Most Wed. at 7 pm @ Freebird books at 123 Columbia St. (BK)
- Thursday** Narcan Overdose Prevention training at 5:00 pm Bluestockings (172 Allen St, MH)
- Saturdays** The Base open library hours. Every Sat. 2-6 pm @ The Base (1302 Myrtle, BK) // Food Not Bombs Brooklyn - sharing free vegan food with others. Every Sat. at 3 p.m. at the northwest corner of Von King (Tompkins) park (Lafayette and Marcy, BK) // Club A Kitchen - food & harm reduction distro. Every Sat. at 4 pm @ Myrtle Broadway, BK // Trans boxing, \$10-20 sliding scale. Every Sat at 4 pm @ Overthrow (9 Bleecker St, MH) // Times Up! - free bike repair open workshop. Every Sat. at 6:30-8:30 @ 99 South 6th St, BK)
- Sundays** Food Not Bombs Manhattan - sharing free vegan food with others. Every Sun., cook at the Catholic Worker (36 E 1st St, MH) at 1pm, and serve at Tompkins Square Park (MH) at 4:15pm. // Books through Bars - send books to incarcerated people. Every Sun. at 2 pm @ Freebird Books (123 Columbia St., BK) //



# MOMS 4 HOUSING WINS IN OAKLAND

In their own words, Moms 4 Housing is a “collective of unhoused and insecurely housed mothers, organizing to reclaim vacant homes from real estate speculators.” The collective of Black mothers occupied a formerly abandoned home (owned by Wedgewood properties, a notoriously slimy home-flipping investment firm) in West Oakland, California from November 2019 until a horrifying militarized police raid evicted them by force in the early hours of January 14, 2020. As of this printing, their principled resistance and powerful media presence has put so much pressure on the city of Oakland and the scumbags of Wedgewood that the West Oakland property is in the process of being sold to the Oakland Community Land Trust to be the long term home of the moms and their families. The Moms House action was a success, representing the undeniable breaking point that is now causing much overdue housing legislation to make its way to the top of the list in the city that is in unprecedented crisis and up until recently, doing very little about it. We are inspired by the example the moms have set – reclaiming what is rightfully theirs, acting with precision, acting with love and stewardship towards their children and community, and giving us all their vision of a possible future where people get what they need and things make sense. Despite all attempts to hasten its death, Oakland remains a site of Black resistance and future-making. Long live moms house!

I was lucky to get to hang around the occupation during its final few days, drinking a lot of coffee, catching up with old friends and talking to strangers. This is an attempt to put into words the thoughts and feelings conjured by witnessing firsthand the tactical, victorious occupation. Just when the city of Oakland felt so utterly despaired, the occupation became a center gathering place, and some of the fractures induced by hyper-capitalism, tech disassociation and false scarcity appeared to mend themselves. The fog began to clear, people came out of their hiding places. When the first threats of the eviction came in the night of the 13th, the entire street was packed with people. When victory ensues, we once again can believe that pressure has its inevitable breaking point, that there is some sense in the world, that we aren’t speeding alone towards death. That we don’t need to re-invent resistance alone – that we are part of a powerful intergenerational legacy. The day after the eviction and arrest, the moms were back outside their barricaded house throwing a barbeque under outdoor gas heaters and playing house music out of a big speaker. Let us learn from their persistence, their clarity, their hearth, their love and their fearlessness. Long live moms house! twitter: @moms4housing <https://moms4housing.org/>

## Ø THE NEGATION OF RENT Ø

Living in NYC, chances are you’ve gotten your ass saved by some of the tenant laws we have. These laws aren’t the result of the good will of politicians. Rather, they are the result of over a century of struggle and direct action - Jewish tenant unions of the lower east side at the turn of the century, powerful Harlem tenants union in the 1920s, Operation Move In on the upper west side in 1970, and countless other struggles. Grassroots and direct action campaigns are responsible for many of the laws that enable all of us to stay in our apartments today.

In the early 1970s in the Upper West Side, a young boy was killed by asphyxiation from a boiler which should have been repaired by the landlord or the city. During the funeral procession, the people from his community moved his family’s furniture into an abandoned home owned by the city. The crowd sung “I’m a Puerto Rican, proud as I can be, I’m not asking any favors, I’m taking what belongs to me” as they marched to the house with a truck full of furniture. They called it Operation Move In, and that summer they opened at least 9 more houses for families.

When your read of accounts of Operation Move In, a group of families in 1970 who opened and repaired city owned housed in the Upper West Side, the conditions the families were reacting against sound upsettingly familiar. Just replace Upper West Side with any outer borough and “city owned” with “Developer owned.”

No longer does NYC have an abundance of large boarded up building ripe for the taking. However, that doesn’t mean that squatting is no longer possible. London’s Advisory Service for Squatters, a long running group that provides support and helps people get started squatting, is still running strong despite London having the 2<sup>nd</sup> most expensive real estate in the world. (New York is number 6) In 2017, a group of wingnuts squatted a giant mansion owned by Russian oligarchs. London is a city even more affected by speculation and absurdly high housing costs, yet there are squatters who prevail not despite the affluence, but because of it - living in empty mansions, properties owned by firms abroad, or properties bought by speculators and investors.

In NYC, more than 11% of all rental properties are vacant, and the number is rising. Many of the new construction and condos are left unfilled for years. Many apartments are warehoused in order to rent out as air B&Bs, many illegally. This is not to mention the buildings built but left unfinished because of rampant corruption within the real estate and property management world, or the many properties waiting to be demolished in order to build unaffordable condos and other gentrifying buildings. In many of the units left for working New Yorkers to live, the conditions are rough. From subdivided apartments, basement units and loft spaces, many people live in conditions that are illegal to collect rent on. Not to mention apartments that aren’t maintained up to legal standards. The flipside of the sky-rocketing price of housing in NYC is that owning property can quickly become more a liability than an asset. With all the red tape, high costs of paying taxes and maintaining a building, it isn’t hard for all but the wealthiest

## 🐉FTPIII POPPED OFF🐉

People took autonomous action all across the city. Attacking MTA and police property, dropping banners, and tagging the city. The growth of this movement, and the increased emphasize and success of autonomous clandestine action is exciting, to say the least. Let these experiences be jumping off points and understand that the subway is around 24/7 if you could get away with it when cops were swarming the stations, then you can get away with it with a few friends tonight. Struggle against the police every day. Let’s continue to make the subway free, and inhibit the ability to collect fare. If you have any communiques, analysis, criticism, events, or anything else you want included please don’t hesitate to email us:

**THESPAKPLUG@PROTONMAIL.COM**

landowner to lose their building. The NYC housing world is seedy and illegal. Very few parties in any given real estate transaction don’t have something shady going on. Consequently, there are many properties left abandoned due to complex and messy legal situations, from deed fraud to illegal construction. NYC has good laws around eviction, and most property owners know how lengthy and costly evicting a tenant can be. Know your rights and use them. Don’t make it easy for landlords and developers to fill their pockets off your hard work.

When you study squatting movements, or when you find yourself in a squat, you’ll realize that the conditions that determine success have much less to do with the real estate market, number of abandoned buildings, or policy of the local government, and much more to do with who you live with how you go about taking and defending the house, your relationship to the block, and the support you have from your community. The more we focus on this, the more potential we will have. The question is not *whether* it’s possible to squat in NYC but *what* tactics of direct action housing make sense for us to use? Squatting makes sense for a lot of people. If you’re on the street or otherwise housing insecure, it can be an alternative with some dignity and freedom. If you find yourself having to move every year constantly priced out of apartments, or holding down multiple jobs and stressing, squatting can allow you to take some control of your life. Even just temporarily, squatting can allow people to live and get back on their feet in the city in a way not afforded by most traditional living arrangements. Along with housing and materially providing for peoples’ needs, occupying a building can be a powerful way to push back against developers and gentrification. Many buildings are left vacant before they are torn down and built into condos. For example, the CABS nursing home on Nostrand and Dekalb was left empty for a year or so before being torn down. CABS Nursing Home Company Inc. accused the Allure Group Inc. of misrepresenting their plans for the property, which they say resulted in the early death of at least one elderly patient. The Nursing home was evicted in order to make way for a large apartment building with a parking garage. Along with being powerful acts of protest, occupations can sometimes win concessions from the city government. If they understand that you are more trouble then you are worth, they may try to make a deal with you. ABC No Rio, the beloved community center in Manhattan, was bought for \$1 from the city after activists put serious pressure on the city with squatted art shows and other actions. Squatting can also be a strategic way to build a culture of resistance and attack - from Casa del Sol in the Bronx housing hundreds of summit hopping anarchists, to kids breaking into 5 points for a punk show before it was torn down, or just having a good time in a construction site before it opens its doors to yuppies.

It is undeniable that the housing market is weaponized against Black, Brown, Indigenous, and Queer people. Fair Housing is something that is out of reach for almost all working-class people. We all understand the dire consequences if we let the colonization of neighborhoods continue unchecked. Squatting must be understood as a weapon in our fight

**THE SOLIDARITY ROOM PROJECT** is a New York City based volunteer group working to help pay the living expenses of people seeking asylum in the US who have landed in our city. We are gathering donations to maintain rooms in private homes that offer individuals, couples, or families a temporary stay while they are going through the political asylum application process in the United States, allowing them time and support in a new city and culture. We are currently supporting one family in a Brooklyn cooperative home, and we expect to be supporting another couple soon.” Get more info and consider donating/becoming a supporting member at: [solidarityroomproj.wixsite.com/srp1](https://solidarityroomproj.wixsite.com/srp1) [gofundme.com/f/solidarity-room-project-of-3a~withfriends.co/the\\_solidarity\\_room\\_project/join](https://gofundme.com/f/solidarity-room-project-of-3a~withfriends.co/the_solidarity_room_project/join)

## SUPPORT THE PEOPLES POWER HOUSE

We’re trying to make safer martial arts space, that is financially accessible to both students & organizers. We’re looking to have MMA, Yoga, Boxing, Self-Defense, and other weekly classes at the gym!

[Indiegogo.com/projects/people-s-power-house-kick-butt-fundraiser](https://Indiegogo.com/projects/people-s-power-house-kick-butt-fundraiser)



## THIS MONTH IN HISTORY:

**Feb 1, 1960** marks the beginning of the civil rights sit ins in Greensboro, North Carolina when four black college students refused to move from a Woolworth lunch counter when they were denied service. By the following September over 70,000 people had participated in sit ins.

**February 3 2003**, the Washington Post published the following article about Iraq’s “Weapons of Mass Destruction” entitled “Irrefutable”. The article states “it is hard to imagine how anyone could doubt that Iraq possesses [WMDs]”, says that the “evidence, including satellite photographs, audio recordings and reports from detainees and other informants, was overwhelming... powerful and irrefutable.” It also goes on to claim that “Saddam Hussein’s regime is cooperating with a branch of the al Qaeda organization that is trying to acquire chemical weapons and stage attacks in Europe”.

**February 6 1919**, perhaps the most spectacular strike in US history took place: the Seattle general strike. Nearly 100,000 downed tools in support of striking shipyard workers but, more importantly, then elected a general strike committee and began running the city and essential services themselves. While the shipyard workers did not get their pay increase, the five-day general strike was a historic and successful experiment demonstrating that workers could run society themselves.

**February 14 1851**, a crowd of African-Americans and abolitionists raided the Boston courthouse and rescued Shadrach Minkins, aka Frederick Jenkins, an imprisoned runaway enslaved person, then smuggled him to freedom in Canada.

**February 21 1965**, Malcolm X, instrumental speaker and activist of the American civil rights and black power movements, was assassinated while preparing to address a crowd of supporters in New York.

**February 26 2012**, Trayvon Martin, an unarmed black teenager, was murdered by a neighborhood watch volunteer for being black, wearing a hoodie, and being in the “wrong” neighbourhood. In the aftermath of his death, there were marches and protests across the USA, and Black Lives Matter was born. Over a year after, however, his shooter went on trial and was acquitted of his charges of murder.