

The Hartford Catholic Worker



St. Martin De Porres House
St. Brigid House

To act in Hope is to Resist the tyranny of Fear.



*So they awake: first the catbirds and cardinals,
Later the song sparrows and the wrens,
Last of all the doves and the crows.*

So They Awake

Brian Michael Kavanagh

*Here is an unspoken secret:
paradise is all around us and we do not understand.*

*-a psalm from a **Book of Hours** by Thomas Merton*

Summer 2017

The Hartford Catholic Worker

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The Hartford Catholic Worker is published quarterly by the St. Martin De Porres Catholic Worker community. We are a lay community of Catholics and like minded friends, living in the north end of Hartford, working and praying for an end to violence and poverty. We are a 501c3 tax exempt organization. We do not seek or accept state or federal funding. Our ability to house the homeless, feed the hungry, and work with the children depends on contributions from our readers. We can be reached at: 18 Clark St., Hartford CT 06120; (860) 724-7066, purple-housecw@gmail.com and www.hartfordcatholicworker.org We are: Brian Kavanagh, Baby Beth Donovan, Dwight Teal Jr., Erin Bergen, Jacqueline, Christopher, and Ammon Allen-Douçot.

St. Martin's Wish List:



Donations to keep the lights on, the house insured, and the fridge full.



Contributions to the *Daylon Fund* which provided scholarships to two of our young people in college this past year.



Sponsors for our Summer Program in Voluntown: \$200 sends a child to the woods for a week of fishing, swimming, nature walks, art, and community building.



Fresh fruit for the children.



Cooks for the Summer Program at the Green House.



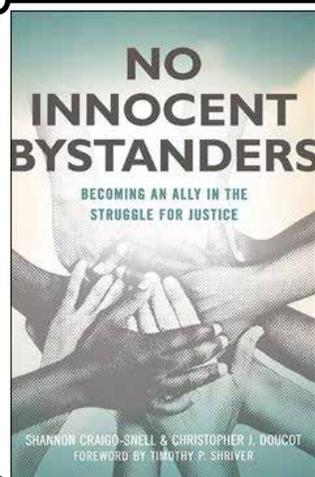
Prayers for peace with justice, justice with mercy and life with dignity for all of God's children.



Prayers of thanksgiving that the drought is over... and Prayers that the sun returns for more than a cameo appearance.

If you have come here to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together."

-Lilla Watson and Aboriginal activists group, Queensland, 1970s



No Innocent Bystanders: Becoming an Ally in the Struggle for Justice

by Shannon Craig-Snell, Ph.D.
and Christopher J. Douçot

[Westminster John Knox Press](#). Available: Fall 2017

"In the midst of our national struggle with racism, No Innocent Bystanders gives a thoughtful, practical and engaging way forward. The fact is we are all called to be an ally, truth-teller, grace-receiving hope giver. This book is a clarion call to act together for healing and change in daily practical ways. Read it! Then act." Sr. Simone Campbell, SSS

Executive Director, Network Lobby for Catholic Social Justice

Christopher J. Douçot

When Jose “Pito” Echevarria graduates from Northwest Catholic High School on June 7 it will be a testament to love, perseverance, diligence and initiative. We first met Jose 14 years ago when he appeared at our door in boxer shorts and a t-shirt. He recently told me that he followed kids he didn’t know to the Green House and couldn’t believe that we had a basketball court. Wanting a piece of the action on the court Jose intrepidly knocked on the door and became a part of the Green House community. Over the years our basketball court, the only outdoor court in the neighborhood, has attracted ballers from preschoolers like Jose to NBA and WNBA stars like Kemba Walker and Maya Moore. At six, Pito was a bit younger than any child we had been letting in but there was, and still is, something very special about Jose.

Shortly after we met Jose he showed up early one Saturday morning in the days before we routinely served breakfast. We assumed that he just wanted a bowl of cereal. While he was happily munching away on a bowl of Lucky Charms Dwight asked us if we had heard what had happened in Jose’s apartment overnight. Apparently the police had stormed the apartment and arrested his teenaged sister and his uncle. I can’t speak for his uncle but I know that his sister, who was the main caregiver for Jose and his little brother Angel, was innocent.

After Dwight told us what happened I went over to the apartment to check on his mom and take Angel for the day. I found the door knocked off its hinges and all the furniture upside down. Jose recounted that morning last week while sipping a Ben and Jerry’s vanilla frappe.

He said he was watching cartoons very early in the morning, it was still dark, when the apartment door just flew off its hinges. *“The SWAT team threw in a flash grenade. I saw the flash lights on their machine guns through the smoke. There were seven or eight of them*



Jose and Angel c.2005

wearing helmets. I sat on the couch and covered my eyes. My ears hurt.” Apparently the police were executing a search warrant looking for drugs.

With his mom losing a battle with addiction, and his sister recovering from cancer, he began spending much more time with us, often spending several nights a week in the bottom bunk of the beds I had built for Micah and Ammon. Jackie and I tried to become his foster parents but, given the revolving cast of characters that lived with us, DCF wouldn’t approve us. When DCF came for Jose he was living full time with us. He clutched Jackie’s leg and wailed *“don’t let them take me”*. Pito and Angel spent four years in four different foster homes.

During their time in foster care

we picked up Angel and Jose every Saturday for our Green House sports and art program. They also continued to come to the Green House after school. When Jose was eight he met Amanda Tremblay who was then fifteen. Amanda was a sophomore at Northwest Catholic High School. She was coming to the Green House every week with campus minister, Spanish teacher, and all around awesome woman, Kristi Gillespie. Ms. G., who has been a part of our community since 1994!, continues to bring sophomores here once a week, and she welcomes a group of our kids to join her swimming at Globe Hollow in Manchester every week in the summer.

Amanda is a winsome young woman with a magnificent heart, and indomitable will. She and Jose hit it off immediately. Hundreds of NWCHS sophomores have come through our doors over the years, several have come back beyond their required service hours but none have made a commitment quite like Amanda’s. Before the school year was out Jose had asked her if she could help him go to NWCHS when he was old enough. She agreed.

When his mom got sober (she has been in recovery for about a decade now) Jose and Angel were returned to her care. Jose continued coming to the Green House after school and on weekends and he met regularly with Amanda for help with school work. Angel hasn’t fared so well. He has been in and out of juvenile detention for things ranging from stealing shoes to setting fire to the fireworks display at Stop and Shop. He is now sixteen and awaiting trial on adult charges for armed robbery.

When Jose completed middle school he took the entrance exam to NWCHS and was encouraged

(Please see: *Pito*, p4)

Pito, cont.

to repeat eight grade and try again. Neither he or Amanda were deterred. She raised the money to send him to St. Brigid Middle School, and he buried his nose in the books and tore up the court shooting hoops for the school.

For much of that year Ms. Edna drove Jose to school in West Hartford until Amanda, who was living away at college, decided her parents ought to let Jose have her old room. Kathy and Tom generously agreed. Amanda has since graduated, gotten married, had a baby, and moved to Massachusetts, but Jose is still living with her parents! God bless you Tom and Kathy.

After his year at St. Brigid's Jose was accepted into NWCHS and Amanda continued to raise the tens of thousands of dollars to cover his tuition. The academics of Catholic School were "kinda hard" but Jose worked at it kinda harder (in my mind and with my Boston accent that kinda rhymes) and will graduate with a 3.0/4.0 grade point average. Along the way he received weekly tutoring from Jen O'Neil. Jose accompanied her youngest daughter, Victoria, to the Freshman Ball. Jen has been volunteering at the Green House for years after being inspired by her oldest daughter, Elizabeth, who came here every week as a NWCHS Sophomore, and has turned out to be as amazing as Amanda. He was also on the varsity basketball team all four years, often as part of the starting five. Regrettably, I only made it to a few of his games, but Tom and Kathy cheered him on at every single game.

While at NWCHS Jose had "no trouble making friends", though he did have a hard time with the "little cliques". His "biggest pet peeve" at NWCHS was when classmates talked trash about the north end of Hartford despite not knowing a thing about this neighborhood and community. Jose told me he would

often stand up for this community. Pito explained to them that we are united here, that we all have each other's backs. After twenty-five years here, this point is the most remarkable thing about this place. When I look down from the porch on a Saturday morning I'm awed by the welcome these kids have for everyone who comes to the Green House. I will sheepishly admit that when I was a kid I joined my classmates in picking on kids who were in some way vulnerable- that doesn't happen here. Over and over again people are welcomed here: old people and young, rich folks and poor, Black, white and brown children of God, people with bodies



healthy or ill, super talented athletes and differently abled young people, scholars with initials after their name and students who struggle to read, are all welcomed here because kids like Jose have set a loving example and welcoming tone.

Jose has been living with Amanda's folks for five years now. His mom is grateful for their tremendous commitment and has at times admonished Jose to head back "home" to West Hartford when his weekend visits home ran late. Living in West Hartford has been a bit of a culture shock for him. He told me: "if I needed new shoes it was no problem. It's a different world, new things, new foods- more vegetables, I even go to mass." Having access to sufficient clothing and healthy food should not be a culture shock. What should be shocking to all of us is that half of the children in Hartford do not have adequate food, clothing, shelter and/or education. Jose has been accepted into CCSU and hopes to become a police officer. He wants to "help our community. I've seen what the kids in our neighborhood have been through. There's things I know that can help. I want to help out people like people helped out me."

Jose worries about his mom relapsing, he worries about his sister's cancer returning and he worries about his little brother going to prison for a long time. He says he and Angel "have two different mind sets... I just want to do good and make my mom proud..." He didn't say what he thought Angel's mind-set is but Angel has obviously made different choices.

It is tempting to read this essay and say the difference between Angel and Jose are the choices they made. I don't condone the bad decisions Angel has made but I also can't condemn a kid who has been denied the basic necessities for his entire life. It is also tempting to read this essay and think the difference between Angel and Jose are Amanda and her family. That is true- to an

(continued on bottom ofp.5)

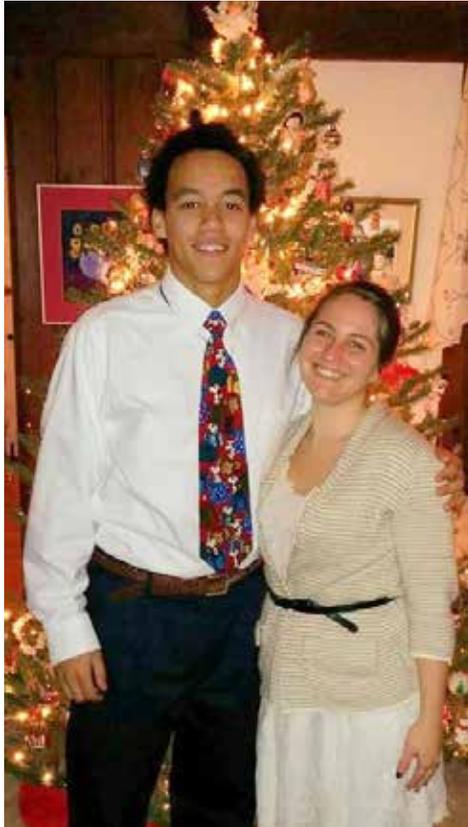
(The following is Jose's college essay)

Hello, my name is Jose Echevarria, I am from Hartford- the North End side. Growing up in my neighborhood, it wasn't easy. I lived through so much that has impacted my life. When I was five, I was sleeping in the living room on the couch because I fell asleep watching tv. Then around 5 o'clock in the morning, a swat team knocked my front door off the hinges. But that wasn't all, once they knocked the door down they threw a flash-bang and it went off right next to my face.

That was one of many experiences I have encountered that will stick with me for the rest of my life. I have been blessed with many opportunities which also led me to be an outgoing extrovert. I received my first opportunity when I was 6, at the Hartford Catholic Worker. They have 2 houses, the kids know them as the Green House and the Purple House. The Green House is a 3 floor house where they have an after school program for kids which provides arts and crafts, tutoring, basketball court and a small playground. The Purple House is where the volunteers. I ended up living at that house for a year before I got taken away by Department of Children and Family services.

Even throughout all of that going on they helped me and guided me to the right way. They sunk it in my

head that we're going to help me get an education. But I got taken away halfway throughout the process. So myself and my little brother were moved across the city to a different home. They never gave up on me,



they kept trying to get guardianship and it was declined. But we stayed in touch and we built an unbreakable bond. Their family welcomed me to the family as their own. So when I moved back with my mother I had experienced so much that I didn't

want to live like that anymore and I wanted to do something with my life. As I grew older I matured and I looked forward to how my life was going to play out.

The Catholic Worker is where I met a person that I would have never thought would change my life forever. Her name is Amanda Tremblay Mitchell. She was a student at Northwest Catholic high school. She was a real blessing, she got use to me and I grew on her. I told her that I didn't want to go to the schools in Hartford.

She gave me all of her time and she tutored me. Amanda introduced me to her parents and they took me in their home. They changed my life forever. They gave me the best education possible and love which I didn't have growing up. I remember when I moved into their home and at my first dinner with them they asked me what do I want to do in life. I took a pause. They replied, "it's okay not to know what you want to do in the future."

But after they were done speaking I told them I wanted to go into law enforcement. They asked me why. I told them I love to help other people, especially those who need help the most. Doesn't matter the situation I know I can do something in my will to fix it. I am grateful for everything that everyone has done for me and I would like to give back. Ω

extent, but they did not rescue Jose. Jose is a charming, diligent, polite and compassionate young man. Maybe he has succeeded in life so far because his time and energy over the last five years were not consumed dealing with the stresses of poverty, malnourishment, and schools full of turmoil. It's maddening to think how Angel's life might have had a different trajectory if he had a friend like Amanda: how might his bad choices have been mitigated? And might he have made different choices with more options?

Regardless, not having to worry about shoes, vegetables and a good school ought to be birthrights and not the jackpot of being born, or taken, into a middle class family. I share in Jose's worry for Angel, and I pray that he begins to make better choices. I also pray that when he turns things around he will be as welcomed beyond this community as he will be in it.

Pito told me "every neighborhood should have a Green House. Being there is like being somewhere else." Actually, being here is like being at Cheers. The

Green House is a place

*Where everybody knows your name,
and they're always glad you came.*

You wanna be where you can see,

our troubles are all the same

You wanna be where everybody knows

Your name.

The Green House is special because folks like Jose, Amanda, Tom, Kathy and Jen meet here to learn your name, laugh together, and love one another. Please join us sometime in our pursuit of the Beloved Community. You'll be glad you came. Ω

LUCY STONE: Abolitionist, Suffragist, and a Woman Undeterred

Shai Cassell

You are probably well acquainted with the names of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, but does the name Lucy Stone sound familiar? Probably not; yet Stone's contributions as an orator, writer and organizer on behalf of the Abolitionist Women's Rights movements equaled the contributions of Stanton and Anthony.

Stone was born in 1818 in West Brookfield, Mass. Her father was a hard working farmer who ruled his nine children and wife with an iron fist while strictly enforcing traditional gender roles. Her parents were also committed Abolitionists and often hosted prominent speakers on behalf of this cause. Lucy took notice.

Very gifted, Stone started reading at an early age. As she watched her older brothers go off to college, she knew that if she wanted to advance college would be helpful. Yet, there were no co-ed colleges and, if there were, her father was against it and would provide no financial assistance, believing that women required no education, beyond primary school, as their role was to be home tending to the domestic needs of the family.

At 16, she received her first paying job as a school teacher, as that of most working women her age. But it did not take long for her to realize the salary of male teachers was significantly higher than women's. That did not sit the well with Lucy and opened her eyes to discrimination against women beyond that limits her father sought to place on her.

When Mary Lyon was given approval to open Mount Holyoke Women's Seminary near West Brookfield, Lucy enrolled using savings from teaching to attend. However, she bristled at the Foundress's

conservative attitude toward the role of women and quickly left. It would be another four years, after Oberlin College in Ohio became the first to go co-ed, before Lucy resumed college studies. She graduated in 1847, putting herself through from tutoring, small paying jobs and savings—but not a cent of support from her Father!



At Oberlin, Lucy discerned that she wanted a life of public speaking and gained some experience, unbeknownst to the college, taking the pulpit in a few area churches to express her views on the evils of slavery. An excellent student, she was invited to write the commencement address at graduation but declined because she was forbidden, as a woman, to read it herself. That role would go to a man. However, she enjoyed the distinction of being the first woman from Massachusetts to graduate from college.

At Oberlin, Lucy was introduced to William Lloyd Garrison, an influential and well known Abolitionist. He heard her speak and asked her to join the American Anti-Slavery Society. It was a great match as it gave her the chance to channel her passion for the eradication of slavery

and women's rights while honing her speaking skills. Stone was a petite woman, with a round face and very pleasing voice who looked younger than her years. While Society was not quite ready for women to speak in public, Stone endeared herself to her audiences by her calm demeanor, intelligence and passion for her causes. She soon became a popular speaker on the Abolitionist circuit, save for a few hecklers who could not accept a woman speaking in public.

In 1850, Stone convened a national conference on women's rights, in Worcester, MA. Her speech was widely acclaimed and printed in newspapers across the country. While still an ardent Abolitionist, she became more and more passionate about women's rights. After the convention, Stone was in constant demand across the country and lectured for the eradication of slavery while devoting more time addressing women's issues, appealing for reforms in dress, property rights, and unjust divorce laws and, above all, the right to vote.

After a very long courtship and persistence by Henry B. Blackwell, she agreed to marry him in 1855 with Blackwell promising that theirs would be a marriage of equals in all respects. He even supported Stone in her decision to retain her own last name. Of this, Stone wrote, "A wife should no more take her husband's name than he should hers. My name is my identity and soul".

While Stone had curtailed her speaking after her marriage and the birth of their daughter, Alice, she found that she needed to augment the family's income and, intermittently, continued to speak and assist with organizing various women's conventions. During these years she would often collaborate with Susan

B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, as well as other prominent suffragists who had high regard for Stone's talents. She also travelled and spoke on behalf of several state referenda for women's suffrage.

A painful split with Anthony and Stanton occurred when Lucy supported passage of the 15th amendment, granting black men the right to vote. Stanton and Anthony opposed the amendment since it did not extend the vote to women. Stone felt that progress was still being made and, while also disappointed, was convinced that women's right to vote would follow shortly. After the ratification of the 15th Amendment the women's right movement split as some women, led by Stanton, sought support from former Confederates who hoped their support for women's suffrage would lead to women enrolling as Democrats so that they might cancel out the presumed Black male support of the Republican Party of Lincoln. Stanton once declared: "The... women of the nation have done their uttermost for the last 30 years to secure freedom for the Negro...but now, as the celestial gate to civil rights is slowly moving on its hinges, it becomes a serious question whether we had better stand aside and see 'Sambo' walk into the kingdom first." True to her Abolitionist convictions Stone couldn't tolerate this. It would be 30 years before Alice Stone, Lucy's daughter, and Stanton healed the rift

and reunited the women's rights organizations associated with Stone and Stanton.

In Stone's later years she focused most of her attention co-founding and writing for the "Women's Journal". It was a demanding task but "the *Woman's Journal* became the most important, longest-lived newspaper of its kind, covering women's issues and helping to promote women's rights. The paper played a significant role in energizing the movement and leading to the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920".

While tending to the newspaper, Stone continued to lecture whenever possible for women's right to vote. Accompanied by her daughter, Alice, Stone gave her last speech in May of 1893 in Chicago, before the world's Congress of Representative Women. While passionate about her cause, she was weak and, upon returning home, died a few months later of stomach cancer. Her death was widely reported, her funeral attended by hundreds and the streets lined with mourners for her funeral procession.

For many years, Stone's contributions to the women's movement were overlooked, largely because one of the most widely used and publicized texts devoted to its history, *History of Women's Suffrage*,

H. B. BLACKWELL

AND

LUCY STONE!

These uncompromising friends of Freedom and untiring advocates of Human Rights propose to meet the citizens of Vineland at

PLUM ST. HALL,

This,

Tuesday Evening, Dec. 4,

AT 7:30,

TO PRESENT THE

Equal Rights Movement

And organize a Club.

Let no one fail to come and see and hear these pioneer Reformers, who have devoted their lives to the cause of Liberty and now in the vigor of manhood and womanhood come amongst us to ask our help to obtain for all mankind Human Rights.

It is to be regretted that they can be with us but ONE night.

SEATS FREE.

left her out. One of its authors was Stanton!

In later years, Stone's contributions were recognized by both her home state and the writings of others. Those who have taken the time to study her achievements have been immensely impressed by the role she played and have worked to elevate her influence in the women's right's movement and afford her the place in history she rightfully deserves.

(Shai is the new chair of the Hartford Catholic Worker)Ω

Orange, New Jersey

Mr. Mandeville, Tax Collector,

Enclosed I return my tax bill, without paying it. My reason for doing so is, that women suffer taxation, and yet have no representation, which is not only unjust to one-half of the adult population, but is contrary to our theory of government. For years some women have been paying their taxes under protest, but still taxes are imposed, and representation is not granted. The only course now left us is to refuse to pay the tax. We know well what the immediate result of this refusal must be.

But we believe that when the attention of men is called to the wide difference between their theory of government and its practices, in this particular, they cannot fail to see the mistake they now make, by imposing taxes on women, while they refuse them the right of suffrage and that the sense of justice which is in all good men, will lead them to correct it. Then shall we cheerfully pay our taxes--not till then.

Respectfully,

Lucy Stone

December 18, 1858

Gillian B. White

(Reprinted from the *Atlantic* Jun 24, 2015)

The recession, while painful for everyone, was especially disastrous for black Americans.

Now a [report](#) from the ACLU says that black families will continue to suffer the effects of this disproportionately for decades to come: By 2031, white household wealth will be 31 percent below what it would've been had the recession never happened, according to the report. For black households, wealth will be 40 percent lower, which will leave black families about \$98,000 poorer than if the recession hadn't taken place.

This is particularly worrying because black households have always trailed significantly behind their white counterparts when it comes to wealth accumulation, and recession expanded that gap. In 2013, the net worth of white households was 13 times greater than that of black households, the largest the gap has been since 1989, according to [Pew Research](#). Wealth often determines not only how well families can provide for themselves when it comes to basics like food and shelter, but it is a safety net for emergencies and helps to set up future generations for education, home ownership, and other opportunities that improve people's lives.

A big part of the reason that the recession hit black Americans so hard was that it gutted home values, and home ownership is a much more significant part of the group's overall wealth.

Between 2007 and 2009, home equity for white Americans decreased by about 9 percent; for black Americans the decrease was 12 percent.

In order to illustrate the importance of home equity to the wealth of black households, the ACLU compared total wealth for median black and white households in 2007 with and without factoring in home equity. Prior to the crash, the me-

dian wealth for a white household excluding a home was \$92,950. For blacks that figure was \$14,200. When factoring in home equity, the wealth of black households grew more than four-and-a-half times, to \$63,060. For white households factoring in home equity helped wealth figures grow by only about two-and-a-half times to 244,000.



But it's not just the loss of home equity that caused these outsized losses for black households. The study also points to predatory loans that put owners into homes with high-interest mortgages and unaffordable balloon payment structures—where they then defaulted as home values collapsed—a practice that was disproportionately perpetrated against the poor and communities of color. Even for upper-income black households, subprime financing was still much more common than it was among low-income white households. The ACLU points to a [report](#) from the Department of Treasury which found that black families living in upper-income neighborhoods were two times more likely than white households in lower-income neighborhoods to have refinanced their homes with subprime loans. The report also notes that black and Latino households were nearly 50 percent more likely to face foreclosure than their white counterparts.

These problems have not changed since the recession, and home-ownership in America is deeply uneven. The gap between home-ownership rates of white and black Americans has remained [virtually unchanged](#) for more than 100 years. According to a 2014 [report](#) from Zillow, black Americans make up only 3 percent of conventional mortgage applications, the lowest rate of any racial group, and blacks also face the highest denial rate, about 25 percent versus only 10 percent for white applicants. And as recently as [May 2015](#), instances of racist mortgage policies, which [deny minorities](#) access to the housing market, have come to light. In a largest red-lining settlement in its history, the Department of Housing and Urban Development ordered a Wisconsin-based bank to pay \$200 million after the lender refused loans to qualified black and Hispanic clients. With limited access to loans, black families are often left to rent, or opt for less favorable mortgage options, that increase the likelihood of financial hardship, especially when recessions hit.

Losses from homes that are underwater or were foreclosed upon have far-reaching and long-lasting consequences for black families. For instance, black Americans saw larger declines in retirement savings than other groups in the years following the recession. The ACLU report suggests that this may be because they raided their accounts in order to cope with more severe losses and higher interest rates than their non-black counterparts. The wide-reaching and long-lasting financial trauma is especially harmful for black Americans who not only have lower wealth levels to begin with, but higher levels of unemployment and lower levels of income, rendering the chance of recovery all too slim, even as white Americans start to get back on their feet. Ω

Notes, cont.

and harmoniously integrated into the spirit of peace and community that we grow at this Greenhouse!

This year for our annual Earth Day Cleanup we partnered with Hartford Public Allies and Rainbow Soul CT for an incredible day. It was a scary start to the day as light rain in the morning became heavy rain during circle driving everyone inside for lunch. Luckily just as we were all finishing our burgers and dogs, the rain let up and we got several troupes of kids to go out into the streets alongside all of the Public Allies in Connecticut as well as some of our wonderfully committed volunteers and pick up as much litter as we could and by the time we came back to the Green House we had picked up about 30 bags of garbage. After the cleanup we went down to Keney Park for a special pride event that included dancing, singing, tie dye and face painting! We are very grateful for all the people that made the day possible.

The influx of new energy has also been very good for these 2 old houses. Peter has been trying to take over taking care of some buildings and grounds work. Erin's dad, Wes, rebuilt our food pantry and, Erin and the interns repainted it cheerful rainbow colors. The new shelves open access to the window which creates a good cross breeze for hot days (not that we have had any.) Over the last few weeks the young folks have re-stained most of the benches and picnic tables, removed poison ivy, cleaned out 20-year old cans of paint, planted the Green house garden and, reworked the compost system with a worm community to assist. Peter also went down the block removing sucker shoots from the bottom of all the trees that the city has planted at our behest. We also had a wonderful helper in Jim B. sanding and repainting the metal fence along the front of the Purple House which has been peeling for years. After 25 years of adding perennials to the front yards we no longer have to do any mowing of grass. This is both beautiful to look at and better for the environment. For me it has been wonderful to see others in the community stepping in to help do the work that Chris, and some great

volunteers, have been doing for so long.

Two of the interns, Caleb and Annaliese, have moved to Ohio, where Caleb will be starting Medical school in September. We are grateful for the help they gave us while I was on sabbatical. The kids were sad to see them go and made some beautiful cards for them.

In September Charlie McCauley will be moving in to join the community. Charlie is a Ph.D.. candidate at UConn and has been working with us for the last few years through the Husky Sport program. For this year he will be living half the week at UConn and half at the Purple House.

Today we are gearing up for the graduation



party. We are so excited to celebrate the accomplishments of the children (some of whom are now adults) from the Green House. Jose E. who lived with us as a child will be graduating high school. Lilly and about 6 other littles will be moving up from kindergarten- we had to add a kindergarten element to the party after the littles in the front row challenged us to remember them at a party a few years ago. Three of our 8th grade grads are counselors for the summer program this year. Nick C. who lived with us last year has just received an award at his school for being the hardest working student at his new school and, he has gone up four grades in reading! We are so proud of the effort he has put in.

One of last year's grads Dawn B just finished her first year at Eastern with all A's and B's and will be our lead counselor at Ahimsa this summer. This year G-Baby (Isaiah) earned a Master's degree in Sports Management at UCONN. It seems like just yesterday that he was 12 years old, albeit when he was 12 he was

already very old and wise watching everything around him like he was writing a book about it. In a way he was. G has a blog, [Zayology](#), filled with his poetry, reflections on urban life and great photography. We are very grateful for our friends, the Leducs, whose generous scholarships helped to support his studies. We have some other graduates as well...Sr. Elaine will be leaving the chair position of our Board. Thank God she will be staying on the board! We need to give our beloved Jim Hubert a shout out. He will be leaving the HCW board after serving as treasurer since day one...and before that he served for 10 years as the treasurer at of the Voluntown Peace Trust. We are so grateful for the hard and painstaking work he has done on behalf of all of us.

If you can join us for the grad party on June 16th please give us a call and let us know. We are also looking for summer volunteers in Hartford. If you are not able to come in person, maybe you could support the Green House by cooking a meal or sending a donation.

If you like tailgating and football, please join us for the Holy Cross/UConn game at Rentschler Field on August 31st. We are working with the Holy Cross Alumni Club of Hartford that day to raise some funds for the work of the Green House. Stop by for a burger and leave a buck, or twenty.

Many, many thanks to the Boone and O'Neill families for helping us with our last fund-raiser. The Boone/Johnson household hosted us at their beautiful place and the O'Neill's supplied fabulous Hooker Brewery beer for the bash!! We are also very grateful to Ellen Guertin and all the folks on our fund-raising committee who work so hard organizing fund-raising events for us.

Please keep us in your prayers as we keep on trying to live the gospels in a world that seems to get meaner and more violent by the day...here is a great Dorothy Day quote about love:

*"Love and ever more love is the only solution to every problem that comes up. If we love each other enough, we will bear with each other's faults and burdens. If we love enough, we are going to light that fire in the hearts of others. And it is love that will burn out the sins and hatreds that sadden us. It is love that will make us want to do great things for each other."*Ω

Notes From De Porres House

Jacqueline Allen-Douçot

Since Easter there have been some changes moving through the Catholic Worker houses. After 25 years of living in community, Chris, Micah, and I have moved out to our own home. It is quiet and peaceful, and while we do miss all our beloveds at the Worker, we do not miss all the fire trucks! It has also been a big adjustment to learn how not to cook for 12 people at every meal. We are still coming in to take shifts on the house regularly, sleeping over, and we will be at Voluntown for the entire summer program- so no one but Riley the dog even really misses us. Baby Beth was very happy to move down to the second floor to our old room and we have turned my art studio into our new bedroom for the nights we stay over.

It has been an amazing, though not always easy, process to watch a new generation of leadership emerge as Ammon and Erin assume more responsibilities here. At first it felt like there was a spirit of resistance to our mentoring. We had to acknowledge that we

were traveling on a road that we were unprepared for, and that there were not any great road maps to follow. We ended up using the H.I.P. steps (a conflict resolution process used at the Green House with the children) to find a win/win solution.

My being away on sabbatical for the first months made transition harder. We have never had more than a couple of people join the community at once. The work side by side method we used for the occasional intern didn't translate to a group of five recent college graduates. Plus, Ammon was/is in a weird position...how do you intern in the place where you grew up? He was also working a full-time position at Public Allies. Often, he felt like the middle person stuck between the established community and the interns. It was a great burden of responsibility to the best friends he brought to the house. As the year has gone on and we have accomplished many months of working together on big projects like the Christmas party and Easter food deliveries and we are moving into a better space as



Baby Beth and Kesha

community. In August, we will be developing some written directions that hopefully will be helpful moving forward when new people join the community.

Having Ammon placed at Fred E. Wish school through his Public Ally position this year has brought us a big influx of 5 and 6 year olds. I thank God everyday for Baby Beth, Ammon, Erin, Dwight, Peter and all the after-school volunteers that help us. It is a big job to keep everyone well fed, well supervised

(Please see: Notes, p9)