

**ant to learn/teach how to make wonderful
handmade gifts on a small budget?**

**Join us on Monday, December 1st at Darby's Café
211 5th Avenue in downtown Olympia for POWER
Outage, a community gathering every first Monday.**

We start with a potluck at 5:30. Bring something to share if you can.

Skill Share workshop from 6 – 8 pm.

**The fabulous Olympia Childcare Collective will offer childcare down
the street at the POWER office, 309 5th Avenue.**

Hosted by:

Parents Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights

**POWER is an organization of low-income parents and allies advocating for a
strong social safety net while working towards a world where children and
care giving are truly valued, and the devastation of poverty has been
eradicated.**

info@mamapower.org 360-352-9716
www.mamapower.org Like us on Facebook.

**We are looking for artists and crafters to donate to
ArtPOWER, our annual fundraiser on the first weekend in
December! Artists keep half the proceeds and help support**

POWER's important work in our community. Please let us know if you can donate or want to volunteer for this event!

Below:

- 1. Join Mom's Rising in urging President Obama and the Justice Dept. to take definitive action against racial profiling.**
- 2. NYT Op Ed – Inequality, Unbelievably, Gets Worse**
- 3. Congressional Tax Bill – Coalition on Human Need**
- 4. Human Rights Day events in Seattle**
- 5. Open enrollment has begun for 2015 for Affordable Health Care.**

1. [It's time to make our voices heard to end racial profiling and to advance police reform. Enough is enough.](#)

[*Sign our open letter here:](#)

<http://action.momsrising.org/sign/justicemikebrownforward/?t=8&akid=5987.207294.BnQT8U>

Just last Thursday, days before a grand jury failed to indict the killer of 18-year-old Michael Brown and just 6 miles from my home, unarmed Akai Gurley was shot and killed without warning by the New York Police Department. The officer who shot Akai told police officials that he was "nervous." [1] Akai's 2-year-old daughter will never see her father again, and neither will his family.

Mothers should never have to fear that our loved ones could come to harm at the hands of those charged with protecting them. And yet, the reality is that 18-year-old Michael Brown's death is just one chapter in the ongoing and growing narrative of lives impacted by racial profiling and police brutality.

The numbers don't lie: Studies show that, even though White Americans outnumber Black Americans fivefold, Black people are three times more likely than White people to be killed when they encounter the police in the US,[2] and Black teenagers are far likelier to be killed by police than White teenagers.[3]

***Make your voice heard! In the wake of the failure to indict the police officer who shot and killed unarmed teen Michael Brown, we call on the Department of Justice and President Obama to take definitive action:**

<http://action.momsrising.org/sign/justicemikebrownforward/?t=10&akid=5987.207294.BnQT8U>

[It's now up to the Department of Justice and President Obama to take definitive action to indict Officer Darren Wilson, as well as to advance higher standards of policing, with strengthened accountability mechanisms, and critical reforms that end racial profiling, police brutality, and militarized policing targeting African American and Latino youth, families, and communities.](#)

All over the country, there have been a slew of unarmed African American and Latino youth and parents killed by police, including:

- Eric Garner, husband and father, who was choked to death in New York. [4]
- John Crawford, who was shot to death when he picked up a toy gun that was for sale in an Ohio Walmart. [5]
- Seventeen-year-old unarmed Jesús Huerta was shot to death while handcuffed in the back of a police car. [6]
- Eighteen-year-old unarmed Ramarley Graham who was shot to death in Bronx, NY [7]

Racially-motivated police violence has no place in law enforcement. Yet the St. Louis Post Dispatch's editorial board found that all too often racial profiling is done by Missouri law enforcement and the stats are getting worse over time. Here's what the St. Louis Post Dispatch's editorial board wrote:

"Last year, for the 11th time in the 14 years that data has been collected, the disparity index that measures potential racial profiling by law enforcement in the state got worse. Black Missourians were 66 percent more likely in 2013 to be stopped by police, and blacks and Hispanics were both more likely to be searched, even though the likelihood of finding contraband was higher among whites.

...In Ferguson, the city where Michael died, the police in 2013 pulled over blacks at a 37 percent higher rate than whites compared to their relative populations. Black drivers were twice as likely to be searched and twice as likely to be arrested compared to white drivers."[8]

Racial profiling and excessive use of force by the police in Missouri, and in other communities across the nation, must end and perpetrators must be held accountable.

Enough is enough.

At the national level, we need higher standards of policing, strengthened accountability mechanisms, and critical reforms to end: Racial profiling, police brutality, and militarized policing targeting African American and Latino youth, families, and communities throughout our country.

***Don't forget to sign on with us to say: Families call on the U.S. Department of Justice and the Obama administration to take action now:**

<http://action.momsrising.org/sign/justicemikebrownforward/?t=13&akid=5987.207294.BnQT8U>

Together, we are a strong voice for women and families

- Monifa, Kristin, Felicia, Nate, Donna, Anita, and the MomsRising Team

[1] <http://action.momsrising.org/go/5108?t=15&akid=5987.207294.BnQT8U>

[2] <http://action.momsrising.org/go/4925?t=17&akid=5987.207294.BnQT8U>

[3] <http://action.momsrising.org/go/4926?t=19&akid=5987.207294.BnQT8U>

[4] <http://action.momsrising.org/go/4920?t=21&akid=5987.207294.BnQT8U>

[5] <http://action.momsrising.org/go/4739?t=23&akid=5987.207294.BnQT8U>

[6] <http://action.momsrising.org/go/4921?t=25&akid=5987.207294.BnQT8U>

[7] <http://action.momsrising.org/go/4922?t=27&akid=5987.207294.BnQT8U>

[8] <http://action.momsrising.org/go/4737?t=29&akid=5987.207294.BnQT8U>

2. [The Opinion Pages](#) | Contributing Op-Ed Writer

Inequality, Unbelievably, Gets Worse

NOV. 16, 2014

[Steven Rattner](#)

THE Democrats' drubbing in the midterm elections was unfortunate on many levels, but particularly because the prospect of addressing income inequality grows dimmer, even as the problem worsens.

To only modest notice, during the campaign the Federal Reserve put forth more sobering news about income inequality: Inflation-adjusted earnings of the bottom 90 percent of Americans fell between 2010 and 2013, with those near the bottom dropping the most. Meanwhile, incomes in the top decile rose.

Perhaps income disparity resonated so little with politicians because we are inured to a new Gilded Age.

But we shouldn't be. Nor should we be inattentive to the often ignored role that government plays in determining income distribution in each country.

Here's what's rarely reported:

Before the impact of tax and spending policies is taken into account, income inequality in the United States is no worse than in most developed countries and is even a bit below levels in Britain and, by some measures, Germany.

However, once the effect of government programs is included in the calculations, the United States emerges on top of the inequality heap.

Doing Less to Redistribute Income

The U.S. ranks favorably in the Gini coefficient, a measure of inequality — until taxes and government transfers are factored in. Then, among these countries, it is the worst.

That's because our taxes, while progressive, are low by international standards and our social welfare programs — ranging from unemployment benefits to disability insurance to retirement payments — are consequently less generous. Conservatives may bemoan the size of our government; in reality, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, total tax revenues in the United States this year will be smaller on a relative basis than those of any other member country.

Bottom of the Heap

U.S. tax revenues, as a percent of G.D.P., are the lowest of O.E.C.D. countries.

And income taxes for the highest-earning Americans have fallen sharply, contributing meaningfully to the income inequality problem. In 1995, the 400 taxpayers with the biggest incomes paid an average of 30 percent in taxes; by 2009, the tax rate of those Americans had dropped to 20 percent.

The Low American Tax Burden

Lower taxes means less for government to spend on programs to help those near the bottom. Social Security typically provides a retiree with about half of his working income; European countries often replace two-thirds of earnings. Similarly, we spend less on early childhood education and care. And another big difference, of course, is the presence of national health insurance in most European countries.

Most of these countries have far smaller populations than the U.S. I am not suggesting comparing ourselves to China, India, or Brazil, but...

What is not mentioned is that the United States spends a vast amount each year on defense, far more than any of the other OCED countries. ...

Occupy Government

Amazing how many of the comments suggest stealing from the poor -- no food stamps, no welfare, no Medicaid, etc. -- all so Mitt Romney can...

All told, social spending in the United States is below the average of that of the wealthiest countries. And other governments help their less fortunate citizens to a greater extent than we do in ways that are not captured in the income statistics. The United States, which is the only developed country without a national paid parental leave policy, also has no mandated paid holidays or annual vacation; in Europe, workers are guaranteed at least 20 days and as many as 35 days of paid leave.

Low-Vacation Nation

To his credit, President Obama has succeeded in keeping income disparities from growing even wider, by such measures as by forcing tax rates on the wealthiest Americans up toward fair levels.

Meanwhile, on the programmatic side, among the many meritorious aspects of the much-maligned Affordable Care Act are its redistributionist elements: higher taxes on investment income and some health care businesses are being used to provide low-cost or free health care to a projected 26 million Americans near the bottom of the income scale.

But much more can and should be done — like raising the minimum wage nationwide and expanding the earned-income tax credit (a step supported by Republicans).

Helping those in the middle, whose incomes have been battered by globalization, will be harder and take longer. Expanded training programs and better education should be the centerpiece of any strategy to improve the lives of the middle class. A more robust economic recovery will also help the middle class, as will pro-growth policy initiatives like investment in infrastructure.

Critics from the right argue that doing more to level the income pyramid would hurt growth. In a recent paper, the International Monetary Fund dismissed that concern and suggested that a more equal distribution of income could instead raise the growth rate because of the added access to education, health care and other opportunities.

While some believe that the recent elections will stimulate both parties to make progress on the mound of challenges, in my view, that's a bit of a fantasy. But we

can't stop talking about the problem of inequality, because then there really would be no hope.

Steven Rattner is a Wall Street executive and a contributing opinion writer.

To see the article in its entirety including graphs, go to:

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/17/opinion/inequality-unbelievably-gets-worse.html?emc=eta1&_r=0

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3. Congress Almost Serves Up a Turkey of a Tax Bill ...*But President Obama Gives it the Bird*

While many of us were getting ready for guests or to travel to family, reports surfaced that Senate Majority Leader Reid and some of his colleagues were working out a deal with House tax-writers to extend about \$450 billion in tax cuts that would otherwise expire at the end of this year. Some would be extended through the end of 2015, but about 10 would be made permanent. These tax cuts mostly benefit corporations, such as a research credit and a bonus depreciation credit. A smaller share of the package provides tax breaks for individuals, including deductions for state sales taxes in states that do not impose an income tax. Although tax analysts are skeptical that these tax breaks do the economy much good, Congress has been willing so often to renew them that they are nicknamed the “extenders.”

There has been a lot of talk about work on a comprehensive tax reform plan, in which the effectiveness of breaks like the extenders would be assessed, and some would be discontinued, either as a way to reduce the deficit or as a source of revenue to offset the cost of other tax cuts. But the deal described in the press on November 25 was not part of any reform plan. It was just a big stuffed turkey, not only continuing the currently expiring tax breaks but considerably expanding some of them. The research credit, for instance, used to cost about \$75 billion; this deal would agree to expanding it so it costs \$155 billion (all these figures are over 10 years). When Congress passed the tax agreement a few years ago, we thought it was a big

deal because it raised more than \$600 billion from wealthy people. This deal would undo most of that benefit.

While the deal would have made a lot of these expensive breaks permanent, it did not make permanent the improvements in the [Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit](#) that are scheduled to expire in 2017. These credits help low-income working parents and their children. They lift millions out of poverty and provide a proven work incentive.

Leaving out the credits that help low-income people while making many corporate breaks more stuffed and permanent was unacceptable to the Obama Administration. They threatened a veto, and the deal has been shelved, at least for a while.

Including the low-income credits in this package does not make the corporate breaks any more justified. The Child Tax Credit and EITC have proven their worth, and ought to be made permanent, whatever else Congress does or does not pass. But yet again giving corporations a lot to be thankful for while leaving out the credits that make such a difference in the lives of low-income families with children is truly appalling. Exit polls on election day showed big majorities thinking that the wealthy and powerful had unfair advantages over ordinary people, with voters often not clear on the differences between Republicans and Democrats. This kind of tax deal confirms the opinions expressed in the polls.

Thanks, Mr. President, for stopping this turkey, and for standing up for working families with children. The fight isn't over. Corporate lobbyists don't give up easily. Neither should we.

4, Wednesday Dec 10

Seattle Public Municipal Bank Forum

University Temple United Methodist Church, 1415 NE 43rd, Seattle

7-9 pm

Moderator Wayne Lau, Retired Banker, Executive Director of Rainier Valley Community Development Fund; Panelists Nick Licata, Seattle City Councilmember; Dr. Thomas Keidel, Federation of German Banks Board; Dr. Karl Beitel, Author, Political Economist, UC Davis; Gwendolyn Hallsmith, Executive Director, Public Banking Institute. Organized by Seattle Public Bank Coalition, co-sponsored by WWFOR and others. info <http://www.seattlepublicbankcoalition.org>

Wednesday Dec, 10, is worldwide, Human Rights Day:

Wednesday Dec, 10

Seattle Human Rights Day program and awards

Town Hall Seattle, 1119 8th Ave

7:30 pm,

Seattle Human Rights Day program and awards with focus on immigrant rights. Keynote Speaker Jorge Baron, Executive Director, Northwest Immigrant Rights Project. \$5 suggested donation. Sponsored by: Seattle Human Rights Commission and many others. info or to request disability accommodation 206-684-4540 or marta.idowu@seattle.gov

5. <https://www.wahealthplanfinder.org/>

November 15th marked the opening day for individuals and families to enroll or renew their qualified health plans for 2015 through [Washington Healthplanfinder](#). Washington Apple Health (Medicaid) enrollment is continuous. [CHOICE In-Person Assisters or "Navigators"](#) have been working throughout October and November

to train and certify, and are available in the seven-county region to assist individuals in signing up or renewing their coverage during the open enrollment period, which runs until February 15th, 2015.