We are asking you to walk the final mile...

Some of you have been members of CD-CAAR since 1981 when the South African rugby team came to Albany. All of you, in so many ways, have supported the struggle for justice in South Africa over the years. And now, what seemed like such a distant possibility back in 1981, is about to happen. The first election ever in which all South Africans will vote as equals is scheduled for April 27, 1994. As South Africa approaches this most important election, once again show your support for justice and peace by making a contribution toward the South African election process. Inside this newsletter there is an appeal from Nelson Mandela. Please read all the information carefully and then make as generous a contribution as you are able.

Your support is as important now as it ever was over all the years of protest. Walk this final mile for a democratic, non-racial South Africa.

The Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism
a project of the Social Justice Center, Albany, New York

Name
Address

Enclosed find my contribution of (circle one) $50 $25 $10 $ to aid the election process in South Africa.

Make checks out to: Fund for Democratic Elections in South Africa and mail to: 729 Boylston Street, Suite 520, Boston, Massachusetts 02116.

(This Fund has been established by a group of long time anti-apartheid workers in the U.S. as a way to assist in the upcoming elections. CD-CAAR will be informed of all contributions from our readership.)
A PERSONAL APPEAL FROM NELSON MANDELA
(reprinted from: the Fund for Democratic Elections in South Africa appeal)

THIS IS THE MOST URGENT APPEAL I HAVE EVER MADE FOR SUPPORT IN THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY IN SOUTH AFRICA. WE ARE AT A DECISIVE POINT IN THE HISTORY OF OUR PEOPLE.

After decades of selfless sacrifices, we have succeeded in creating the climate in which a democratic general election is imminent.

This will be the first time ever that all South Africans will vote as equals for a government of their choice.

Having said that, however, we remain fully aware of the obstacles that stand in the way of free and fair elections. Amongst these is the horrific and senseless violence that continues to plague our country.

Of equal concern, because it could prevent the achievement of democracy, is the fact that we go into these elections under an enormous handicap. The fact that the entire eligible African population like myself has never voted and possess no experience about the voting process is an obstacle. Another is the overwhelming disparity of resources that exists between the Pretoria government and the democratic movement. The legacy of apartheid has left our society in complete disarray...

Our first and most important task, therefore, will be to ensure that all our people, black and white, vote knowingly and willingly. This responsibility of providing non-partisan voter education will fall entirely on the democratic movement since the government does not have the credibility to carry it out. Neither is it in their interest.

The size of the task takes on daunting dimensions when you consider that of the 20 million eligible voters, 18 million will be voting for the first time and 9 million are illiterate. Many of the regions in which our people live are inaccessible, without election facilities and any other public service worth mentioning. We also need to reach out to the approximately 6 or 7 million people living in makeshift or corrugated squatter camps bordering most metropolitan areas.
The Pretoria government has already begun its election campaign. At this very moment, it is making approaches to the very communities it has until now refused even to acknowledge.

The Pretoria government is making full use of public and state facilities worth billions of dollars to support their own interests. The Pretoria government will continue to finance its campaign with taxpayers' money as well as with funds that flow freely from many sources including the private sector, industry, and big business. It will continue to carry its propaganda efforts to every corner of South Africa and beyond, via the national electronic media which have remained fully under its control.

We, on the other hand, still have to create a national electoral infrastructure, put in place essential facilities, train and educate electoral workers and volunteers, establish offices throughout the country. Additionally, we have to reach out and communicate to inaccessible communities and counter the propaganda efforts of the government in the national media.

Our organization was unbanned a mere three years ago. We have never fought an election and will have to acquire the skills that under normal conditions require decades to put in place.

The cost of acquiring the necessary infrastructure and providing the essential training and education to ensure that the elections will be free and fair will not be less than US $100 million. But what is the cost when one compares that to the price of failure and the result in human suffering?

Another Yugoslavia? Angola or Somalia? Civil war? Bloodshed? Famine?

...This is not an election merely to be contested between different organizations; it is a contest between freedom and oppression, and its outcome will affect over 100 million people throughout Southern Africa. As I said, this is the most urgent appeal I have ever made for support. Let us ensure that our country's children never know the suffering and humiliation of previous generations.

Nothing can be allowed to stand in the way of democracy; not ignorance, not illiteracy, and most certainly not the advantageous resources of those who wish to preserve their privileged positions. With your help and support we cannot fail.

Nelson R. Mandela
April 27th will shape the future of the people of South Africa for years to come. But there are still many obstacles to the democratic exercise of rights by all of South Africa's people. Some of the obstacles that may hinder full electoral participation are the following:

• 18 million people have never voted in an election before; they have no knowledge of voting laws or procedures.

• Voters will not be pre-registered. They will show their identity documents at the polls. It is estimated that 5 million Blacks do not have any identity documents whatsoever.

• There will be 7,400 voting stations and one day of voting. Approximately 3,000 people will vote at each station (3 per minute) - this includes time for clearing identity documents.

• One half of the Black electorate live in rural areas controlled by conservative whites and Neo Nazis. Campaigning here is very difficult; is not impossible. Traditional trespass rule ("no go" laws) allow farmers, mineowners, etc. to control access to their property.

• A poor public transportation system, and the paucity of private transportation, may severely inhibit voters' actual access to polling places.

• 7 million Blacks live in squatter camps with no electricity and no running water.

• 50% of the Black population is illiterate; 50% of the Black population is unemployed.

• The Transitional Executive Council (TEC) has 23 parties. There are 23 parties in the elections including the ANC and the Nationalist Party. The TEC has set up subcouncils on media, election laws and security; they are now operational. There is a fundamental disagreement between the government and the TEC over the nature and scope of the TEC's powers. According to the government, the TEC is an advisory body only and does not have the power to issue directives. The TEC believes that it has concurrent executive powers.

• This difference is of serious consequence - the government would maintain that the TEC does not have the authority to order the deployment of South African security forces into Mangosuthu Buthelezi's violence-torn KwaZulu homeland.

The right wing, Bophuthatswana, the KwaZulu government, and the Bophuthatswana-KwaZulu Alliance, has just launched a campaign for a "no go" law, which they claim will help bring peace to the KwaZulu homeland. They claim that elements of the ANC are to blame for the violence and are urging their voters to "vote against the violence" on April 27th.

The single greatest obstacle to South Africans voting is the lack of identity documents. The government has advertised a lot on current affairs and the progress being taken.

The United Nations, Commonwealth, Europe, the United States, and the African National Congress have expressed concern about the violence and the threat to democracy. The UN has called for international monitors, "no go" laws, and a serious effort to register people to vote.

The Christian Council of South Africa, the South African Council of Churches, the South African National Council of Churches, the Anglican Church, Southern Baptist Convention, the United Methodist Church, the Salvation Army, the Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary, the Quakers, and the Quakers in Britain have all taken stands in support of democracy in South Africa.

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ATTENTION: The TIDE poster stresses the importance of proper identity documents.

The right wing Freedom Alliance which includes the Afrikaner Volksfront, the Bophuthatswana government, the Conservative Party, the Inkatha Freedom Party and the KwaZulu government are not members of the TEC. Ciskei, a member of the Freedom Alliance, has joined the TEC.

The single greatest threat to the conduct of free and fair elections is political violence. Over 10,000 people have died in state sponsored political violence, the great majority being Black supporters of the African National Congress, since Mandela's release from jail in 1990. The South African Human Rights Commission reported that "the violence is being fueled by elements who perceive their interests, privileges and power to be threatened by a negotiated and democratic settlement. Increased incidences of violence in the country exacerbate fear of voting among the electorate - especially those who are first-time voters. Unless effective action is taken to reduce bloodshed, many thousands of Black voters may be too frightened to participate.

Groups both within and without of South Africa are working to make sure that the election will be as free and as fair as possible. Some of the actions being taken are as follows:

•The United Nations has promised to send between 2,000 and 4,000 observers. The Commonwealth will deploy 70; Japan, 100; the European Union, 312; and NGO's from Europe, the U.S. and the Far East and pledged substantial obervers.

•Voter education (the importance of participation, education and training of new voters, holding mock elections) and monitoring the violence which is wracking the country are of critical importance.

•Within the country, Matla Trust is a non-partisan organization set up to provide voter education for Black South Africans. The Institute for Contextual Theology is another non-partisan group doing voter education. EMPSA is a joint effort by the South African Council of Churches, the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference and the World Council of Church to bring an international presence to the grassroots level and to monitor the violence, the negotiations process, and the run-up to elections. This program places teams of monitors in violence torn-communities where they serve four to six weeks. (Contact for more information: Willis Logan, National Council of Churches, Africa Office, 475 Riverside Drive, N.Y.N.Y. 10115 (212)870-2645 or Robert Dumas, U.S. Catholic Conference, 3211 4th Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20017 (202)541-3382. In the U.S., the Africa Fund is enlisting people to be Election Watchers to inform people in the U.S. of threats to a free and fair election. (Contact for more information: Dumisani Kumalo, The Africa Fund, 198 Broadway, N.Y.N.Y. 10038 (212)961-1210.

"Passing the Torch to a New Generation: Celebrating our Youth and Preparing Leaders for the 21st Century." Albany Branch NAACP Annual Freedom Fund Dinner, Empire State Plaza, March 4, 1994, 7:00 p.m.
Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano Visits U.S. ...to U.S. Activists: "Don't get tired!"

Eileen Kawola

On September 26, 1994 at a reception at Sylvia's Also on Malcom X Boulevard in Harlem, and on September 28, 1994 to about 200 U.S. activists at a breakfast meeting organized by the American Committee on Africa at the New York Theological Seminary, President Joaquim Chissano greeted and spoke to friends of Mozambique. As the conditions in Mozambique change in this new time of peace, and as development issues become critical, this meeting provided the opportunity for President Chissano to discuss new directions for those who worked with, and for, Mozambique through the years of struggle.

"Our main weapon has always been to be able to mobilize people and mobilize public opinion outside of Mozambique...Continue to do what you are doing. Continue to support consolidation of freedom. Continue to share experiences with new generations so that we can continue the friendships we have built. Continue to transmit information. Help us to destroy bad and build good," Chissano told the audience as he expressed several times how encouraging it is to experience the commitment of the solidarity movement.

Jennifer Davis, Exec. Director, the Africa Fund, with Mozambican President, Joachim Chissano at Harlem reception. September 28, 1994.

(Notes: It is not clear on Mozambique. Notes, put on Mozambique and often inadequate to Mozambique and issues) sent 2005. Telep
Eileen Kawola’s Also on 28, 1994 to organized by Theological and spoke to a Mozambique movement issues opportunity for those who of struggle. to mobilize outside of. Continue to to share continue the information. no told the thing it is to it.

Pastor Jamisse in front of new Methodist Church/community center being built to serve the people of Liberdade, Mozambique.

On both occasions, Chissano outlined the peace progress and the work being done, as well as what needs to be done, as Mozambique moves toward national reconstruction. It will be necessary to rebuild destroyed infrastructures and destroyed lives. It is a country of orphans, displaced and traumatized children; a country where schools and hospitals have been destroyed. It is a country where millions of its people have been living as internal and external refugees attempting to escape the war; refugees now beginning to return to their homes.

In addition to reconstruction, he addressed the issue of reconciliation, noting that "...reconciliation - the word is misused. RENAMO broke not from Frelimo but from the whole family of Mozambique." He pointed out that the Mozambicans who fought with RENAMO did so first for the Rhodesians and then, for sixteen years, for the South Africans. That brutal war of destabilization cost Mozambique horrendous human and economic costs. Yet, with mixed emotions and despite continuing RENAMO demands, violations and delays, Chissano expressed hope for a new Mozambique. He called on U.S. activists to keep working for Mozambique by continuing to give support in many ways: people-to-people projects, strengthening U.S. government and Mozambique government ties, calling for clear U.S. policy on Mozambique. "Mozambique has potential. It is now one of the poorest countries but can be turned into one of the richest and become a partner of the United States... Don't get tired!"

Note: It is very difficult to find up-to-date and accurate information on Mozambique. An excellent source of news can be found in the Baobob Notes, put out by the Mozambique Solidarity Office. Baobob Notes is a reliable and easy-to-read newsletter aimed at providing alternative and often inaccessible information to people in the U.S. about events in Mozambique and Southern Africa. For a yearly subscription (6 bi-monthly issues) send $20 to MSO, 6 Goodrich Rd. #2, Jamaica Plain, MA. 02130-2005. Telephone: (617)983-2239.)
Noting Brutal Hypocrisy: Haiti and Angola

Vera Michelson

CD-CAAR notes here that the hypocrisy of the U.S. government, with all its noise making over free and fair elections for democracy in the world, continues under the Clinton administration and becomes very clear when we look at two cases in point - Haiti and Angola.

HAITI - Haiti's President, Jean Bertrand Aristide, was democratically elected by the overwhelming majority of the Haitian people. In September 1991 he was overthrown by a gang of thugs who were on guess whose payroll? No surprise the CICADA. This is the same CIA which is trying to make us believe that President Aristide is mentally unbalanced!! And since the coup in Haiti, thousands of Haitians have been killed, arrested and tortured, and "disappeared."

An Americas Watch/National Coalition on Haitian Refugees report entitled "Silencing a People: the Destruction of Civil Society in Haiti" describes the army's actions as "systematically repressing virtually all forms of independent association." The army's aim, according to the report, is to "return Haiti to the atomized and fearful society of the Duvalier era so that even if international pressure secures the return of Aristide, he would have difficulty transforming his personal popularity into the organized support needed to exert civilian authority over a violent and recalcitrant army." (from Peace and Democracy News, Summer 1993).

A Witness for Peace delegation which visited Haiti in the Fall found that there was widespread suspicion among the Haitian people that even if the U.S. government does exercise the power to get Aristide back in office, it would only be as a figurehead, with a compromised ability to govern. In the Governor's Island accords, Aristide was forced to make many concessions but to what avail? It is now the winter of 1994 and Aristide has still not been returned to power, the army has a firm control over the country, and new gangs are being formed, with army backing, to intimidate the people from showing any support for Aristide. The years tick away on Aristides six year term.

The Clinton administration will not support real democracy in Haiti unless pressured to do so. Just consider Clinton's promises before the election and now his continuing failure to establish a just political refugee policy. The Administration mouths platitudes about democracy and shamefully lets the military continue to rule. There is no political will to resolve the crisis. And the Haitian people continue to suffer.

Please do not let this intolerable U.S. policy toward Haiti stand.

Contact your elected representatives and:
1. stress that the U.S. exert the necessary pressure to return Aristide to power.
2. oppose any plan for making Pres. Aristide "expand" his government to include pro-military forces.
3. demand an investigation into the role of the CIA and other government agencies in supporting anti-democratic forces in Haiti, drug trafficking and disinformation.
4. ask your Representative to co-sponsor Carrie Meek's bill supporting Haitian refugees.

ANGOLAN people toward Angola's fair and free elections backed by the U.N. refused to accept Angolan people's recent U.N. request to stop the conflict in the wake of a day are dying daily.

The U.S. is largely responsible for this silence. Indeed, the U.S. is not responsible to international law, etc., to UNITA, or democratically elected government.

Foreign Denunciations, the 1991 peace accords, are responsible to the U.S. government and that we expect to see a move in stopping the U.S. is forcing the U.N. to work to restrain the conflict.

1. allocate international force involved in army,
2. put pressure on the U.N. to fund UNITA to fund its war etc.,
3. insist that South Africa withdraw from conflict in Angola,
4. issue strong denunciation of U.N. installations.

---WR Program---

---COMMUNITY--

---From your last editorial...---
ANGOLA - Just as corrupt as U.S. policy in Haiti is the stand the U.S. is taking toward Angola. The government party in Angola (the MPLA) won internationally declared fair and free elections in September of 1992. Since then Jonas Savimbi and UNITA (long backed by the CIA and South Africa) have plunged Angola into a virtual hell. Savimbi refused to accept the democratic election results and has resumed his brutal war against the Angolan people. The country barely functions, the infrastructure has been destroyed. A recent U.N. report cites the Angolan war as resulting in the highest fatality rate of any conflict in the world. Other experts call it the worst war in the world. One thousand people a day are dying. How do you bury 1,000 people a day...?

The U.S., which both overtly and covertly armed and aided Savimbi over the years, is largely responsible for the carnage. And now the U.S. is guilty of a conspiracy of silence. Indeed, the silence is deafening... There are no loud condemnations of Savimbi. The U.S. is not leading the fight to implement a mandatory U.N. embargo on arms, fuel, etc., to UNITA. In fact, the U.S. is doing very little to insure that the winners of the democratically held election are allowed to rule.

Foreign Minister Venacio de Moura said the U.S. has special responsibility to revive the 1991 peace accord because of its past history of support for UNITA. It is our special responsible to let our representatives know that what is happening in Angola is intolerable and that we expect them to be doing everything possible to see that the U.S. takes the lead in stopping the war, in denouncing Savimbi for the destructive role he is playing and in forcing the UNITA leadership to negotiate in good faith.

The Washington Office on Africa proposes a list of specific ways the U.S. could work to restrain its former client and bring an end to the carnage in Angola:

1. allocate intelligence resources to identify states, companies, individuals who are involved in arms supplies to UNITA;
2. put pressure on diamond merchants who are purchasing diamonds being sold by UNITA to fund the war;
3. insist that South Africa stops flights with supplies, including those originating in Bophuthatswana;
4. issue strong warning to stop any attacks on U.S. (or other) on and off shore oil installations.

...WRITE LETTERS ON HAITI AND ANGOLA... a list of our representatives and senators is included on the next page. Take the time to write!

...COMBAT MEDIA DISINFORMATION... demand accurate information from your local news outlets. Write op-eds, letters to the editor and meet with the editorial boards of your newspapers to set the record straight on Haiti and Angola.
If you want to read more about Haiti...
"After the Coup" (Still in the Hands of the Thugs) - a report of the Special Delegation of the National Labor Committee which is an excellent book describing conditions as they really are in Haiti and the true role of USAID. This can be purchased by contacting: National Labor Committee, 15 Union Square West, New York, New York 10003-3377 (212)242-0700. Cost $5.00.

We also suggest that interested readers subscribe to "Haiti Reborn." Project of the Quixote Center, P.O. Box 5206, Hyattsville, Md. 20782. (301)699-0042. (The Quixote Center has long been a source of valuable information on Haiti.)

Another good resource on Haiti: "Teaching About Haiti." This is an updated and expanded 40 page edition of the teaching guide prepared for last year's Haiti Solidarity Week. For more information, contact Network of Educators in the Americas (NECA), 118 22nd Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20037 (202)429-0137.

And about South Africa...

Voting in the Shadow of Apartheid - This pamphlet answers questions about the coming elections in South Africa - the purpose, who can vote, the problems. It also contains a section about the Namibia elections of 1989.

The Struggle Continues: South African Women and the Vote - This pamphlet addresses some of the issues affecting Black South African women as they prepare to participate in that country's first national democratic election. It should serve as a valuable resource to anyone interested in the South African women's movement, voter education, democracy, and the position of women in that country's current political transition.

(The above pamphlets are available from: The Africa Fund 198 Broadway, New York, N.Y. (212)962-1210. The cost is 35 cents each, 20 cents for 20 or more. Minimum order is $1.00)

Corporate Responsibility from the Ground Up: The South African Council of Churches "Code of Business Conduct" - This valuable report by Donna Katzlin addresses the questions of responsible reinvestment in South Africa. (Available from: Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, 475 Riverside Drive, Rm 566, N.Y., N.Y 10115 (212)870-2295. Cost $2.50 single issue; $1.50 ea. for 20.)
Nate: (provided by Susan DuBois) People from the U.S. have been providing a nonviolent presence in Haiti as international observers. "Cry for Justice" has sent observers throughout the Fall in anticipation of President Aristide’s return. The Washington Office on Haiti has been coordinating these efforts. WOH can be reached at 110 Maryland Avenue, NE, Suite 310, Washington, C.C. 20002, (202)543-7095.

Witness for Peace has also been in Haiti throughout the Fall. At a conference in the U.S. in October, two of the participants from this delegation reported on their observations. They had encountered a grassroots network of Haitian human rights observers working in rural areas who bring back reports which are then transmitted out of the country. Some of the Haitians with whom the delegation spoke said that although they wanted President Aristide to return, even if he did not return the democratic movement could not be stopped over the long term.
Free Trade with Cuba Act - H.R. 2229

Introduced by Rep Charles Rangel (D-NY) on April 29, 1993, this bill would remove all restrictions on trade and investments, travel, as well as telephone and mail communications with Cuba. It would lift the embargo on trade by foreign subsidiaries of U.S. owned companies (one of the provisions of the Torricelli Act passed last year) and clear the way for unrestricted sales and donations of foods and medicines to and from Cuba. Also, this bill would call upon the President to open negotiations with the Cuban government to settle outstanding claims by U.S. companies whose properties were nationalized in 1959. The bill has been referred to four House committees: Foreign Affairs, Energy and Commerce, and Post Office and Civil Service, and Ways and Means which has agreed to a hearing on the bill sometime in Feb. 1994. (While there is little chance this bill will pass as it is written, we are encouraging grassroots support for it. Contact your Representative now about becoming a co-sponsor of HR 2229. The longer the list of sponsors, the more seriously the call for a new U.S. policy will be taken. See list of Capital District area representatives and N.Y.S. Senators in this newsletter)

Review of U.S. Travel Policy to Cuba

It is important to make sure the State Department knows there is a growing constituency calling for an end to all travel restrictions to Cuba. The phone number for Secretary of State Warren Christopher is (202) 647-5298.


Building on the victories of the two Caravans this year, this third Friendshipment will travel on 13 routes stopping in 130 cities picking up humanitarian aid for the people of Cuba. For more info: (612) 378-0062.

Dateline Havana Trip

You can help balance the view of the New World Order. While the U.S. government restricts who can travel to Cuba, peace and justice activists may visit the island for the purpose of gathering news for a local newsletter, radio program or organization. Three trips have been planned for the winter of 1994. (Jan 21-30, Feb. 18-27, Mar.25-Apr.3) The overall theme will be getting to know the real Cuba by exploring the many facets of the island's life. There will be visits to hospitals, schools and a day care center, meeting with women's organizations and neighborhood block associations. It is an opportunity to learn about Cuba's strategy for survival and how people there are bearing up under Washington's trade ban. If you are interested or would like more information, call the CUBA INFORMATION PROJECT (212) 227-3422.

From The CUBA INFORMATION PROJECT

Jessie Davis (212) 227-3422

The sister of Frank Davis, who was killed in a 1971 bomb attack by the KGB against the city administration building in Moscow. As a result, Judge Glusker has been unable to move the site of the trial of the defendants in the case.

Corporate defendants in the Davis murder case have been unable to move the site of the trial of the defendants. In the case of Jesse Davis, the site was eventually moved to a different location.

In an order dated October 19, Judge Glusker ordered the defendants to fund the costs of relocating the trial site. The defendants argued that the move was unnecessary. Judge Glusker disagreed, stating that the move was necessary to ensure the fairness of the trial.

"This trial is about justice, not politics," said Judge Glusker. "The defendants have a right to be tried in a fair and impartial court." The judge also noted that the move was necessary to ensure the safety of the jurors and other participants in the trial.

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Community Coalition for the Prevention of Violence

The Fourth Annual Community Violence Prevention Program Local Conference will be held on Saturday, June 2, 1990. The conference will take place in the Community Center on State Street in York, New York. The conference will feature presentations on a variety of topics related to community violence prevention. The conference is sponsored by the York State Division of Youth and Family Services.

Applications for the Community Violence Prevention Program are now being accepted. The application deadline is June 1, 1990. For more information, please call 222-8211.

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Jessie Davis Update..."it's not about money."

The sister of Jessie Davis, the Albany man shot to death by Albany police in 1984, turned down an offer of $350,000 made by the City of Albany to settle her civil rights cases against the city and against five police officers involved in the shooting death of her brother. As a result, Judge Neal P. McCurn ordered a federal trial to be held on June 20th in Utica, moving the site from Syracuse where it was scheduled originally.

Corporation Counsel, Vincent McArdle, Jr., and the attorneys representing the police defendants in the case expressed surprise over Ms. Thornton's rejection of the offer. They have been unable to understand why Jessie Davis' family is compelled to learn the truth surrounding his death. Louise Thornton has said, "It is not about money, it's about truth and justice."

In an open letter to the community on December 23, 1993, Louise Thornton made a request for help on an emergency basis to help fund the civil rights litigation in this case. $6,000 is urgently needed to pay for two expert pathologists to testify at the trial. Lewis Oliver, lawyer for the family, has said that this testimony is very important for success at trial. Louise Thornton:
"This trial is the only way that the truth about what happened to my brother will ever see the light of day."

Please send contributions which will bring this important testimony to court to:
Alice Green/Jessie Davis Fund, c/o Center for Law and Justice
Pine West Plaza, Building #2, Washington Ave. Extension
Albany, New York 12205

Community Conference on Youth and the Law

The Fourth Annual Community Conference on Crime and Criminal Justice will take place on Saturday April 16, 1994. The all-day gathering will address "Youth and the Law: Problems and Solutions." Area youth are involved in the planning and organizing of the conference. Tentative workshop topics include: legal rights, survival skills, crime prevention programs that work, and the state of juvenile justice.

The Conference is being presented by The Center for Law and Justice and the New York State Division for Youth. Over 50 other community groups and agencies are expected to co-sponsor the Conference. For more information, contact the Center at (518) 427-8361.

Applications for Program Director - Youth Crime Prevention and Legal Rights Education

The Center for Law and Justice is seeking applications for the position of Program Director for a youth crime prevention and legal rights education program. Applicants should have superior writing, communication, analytical, and organizational skills and be able to work with youth from diverse cultural and economic backgrounds. The Director will assist in developing workshop programs and materials, teach models, do community outreach, and evaluate programs. Those interested should send resumes to The Center for Law and Justice (see address above)
Last January we ran an article by Brian O'Shaughnessy, Troy Housing advocate and CD-CAAR member, who has been working to reveal the pattern of racism, the injustice and the nepotism that has existed in the Troy Housing Authority for years. Just one year later incredible progress has been made in changing the "business as usual" THA due to the persistent hard work of many in the Troy community.

**Update on efforts to reform**
**Troy Housing Authority:**
**1993 - A Watershed Year**

In August of 1993, a motion was put on the Troy Housing Authority (THA) Board of Commissioners agenda to "completely reorganize" the Housing Authority. The resolution passed by a 4 to 3 vote.

The resolution and the vote were unthinkable a year earlier. But within that time frame, thanks to some well-timed organizing, three of the old-guard THA Commissioners had been "replaced."

One of the priorities of those advocating reorganization will be to have THA adopt and implement a serious affirmative action.

At the same August meeting, a vote was taken to limit the runaway powers of the Executive Director. As the newspapers wrote, Bob Hayes can no longer manipulate civil service; he can no longer turn his back on persons of color when employment opportunities arise; he can no longer give huge raises to favorite employees while overlooking the needs of the residents.

Then on October 21, 1993, the U.S. Attorney's office in Albany appeared at the THA front desk with subpoenas for volumes of Troy Housing Authority records. According to the Troy "Record," the Federal authorities will be using the information to investigate manipulation of civil service, nepotism in hiring and promotion, a lack of minority hiring and harassment of authority commissioners who voted to strip the executive of his powers.

Also in October, the abuses at THA became a campaign issue for the Republican City Council challengers. ...the THA was a "vote-able issue." On election day, the Democrats were swept out of City Hall and the City Manager resigned.

Predictably, THA has tried, in 1993, to retaliate against its most vocal critic, Brian O'Shaughnessy. All attempts failed, but the last was very notable: they used the Troy Police (26 of whom are also employed by THA as security guards!) to investigate Maureen Casey (Brian's wife and co-worker) on politically-motivated charges of aggravated harassment. The attempt failed when Maureen went public with an illegal subpoena (issued by an Assistant DA who works closely with the police) for Maureen's employee personnel file. As the deeds came to light, an apology was immediately given by the D.A. and it appears the incident is over.

All of this suggests that 1994 will bear much fruit for the residents of the Housing Authority from the seeds that began to be sowed in 1992. Cautious optimism, a watchful eye, and thanks to all who helped along the way, will be the hallmarks of the New Year.
A note about a friend of ours...

We found Celia Bess Cotton! Yes, it’s true! Celia Bess has left Albany for parts now known. She is teaching in a public school in Middletown, Connecticut and is attempting to inspire appreciation of cultural diversity within the school body.

She was recently asked to find educational materials which tell the true story about the invasion of Columbus; explain Hanukkah; and hold a Kwanzaa celebration. You know they got a good one when they got Celia Bess!

We’re happy for you CB but we will miss your quick wit, easy going nature and commitment to justice. And we wish you every success!

A note from a friend of ours..

12 November, 1993

Dear CD CAAR,

I would like to share with the organization my deepest gratitude and appreciation for my going away gathering on November 5, 1993. CD CAAR has been extremely instrumental in my political development as well as increasing my awareness of local, national and international affairs.

My relationship with this organization has reaffirmed and solidified my commitment toward seeking justice politically, educationally, economically, and spiritually. "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

I would like to especially thank Mark for his kind words and continued support. I am indebted to "Mike" for her vision, commitment, dedication, tireless energy, perseverance, organizing, constant vigilance, and most of all her kind spirit.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to be part of CD CAAR. I remain invested in the struggle.

A luta continua

Barry D. Walston

(Editor’s Note: Barry sums up so well how instrumental CD-CAAR has been in the political development of so many of us - and how important Mike has been in facilitating that development. Mike said to me - please don’t print that letter, it’s embarrassing. But every ten years or so it can’t hurt to say thanks!)
Who is democracy really for?

How can you give concrete support for South African democracy?

1. Inside is an urgent request from Nelson Mandela for aid in the upcoming elections. Please read carefully and respond as generously as possible. (Note: Some of you may have received the same request in a direct mailing from Boston).

2. Save March 19th for a CD-CAAR fundraiser to benefit the South African election fund and the Jessie Davis Defense Fund (see information on the Jessie Davis case on the Center for Law and Justice page inside).

SOUNDS OF LIBERATION* with Azzaam Hameed and Smart Set, with special guests to be held at "Yours 'R Us Jazz Club," Barrett Street, Schenectady on Saturday, March 19th at 9:00 p.m.
more details to come...

NELSON MANDELA: "Nothing can be allowed to stand in the way of democracy; not ignorance, not illiteracy, and most certainly not the advantageous resources of those who wish to preserve their privileged positions. ...Only a democratically elected government that reflects the real will of the majority can realistically answer the cry for peace, jobs, and justice."

(from "A Personal Appeal from Nelson Mandela" to U.S. anti-apartheid workers and supporters to aid in the April 27, 1994 South African elections.)

ECUMENICAL TASK FORCE ON ECONOMIC MATTERS: "Our Faith calls us to a pastoral concern for the people of our country who are victims of apartheid injustice and mismanagement of the economy of this country. We are also called to a prophetic responsibility to proclaim the values of God's reign over and against the systematic economic distortions and imbalances created by apartheid..."