

BERTHA CAPEN REYNOLDS SOCIETY  
NATIONAL CONFERENCE

BEYOND THE BAND-AID:  
CONFRONTING MEAN STREET POLITICS

JUNE 13-15, 1997

St. Louis, Missouri

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SERVICE  
TEGELER HALL

**T**he Bertha Capen Reynolds Society is a national organization of progressive workers in social welfare dedicated to a concern for social justice, peace, and alliance with movements for fundamental change in existing class, racial, and gender hierarchies. It is named after Bertha Capen Reynolds (1885-1978), an eminent author, educator, practitioner, trade unionist, and social activist whose lifework linked concerns for individual and social change. Every year we hold a conference aimed at bringing together a diverse group of activists, social workers, students, and academics to discuss, strategize, and renew ourselves.

The goal of the conference is to develop a program and strategies for a human rights agenda grounded in an understanding of the interrelationship of racism, sexism, homophobia, and classism both in this country and internationally. In the best of the tradition of Bertha Reynolds, we will combine analysis and action and join with local activists in protesting the attacks on the welfare state.

*Co-sponsored: by Saint Louis University's School of Social Service, and Center for Social Justice. Education, and Research*

## FRIDAY, JUNE 13

### 8:15-9:00 REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

#### 9:00-9:30 WELCOME AND OPENING

Who and where we are and how did we get here?  
*Fred Newdom, Chair, Bertha Capen Reynolds Society*

#### 9:30-10:30 ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL OVERVIEW

David Gil, Brandeis University, will offer an economic and political analysis which will help frame the weekend.

#### 10:45-12:15

##### 1. WELFARE TO WORK, IS OUT OF POVERTY POSSIBLE? THE CONNECTICUT EXPERIENCE

The workshop will describe and assess some of the experiences of community-based organizations in trying to advocate for and with welfare recipients at the legislature and through job training, job fairs, child care, and transportation efforts. The presenters will explore economic solutions to the problems of decent jobs for welfare recipients at decent wages with job security.

*Marcia Bok, Louise Simmons, and Nancy Churchill, University of Connecticut*

##### 2. BREAKTHROUGH: POPULAR EDUCATION DEMYSTIFIES ECONOMICS

Breaking Through: Education for Economic Action uses a community-based training process to help organizations or groups of individuals name how the economic system works and how we can make that system work better for ourselves and our communities. In this session, you will have an opportunity to sample some of the learning strategies that are utilized during a typical breakthrough workshop.

*Betsy Slosar, BreakThrough Education for Economic Action, St. Louis*

##### 3. ALL THESE BOOKS AND NOTHING TO READ!

Kris Kleindienst, co-owner of Left Bank Books for 22 years, discusses the impact of chain stores and media monopoly on the availability of progressive points of view.

*Kris Kleindienst, Lisa Greening, St. Louis*

#### 12:15-1:45 CAUCUSES WITH A BOX LUNCH

#### 1:45-3:15

##### 7. HOW WELFARE REFORM IMPACTS PEOPLE

A panel from Chicago community organizations and the urban research center will present findings, and action strategies for working with elected officials on welfare reform issues. Learn how to gather useful information and devise solutions!

*Edward J. Gumz, Loyola University, Chicago*

##### 8. WOMEN WHO CHANGE THE WORLD

WILPF is a worldwide sisterhood of peace and justice activists with chapters throughout the U.S. and 45 countries. Come and learn how this program empowers women to work for equality of all people, an end to violence, and the transfer of resources from military to human needs.

*Gloria Gordon, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), St. Louis*  
*Beth Baker, Saint Louis University*

##### 9. HOW DO YOU CREATE LIVING WAGE JOBS?

This workshop will address military spending and commercial job creation. The tension between gambling and manufacturing will be addressed.

*Mary Ann McGivern, Economic Conversion Project, St. Louis*

##### 4. CAN THEY HEAR MY VOICE IN THE CAPITOL FROM WHERE I AM?

What does it mean to be part of a community of activists? Participants will consider questions such as: Why do I consider myself an activist? Is an activist only a person who creates change in the public arena?

*Carl Brun, Wright State University, Dayton, OH*  
*Jamala Rogers, Organization for Black Struggle, St. Louis*

##### 5. THE ALLEN COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROJECT

This presentation will explore lessons learned from a community organizing project that began in 1995 and whose aim is the primary prevention of domestic violence. Unique characteristics of this project include a non-hierarchical, democratic decision making process and a collaborative effort that extends from victims of domestic violence to community leaders and large organizational structures.

*Jan Nes, St. Francis College, Ft. Wayne, IN*

##### 6. HETEROSEXISM IN SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION - IS ANYTHING CHANGING?

Has heterosexism in social work education decreased over the last five years? Hear what gay/lesbian/bisexual MSW students have to say, and their recommendations for change.

*Thomas L. Geraty, Boston, MA*

##### 10. HOW PROGRESSIVES AVOID DOING THE WRONG THING

In this discussion-based workshop for BCRS faculty members, we will discuss and analyze the conditions which make it difficult (or easy) to teach progressive social work.

*Marti Bombyk, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI*

##### 11. NEEDS FOR PROGRESSIVE MEDIA ALTERNATIVE

The growing monopolization of the media by multinational corporations continues to move the general debate about social policy in a conservative direction. This workshop will attempt to apply a community problem-solving frame work to this issue.

*John Potash, Columbia University and Social Justice Action Quarterly editor/publisher*

##### 12. REAWAKENING SOCIAL WORK ACTIVISM AMONG STUDENTS: PARTNERSHIP PRACTICE IN A POOR PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT

The presenters will share their expertise in working in alliance with the Kensington Welfare Rights Union, a Chapter of the National Welfare Rights Union and constituent member of the Up and Out of Poverty Movement.

*Mary Bricker-Jenkins, Rick Goldstein, Theresa Parrino, Liz Thul Temple University, Philadelphia, PA*

3:30-5:00

**13. WELFARE ACTIVISM AT THE STATE LEVEL:  
HOW'S IT GOING?**

A roundtable discussion will be held among people who have been active in various states in legislative and regulatory advocacy around implementation of the 1996 federal legislation.

*Jeanette Mott Oxford, Reform Organization of Welfare, St. Louis*

*Christine McKenna, Syracuse University, NY*

*Angela Roffle, Women's Support Project, St. Louis*

**14. CHILD LABOR INTERNATIONAL: ARE WE PART  
OF THE PROBLEM?**

This workshop will examine the demographics and dynamics of child labor. Is all work by children child labor? Why do children work? Does child labor exist in the United States? What are the prevalent myths about child labor? Does consumer pressure on corporations help to eliminate child labor? How have children been involved in efforts to eliminate child labor? Are there community-based programs that offer alternatives to children and families caught in exploitive structures?

*Bill Ramsey, American Friends Service Committee, St. Louis*

**15. POLITICAL SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION... FOR A  
CHANGE**

By emphasizing the importance of political consciousness and analysis to progressive practice, the panelists aim to encourage discussion about ways in which politicized practice can be incorporated into social work curriculum and human service work.

*Susan Collins, Fort Bend Family Health Center, Houston, TX*

*Bob Fisher, University of Houston, Houston, TX*

**16. CREATING A FEMINIST AIDS COALITION**

This workshop will focus on the evolving process through which a fledgling coalition is being formed to address the health and social needs of women, children, and families affected by HIV/AIDS. Both in foundational principles and in organizational development, the coalition struggles to build on feminist values--empowerment, equality, mutuality, inclusion, consensual decision-making, voice for the voiceless, relationship, collaboration, use of personal skills and interests, respect for diversity, and honesty in communication.

*Jean M. Harvey, Women United for Aids (WUFA), St. Louis*

**17. WRITING FOR A CHANGE: PUBLICATION AS A  
VEHICLE FOR BUILDING A SOCIAL MOVEMENT**

Members of the Editorial Collective of the Journal for Progressive Human Services will moderate a panel on issues associated with advancing a radical agenda through the written word.

*Kate DeLois, Journal of Progressive Human Services, University of New England*

**18. ACTIVISM & SCHOLARSHIP: CONTRADICTIONS  
AND CHALLENGES AND A WILD MIX!**

A panel/workshop confronting issues like dealing with authority and leadership. who "owns" the knowledge. Strategic planning for ways that research can be used to work for progressive social change.

*Ann Rosegrant Alvarez and Lorraine Gutierrez, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor*

Two exhibits: PICTURE THIS and The Wall of Pain will be displayed at Tegeler Hall

**SATURDAY, JUNE 14**

**9:00-9:30 JOIN US FOR A CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**

**9:30--10:30 KEEPING HOPE ALIVE IN THE FACE OF OPPRESSIVE REALITY**

Mary Kay Blakely is the author of "Red, White and Oh So Blue", a memoir of a political depression.

10:45-12:15

**19. "THE RACIAL ASPECT OF THE PERENNIAL  
STRUGGLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS": ANTI-RACIST  
ACTIVISM AND PRACTICE IN BERTHA'S DAY AND  
OURS**

We will discuss how we have learned and taught about racism in our educational settings. We will also discuss how we engage in anti-racist organizing campaigns, and how we integrate issues of racism into a wide variety of activism and practice.

*Mildred Williamson and Michael A. Dover, University of Michigan,*

*Ann Arbor, MI*

*Janet Nes, St. Francis College, Fort Wayne, IN*

*Jim Williams, University of Illinois at Chicago, IL*

**20. SUPPORTING THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF  
ADOLESCENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

This session will seek to enhance our understanding of the needs of adolescents with disabilities. We will engage in debate and dialogue to hear the voices of those who are marginalized and "spoken for".

*Elizabeth Deploy and Ellen Martial, University of Maine*

**21. ALTERNATIVES TO MANAGED MENTAL  
HEALTH CARE**

This workshop will address problems with managed health care, specifically disadvantages to mental health treatment in the current reimbursement system. We will provide ideas about alternatives to the delivery of mental health care outside the managed care system.

*Steve Franklin, American Mental Health Alliance, St. Louis*

**22. MULTICULTURAL COLLABORATION: A JOINT  
PERSPECTIVE**

Community workers and social workers collaboration as true partners. Modeling a balance of power and authority when meeting the complex needs of clients.

*Debra Gussin, Harborview Medical Center, Seattle, WA*

**23. MOBILIZING FOR ECONOMIC JUSTICE - THE  
GUARANTEED ANNUAL INCOME**

The current political climate is forcing human service workers to take a stand and provide alternative solutions to the right wing attack on the welfare state. A viable option is the GAI, not a new idea, just one left out of the mainstream debates. How do we get this proposal back into the debate?

*Susanne Jones, Hunter College, NYC*

**24. EDX-EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE THROUGH  
DIVERSITY-FACULTY AND STUDENTS FIGHTING  
PROPOSITION 209**

A presentation by the steering committee of Educational Excellence through Diversity at California State University Sacramento on the strategies used to fight Proposition 209, and the implications of this legislation for affirmative action.

*Joan Dworkin, California State University, Sacramento*

**25. WELFARE REFORM AND CHILDREN**

Welfare reform has drastic effects on children living in AFDC families and on the Child Welfare system. What is happening to children and how can this be corrected?

*Cathryne Schmitz and Marian Hartung, Saint Louis University*

*Beth Griffin, Citizens for Missouri's Children, St. Louis*

## 12:15-1:15 Box Lunch

### 1:30-3:00

#### 26. WELFARE ISN'T FAIR TO DRUG OFFENDERS

This workshop explores issues of equity and fair treatment of substance abusers, drug offenders, and other denied governmental assistance under the 1996 federal welfare law and/or in state proposals for welfare reform.

*Faye Abram, Saint Louis University*

*Jann L. Hoge, Marygrove College, Detroit, MI*

#### 27. COLLECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR CONFRONTING HOMOPHOBIA IN SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

The needs of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered individuals are unaddressed issues in most social work schools. This panel will present strategies used to bring full inclusion to the needs of these populations into one curriculum.

*Mary Bricker-Jenkins, Nalda Claudio, Juanita Dennis, Nicole*

*Gordon, Stacy M. Hirsch, Kate Rehm, Liz Thul, Lori Young, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA*

#### 28. ACTIVISM AND AMERICAN INDIAN ISSUES: OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION AND RESPECTING BOUNDARIES

Many injustices to the Indian Nation continue to take place. The role of activists in addressing these injustices within a context which respects sovereignty will be the focus of this discussion.

*Hilary N. Weaver, (Lakota), State University New York at Buffalo*

#### 32. THE DELICATE WORK OF BUILDING A LABOR/WELFARE ALLIANCE

This workshop will examine issues and current efforts of welfare recipients and unions to form an alliance to bring attention to the threats posed by welfare reform.

*Diane Dujon, Ann Withorn, University of Massachusetts/Boston*

#### 33. THE HOMELESS: WHAT WOULD WE DO WITHOUT THEM?

This roundtable discussion will address what has been done in the area of housing rights and what should be done to fight homelessness. Solutions include legal and proactive strategies which address economic and social structures.

*Marian Pena and Sandra Aseltine, Department of Public Health, San Francisco, CA*

*Dale Weaver, California State University, Long Beach, CA*

*Jeff Farber, Los Angeles Family Housing Corp*

*Dan Glazier, Legal Services of Eastern Missouri, St. Louis*

#### 29. THE RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL RIGHT: TURNING BACK THE TIDE

This roundtable explores the political advances of the conservative right religio-political coalition. Who's involved, what issues are they pursuing, how do progressives intervene?

*Susan A. Taylor and Cathryne L. Schmitz, Saint Louis University*

*John Hickey and Robyn Steely, Pro-Vote, St. Louis*

#### 30. SINGLE-PAYER HEALTH CARE

The abuses resulting from managed care should make us remember the time when single-payer healthcare was widely discussed as a possibility for reform. How do we get single-payer health care back into the discussion?

*John G. Clark, Missourians for a Single-Payer Health System, St. Louis*

#### 31. ECONOMIC GLOBALIZATION AND COLLECTIVE RESISTANCE: A PARADIGM SHIFT THROUGH COMMUNITY ORGANIZING

This session invites you to participate in analysis of the destructive impact of economic globalization on communities around the world, and share your strategies for positive social change. Community organizing and local economic development are viewed as remedies that prevent economic and social disintegration and build grassroots resistance, self-determination and power.

*Arline Prigoff, California State University, Sacramento*

### 3:15-4:45

#### 34. CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: BLAMING THE VICTIM, ARE WE GOING TO FAR?

Capital punishment is a system of retribution and vengeance which impacts the delivery of all social services. It's the poor, sick, ignorant, powerless and hated who are executed.

*Andrea Langton, Mo. State Death Penalty Abolition Coordinator of Amnesty International, St. Louis*

*Margaret Phillips, Eastern Mo. Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, St. Louis*

*Cheryl Rafert, Death Penalty Appeal Attorney, St. Louis*

#### 35. DISABILITY RIGHTS FORUM, ISSUES AND ACTION

This workshop will explore issues related to disability rights legislation, technical assistance and the implementation of ADA. Issues relating to accommodations in the workplace, discrimination, architectural barriers and action to remedy the problems will be addressed.

*Jim Tuscher, Chair, and Candace Hawkins, Executive Director, Governor's Council on Disabilities, Jefferson City, MO*

*Marty Exline, Policy Coordinator, Missouri Assistive Technology Project, Jefferson City, MO*

*Rhonda O'Farrell, PROJECT START, St. Louis*

### 5:00-6:30

#### THE STORIES OF HOPE, BY LET'S START

Let's Start is a support process for women coming out of prison. Stories of Hope is a dramatic presentation of compiled stories of women who have been through the Let's Start process. The stories reflect experiences before prison, while in prison, and the process of change after prison.

*Sr. Jackie Toben, St. Vincent's Church, St. Louis*

### 6:30

#### CELEBRATE AN EVENING IN ST. LOUIS WITH A BBQ AND BAND (on campus)

### SUNDAY, JUNE 15

#### 9:30-12:00 CLOSING SESSION

Join us for a continental breakfast while Mary Bricker-Jenkins, Temple University, facilitates a discussion "Where Do We Go From Here"

**NOTE:** Some names may change.

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**THE BERTHA CAPEN REYNOLDS SOCIETY**

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ST. LOUIS, MO 63103

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# REGISTRATION FORM

BERTHA CAPEN REYNOLDS SOCIETY NATIONAL CONFERENCE

JUNE 13-15, 1997

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

INSTITUTIONAL/ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATION (OPTIONAL) \_\_\_\_\_

## ACCOMMODATIONS

### NOTE: ALL BUILDINGS ARE WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE

- \_\_\_\_ A block of 100 single dorm rooms has been reserved at \$30 per night per room. **Please include this amount with the registration fee.** Please specify what nights housing is needed. Thurs. Fri. Sat.
- \_\_\_\_ I have dietary restrictions. Please specify. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_ I will need child care.

## CEU CREDITS

- \_\_\_\_ I will need a Certificate of Attendance for CEU Credits.

## CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEE

NOTE: REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES 3 CONTINENTAL BREAKFASTS, 2 BOX LUNCHES, & SAT. BBQ

\$150 BCRS Member	\$50 student/low income
\$165 Non-Member	\$70 Friday/Saturday Only
\$25 Cancellation fee	No refunds or cancellations after June 1

**EARLY REGISTRANTS HAVE PRIORITY FOR WORKSHOPS**

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

I am not able to attend the conference, but would like to join the Bertha Capen Reynolds Society. Enclosed are my dues in the amount checked below.

- \_\_\_\_ \$15 student, unemployed, low income
- \_\_\_\_ \$35 regular
- \_\_\_\_ Please enter a BCRS membership subscription to the Journal of Progressive Human Services at \$18
- \_\_\_\_ I would like to make a contribution to sponsor a student/low income attendee

Please enclose payment (check or money order made out to the Bertha Capen Reynolds Society) for registration and accommodations by **June 1** and mail to:

BCRS CONFERENCE  
c/o Maria Bartlett  
Saint Louis University  
School of Social Service  
3550 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63103

FOR INFORMATION: Call Maria Bartlett at  
Tel: (314) 977-2717 Fax: (314) 977-2731 Email: BARTLEMC@SLUVCA.SLU.EDU

### FRIDAY

10:45-12:15      1:45-3:15      3:30-5:00

### SATURDAY

10:45-12:15      1:30-3:00      3:15-4:45

1st Choice \_\_\_\_\_

2nd Choice \_\_\_\_\_

To allow for variety and personal choice, select one from each group of available workshops to attend.