



**Mt. Vernon United Tenants, Inc.**

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**NEXT MVUT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
MONDAY\* - NOVEMBER 5, 2012 - 7:00 PM  
MVUT OFFICE - 2 GRAMATAN AVE. - ROOM 312**

\* Normally our General Membership Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month. However, the first Tuesday is Election Day and we do not want our meeting in any way to impact upon people's ability to vote in the election, so we will be meeting the night before - Monday November 5. Make sure you, your family, friends and neighbors all exercise your franchise - VOTE!!!

**Building News**

MVUT has been quite active recently providing building organizing assistance and/or technical assistance to numerous buildings in Mt Vernon and Yonkers:

**Mount Vernon**

211-13 Franklin Avenue  
54-58 South 2nd Avenue  
284 S. Columbus Ave.  
Intown Towers (37 N. 5th Ave.)  
472 Gramatan Avenue  
5 West 4th Street  
Millington Houses:  
(25-43 Millington St)  
(324-42 E. 4th Street)

**Yonkers**

73-83 Highland Avenue  
17 Pershing Street  
Crestwood Lakes Apartments  
Parkledge Apartments

**Town Hall Forum on The Route To Economic Fairness and the 2012 Elections**

There will be an important and informative forum held next Tuesday in White Plains (see flyer enclosed). MVUT will be organizing transportation up there for people who want to go. Call the office (914) 699-1114, ext.303 for information. This is one of many coalition efforts that MVUT has been and will continue to be involved in the recent past and in the upcoming months. Some of these groups/coalitions and their efforts:

**Hudson Valley Coalition For A Fair Economy (HVCFE)**

Did a lot of work this past year with many coalition members on income inequality. Things have been put on hold recently as a lot of key activists in the Coalition have been involved with electoral campaigns. Look for news later in November/early December.

**Alliance for A Greater New York (ALIGN)**

Working with ALIGN on the issue of *Industrial Development Agencies* (IDAs) and holding them accountable for job creation, "livable wages", etc. when huge state taxpayer subsidies are given to corporations. We're doing a Postcard Campaign on this. Why don't you come in and fill one out?!

**Neighborhood Preservation Coalition of New York State (NPC-NYS)**

MVUT's largest government source of funding is the *Neighborhood Preservation Program* (NPP). The statewide Coalition of groups who get funded under the NPP, the NPC-NYS, just held their recent two-day *Annual Conference* in NYC which MVUT

(See Over)

participated in. MVUT is organizing a *Legislative Breakfast* in early December for the six (6) Westchester groups who get funded under the NPP and all of the State Legislators who represent Westchester.

### "Envisioning Westchester"

Initiated by the *Elias Foundation*, dozens and dozens of organizations participated earlier in the year in an ambitious day-long event at the Yonkers Riverfront Library - *Just Change Westchester - Town Hall Meeting/Teach In For Social Change*. As a follow-up to that, a small group, the *Envisioning Westchester Collective* (MVUT included), is meeting to discuss short/long term strategies.

### Hunger Action Network of New York State (HANNYS)

HANNYS just held its 30th Anniversary celebration in NYC. Dennis and Board member Carol Claxton went down to a wonderful celebration honoring committed anti-hunger activists. Noteworthy about the event was that in one(1) room there were three (3) of the great academic theorists of our time on the issue of poverty:

- 1) HANNYS Board member and "Honoree", Bill DeFazio, former Chair of the Sociology Dept. at Str. John's University, Board Member and volunteer at *St. John's Bread and Life Soup Kitchen* and author of such books as *Ordinary Poverty* and co-author with Stanley Aronowitz of *The Jobless Future*.
- 2) Stanley Aronowitz, professor of Sociology at CUNY, union activist and author of dozens of books on poverty, labor, education and social theory. Former candidate for NYS Governor and a man who noted Princeton University professor and oft-quoted social critic Cornell West calls "...the most important scholar on the past and present U. S working class."
- 3) Francis Fox-Piven, Professor of Political Science and Sociology at the Graduate Center, CUNY, author of dozens of books, most recently *Challenging Authority: How Ordinary People Change America*. Her 1966 article in *The Nation* magazine "The Weight of The Poor: A Strategy To End Poverty" recently made her a household name as lunatic TV announcer Glenn Beck had anointed her as a public enemy # 1 and how she and her deceased husband, Richard Cloward, were personally responsible for virtually all of the U. S. social/economic ills ?!!!

### Westchester County Budget

Our other major government funding comes from Westchester County for our Eviction Prevention and Building Organizing work. Into November and December the *Westchester County Board of Legislators (W-BOL)* will be holding a series of Public Hearings on the 2013 County Budget. We'd like MVUT members, friends and beneficiaries to come to the Hearings to let the Board know of the great work MVUT does in keeping tenants in their homes, improving services and fighting landlord abuses, e.g. overcharges, reduction of services, harassment, etc. We'll keep you updated on days and locations of the Public Hearings in an upcoming mailing.

### MVUT Holiday Gathering

We'll begin planning for a Holiday Party at the MVUT office (either Friday Dec. 7 of 14) at the November 5 General Membership Meeting.

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**Donations have been running very slow recently. If you haven't donated recently PLEASE do so NOW and help support our good work. We could really use your financial support at this time. We are enclosing a self-addressed envelope for your convenience.**

**Support Tenants Rights!!  
Support Economic Justice !!  
Support MVUT!!!**