
THE PRAIRIE PROGRESSIVE



a newsletter for Iowa's Democratic Left

January 2023

Prairie Dog's 2022 Honor Roll: Opening doors & finding the will

Even in a tough year like this one, honor isn't hard to find. **Striking Ingreion workers** continue to hold the line in Cedar Rapids. **School teachers**, led by Iowa State Education Association President Mike Beranek, have stood up to slander, bullying, and disgracefully inadequate state funding with courage and class. **Librarians** in Vinton and other small towns have resisted abuse and censorship by misguided parents and out-of-state rightwing organizations. Space doesn't permit *The Prairie Progressive* to recognize every hero in Iowa, but here's a few to inspire you in 2023.

Camille deJorna worked for many years as Director of Admissions for the University of Iowa College of Law. She moved on to similar jobs in higher education in New York City and Chicago before returning to live in Iowa City again. In 2022 she was awarded the **Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lifetime Achievement Award** by the Association of American Law Schools Section on Women in Legal Education. The award honored her "commitment to equity in legal education, beginning as a student as one of the only women of color in her class. She has opened doors ever since." DeJorna continues to be a champion for diversity, inclusion, and justice

in legal higher education world-wide.

The City of Iowa City rolled out four electric buses, replacing four diesel buses in its 27-bus fleet. In addition to reducing emissions, **Transportation Director Darian Nagle-Gamm** is spearheading efforts to make public transit more affordable and accessible, making its online schedule more user-friendly, and expanding hours and routes—a far cry from the 1980s, when the city manager attempted to "prune" the system and a city council member disparaged regular riders as "transit-dependent." What was once a far-fetched goal of a no-fee bus system may well be the next stop.

Shawn Gallagher owns **Adcraft Printing** in Cedar Rapids, the longtime go-to for anyone wanting a union printer for yard signs, posters, and newsletters (like *The Prairie Progressive*). The company's work is fast and accurate, and Gallagher is not afraid to take on the rightwing politics of his member of Congress Ashley Hinson, businesses who see their employees as adversaries rather than partners, and the state and federal tax codes "rigged to help those at the top and the ultra-wealthy," as he wrote in a guest column for *The Gazette*.

The City of West Liberty in Muscatine County has been a Latino-

majority town, the first in Iowa, for ten years. Now it has become the first city in the state with a Latino-majority city council.

After debating the merits of the School Resource Officer program (cops in schools), the **Cedar Rapids Community School Board** voted to discontinue SROs at two middle schools despite pressure from the Chief of Police and Mayor Tiffany O'Donnell to maintain them. "We need to shift our focus to other forms of consequences that remediate, provide support, and change the narrative for our students," said Deputy Superintendent Nicole Kooiker. Ending the program was first proposed by **high school students** who cited Police Department data showing that Black students are arrested at a disproportionate rate. The Des Moines school district recently ended its SRO program; Iowa City schools have never had one.

Approximately 11,000 **University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics workers**, mostly nurses, won a class-action suit accusing the hospital of violating state and federal laws by intentionally paying them late, sometimes withholding overtime pay for more than two months. The Board of Regents agreed to settle for

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The treason caucus

Well, the US House of Representatives gained a Speaker as the morning of January 7th rolled around. He is GOP Senator Kevin McCarthy, a man perhaps more blinded by devotion to and faith in his own destiny than anyone who's ever held the gavel. He wagered everything on his bid for speaker. While he won the post after a historic string of lost votes, the bet's outcome is yet to be determined. Odds are certainly not strong for good results long-term. A log-jam is more likely. Highlights from the 15 pugilistic rounds of voting show why.

The late week of legislative hostage-taking quickly devolved into a game of giveaway on McCarthy's part. Gallingly, all concessions went to a tiny group of conspiracy-minded seditionists numbering around 20. They showed displeasure and intransigence by voting for other temper tantrum tots in the early rounds. Rep. Jim Jordan, Donald Trump, Andy Biggs, and so on.

Thanks to the glories of C-SPAN camera work the bloodiest round, 14, was recorded for the nation to behold in awe and some revulsion. In this round Matt Gaetz, supposedly on board to vote to pave the way for McCarthy's win, instead voted 'present,' which fell short. As it was Gaetz's first 'present' vote, some thought this was enough for the win, so there was a short-lived air of confusion among members. The fracas began in earnest shortly after, with McCarthy ally Patrick McHenry and others scurrying to the area where Gaetz sat with Lauren Boebert. McCarthy himself loped over to Gaetz in a clearly dejected manner to humiliate himself yet again before the nation and the House he hoped to lead.

The men in suits all leaned in. Gaetz grew fiery. Fingers were pointed. Faces were red. It was a mess. McCarthy loped back to his seat. As he turned, Mike Rogers of Alabama stormed toward Gaetz. He was dramatically pulled back—by a hand around his head and face, no less—and the whole assembly gasped. The Washington Post's Aaron Blake quoted Rep. Tim Burchett of Tennessee on Rogers' display: "People shouldn't be drinking, especially when you're a redneck, on the House floor." He added, speaking of Rogers, "I would drop him like a bag of dirt."

Negotiations with Gaetz roiled. During this scramble, we saw Marjorie Taylor-Greene's brawny arm hold aloft a cell phone displaying a call from "DT" to Matt Rosendale of Montana, another holdout. He waved the call away. Some reports claim he barked at her: "Don't do me that way!"

Gaetz eventually caved. Round 15 yielded the results McCarthy had so long desired. The exhausted group was finally sworn in. To get there, over 200 House Republicans had to watch while 20 peers—who would have been soundly defeated in most of these colleagues' districts as lunatics—were given plum assignments, rules concessions, and a host of goodies that will make rational governance of the House near-impossible in terms of passing legislation.

As for how Democrats felt, newly-elected Rep. Maxwell Alejandro Frost of Florida was quoted, describing his first four days as a member of Congress: "I'm gonna get sworn in at 1:00 AM on Saturday after two members almost got into a physical altercation on the House floor after my 15th vote for speaker

on my fourth day here. So kind of a shitshow."

In addition to chaos, actual threats loom. The worst is the spectre of a "select committee" empowered to investigate what the majority calls the "weaponization of the government against our citizens." They would be empowered—should this rules package pass—to investigate the DOJ as it investigates Trump, for one hair-raising example. They could investigate any FBI investigation of domestic terrorism, and more. Jim Jordan would have authority over this body's subpoena power. You remember Congressional subpoenas, right? Those quaint things McCarthy himself flouted with apparent impunity?

In the hands of people who believe and say our elections are fraudulent and a seditionist uprising is a Constitutional right rather than a federal (and capital) crime, the backroom maneuvering to undermine federal law enforcement's independence from legislative bodies is nothing short of vile. The treason caucus, as they surely are, has no shame. They distort the truth, turning crimes into virtues. They accept laws only when they are not enforced against the GOP. To them, convicted traitors are patriots; they are judge and jury in determining what America should be.

It was lost on no one that these votes for McCarthy, and the Stalinist form of government his party seems to be promoting, fell on the anniversary date of the January 6th insurrection and attack on our Capitol. Violence to them is merely a tool to achieve their end. We must find ways electoral, procedural, and legal to stop them, or all bets are off for the American experiment in democratic government.

—*Kim Painter was recently re-elected as Johnson County Recorder.*

Sundown towns

Thanks to the popular movie *Green Book* (2018), many have a basic awareness of the *Negro Motorist Green-Book* (more popularly known as simply the “Green Book”), published annually from 1936-1966, the best known of a number of travel guides catering to the black traveler of the early to mid-twentieth century; a subset of black culture at the time, who have the means to travel for the purposes of business, family, or leisure. Some readers may remember AAA travel guides, listing hotels and restaurants in travel destinations (and everywhere along the way), along with travel advice and maps. You could conceive of the Green Book as something similar, with much higher stakes.

Victor Hugo Green, a New York City mail carrier, along with his wife Alma Duke, saw the need for safer travel. Around 1936, Green began asking fellow postal workers for recommendations for safe travel destinations. Earlier versions of the book were more regionally limited, while later versions included not just the U.S. but international travel destinations as well. Eventually, the Greens opened and operated a travel agency. This growth mirrored not just the rise of upwardly mobile Black families in the 1950’s and 1960’s, but spoke to the still-present danger of racial violence and humiliation.

Not only did Green Books list public accommodation, but any businesses that may be friendly to Black travelers. You’ll also notice that many of the listed lodgings weren’t hotels or motor inns, but rather “tourist homes,” privately owned homes that were open to feed and house travelers. Tailors, hairdressers, pharmacies,

and more were listed, since walking into the wrong business could end in embarrassment or violence. Especially dangerous was the possibility of coming upon a “Sundown Town,” a municipality that had by law or practice established that no Black people could live in the community and must not be in town between sundown and sunup.

By way of example, historian James Loewen notes in his book *Sundown Towns* that when a Black family’s car broke down outside a Midwest town, “[s]ome local men gathered quickly to ‘stop the agitators from wrecking the town.’ Even though they found an innocent family instead, they saw fit to ‘scare them out of town....’

The terrors of
traveling while
Black were
seemingly limitless.

[O]ne of the white men even shot a ‘warning shot’ over the car just to make his point clear.” The terrors of traveling while Black were seemingly limitless. From being wounded, or receiving ultimatums to leave town, compassion for Black travelers was in low supply in sundown towns. Another Midwest example from Loewen showed that “[e]ven a busload of black choir members who saved the lives of four... teenagers by pulling them from a burning car were then turned away [from a sundown town].”

Iowa had a number of confirmed or suspected sundown towns, and even

more that had segregation enforced by racial covenants and redlining practices, or restricted access to public accommodations. In Des Moines, for example, Edna Griffin’s visit to Katz Drug Store in 1948 ended in a refusal to serve her and her family because they were Black. Likewise, the redlining practices of Des Moines were extensive, and thanks to a recent free web series exploring that shameful history by The Polk County Housing Trust Fund, is now more widely known.

Looking at the sundown towns of yesterday show us communities that lack racial diversity today. Formerly redlined neighborhoods are now largely economically depressed, long ignored in access to public transportation, lacking equitable educational funding, and hosting fewer public greenspaces and libraries than surrounding neighborhoods. Plugging in the addresses of tourist homes shows the still largely racially segregated nature of the cities they are located in.

Perhaps the greatest lesson from the Green Book is that racial inequalities don’t dissolve on their own. Not only must discriminatory laws disappear, but so must discriminatory practices and implicit biases. Even more than that, none of these redress the once imposed and now continuing inequalities prevalent in society. Just as the Greens identified and addressed a facet of racial inequality, so too must we work diligently within our communities to remedy the ongoing effects of racism.

—Peter Larsen is a practicing civil rights attorney and graduate student instructor at the University of Iowa.

Stealing is stealing

The recent report by Common Good Iowa finding that Iowa workers are robbed of \$900 million annually by their employers should be a wake-up call for all of us. This report was the first of its kind in ten years and found a 50% increase in stolen wages in Iowa over a decade.

Most of the \$900 million in stolen wages are a result of overtime violations—failure to pay time and a half after 40 hours’ work in a week to eligible employees. There are variety of ways people are cheated of overtime wages: improperly classifying employees as FLSA-exempt (often called “salaried” workers); improperly classifying employees as independent contractors; illegal deductions from workers’ checks; timeclock shaving; etc.

Common Good Iowa also found an additional \$240 million in minimum wage violations. These stem from some of the same tactics as in overtime violations but also include tip pool violations. For example, wait staff at a restaurant can be paid a low minimum wage and can be required to pool tips, but it becomes illegal when management also allows non-tipped employees and managers to share in the tips given to wait staff. Food service represents the sector of the economy with the highest rate of violations according to the report.

Enforcement by the State of Iowa is almost laughable. In a state with 3.2 million people, you can count the number of Iowa Workforce Development employees fighting wage theft with your fingers. Furthermore, even when IWD does enforce the law it only seeks to recoup wages and not the liquidated—or penalty—damages the law

allows. In other words, without liquidated damages the worst-case scenario for the employer is they receive a zero-interest loan from their workers for a year or more.

Private attorneys like myself bring lawsuits and hopefully this also plays some deterrent to bad employers. One victory was achieved in 2022 when an Iowa federal judge ruled that an employer cannot skirt liquidated damages liability by simply paying the wages illegally late. [Editor’s note: See Prairie Dog’s Honor Roll in this issue].

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However, as the report indicates, we are all just playing whack-a-mole. The financial risks of breaking the law, the liability on bad employers who steal wages, are insufficient. That is why the annual costs to Iowa workers have increased from \$600 million ten years ago to \$900 million now.

Rather than waiting for a Republican legislature to strengthen our wage payment laws or for Gov. Reynolds to devote more staff to tackling the problem, there is a more immediate solution: criminal prosecution. Iowa Code defines “theft” at § 714.1. It states, “a person commits theft when the person... obtains the labor or services of another... by

deception.” If the theft is greater than \$1500, that is a Class D felony punishable by up to five years in jail. If the theft is greater than \$10,000, that is a Class C felony punishable by up to ten years in jail.

We have laws in place to deter wage theft, but we simply need to recognize that stealing money from workers is stealing. Enforcement need not come just from bureaucrats or plaintiffs’ lawyers but must also come from police officers and prosecutors. Public protests, small actions, administrative complaints are all fine, but when an employer steals wages we must start to file police reports. Law enforcement can learn to treat wage theft like any other type of theft, but that shift in mentality must also be first embraced by workers and activists.

—Nate Willems lives in Mt. Vernon.

Iowa Governor
Kim Reynolds
515-281-5211

Iowa Senate
Switchboard
515-281-3371

Iowa House
Switchboard
515-281-3221

An improbable fit

My childhood winters in Minnesota were brutal. The schools that I attended never closed due to blizzard conditions, white outs or subzero temperatures and wind chills. No, we trucked through or at times burrowed through massive mounds of snow because we were tough, like our parents before us, who had it even tougher than we did. These shared survival trials were an important part of our family history, a bonding experience that kept us connected to our ancestors, the pioneers that forged through Canada and Iowa before settling in the frozen tundra known as Minnesota.

No one questioned the wisdom of these potentially deadly practices until that dark January day in 1994, when former Governor Arne Carlson ordered the state's 1,511 public schools closed, simply because he was told that flesh could freeze in under a minute when exposed to the 26 below zero temperature engulfing the state. This decision seemed to catapult a trend toward focusing on public safety and the following years led to a deepening sense of personal loss as softer, weaker policies were put in place across the country in order to protect the health and well-being of people.

It wasn't until February of 2007, when my father passed away that my inheritance took my life in a different direction and both reconnected me to my family roots and developed a new connection to my current family. The Minnesota Vikings lost a dedicated fan when my father passed. He supported and cheered them on from the first day the franchise began in 1961 and I was bequeathed the responsibility to continue the tradition.

At first glance, football seemed an improbable fit as a new hobby. My empathy level is so high that visiting hospitals and courthouses causes my eyes to well with tears as the pain and suffering surrounding me sears through my six-foot brick wall of defense that protects me against the misery of the outside world. Also, acts of violence cause an instinctive and involuntary need for me to look away, fighting off waves of nausea and visibly cringing in distress. Clearly, a strategy was needed to turn a shy, introverted pacifist into a flaming football fan.

The first step in the transition was starting a betting pool with my husband and sons. Every week during the NFL season, thirteen games are chosen and we compete in predicting the outcomes. Lacking knowledge and experience, my performance was so bad that my youngest son sat me down at the computer and trained me in on picking the winners. Not wanting to be an embarrassment to my children, and feeling additional pressure as the only female participant, my skill set exceeded male expectations. So, it wasn't just the Minnesota Vikings that were cheered on every week as I dutifully wore my lucky purple socks and jersey, there was now skin in the game for 12 other match-ups.

This new hobby wasn't limited to male relatives. My sister Alison was also a huge Vikings fan. She lived in Seattle and there was furious texting back and forth during games. When the Vikings weren't televised in Washington, my job was to give her play-by-play reporting. On Sunday, January 3, 2016 the Vikings beat their arch nemesis the Green Bay Packers 20-13 at Lambeau Field. She

didn't respond to any of my texts or phone calls during the game. She had passed away that morning. She had survived a tough life and her body gave up the fight five days after her 59th birthday.

Maybe it's that need to watch others fight and survive that draws us to the game. Outdoor stadiums like Lambeau Field in Green Bay; Soldier Field in Chicago; and Highmark Stadium in Orchard Park, New York host winter games in dangerous conditions. Players go down like bowling pins on the wet, slippery surface. Sports commentators still talk about the Ice Bowl of 1967, the NFL Championship game between the Dallas Cowboys and the Green Bay Packers at Lambeau. The temperature registered 13 degrees below zero, but Packer fans turned out and cheered their team to a 20-17 victory. To this day, the grit and toughness of the Packers is exalted and pundits predict that visiting teams just can't beat this team at home during wintery conditions.

The NFL is shifting away from its roots, feigning concern for player safety and mental health. It's Arne Carlson all over again. But until the dark day when tackling is replaced with a flag for safety reasons, I will text my son Skol when the Vikings score a touchdown, feeling my late sister's presence and smile at the victories. And when they lose, memories of my father smiling and saying, "We'll get 'em next time," will comfort me.

—Stephanie Fawkes-Lee is Senior Sports Correspondent for The Prairie Progressive.

You should care: a *Prairie Progressive* reading list

[Editor's note: Guest-hosting this year's winter reading list is John Kenyon, Executive Director of the Iowa City UNESCO City of Literature.]

As the glow of our 2022 Iowa City Book Festival begins to fade and the ideas start to flow for the 2023 festival, I know I will be looking for authors of books about political engagement and social justice. Some of our most successful events over the past few years have featured authors addressing these subjects. People are willing to pause their doom scrolling to hear authors discuss challenges faced by our communities and hear the solutions they propose.

The late Paul Engle said “all writers of the world should come to Iowa City,” and we’re working to give them a forum when they do. Here are some of the books that drew the most attention when their authors presented at the festival in recent years.

Dan Kaufman, *The Fall of Wisconsin*. At the time of this presentation in 2018, it was shocking to see a once reliably liberal state like Wisconsin turn red. Today, this could be the start of a series of books titled *The Fall of (Insert State Name Here)*. In this well-reported book, Kaufman looks at the steps taken by those who sought to turn Wisconsin into a “laboratory for national conservatives bent on remaking the country,” as well as the work done by those on the left to protect the progressive values that for so long had defined the state. As Iowa undergoes a similar transformation, Kaufman’s book becomes even more resonant.

Ari Berman, *Give Us the Vote*. Berman, an Iowa native and a writer for *Mother Jones*, came to the festival to discuss his book *Give Us the Vote: The Modern Struggle for Voting Rights in America*. The book was published in 2015, and he appeared in 2018. But the battle for suffrage continues, and this history of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the efforts to negate it provides a valuable context for the continuing struggle to maintain and expand the right to vote.

Art Cullen, *Storm Lake*. Another bellwether of political change in Iowa, Cullen’s book is just one part—albeit a major one—of his writing chronicling that devolution. Cullen, a Pulitzer Prize-winning small-town journalist from Storm Lake, details the changes taking place in his community and beyond, and his attempts to hold those in power accountable for the results. Cullen continues this work each week in the pages of his newspaper, but this book offers a primer of sorts that shows how his disarmingly folksy exterior cloaks the tenacious mind and sharp wit of an ink-stained truthseeker.

Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, *Not a Nation of Immigrants*. Historian Dunbar-Ortiz visited virtually in 2021 to discuss her book, which debunks the myth of the United States as a “nation of immigrants.” Rather, she posits, it is one of settler colonialism. The “nation of immigrants” term was floated in the 1960s as a way to counter “demands for decolonialization, justice, reparations, and social equality.”

Chuy Renteria, *We Heard it When We Were Young*. Iowa City writer Renteria also joined us in 2021 to discuss his memoir about growing up in West Liberty as a first-generation Mexican American who is torn between cultures: between immigrant parents trying to acclimate to midwestern life and a town that was, by turns, supportive and disturbingly antagonistic.

Victor Ray, *On Critical Race Theory*. I first encountered Victor Ray on Twitter, seeing him pop up time and again as others retweeted his wisdom. I was pleased to learn he was a professor at the University of Iowa, and that he had a book coming about Critical Race Theory. The result was a slim volume that did so much to contextualize this misunderstood topic, grounding the theory in everyday language. The goal, laid out in the subtitle, “Why It Matters & Why You Should Care,” is met, and this should be required reading for anyone wanting to better understand the theory.

Beth Livingston and Tina Opie, *Shared Sisterhood*. Livingston, a professor at the University of Iowa, wrote this book with friend and colleague Tina Opie, a consultant and professor from Boston. Subtitled “How to Take Collective Action for Racial and Gender Equity at Work,” the book discusses the need for collective action, where those from dominant and marginalized groups work together to help all women achieve professional growth and equity.

—John Kenyon lives in Iowa City.

Iowa's patron saint

Someone, somewhere, is plotting something subversive that will change history for the better. And if he/she/they are good enough at it, we might not realize they're doing it. And if they're as successful as Samuel Adams was, it just might be revolutionary.

That is the premise of Stacy Schiff's new biography, *The Revolutionary Samuel Adams*, and a persuasive premise it is.

My American History professor in college loved Samuel Adams, and asked who most resembled him in the Chicago 8. I hesitatingly raised my hand, and proposed David Dellinger. I was right! He was a generation older than the other revolutionaries!

About a decade later, I was driving David Dellinger across the border, from his speaking engagement in Ann Arbor to Windsor, Ontario, where he could catch a train to Toronto and deal with his bank account, a tactic to enable his war tax resistance before returning to Vermont.

Alas, although I mentioned my undergrad professor's comparison of Adams and Dellinger, I don't remember it. I did have a pleasant conversation with him, though he seemed preoccupied about getting a lecture fee from Iowa State University that seemed delinquent—as a perpetually impoverished Samuel Adams might have been.

No one will make a
musical of Samuel
Adams's life.

While this is a musing, not a review or a historical argument, it seems necessary to point out that Samuel Adams's provocations were instrumental in the instigation of the American Revolution and that his arguments for American independence would carry the day. And that, whatever the limitations (and there have been many), being

a democracy is better than being a monarchy.

No one will make a musical of Samuel Adams's life, although it might plausibly be made into a tragedy, the fatal flaw as well as the crucial characteristic being the self-effacing nature of the man.

Indeed, Samuel Adams could be the patron saint of Iowans, who won't take the credit because so many others were involved, and only need the consolation that the project was successfully accomplished. All we need now is a revolution.

—Bill R. Douglas lives in Clutier, where he is working on a religious history of Iowa.

The history of
progress is written
in the blood of men
and women who have
dared to espouse an
unpopular cause,
as, for instance, the
black man's right to
his body, or woman's
right to her soul.

—Emma Goldman



Staying in the fight

I am really honored to receive this award and to be counted with these other incredible nominees.

For 35 years, I have been privileged to be a part of the Emma Goldman clinic, an organization that has never wavered in its commitment to this community and to the provision of safe and accessible reproductive healthcare to people in the Midwest and especially to those marginalized and underserved.

It has not been easy. Most years have been spent fighting some form of adversity. Whether it was anti-abortion protestors, legislation, vandalism, bureaucratic challenges, or just being a cash-strapped not-for-profit organization.

I am so proud that the clinic will celebrate its 50th year in 2023.

I am proud of staying in the fight.

Reproductive rights are human rights, including the right to access abortion. States do have an obligation and duty to provide women and girls, all pregnant people, with access to safe and legal abortion as part of their core human rights responsibilities.

We know that abortion bans and restrictions are harmful and inhumane. They will be most felt by those who are poor and rural and black and brown and unable to travel outside of a jurisdiction where abortion is banned or restricted.

This is not the Iowa I remember growing up in. My family has been here for six generations, going on eight. I am disgusted at the place we have landed regarding reproductive justice and rights.

In Des Moines, once again, there will be hearings convened by our governor to make decisions that should be left up to individuals and their families.

I never expected that after 35 years of service, my three granddaughters would have fewer rights than I had in the last 50 years. I just won't settle for my work and that of my reproductive justice colleagues being in vain. We all want to leave this world a better place for those who come after us. We have an incredibly long and hard fight ahead of us.

Comprehensive reproductive health services, including abortion, are necessary to guarantee the right to life, health, privacy, and non-discrimination for all people. Access to safe abortion and contraception is critical so that my granddaughters and yours have options and don't have to face delayed dreams and deferred destinies.

While these extremists are trying to undermine our human rights, we know abortion is only the gateway. We also know that the movement to support and liberate abortion is incredibly strong. Thank you for this recognition, and thank you for voting.

—These were the remarks of Francine Thompson, Executive Director of the Emma Goldman Clinic, upon receiving the Linda Severson Award from the City of Iowa City for contributions to human rights by an individual in a service organization. Thompson has served her community for 35 years at the clinic, inspiring women and their families to continue the fight for reproductive justice.

Prairie Dog's 2022 Honor Roll, cont'd from Page 1

\$15 million. The battle against wage theft in Iowa continues [*Editor's note: See attorney Nate Willems' article in this issue*].

Nearly 2000 Iowans living with disabilities were housed at Glenwood Hospital-School on the western edge of the state in the 1950s. Re-branded Glenwood Resource Center, the facility's population has shrunk to 130, but the state has for decades all but ignored the oversight its residents deserve. Multiple scandals of neglect and abuse finally persuaded the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services to declare (with a push from the US Department of Justice) that Glenwood will close, and community homes and services will be found or established for every current resident. **Iowa HHS Director Kelly Garcia** has promised to find the will and the resources to live up to the Supreme Court's Olmstead decision of 1999, which ruled that citizens with disabilities have the right to live in the least restrictive setting possible.

The Nation, America's oldest continuous weekly magazine, was kind enough to publish two online articles by *Prairie Progressive* editor Dave Leshtz, one on union organizing at the REI flagship store in New York City, and one on the despicable campaign run by Iowa Governor Reynolds and the shameful lack of Democratic Party support for candidate Deidre DeJear. Support progressive political and cultural journalism by subscribing at <https://subscriptions.thenation.com>

—*Prairie Dog*

Ah, how good it is to be among
people who are reading.

—Rainer Maria Rilke

To the 121 subscribers who made 2022
a solid fundraising year for *The Prairie
Progressive*: Your average contribution
of \$26.42, for a total of \$3,237 including
32 gift subs, enables the PP to continue
paying postage, printing, and formatting
for the foreseeable future.
Thank you for your support!

This country has socialism for the rich,
rugged individualism for the poor.

—Martin Luther King, Jr.



January 16

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 19

Johnson Co. Dems Legacy Club
The Ashton House, Iowa City
Guest speaker Laura Belin,
Editor, *Bleeding Heartland*
Reservations: 319-621-0894 or
Wm.gerhard@gmail.com

February 8, 1968

Three college students killed
during demonstrations in
Orangeburg, SC

February 26, 1993

World Trade Center bombed

March 8

International Women's Day

March 15, 2003

Millions marched world-wide
against US war in Iraq

April 4, 1968

Martin Luther King, Jr.
assassinated

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