



Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism

Box 3002 - Pine Hills Station
Albany, NY 12203

A Project of the Social Justice Center

JULY, 1988
NEWSLETTER

NEXT REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING:

Thursday, July 28, 1988 at 7:30 p.m.
Urban League, corner of Livingston
and Ten Broeck, Albany, New York

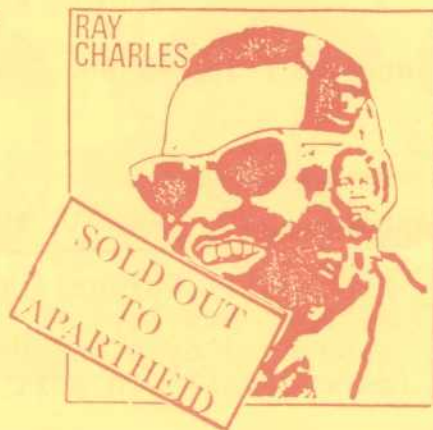
PLANNING MEETING FOR:

RAY CHARLES

PROTEST

AUGUST 21, 1988

also, Updates on sanctions and the
Community Police Relations Board.



OTB TENNIS PROTEST PLANNED

As this newsletter goes to press, plans are being made by the Coalition and the Schenectady NAACP to protest the appearance in Schenectady of South African tennis players in the OTB tournament at Central Park. The tournament begins the weekend of July 24. For more information on the activities planned, please call 436-0562.

CHABA AT BLACK ARTS FEST

The Black Arts Festival will take place at the Empire State Plaza in Albany on Sunday, July 24, 1988. The cultural group, Sechaba, of the African National Congress will be featured on the program - see inside for more details.

COALITION NEWS NOTES

Several Coalition members are to be congratulated:

Anita Thayer has been elected President of the Women's Bar Association of Albany.

Janice Mwapaga has been appointed Coordinator of the Dreamers Project - the scholarship program set up to guarantee a college education at SUNY for all students in this year's 6th grade class at Arbor Hill Elementary School.

Joe Walker has been named Executive Assistant to the President of SEIU, Local 444, New York City.

Ann Matei and Frank Lownes are the new parents of a beautiful baby boy, Zachary.

Announcing: AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILY DAY
Sept. 20 - 24
Arbor Hill Softball Field
Albany, New York
sponsored by A Universal Being
(more details in next newsletter)

Mark the dates on your calendar for this important community celebration



SANCTIONS BILL - The bill in Congress calling for comprehensive sanctions against the South African apartheid regime is now going by the name Dellums/Kennedy. It is S-2378. Vera Michelson went to Washington, D.C. on June 16th to be part of a nationwide lobby day to push senators to sign on to this bill. We will keep you updated on the progress of the bill. Also, read your newspapers and be aware of any movement on the legislation.

Thank you to Michael Dollard and Ann Frazier without whose help it would be impossible to put out a monthly newsletter.
The Editor

COME TO...

THE PARTY

After the BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL - a fundraiser for...

THE CAPITAL DISTRICT COALITION AGAINST APARTHEID AND RACISM

We celebrate

and

We honour



Winnie and Nelson on their wedding day, 14 June 1958

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela

70 years old on July 18 ... 25 years in detention

PAGE THREE

N. Pearl Street
Albany, NY

SUNDAY 7/24

7 - Until...

\$5.00 Admission

Well-known area DJ, Bill Pendleton
spinning the records.

Proceeds to the Capital District
Coalition Against Apartheid &
Racism.

A PROJECT OF THE SOCIAL JUSTICE CENTER

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela

On July 18, 1988 Nelson Mandela, a leader of the African National Congress and a symbol of the revolutionary democratic struggle of millions of oppressed South Africans against the white regime, will celebrate his 70th birthday. He has spent the last 25 years of his life in South African jails - first at Robben Island and for the last several years at Pollsmoor convicted on charges of sabotage and conspiracy to overthrow the white minority government.

In 1964* Mandela answered the charges: " All lawful ways of expressing opposition to apartheid had been closed by laws and we were placed in a position in which we had either to accept a lifetime of inferiority or to defy the government...During my lifetime, I have dedicated myself to this struggle of the African people. I have fought against white domination and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die.

In February, 1985 the white minority government of South Africa offered Mandela conditional freedom. Despite the fact that he has been denied freedom for almost a third of his lifetime, he refused to accept any conditions and made it clear that he will not renounce the African National Congress or its policies. "Only free men can negotiate...I cannot and will not give up any undertaking at a time when I, and you the people are not free."

the BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL

Around the world people are honoring Nelson Mandela by commemorating his birthday. In Albany, the Black Arts Festival will present Sechaba, the cultural/musical group of the African National Congress. Singing songs of struggle and liberation throughout the U.S. and Canada, their appearance at the Festival on Sunday, July 24, 1988 is a wonderful birthday tribute to Nelson Mandela. The Festival will take place at the Empire State Plaza beginning at noon. Check programs for the time of Sechaba's appearance.



SECHABA — Musical group of the African National Congress (ANC), composed of South African exiles.

After the Black Arts Festival, the Coalition is sponsoring a fundraising birthday commemoration in honor of Nelson Mandela (see flyer on other side)

Come to court...

The events of the summer and fall of 1981, which led to the founding of the CAPITAL DISTRICT COALITION AGAINST APARTHEID AND RACISM, will be the focus of a civil rights lawsuit scheduled for trial starting August 1, 1988 in Albany, N.Y. This lawsuit was brought by plaintiffs Vera "Mike" Michelson, Aaron Estis and the Coalition to challenge a September 21, 1981 raid on "Mike's" apartment the evening before a scheduled national demonstration against the South African Springbok Rugby Team at Albany's Bleekcer Stadium.

The broad attack of the original lawsuit has been narrowed by several restrictive pre-trial rulings of the Federal District Court. Claims against the F.B.I. and the Albany County District Attorney for their participation in the planning and execution of the raid on the Michelson apartment were dismissed.

Furthermore, plaintiffs' attorneys have been denied the right to depose a confidential informant who falsely reported that there was an "arsenal of weapons" stored at the Michelson apartment. It was this report that was the pretext for the raid.

During the raid, Michelson, house guest Estis, and another house guest were all arrested. The only contraband reported was some ancient Canadian firecrackers and ~~minor~~ amounts of marijuana. Michelson and Estis were illegally held without bail on these "violation" charges. Michelson was in jail for 3 days; Estis for 6 days. Both were denied the opportunity to participate in the demonstration.

During the raid, the various law enforcement agencies seized numerous non-contraband items including Michelson's personal address book and long distance telephone bills as well as political documents belonging to Michelson and the Coalition, detailing names of activists, demonstration plans, etc.

COALITION members who are available during the day are invited to attend court to show support for the lawsuit. For more information, call "Mike" at 436-0562 or attorney Anita Thayer at 462-6753. Plaintiff Estis is represented by the law office of Oliver and Oliver. Plaintiffs Michelson and the Coalition are represented by Walter, Thayer, Long and Mishler.

COALITION LAWSUIT TO BEGIN IN AUGUST

FEDERAL COURT POST OFFICE ALBANY 4TH FLOOR

COURT WATCHERS NECESSARY

Capital District Coalition
Against Apartheid
and Racism
A Project of the Social Justice Center
33 Central Avenue
Albany, New York 12210

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Albany, N.Y.

IMPORTANT REMINDER:
NEXT MONTHLY MEETING - JULY 28, 1988

STEERING COMMITTEE

Vera Michelson, co-chair
Merton Simpson, co-chair
Shobhna Gopal
Eileen Kawola, newsletter editor
Mark Mishler
Roli Varma, treasurer

Bill Ritchie
Yvette Scarlett
Vicki Smith, representative to
Community Police Relations
Board
Anita Thayer

We are a Coalition of several community organizations and of individual members. We are supported by our members - you! We have no paid staff or overhead expenses so all funds go directly to lobbying efforts, education, printing and postage. **The struggle cannot continue without your support.** For more information, or to join the Coalition, call 518-436-0562. We desperately need contributions to the Coalition - send whatever you can afford today to:

CAPITAL DISTRICT COALITION AGAINST APARTHEID AND RACISM
BOX 3002 PINE HILLS STATION, ALBANY, N.Y. 12203

Victory to ANC of South Africa

Victory to SWAPO of Namibia