Hello Friends,

The first Pride was a riot — literally. It all happened in June of 1969, outside New York City's still thriving Stonewall Inn, in protest of frequent police raids at the city's queer spaces. “At the time there existed outdated “masquerade” or “cross-dressing” laws that suggested a “man” or a “woman” must be wearing a
certain number of clothing items that matched the gender on their state-issued ID. The police took advantage of these laws to raid drinking establishments and arrest transgender and gender non-conforming individuals.”

We don’t really know who really threw the first brick — Sylvia Rivera and/or Marsha P. Johnson are often credited and their impact “on the trans and gay movements can’t be overstated.” That said, “it doesn’t take much digging to learn that they didn’t start the Stonewall rebellion.” Fact is, it was “a messy evening,” “about people reclaiming their own narratives from those that told them they were sick, or pitiful, or didn’t even exist.”

So, this Pride, try to keep that in mind. Dress up (or down), enjoy the parades, fight over your song of the summer, and enjoy a libation or two. But, remember, “in this moment, it is especially important that we embrace the simple yet revolutionary act of proudly existing … We have seen legislators attempt to write us out of existence, purge our presence from bookshelves, criminalize our health care, and ban our forms of art and expression. To counter this trend, we must show up and fiercely deny those efforts to erase us. We must show them they will not win.”

Our latest blog celebrates Pride. Featuring Tiana Moon of Brown Boi Project (BBP) — a long time MSC fiscally sponsored project — it delves into gender, the transformative power of liberatory masculinity, and how BBP fosters leadership within BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ communities. Read it here.

Reject the glossed over, corporatization of Pride — it’s bigger than rainbow-washed logos. The struggles of our queer ancestors — that idea of otherness, that need to create safe spaces, chosen families, ways to simply exist and thrive — it all intersects with the work we do everyday, the work our partners do every day. Pride; politics; Palestine; prison abolition; social, racial, and environmental justice — these issues are intertwined. We have to act in solidarity; we have to uphold our commitment to global liberation.

With that in mind, we wanted to share some resources that support relief efforts in the face of genocide. You can support trusted organizations like the Palestinian Youth Movement, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), Friends of the Congo, Congo Love, the Tigray Youth Network, and the Sudanese American Medical Association. Or engage in conversation and share opportunities for learning with reading lists, podcasts, and folks on the frontlines including Decolonize Palestine, Bisan Owd, Motaz Azaiza, and Gaza Journalist Voices. Music heals — check out Pitchfork’s playlist for Palestine. And, if it all starts to feel like too much, take care of yourself and each other — download the Roots for Change Media pocket zine for social media care and resilience here.

Now, read on for some happenings from the MSC ecosystem:
Embrace Summer with Tai Ji

Looking for a refreshing summer practice? Join our partners at Resonance Network every Friday at 12pm PST for 10-step Tai Ji sequence lessons by Norma Ryuko Kawelokū Wong Roshi. This supportive community welcomes everyone, regardless of experience. In the words of Beckie Masaki: “please come as you are, move where you are.” Wear comfortable attire and consider going barefoot or wearing flat shoes. Chair sitters and participants of all abilities are welcome. Ready to join? Register here.

New WeGovern Clinic Series Launch

More from Resonance Network — they are launching Living into Collective Governance: WeGovern Clinic Series. The series builds upon the wisdom of their inaugural clinics and the WeGovern Learning Community. Taking place July 11, 18, 25, and August 1, at 12pm PST, it will explore collective governance rooted in Indigenous wisdom and practices that emphasize caring for people, places, and the Earth. Participants will develop their understanding of governance, engage in physical and story practices, and create action plans for community transformation. Sign up here to receive registration details and deepen your governance practice.

MMIWG Funder Briefing

Join the Return to the Heart Foundation, an incubated project from our partners at Full Spectrum Labs, on Monday, June 17 at 9am PST for a virtual panel and funder briefing. This event will address the crisis surrounding Missing and Murdered Indigenous Womxn, Girls, and Two Spirit People (MMIWG/2S) and will feature critical research and efforts aimed at creating real change to combat this epidemic in Native communities. Learn more about the movement to disrupt violence and human trafficking and create action within the philanthropic sector. Sign up here.
Alliance for Felix Cove (A4FC), attended A4FC’s strategic planning retreat in Inverness, CA, located on the southwest shore of Tomales Bay. Immersed in the ancestral land of A4FC’s founder, she learned about innovative decolonized planning tools, broadening her perspective and highlighting the value of our fiscal sponsorship services. She wrote about her inspiring experience for the Move Blog — read it here.

MSC Staff Spotlight:
Retreats Bringing Us Closer
Remote work has its challenges, but we embrace it as the future. So, how do we generate the Radical Imagination required to sustain our work? Recently, our Advancement and Movement Infrastructure and Innovation Center (MIIC) teams held retreats to focus on team development, group norms, and values, strengths, and communication styles. The Advancement team gathered in Manhattan, eager to strengthen their connections with each other and their work. For one team member, it marked the beginning of their journey with MSC — read about it here. Meanwhile, the MIIC team held a successful retreat at MSC’s offices in downtown Oakland. Karmella Green, a Project Advisor on the MIIC team, appreciated this time as “an opportunity to reflect and be vulnerable.” Read more here.

Want to share an event or job in an e-newsletter or on MSC social media? Request a submission form by emailing communications@movementstrategy.org.

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