



...Farming While Black, from page 29

generational wealth in the Black community and how white people can go beyond just being allies and become “co-conspirators” by directing money to communities that lack this key resource.

“... generational wealth within the Black community basically doesn’t exist,” McDowell said. “White people just don’t understand it because they are so used to having money passed down to them.”

While McDowell’s comments focused on increasing home ownership in the Black

community to address gentrification, this notion of wealth redistribution is just as important when it comes to farming and agricultural land ownership.

Penniman describes her struggle to obtain land and how she had to settle for marginal acres on a mountainside. Over time, she and her family were able to build up the organic matter in that hardscrabble soil, but lack of generational wealth was a major hindrance. For too many Black farmers and other farmers of color, it’s an insurmountable barrier.

Early in *Farming While Black*, Penniman lays out the three essential ingredients for any beginning farmer: training, land, and material resources. Black farmers and other farmers of color have continued to have land, resources, and even cultural knowledge stolen from them. In an effort to address these barriers, Soul Fire Farm has created

a reparations map (<https://bit.ly/3jkGqfL>) where Black farmers and farmers of color can list what they need so that those with resources can connect with them.

This redistribution of wealth and resources within the farming community is essential and more relevant than ever. Because, as Penniman writes toward the end of her eye-opening book, “To free ourselves, we must feed ourselves.” □

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Membership Update

Election Day is Nov. 3 — Are You Registered?

The date for casting ballots in the general election is **Tuesday, November 3**. Put democracy in action today by planning ahead and preparing to vote:

- To make sure you have a plan to vote, see <https://bit.ly/31yxflc>.
- To check your voter registration status and register to vote if you are not already, see <https://bit.ly/3aZPwZ>.



→ Here in Minnesota, we can vote absentee in advance of Election Day by mail or in-person. To request an absentee ballot be sent to you so you can vote-by-

- mail, see <https://bit.ly/3gxI4YS>.
- Some cities and towns in Minnesota only use vote-by-mail. You can find out if you live in one of those places by using the Secretary of State’s Poll Finder at <https://bit.ly/3hx7c3p>.
- Already voted by mail? Track the status of your mail-in ballot to ensure it has been accepted at <https://bit.ly/31BenSF>.
- If you are not a Minnesota resident and need help registering to vote in your home state, e-mail Emily Minge at eminge@landstewardshipaction.org to receive the correct links.

Finally, check-in with people you know to ensure they’re registered to vote, have a plan to vote, and have the support they need to vote-by-mail. LSP’s sister organization, the Land Stewardship Action Fund (LSAF), has created a program — Land Stewardship: Democracy in Action — to help with having these conversations with your networks. See www.landstewardshipaction.org/take-action/sign-up for details on signing up.

For more information on LSAF, see www.landstewardshipaction.org, or contact Megan Jekot at 612-442-9899, mjekot@landstewardshipaction.org. □

Membership Questions?

If you have questions about your Land Stewardship Project membership, contact LSP’s membership coordinator, Clara Sanders Marcus, at 612-722-6377 or cmarcus@landstewardshipproject.org. To renew, mail in the envelope included with this *Land Stewardship Letter*, or see www.landstewardshipproject.org/home/donate.

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LIVE  WIRE

Sign up for the *LIVE-WIRE* e-letter to get monthly updates from the Land Stewardship Project sent straight to your inbox. Details are at www.landstewardshipproject.org/signup. □

In Memory & in Honor...

The Land Stewardship Project is grateful to have received the following gifts made to honor and remember loved ones and friends:

In Honor of Terry VanDerPol

- ◆ Hawk Creek Prairie Farm

In Honor of SSND Jubilee Classes of the Central Pacific Province Mankato Campus

- ◆ SSND/Kathleen Mary Kiemen

In Honor of Sam Glover for his work at Lawyerist

- ◆ Ari Kaplan

In Memory of Dean Harrington

- ◆ Bob Meyerson

In Memory of Karl “Bill” Gossman

- ◆ Janne Gossman & Family
- ◆ Arlene Quam
- ◆ Carolyn Lange Hatlestad
- ◆ Doris Gogelow
- ◆ Tracy Sheeley
- ◆ Nancy Johnson
- ◆ Marvin & Suzanne Napgezok
- ◆ City of New London

To donate to the Land Stewardship Project in the name of someone, contact Clara Sanders Marcus at 612-722-6377 or cmarcus@landstewardshipproject.org. Donations can be made online at www.landstewardshipproject.org/home/donate.