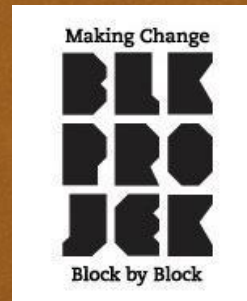




# Celebrating Collective Courage



Honoring the work of Jessica Gordon Nembhard, PhD  
and of women of color co-operators throughout history



# Jessica Gordon Nembhard

**AUTHOR**  
**JESSICA GORDON NEMBHARD**

**DISCUSSING THE LOST  
HISTORY OF COOPERATIVES &  
CIVIL RIGHTS**  
**COLLECTIVE COURAGE**



Making Change

**BLK  
PRO  
JEC**

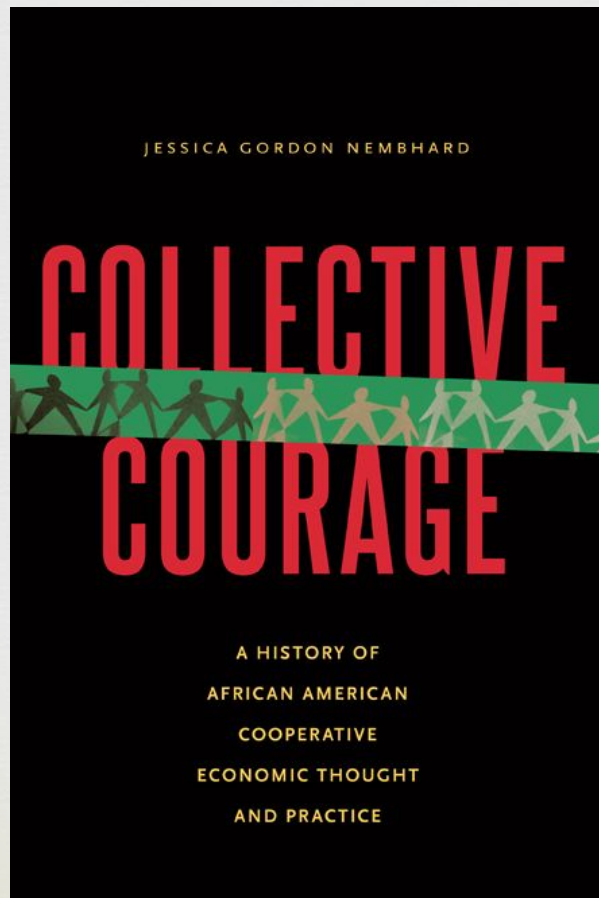
Block by Block



COOPERATIVE  
DEVELOPMENT  
INSTITUTE

# Jessica Gordon Nembhard

Jessica Gordon Nembhard, PhD, is a political economist specializing in economic development policy, Black political economy, popular economic literacy, and community justice. She teaches in the Department of African American Studies at John Jay College of CUNY. In her book *Collective Courage* she uncovers a largely unknown history of continuous engagement in cooperative economic thought and practice among African Americans.



COOPERATIVE  
DEVELOPMENT  
INSTITUTE

# Harriet Powers



Making Change



Block by Block



COOPERATIVE  
DEVELOPMENT  
INSTITUTE

# Harriet Powers

Born in slavery in 1837, Harriet Powers created her Bible Quilt in 1886. The images of the sun, moon, and stars, repeated throughout, probably relate to a religious or fraternal organization to which she belonged. These proliferated especially after the end of the Civil War, as a means of collective survival.



Making Change

**BLK  
PRO  
JEK**

Block by Block



COOPERATIVE  
DEVELOPMENT  
INSTITUTE

# Maggie Lena Walker



Making Change

**BLK  
PRO  
JEC**

Block by Block



COOPERATIVE  
DEVELOPMENT  
INSTITUTE

# Maggie Lena Walker

Walker, grand secretary of the Independent Order of Saint Luke, a women's sickness and death mutual-benefit association, founded the Saint Luke Penny Savings Bank. She wrote that the only way Black women would be able "to avoid the traps and snares of life" would be to **"band themselves together, organize,... put their mites together, put their hands and their brains together and make work and business for themselves."**



Making Change



Block by Block



COOPERATIVE  
DEVELOPMENT  
INSTITUTE

Ella Jo  
Baker







# Ella Jo Baker

In 1931, at the age of 28, Baker was elected Executive Director of the Young Negroes' Co-operative League. She promoted women's and young people's participation, popular education, and consumers' co-ops. She went on to become a field coordinator for the NAACP, and later a "godmother" of SNCC, where her commitment to **group-centered leadership and participatory democracy** resonated throughout the social movements of her day and beyond.

See *Collective Courage*, p. 119-120



Making Change

**BLK  
PRO  
JEK**

Block by Block



COOPERATIVE  
DEVELOPMENT  
INSTITUTE

Nannie  
Helen  
Burroughs



# Nannie Helen Burroughs

Burroughs co-founded the Northeast Self-Help Cooperative (later Cooperative Industries of Washington, D.C.) in 1934, with the mission of “providing means of mutual helpfulness, to promote the general welfare, to obtain the necessities of life, to advance our moral and material welfare as citizens, and to secure in a fuller degree the fruits of our labor, and a more equal distribution of wealth and opportunity for employment.” The co-op helped its mostly women members barter their products and buy collectively.



See *Collective Courage*, p. 150-154



Making Change

**BLK  
PRO  
JEK**

Block by Block



COOPERATIVE  
DEVELOPMENT  
INSTITUTE

# Halena Wilson



Making Change

**BLK  
PRO  
JEK**

Block by Block



COOPERATIVE  
DEVELOPMENT  
INSTITUTE

# Halena Wilson



Halena Wilson was the first president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters' Chicago Ladies Auxiliary from 1930 until 1953, and the first president of the International Auxiliary from 1938 to 1965. She was a strong, vocal proponent of cooperatives, and helped to organize a consumer cooperative buying club and cooperative union eye care center. The aim of the Auxiliary was to provide "a common meeting ground for **women who endorse the principles of democracy and who wish to see them applied to the basic field of industry.**"

See *Collective Courage*, p. 154-160



Making Change



Block by Block



COOPERATIVE  
DEVELOPMENT  
INSTITUTE

# Fannie Lou Hamer



Making Change

**BLK  
PRO  
JEC**

Block by Block



COOPERATIVE  
DEVELOPMENT  
INSTITUTE

# Fannie Lou Hamer

Fannie Lou Hamer grew up and lived a good portion of her adult life as a sharecropper. She was 45 when she first registered to vote after hearing a speech by a



SNCC organizer. She became a leader in the civil rights movement. Her belief that **economic independence through cooperative forms of ownership** was necessary to reach the “ultimate goal of total freedom” led to her founding several co-op ventures.

See *Collective Courage*, p. 178-186



Making Change



COOPERATIVE  
DEVELOPMENT  
INSTITUTE

# Estelle Witherspoon



Making Change

**BLK  
PRO  
JEC**

Block by Block



COOPERATIVE  
DEVELOPMENT  
INSTITUTE





# Estelle Witherspoon

Estelle Witherspoon was 50 when she helped found the **Freedom Quilting Bee** in 1966. Many residents of Gee's Bend, Alabama had **lost their work or been evicted as a result of registering to vote**, and in partnership with White supporters, the women created a cooperative to **market their quilts and other products, thereby securing income and land**. The Freedom Quilting Bee helped found the Federation of Southern Cooperatives.

See *Collective Courage*, p. 161



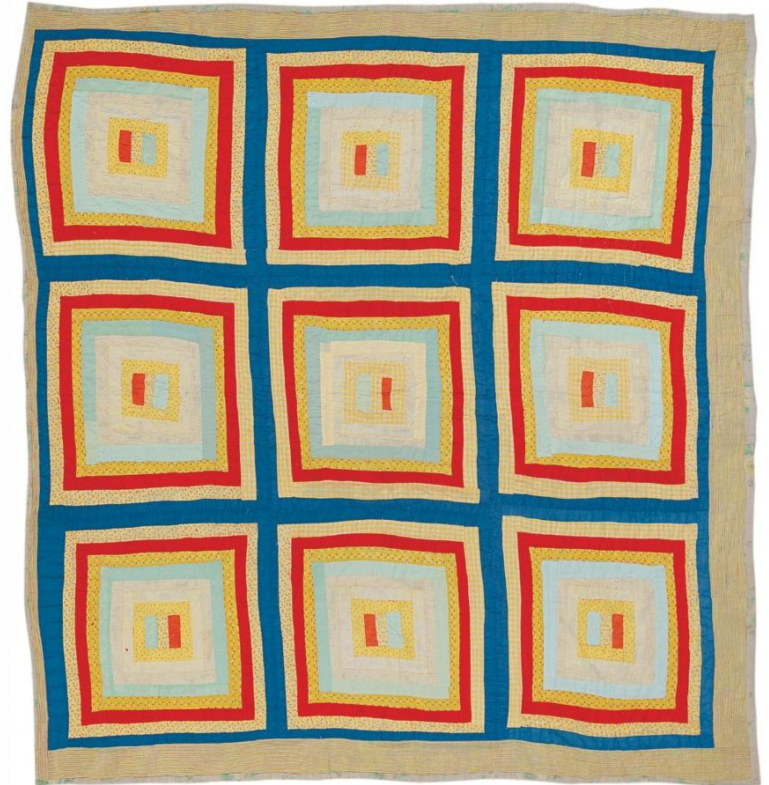
Making Change

**BLK  
PRO  
JEK**

Block by Block



COOPERATIVE  
DEVELOPMENT  
INSTITUTE



Making Change

**BLK  
PRO  
JEK**  
Block by Block



COOPERATIVE  
DEVELOPMENT  
INSTITUTE

# Shirley Sherrod



Making Change

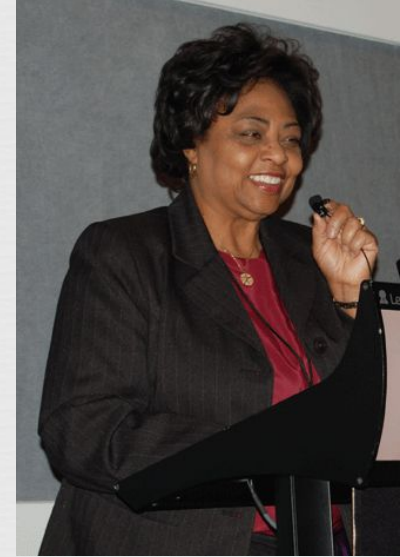
**BLK  
PRO  
JEC**

Block by Block



COOPERATIVE  
DEVELOPMENT  
INSTITUTE

# Shirley Sherrod



Shirley Sherrod was an activist with SNCC and in 1969, at the age of 21, co-founded the New Communities Land Trust, a collective farm and forerunner of the community land trust movement in the U.S. It was one of the largest pieces of black-owned land at the time (5,700 acres).

In 2011 she became the **first Black woman inducted into the Cooperative Hall of Fame.**

See *Collective Courage*, p. 150



Making Change

**BLK  
PRO  
JEK**

Block by Block



COOPERATIVE  
DEVELOPMENT  
INSTITUTE

Ajowa  
Nzinga  
Ifateyo



# Ajowa Ifateyo

Ajowa Nzinga Ifateyo, along with four other African American women, organized the Ella Jo Baker Intentional Community Cooperative, a 15-unit limited equity co-op in a gentrifying neighborhood of Washington, D.C.



# Ujamaa Collective



COOPERATIVE  
DEVELOPMENT  
INSTITUTE

# Ujamaa Collective

Ujamaa is a Pittsburgh, PA non-profit organization founded with a social mission to create spaces, opportunities, networks, education and support for Africana women to grow as entrepreneurs, artisans, and servant-leaders.



They run an artisan boutique, open-air marketplace events, an agricultural incubator and provide cooperative business support to their members and partners.

See *Collective Courage*, p. 169



Making Change

**BLK  
PRO  
JEK**

Block by Block



COOPERATIVE  
DEVELOPMENT  
INSTITUTE



# Cooperative Home Care Associates



# Cooperative Home Care Associates

Bronx, NY Cooperative Home Care Associates is the largest worker-owned co-op in the U.S., with about 2,000 employees and over 1,000 worker-owners. Most workers are women of color; many are immigrants. All workers receive a high level of training, higher than industry wages, and an opportunity to become owners.

See *Collective Courage*, p. 164

