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CITY COUNCIL BOLDLY AUTHORIZES DRAFT OF NEW CAMPING ORDINANCE

By JEAN STACEY FOR SLEEPS



PHOTO BY GREGORY WALKER

Jean Stacey testifies at a Eugene City Council work session on April 22.

testimony led him to believe that Eugene's current policies were, at best, "counterintuitive."

In a surprisingly bold move, in the early minutes of the session, Councilor Alan Zelenka made a motion to authorize city staff to draft an ordinance to designate temporary safe and legal places to sleep from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. on undeveloped, city-owned land. The motion passed unanimously, with Councilor George Poling absent. The council also directed staff to call a special work session on the first date at which all councilors can be present to review and approve an ordinance. The ordinance will not be approved until after a public hearing and after council deliberations that could make changes in the proposed ordinance.

Once approved, the newly authorized "rest areas" can become a proud part of Eugene's dramatically changing policies addressing issues of people who are unhoused.

At the next session, the council will seek to approve some of the four options proposed by city staff, most involving relationships between the city, religious, not-for-profit, and private landowners. The council indicated agreement that a whole continuum of small, partial, and temporary solutions are needed to meet the emergency needs and

to buy time to find longer-term answers.

The rest areas, as proposed by Councilor Zelenka, will be on several selected, specially designated, city-owned undeveloped land parcels. They will offer a safe place to sleep from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m., toilet access, garbage collection, and lockers so that individuals can secure their items during the day, facilitating their ability to find work and housing, to keep health appointments, and to conduct other personal business.

A major benefit of the rest areas is that people who now sleep downtown or in public parks will be drawn away from those areas and into areas that are especially designed to meet basic safety and sanitation needs. Insufficient bathrooms, especially at night, has been a major health hazard to all who visit Eugene's downtown and public parks. The new rest stops will improve the public health of all. Another major business benefit is that the rest areas should save a great deal of the current \$300,000 per year the Eugene city government is spending to clean up deserted camps, often vacated as individuals flee under police orders.

For more information: Email contact@EugeneSLEEPS.org or Jean Stacey at 541-653-7589. On the web: www.EugeneSLEEPS.org, @EugeneSLEEPS on Twitter, and on Facebook.

The Eugene City Council arrived at the April 24 council work session with unprecedented determination to take immediate and purposeful action. Councilor Greg Evans had called the session earlier this year following ongoing testimony from both housed and unhoused people affiliated with SLEEPS, CALC, Occupy Interfaith, Occupy Eugene, CLDC, Nightingale, and other groups, stating that the

EIGHT ARRESTED FOR SLEEPING IN EUGENE, FINED \$100 EACH

By ALLEY VALKYRIE

On the night of April 4, fourteen people were camped in a group on public property underneath an overpass near the Ferry Street Bridge. Police woke them up around 1:15 a.m. on April 5 and arrested eight people, four men and four women ranging in age from 18 to 37 years old. Six others were not arrested and deliberately left behind to "clean up the mess" and take care of the dogs that belonged to those who were arrested. Those who were left behind were told by another officer that they would be arrested the following night if they remained at the location.

The eight who were arrested were originally cited for criminal trespass, a misdemeanor and a jailable offense, and they were all held in the Lane County Jail overnight. Early the next morning, the city prosecutor decided to drop the criminal trespass charges and instead charge them with prohibited camping, which is a violation and not an arrestable offense. They were arraigned at the Lane County Jail around noon, where they all pled no contest

to the charge of prohibited camping, and each was fined \$100. They were released from the custody of the jail around 2:45 p.m. on April 5.

After they were released, the campers returned to the same location where they were arrested, as they had nowhere else to go. Later that afternoon, I had several conversations with a command officer from the Eugene Police Department. After discussing what I viewed to be significant policy violations and legal concerns, I was contacted later in the evening and told that the police were currently "reassessing their approach" to dealing with the campers and would not be arresting anyone at the location until further notice.

Despite this assurance, the campers were again awakened by a police officer around two in the morning on April 6 and threatened with arrest, although the officer did not follow through with the threat.

EARTH DAY ACTION AT EWEB

By SCOTT FIFE



PHOTO BY JAIN ELLIOTT

Good Energy pulls against Bad Energy at the Earth Day Celebration.

On Saturday, April 20, a total Tug-O-War Smackdown took place at the yearly EWEB Earth Day Celebration. At stake: the survival of humanity. The contestants on one side were Bad Energy (fracking, nuclear, coal, biomass generation, and large dam hydropower), and on the other were Good Energy (solar, ocean-wave and tidal, biogas, and geothermal).

This Occupy Eugene guerrilla theater production asked, "Is EWEB's Green Image Just Greenwashing?" (making unsubstantiated or misleading claims about the environmental benefits of products, services, and technology) and was designed to encourage EWEB to move towards sustainable, decentralized power sources and further away from the unsustainable, destructive, centralized power that currently comprises the majority of its energy portfolio. Handouts were distributed to inform and encourage our community to call their EWEB representatives and demand that EWEB's green energy be truly green. To see

the EWEB handout, go to <http://occupyeugenemedia.org/is-eweb-green-image-just-greenwashing/>

Sporting creative hats, each of the energy sources was described by the announcer as they were called to the rope. The power sources showed their stuff, flexed, and grabbed the rope as the tug-o-war commenced. With a lot of back and forth, it looked like Good Energy was going to lose when Big Money came in on the side of Bad Energy. Suddenly, the announcer called in the one source of energy that is often forgotten: people power. The audience saved the day when they came in on the side of good energy, throwing bad energy to the ground in total defeat. Hopefully, the audience had as much fun as the actors did.

The event was organized by Occupy Eugene, No Coal Eugene, and Aelon Kein Ad (Our Islands) Conservation Center. You can find a video of the action at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BIf5j--Wv44&feature=youtu.be>

"COMM-COMM" MAKES A COMEBACK

By CHRISTINA BELLINI

In truth, it had not entirely disappeared. David Adkins, Jana Thrift, and I took turns to meet some of our community's communications and promotional needs. We wrote press releases and made Facebook events upon request, did our best to keep the Website calendar up-to-date, sent email announcements, made a few blog posts, and posted to Twitter about Occupy Eugene's events and those of our affinity groups and some allies.

Organizers can find a working event submission form on our Website, occupyeugenemedia.org, under the Forms tab. The committee requests that organizers of events and direct actions use this form to submit information on events needing promotion and to allow our group sufficient time to fully promote each event.

Jana will continue to send weekly email announcements over the announcements list-serve, as she has done faithfully for several months now. David will create events for the calendar and blog posts for the Website. Mary Broadhurst has agreed to take on creating Facebook events and tweeting about events, as well as OE and OWS news and topics of in-

terest. Lee DeVeau will submit events to community calendars and I, Christina, will submit them to the Eugene Weekly and create activist alerts.

Press release writing will continue to be a collaborative effort by the committee and organizers, with Lee and I using event information that organizers submit via our Web form to begin press releases on Crabgrass and to solicit the input of fellow committee members and the organizers of events we are writing about.

I have trained new members of the group on Crabgrass for writing press releases, Twitter, and Facebook, while Jamil Jonna trained the group on Website maintenance.

If you would like to join our committee, please contact me at giulia.c.bellini@gmail.com or come to a committee meeting at 5:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of every month upstairs at Growers Market, 454 Willamette Street. Please check our online calendar at occupyeugenemedia.org for possible changes, as well as for information about other Occupy Eugene committee and group meetings, upcoming actions, and events.

Welcome to the new issue of Occupy Eugene's newsletter! We hope you enjoy our articles and find a place to join Occupy Eugene in our efforts to bring about our vision. If you are looking for a way to get involved please visit <http://occupyeugenemedia.org/volunteer/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

March Against Monsanto

On Saturday, May 25, Lane County residents will participate in a worldwide "March Against Monsanto." Over 275 cities around the world are scheduled for events on this date. In Eugene, we will hold a joyful celebration of sustainable agriculture with speakers from local organizations and farmers to educate about the work being done locally and in our state around sustainable farming, as well as on the dangers that GMOs present to our environment, health, and local economy. We will start at the Wayne Morse Free Speech plaza (8th and Oak St.) at 11 a.m., with speakers, information tables, and local musicians sharing song and rap on the subject. Then we will march through downtown Eugene and return to celebrate more with local bands until 4 p.m. Please join us for a big community party! Go to Facebook for more information <http://wkly.ws/1g9>, or contact: Lizzy at lizzycwynar@hotmail.com

LANE COMMUNITY BILL OF RIGHTS

BY FERGUS McLEAN

Lane Community Bill of Rights (LCBOR) is a group forming to call corporations and politicians in Lane County to account. We intend to place initiative measures on the November 2014 ballot to assert people's right to local self-governance, to nurture the creation of a new current in American law, and to recognize and establish the rights of nature and the right of communities to control their own destinies.

We hope you will join us May 25 for the March Against Monsanto, the celebration to follow, and for the joyful struggle for our rights that lies ahead.

See details on the march on this page. LCBOR meets most Tuesdays at Growers Market at 6 p.m. You can find more information at <http://lanebillofrights.pbworks.com/w/page/61574002/WELCOME>

COME TO A GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Occupy Eugene holds a General Assembly (GA) every Friday at 6 p.m. upstairs in the Growers Market, 454 Willamette. The 3rd GA of each month attracts the most members. The GAs are open to all. Please come to a GA and find out what we are up to.

Celebration of Art, and Poetry, and Music

@ Tsunami Books

A Benefit for Occupy Eugene

Sunday, May 19, 2013, 4 to 6 p.m.

You write in order to change the world, knowing perfectly well that you probably can't, but also knowing that literature is indispensable to the world ... The world changes according to the way people –James Baldwin

Occupy Eugene will hold prose and poetry readings and an art and craft silent auction at Tsunami Books on Sunday, May 19, to raise funds for the work we do in areas of social justice such as homelessness, environment, foreclosures, and health care for all.

The program will include readings by Robert Hill Long, Plaedo, Kirk Toncray, author of *Behind the Signs*. Scotty Perey and his friends and students from Madison Meadow Music School will provide music. Silent auction includes art by Mary Wagner, Diane Story Cunningham, Cooper, Scott Fife. Other contributors include Hannah Goldrich, Shel, Tim Boyden, Chris Bellini, Graham Lewis, Alley and other Saturday Market vendors. Photos by Robert Hill Long, the Photobook of Occupy portraits by Rob Sydor.

In addition, the OE Library Committee will present an Occupy Online Poetry community project. The group-composed poem is comprised of lines collected online at a Facebook group page. Contributors have been submitting their lines of poetry in response to the query, "If I was free of the Hungry Ghost..." at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/online.poetry/?fref=ts>

The idea for the online poetry was inspired by a spoken word artists from the group Climbing PoeTree at the Social Justice, Real Justice Conference at UO in February of this year. The workshop leaders similarly prompted workshop participants and gathered one-line responses into stanzas and created a poem during the workshop. The capacity of community to create "right on the spot" is an experience that seems to satisfy a basic human need for connecting with each other. Everyone is welcome to add a line to the poem for a few more weeks until the library starts collecting the lines into stanzas to be read at the Tsunami event on May 19, 2013.

Suggested donation is \$5 to \$10 at the door, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds.

Opinion

PROPOSED FEE IS A PRACTICAL SOLUTION

The city of Eugene is asking voters to pass a city services fee to bring stability to its general fund and to close most of a \$6-million gap we must fill to maintain current services. I'm joined by two fellow councilors and the mayor in actively campaigning in support of the fee.

My City Council colleagues who oppose the fee have offered no realistic solutions to fill the immediate need. Their proposals range from selling off our parks to developers to using up our savings accounts. Those are the kinds of shortsighted, stopgap measures that have led other cities to the brink of bankruptcy; they would degrade our city's vital services and jeopardize our financial stability.

The longer-term strategies they have proposed, such as growing our property tax base, should be pursued but can't be implemented by July 1, when our new budget cycle starts.

While it's not a perfect solution, the city services fee is a realistic, practical way for our city to deal with the budget shortfall. It asks Eugene residents to come together to pay a modest fee of no more than \$10 a month (low-income residents would receive a full or partial exemption) to be used for fire, police, parks, libraries, human services and neighborhoods.

The fee will allow us to retain the valued services our residents demand and rely upon without putting the city's future at risk. It's a stretch, but one worth making. Vote "yes" on Measure 20-211.

Claire Syrett

Eugene City Councilor, Ward 7

CITY SEEKS REGRESSIVE TAX TO AVOID NEEDED

REFORMS

20-211, the fee proposed to finance vital city services, is a new scheme to shift an even greater share of the cost of providing basic city services onto the shoulders of working people, local businesses, and nonprofits.

The "fee" proposed in this measure sets the standard for unfairness. The woman who owns your corner market will pay 33% more than Walmart because she lives in Eugene and will pay both as a resident (\$120 per year) and for her business (\$360) per year. Charities pay like businesses and are not exempt.

The proponents claim that passing this measure will protect essential services like branch libraries, public pools, and the CAHOOTS van. In truth, the proposal only guarantees continued funding of these specific services for one year. After that, the revenue raised with this fee could easily be diverted for police or to build a new city hall under the vague

and undefined category "quality of life services."

The "Fiscal Crisis" Is Concocted

Since arriving in Eugene, City Manager Jon Ruiz has squirreled away tens of millions in reserves and other restricted accounts for constructing new public buildings. In addition, millions of dollars of future tax revenue have been forgiven in deals with developers.

Furthermore, the Riverfront Urban Renewal District has diverted \$10 million from local governments and schools without producing even nine of the promised nine hundred new high-tech jobs. If it is closed, approximately \$6 million could be put back into public services and schools.

The Sun Never Sets on a Tax in Eugene

Eugene Cares claims that the city council can terminate the fee in the future and that it need not collect the maximum allowed. Whatever the intentions of the current council, future city councils may be reluctant to give up the more than \$14.4 million the fee will raise every year.

The low income relief promised in the ordinance is so unimportant to the city bureaucrats who are reaching for your wallet that the whole matter is left to be worked out later, and, even if the current council is generous, future councils can change the rules at will. Low income relief rarely lasts long; councils and mayors seek ways to collect more, not less.

"Fungible" Is Not an Edible Mushroom

Taxes are fungible. If voters can be persuaded to pay a fee for basic services, then the money formerly spent on basic services can be diverted to other purposes such as funding subsidies for private developers and new public buildings without the need to go to the voters with a bond measure that has an expiration date. If we allow city government to divert general funds to development schemes, we will have sacrificed the last shred of public accountability for city government in Eugene.

You Can Fight City Hall

You wouldn't guess from the city's informational "campaign" that five of our eight City Councilors are opposed to this measure. We think the majority want to do right. Encourage and support councilors who respect the interests of the 99%.

We will answer your questions. We will show you the evidence, and point to where tax dollars are hidden. Don't be coerced by empty threats. Vote no. Our only enemy is complacency. Basic public services should be the first priority, not the last. Visit votencityfee.org for more information.

Paul Nicholson and Bonny Bettman McCornack
Citizens for Truth, Justice and the American Way

Occupy Eugene

Newsletter Staff

THIS ISSUE OF THE EUGENE OCCUPIER IS BROUGHT TO YOU THROUGH THE COLLABORATION OF CATHERINE SISKRON, CHASE MAY, GRAHAM LEWIS, JERRY BRULE, RALPH BITTER, VICKIE NELSON, AND THE MANY PARTICIPANTS AND COMMITTEES OF OCCUPY EUGENE.

Reader Feedback and Comments:

We welcome your comments, suggestions, and feedback, as well as content and financial contributions for our newsletter. E-mail us at newsletter@occupyeugenemedia.org

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We are a nonviolent, non-partisan, social-political movement for accountability and responsibility in government. We stand in solidarity with Occupy Movements around the globe and all people who will no longer sit back and watch corporate and special interests run their Government, and spoil the living Earth. For we, the people, are the government.

It is time to turn away from a culture of war and domination, and create a living economy which operates in harmony with our living planet. We must begin by opening our hearts to those the present system would discard and push into the shadows, because we believe that, in our United States, it's we the people who are sovereign- not global corporations.

We have come together to create a community that expresses our common needs, to organize, network, and participate in solutions and to remind one another that, as a society, we have unfinished business in our pursuit of social and economic justice.

Note: This excerpt has been approved by the OE General Assembly. You can find Occupy Eugene's complete vision statement at <http://occupyeugene.net/vision>.

DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION AND THE FIGHT FOR PUBLIC SPACE

By ALLEY VALKYRIE



PHOTO BY BENJAMIN HUNT
Children love to climb on the sculpture at Kesey Square.

Street youth hang out in Kesey Square because they have nowhere else to go. Kesey Square is not designated a city park and is therefore not governed by an 11 p.m. curfew, which makes Kesey Square the only public space downtown where people are allowed to congregate 24-7.

The weekly gathering organized by Occupy that became the Kesey Square Revival emerged from a collective vision of what a common space in downtown Eugene could -- and should -- look like. A public plaza should be alive and thriving, with people eating lunch, making music, reading, playing chess, and meeting with friends. We decided to manifest this vision.

We attracted workers on their lunch break, neighborhood residents out for a walk, and random passersby who stopped just because something was going on in Kesey Square. We drew a mixed community and created a positive atmosphere. The same people who came to

play chess and chat with friends also wanted to eat lunch in the square, and the two food carts benefited from our presence on Fridays.

We watched as the corner of Broadway and Willamette transformed. The signs of revitalization were impressive. However, we also noticed something else: an increased police presence. We watched as the police harassed, cited, and sometimes even arrested the young and unhoused for "crimes" such as sitting on a planter, leaning against a building, sitting on the sidewalk, or failing to cross the street at a right angle.

We noted that this enforcement was increasing as more businesses opened downtown, and we predicted that one of the effects of "revitalization" would be an intensified push to drive the "undesirables" from public space downtown. In November, the Kesey Square Revival decided to take the winter off, with the intention of gathering every Friday again come early spring, but downtown activists associated with the Kesey Square Revival maintained a connection with the square throughout the winter, further observing both signs of revitalization and oppression.

A few months ago, the city relaunched the Food Cart Pod in Kesey Square with four food carts. And, a few weeks later, Kesey Square Revival officially started up again. We immediately noticed that the square was quite crowded with commercial activity. People were sitting at tables provided by the food cart vendors while others waited in line for food. As a result, we did not have room for the tables and chairs that we usually set up for the



Playing Scrabble on Kesey Square. PHOTO BY GREGORY WALKER

community. There were plenty of places for the customers to sit, but no space left for the rest of community to sit. The conflict was obvious, and we had a feeling what was coming.

On one hand, it's a great sign for commerce that there are finally enough people downtown during the lunch hour to sustain four food carts in a plaza. But their prosperity is unfortunately directly connected to the city's agenda of pushing the homeless out of downtown and inevitably has a detrimental effect on all who spend time downtown.

Public space is for everyone, a fundamental concept that both city officials and downtown property and business owners don't seem to understand or care about. For years, both public and private interests have waged a war downtown against the homeless, criminalizing their existence and systematically pushing them from public space. The city talks about its role in "balancing the interests" between the business owners and the homeless, but not only does the city seem to not recognize that human rights always outweigh economic interest, but any attempt at "balancing" on their part seems to weigh heavily in favor of businesses.

Occupy has been caught in the crosshairs of this effort, and while our instinct is to dig our heels in and exercise our First Amendment right to public space, in reality the situation requires a different approach. We wish to develop and retain positive relationships with those who work downtown, especially the food cart owners, and we don't want to gather in Kesey Square if our presence directly interferes with their business. Additionally, we refuse to allow the city to pit us against the food carts in a political fight, which would further distract us from our true goals. Consequently, the Kesey Square Revival will no longer take place until further notice.

Instead, we will spend the next several months focused on an even greater concern. According to reliable sources, the City of Eugene intends on designating Kesey Square as a city park within the next few months. Kesey Square is currently a 24-hour public plaza, is not under control of the Parks Department, and is the only public place downtown where people can congregate after 11 p.m. By designating Kesey Square a park, not only will the City of Eugene be able to impose an 11 p.m. curfew, but the police will have the power to cite people for violating park rules in Kesey, which means that many minor offenses that are only violations under city code will become arrestable offenses. Police will also have the power to exclude those who violate any park rules in Kesey Square through the use of a park restriction. Park restrictions apply to all city parks, not just the park where the violation took place.

Downtown Eugene has no shelters, no benches, and no public spaces other than Kesey Square that people can congregate in 24 hours a day. If a curfew is imposed on Kesey Square, there will literally be nowhere left to go at night. Nowhere. Nowhere to sit down, to take a rest. Being homeless after 11 p.m. will essentially be illegal anywhere in downtown Eugene. Not just camping, not just sleeping. Existing.



Musicians jam at Kesey Square. PHOTO BY GREGORY WALKER

INDEPENDENT MEDIA: COUNTERING DECEPTION

By GREGORY WALKER

The current corporate domination of the fourth estate, news media, recalls Orwellian prophecy. Many predictions Orwell made of a dystopian society in the novel 1984 are now part of the ethos of our culture. The "memory hole" Winston Smith used to incinerate what recently was truth has its contemporary representation in the form of historical revision and underreporting of stories that contradict the corporate oligarchy's propagandist narrative. No news that calls into question the most basic assumptions of corporate capitalism will see the light of day except from the microphones, lenses, and print of independent media. Some 80% of the information Americans get, however, is from corporate controlled media. Despite so many dedicated muckrakers, scholars, and dissidents working hard to counter the lies and omissions of an oligarchy owned and controlled media, the information is largely lost in seas of irrelevance.

Democracy Now, Truthdig, Propublica, Media Matters, and many other national and international organizations, as well as countless activists, work hard to produce DIY and guerilla media, including the volunteer staffs of The Occupier and Occupy Eugene Media Group. In the digital age,

more and more Americans have access to produce low-cost, professional quality media. However, the freedom of the Internet is under threat by the same forces that have consolidated and dominated traditional media. Bills like SOPA, PIPA, and CISPA, which recently passed in the House of Representatives, are the mechanisms that will effect Internet censorship. The plutarchy have set their sights on the Web because it is a threat to their full spectrum dominance of disseminating information. They may well prove successful if enough citizens are not informed and educated about the threat that this assault on the people's last outlet for free expression poses.

In the meantime, the Internet, Occupy Radio, Occupy TV, and print publications like The Occupier are the last defensive lines in the Orwellian war of information. It is not enough to simply produce media, however. The content, format, and presentation of independent media have to be of paramount concern. A "build it and they will come" approach is a dangerously naïve notion. In order to not be drowned out by the ever insipid, cacophonous chorus of corporate courtiers, independent media must be vigilant and

inventive. The consolidated power of corporations is well organized, versed, and skilled in the art of propaganda. The corporations see all contrary voices, all those who fight for truth, justice, and real democracy, as a threat to extinguish.

Independent media must reach out to new audiences, especially to young Americans, which is no easy task. Reaching the Internet generation proves so difficult that even Madison Avenue struggles with it. Capturing the attention of a savvy and impatient generation will not be easy. The collective mind trust of independent media will need to conceive inventive and dynamic content that captures new audiences hungry for alternative viewpoints, who are also distrustful and averse to being preached to. The complete extinction of Constitutional freedoms could become reality if independent media does not effectively tackle this difficult, but critical, challenge.

Update on CISPA: After passing in the House of Representatives with 111 sponsoring members, the Senate, in a likely reaction to the Obama administration's threat to veto the bill, has decided not to bring CISPA to the floor.

HEAL HELPS ACTIVISTS MAINTAIN HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

By JOHN MONROE

Helping Enable Activist Lifestyles (HEAL) is a program dedicated to helping those who are helping our community. So many people are giving as much as they can, and then some. This can lead to burnout and emotional trauma, not to mention a substantial physical toll. When these setbacks occur, they don't only affect the person, but the activist network as well. In the end, the whole community suffers. We are in a time when a lot has to get done in pretty much every corner of life. This is incredibly trying to our psyche. This opens the opportunity for evolution in our collective intelligence, but it also creates the possibility of chaotic behavior.

HEAL is dedicated to helping offer activists techniques that enable a healthier lifestyle. We've chosen to use the word 'enable', despite its negative connotations, because it seems that our culture lacks the abilities to adapt to our changing world.

HEAL uses a variety of modalities, from yoga and meditation to modern bodywork

methods, to help train people to develop new capabilities. These modalities can help a person to deal with physical injuries, cope with emotional challenges, and open more positive directions in group conflicts. On Tuesdays and Saturdays, HEAL offers a yoga class at the Unitarian Universalist Church from noon to 2 p.m. I teach these classes and have studied yoga in the Ananda Seva tradition and am qualified as a meditation teacher in this tradition. My classes utilize both gentle and warming techniques and can easily be modified to account for personal differences. Most of them also incorporate some form of visualized meditation to help ground and attune the mind-body system.

These classes are open to the public. If you are interested in attending but don't consider yourself an activist, you are welcome to look at this as a friendly and open opportunity to become connected with a large group of people who are dedicated to making positive change in Eugene and beyond.

"We're going to fight this battle with everything we have, and we will probably lose. But then we will fight it again, and we will lose a little less, for this battle will win us many supporters. And then we'll lose *again*. And *again*. And we will fight on. Because as hard as it is to win by fighting, it's impossible to win by doing nothing." — Cory Doctorow

TEACHING ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JERRY BRULE

Many of today's leaders are owned by special interests. These lawmakers are also receiving money from, and doing the bidding of, the fossil fuel industry. That is why most of the conservatives refuse to do anything about global warming. Indeed half of them even refuse to admit that humans are causing climate change, although 98% of climate scientists agree that we are the cause of the undisputed warming. We need to change leaders and



Joshua Frankel and Mel Bankoff conducted several climate change seminars.

elect a new generation that will work to help the 99% and protect the earth for future generations. We need to start by educating the next generation and the general public.

Mel Bankoff is doing his part. On Friday, April 19, Mel, director of Partners for Sustainable Schools, organized a forum for about 300 local high school students to discuss climate change at the Fairgrounds. Mayor Kitty Piercy addressed the group, and Governor Kitzhaber proclaimed that the entire Earth Week be dedicated for climate change. This younger generation seems to be more sensitive to others.

That evening, Mel hosted another Town Hall Meeting and Global Cafe discussion groups for adults. Each gathering watched videos from Bill McKibben, a leader of the environmental movement, and a video called "How It All Ends" from a science teacher who goes by Wonderingmind42. He argues that if we spend a lot fighting climate change and the deniers turn out to be correct, it won't be that bad, as we will have less smog and a better world. If we do nothing and the scientists are correct (the most likely scenario) climate destabilization will be the worst disaster humanity has ever faced. The inescapable logic is that we need to act. And not "someday."

Mel and Partners for Sustainable Schools also held workshops and showed films Saturday at EWEB. Earth Week ended with Earth Day activities at EWEB on Saturday and Sunday and concluded with the nationwide premiere of the movie "Do the Math" by Bill McKibben and his organization, 350.org at Cozmic. The organization is so named because scientists determined that 350 parts per million is the upper limit of CO₂, that the Earth can withstand with only a two degree temperature rise Centigrade. We are currently at 390 ppm and rising. The movie points out that if the fossil fuel industry develops and burns all of the fuel they now own leases for, it would put out five times more than the critical amount of CO₂ that can avoid disaster.

Mel invites everyone to an important community organizing meeting to help coordinate effective and creative systems that will expand climate change awareness and action throughout Lane County. The meeting will be held at the First Methodist Church, 1376 Olive St., on Thursday, May 16, 6 to 9 p.m. Please let Mel know if you plan to attend the meeting at mel.bankoff@gmail.com

PEACE SYMPOSIUM: RISE TO END GENDER VIOLENCE

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JERRY BRULE

On April 19, LCC conducted a symposium to end gender violence. "Media's Misogynist Memes," "The Roots of Violence," "Trauma Healing to End Violence," and "Consent is Sexy, an innovative approach to violence prevention on campus," were the four workshops offered.

Jensine Larsen, one of the keynote speakers, is the founder of World Pulse, an exciting new action media network devoted to giving women of the world a global voice. Larsen provided many examples of heroes in some of the poorest and most oppressed parts of the world -- heroes who use the technology of cell phones and the internet to bring about change. Her inspiring and uplifting talk illustrated what she considers three unstoppable trends: the rise of women's leadership throughout the world, the communication revolution, and a shift in consciousness. Larsen considers World Pulse a means of crowdsourcing the feminine intelligence of the planet.

The other keynote speaker was Jean Kilbourne, author of many books, including *Can't Buy My Love: How Advertising Changes the Way We Feel*. Kilbourne gave

many examples of the objectification of women by the media. Women portrayed as sex objects, she says, can encourage violence. Advertising and the media distort images of women and girls, using Photoshop to create impossible standards.

The media uses sex to sell just about anything and the graphic use of sex in the media can border on pornography. Kilbourne advises women not to look at any women's magazines and to regard all advertising with a critical eye. The impossible images of women in ads and magazines demean both women and men and make them unhappy. These images create standards that can never be met, no matter how many products we buy or how many weight-loss programs we try.

Stan Taylor, chair of the Lane Peace Center, hosted the 6th annual Lane Peace Symposium. Taylor said that almost all of the violence in the world is from men, because it is a patriarchal world.



Jensine Larsen founded World Pulse, an action media network which connects 50,000 women from 190 nations into a powerful force for change.

LET'S TAKE CONTROL OF OUR FOOD

BY BRET DIMOND

In the fall of 2011, a small group of activists gathered on Wall Street to protest the greed, corruption, and government complicity that led to the economic collapse of 2008. After three years and trillions of dollars in bailout funds, the Banksters — whose illegal and immoral actions had led to the financial collapse — remained unpunished and unrepentant. As activists took to the streets to vent their anger and outrage, word of the occupation on Wall Street spread across the country, and thousands of communities acted in solidarity with OWS and began their own occupations seeking justice and an end to corporate greed and malfeasance.

While our options for ending corporate dominance over our economic and political systems may at times seem limited and even non-existent, there is one battle that we can fight and win with relative ease. That battle is the fight for our food sovereignty.

Corporate control over our food system began in earnest in the post-war 50s with the advent of "fast food" like McDonalds and "convenience foods" like frozen "TV dinners." Balanced and healthy diets procured from backyards, local farms, and local markets were supplanted by "supermarkets" that had aisles and aisles of processed, corporate food awaiting our purchase. As food scientists worked feverishly to create ever more exotic chemicals that could be used to preserve and flavor foods in order to increase shelf-life and profit margins, large agribusiness began to convert small and medium scale family farms into monocropping behemoths that required massive inputs of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides.

Today, the average American meal travels over 1,800 miles from farm to plate. ConAgra, Archer-Daniels-Midland (ADM), Dupont, and Monsanto have essentially taken over our food supply in much the same way that Bear Stearns, Goldman Sachs, and J. P. Morgan have taken over our economic system.

But, while it's difficult to untangle ourselves from the tentacles of the capitalist banking and finance sectors, every day we make decisions about the food we buy that can have a profound impact upon our personal health, the health of the planet, and corporate control of our lives.

So what can we do to reverse the corporate takeover of our food supply?

1. Grow your own food. Gardening is fun, healthy, and relatively easy. Be sure to buy non-GMO, open-pollinator seeds that you can re-use year after year. If you buy from local seed providers Territorial Seeds and Adaptive Seeds, you can support the local economy and get great seed created for our bio-region.

2. Buy local and buy organic. Support local organic farmers who grow their food sustainably and without poisoning the planet. You'll pay about the same as you do in the store, but it will taste so much better, have a much smaller carbon footprint, and you'll be supporting the local economy instead of Wall St. financiers. The Eugene Farmer's Market, Grower's Market, and SPROUT Market in Springfield provide local, affordable produce several days a week.

3. Join a local CSA (community supported agriculture). CSAs are a great way to get fresh fruits, veggies, eggs, dairy, and even meat from local farmers every week — usually delivered right to your door. To find a CSA anywhere in the country, go to www.localharvest.org

4. Avoid buying GMO (genetically modified) foods. Food giants like Monsanto continue to fight against GMO labeling in the U.S., and Obama has yet to follow through on his 2007 campaign promise to label all GMOs. While the jury is still out on the health effects of eating GMOs, their only real benefit is to the corporations that develop them in order to increase sales of their proprietary seeds and pesticides, while the long-term consequences to the ecological systems upon which we depend for our survival remain largely unknown, and the damage caused by GMO's could be irreversible. To learn how to avoid buying and consuming GMO foods, go to: <http://www.wikihow.com/Avoid-Genetically-Modified-Foods> for a list of companies to boycott because they have fought GMO labeling in the U.S. go to: <http://www.organicconsumers.org>

While there was a time when buying local and organic meant much higher prices and limited selection, those days are pretty much over as healthy, local, sustainable food is becoming more and more popular. Indeed, organic foods is the fastest growing segment of the U.S. food industry, and many large corporations like Kraft and Coca-Cola are buying up organic brands in an effort to cash in on the organic bandwagon.

Everyday, we each make buying decisions over what foods we choose to put into our bodies. We can choose to support local, healthy, sustainable foods that benefit our health, the local economy, and the planet, or, we can support the corporate food machine funded by the Banksters on Wall St. We can beat them, one apple at a time.

***"Politics is how you live your life, not whom you vote for."*—**

Jerry Rubin

TAX RESISTERS DEMONSTRATE ON TAX DAY

By GRAHAM LEWIS



PHOTO BY JOE CASEY

Patty Hine would rather pay for food than war.

If you don't like the income tax money you pay going to the U.S. war machine, you have a choice, but there may be consequences. Every year, members of the local chapter of Taxes for Peace Not War (TFPNW) invite the community to show up for a Tax Day Protest outside the main Eugene Downtown Post Office. Citizens can look at a dramatic graphic representation of how our government allocates the tax money it receives. It's startling to see how much of our taxes are funneled to forces of death and destruction instead of life-affirming, proactive efforts. Attendees can take ten pennies and drop them in jars to demonstrate how they would prefer their taxes be spent.

This year, local tax resisters estimated the amount of income tax that would go to war, pooled it and then divided up the total among a host of local charity and social justice organizations. There in front of the post office, we handed checks to representatives of those groups.

We know of no one in Oregon who ever went to jail for nonpayment of taxes. Tax resisters who earn a substantial salary sometimes have their wages garnished, so there can be a minor downside but it's worth it to those people to not pay willingly or thoughtlessly, to make it difficult for

I.R.S. to collect. The taxes of some wage earners are withheld before the checks are written, but there are ways to limit that amount by the number of deductions requested on the W-2 form. This year, TFPNW handed checks to Occupy Eugene and Occupy Medical among a dozen or so other groups.

Peg Morton, a mainstay of Taxes for Peace, was out of state on another action, but she made sure her contribution would go to Occupy Eugene this year. (See her letter on this page.)

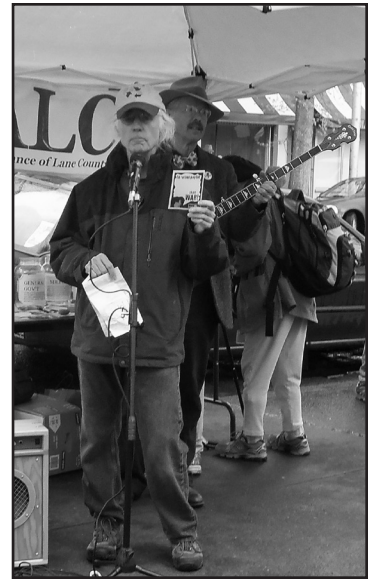


PHOTO BY JOE CASEY

Michael Carrigan of CALC has organized the Tax Day events for years.

PEG MORTON DONATES TO OE ON TAX DAY

April 15, 2015

Dear Friends at Occupy:

You will receive this letter and the enclosed check on Tax Day or very soon thereafter. I do not owe federal taxes this year, but if I did, I would not voluntarily pay them and would redirect the money to causes that promote peace and justice. Occupy Eugene is one of the groups that very much represent my beliefs. This is a symbolic donation, but it comes with my heartfelt support for your work. Occupy has breathed a bit of hope into our community and our country.

I endeavor to follow in the footsteps of Gandhi and Martin Luther King, as well as my own Christian and Quaker heritage. I simply do not believe that Jesus would have engaged in, or encouraged others to engage in, wars and violence. I believe that the wars that my government pursues, supported and encouraged by an economy and philosophy dominated by the military and by corporate greed, are in violation of international laws. Beyond that, these policies cause death and displacement of millions of ordinary people. They undermine entire economies and cultures. They contribute noticeably to planet devastation. They increase hatred for our country around the world and thus actually undermine our own potential security. And funds for wars and the military amount to about one-half of our federal discretionary budget, a huge amount that seems to go unnoticed by our leaders and the media, as the government attempts to "balance the budget."

Keep up your vibrant, chaotic, creative work. You are Right On!

Peg Morton

THE RAGING GRANNIES ARRIVE IN EUGENE

By LAURIE GRANGER

One of the serendipitous gifts of a recent trip to lobby in Salem was experiencing the Raging Grannies of Corvallis and Portland and their extraordinary, to-the-point messages in song. Several of us came back to Eugene with the absolute passion and knowledge that it was time to start a "gaggle" in Eugene. Since that date we have organized, rehearsed and participated in two events: the Opportunity Village Eugene Fundraiser held at Cozmic Pizza March 26 for and the Tax Day Rally 2013 at the downtown Post Office on April 15. We are now rehearsing for the Million Mom March to be held at EWEB at 2 p.m. on May 12, Mother's Day.

So what is a Raging Granny?

Raging Grannies share an attitude and an image, and we are determined to display our commitment to make this world a safer place for all grandchildren of the world. Raging Grannies work for peace, social justice, and economic equality, through song and humor. Politically conscious, but non-partisan, we write our own lyrics to old familiar tunes, and perform whenever and wherever the message needs to be heard. Raging Grannies began in Victoria, BC, Canada in 1987 and have grown into an international movement. Raging Grannies dress as little old ladies in silly, extravagant hats, with aprons or shawls.

You do not have to be a grandmother to join us, nor even able to carry a tune! Your spirit is what counts! The Raging Grannies meet on Fridays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the First United Methodist Church parlor. If you'd like to join us or want more info, contact Laurie at 541-844-1423 or raginggrannieseugene@gmail.com.

SECOND COMMUNITY VACCINE CLINIC A SUCCESS

By ALI HEYN

On May 5, Occupy Medical once again partnered with Lane County's Department of Health and Human Services to provide free Tdap (tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis) vaccines to uninsured adults. Pertussis (whooping cough) has been making a startling resurgence across the country. This is due to its high communicability (it is more contagious than the flu) combined with very low rates of adults receiving booster shots (8%). Last spring, our neighbors in Washington saw the highest rates of pertussis since 1942, an epidemic with 4,783 reported cases throughout the state. Although Oregon didn't suffer to that magnitude, we did see our rates nearly triple from 320 cases in 2011 to 909 cases last year.

The Tdap vaccine should be administered once to adults who did not receive a booster shot as an adolescent. This vaccine became available in 2005 and is different from a Td

(tetanus) shot. Those who are in close contact with infants are especially urged to get vaccinated, as the vast majority of deaths from the disease occur in unvaccinated infants. Tdap is also recommended once per pregnancy for women in their 27th – 36th week of gestation in order to maximize the number of antibodies passed to the baby.

Many thanks to Lane County's Department of Health and Human Services as well as everyone who showed up to get vaccinated. Receiving a vaccine not only protects oneself from contracting pertussis, it also prevents the spread of the disease to the entire community through a phenomenon known as "herd immunity." If we all work together, we can prevent a major pertussis outbreak in Lane County.



Occupy Medical staff shows its philosophy.

PHOTO BY ROB SYDOR

OCCUPY MEDICAL LIFE ON THE BUS

BY LARRISA H. UNRUH, MPH

On any given Sunday, only a few aspects of the Occupy Medical Mobile Clinic will be consistent. One is the time and location. Each Sunday, from noon to 4 p.m., Occupy Medical makes its home on the same park block in downtown Eugene. Another is the core group of dedicated individuals who donate their time, money, and passion to ensure that each patient receives the compassionate, expert care that every human deserves. But nothing else is constant. Each week brings different patients, a different subset of the clinic volunteers, different supplies and donations, challenges, and opportunities.

Every volunteer at Occupy Medical possesses a unique set of skills and motivations. While the core group of volunteers remains fairly constant, the personnel needs of the clinic vary on a weekly basis depending on who shows up and when. Some days we have four doctors, each for one two-hour shift; other weeks, one doctor will complete the entire four-hour shift alone. On busy days, the number of doctors is often the limiting factor for how many patients can be seen, thus affecting the efficiency of the other stations. How quickly we can assemble the various aspects of the clinic also depends on how many people arrive in time to help erect tents, clean the bus, and prepare the check-in, hospitality, triage, physician, and wound-care stations. Despite the abundant kindness, commitment, and contributions that each volunteer brings, the Occupy Medical clinic remains in need of personnel, both those who are medically trained and others willing to assist with daily necessities, such as tent set-up and take-down, crowd control, and hospitality.

An impressive 48% of Occupy Medical patients return to the clinic for subsequent care, and some stop by almost

every week. Despite extraordinary patient retention, predicting supply needs for the 30-40 patients seen each Sunday is challenging. Contributing to the challenges are the drop-in nature of the mobile clinic, the variability of our population's needs, and increasing popularity as Occupy Medical gains publicity.

Certain supplies, however, are in constant demand, including bandages, hand and surface sanitizers, snacks and water, blood pressure cuffs, nutritional supplements, ear thermometer covers, and batteries. For many patients, a check up and possibly a prescription or herbal treatment — all of which we provide for free, if available — will suffice. Some patients, however, require more specific treatments or interventions, such as joint braces, sutures, or perhaps quick transport to an emergency room. In these special cases, monetary donations allow our medical volunteers to adapt and quickly purchase unusual supplies.

While the contributions of current volunteers are extensive, it is impractical and unsustainable to expect volunteers to continue to shoulder the extra burden needed to meet the clinic's needs. We must rely on our community to sustain the operations of our organization.

The Occupy Medical bus is a striking example of the impact that a group of caring individuals can have within a community. While the weekly variability of our supplies, personnel, and patients makes some aspects of the

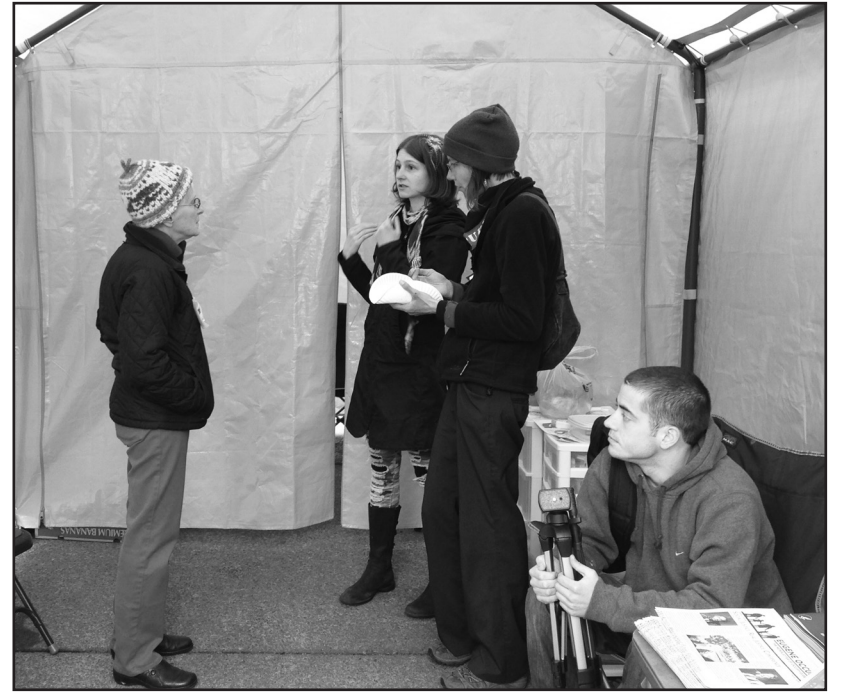


PHOTO BY BENJAMIN HUNT

Volunteers talk in one of the tents. Occupy Medical always needs volunteers.

clinic unpredictable, each week continues to highlight the altruistic nature of humanity. As the cost of health insurance increases, as the population ages, and as the numbers of homeless and unemployed people continue to increase, the U.S. will be forced either to adapt by making clinics such as the Occupy Medical Mobile Clinic more prevalent or see large portions of its population suffer. It is essential that we adapt to the challenges and variability and continue to nurture this growing organization as a prototype for the health care of tomorrow.

A CALL-OUT FOR HELP FROM HERBALISTS

BY "T" TURNER AND SUE SIERRALUPE

Eugene's Occupy Medical clinic continues to grow and expand. Last quarter we had an average of 25 patients per clinic, and already our numbers have risen to 30-40. We expect the trend to continue. One of our primary jobs is serving the medical needs of our community. We operate on a shoestring budget that is based 100% on community donations. Many of our donations come from total strangers who understand the need and want to be a viable part of the solution. A significant amount of our volunteers and donors are previous patients or friends and family of patients. Many now wish to complete the circle of reciprocity with the generous gift of their time and/or resources.

A unique feature of Occupy Medical is that we are not just an emergency care clinic. We provide preventative and managed care with 48% of our patients returning for further assistance. All of our treatments are completely free, which provides an opportunity for our patients to make personal healthcare choices that are best for them, not just what they can

afford at the time.

The nutritional and herbal department has increased in popularity as our patients learn the qualities of herbal medicine. Even patients who previously did not have the slightest interest in plant medicine are now requesting this care. The herbal remedies that we provide are high to medium dose botanicals. We offer several different forms (tinctures, vinegar based, and capsules) for internal consumption, in addition to our topical salves and infused oils. It is not uncommon for us to give away between 8 and 10 oz. of tincture, 400 herbal capsules, multiple doses of essential oils, a wide array of nutritional supplements, and several bottles of homeopathic medicine per clinic. We move through inventory quickly and need your help in sustaining this facet of Occupy Medical, especially with our services expanding to Fridays in addition to our regular Sunday clinic. Our need will double in a few short weeks.

WE NEED DONATIONS!

If you are an herbalist and are willing to donate your tinctures, we would be more than appreciative to share them with the community. If you are fortunate enough to have a garden with culinary and/or medicinal herbs that we may harvest to craft medicine from, please let us know. We need your help so that we may continue to offer alternative modalities of health and healing. We wish to make plant medicine accessible to those whom we have the privilege of serving.

Occupy Medical is changing the future of traditional medicine to welcome various alternatives in care. It is not an easy journey and we cannot achieve our goal alone. Please help us in any way you can. Our website <http://occupymedics.wordpress.com/> lists the herbs that are in high demand, as well as the nutritional supplements that we regularly use. Please feel free to stop by one of our clinics and speak with Sue or "T".

The most dangerous man to any government is the man who is able to think things out... without regard to the prevailing superstitions and taboos. Almost inevitably he comes to the conclusion that the government he lives under is dishonest, insane, intolerable. — H. L. Mencken

Vigil

By Jennefer Jane

there is a light
on, upstairs
on the corner
of 7th and Polk
empty spaces
crammed
with a million ideas
plans
to change the world
chatter echoes
in our mind
never fully severed
from our heart
alone
we can
rewrite history
but only together
can we
transform existence
one man's madness
is
another woman's reality
4/17/13

A PERSONAL FORECLOSURE STORY

By VICKIE EMBREE

For over a year, I've been attending the Homeowners' Support Group meetings of Occupy Eugene's Foreclosure Committee. The information shared there — from what's happening nationwide to what's happening with local individuals — has been unbelievable. One thing that's clear is that each individual's story is unique, and each situation needs its own resolution. Here's my story:

In 2008, when my husband and I divorced after 20 years of marriage, I was excited to find a new home for myself in the neighborhood where I raised my kids. The price seemed affordable. My payments were about \$200 more per month than my previous mortgage payments, but, with my kids out on their own, I figured that wouldn't be a problem.

I made a large down payment on my new home. Unfortunately, in the summer of 2011, I began to have difficulty making my payments. My interest rate was high, so I investigated my options including getting my mortgage refinanced.

To learn about my options, I participated in HUD-approved credit counseling. I spoke on the phone with a man who reviewed every detail of my budget including such things as batteries for smoke detectors and flea treatment for my cats. I had never done an involved budget like that. This man recommended investigating a short sale or other foreclosure options, because my monthly bills were more than my paychecks could cover, resulting in a \$300 to \$500 shortfall every month.

Since I had been making my payments on time, I was not eligible for a principal reduction. However, in spite of my budget shortfall, Wells Fargo (my loan servicer) was willing to refinance. They seemed quite enthusiastic about it. My interest rate decreased by less than 1%, which meant that my monthly payments decreased by about \$150. Since it seemed to be the only way to keep my home, I decided to go for the refinance.

Toward the end of 2011, it became increasingly clear that the profession I'm in — medical transcription — is dying. My paychecks began shrinking as more physicians began to use alternative recordkeeping such as voice recognition, making a transcriptionist unnecessary. I began to borrow money from my mother so that I could keep making my monthly mortgage payments.

Around this time, I learned about Occupy. I went to an Occupy Eugene General Assembly, and I was impressed with the friendly welcoming people there. I learned about the Foreclosure Committee that was meeting weekly to help homeowners who were having difficulties, as well as the committee's involvement in different protests and actions against the banks. I began to attend meetings every week and started to learn more about the foreclosure process.

By January 2012, I was ready to admit that I could not sustain my mortgage. There were several homeowners at our meetings who had not made payments in over a year, and it was encouraging to learn that I would not be immediately evicted from my home if I stopped making payments. So in February I missed my first payment.

When Wells Fargo started to call and send letters, I contacted them and requested a loan

modification. I purchased my home in 2008 for \$190,000. By the time of the refinance, I still owed about \$170,000. When I began to have difficulty making my monthly payments, my home was worth about \$135,000. I had become the typical underwater homeowner, and the estimated worth of my home was going down every month. If Wells Fargo (or Freddie Mac) would have reduced the principal of my mortgage closer to the actual market value, and if they would have lowered the interest rate, I might have been able to keep my home. I filled out modification paperwork and sent them my income/debt verification information.

Thanks to Occupy Eugene's Foreclosure Committee, I began to learn about ways to possibly keep my home or at least gain time before having to move. The benefits of the meetings included being able to share information, ask questions, and learn about ways to identify fraud and other criminal bank activity, as well as seeing how my situation fit into the big picture nationwide.

Occupy Eugene helped to keep things in perspective in another way, too. Occupy Eugene has been quite active in helping the homeless, as well as homeowners, and I realized I was lucky enough to have both a home and a job. I got involved in other Occupy projects, seeing "housing as a human right." Meanwhile, in the Foreclosure Committee, I supported other people going through various processes, from notices of default, to court cases, to auctions, to eviction court. We also did a lot of outreach, including an action at Wells Fargo's downtown branch and a workshop at the Oregon Country Fair.

Getting nearly weekly feedback on my own decision-making process was invaluable in helping me to eventually decide that a short sale was the best option for me. I had been worried that a short sale would be considered a cop-out, but the committee members helped me realize that each person's situation is unique. I was able to find a reputable real estate company to assist me with my short sale, and it went surprisingly smoothly. The real estate firm helped negotiate relocation assistance money for me, and I had 60 days to downsize my 3 bedroom house so that my belongings now fit in one large room.

The bank and investor may not realize the consequences of their unethical behavior, but, through the process of choosing to give up my home and downsize, I was able to connect with a group of talented and giving people who helped me in many ways. From suggestions on reading and other resources, to legal referrals, and even help moving when the time came, I forged relationships that will last me a lifetime, and learned things I never would have learned otherwise. I will always be grateful for this.

I still attend the Occupy Eugene Foreclosure Committee meetings. We welcome others to spread the word and consider joining us — whether homeowners needing assistance and support, or anyone else who cares about the big banks and foreclosures and their impact on our neighbors and our community. We meet on Wednesdays from 5 to 7 p.m. at Growers Market, 454 Willamette Street. See you there?

For information on foreclosure work by Occupy and others in Portland, go to: <http://weareoregon.org/2013/04/portland-home-defenders-short-film-by-bmedia/>

WE GATHER OCCUPY INTER-FAITH EUGENE/SPRINGFIELD

By PATTY HINE

Did you grow up in a particular faith tradition? Are you a moral person, with or without the label of "spiritual" or "religious?" Maybe you think religion is the root of all evil. For my part, I've been a member of a mainline Protestant denomination all my life.

Since Occupy Wall Street began, I have been deeply disturbed, and I can't ignore it. When Occupy told the story behind "We are the 99%," my eyes were opened. Now I can't not see what's happening. Our democracy, economy, and the environmental systems on which our lives depend are collapsing at an alarming rate.

And as a member of a world-wide church, which still openly oppresses homosexuals, I am not sure my friends in the pews, who care deeply about "doing good," realize that we are facing an emergency. In fact, the Church seems to be in denial.

I'm frustrated, worried, and angry. Shouldn't faith communities be responding to this emergency? Shouldn't we be the leaders to right these deep wrongs? I can't continue to act like everything is fine. What are people of faith to do?

We must do what we have always done. We gather the others. To quote Lierre Keith, writer, small farmer, radical feminist, and co-author with Derrick Jensen and Aric

McGay of "Deep Green Resistance: Strategy to Save the Planet" (Seven Stories Press, 2011): "Gather the others: You already know them; the brave, smart, militant, and most of all, serious, and together take aim. Do it carefully, but do it."

Within several weeks, Occupy Inter-Faith decided by simple majority to focus on three areas: homelessness, health care, and corporate personhood, with the vision of building a just and equitable community and world. We work in solidarity with allied organizations to strengthen the social and economic justice movement, locally and beyond.

We promote homeless solutions such as "Huts for the Homeless" (Conestoga wagons), serve on the board of Opportunity Village Eugene, write grants, and raise funds. We support others engaged in civil disobedience, and attend bi-monthly Eugene City Council meetings to decriminalize homelessness. We conduct listening circles for the unhoused in our faith communities, to listen and deeply connect to their needs and aspirations.

We educate about Health Care for All Oregon legislation, and organize meetings with legislators in Salem. We organize vanloads of lobbyists for the Inter-Faith Advocacy

Day and for initiatives that support universal health care and legislation that clarifies that corporations are not people and money is not speech.

We write letters to the editor and to our elected officials, and we promote activism and organize actions through our home congregations.

With clergy and laypersons, we co-sponsor the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund Democracy Schools, and, with We the People Eugene, we train activists to create local laws/ordinances to safeguard our communities from unwanted corporate influence.

We have raised over \$1,600 for Occupy Medical, the Occupier Newsletter, Democracy School scholarships, SLEEPS (Safe Legally Entitled Emergency Places to Sleep), and BankBusters.

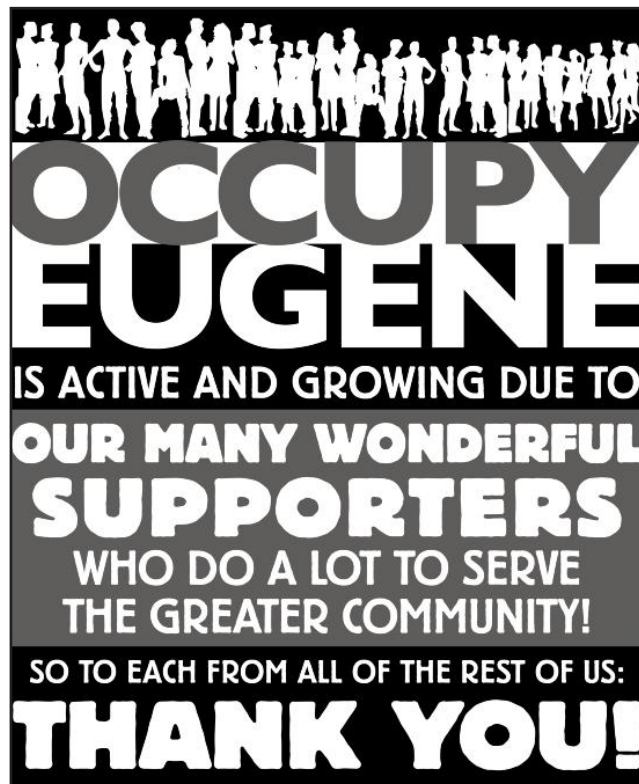
On the second Sunday of the month at 1:30 p.m., we meet for two hours to share and strategize. The location changes each week; please check the Eugene Weekly or Register Guard for this information.

We sing, educate, and challenge and inspire one another, looking for ways to create deep change. Because it's an emergency, and each day, each moment, holds an invitation to heal our world. We gather the serious. We gather.

Occupy Eugene Committees

Dozens of activists put energy into Occupy Eugene. While the heart of our decision-making process lies in our General Assemblies, held every Friday upstairs at Growers Market, much of our work in specific areas, such as homelessness, foreclosures, and publicity, takes place at committee meetings. We have numerous committees and working groups. These groups meet regularly and carry out Occupy Eugene's goals through a variety of actions and events. If you are interested in working with us, please come to one of our GAs or to any of our committees or working groups to see if any are a good fit for your interests and skills.

Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world. — Harriet Tubman



ACTIVIST SPOTLIGHT JASON SHANE BRINGS NEW BLOOD TO OCCUPY EUGENE

By GRAHAM LEWIS

Last year, when Jason Shane showed up in our midst with his wife, Brandy, everyone in OE seemed to be going in different directions. Some chose to focus on the houseless issue, others wanted to bust big banks, and still others were committed to Occupy Medical's mobile care-for-all clinic. Shane and Brandy first committed to bank protests, but they immediately saw a need for more cohesion amid Eugene Occupiers. The umbrella issue of corporate dominance clearly spawns these other concerns and damages our democracy and our environment. Shane noticed something interesting, that those on either end of the political spectrum are pissed off at many of the same things.

Big government is taking more and more liberties with our Constitution, making it more risky to challenge the status quo. Veterans are returning to no immediate medical care, or the jobs that they had counted on, which often leads to divorce and devastation, depression, and even drug use. But what got to Shane the most was the outrage called the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). This one piece of legislation had single-handedly placed all activists at risk with its ability to make secret arrests or even kill U.S. citizens on our own soil. Shane found that this issue had grabbed the attention of politically-aware people from left to right, Occupier to Tea Partier, environmentalist to Oathkeeper.

While so many of our brothers and sisters in the "middle" are still reluctant to take to the streets in protest, there are enough of us on the ends of the political spectrum to create a new mainstream.

To graphically protest the NDAA, Shane dressed up in Army fatigues and, with fellow Occupiers in orange Gitmo-style prison jumpsuits, black hood, and handcuffs, marched through town. They then moved to the sidewalk outside the Environmental Law conference to continue dramatizing how the NDAA tries to bring us to our knees. Bystanders got it. If government overstepping weren't so dangerous, it would be ridiculous.

Shane has been working with the nationwide PANDA organization (People Against the NDAA), the largest organization fighting the NDAA. Most American citizens object to the idea of the U.S. government detaining any of us indefinitely, solely on suspicion. Are we the people going

to let them ignore due process? No way.

Shane tirelessly continues to build a coalition of grassroots groups to help pass anti-NDAA legislation in Oregon. This includes Senator Jeff Kruse's "Restoring Constitutional Governance Act of Oregon," now under consideration in the state legislature. Local action has also started in Coos and Douglas Counties. Shane has met with several grassroots groups around the state, one whose mission is "to restore adherence to the Constitution of the United States and preserve our inalienable rights." They ask: "Do you watch the direction that America is being taken in and feel powerless to stop it? Do you believe that your voice isn't loud enough to be heard above the noise anymore? Do you read the headlines everyday and feel an empty pit in your stomach...as if you're completely alone?"

It continues, "If you've answered YES, then you've fallen for the Wizard of Oz lie. While the voices [of government] you hear ... may sound intimidating — as if they surround us from all sides — the reality is very different. Once you pull back the curtain, you realize that there are only a few people pressing the buttons, and their voices are [amplified to sound scary]. The truth is that they don't surround us at all."

Shane elaborates, "It doesn't matter what group you claim affiliation with; we all have common ground and we best utilize mutual support when we can in these troubling times. "United, the people will never be defeated." He can send you a current lineup of upcoming anti-NDAA presentations and events around the state. Request information from him at stopndaaoregon@gmail.com

Why did Shane and Brandy wait awhile before getting active with Occupy? They both could see what is happening to our 'democracy,' but what finally lit the fire in their bellies was something in

Brandy's belly: a baby.

Says Shane, "Now that I'm bringing new life into this world, it's become personal for me. I started my activist career with an open mind and a determination to challenge the status quo. To win this battle, we've got to bridge the gap between grassroots political organizations on common ground issues." Shane has begun that campaign with successful affiliations, including PANDA, Oathkeepers, The Intolerable Acts Action Center, and the Patriot Coalition. Maybe the "gap" isn't as wide as it seems between the far Right and far Left after all. The deciding factor is whether we're the open-minded, thinking kind of "extremists."



PHOTO BY BRANDY OZBUN

PUT MORE PEOPLE IN JAIL, OR INVEST IN PREVENTION?

By JERRY BRULE

Although Lane County doesn't have the workforce to investigate property crimes nor enough money to keep criminals in jail, the Eugene Police Department apparently has funds to pay officers overtime to roust and arrest homeless people sleeping under bridges. People found with bedding in their packs can face a fine of \$200 for the first offense and \$400 for the second. If caught peeing in the bushes three times, people can be listed as sex offenders.

In April 2006, the U.S. 9th District Appeals Court ruled that making homelessness a crime by charging unhoused people with a crime is in violation of the Eighth Amendment. "By criminalizing sitting, lying, and sleeping, the city is in fact criminalizing Appellants' status as homeless individuals. Similarly, applying Robinson and Powell, courts have found statutes criminalizing the status of vagrancy to be unconstitutional."


On May 21, voters will be asked to approve Measure 20-213 which levies taxes to hire 35 additional corrections officers so they can keep more people in jail. Voters pass tough three strikes laws and minimum sentence laws so that judges have no leeway and are forced to jail or imprison people. The prison industrial system is unjust and unworkable, and it throws minor offenders in with hardened criminals. Prisons offer little to help the prisoners change their behavior. When prisoners are released, they have little chance of getting a job and often return to a life of crime. Over 60% return to jail or prison.

Half of the people in prison and jail are there for minor offenses. We need to stop

incarcerating people for non-crimes like trying to sleep at night, being poor, and using marijuana. We should help vulnerable individuals through investments in education, job training, and drug treatment, and by providing safe shelter until they get back on their feet. The police and justice systems should be reserved for real crimes.

Minor offenses like theft, should be handled with a restorative justice system. The goal of restorative justice is to bring together those most affected by the criminal act — the offender, the victim, and community members — in a non-adversarial process to encourage offender accountability and meet the needs of the victims to repair the harms resulting from the crime. This system is much cheaper, effective, and results in far fewer people returning to crime. http://www.witnessjustice.org/justicesystems/restorative_justice.cfm

Partnership for Safety and Justice (PSJ) works for a "more effective and fiscally-responsible approach to public safety — an approach that focuses on prevention, curbs the unsustainable growth of our prison system, invests in evidence-based programs that are proven to reduce crime, and strengthens support systems and services for people harmed by crime." They support House Bill 3194, which reduces sentences for minor crimes. By investing a small amount in helping people, we can save much more than would have to be spent in law enforcement and prisons. Instead of paying more taxes to put people in prison, let's use common sense to keep them out. <http://www.safetyandjustice.org/>



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