



EUGENE OCCUPIER

THE NEWSLETTER OF OCCUPY EUGENE

Volume 1, Number 3

May 2012

WEEKLY RALLIES BUST BIG BANK

BY NICOLE MEDEMA

Occupy participants are protesting Bank of America as a part of their spring actions to reinvigorate the movement that speaks for the 99%. Bank of America has been the target of criticism since the financial crisis began in 2008 and particularly after the series of bailouts given to it by President George Bush and President Obama. Occupy joins the chorus of criticism by holding their weekly Friday protests in front of the Bank of America in downtown Eugene on the corner of 11th Avenue and Pearl Street. Their singling out of Bank of America was based on journalistic reports of its common practice of exploitation, public complaints by borrowers, and Occupy's hands-on experience aiding Oregon residents to save their homes. Oregon Attorney General John Kroger has also argued that BoA is involved in illegal actions. When asked for an interview, BoA branch manager, Brian House, declined to comment.

Friday protests are planned by a working group of Occupy which intends to continue them indefinitely.



PHOTO BY DUSK WINSTON
Fergus McLean participated as Occupy Eugene rallied protestors in front of the Bank of America.

Their goal is to incite BoA clients to remove their money from the bank and to put it into smaller, more community-minded banks and credit unions. This, they say, is a form of activism that any person can take part in.

Participant Scott Fife suggested the weekly protests. "Hopefully the protests will help build the movement... It helps people realize why these banks are so criminal. Why is it that someone robs a 7/11 and they go to jail for 10 years while Bank of America does the same thing on a larger scale and they get away with it? It is a predator. If you had a predator in your neighborhood, you know, you would want to be aware of it," Fife said.

On Friday the 13th in April, participants costumed themselves in zombie
See Rallies, p. 3

COMMUNITY TASK FORCE TACKLES HOMELESSNESS

BY CARLA NEWBRE

When we initially Occupied Eugene, we expected to focus primarily on robust political and economic discussions, workshops, teach-ins, and activist trainings in the public space we were occupying and in the community at large. Little did we know that our attention would soon shift to something more immediate, and more pressing.

Our encampment brought us head-on with one of the most severe symptoms of our nation's economic inequities: widespread homelessness. Until we encamped, most of us had little or no contact with

homeless folks. Perhaps some of us had experienced homelessness at one time or another, but the depth of the daily struggles for those continually without shelter options had never really hit home. We learned fast, though, and formed bonds with those who sought out the safety and security offered in the space we were holding. "They" soon became "us."

When the camp was shut down, one of our chief concerns was what would happen to all the folks who were living there. We pressured the City hard on this issue. Out of this pressure, the City formed

a Task Force on Homelessness. The 58 members of the Task Force appointed by the Mayor included community members, representatives from Occupy Eugene, representatives from City and County agencies, members of social service agencies, neighborhood associations, business people, the health care community, and people without homes.

For those of us from OE who participated, the Task Force process was often messy, confusing, and frustrating. Nevertheless, it gave us an opportunity to have a voice in our local political process. And

See Task Force, p. 3

Welcome to the third issue of Occupy Eugene's newsletter. We hope you enjoy our articles and find a place to join us. You may find our complete vision statement at <http://occupyeugenemedia.org/vision-statement/>

También está disponible en español.
Ver a www.occupyeugenemedia.org/newsletter/

ONGOING OCCUPY EUGENE EVENTS

Occupying the Heart and Mind Silent Interfaith Meditation/Prayer: Fridays at OEV (7th and Polk streets) 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Saturdays at OEV 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

General Assemblies: Tuesdays 7 p.m. at OEV and Fridays 6 p.m. at the Park Blocks

Free Medical Tent: Sundays at Park Blocks (Park and Oak streets) noon to 4 p.m. and on Tuesdays at Occupy V from 5 to 7 p.m.

Kesey Square Revival: Fridays, starting around 12:30 p.m.

Foreclosure Actions Committee: Sundays at noon at Growers Market, 454 Willamette St.

Bank Actions: Fridays 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Bank of America on Pearl St. and E. 11th Ave.

Homeless Solutions: Mondays 10:15 to noon at CALC, 458 Blair St.

Education Alliance: Mondays 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Ben Linder Room, EMU

Media Group: Sundays noon to 4 p.m. at CTV studio, behind Sheldon High School

Newsletter Group: Wednesdays 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Growers Market

Communications Committee: Sundays 2 to 4 p.m. at Growers Market

OCCUPY EUGENE AND ALLIES EVENTS

Statewide Action to call the Oregon Atty. General and Governor to declare an immediate moratorium on all foreclosures, Friday May 11 Noon, at the Lane County Courthouse (8th and Oak)

The People's Summit in Chicago: A Better World is Possible, May 12-13

Occupy Chicago March in Protest of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Summit in Chicago, May 19

Occupation Education Series

- May 16, Michael Carrigan returns to present "Building and Using Organizational Power," where we will learn how to use accountability sessions and have our voices heard.
- May 19 Occupy Privilege and Racism 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- May 23, Kate Gessert presents "Empowering Activists: How to Prevent Burnout." Utilizing Joanna Macy's exercises from "The Work That Reconnects," activists will be led through a series of exercises intended to inspire and rejuvenate.
- For the latest Occupation Education Series updates go to <http://occupyeugenemedia.org/occupation-education/>

First Place Homeless Family Dinner and Concert May 16 5:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church at 10th and Charnelton

Undoing Privilege and Racism Wednesday May 19 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Network Charter School at 45 W. Broadway #201

Occupy Interfaith Church of the Resurrection Sunday May 20 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. at 39th and Hilyard

CALC's Shared Oppressions Workshop at CALC 458 Blair Blvd. Wednesday May 26 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For a more current list of Occupy Eugene Events please go to: <http://occupyeugenemedia.org/calendar/>

Occupy Family Reunion Saturday June 16 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. at the Old Federal Courthouse at 7th and Pearl. Come be a part of our Occupy Family! Everyone welcome!

Committees and Working Groups

We have numerous committees and working groups, such as Fundraising, Homeless Solutions, Media Group, Medical, Foreclosure Actions, Library, Welcoming, etc. Please go to <http://occupyeugenemedia.org/volunteer/> to learn more and to volunteer.

Occupy Eugene

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. For the complete Occupy Eugene Vision Statement click on "INFO" on our website.

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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

Rallies

garb and held signs for passersby that read, "First it was your house, now I want your brains!"

"In the media, people have been talking about Bank of America as a zombie. They were resurrected from the dead in 2008 because of the bailout and for all intensive purposes they should have died," participant Reid Kimball said.

During the protest, a Freddy Kreuger-styled "Freddie Mac" zombie handed out flyers that listed grievances against the bank, such as failing to file and pay Lane County Courthouse fees on mortgage title documents—money that could be used for schools,

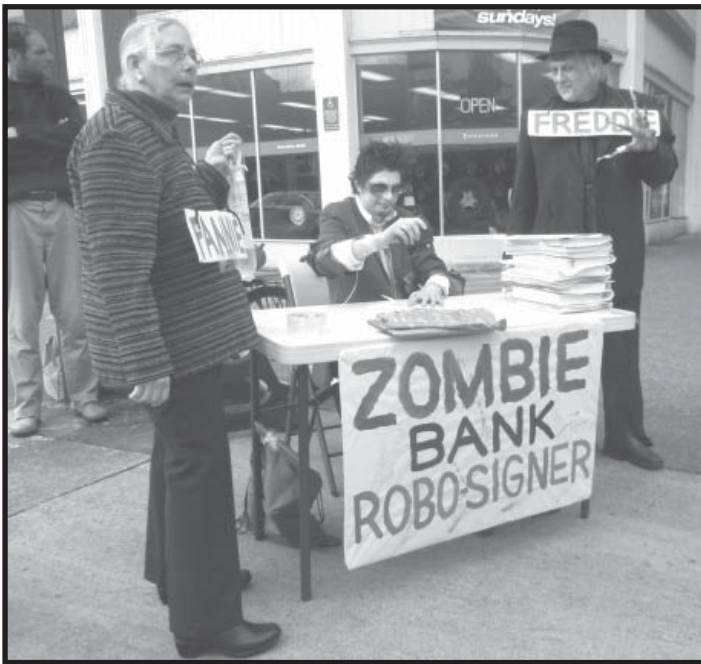


PHOTO BY NICOLE MEDEMA

Representing Fannie Mae, Bank of America, and Freddie Mac respectively, OE participants (left to right) Lee Deveau, Reid Kimball, and Ross Howard dressed as zombies on Friday the 13th during April's protest in front of Bank of America.

firefighters, and police. It also listed three local credit unions to which citizens could move their money. The following Friday, April 20, activist Max Rameau dropped by to show his support. Rameau is well-known for his Take Back the Land campaign and his premises that housing is a human right and that communities should have control of their land.

"People aren't aware of the level of criminal activity that Bank of America carries out and that many of the foreclosures that they conduct are illegal and that they are tricking people out of their homes," said Occupy participant and We The People member Fergus Mclean.

"There is no reason we should permit a private institution to have so much power. What ultimately happens is corruption. [Bank of America] never said that they were in it for anyone but themselves."

The outlook is dire and the task difficult: the fight against the big banks, supposedly too big to fail. Let us not fail in holding them accountable.

If you need help in a foreclosure or would like more information about the bank protests, contact oebankbusters@gmail.com. You can find Occupy Eugene every Friday between 4:30 and 5:30 p.m.

protesting in front of Bank of America on 11th and Pearl. Feel free to join in the action! For updates and foreclosure news, check out www.occupy-your-home.com

FORECLOSURE NEWS FLASH

BY NICOLE MEDEMA

On April 11, Governor John Kitzhaber signed Senate Bill 1552, which requires a third party mediator to be present at meetings between homeowners and lenders, when the homeowner requests it. It also prohibits a lender from initiating foreclosure proceedings while simultaneously negotiating with a borrower for possible

loan modification. Occupy Eugene and other Oregon Occupy groups have kept the pressure on the Senate and House to pass this and similar laws. A steep rise in foreclosures is expected between now and July 12, when the law will take effect. To prevent that rise from happening, OE started a petition for a moratorium on

all foreclosures and asks people to write respectful letters to the Attorney General John Kroger and Governor John Kitzhaber. You can also call the Atty. General at (503) 378-4400 or Gov. Kitzhaber at (503)-378-4582. To sign, follow the link at Occupy-Your-Home.com

Task Force

the final work product, while far from what some of us may have wished to see, is not bad. In fact, much of it is pretty damned good. Briefly, the six recommendations are as follows:

1. Identify and Establish Potential Sites (for a tent city along the lines of Dignity Village or ShareWheel)
2. Create and Support Day-Use Community Centers
3. Improve Traditional and Non-Traditional Health Care Access
4. Continue and Expand Existing Services to the Homeless
5. Improve Laws and Ordinances that

Criminalize and Block Homeless Individuals

6. Create a Commission to Continue to Explore Homelessness Solutions

The report and recommendations of the Task Force have been sent to City Council for further action. Our work is not yet done, however. All six of the recommendations made will need shepherding, both long-term and short term. We will need to keep pressure on Council to follow through. Ongoing community outreach and education will also be necessary. Whether or not this project is accepted by our GA as a primary strategic campaign

initiative for OE's work in the coming months, interest is high in pushing forward. The Homeless Solutions and Support Committee is dedicated to championing this project. We meet Mondays at 10:15 a.m. at CALC. Anyone who wishes to join in is more than welcome.

To read the full report, recommendations, and individual committee reports, go to the City's website:

http://www.eugene-or.gov/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_2_375220_0_0_18/Opportunity%20Eugene%20Final%20Report.pdf

OCCUPY THE TREES

Occupy Eugene and Cascadia Forest Defenders called on local activists to “Occupy the Trees” as part of the worldwide protest of the destruction of our Earth for the week of April 22-27. Here in Eugene, the celebration began at the downtown Park Blocks at 8th and Oak streets on April 22, a sunny Sunday. People climbed up into the trees while below, musicians played, people danced, and others took part in teach-ins. Other local events during the week included an Animal Awareness Day complete with an animal care clinic, a Kid’s Day with face painting and book reading, and a Global Climate Change Awareness Day with speaker Day Owen of the Pitchfork Rebellion. A massive effort went into keeping a presence in the Park Block for six days, and a big thank you goes out to the committed OE activists who worked so hard on multiple events during the week.

PHOTO’S BY DUSK WINSTON



Occupy Your Life

By Catherine Siskron

Before Occupy,
I used to sign petitions,
Plead with those in power,
The corporate moguls:

Dear Mr. Charlie, Sir:
Please let us live in peace
So we can love our neighbors,
Raise our children and crops.

Please, please stop all wars
Against our neighbors,
Against men, women, children,
Against wild beasts in the jungle and forest and fields,
Against fish in the oceans.

Now with Occupy,
I call out to the disempowered,
The citizens of this land:

Brothers and sisters,
Let us decolonize our minds,
Reclaim our land,
Neutralize poisons,
Turn swords into ploughshares,
Stand up with our neighbors,
Be peaceful warriors,
Raise peaceful warriors...

Let us be our best selves,
True custodians of our lives,
And of our mother, Earth...



OCCUPY CHICAGO TO HOST PEOPLE'S SUMMIT

BY NICOLE MEDEMA

Occupy Chicago is hosting the People's Summit May 12-13 to provide an open and democratic venue for all who wish to collaborate in a peaceful manner on a vision of a better future. Panelists will lead discussions while many activities and teach-ins are planned to educate about the destructive path that the 1% has chosen for the world population and how the public can change that course. Occupy, along with other allies, is also organizing a mass march downtown on May 19 to protest the G8 and NATO summits.

The People's Summit is scheduled a week before the NATO summit, also taking place in Obama's hometown of Chicago, May 20-21. There, the heads of state of member countries will make high level decisions as to their military vision for the following years. Member states are limited to the United States, Canada, and various European nations.

This year's G8 Summit was also slated for Chicago, May 19-20, but its location changed on March 5 to the elusive Camp David. Chicago Occupiers have counted the move as a tribute to the power of

protesters. Historically, the G8 Summit is a heavily protested event worldwide. The G8 is also exclusive-- including North America, some European Nations, India, and Japan-- and thought among critics to be a meeting that decides the economic agenda of the few while manipulating all.

Meanwhile, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel is passing a series of new ordinances which complicate the legalities and safety of peaceful protest. His latest ordinance is commonly called the "Sit Down, Shut Up Law". It makes changes which include: quadrupling of the minimum fine for violation of the City's parade permit ordinance; requiring organizers to provide the City with an anticipatory list of all signs, banners, sound equipment or "attention-getting devices" that require more than one person to carry them; and authorization of the use of law enforcement agencies as determined by the superintendent of police to be necessary for the fulfillment of law enforcement functions.

Andy Thayer of CANG8 points out the last provision could mean a presence like rent-a-cops or Blackwater. Already, the

Illinois National Guard will deploy 500 troops to Chicago, a military force that includes snipers. Emanuel gave himself the power to install surveillance video and audio cameras throughout the city--permanently. In fact, all of the changes Emanuel made are permanent, although he previously assured the public that they would be temporary.

The Occupy Wall Street movement began on September 17, 2011, when approximately one thousand persons gathered to protest the corrosion of democracy in America. It now claims more than 1300 groups worldwide, registered on the website www.occupytogether.org in solidarity. If the violence used on peaceful Occupy protesters last Fall and on those in various countries during the Arab Spring are any indicator of what will happen in May's Summits, we may have to prepare ourselves for a government-enforced conflict.

See www.peoplessummitchicago.org or www.occupychi.org for more details on People's Summit activities.

COALITION FOSTERS PEACE THROUGH EDUCATION

BY STAN TAYLOR - CHAIR OF LANE PEACE CENTER

The Lane Peace Symposium/Democracy Convergence 'People Powered Democracy Confronts Corporate Rule' on April 20-21, 2012 was a tremendous success. Almost 300 people preregistered, over 500 attended, and there were 8,572 hits on the live stream. We had attendees from as far south as San Francisco, as far north as Seattle, and as far east as South Dakota. On live stream we had visitors from as far away as China, Los Angeles, Wisconsin, and Kentucky. Occupy Eugene folks were a significant presence in the audience.

One of the primary aims of the peace symposium was the convergence of the Occupy Movement and Move to Amend in a series of presentations and organizing workshops focused on building social movements dedicated to building a democratic society founded on economic, social, racial, gender, sexual and environmental justice. The interchange between the two movements made both stronger. Occupy Eugene actively participated in creating the peace symposium. David Barsamian spoke on the 'Fantasies of Capitalism'. This talk was based on his new book titled *Occupy the Economy*, a series of interviews with economist Richard Wolff. Max Rameau spoke on the 'Take Back the Land Movement'. Both speakers were included based upon the suggestions and efforts of Occupy Eugene. Special thanks to Jennifer Frenzer-Knowlton, Majeska Seese-Green, and Lauren Regan.

Occupy Eugene also promoted the peace symposium. Occupy TV and Occupy Radio produced programs focused on the

peace symposium. Joe Tyndall and David Geitgey deserve credit for making these programs possible. Larry Leverone covered the peace symposium in the Occupy Eugene newsletter. Reports back also indicated that the symposium was frequently promoted at the general assemblies.

Part of the Lane Peace Center's mission is to reach out to the broader community to help foster efforts toward building peace through justice. This collaboration between Lane Peace Center, Occupy Eugene, and the Move to Amend coalition was our most ambitious yet. Our success was in part due to the openness and help of Occupy Eugene. The Lane Peace Center extends our thanks and appreciation.

Editor's note: For those interested in learning more about the presenters at the symposium, here is a complete list: David Barsamian of Alternative Radio, David Cobb of Move to Amend, Ms. George Friday of the Bill of Rights Defense Committee, Ben Manski of the Liberty Tree Foundation for Democratic Revolution, Max Rameau of Take Back the Land, and David West of the Potawatomi Nation, Director of The Native American Studies Program at Southern Oregon U.

Also, Occupiers who attended the Lane Peace Symposium please go to www.lanec.edu/peacecenter to register retroactively, if you haven't done so already. You can use first name only if you wish. Stan Taylor requested the information to support future events.

"I have complete faith in the ability of the American people to follow the facts if you'll give them and my charge against my government is we're not giving the American people the facts." - Wayne Morse on May 24, 1964, two months before Gulf of Tonkin Resolution passed through

IN SOLIDARITY WITH OTHER OREGON OCCUPY GROUPS

BY VICKIE NELSON

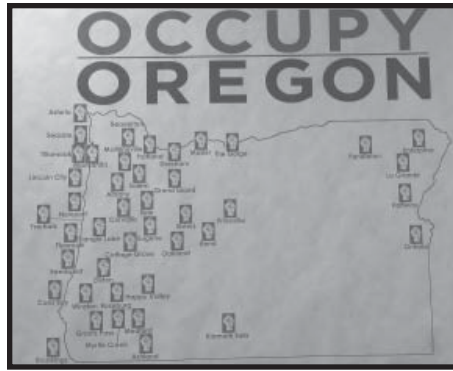
About 45 towns and cities around Oregon have active Occupy Movements working on some of the same issues. Occupy Eugene is working on: homelessness, foreclosures, corporate greed, and the destruction of the environment. On February 25, we met some of our fellow Occupiers when Eugene hosted a State-wide General Assembly, followed by dinner and music. The Eugene Occupier intends to keep in contact with the Occupy Movements around the state. It is important to remember we are not alone in our work, but connected to others activists in the state, the nation, and indeed, the whole world.

Occupy Ashland (<http://www.occupyashlandoregon.org>)

On Saturday, April 28, Ashland's Legalize Sleep got underway as activists gathered signatures to reform city laws against sleeping outside in Ashland.

Occupy Portland (<http://occupyportland.org/>)

Occupy Portland activists rallied at the John Dam Plaza in Richland, WA, for five hours on Sunday, April 15, to raise awareness about the environmental tragedy of the aging Hanford Hanford nuclear facility. Dr. Helen Caldicott, founder of Physicians



for Social Responsibility, spoke at the rally.

Occupy Newport (<http://occupynewport.org/>)

Occupiers from Newport joined Portland in the April 15 rally for the cleanup of Hanford. On May 1, KYAQ, the central coast's community radio, streamed live coverage of May Day activities across Oregon and the country.

Occupy Roseburg (<http://www.facebook.com/OccupyRoseburg>)

Occupy Roseburg holds a Feed the Burg Community Potluck and Free Store every Saturday from noon to 2 p.m. In addition to

sharing food, the organization encourages people to bring tents, tarps, and other items to give to people without shelter. "We have the ability through the Occupy Movement," the Occupy Roseburg website says, "to shape our communities into models for how an equitable country can work."

Occupy Seaside (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Occupy-Seaside-Oregon/252994334745080>)

On Monday April 16, Seaside's City Council considered a proposal by Occupy Seaside to remove the "Illegal Lodging Ordinance" and discuss the issue of homelessness at their work-session.

TAX DAY EVENT: FUND HUMAN NEEDS, NOT WAR AND WALL STREET

BY MICHAEL CARRIGAN, CALC

On Tax Day, April 17, activists from Community Alliance of Lane County, Occupy Eugene, Eugene-Springfield Solidarity Network/Jobs with Justice and other groups gathered at the Eugene downtown post office to challenge militarism and corporate greed. They called for the reordering of federal spending and tax priorities from supporting war and Wall Street to meeting human and environmental needs.

Taxpayers were provided the opportunity to express how they would spend their tax dollars by taking part in a penny poll. They were handed 10 pennies, which they deposited in jars representing a 5-category breakdown of the federal budget. The people voted as follows:

Afghanistan & Iraq Wars	0.2%
General Military	2.1%
General Government	13.3 %
Physical Resources	25.3%
Human Resources	59.1%

Since 2001, the United States has spent \$1.3 trillion on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, with a cost to Oregon taxpayers of \$12 billion. The penny poll results clearly show if Eugene residents ran the federal government, things would be radically dif-

ferent — most of that \$12 billion would have been spent on such urgent local needs as feeding children, creating jobs with decent wages and health care, educating students, caring for veterans, and helping the homeless.

War tax resisters, who object to over half of their federal taxes going to the military, redirected their "war taxes" on Tax Day to numerous local organizations, including Occupy Eugene. After the rally, a spirited and loud bunch of protesters marched to the New Federal Building to turn in postcards to Rep. DeFazio and Sen. Wyden that called for NO war with Iran. In the evening, activists joined up with labor allies at the Gateway Post Office to demand that corporations and the richest 1% be required to pay their fair share in taxes.

We should not live in a country where working class people pay a higher rate than those who profit from capital gains such as the sale of stocks. If the 1% paid their fair share, state and local governments would not have to cut vital services. The tax day actions united activists who see injustice in both the unfair tax code and the bloated military budget, and who call for an end to war.

Michael Carrigan is a community organizer with Community Alliance of Lane County and is involved with Occupy Eugene. E-mail: calcpeace@efn.org Web: www.calclane.org

OE's Fundraising Committee is back thanks to the efforts of Cary Thompson who called together a small group in early April to brainstorm ways for OE to raise money. The group brought up several ideas including tabling at the Free Speech Plaza across from the Saturday Market, holding concerts, movies, writing grants and putting donation jars at businesses friendly to OE.

Tabling at the Free Speech Plaza is already underway. Offering Occupy bandanas and ribbons and copies of the newsletter for donation, OE fundraisers brought in about \$90 the first Saturday.

If you can give a few hours once or twice a month to help table, or if you would like to join the committee and work on other fundraising projects, please get in touch with Cary Thompson at cdthompson58@gmail.com

OCCUPY EUGENE WALKS WITH TRAYVON MARTIN

BY VICKIE NELSON

Earlier this spring, Occupy Eugene participated in two events demanding justice for Trayvon Martin, the unarmed black teenager who was shot and killed by George Zimmerman while walking back from the store to the home of his father's fiancée in Sanford, Florida.

The first event occurred on March 26, when a group of about 30 OE activists, many dressed in hoodies, gathered at the old Federal Building to call attention to the Trayvon Martin case and to publicize a walk and rally being planned for the following week on April 2.

In planning the April 2 walk and rally, A Walk with Trayvon Martin, Occupy Eugene collaborated with several other organizations, including the NAACP, ACLU, Civil Liberties Defense Center, Eugene Springfield Solidarity Network, members of the LCC Black Student Union, and CALC.

On the afternoon of the Walk with



Trayvon Martin, a group of around 75 gathered at the Campbell Center, a location chosen because of its proximity to the city's first black neighborhood. After listening to speakers, the crowd began walking toward the Wayne Morse Free Speech Plaza. By the time the demonstrators reached the Free Speech Plaza, approximately 150 people had gathered.

Speakers at the rally included Henry Luvert of the local NAACP, Claire Syrett of the Oregon ACLU, and Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy. Many speakers talked about

the problem of racial profiling, especially against young black men, in our country today. As Fergus Mclean of OE said, "Walking the streets of Sanford, Florida, cost Trayvon Martin his life. This is not the America we want to live in."

Occupy Eugene's Trayvon Martin events were among many that occurred across the country as people rose up in anger at the failure of the Sanford, Florida, police to arrest the man

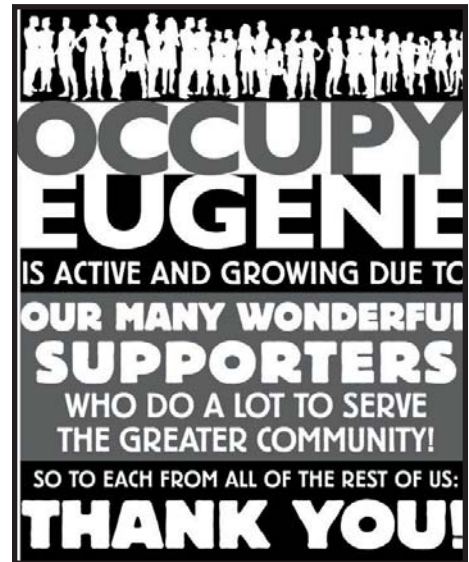
who shot Martin. Florida Governor Rick Scott has since appointed Angela Corey to be Special Prosecutor in the case, and she has filed charges of second-degree murder against George Zimmerman.



Occupy Unity

by Jana Thrift

In Occupy there's room for every soul to be heard!
Voices that hardly ever make noise, yell out as finally it is their turn!
We're all practicing communication of every kind...
Holding hands as we stand in a line we drew together.
I know we are not the same, but we both know the truth.
We have found a passion for justice together!
Each in our own way, empowered by our unity.
We don't always have to agree.
We just have to follow our hearts and we will all be lead to liberty!



GUEST VIEWPOINT: UNDOING PRIVILEGE AND RACISM WORKSHOP WHO'S INCLUDED IN THE 99%? ARE ALL VOICES HEARD?

BY RUTH WREN

The Occupy movement has brought together many people to organize in the hope of creating real and lasting justice. The movement is inspiring but also challenging. One source of tension has been over race, which is understandable given the racial history of the U.S. Unless the issues of white privilege and racism are faced and dealt with openly, we cannot build a true 99% movement. In this workshop, we'll focus on developing

an understanding of privilege and racism, and how these social forces affect us individually and institutionally. We'll explore these issues through open conversation, workshop exercises, short readings, DVD viewing, and creating goals for action. The workshop is on Saturday, May 19, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., location to be announced. The workshop is free, with donations accepted for Occupy Eugene.

OE ACTIVISTS OCCUPY COURTYARD OF OLD FEDERAL BUILDING

BY VICKIE NELSON

A group of Occupy Eugene activists spontaneously began occupying the old Federal Building courtyard at 7th and Pearl streets on the evening of May 1.

They have obtained a 60-day permit from the General Services Administration to be there although they cannot erect tents and must leave pathways into the building clear. They do have a tarp-covered structure where they can keep dry.

The demonstrators encourage other OE members to join them at the protest site. In addition to food and drink the occupiers would like materials to make sturdy signs and a 200-foot extension cord. Amplification is allowed at the site, as is vending.

If you are driving by on Pearl or 7th, please honk to show them your support.



PHOTO BY LARRY LEVERONE

OCCUPY EUGENE MEDICAL MOVES TO THE PARK BLOCKS

BY SUE SIERRALUPE

OE Medical Clinic pulled out stakes from their usual spot at the Federal Building downtown to a more familiar location at 8th and Oak. The Park Blocks' location offers heavier foot traffic and increased visibility. The shelter from the trees and

existing structures are vital to keeping our patients safe from the elements. We are also happy to have access to the drinking fountain for health reasons. (Drink more water, folks!).

We have been drawing more volun-

teers with complex skills. We have more nurses, students, computer techs and invaluable volunteers whose skill base we haven't even begun to tap. Look for more complex actions flowing from OE Medical Clinic. There's no stopping us now!

IS OCCUPY EUGENE GETTING ORGANIZED?

BY JERRY BRULE

Occupy Education is a series of 15 workshops held in collaboration with the Civil Liberties Defense Center to train activists to become effective organizers. Go to the OE website and click on the Info tab and then Occupy Education to watch videos and download resource material for each of the workshops.

This month the series will end with two presentations: Building and Using Organizational Power led by Michael Carrigan on May 16, and Empowering Activists: How to Prevent Burnout by Kate Gessert on May 23.

Teaching participants how to create a strategic campaign is one of the main goals of the series. The series began with an introduction and was followed by a six-hour intensive training by Gordon Lafer on how to create a six-month strategic campaign. Each additional workshop was taught by specialists in different areas and was designed to build on the previous training.

The participants decided that there should be a democratic process to discuss and select proposals for Occupy Eugene to work on for the next six months with the following guidelines: The campaign or campaigns should be winnable with realistic resources; they should go to a root issue; and they should grow the movement and draw in new people. The campaigns should include multiple short-term payoffs to keep everyone motivated and shouldn't exclude groups that are now active in Occupy

Eugene. In addition the campaigns should be tied to Occupy Wall Street and should create links with marginal groups or communities of color.

Proposals for six-month campaign plans were solicited from all members of OE. There are seven different proposals that can be seen on the website. Go to Info then Occupy Education and click on OE Campaign Proposals. The proposals are:

1. BofA: BANKrupting America Campaign
2. BofA: FightBAC Campaign (clearly, this and the above could be combined)
3. Community Bill of Rights Campaign
4. Cooperative Production Campaign
5. Foreclosure Campaign
6. Healthcare for All Campaign
7. Homeless Solutions Task Force Campaign

At the April 24 GA proposals were presented and an additional option—not to embark on a six-month strategic plan—was added. On May 1, OE reached consensus to have one or more six-month campaigns. Next month the Eugene Occupier will report on whether a six month strategic plan will be implemented and what the objective(s) will be.

“Housing is a basic human right.” - The Universal Declaration of Human Rights - United Nations

INTER-FAITH BELIEVERS FIND MORAL GROUND IN OCCUPY

BY PATTY HINE AND DEB MCGEE

One hour on a Sunday—twice a year or maybe more—you put some cash in the plate, light a candle, sing a song and...forgiven! Then back to the ball game, back to the show, back to the same old ways. Forget what you learned last Sunday!

Church as usual? Not hardly!

If you are part of a Eugene faith community that is waking up to our democracy's crisis—the obscene and disastrous growing inequality between the 1% and the 99% which the Occupy movement has brought into sharp focus for us all—then maybe you're also a part of the Occupy Inter-Faith Eugene group which has been meeting monthly since December 2011 to organize local congregations to take back the power of, for and by the people

to create a just and peaceful world.

Some of us are participating in the Occupation Education series, some are part of OE/CALC Homeless Solutions, and some are taking Gary Baran's 12-week Non-Violent Communication series. Others are involved with We The People Eugene—a local affiliate of Move To Amend—in order to pass a 28th amendment to the U.S. Constitution that will clarify that corpora-



PHOTO BY PATTY HINE

tions are not people and money is not speech. Some have organized grassroots house parties for Health Care for All Oregon, seeking a single-payer system because the system we have now (even after all the political horseplay) is an immoral one that works for profit, not health care.

You can join us, too. Occupy Inter-Faith meets every month (see newsletter event list). Spread the word – congregations are organizing for change! It's not enough to talk (or pray) about it, we must act.

For more information, contact Patty Hine, Convener, at 541-343-5091 or by email zap_oregon@msn.com

LINKS TO ARTICLES OF INTEREST

A Place to Just Be – By Dan Bryant, First Christian Church and the Homeless Task Force

<http://projects.registerguard.com/turin/2012/apr/29/a-place-to-just-be/>

Tax Day Action – By Michael Carrigan and John Evans

<http://special.registerguard.com/web/opinion/27904645-47/tax-war-code-afghanistan-percent.html.csp>

Farr didn't give Occupy Its due – By Nicole Medema

<http://www.registerguard.com/web/opinion/27857768-47/eugene-police-justice-letters-occupy.html.csp>

New Coalition to Advocate for Universal Healthcare in Oregon – By Salem-News.com

<http://www.pnhp.org/news/2012/february/new-coalition-to-advocate-for-universal-health-care-in-oregon>

Transition Meets Occupy: Photo Gallery of Urban Farm Occupation of UC Berkeley Land

<http://www.transitionberkeley.com/apps/photos/photo?photoid=15422444>

Outlawing Dissent: Rahm Emanuel's New Regime – By Bernard Harcourt

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/cifamerica/2012/jan/19/outlawing-dissent-rahm-emanuel-new-regime>

Problem Bank List

<http://problembanklist.com/court-ruling-against-bank-foreclosures-could-spiral-into-full-blown-financial-crisis-0278/>

Federal Finance News Agency Press Release

http://www.fhfa.gov/webfiles/22599/PLSLitigation_final_090211.pdf

Goldman's Takeover of Europe – By Ellen Brown

<http://truth-out.org/news/item/8558-the-european-stabilization-mechanism-or-how-the-goldman-vampire-squid-just-captured-europe-->

Bank Derivative Totals

<http://www.zerohedge.com/sites/default/files/images/user5/imageroot/2012/03/derivs%20by%20bank.jpg>

Connect the Dots 350.org Photo Essay

YOUTUBE LINKS

Friday the 13th Occupy Eugene Protest at Bank of America — <http://youtu.be/N-dTKs87Ps4>

Wells Fargo Profiting from For-Profit Prisons — <http://www.commondreams.org/video/2012/04/21>

Leonard Cohen Occupy USA Democracy Is Coming — <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lBVaqrq3bk>

REID'S BALANCING ACT

BY CATHERINE SISKRON

Reid Kimball had his first “wake up” call at the age of 24. Watching people stranded on rooftops during the Katrina disaster, he realized how lack of caring and incompetence on the part of government could affect people’s lives on the most basic level.

His second jolt came when he found out about the torture of prisoners at Abu Graib by the U.S. military. Angry and frustrated, he turned to the study of U.S. history. The more he read, the more frustrated he became. He wanted to do something to address the wrongs going on all around him, but had no idea where to start.

When in September, 2011, Occupy Wall Street emerged in New York, Reid was living in Eugene, working for an electronic game developer. He started following OWS on electronic media. One day he saw a tweet calling for a march in Eugene in solidarity with OWS. He decided to check it out. The march made history—over 2,000 Eugeniens participated. It was the biggest march in recent memory. When Plaedo, Occupy Eugene poet and actions organizer, shouted, “We are part of history now,” Reid felt he was no longer alone. And, he no longer felt helpless.

He started attending General Assemblies, sitting in on com-



PHOTO BY ROB SYDOR

mittees, participating in actions. Interested in T.V. and filmmaking, he joined the Communications Committee and at this point has three short documentary videos on Occupy Eugene to his name.

It took him a while to understand burnout, the shadow side of activism. There is so much to do, so much that is interesting, pressing, engaging. And then there is the time he needs to dedicate to his job. All of it is time-consuming, demanding to the point of exhaustion. So Reid stepped back to see what engaged him most and he found that he is passionate about preventing foreclosures as well as witnessing through film, history as we make it.

Activism is a balancing act for him, as for the rest of us. He maintains his balance by developing a deeper sense of self-awareness, monitoring his moods and energy level more closely, being mindful to stay focused on his chosen priorities preventing foreclosures as well as witnessing history as we make it, through film.”

VACANT HOUSES, WASTED HOMES

BY REID KIMBALL

Eugene is considered a “Human Rights City” because it has endorsed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The UDHR includes housing as a human right in Article 25.1, stating, “Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services . . .”

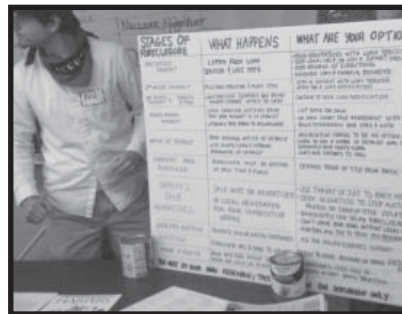
The Occupy Foreclosure Actions Committee saw a Eugene news report about neighbors who were unhappy with a vacant home that was being squatted in and vandalized. The report did not say where the property was located, nor would the station reveal that information to us. We did some detective work and finally found it. Several days later, a few of us decided to go to the property to have a look.

Walking around the yard, we noticed

empty liquor bottles. The front window was unlocked and we climbed through. Inside, we found the harsh reality of a vacant home. It was trashed and vandalized, and the bathroom

reeked of feces. We thought the house was currently occupied by squatters because we found a bike in the kitchen and the fireplace had recently burned paper in it.

When we ventured downstairs, I felt unsettled by the creepiness of the room and was reminded of a horror film. We couldn’t see much, except for a locked door. We asked out loud for anyone behind the door to respond. No one did and then



we decided to leave. While walking across the street away from the home, I looked back and caught sight of people exiting from it. One of them had the bike we saw in the kitchen. They must have been hiding in the basement.

Months have passed and the home is still vacant to our knowledge. It’s a shame

because there are plenty of families in Eugene who need a place. We are currently attempting to talk with the previous owner as well as neighbors to see if we can get their permission to identify a family and help move them into the home. We believe housing is a human right and it is immoral to have vacant homes on one side of the street and homeless people on the other.

DONATIONS WELCOME

Occupy Eugene asks for your financial support so that we can continue to build coalitions, pressure our elected leaders, and work together to end the inequality and injustices in our community and in our country. We welcome any level of support and hope that you will give an amount meaningful to you. Donations to Occupy Eugene can be made on our website, at Oregon Community Credit Union, or mailed to PO. Box 744 Eugene, OR 97440.

For more information on how to donate click on “Support Us” on our website or complete the volunteer form.

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