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 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” would make it easier for groups to set up camp and address some of the issues that Eugene’s unhoused people are facing. The ordinance would also allow people to have more of the 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 discussions with a command officer from the Eugene Police Department. After discussing what the next step is, 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 interests. 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 one of 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 public safety. The councilors indicated support for the idea of setting up some kind of buffer zone to ensure that they are able 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, and insufficient bathroom, 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.

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Hello 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/
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/1tg9, or contact Lizzy at lizycz-wynar@hotmail.com

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 real 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 short sighted, stopgap measures that 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 short sighted, stopgap measures that 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 short sighted, stopgap measures that fill the immediate need.

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 our share of the cost of providing city services. The fees would be shared equally by all, not just by those who use services. They are a fair way to raise money that would be used for essential services like the library, parks, and police.

The city proposes to raise a fee of $120 per year for a resident ($120 per year) and for her business ($360) per year. Charities and businesses would pay both as a resident ($120 per year) and for her business ($360) per year. The city would be able to pay the charitable organizations and nonprofits $210 a year.

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.

Contact Occupy Eugene

541-525-0130
P.O. Box 744, Eugene, OR 97402
www.occupyeugenemedia.org

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.

We must begin by opening our hearts to those 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 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/1tg9, or contact Lizzy at lizycz-wynar@hotmail.com

LACE COMMUNITY BILL OF RIGHTS

LACE Community Bill of Rights (LCBOR) is a group forming to call corporations and politicians in Lane County to account. We intend to place outside the culture of 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 our common destiny.

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.

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://lancelbiorights.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.

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 how we read it? – 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 Mountain Music School will provide music. Silent auction includes art by Mary Wagner, Diane Story Cunningham, Cooper, Scott Fife. Other contributors include Hannah Goldberg, Shel, Tim Boyden, Chris Bellini, Graham Lewis, Alley and others.

www.occupyeugenemedia.org/
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 Williamette transformed. The signs of revitalization were visible. 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 “create the city of festivals” 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 their 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. This was in direct opposition to the Kesey Square Revival officially stood 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 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.

“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 will fight it *again*. And *again*. And we will fight on. Because as hard as it is to win by fighting, it is impossible to win by doing nothing.” — Coby Doctorow

DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION AND THE FIGHT FOR PUBLIC SPACE

By Alley Valkove

Independent Media: Countering Deception

By Gregory Walker

Independence Media: Countering Deception

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 from the feathers, lenses, and print of independent media. Some 80% of the information Americans get, however, is from corporate-controlled media. Despite so many dedicated muckrakers and whistleblowers, the ever insipid, cacophonous chorus of organized, versed, and skilled in the art of propaganda. The consolidated power of corporations is well

Heal Helps Activists Maintain Healthy Lifestyle

By Jenny Monroy

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 possibility 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’re helping people get “enabled” despite its negative connotations, because it seems that our culture lacks the abilities to adapt to our changing world.

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 solidified and dominated traditional media. Bills like SOPA, PIPA, and CISPA, which recently passed in the House of Representatives, are the mechanisms that will effectively put an end to Internet censorship. The plurality 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 aren’t informed and educated about the threat that its 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 remaining independent media to be of paramount concern. A “build it and they will come” 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-increasing cacophony of corporate couriers, independent media must be vigilant and inventive. The consolidated power of corporations is well organized, versed, and skilled in the art of propaganda. 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 from the feathers, lenses, and print of independent media. Some 80% of the information Americans get, however, is from corporate-controlled media. Despite so many dedicated muckrakers and whistleblowers, the ever insipid, cacophonous chorus of

By Gregory Walker

Children love to climb on the sculpture at Kesey Square.

Playing Scabbled on Kesey Square.

Children love to climb on the sculpture at Kesey Square.

Betsy Walker

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. 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.

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.
**TEACHING ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE**

By Bret diMond

Many of our leaders are only 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 undoubted warming. We need to change leaders and 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 grew sales of 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 desaturation will be the worst disaster humanity has ever faced. The inescapable logic is that we need to act. And it is not “somebody.”

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 concluded with the nationwide premiere of the movie “Do the Math.” These videos 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 6, 6 to 9 p.m. Please let Mel know if you plan to attend the meeting at melbankoff@gmail.com

**PEACE SYMPOSIUM: RISE TO END GENDER VIOLENCE**

By Jerry Rubin

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.

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 protect 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 unapologetic and unrepentant. As their anger boiled over, they took to the streets and upended 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 McDonald’s 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), Dapont, and Monsanto have essentially taken control 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. 

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.localhar- vest.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 GMOs 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 bought 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 fueled 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

www.occupyeugenemedia.org
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 taxes we pay. 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 it 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.)

Second Community Vaccine Clinic a Success

By Aru Hart

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. 10% of the U.S. adult population has received their last Tdap shot in the last 10 years.

In the 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 328 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: Life on the Bus
By Larissa 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 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’ Turpin and Sue SeraPhalRhe

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 appreciate-tive 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://occupymedicines.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

www.occupyeugenemedia.org
Personal Foreclosure Story

By Vickie Emere

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 and our children. I purchased a house I had been working on for years. The price at the time 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 HUDP-approved 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 reasonable and it didn’t seem like a lot of money. Now, 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 refinancing.

Toward the end of 2011, it became increasingly clear that the profession I’m in — medi-cal transcription — is dying. My paychecks began shrinking as more physicians began to use alternative recordkeeping such as voice recording, making transcription 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. The first thing I did was contact the committee to see if any were a good fit for my interests.

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 interest rate was high, so I investigated my options including getting my mortgage refinanced. 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 evictions, 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 County 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 was surprisingly smooth. 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, 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, when 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/
object to the idea of the U.S. government detaining any of a group fighting the NDAA. Most American citizens got it. If government overstepping weren't so dangerous, it was how the NDAA tries to bring us to our knees. Bystanders through town. They then moved to the sidewalk outside the style prison jumpsuits, black hood, and handcuffs, marched Army fatigues and, with fellow Occupiers in orange Gitmo— to create a new mainstream.

There are enough of us on the ends of the political spectrum "middle" are still reluctant to take to the streets in protest, yet 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 fellow Occupiers in orange Gitmo— prison jumpsuits, black hood, and handcuffs, marched through town. They then moved to the sidewalk outside the Eugene Police Department to continue dramatically illustrating how the NDAA tries to bring us to our knees. Bystanders got it if government overstepping weren't so dangerous, it would be a lot different.

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 Kuehn's "Restoring Constitutional Government 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 grass-roots 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 as if you're 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 both 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.

Did Shane and Brandy wait awhile before getting active with Occupy? They both could see what was happening to "our democracy," but what finally lit the fire in their bellies was something in their own backyard. They both said, "It's the law.

"At one point, it was criminal to sit in the park. That was ridiculous, so we sat in the park. But then it was criminal to sit on the sidewalk. That was equally ridiculous. So we said, 'Let's tried to find a place we can sit that has no laws."

"It's not important what group you claim affiliation with; we all have common ground and we both utilize mutual support when we can in these troubling times. "United, the people will never be defeated."" Shane'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, OuthKEEPERs, The Interolerable 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."