

## In this issue:

**Page 3**

**A Betrayal by Congress**

**Pages 4**

**The Global Commons**

**Eugene Joins World Climate March**

**Page 5**

**Giving Shelter**

**Page 7**

**First Amendment Victory**

**Page 8**

**National Occupy Gathering**

## GMO: The Right to Know

BY BRET DIAMOND

Confused about GMO labeling? Here's a quick summary:

If the chemical companies like Monsanto that produce GMOs thought that labeling genetically engineered foods would increase sales, they'd do it. But they are afraid that if you know foods contain GMOs, you'll stop buying them. That's why they have spent more than \$600 million dollars over the past 20 years to deny you your right to know what is in the food you buy and feed to your family.

Interestingly enough, the first genetically engineered crop in the U.S. (a tomato) was labeled "genetically engineered," and it was a flop. And ever since then the chemical companies have fought a long and self-serving battle to keep us from knowing if we are buying GMOs for fear that we will not willingly buy them.

The chemical companies know that there is little to no consumer demand for their products. No one wakes up in the morning and says, "Boy, I could really go for a big bowl of GMOs today!" So how DO you sell a product that nobody wants? Well, you have to hide it from the public so that they don't know they are buying it. GMOs are probably the only product on the planet that the manufacturers don't want you to know you're buying. Even tobacco companies proudly feature their logos on their packaging, billboards, t-shirts, etc. despite the fact that their products have warning labels that identify the serious health risks associated with tobacco use.

The chemical companies that produce GMOs persist in fighting accurate food labeling because once GMOs are labeled in the U.S., the industry will be forced into an open and honest discussion with the public about GMO safety. The biotech industry is afraid that not only will you learn about the lack of human safety testing on GMOs, but also that you will come to realize that you and your family are in effect unpaid participants in the biotech industry's unauthorized non-science experiment. To date, only a handful of GMO safety studies have been done on humans, and nearly all raised troubling questions about the safety of GMO foods.

With pharmaceuticals, rodent studies are the starting point in determining product safety. Once rodent studies are complete and no adverse effects are identified, the next step is human clinical trials. But even with years of rodent studies followed by human clinical trials, several drugs that had been approved by the FDA were ultimately taken off the market when serious adverse effects were later identified. Vioxx and Meridia are but a few examples. Yet no human clinical trials are required for GMO foods, even those with the Bt trait that literally have a registered pesticide growing inside them that has never been studied for long-term impacts upon human health.

We know that Bt kills insects by making their stomach's explode, but what effect does Bt pesticide have upon the microbiota in our gut? As we learn more about how our gut microbiome influences not only our health but even our behavior, it is imperative that we study the impacts of GMO Bt and Ht traits upon our gut microbiome. And we need human studies on GMO food safety because the industry-

See GMO, p. 3



PHOTO BY JACK DRESSER  
Mariah Leung of Eugene scans barcode on canned pizza sauce for GMO content using Buycott Smartphone App.

## City Drops Charges Against Whoville Sit-in Activists

BY LAUREN REGAN

On Sept. 12, the City of Eugene dismissed all charges against 11 Occupy Eugene and SLEEPS activists who were arrested on April 1, 2014, for holding a sit-in at City Manager Jon Ruiz's office. Before the sit-in, the activists had repeatedly requested that Ruiz redress their grievances regarding his intention to prematurely shut down Whoville, a homeless camp that sheltered disabled and at-risk community members who had nowhere else to go.

The Civil Liberties Defense Center's attorney Lauren Regan, along with cooperating attorneys Bryan Boender, Dan Kruse, and certified law student Cooper Brinson, filed motions informing the City of their intention to use the "necessity" defense on behalf of the activists. Their argument in defense of the activists focused on the

fact that the Mayor and City Council had publicly stated that Whoville, a camp where unhoused people could legally set up a tent and have access to a portable toilet and trash receptacles, would not be shut down until an alternative location was secured.

On April 1, activists learned that the City Manager planned to shut down Whoville while the City Council was on recess — against the stated decision of the Mayor and Council. Activists attempted to telephone,



PHOTO BY GREGORY WALKER  
Protesters sit-in at the City Manager's Office to protest the impending closure of Whoville.

schedule meetings, and otherwise communicate with Ruiz, who ignored their requests and even hid in his office rather than speak to any of the community members concerned with the plight of the Whoville residents.

With the eviction looming, citizens felt they had no choice but to risk arrest in order to deter the

illegitimate actions of the City Manager. All 11 activists were peacefully arrested after several hours and charged with trespassing. Two days later, Ruiz ordered Eugene Police to raid the Whoville camp. The campers, including several in wheelchairs and with other disabilities, were left to wander the streets, sleeping under bridges and in public parks again.

Some activists expressed disappointment about the dismissal. They had wanted a day in court to tell the jury why they took the actions they did. Equally important, they wanted Ruiz, the Mayor, and Council members to testify under oath about who was responsible for the debacle that occurred as a result of the Whoville evictions.

Jean Stacey, one of the SLEEPS activists arrested said, "Many SLEEPS members who were arrested had been working with

See Whoville, p. 3



PHOTO BY GREGORY WALKER  
Plaedo keeps the protesters who remained behind in Ruiz's office after 5 p.m. laughing.

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/>

# Protecting Seavey Loop

By CHARLES STEWART, NOINDUSTRIALPISGAH.ORG

Thirty-seven Seavey Loop farms, landowners, and residents have retained legal counsel for representation to fight a proposed Springfield urban growth boundary expansion which would transform the bucolic Seavey Loop area next to Mt. Pisgah into an ugly industrial zone. Attorneys Sean T. Malone and Elisabeth Holmes are thankfully working for less than their normal rates because this matter threatens the public interest.

The neighborhood's "No Industrial Pisgah" campaign claims the proposed industrial zone is not feasible or economical and would severely harm farm businesses, wells, ecosystems, and critical species. Seavey Loop is the sole urban buffer to a nearly 5,000-acre green zone "which is one of the largest metropolitan parks in the world" with an extensive oak savannah, "one of the most endangered ecosystems in the United States."

Paving over the beautiful Seavey Loop area makes no sense when there is abundant unused industrial land right in the heart of Springfield. Charles Stewart, who organized the retainer, says the UGB plan "directly threatens my health, my water supply, my farm businesses and my property value, along with those of my neighbors." Our attorneys are representing the interests of over 600 Seavey Loop families and more importantly the interests of 250,000 nearby Lane County residents, mostly park users. These legal experts will bring balance and reason to the UGB discussions, which have been dominated by private business interests. Our attorneys are also the only ones representing the countless plants, trees, insects, farm animals, birds and other wildlife which flourish in this flood plain. They are working on behalf of everyone who loves Seavey Loop and protecting everything we hold dear – even the water.

Several neighbors have contributed for the legal expenses, and additional tax-deductible donations are being accepted by the non-profit organization LandWatch Lane County. Landowners and tenants alike are urging the City of Springfield to immediately and completely abandon any plan for UGB expansion anywhere near Seavey Loop.

## Occupy Interfaith Reboots

By JANE SMITH

Occupy Interfaith (OI) Eugene/Springfield was born out of the Occupy Wall Street movement and local efforts to bring attention to the neglect of the unhoused in our communities. It came together in support of Opportunity Village Eugene and became a vehicle for collaborative activism by members of diverse religious organizations and others for whom their faith meant reaching out to others in compassion and social justice.

Our monthly offerings have gone to support Opportunity Village, CALC, the Democracy School, Community Supported Shelters, the OE newsletter, and at its last meeting, on Sept. 14, OI agreed to continue its work of supporting efforts to provide safe places to be for persons without housing and advocating for a range of housing for them. Three other issues of concern to the group are to reverse the Citizens United decision that unjustly gives corporations the status of persons, to expand people's understanding that a universal single payer healthcare system would benefit everyone and to engage in activities to decrease carbon emissions to mitigate climate change.

The majority of members of OI are from a variety of faith communities but anyone may join who is interested in social justice and a more equitable society. The next meeting is on Sunday, Oct. 12 at 1:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church at 13th and Chambers.

## Egan Warming Center Gears Up for Another Year

By MICHAEL ADAMS

Egan Warming Center will again operate from November 15 through March 31. Each year we accommodate large numbers of guests who would otherwise be without warm shelter on cold winter nights. We ask volunteers to help us in various capacities. While we almost always have enough people for evening duties, staffing our overnight shifts can be a challenge. The latter shifts typically last from 10 p.m. until 6 a.m., but we will work with you and your schedule.

Egan depends heavily on churches which generously donate their space for us to use each year. Last year there were seven locations around Eugene-Springfield. FOOD for Lane County and local businesses donate food, helping us to feed everyone. This year we are expecting colder temperatures, resulting in more guests. This means that we are going to need more volunteers! If you would like to help out, please visit the website below to keep informed of October training dates and other useful information. We look forward to hearing from you! [www.eganwarmingcenter.com](http://www.eganwarmingcenter.com) [www.facebook.com/eganwarmingcenter](http://www.facebook.com/eganwarmingcenter)

## OE's Videographer Documents the Unhoused

Jana Thrift has created 10 videos on some of the many aspects of homelessness for the UO Philosophy Dept. You can check them out at <http://tinyurl.com/mmhjog2>

Also you can subscribe to Jana's YouTube channel, which is called [communitysolutionsmedia](http://communitysolutionsmedia.com). You will get notifications when she posts new videos and you will help her ratings.

The Occupier staff extends congratulations to Jana for this accomplishment.

## Occupy Eugene

### Newsletter Staff

*This issue of the Eugene Occupier is brought to you through the collaboration of Catherine Siskron, Christina Bellini, Jack Dresser, Graham Lewis, David Ivan Piccioni, 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](mailto: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>.*

## University of Oregon Philosophy Department to Host Institute on Homelessness

Thursday, Nov. 6

4 to 6 p.m.

Public Philosophy Colloquium

Speaker: Professor Chad Kautzer,  
University of Colorado Denver

"Homelessness, Security, and the  
Politics of Dys-Appearance"

UO Knight Library Browsing Room  
106

Friday, Nov. 7

Time TBA

Roundtable discussion with mem-  
bers of the UO Philosophy Depart-  
ment and local stakeholders con-  
cerning homelessness in Eugene

UO Knight Library Browsing Room  
106

UO Knight Library Browsing Room  
106

Contact: Naomi Zack, [naomik@uoregon.edu](mailto:naomik@uoregon.edu) for more information.

## Occupy Eugene on the Web

**Web site:** <http://occupyeugenemedia.org/> Provides information about activities and upcoming events.

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/375775672475381/> Used by our communications committee to promote actions and other events.

**Twitter:** @occupyeugene

**Occupy Medical blog:** <http://occupymedics.wordpress.com/>

**Occupy Medical on Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/434111789971743/>

# Defeat of the Debt Slaves' Revolt

By FERGUS MCLEAN

In the three years since Sept. 17, 2011, the Occupy Wall Street message that 99% of Americans are suffering financially to benefit the richest 1% has been validated, but wealthy elites have used their control of the media and their influence over police power and government policy to stifle protest and distract the public from our financial plight. Meanwhile, the invisible wheels of the oligarchy's domination continue to turn, and the people continue to suffer.

The financial collapse of 2008 cost millions of Americans their homes, incomes, jobs and retirement savings, and devastated the global economy. Despite efforts of Occupy, three years later the power arrangements have only gotten worse. The memory of the people is short, while the memory, and game plan, of the oligarchic families is long.

Planning by the global private bankers for a massive shift of resources from Main Street to Wall Street began years before the collapse. In 2005, when the housing bubble was reaching its peak, the bankers' agents led by Joe Biden and Hillary Clinton passed a law supposedly designed to "eliminate abuses from the financial system," a law cynically called the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act.

To set the stage for the bankers scheme, the 2005 Bankruptcy Act made three historical changes to U.S. bankruptcy law:

First, it became impossible to discharge student loans in bankruptcy. After 2005, student loans became an albatross around the necks of millions struggling to retrain themselves to find employment in a sinking economy and shrinking job market. The sordid student loan industry has become a multi-billion dollar, government-protected profit center while future generations were thrown under the bus, many being converted into lifetime debt slaves.

Second, the 2005 Bankruptcy Act made it impossible for a homeowner to write down underwater mortgages to actual market value, as was previously routine. After the 2008 housing bubble collapse, tens of millions of homes were underwater. Peoples' ability to use bankruptcy to protect their main source of wealth — the equity in their homes — was removed and millions of homeowners lucky enough to have a home became renters. One sixth of present homebuyers are debt slaves who owe more on their mortgage than their home is worth. Interestingly, bankruptcy protections for write-downs on yachts, vacation homes, and business real estate debt continue.

The third element of the 2005 bankruptcy act may be the most damaging to Main Street. This law privileges financial derivatives in bankruptcy proceedings. This means that, in the next, inevitable banking crisis, financial derivatives will be redeemed before all other obligations, and the mega banks gaming the global economy who hold these speculative financial instruments will escape the global bust unscathed while people's bank deposits are confiscated and assets seized, in the endgame of private banking: utter poverty and debt slavery for the people and the seizure of all remaining assets by the giant private banks.

With passage of the 2005 bankruptcy "reform" traditional avenues of protection for ordinary citizens from economic risk were systematically eliminated two years before the bank-engineered financial collapse actually occurred.

Looking back at the amazing activism of the millions who turned out to speak up for protection of rights, open government, and economic justice in the Occupy movement, it's apparent that our situation will only worsen until we turn to a system of public banking — as practiced by the world's rising economies. Over 40% of the banking sectors of the rapidly growing BRICS nations — Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa — are publicly owned. The successful Bank of North Dakota provides irrefutable evidence that

## Whoville, continued from p. 1

the City in good faith to come up with viable, safe alternatives for unhoused community members in a City that only has enough emergency shelter for 250 of the 1700 homeless people in Eugene. We took the Council and Mayor at their word that they would not displace the Whoville residents until SLEEPS and the City had secured a new place for them to go.

"By dismissing the charges and offering cooperation, the City has taken the first step toward creating honorable relationships with advocates and the community. The next step is to keep its promises and assist donors and volunteers in creating the Health Sanctuary. SLEEPS, Occupy Eugene, Interfaith Occupy, CALC, CLDC and the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty are ready to assist and also to act as watchdogs."

Statement by City Attorney Susan Triem:  
City to Work with Advocates for Unhoused

The City is dismissing these cases because the City has met its objective in clearing the site and is working collaboratively with community members, including the Nightingale Health Sanctuary, to explore options for the winter and develop safe and long-term housing options for our homeless population. The City hopes to maintain a positive relationship with homeless advocates as the City progresses toward finding solutions, not only for the previous occupants of the Broadway and Hilyard site, but for the larger group of at-risk individuals in our community.

Furthermore, the City's limited resources would be better spent addressing housing solutions for the coming winter season than paying for court-appointed attorney fees, prosecution resources, court expenses (including summoning 200 jurors for these cases, a record number for the Eugene Municipal Court) and disrupting an already overtaxed judicial system over an issue that, from the City's perspective, has been resolved.

## GMO, continued from p. 1

preferred rodent studies are not sufficient to ensure product safety for humans.

As an example, TGN1412 (a new immunomodulatory drug), showed no adverse effects during the rodent research phase. However, during the human clinical trials TGN1412 caused catastrophic systemic organ failure in the research subjects, despite being administered at a subclinical dose of 0.1 mg per kg — some 500 times lower than the dose found safe in rodents.

Human feeding trials are now under way for GMO golden rice and GMO bananas because researchers acknowledge that human and rodent digestive systems are so different that rats cannot be used for studies about human vitamin and nutrient uptake. So if rodent

publicly owned banks are a realistic alternative to permanent debt slavery to private capital. We have not yet lost the long war private bankers have been fighting against common sense and public banking since before the founding of the American Republic.

It appears that the next turn of the private bankers' financial vise will be a general bankrupting of our cities, like that seen in Detroit. Starting on Jan. 1, 2015, the privately owned "central bank of central banks" — the Bank for International Settlements — has decreed that municipal bonds will no longer qualify as high-quality assets for purposes of determining a bank's financial health. This bizarre rules change means a massive sell-off and downgrading of city and county debt, which has already begun. This will translate to huge increases in borrowing costs for local governments, wholesale bankruptcy of our cities, and the seizure of public assets by private lenders. Detroit and debt slavery are our future as long as the Bank for International Settlements, the Federal Reserve and private bankers remain in control.

For more information on the impending credit crisis of local government and about public banking, visit [www.ellenbrown.com](http://www.ellenbrown.com) You can contact the author at [willamettedams@Q.com](mailto:willamettedams@Q.com)

## Chop From The Top (or the Anti-Austerity Song)

*to the tune of My Darling Clementine*  
By Scott Fife

Chop from the top C  
Chop from the top C  
That's the place we ought to start C G  
It's politicians who need attrition F C  
And from bought off ways must part G C

Chop from the top x 2  
That's where we need to hack  
The cancellation of Corporations  
As we take our power back

Chop from the top x 2  
That's where we'll make the cuts  
We'll depose those CEOs  
Keep their bonus, can their butts

Chop from the top x 2  
That's where we'll start this time  
Jail the Banksters, those ruthless gangsters  
And end their life of crime

Chop from the top x 2  
That's where we should start first  
The administration needs deflation  
From their bloated size must burst

Chop from the top x 2  
That's where we should reduce  
All the Pundits, we'll make redundant  
Blowhard's mouths will have no use

Chop from the top x 2  
That's where we should begin  
We'll defeat all the elite  
Down they'll go in a tailspin

Chop from the top x 2  
That's what we should extoll  
Let the bosses take the losses  
And the workers take control!

studies aren't sufficient to detect the potential for catastrophic organ failure in humans, and they can't be used to study the most basic purpose of food consumption — vitamin and nutrient uptake — how can the biotech industry possibly claim that GMOs are safe for humans when over 95% of all GMO safety studies have been short-term rodent studies?

Until adequate human safety testing has been conducted on GMOs to determine that they actually are safe for humans, Oregonians should have the right to opt-out of the biotech industry's grand quasi-science experiment — just as the citizens of 64 countries have done. Labeling GMO food provides a tool to opt-out. I urge readers to vote yes on Measure 92 this November and help bring common sense and transparency to our food labeling.

# Reclaiming Our Global Commons

By JACK DRESSER

Since long before WW II our nation has been on a warpath, bent on domination for worldwide resource extraction, using intimidation, extortion, indebtedness and violence masked typically as humanitarian rescue missions or “development.” Based upon imperious, colonial hubris and an ideology of supremacy, entitlement, and dehumanization, these have progressively shifted from African to Latin American to Muslim lands and peoples.

As the planet’s most relentless aggressor, squandering massive hydrocarbon resources on weaponry and war, we are also the planet’s leading per capita polluter. With a government trapped upon the warpath under corporate and other lobby control, and with little realism or rationality from either controlling political party, the responsibility for more intelligent and responsible choices falls heavily upon our collective will as citizens.

So where do we start? Through imperial manipulations the planet has been sectioned into competing, colliding and colluding nations, organizations of nations, spheres of influence, and privatization of space and resources. Viewing our planet from space, however, none of that is visible. Instead, we see a glorious commons shared by all humanity. But failing to recognize this, humanity is in big trouble. We face extreme climate change that threatens our very survival from widespread desertification of once-arable land and destruction of the marine food chain through acidification of the oceans. This has no easy fixes, and destined to share a common fate, we must respond communally. Will we continue on our warpath toward assured self-destruction or choose a peace path that provides some measure of hope? If the latter, we must recapture the commons both literally and psychologically.

Central public areas with which entire communities identify are recognized as fundamental in most human societies. Ancient Athens had its agora and ancient Rome its forum, both preserved today reminding us of past cultural wisdom. Cities throughout Italy have



PHOTO BY VICTOR CAMACHO/LA JORNADA? A million citizens gathered in Mexico City’s Zocalo for weeks to protest the irregularities and probable presidential election theft of 2005.

their piazzas, and throughout Spain and Latin America their plazas. But in our summer newsletter issue, Lee De Veau described the struggle to keep even one small area in downtown Eugene, Kesey Square, open to all as a public space. Why the resistance, and from where?

In Mexico City’s magnificent Zocalo, built on the site of Aztec Tenochtitlan’s ceremonial center, over a million citizens gathered for weeks to protest the irregularities and probable presidential election theft of 2005. In Buenos Aires’ Plaza de Mayo, Las Madres de los Desaparecidos gathered to protest the disappearances and murders of their children during the U.S.-fueled “Dirty War.” Humans worldwide have recognized and honored the need to unite around vital common interests and community spaces to do so, and when challenging the abuse, corruption or incompetence of leaders, these become the hotbeds of revolutions. Little wonder, then, that gathering places for the many are increasingly limited and controlled by the elite few. The Commons are a threat to the rulers. As such, they are urgently needed to achieve the revolutionary changes we must demand.

The Peace Path will require abandonment of economic gunpoint colonialism including closure of our 700-800 overseas military bases, allowing radical reductions of Pentagon funding that must be re-allocated to alternative energy development replacing fossil fuels, a nationwide high-speed rail network powered by renewables to reduce hydrocarbon-intensive air travel and truck transport, desalination plants for coastal cities to reserve inland water resources for agriculture, development of localized organic and agroecological farming and steady-state local economies to replace factory farming and the transportation-intensive “growth” model demanded by global capitalism, and planetary reforestation and soil restoration. According to Lester Brown of the Earth Policy Institute, the latter two objectives could be accomplished with one-sixth of our annual Pentagon budget. These are big, revolutionary changes.

To perpetuate our self-indulgent lifestyle in the short term, we are propelling ourselves toward a massive worldwide tragedy. Reversing this social and economic tidal force will require a revolutionary transformation of consciousness. But driven by popular will, radical change is possible. The power supply of Burlington, Vermont’s largest city, is now 100% renewable. Other peoples, including indigenous cultures, are now leading the way against the destructive powers of neoliberal international capitalism. We must, collectively, stand beside them without equivocation, reverse our own national trajectory, and commit ourselves to the global commons serving all humanity. This appears the only conceivable path to preserving life on earth for the human and most other species here today.



PHOTO BY NASA Our Commons seen from NASA spacecraft.

## Reports from the Climate March, NYC, Sept. 21, 2014

On Sunday, Sept. 21, the Great March for Climate Action, the longest climate march, met the People’s Climate March, the largest climate march, in New York City. Together the marchers from both organizations carried a message of urgency to world leaders about to attend the United Nations summit on climate change. Below, OE’s Cary Thompson and John Abbe give us their perspectives on the experience of the march. John has been with the marchers since they left Los Angeles on March 1, 2014; Cary flew to New York to join the march for a brief time.

By CARY THOMPSON

Enveloped in an awesome crowd of over 300,000 demonstrators, I am breathing in the spectacle! Led by youth and indigenous groups with giant puppets and spectacular costumes, this action is the largest outpouring ever for global climate justice.

The energy is electric with bands playing, as thousands chant and sing. Starting from 81st Street and Central Park West, we dance to a samba band from the Berkshire Hills of Massachusetts. Thousands of signs feature slogans for the environment: climate justice, saving soils, saving bees,

wildlife, our Mother Earth and more. Signs of outrage against the Koch Brothers, Wall Street corporations; appeals for action in the U.S. Congress, monitoring pollution, stopping Monsanto.

Media is everywhere — national and local TV and radio stations, independent videographers and individuals all recording their pieces of history.

I am interviewed by folks gathering stories for posterity. I meet up with my contingent including 25 other Oregonians. John Abbe, a Eugenic who has been walking with the Great March for Climate Action across America, joins us with his fellow walkers. Celebrities taking part include Bill McKibben, Al Gore, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon, Jane Goodall, and many notable actors.

It is an awesome energy shift for ACTION NOW! The next morning there is more direct confrontation, Flood Wall Street, with some 10,000 demonstrators surrounding the Wall Street Bull sculpture, barricades and police between demonstrators and the huge metal icon. A sit-in in the middle of Broadway blocks traffic and 100 people are peacefully arrested with no tear gas or police beatings.



PHOTO BY CONNOR SALISBURY A crowd of about 500 listens to the Raging Grannies during the Eugene People’s Climate rally.

This is the beginning of more concerted actions, energizing progress for slowing and revising climate chaos. You can find additional information on local climate actions in the online calendar: at [heliosnetwork.org](http://heliosnetwork.org)

By JOHN ABBE

Life on the march is more like an intentional community than I expected. We meet and talk with many people all along the way, and have learned that people are willing to have real conversations with us even if their perspective differs greatly from our own. But the people we spend the most time with are each other, living together nearly 24/7 as we cross the country. It not only builds trust, but the long-running conversations and other collective experiences have led our perspectives and intentions about climate change to evolve as we go along. For example, all now support nonviolent civil disobedience, because we see that

we need to be willing to make ourselves and others uncomfortable if we are going to bring this crisis home to people. So we participated not only in the People’s Climate March in NYC on Sept. 21, but also helped Flood Wall Street the next day (five of us were arrested). And we plan a week of actions at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission when we get to Washington, DC. To learn more:

<http://bit.ly/BeyondExtremeEnergy>

<http://climatemarch.org/>



PHOTO BY ANNETTE BERNHARDT

Huge crowds surged through Manhattan demanding world leaders pay attention and act on climate now.



PHOTO BY JOHN ABBE

The day after the Climate March 10,000 protesters flooded Wall Street.

# Community Supported Shelters: A Working Solution

By CATHERINE SISKRON

In October 2013, Eugene approved a rest stop program that would allow up to 15 people to sleep overnight in tents on certain properties designated by the city.

Erik and Fay de Buhr of Community Supported Shelters (CSS) stepped up immediately to manage a rest stop, inspired by the idea that if everybody gave a little they could build a lot of Conestoga huts and eventually a community.

Their vision is to create a more humane and sustainable Eugene by establishing transitional eco-social community villages that will provide places for the unhoused to sleep safely. In addition, residents work with other community members as they transition away from the streets into a lifestyle that is more sustainable and fulfilling.

Community Supported Shelters oversees two City-approved sites: Safe Spot at Roosevelt and Garfield and the Veterans' Camp at Northwest Expressway and Chambers, both of which have been granted extensions for another year.

## Safe Spot

Safe Spot is primarily a tent community sheltering a mix of single people and couples. CSS provides the necessary infrastructure, including wooden platforms for tents, tents, port-a-potties, hand-washing station, a community tent, and water. Erik found a way to bring in piped water, a great boon for the camp.

The camp culture is collaborative and supportive. People help each other and share what they can. In the evenings, they gather informally around the fire pit to cook, keep warm and share stories.

Everyone in the camp is required to donate time and generally to help out. The City requires the residents to leave the camp from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At other times, residents take turns on gate duty. To keep the camp running smoothly, residents meet weekly as a group with Erik to check in on how everybody is doing, share the week's events, and discuss concerns and try to solve them.

Community workdays include maintenance of the camp, the huts and tents as well as work in City parks performed as a gift of labor and good will to the residents of Eugene.

The day I visited Safe Spot with two friends, people were building a Conestoga hut for

one of the residents. The huts are 10' by 6' and are a step above tents because of their durability, insulation and relative comfort. They cost about \$700 in materials and take about three days to build. They sell for \$1200. We arrived about half an hour before the completion of this one and stayed to witness the completion of the project.



PHOTO BY CATHERINE SISKRON

Visitors and residents share dinner at the Veterans' Camp.

## Veterans' Camp

The majority of residents at the Northwest Expressway and Chambers are veterans who share the common bond of military service. While PTSD is not uncommon among the homeless in general, among veterans it is even more prevalent.

Ricardo, the current camp manager, began a Veterans' Camp when he was at Whoville. When Whoville was dismantled, Ricardo took it upon himself to connect with Erik and suggest a rest stop especially for veterans.

Veterans' Camp is a place of transition, based on mutual respect and support, with a large dose of common sense thrown in. Residents at the camp want to make it clear they are not looking for a hand out. They are looking for a hand up. Some are searching for employ-

See Solution, p. 7

# R2D2 Keeps on Dreaming

By NATHAN SHOWERS AND TRACY FORREST

*In this nation, it's illegal to exist without housing, so people need a place to gather as peers to lift each other up as community with a sense of empowerment. This empowerment comes from homeless helping homeless. Who else can understand? Someone that has never spent a night on the street? The least intrusive way to re-incorporate back into society, is through a grassroots approach at the level where people are at that time. This is less traumatic for someone fresh to the street. And that is what we do best!*

—Right2DreamToo Flyer

Right2DreamToo has been providing a safe spot for the unhoused to sleep on a vacant lot in downtown Portland for two years. It opened on Oct. 10, 2011, World Homeless Day, created by a group called Right to Survive, led by the unhoused, the formerly unhoused and their allies and supporters.

We visited Portland's R2D2Too over the Labor Day weekend. We checked in with Amber, Brad and some other folks. We had first met them and Ibrahim when they came to Eugene to help SLEEPS organize on a couple of occasions. They are some of the folks who run the daily program and are on the Right To Survive Board. At R2D2Too the programmers run the daily operations. In order to become a programmer, a person comes to stay at R2D2Too and demonstrates interest and aptitude that show they can be a part. Then they work toward that goal by following the

steps. A programmer has a tent (home) at R2D2Too until they find a job and/or housing. Usually programmers stay involved to continue to offer

support and because of the awesome friends they have made.

To get the feel of the Right2DreamToo program for overnighters, we signed up at 5:30 p.m. to reserve a spot and then returned at 9 p.m. to be a part of the overnight sleep program and enjoy a safe place to dream. They had different areas set up for disabled people, couples, singles and people with animals. Everyone who signed up gets 12 hours to sleep.

Upon waking we ventured out to the Portland Rescue Mission. The volunteers served a delicious breakfast for about 300 without a blink of an eye. (There are quite a few daily feeds for the houseless within the Burnside area). From there we went to the waterfront Saturday Market area



PHOTO BY STREET ROOTS

where we observed a lunch being served to all the houseless people in the park. However, the loo was locked — and

See R2D2, p. 7

# Opportunity Village: Pooling and Mobilizing Local Resources

By ANDREW HEBEN

*Opportunity Village turned one year old at the end of August! The micro-housing community has provided a home to more than 60 people for various lengths of time since opening. Recently the Eugene City Council voted unanimously to extend the village's lease at 1160 Grant Street through June 2016.*



PHOTO BY ANDREW HEBEN

A class listens intently in the dome at Opportunity Village.

In my opinion, one of the best things about Opportunity Village is seeing the type of collaboration that has emerged simply by making a space available for pooling and mobilizing local community resources. Here we see urban space reclaimed and invested with value—creating a place for people to gather.

These kind of ideas have been inspired by my involvement with the City Repair project. City Repair is based on "the idea that localization—of culture, of economy, of decision-making—is a necessary foundation of sustainability. By reclaiming urban spaces to create community-oriented places, we plant the seeds for greater neighborhood communication, empower our communities and nurture our local culture."

I had similar goals for Opportunity Village, and back when it was just an idea made the claim that: "Opportunity Village will create a landscape that would be infused with place so that people would be encouraged to gather and interact with each other. Within

the Village, this idea of place allows for people in a similar situation to work together in order to help themselves. At the larger scale, it provides an effective avenue for collaboration between the housed and the unhoused."

Now, with the village being open for a year, we see these ideas coming to life. While formal services are not offered on-site, the mere existence of the village as a place has inspired a number of informal services to surface, and I'd like to recount a recent example of this here.

A couple of months ago, Bill, a teacher from Marist High School, came to one of the weekly village meetings at Opportunity Village. He pitched the idea of using the community yurt to provide a formal academic experience to those who may not find traditional higher education particularly accessible. After a discussion, the village approved this use of their common space through a majority vote.

Following this, Bill began to piece together a pilot program of six classes over the course of three weeks. The idea being: if it went well it could become an official program through the University of Oregon, and college credit could be offered. He found professors from different departments at the UO—including journalism, business, political science, psychology, and law. Each professor then led a class focused on the meaning of "justice" from the perspective of their academic field.

*Andrew Heben is a board member of Opportunity Village Eugene and the author of Tent City Urbanism: From Self-Organized Camps to Tiny House Villages. This article originally appeared in his blog, TentCityUrbanism.com.*

# Where Will Nightingale Winter?

By VICKIE NELSON

The temperatures are dropping, the rains have arrived, and Nightingale Health Sanctuary is still without a home. What's going on? First let's get a couple of questions out of the way:

## What has Nightingale done with its \$400,000 donation?

Nothing yet. Our donor has offered us the money to purchase land, and we have been working hard searching for land to buy. But the perfect — or even acceptable — location has proven elusive, so the donation is still with the donor.

Our requirements for land to purchase: at least 1 to 1 ½ acres; easy bus access or proximity to services such as Whitebird, the library, and the Dining Room; quiet surroundings; and accessibility to people with disabilities. Pluses include water and electricity already on site and good soil for gardening. If you know of such a place, please let us know at NightingaleHealthSanctuary@gmail.com.

## What happened with the lot on North Polk in the Whiteaker neighborhood?

That property included five individual lots, so we hoped we could develop a double rest stop for 30 tents and up to 35 people. However, the city told us the lot could not be used for rest stops because it is in a residential area. We then considered asking officials to allow us to put a car camp there, but a car camp would house only a handful of people. We decided the cost of the lease, insurance, bathrooms, and trash removal would be way too high if

we were going to be able to shelter only six to 12 people.

Now, with winter approaching, and with no site on which to establish the Nightingale Health Sanctuary, we are feeling a sense of urgency. At a recent meeting the NHS Steering Committee divided our members into several working groups so we can make faster progress toward our goal, which is to get a safe place to shelter unhoused people established before winter sets in. This sanctuary will probably not be on land we have purchased, but at a temporary site that we will lease.

The good news is that the City now appears willing to work with us. Currently representatives from NHS are meeting on a regular basis with the City Manager and his staff. In addition City Attorney Susan Triem issued a statement after the city dismissed all charges against 11 Occupy Eugene and SLEEPS activists who were arrested on April 1, 2014, for holding a sit-in at City Manager Jon Ruiz' office, saying the City "is working collaboratively with community members, including the Nightingale Health Sanctuary, to explore options for the winter and develop safe and long-term housing options for our homeless population . . ." She added that "the City's limited resources would be better spent addressing housing solutions for the coming winter season than paying for court-appointed attorney fees, prosecution resources, court expenses . . ."

NHS is preparing a proposal for the city that will include several options for a temporary winter site for the unhoused. We ask that you contact the city in support of a winter site at [mayorcouncilandcitymanager@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:mayorcouncilandcitymanager@ci.eugene.or.us). Please express appreciation for its willingness to work with advocates for the unhoused and to look for solutions for the pressing community problem of lack of shelter.

To keep updated on the progress of NHS, email us at [NightingaleHealthSanctuary@gmail.com](mailto:NightingaleHealthSanctuary@gmail.com).

# Eugene/Springfield Celebrates Pride 2014

By PAUL HOMAN

Eugene/Springfield's Pride celebration began in 1992 and is one of the oldest in the country. A lot has changed for the LGBTQ residents of the Mid-Willamette Valley since then. In the summer of 1992, the nation was gripped by the

and not proving successful. The Gay Rights Movement was at a standstill, George H.W. Bush had put little energy into the AIDS crisis. Issues such as same-sex marriage, gays in the military, and employment non-discrimination were losing battles for Democrats. The Religious Right Movement was on the rise. But in Eugene, Oregon, a group of friends assembled in the park to celebrate pride in themselves.

Today, a group of friends still assembles in the park — a larger group. This year around 4,000 people from the LGBTQ community, their friends, family, and other allies came out to celebrate Pride. These past few years have seen the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT) and the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), policies put into place during the Clinton Administration to appease a Republican-controlled Congress.

In 2004, Oregon passed Measure 36 to constitutionally define marriage as a joining of a man and a woman. In 2014, the U.S. District Court ruled that measure 36 was unconstitutional — a decision that Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum declined to fight, effectively making gay marriage legal in Oregon.

This Pride celebration hosted Oregon Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian, who spoke about the importance of rights of the transsexual and transgender communities. The LGBTQ community and its allies have broken down many



A multicolored rainbow greets visitors to the Pride celebration. PHOTO BY BARBARA DATE



Tuck staffs the SASS table at Eugene/Springfield Pride celebration. PHOTO BY CATHERINE SISKRON

fear of AIDs. Medications were available, but were limited

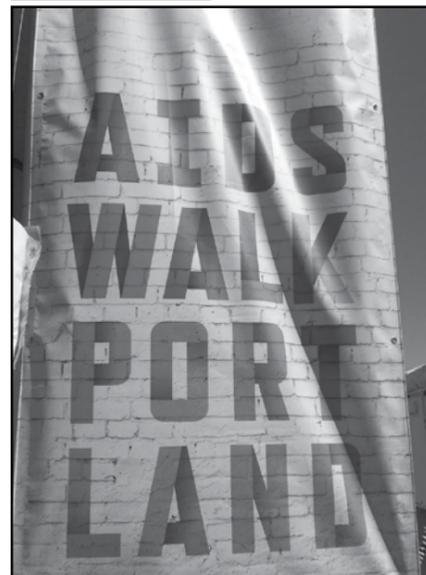
barriers, but many more remain to be broken down. Members of the trans community still face an incredible amount of stigma and discrimination. Hopefully, we are taking steps forward. The Oregon Health Authority just made a recommendation to the state legislature that gender confirmation surgery be covered by the Oregon Health Plan.

The LGBTQ community realizes that no matter how far we have come, we know we have a lot farther to go. A reporter asked if Pride seemed outdated or unnecessary, considering all the advancements of the LGBTQ community. The answer is that Pride will always be necessary — it has always been about being proud of who you are and that will always be something to celebrate.

Paul Homan is Prevention Manager of the Eugene HIV Alliance. You can contact him at [phoman@hivalliance.org](mailto:phoman@hivalliance.org) or at 541-342-5088 ext.117.

# AIDS: The Crisis Is Not Over

By LARRY LEVERONE



The banner of the Portland AIDs Walk on display. PHOTO BY LARRY LEVERONE

One very personal reason for me to continue to join in AIDS walks is to remember those whom I have lost in this battle. The 2.4-mile Portland AIDS Walk on Sept. 6 wound through downtown Portland. A friend joined me in the walk. People gathered at 11 a.m. at Fields Park and at 1 p.m. we began the walk through downtown Portland in 91 degree weather.

As of Sept. 23, 2014, the website [www.aidswalkportland.org](http://www.aidswalkportland.org) stated that \$444,208 had been raised toward the goal of \$450,000.

I also attended the 6.75-km 29th annual AIDS Walk in Vancouver BC on Sept. 21. Walkers and volunteers gathered on the lawn facing English Bay on a clear autumn morning. The crowd of young and old sauntered along the bay's seawall, into Stanley Park and then encircled the Lost Lagoon before returning back at Sunset Beach. Along the walk, volunteers supplied walkers with water and encouragement, the Rainbow Concert Band played and The Vancouver Men's Chorus sang

as we passed by the AIDS Memorial wall:

A beautiful quote by George Santayana is engraved onto the wall; it reads:

With you a part of me hath passed away;  
For in the peopled forest of my mind  
A tree made leafless by this wintry wind  
Shall never don again its green array.  
Chapel and fireside, country road and bay,  
Have something of their friendliness resigned;  
Another, if I would, I could not find,  
And I am grown much older in a day.  
But yet I treasure in my memory  
Your gift of charity, your mellow ease,  
And the dear honour of your amity;  
For these once mine, my life is rich with these.  
And I scarce know which part may greater be,—  
What I keep of you, or you rob of me.

For more information, visit:  
[http://www.aidsmemorial.info/memorial/id=24/vancouver\\_aids\\_memorial.htm](http://www.aidsmemorial.info/memorial/id=24/vancouver_aids_memorial.htm)  
[www.aidswalkvancouver.ca](http://www.aidswalkvancouver.ca)

*Consistency is the last refuge of the unimaginative. — Oscar Wilde*

# Judge rules for Occupy: 1st Amendment does not go to sleep at 5 p.m.

By VICKIE NELSON



PHOTO BY VICKIE NELSON  
Beatrice and Terry pose before an appearance at the Federal Courthouse.

In a victory for First Amendment rights, U.S. District Judge Michael McShane ruled on Sept. 10 that government officials were wrong when they evicted Occupy Eugene and SLEEPS demonstrators from the plaza in front of the old Federal Building in downtown Eugene two years ago.

In his opinion McShane said the General Services Administration's decision to allow Occupy Eugene to use the Federal Plaza only from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Fridays led to a "chilling" of protesters' free-speech rights.

"The First Amendment does not go to sleep at 5 p.m. on Friday afternoon and wake up at 8 a.m. on Monday morning. Although GSA may generally use a permitting scheme to oversee access to the Plaza, GSA's permitting process, given the facts present in this action, was not narrowly tailored to serve any significant government interest, and was therefore unconstitutional as applied to plaintiffs," McShane wrote.

SLEEPS and OE activists held a series of protests at the old Federal Building in 2012.

The protests started on May 1, 2012, with a 60-day permit that allowed them to be there 24/7. After that permit expired, the GSA was willing to issue a new permit — but one that would not allow protesters to remain on the plaza overnight. The occupiers refused the limited permit and GSA officials then ordered the demonstrators to leave the plaza by 3 p.m. on July 11 or to be arrested.

As 3 p.m. drew near, activists began to clear the plaza, until only Emily Semple, known as Brave Beatrice, remained, holding a sign that said, "We're Not Leaving." Tom Keedy of the Federal Protective Service approached and arrested her. A judge dismissed Semple's case six months later, after federal prosecutors requested that action "in the interest of justice."

Members of Occupy and SLEEPS returned to the federal plaza two months later for another permitless around-the-clock demonstration that eventually broke up voluntarily. Later that year, in December, activists re-occupied the plaza once more for another protest, during which Beatrice and Terry Purvis were arrested for refusing to leave when ordered to do so. Prosecutors later dismissed these charges too.

Beatrice and Terry decided to sue the GSA, a decision that finally forced the case into court, since the feds just kept making arrests and then dropping charges. The suit gave the judge the opportunity to issue a ruling on the free speech issue.

Occupy Eugene's attorney Lauren Regan of the Civil Liberties Defense Center called McShane's ruling "an important victory for activists around the country."

## Solution, continued from p. 5

ment; others are waiting for school to start. Those who qualify have signed up for HUD-backed vouchers for housing. They find it hurtful when hecklers pass by in cars and yell out "Get a job!"

Veterans at the camp are actively connected with the Hope Center at the Westside Apostolic Church, which offers a veterans service program that welcomes all veterans every Friday from 10 a.m. to noon. Many organizations are involved, including the VA, St. Vinny's, Sponsors, Oregon Health Plan, and Vet Lift.

Erik, Ricardo, and Jeremy, the assistant manager, all hope to open a second camp for veterans adjacent to the existing camp. They need to raise \$10,000 ASAP for basic infrastructure (\$7,000 for fencing, platforms, tents, port-a-potty and tarps for the new camp plus \$3,000 for carport covers to winterize existing camps).

How well do the rest stops work? Perhaps the best way to judge for yourself is to visit the camps and talk to the residents. For more information or to arrange a visit, contact Erik de Buhr at c.s.s.eugene@gmail.com

## R2D2, continued from p. 5

there were no other restrooms around.

We went back to R2DToo to volunteer some time and were asked to help sort in the donation tent called "Area 51." We made fast work of clearing and organizing blankets, bedding, clothes and shoes. There was also an onsite computer lab tent, kitchen tent with dishwashing area, a couple of storage sheds/areas and 25 or so tents where the programmers live. The entrance table has T-shirts, pins, bracelets and other R2DToo fundraising items available. They also have information about houselessness on the streets of Portland (Street Roots info book), WRAP and Homeless Bill of Rights Endorsement form and info, and R2DToo flyers that we have used here as a reference.

In addition a newsletter was available with articles by community members, "Ways to Help" flyer and a "Latest Events" box which includes Under the Bridge Walks (R2s leads walks, talking to people from the houseless community and handing out R2S newsletters) every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month and come to Right2Survive meetings every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at Sisters of the Road Cafe and Right2Survive Radio Show (broadcast on KBOO community radio) every 2nd Wednesday with a listening party at Sisters of the Road and various other events that support the houseless people in Portland.

We thank R2DToo for welcoming us and for providing this awesome service for our brothers and sisters on the streets of Portland. Like them on FB and Twitter.

## Quirks and Quarks

By Catherine Siskron

I wish we had  
fifty two words  
for love like the Inuit  
have for snow.

Tonight I will name  
the un-named love  
for family and friends,  
for strangers in distress,  
for animals and plants,  
for the sun and the moon,  
for this life that has been  
so hard and so rich,  
so full of quirks and  
quarks like the universe  
with its planets and  
stars, black holes and  
supernovas.

## Wind the Clock

By Gregory Walker

Wind the clock  
for the morrow  
wind it for  
a hope  
like dissonance  
that man will make machines that  
make the word better  
like windmills  
to be lanced  
by Luddites  
who only want fair wages  
and dignity  
In the pursuit of  
someone else's  
idea of happiness  
certainly not the polar bears'  
wind it tight until it breaks  
so Chinese factory workers  
can make another one  
that lasts half as long  
because time isn't important any  
more  
Yet we wind that clock  
on Sundays

# Michael Adams: A man for All Seasons

By CATHERINE SISKRON



PHOTO BY CATHERINE SISKRON

Michael Adams poses with Nurse Donna at Occupy Medical.

Born in California and raised in Elmira, Oregon, Michael got into trouble in his last two years of high school and was put into foster care. During his last year of school he dropped out, and, no longer eligible for foster care, became homeless at 18. As a teenager living on the streets of Eugene, he learned about youth services and did what he could to help others. He relied on the New Roads Clinic and Hosea Youth Ministries for meals, which the two organizations served on alternate days. After earning his GED, he joined the Marine Corps at 19.

His time in the Marine Corps proved difficult. He discovered he was bipolar, a condition that prevented him from being deployed. Stationed in Camp Lejeune in North Carolina, he worked in the Finance Office as a disbursing technician and learned accounting skills. He was recommended twice for a medical discharge, which would have given full benefits on separation from service. However, the Marine Corps gave him an administrative discharge, pushing him back into homelessness.

He couch surfed for a while in North Carolina, working job after job trying to figure out where he fit in, then went to South Carolina where he lived with friends for a month. When that didn't work out, he was homeless again. He got a job at a restaurant called Five Guys Burgers and Fries and slept outside the door after work.

When the restaurant job fell through, Michael boarded a Greyhound bus and got off in Eugene in December 2012. He stayed with family for a while, attempted school, which he didn't like, but persevered, and then became homeless again. He found the car camping program at the apostolic church, where he began volunteering at the Veterans Meeting at 12th and Grant on Fridays every week.

From there he went to a contract bed with St. Vincent de Paul. He had been in school for four months at this point and finished his first term with all A's. It was around this time that he found out about Sleeps and Whoville and became involved helping others in those causes.

About August of 2013, Michael found out about Occupy Medical and started volunteering the following month. In October, he moved into his own apartment, and continued to be involved in Occupy Medical, Whoville, and school, as well as looking for work.

In December, he answered the call for Volunteers for Egan Warming Center. He became a Site Lead fairly quickly and will operate in that capacity again this year.

In April, Michael started working for St. Vincent de Paul. He decided to discontinue school at the end of the term since he got a job using his accounting skills. He is currently working at St. Vincent de Paul as Payroll and Accounting Support. In June, he was hired as the Onsite Manager position for 5th and Blair LLC.

Today Michael is a busy man who works four jobs, year round, two paid and two unpaid. He volunteers at Occupy Medical and the Egan Warming Center on a seasonal summer/winter rotation.

Managing his bipolar condition has become easier now that he has a doctor who understands it. It took four years from the time of diagnosis to find a physician who prescribed effective medication. Michael has also learned to avoid stressful situations as much as possible. He says he loves helping those in need and wants to provide an example for others to volunteer as well.

Michael serves in several capacities for Occupy Medical—as a board member, as a peacekeeper, and an occasional bus driver. During his stint at Egan he works as a site lead by guiding the rest of the volunteers at his location in assigned duties and responsibilities.

Michael wants to remind everyone that both Occupy Medical and Egan need community support, including volunteer hours and donations of funds and socks, especially in winter. Egan, in addition, also needs blankets.

## NatGat Draws Activists to Sacramento

By JENNEFER HARPER

Sept. 17 was the fourth anniversary of the Occupy movement. Originating in New York City's Zuccotti Park on Wall Street, the movement quickly spread internationally. At its core, Occupy seeks to dismantle systems of economic and social inequality. Throughout the years, local Occupy movements have uniquely transformed into communities of activism that either strive to preserve the original functionality and process of Occupy Wall Street (OWS) or which have morphed into autonomous issue-specific groups. Although local Occupy groups today may exist quite differently than they did at the eruption of the movement, a thread has been woven among activists serving as a cohesive network of solidarity. Occupy achieved many things: One thing it certainly did was bring together a group of activists, internationally, ready and willing to collaborate whenever the call may come.

Every summer since S17, the United States of America holds an Occupy National Gathering (NatGat) in order to gather together Occupiers so we may "review the year, share knowledge and skills, build coalitions, find intersections, celebrate successes, and prepare for another year of popular grassroots organizing" (The National Gathering Team). In 2012, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, hosted NatGat; in 2013, Kalamazoo, Michigan; and this year, July 31 to Aug. 3, Sacramento, California.

With an attendance estimated at 150, the long weekend was filled with rallies, marches, workshops, General As-

semblies, panels, spoken word, films, and entertainment. Some highlights include a rally and march in solidarity with Gaza organized by local Occupy Sacramento activists. Occupy Los Angeles showed up in full force and led a Homeowners Against Foreclosures rally and march. The Catalyst Project facilitated an Anti-Racism Training for Collective Liberation workshop. William Underbaggage of the Indigenous Nations Network led an opening blessing ceremony. Occupy The Farm from Oakland shared a Guerrilla Gardening workshop titled "Disobeying with Great Love." Activist Daniel Hong from Occupy Portland convened a Debtors' Assembly. Keith McHenry, of Food Not Bombs fame, shared the history of its group. Claire White, from the National Legal Guild, provided a Know Your Rights training. Other notable activities included a panel on nuclear, water, and big oil issues as related to the Native American Sovereignty, Water Rights, and Environmental Justice; Palestinian Rights workshop; consensus and facilitation training; media reform, podcasting, and livestreaming workshops. Entertainment included the Overpass Light Brigade, a spoken word/open mic, the film *Who Bombed Judi Bari?* and the San Francisco Mime Troupe.

The Gathering took place on the Sacramento capitol grounds and at a nearby public park. Throughout the days, activists from as close as Sacramento to as far away as Australia, met, had conversations, shared ideas, talents, and strategies, and networked. At the close of each evening after

dinner, the group participated in a Community Assembly, Sharing Circle, and two General Assemblies. Friday evening's General Assembly (GA) was co-facilitated by Code Pink's Nancy Mancias and Saturday evening's GA was facilitated by The Global Consensus Project's Matt Ready. What is perhaps most notable about these two GAs is the precedence set this year regarding entertaining proposals at the national level through the gathering's GAs. The 2014 Occupy National Gathering introduced and consensed on two proposals for the first time in its short history. The first, a statement of solidarity with Palestine submitted by Jennefer Harper of Occupy Eugene, and the second, a statement of support regarding a month of action highlighting mass incarceration submitted by D'Andre Teeter of Occupy Oakland. The consensed proposals can be found here: <http://interoccupy.net/natgat2014/together-we-rose-occupys-third-national-gathering/>

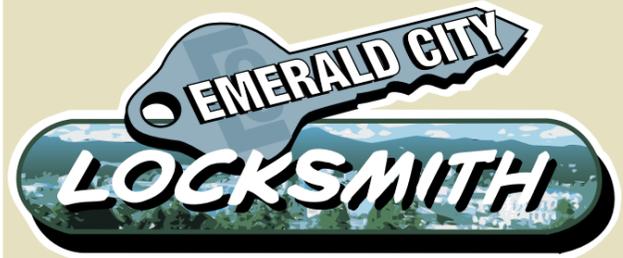
Year round, a national planning team coordinates the gathering through a variety of organizational platforms: conference calls, email lists, committees, and online tools. While the gatherings strive to be spread out geographically, from year to year, regional gatherings are encouraged in addition to the yearly NatGat. An effort is underway for the coordination of a Cascadia hosted Occupy National Gathering in Eugene, Oregon. For questions, or to get further involved, contact: [JenneferHarper@gmail.com](mailto:JenneferHarper@gmail.com)



PHOTO BY JENNEFER HARPER

An activist at the National Gathering holds a sign showing what he thinks of Big Banks.

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