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# I Can't Breathe: Proposals for Police Reform

By JACK RADEY

*That Justice is a blind goddess  
Is a thing to which we poor  
are wise:  
Her bandage hides two festering  
sores  
That once, perhaps, were eyes.*

—Justice by Langston Hughes

and Eric Garner, but the overflowing of a cup that has been filled to the brim with the blood of Americans, mostly young, unarmed African American males. It has become evident that there are very few cases where police officers who have killed an unarmed person have suffered any consequences for doing so whatsoever.

We put forth these proposals with the understanding that police play an important role in our society, and that the majority of policemen are men and women of integrity, not criminals. We believe that reforms like these are vital to effective policing, where communities see the police as their protectors, not a threat, and where police see the communities as people they serve, not threats.

**Screening.** Studies have shown that most cases of inappropriate police violence are committed by a small number of officers. Vigorous and rigorous efforts should be taken to screen out applicants for police work who have personalities that tend towards violence, impatience, and physical aggression. In this regard, serious thought should be given to being especially careful in hiring military veterans recently returned from combat. Similarly psychological screening should be applied to current officers, and those found to have serious propensities for violence should be removed from duties that involve them in interactions with the public.

**Disarmament.** Police sometimes face dangerous situations, and weapons are sometimes appropriate. But there is little justification for police appearing in the streets more heavily armed than our soldiers overseas. An officer clad head to toe in black armor, helmeted,

We have come to a historical moment, when in the course of a few months the issue of racist police violence has fired the imaginations of people all over America and the world. It represents not so much a reaction to the deaths of Michael Brown

gas-masked, wearing combat gear, armed with a long baton, heavy pistol, Taser, shotgun, assault rifle, and hung with dazzle flash grenades, tear gas and grenades is far more likely to look on civilians as threats, rather than people to serve and protect. Armored vehicles, automatic weapons, and guns designed to fire “usually-less-than-lethal” projectiles are not appropriate for dealing with peaceful protests, or minor law infractions.

**De-escalation.** Doctrine and training tell officers to quickly get situations “under control,” often by raised voices, barked orders, followed all too often by violence to suppress any resistance, even simple questioning. Officers must be trained that it is far better to keep things calm, and reach their objective slowly, than to use escalation and force to get there quickly. The Eugene Police Department, to its credit, has implemented training of all of its officers in de-escalation tactics. There have been no studies undertaken, however, to see if these methods are being implemented in the field. This should be done.



PHOTO BY DAVID GEITGEY SIERRALUPE  
On Dec. 6 activists held the second of two vigils honoring young black men who lost their lives to police violence.

See Police, p. 6

# The UO Board Bared Naked

By JACK DRESSER

Speaking at a kickoff rally for the recent UO strike by graduate teaching fellows (GTFs), a teamster’s union representative evoked laughter and applause, saying “You don’t usually associate teamsters with higher education, but grading papers late into the night is sweatshop labor.”

The strikers wanted paid medical, parental and maternity leave, which the university opposed to avoid similar demands by other staff denied these basic benefits. Over \$100,000 paid by the UO to outside legal counsel to haggle with the GTFFF would have covered the paid leave demands of the striking employees for almost two years.

Support and coaching by veterans of the labor movement were needed since whatever their chosen field of study, the GTFs received an education in predatory and unscrupulous capitalism by their university employer with goals and techniques difficult to distinguish from those associated with Walmart. Drawing upon methods used by their corporate mentors, the UO doubtlessly would have used strikebreakers had they been able to. To their credit, local LCC and other potential academic strikebreakers refused the role.

In response to international protest movements, even Indonesian Nike employees now receive maternity leave — but not UO GTFs, who teach one-third of the university’s classes although the university tried to disingenuously define them simply as students rather than employees with labor rights.

To their disgrace, the UO employed familiar strike-breaking tactics and displayed disrespect, bad faith and manipula-

tive strategies throughout the negotiations. Despite these measures, the strikers were supported by the University Senate and the undergraduate students they teach, and held out long enough and argued to the watching public convincingly enough to achieve most of their goals, embarrassing the university with facts such as:

- In violation of labor relations law, UO supervisors and department administrators sent inquiries to GTFs regarding their intentions to strike.

- UO administration sowed confusion through lack of contingency planning for the strike and attempted to direct undergraduate student distress and anger against the GTFFF, alarming undergraduate students by proposing that finals might be cancelled with term grades determined by their pre-strike work — thereby degrading academic standards — and directing faculty and department heads to grade finals and enter grades for classes they did not teach.

- UO messages were sent to undergraduate students dependent on their GTFs, blaming strikers for the disruption and suggest-

ing dire potential consequences to grades, credit completions and financial aid that might result. Messages were sent to foreign students suggesting that their student visa status might be jeopardized.

- The UO issued inflated and misleading claims of GTF compensation that included the value of tuition waivers. These waivers are standard operating procedures in graduate programs and necessary for competitive recruitment of talented graduate students who serve the educational mission and academic reputation of the university.

- The UO reported a \$65 million surplus in its Education and General Fund from tuition and student fees at the beginning of this academic year, with a \$4.8 million profit expected in 2015. This one-year profit



PHOTO BY JACK DRESSER  
A GTF holds a sign letting her students know she’d rather be grading their work.

See Bared Naked, p. 6

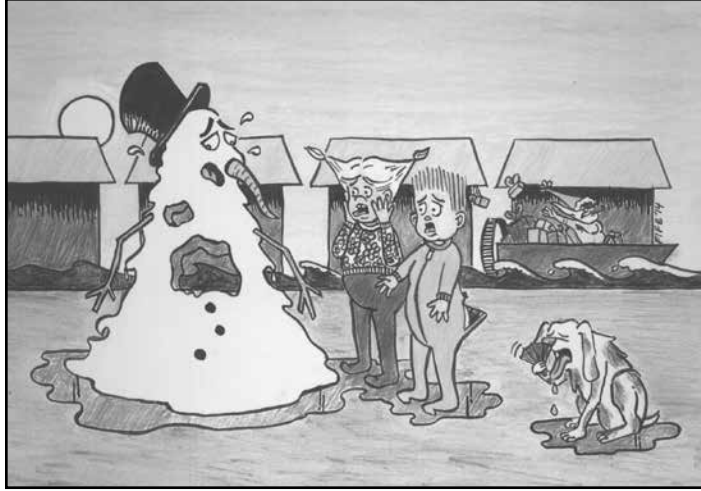
Welcome to the new issue of Occupy Eugene’s newsletter! We hope you enjoy our articles and find a place to join Occupy Eugene in our efforts to bring about our vision. If you are looking for a way to get involved please visit <http://occupyeugenemedia.org/volunteer/>

# Global Warming: Another Opinion

By SCOTT FIFE

The main theme of the Occupier article "Global Warming" by the ESSN Global Warming Committee (Spring 2014, p.7) seems to be that overpopulation is being scapegoated for the world's climate chaos woes and that those supporting human population control may be overt or unintentional racists. It also suggests instead that our focus should be on curbing economic growth. This misses two important factors — first, population growth contributes up to one third of economic growth itself. The other point is an anthropocentric or a human-centered universe way of thinking.

Many think economic growth comes from working harder and smarter but economists attribute up to a third of it to more people joining the workforce each year than leaving



GRAPHIC BY SCOTT FIFE

"I used to be Frosty but now I'm Drippy the Snowman."

it. The result is more producing, earning and spending. The workers spend their money on goods. Yet common sense tells us that with a limited amount of resources that depend on earth abusive extraction processes—especially in the fossil fuel industry and limited places to put the stuff once it is discarded as garbage, population growth cannot continue unabated.

Climate chaos will be fueled by the rising demand for energy in

the developing world as the global middle class swells from 2 billion to 5 billion and buys energy-hungry conveniences such as cars and air conditioners. India and China, with over 2 billion people each — almost one third of the world's population — account for the fast-rising number of atmospheric pollutants. As a more affluent class rises in all countries,

people aspire for a resource dependent, western based lifestyle.

The United States through the television, movie, and advertising industry has convinced its own citizens and is successfully exporting the idea that happiness can be attained through acquisition of material things. Who are we as Americans to tell them no when most of us have an aversion to downscaling?

With our anthropocentric view of humans as the preeminent species has come the decimation of large tracts of wilderness and the keystone predators which rely on them as well as the sixth largest extinction of species in the history of the earth. Keystone predators are disappearing from all continents, crowded out by human development. As shown with the reintroduction of wolves into Yellowstone Park, these predators keep deer and elk populations in check, which lets riparian areas rebuild after overgrazing. Other animals move in, rewilding the entire ecosystem down to the smallest creatures.

In many parts of Africa and the Asian subcontinent, humans have low intensity lifestyles but have encroached and destroyed animal habitats through sheer numbers. Gorillas dying from human diseases and the introduction of the ebola virus from wild areas are but two examples.

The World Wildlife Fund has blamed human threats to nature for a 52 percent decline in wildlife populations between 1970 and 2010 with most of new losses in tropical regions. The world's oceanic creatures are in crisis from overfishing and an acidic level that hasn't been seen in millions of years — yet another devastating effect associated with climate change.

Exponential human population growth compounds all of our existing problems. World climate refugees are predicted to reach up to 50 million people by 2050 competing for resources as desertification and salinization affect more and more arable land.

Like earlier generations who questioned the divine right of kings, the Occupy movement challenges economic injustice and the "divine" right of corporations and the wealthy. The next step in Occupy's evolution is to demand justice not only for people but to the earth and other living beings as well. Curbing population growth and downscaling consumer demand are some of the most important steps. Can that happen peacefully through a change in human conscientiousness or violently by not acting quickly enough to address climate chaos? That remains to be seen.

## 2015 Public Interest Environmental Law Conference Slated for March 5-8

By JACK DRESSER

The annual Public Interest Environmental Law Conference (PIELC) at the University of Oregon Law School will be held on March 5-8, 2015, organized around the theme "Changing Currents." The conference will address the alarming fact that "currents that drive our climate system are changing and causing unprecedented changes to human and biotic communities across the globe," and the corollary challenge that "we must alter our human patterns to adapt for a better future."

Featured keynote speakers will be Amy Goodman, host and executive producer of "Democracy Now" that has provided many programs on climate change; Native

Hawaiian Malia Akutagawa, Assistant Professor of Law with both the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's William S. Richardson School of Law and Hawai'i inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge; and 14-year-old environmental activist Xiuhtezcatl Martinez of Aztec descent on his father's side, who is youth director of Earth Guardians, a non-profit environmental organization committed to protecting the water, air, earth, and atmosphere.

Malia is part of Hui 'Āina Momona, a consortium of scholars throughout the university community charged with addressing indigenous Hawaiian knowledge and practices including the legal regime and Native Hawaiian rights, and

has served as staff attorney with the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation where she worked on Hawaiian access, gathering, burial, land use and water rights cases.

Xiuhtezcatl spoke at the 2012 Rio+20 United Nations Summit in Rio, Brazil, and has advocated for climate recovery to the Supreme Court of the United States through his involvement with Our Children's Trust.

I expect to participate in a panel on the risks of nuclear energy.

For more information and registration, see [www.pielc.org](http://www.pielc.org).

## One Night Homeless Count

By VICKIE NELSON

The nationwide One Night Homeless Count, also known as the Point in Time count, took place on Jan 28. During this event volunteers go out into the community to count both people in emergency shelters and people sleeping on the streets, and in vehicles, parks, and camps. Four of the Egan warming centers opened to help get an accurate count.

The data from this biennial event is critical to communities and used to determine federal funding that many programs rely on.

One first-time volunteer reported that the men he interviewed at the Eugene Mission were grateful for the one-day bus pass they received in return. He added, "They were also obviously grateful for being looked in the eye, spoken to with respect, having their stories listened to, and being thanked for their participation in this important project."

Another volunteer, assigned to count people at the Walmart area on 11th, found that EPD was doing a sweep and people "were stirred up and preoccupied with the police." She said she would have hoped that there would be no such "interference on the day of a national effort to count people who are unhoused."

Thanks to the approximately 250 volunteers who worked on this important project along with staff people from various agencies. Let's hope by next year's count we have more permanent housing and fewer unsheltered in our community.

## 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/43411789971743/>

## 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>.*

# Big Money in Politics: The Game's Not Over Yet

By FERGUS MCLEAN

The world's populations teeter on the edge of permanent debt slavery to our private banking overlords. It's working out much like Bill Clinton's revered college teacher Dr. Carroll Quigley laid it out for him back in the 1960s before Clinton moved on to Oxford and then Yale Law as he worked his way up the ladder to the U.S. presidency:

The powers of financial capitalism had a far reaching aim, to create a world system of financial control in private hands able to dominate the political system of each country and the economy of the world as a whole. This system was to be controlled in a feudalist fashion by the central banks of the world . . . *The apex of the system was the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) in Basel, Switzerland, a private bank owned and controlled by the worlds' central banks which were themselves private corporations* . . . for the direct benefit of financiers and the indirect injury of all other economic groups.

The G-20, at their meeting in Australia last November, approved the BIS plan that amounts to a world divided into a class of debt slaves and their banking oligarchy rulers (along with the 6-7 percent who make up the ruling bureaucracy the bankers need to administer their domain). The Brisbane plan will carry the big banks through the next, inevitable banking collapse and "stabilize the world economy" by seizing the assets of depositors, in what they're calling "bail-ins" — where the bank takes the money and the depositor gets an I.O.U. The G-20 plan is binding on member countries, and most countries, including the US, already have bail-in plans in place, ready to go right now.

The final piece of the U.S. bankers' plan came in December when Congress gutted what was left of the feeble Dodd-Frank banking reforms with a spending bill guaranteeing around 5 percent of the \$300 trillion in derivatives held by the big banks, or about \$14 trillion, of which around \$4 trillion is tied up in oil-based derivatives that could soon go up in smoke if the price of oil doesn't rebound. (The U.S. economy totals around \$16 trillion per year.) JP Morgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon personally lobbied Congress and persuaded them to take upon the American people this unbearable financial obligation.

What about federal deposit insurance, you might ask? Well, the Federal Deposit Insurance fund holds \$25 billion. That's about one five-hundredth of our \$14 trillion bank

derivatives liability. Did I mention that derivatives take priority over deposits among bank liabilities?

But you don't have much in the bank? Neither do I, but someone you know and love does: your city, county and state governments. Yes, the City of Eugene and Lane County keep their \$500 million budgets in private banks, where the state of Oregon keeps much of its \$50 billion budget. If a banking collapse worse than that of 2008 occurs, which is likely, that money will go to pay off big bank derivative bets. OK, that's the nightmare.

Martin Luther King told us that social justice for some was not possible without social justice for all. He had a vision of a functional, inclusive democracy. That's the dream. We're clearly not getting there with our present private banking system. So what do we do and what are our chances?

We can start at the local and state level and get together to push corporations out of our food supply, protect our forests from corporate raids, create public banks and credit unions to protect our money and demand that leadership at the state level takes the lead in calling for all the states to join to fight back against a Congress on the corporate payroll by supporting a constitutional convention to amend the U.S. Constitution and get big money out of our political process — the key first step for waking up from our nightmare.

With the NY Times and former high government officials calling for the investigation and/or prosecution of Bush administration officials for war crimes, it's clear there are serious disagreements among the ruling elites, even if Congress is still rolling over for the bankers. The game's not over quite yet. Although Republicans made huge gains in the 2014 elections nationally, here in Oregon we have progressives in control of both houses of the legislature and the Governor's seat. There is no reason why Oregon can't take the lead in the fight for democracy. Now. In the 2015 Oregon legislative session.

So far the legislatures of three states — Vermont, California and Illinois — have voted to re-write Citizens United and get big money out of politics. Oregon's 2015 legislature could make us the fourth state to call for an Article V convention to amend the U.S. Constitution. Tell your state representative you want their vote for HJM2, and your state senator to vote for SJM3 — which require congress to convene a national Constitutional convention as soon as 30 more states sign on, so that we can take government back for the people. Go to [www.WethePeopleEugene.org](http://www.WethePeopleEugene.org) for more information.

# What Can the UO Do for the Unhoused?

By KEN NEUBECK

In November the Philosophy Department at UO hosted a Community Roundtable on what the university could do to help address homelessness. Top UO administrators and a number of faculty and students were in the audience, along with off-campus community folks. Here are some of the ideas that were introduced:

- course credit for supervised undergraduate field-work in support of people who are homeless, both in local agencies and in camps and other venues where people who are homeless stay;
- faculty and grad student analyses of City policies and practices as they impact people who are homeless, with reports to the City Council;
- participant observation with people who are homeless by social scientists or advanced social sci-

ence students to assess myths about the homeless, document relationships with the police and other authorities, and bring attention to unrecognized and unmet needs;

- a piece of university land where homeless advocates can set up a supervised rest stop for people who are homeless (it could be populated by UO students);
- university participation as an Egan Warming Center; permission for car camping in Autzen parking lots that are not used except for seasonal athletic events;
- employment of homeless for positions for which they are qualified (there is a lot of talent and previ-

ous work experience out there in the homeless community);

- inquiry into UO police treatment of people who are homeless and come on the campus, as many feel unwanted and intimidated;
- in general, more intentional university interaction with homelessness problems in the off-campus community in which undergraduates, graduate students, faculty and staff live, in partnership with City government, local agencies, and social justice groups.

Let's see how the university responds. I know there are a lot of people in the community eager to pitch in if the university wants collaboration on projects.

# Oregon must stop the Jordan Cove LNG project

By STACEY MCLAUGHLIN

The butterfly effect is a metaphor; loosely translated, it means the existence of seemingly insignificant moments can alter history and shape destinies. Initially unrecognized, these moments create connections of cause and effect that in retrospect have clearly changed the course of a human life or triggered a momentous event to occur.

Oregon is having a butterfly moment in terms of the Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline and Jordan Cove LNG energy project. Any decision by the federal government or the state of Oregon to allow the export of fracked natural gas will harm our country's natural resources and damage Oregon's fragile indigenous environment. Granting permission to export natural gas to foreign and competing interests may be perceived as seemingly insignificant. However, it has the very real potential to detrimentally affect the economic future of the United

States in unimaginable ways. It will affect climate change and contribute to the warming of our planet.

The 36" diameter, super high-pressure pipeline (1,400 PSI) will cut a 100-foot swath of land 232 miles long across Southern Oregon, affecting 400 bodies of water multiple times. It will cross through 150 miles of forest and 23 miles of pristine shrubs and grasslands. Almost 43 miles of the pipeline will traverse through late successional reserve — old growth trees — causing the harvest of 1,712 acres of ancient forestlands. More than two million acres of watersheds will be impacted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) released in November 2014 dismisses this travesty by stating that the project "would result in some limited adverse environmental impacts."

The project's owner, Canada's Veresen,

Inc., states their purpose and need for constructing the pipeline and LNG plant and terminal is to increase fracking. If they cannot export natural gas, then they will need to cut back on fracking. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has determined that fracking is not environmental in nature and has refused to consider the impacts of fracking in the draft environmental study.

Unfortunately, the environment, property rights and ethical principles don't seem to matter when you mix together money, politics and a desire for profit. Moreover, it almost always equals weakened regulations — regulations coming in the form of congressional fast tracking, local permit time-extensions, inadequate conditions, inferior safety requirements and other visible biases in favor of a corporate checkbook.

Federal law trumps state and local jurisdiction except in Oregon's Coastal

Zone Management area. A section of the proposed pipeline runs through this area in Douglas County. Douglas County officials along with the state of Oregon have the opportunity to turn off the spigot to stop natural gas exports and affect the hideous practice of fracking. Oregon has the control and authority to say the health of humanity and the planet take precedence over greed. It is not always about money, power and shareholder profits.

Oregon is faced with a butterfly moment. We have the power to choose well, alter history and shape the destiny of our natural resources for generations to come in the Pacific Northwest — perhaps the whole United States and, indeed, the entire world.

*Stacey McLaughlin lives in Myrtle Creek. The Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline is proposed to cross her family's property.*

# 350EUG to Spearhead Resistance to Canadian Pipeline

By DEB MCGEE AND PATTY HINE

350EUG is spearheading a statewide "No LNG Pledge of Resistance" to stop the Pacific Connector Pipeline & Jordan Cove Export Terminal project in Southern Oregon.

We have coalition partners from Portland to Ashland and Corvallis to Bend.

Oregonians have a fierce protective love of our clean and healthy food, air and water. We know that 4/5th of remaining fossil fuels must remain in the ground and there is no way we will allow a Canadian company to use Oregon to export LNG (methane) for its private profits to further warm our planet.

We are planning educational panels "Deep and Dirty Truth about LNG in Oregon," photo petitions to our elected officials to show the growing numbers of Oregonians who

are opposed to this project, and we will train hundreds of citizens to engage in nonviolent direct action in order demonstrate to our Governor that we don't want this project and we expect him to help stop it!

To learn more and sign-up, go to <http://350.us9.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=1ab9608e5ccb2e8f491de041e&id=c7dbf06589>

Contact us and join in! Not everyone who participates has to risk arrest. There is a place for everyone in this movement! We must, we can and we will stop this pipeline and terminal project!

# Occupy Eugene Media: A small group with a large impact

By JANA THRIFT

The Occupy Eugene Media Group (OEMG) began documenting the work of Occupy Eugene back in the camps in 2011. As an early issue of the Occupier summed it up, "Turn over any rock and you found video cameras and live-streamers. Under the rallying cry 'transparency,' we showed the world that Occupy Eugene was proud to speak truth to power."

As 2014 ended, OEMG had about a half dozen members available to help video events. While the group is small, it still makes its impact felt both locally and nationally. David "Getch" Sierralupe and Jana Thrift, two of the earliest and most dedicated members, have been with OEMG from the beginning and continue to help document the activist community nonstop.

Getch is the heartbeat of Occupy Radio, which has aired every Wednesday at 7 p.m. on KWVA 88.1 FM. January 2015 will mark three years of continuous weekly programs. The Occupy Radio website, [occupyradio.org](http://occupyradio.org), was launched in the Spring of 2014. Occupy Radio's 150th episode aired over the holidays! October 2014 marked one year since Rivera Sun, author of the *Dandelion Insurrection*, joined the show. Rivera brings with her an evangelical passion to the discussion of nonviolence.

On Occupy Radio, Getch and Rivera host an ongoing conversation about the issues that gave rise to the Occupy movement. Camilla Mortensen, Associate Editor of the *Eugene Weekly*, brings the focus back to local issues with frequent appearances. From famous police reformer, Frank Serpico, to activist Tim DeChristopher, to comedian Lee Camp, and Green Presidential Candidate Jill Stein, Occupy Radio brings national voices into the same forum with local voices.

Occupy Radio is part of the most prominent national Occupy media network, the Occupy the Media Collective, or OTMC. OTMC consists of eight Occupy and social justice podcasts and radio shows, airing seven days a week and twice on Sunday. The latest addition to the OTMC line-up is OTMC Live!, a live program airing Sundays at 8 p.m. Pacific on Blog Talk Radio.

In addition, the UO hired Jana this year to create 10 video shorts. The videos tell the stories of unhoused women and vets, and the inhumane conditions suffered by Eugene residents living without shelter. One of Jana's videos covered Eugene's transitional micro-housing community, Opportunity Village Eugene. This video won 2014 best documentary short at Eugene's International Film Festival. You can watch it here: <http://bit.ly/1vNBzSY>.

OEMG was awarded a Wayne Morse Project Grant of \$6,600 this year for a project called the Community Solutions Library. The grant will pay for much needed equipment so OEMG can continue documenting people working for the right to sleep and other important



PHOTO COURTESY OF JANA THRIFT

Jana interviews Ken after the closure of Whoville.

causes. The grant will also give Jana and David a small stipend for their time spent creating the library. OEMG is collecting Occupy media from anyone who would like to contribute. Please contact OEMG at [occupyall1@gmail.com](mailto:occupyall1@gmail.com) if you have media to offer or would like to be involved with OEMG in any way.

The library project will help preserve Occupy Eugene's historical media in the UO archives as well as make it available to the public on youtube channels [occupyeugenemedia.org](http://occupyeugenemedia.org) and [communitysolutionsmedia.org](http://communitysolutionsmedia.org). When the project is complete our website, [occupyeugenemedia.org](http://occupyeugenemedia.org) will be a valuable portal for media resources to be used worldwide. OEMG thanks the Eugene community for its support in creating our success. It is our pleasure to do our best to help make a better world possible. 2015 will be yet another opportunity to do more good. We invite you to be a part of it in any way you can!

## 2014: A Pivotal Year for Tiny House Villages

By ANDREW HEBEN

2014 was the year for an idea whose time has come — transitioning from camp to village. It is by no means a new idea, but has only recently found a favorable political climate. Let's take a look at some of what transpired:

At the start of the year, Eugene's Opportunity Village had been open just a few months, Olympia's Quixote Village just a few days, and Madison's OM Village was still just an idea. Since then, these projects have helped inspire a housing model being pursued throughout the country — a model that's beginning to seem less radical, and more practical — and a model that's therefore beginning to see substantial political support for addressing the persistent issues of homelessness and affordable housing.



PHOTO BY VICKIE NELSON  
Opportunity Village here in Eugene is part of the Tiny House Movement.

In Eugene, the Opportunity Village pilot project proved to have a positive impact on both the residents who live there and the surrounding community, and the city council recently voted unanimously to

extend the project through June 2016. If you're unfamiliar with it, this PBS video provides a fantastic introduction: <http://video.pbs.org/video/2365342403/>

Furthermore, both the city and county have continued to incrementally adopt this strategy of working in partnership with local nonprofits to address the issue. Following Opportunity Village Eugene, two other nonprofits have emerged — Community Supported Shelters and Nightingale Public Advocacy Collective — and in all, these grassroots efforts have added the capacity of 128 legal shelter spaces in either tents or micro-housing.

After one year of operation in Olympia, those behind Quixote Village report that the development has been a success in their goal of moving residents towards self-

sufficiency. And OM Village had their ribbon cutting in November, which created a whirlwind of international media coverage.

My book, *Tent City Urbanism: From Self-Organized Camps to Tiny House Villages*, was released in July and nearly 1,000 copies have since been distributed. I've also been selling them at a discount in bulk through the Village Collaborative website with the intent of generating concentrated masses of local excitement around the idea, and more than a dozen cities have ordered 10 or more.

The City of Eureka, California is home to more copies than any other city (likely 100 or more), and that has proven to be a persuasive edge. In November, along with a few other stops, I gave a presentation in Eureka that had a great turnout including both advocates and city officials. One month later, the City Council has voted unanimously for the city to further explore a tiny house village in Eureka. You can watch the discussion and approval of the motion here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RUgMwNBI4CY#t=12>

Meanwhile, political support is also becoming more of a norm in other parts of the country as well. New Jersey is considering a state bill (S2751) that would create a "Tiny Home Pilot Program" in which towns would be financially incentivized to allow for the building of affordable tiny houses for the unhoused and low-income. And in Bridgeton, NJ, Mayor Albert Kelly is pushing to make it happen in his city.

Back in Oregon, Portland's Mayor Charlie Hales has been reported to be "infatuated with the idea" and has committed to building several tiny house developments this coming year.

Down in Alabama, a group known as Foundations for Tomorrow is well underway in bringing a tiny house village to Huntsville. They don't have the necessary political support yet, but that hasn't stopped the group from moving forward with building their first tiny house.

To capture the growing interest in this model I've put some substantial work into the Village Collaborative website over this past year. The site now includes a Tiny Village Road Map to provide a brief overview for starting a village.

And thanks to Stephen Smith in Humboldt County, there is now a Village Collaborative Network map that catalogs existing projects as well individuals with an inter-



PHOTO BY VICKIE NELSON

Last year's open house at Opportunity Village, drew many guests eager to see the tiny houses and wish the village well.

est in starting a project — with the intent of geographically networking people with similar ideas.

Looking forward, I plan to work towards getting Emerald Village off the ground here in Eugene (an affordable tiny house community that will offer a next step from Opportunity Village), and to continue to consult with nonprofits and municipalities to help get tiny villages off the ground in other cities as well. That said, I'm excited to see what's in store for 2015!

*This piece originally appeared in TentCityUrbanism.com, a blog by Andrew Heben.*

**"One has a moral responsibility to disobey unjust laws."  
— Martin Luther King Jr.**

# Nightingale Builds, Celebrates its Winter Nest

By VICKIE NELSON

At last! In early December, the Eugene City Council approved Nightingale Health Sanctuary's plan to operate a self-governed, village-style community consisting of two rest stops on county land near the Lane County Behavioral Health building.

The opportunity to run a temporary double rest stop for up to 30 people on county land came about because of co-

operation between the City of Eugene and Lane County, which was nurtured along by Pat Farr. Members of the NHS Steering Committee expressed gratitude to Farr and appreciation to both county and city for the opportunity to get to work on plans they have been developing since last spring.

"I was excited," NHS

steering committee member David Strahan said, relating how he felt when he learned the news that Nightingale would run double rest stops. "First that a collaboration had begun between agencies, and then second that through this collaboration, we would be able to help up to two groups of 15 temporary residences on a great location during the most difficult time of the year."

Nightingale supporters got to work immediately, gathering material and furnishings and building platforms for tents to keep them up off the ground. At this point about 20 people have moved into the rest stop.

The Nightingale Health Sanctuary joins three rest stops run by Community Supported Shelters, two of which have been operating for over a year. As the newest rest stop, Nightingale plans to focus on health and wellbeing. Both able-bodied people and those with emotional, mental, and physical disabilities are welcome at Nightingale. NHS plans to maintain a balance so that those who need a helping hand can find it among the community of campers. All people at the rest stop are expected to help share the load and contribute to the extent of their ability.

The rest stops have a site council that manages the day-to-day running of the camp, solving problems as they arise, making sure camp rules are followed, and holding weekly meetings in which camp issues are hashed out. The site council is backed up by a steering committee that helps fundraise and advocate for the camp. The site council can also turn to the steering committee for help in solving any larger problems that arise.



A resident of the camp shows his colors.

Additionally, NHS has other local partners it can rely on. Lane Independent Living Alliance has many resources which residents with disabilities can access, including information and referral, peer mentoring, systemic advocacy, individual advocacy, and independent living skills training. Occupy Medical, White Bird and Cahoots are also allies that have expressed support for Nightingale.

At an early site council meeting, several campers new to the rest stop said they were just getting the feel of the community. While there had been some minor problems, they were "working out the kinks." Another expressed relief

## Nightingale: Still Looking for Land to Purchase

While Nightingale's gratitude for our temporary winter rest stop site is huge, we are still in the market for land to purchase for our permanent site — and we still have our donation of \$400,000 to purchase land.

Our requirements for land to purchase: at least 1 to 1½ acres; easy bus access or proximity to services such as Whitebird, the library, and the Dining Room; quiet surroundings; and accessibility for people with physical 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](mailto:NightingaleHealthSanctuary@gmail.com).

over having a safe place to leave his 150-lb load without worry while he went about his day, looking for work, and taking care of other business. At another meeting, a new camper said he had "the best rest I have had in a while." A chorus of "yeahs" greeted his statement.

On Saturday, Jan. 24, Nightingale held an Open House to celebrate its opening and to thank city and county staff and other supporters who had worked together to make our dream a reality. Scotty Perey and his students entertained us; Sweet Life, New Day, and Food Love provided tasty treats. And the sun came out while we danced, and chatted, and met people we had previously only known online. Thanks to all our guests for making us feel so supported.

As the camp expands to its full capacity and we move on to our permanent site, Nightingale will need new volunteers with a range of skills. See the list on this page for specifics. If you want to help, write to [nightingalehealthsanctuary@gmail.com](mailto:nightingalehealthsanctuary@gmail.com).

Members of the NHS steering committee want to remind everyone that an additional 30 places to sleep for the unsheltered, while wonderful, still leaves many hundreds of Lane County residents out in the cold on winter nights and that there is still a huge amount of work to do to make Eugene "the Human Rights City" it claims to be.

If you would like to help with financial contribution, go to [respectexistence.org](http://respectexistence.org) and look for the "Donation" button at the top right.

## Get involved: Volunteer Opportunities at Nightingale

- Note taker for steering committee
- One time QuickBooks consultant
- Tax accountant
- Land search team members
- Volunteer coordinator
- Fundraisers
- Grant writers
- Meeting facilitators
- Health providers
- Pickup trucks with drivers
- Social Media people
- Website developers

NHS loves its volunteers!

PHOTOS BY VICKIE NELSON



Food Love delivered hamburgers, soda and other treats to NHS during the open house



A visitor to camp warms his hands over the fire.



CSS generously loaned NHS the use of its workshop to build our platforms. Here Dave checks out a recently completed project.



A volunteer builds tent platforms outside the CSS workshop.



Tents catch last rays of the afternoon sun.

# The Burrito Brigade Marches On

By HEATHER BECK



PHOTO COURTESY OF BURRITO BRIGADE  
Brigade members prepare food for distribution.

We're approaching our 1st birthday as Burrito Brigade! We've grown so much this past year, it seems incredible. We can't thank all of you who have contributed to Burrito Brigade enough!

We are using a commercial kitchen at a restaurant temporarily, and we can't have volunteers there. So Burrito Brigade will be distribution only until further notice. We meet distribution volunteers at Washington-Jefferson park by the horseshoes at 3:30 p.m. on Sundays. Donations must be made by appointment only in the meantime. You can add our email to coordinate: [Burritosundays@gmail.com](mailto:Burritosundays@gmail.com)

In the coming months we will be applying for 501c3 nonprofit status, which, once approved, will bring us many great benefits that will aid us in our mission to feed the hungry people of Eugene. We've

set up a fundraiser on [youcaring.com](http://youcaring.com) to help cover the expenses of getting our nonprofit certification: <http://tinyurl.com/burritos501c3>

The funds that we raise between now and April 17 will go towards paying the filing fees, legal consultation, and any other expenses that may come up along the way on the nonprofit path!

## We need:

- Instant beans
- Dried beans
- Tomatoes (canned or fresh)
- Spinach or Kale
- Potatoes
- Squash
- Thank you for all the support

# Saving the Planet, One Meal at a Time

By CHRIS HEDGES

CONDENSED AND EDITED BY JACK DRESSER

Chris Hedges begins a typically spirited invective against animal agriculture saying, “My attitude toward becoming a vegan was similar to Augustine’s attitude toward becoming celibate — ‘God grant me abstinence, but not yet.’”

“But,” he continues, “with animal agriculture as the leading cause of species extinction, water pollution, ocean dead zones and habitat destruction, and with the death spiral of the ecosystem ever more pronounced, becoming vegan is the most important and direct change we can immediately make to save the planet and its species.”

Hedges provides a quick summary: “Animal agriculture is responsible for more greenhouse gas emissions than all worldwide transportation combined — cars, trucks, trains, ships and planes. Livestock and their waste and flatulence account for at least 32,000 million tons of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) per year, or 51 percent of all worldwide greenhouse gas emissions. Livestock causes 65 percent of all emissions of nitrous oxide, a greenhouse

gas 296 times more destructive than carbon dioxide. Crops grown for livestock feed consume 56 percent of the water used in the United States. Eighty percent of the world’s soy crop is fed to animals, and most of this soy is grown on cleared lands that were once rain forests. All this is taking place as an estimated six million children across the planet die each year from starvation and as hunger and malnutrition affect an addi-



PHOTO COURTESY OF ECOWATCH

Nearly 65 billion farm animals today spend their short lives within “Confined Animal Food Operations.”

tional one billion people. In the United States 70 percent of the grain we grow goes to feed livestock raised for consumption.”

And there’s more, continues Hedges. “The natural resources used to produce even minimal amounts of animal products are staggering — 1,000 gallons of water to produce

one gallon of milk. Add to this the massive clear cutting and other destruction of forests, especially in the Amazon — where forest destruction has risen to 91 percent — and we find ourselves lethally despoiling the lungs of the earth largely for the benefit of the animal agriculture industry. Our forests, especially our rain forests, absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and exchange it for oxygen. Killing the forests is a death sentence for the planet. Land devoted exclusively to raising livestock now represents 45 percent of the earth’s land mass.”

Animal agriculture also includes seafood, “where three-quarters of the world’s primary fisheries have been overexploited and vast parts of the seas are in danger of becoming dead zones.”

I’ll paraphrase the rest. A pound of beef takes more than 5,000 gallons of water to produce, equivalent to a year and half of one person’s showers. As droughts are striking California, the Southwest and Midwest, half the water in the United States is used for livestock. U.S. chickens, turkeys, pigs, and cows in factory farms produce over five million pounds of excrement per minute, 130 times more excrement than the entire U.S. human population, contributing heavily to water, soil and air pollution and global warming. Methane released by the animals as well as the carbon, nitrous oxide, and additional methane emissions from the raising, feeding, and slaughtering processes exacerbate this further.

Twelve to twenty pounds of edible vegetables, fruit, and grain can be grown for each pound of edible animal products. We are using vastly more land and water, as well as polluting our waterways and air and destroying rainforests, to produce animals for food, which is nutritionally unnecessary, ecologically wasteful, and healthier than eating the plant products directly.

The animal agriculture industry claims national security, trade agreements and protected business secrets to demand “ag-gag laws” in the federal Animal Enterprise Protection Act and some dozen states, all reinforced with anti-terrorism laws to criminalize anyone who investigates or challenges the industry. The Patriot Act makes it illegal to issue statements or take actions that harm profits of the animal agriculture industry. The leading environmental groups including Greenpeace, 350.org and the Sierra Club have consequently declined to take up the gauntlet.

In his new documentary film, *Cowspiracy: The Sustainability Secret*, journalist Will Potter says “The animal agriculture industry is one of the most powerful industries on the planet . . . Animal rights and environmental activists are the No. 1 domestic terrorism threat according to the FBI . . . They, more than any other social movements today, are directly threatening corporate profits.”

This must be challenged and their legislative protection withdrawn.

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## Our Right to Know where GMOs Hide: Next Step

By JACK DRESSER

Ballot Measure 92 which would have required GMO food products to be labeled lost by only a hair, 837 votes of 1.5 million cast, a margin of 50.03 percent vs. 49.97 percent. Due reportedly to pressure from agribusiness attorneys observing the initial vote counting and challenging ballots with signatures allegedly discrepant from those on voter registration cards, 4,600 ballots remained uncounted. A lawsuit challenging this procedure was dismissed by Multnomah County Judge Henry Kantor.

Over \$20 million was poured into the campaign opposing the measure from out-of-state corporate interests, led by herbicide and pesticide producers Monsanto, DuPont Pioneer and Dow AgroSciences, as well as six-figure contributions from PepsiCo, Coca-Cola, Kellogg, Kraft, General Mills, Hershey, Smucker, ConAgra, Cargill, Land O’Lakes, Mondelez International (including Ritz, Nabisco, Philadelphia, Toblerone, Oreo, Gevalia, Cadbury, and Honey Maid among many products in their “Global Brand Montage”), Bimbo Bakeries (including Oroweat and Sara Lee), Abbot Nutrition (including Similac) and the Grocery

Manufacturers Association. Only \$2,718 (.013 percent of opposition support) came from within Oregon.

Many of us believe that companies working to deny consumers the right to know what’s in their food should be sanctioned by all consumers who demand that right. To do so, a boycott campaign is developing. To follow and participate in this, [www.facebook.com/GMOBoycott](http://www.facebook.com/GMOBoycott) is a good place to start.

When shopping, suspect GMOs in any non-organic product using high-fructose or other corn syrup, soy, canola, cottonseed oil, or sugar not specified as cane sugar (it’s probably from GMO sugar beets). White and blue corn are generally non-GMO so those are safer corn chips. All Oregon’s Kettle brand chips are GMO-free. Likely GMO content can be identified by scanning bar codes with your smart phone using downloadable apps from [www.Buycott.com](http://www.Buycott.com) or [www.Fooducate.com](http://www.Fooducate.com).

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### Bared Naked from p. 1

alone is enough to cover over 90 years of GTF paid leave at the current cost estimate of \$52,000/year.

Rather than paid leave, the UO finally compromised on a Graduate Hardship Fund from which GTFs could draw. Available only to graduate students, this of course reduces pressure for paid leave demands by other less than half time employees. It seems noteworthy that the administration settled immediately before announcing a new \$45 million residence hall and a prospective presidential salary increase of \$100,000 or more for recruitment of a chief executive superstar. These disclosures would have been the crowning embarrassment and rendered ludicrous any further haggling with GTFs.

As a California resident back when state universities were state-supported, I paid about \$100 annual tuition to attend UCLA. In-state Oregon residents are paying \$8,280 tuition for this academic year at the UO, which receives only 5 percent of its operating budget from the state. A UO student without grants or scholarships awarded a baccalaureate degree today will graduate with a debt of over \$30,000 just for tuition alone. Higher education is succumbing more and more to the neoliberal economics of privatization and profit-motivation, generating massive personal debt-fattening financial institutions.

Throughout most of Europe, college tuition is free or less than \$1000/year for EU citizens. These cultures recognize that each individual’s education benefits the entire society, not just his/her personal development and earning capacity, and that education is therefore an asset and responsibility of the commons.

We need to learn from our political forebears who have surpassed us in the institutions of democracy while we have inherited their vile practices of murderous colonialism.

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### Police from p. 1

**Independent Investigation and Prosecution.** It has been amply demonstrated recently, if anyone had any doubt, that district attorneys are not the appropriate persons to investigate and prosecute police violence. The State of Wisconsin recently enacted legislation requiring that every instance of police violence against citizens be investigated by an independent prosecutor appointed by the State Attorney General’s office, rather than district attorneys or police internal affairs departments.

**Accountability.** Instances of unjustified police violence must be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. There must be consequences for those who violate the law, or the law is meaningless. Once officers who break the law and brutalize or kill civilians are subject to serious penalties, instances of unlawful police violence will be dramatically reduced. The current epidemic of police killings and brutality is the direct result of the near total lack of sanctions for such behavior.

There are two other proposals that have been made to deal with the current situation. While these can have some good effects, they do not touch the heart of the problem.

The first is training. The notion that you can educate officers not to have racist notions, or not to use excessive force against civilians, is an illusory one. Sensitivity classes can help some officers, especially trainees, but veteran officers with entrenched attitudes who are required to attend such classes typically emerge with the same attitudes they went in with. The danger exists that conducting such classes can be used as a fig leaf for doing nothing about the real problems.

The second is body cameras. Again, these can be helpful, and in some cities they have sharply reduced the number of complaints about police violence and the number of serious incidents. But in other cities it has been shown that it is precisely those officers who have the highest number of complaints filed about them who tend to have their cameras “malfunction” precisely at the time they enter into a difficult situation. And the Eric Garner case has clearly shown that having clear video evidence of a police killing produces no more justice than if there had been no camera at all.

*This article was adopted unanimously by the Eugene Springfield NAACP.*

# A Conversation on Palestine

By JACK DRESSER & STIRLING RAND

The United Nations designated 2014 as The International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. The 2014 national gathering of Occupy (NatGat) in Sacramento passed a similar resolution of solidarity. The pathological Israel/Palestine relationship has dragged on since 1948 with closure blocked for most of that period by our country. British journalist and documentary film maker John Pilger made two films 25 years apart, both titled Palestine Is Still the Issue. But this stagnation is not universal. Pilger recently wrote, "In Latin America, the governments of Brazil, Chile, Venezuela, Bolivia, El Salvador, Peru and Ecuador have made their stand on Gaza. Each of these countries has known its own dark silence when immunity for mass murder was sponsored by the same godfather in Washington that answered the cries of children in Gaza with more ammunition to kill them."

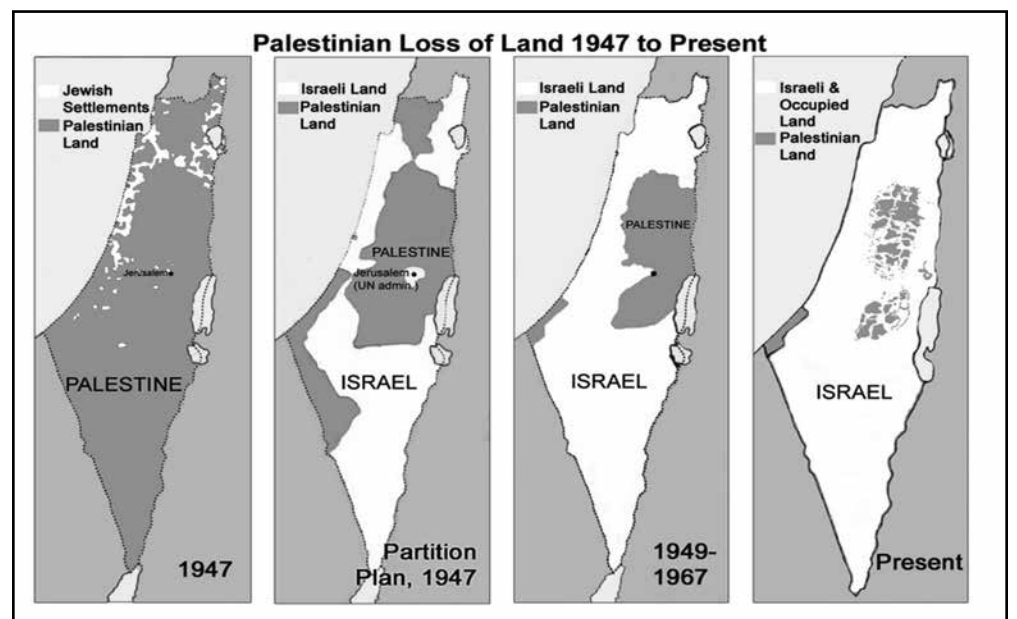
This is a brief conversation about Palestine. One of us (Stirling) is Jewish and one of us (Jack) is not. Stirling is a former member of the Israel lobby group J Street. Jack is a behavioral scientist and national vice-chair of the Veterans for Peace working group on Palestine and the Middle East. Our common ideology is human rights, the rule of law, truthfulness, integrity, justice, equality and whether amoral, destructive forces shall be allowed to continue to shape history. Nelson Mandela called the Palestinian struggle "the greatest moral issue of our time."

**Jack:** *We named our Palestinian education and advocacy organization "Al Nakba Awareness Project" since the Palestinian catastrophe ("Nakba") of 1948 — their ethnic cleansing by Zionist terror groups — is the historical foundation of the impasse, remaining unresolved with neither the restoration nor compensation required by international law. Until this is understood and the political relationship restructured with justice satisfied, an enduring peace is highly unlikely. We chose a name identifying Israel's flawed foundation that most Americans know little or nothing about, which must be redesigned entirely using external pressures to correct the massive asymmetry between occupier and occupied.*

**Stirling:** The truth was hidden from Jews as well. I grew up in a Jewish household in Chicago, went to an Orthodox temple that my grandfather built and from which I was Bar Mitzvahed. Although the temple was Orthodox we were not; we celebrated the high holidays and that was enough religion for us. I was a practicing Jew and I stayed close to my Jewish background, went to temple occasionally, lit the candles (still do) and observed the high holidays. I was in high school in 1947/48 but we were not told of the violence that occurred in Israel/Palestine, just that we now had a homeland.

As I grew older I discovered the truth about how we got that homeland. The terror, death and destruction of the Palestinians by "my people" devastated me. That I supported a group that was subjected to a violence that they now subjected others to was beyond my comprehension, that it is OK to commit violent acts just not OK to talk about it, that it is OK to lie about those violent acts and blame the victims, but not OK to assess blame to the perpetrators. I had enough and searched for alternative beliefs, looked at Buddhism, a couple of others and ultimately Atheism.

**Jack:** *When confronted with these realities, Israel and its U.S. acolytes routinely change the subject to the Holocaust to justify their proclaimed right for a Jewish state. But the Nazi government was limited to a dozen years, with a progressively tightening apartheid culminating in the bizarre four-year genocide that ended in 1945. The criminal leaders were tried, imprisoned or hanged at Nuremberg. Germany expressed remorse and has paid reparations both to individual victims and some \$65 billion as reparations to the state of Israel that continues today. But the Nakba has remained ongoing for 67 years, and Israel has yet to admit its crimes much less express remorse, and has refused any restorative justice.*



GRAPHIC BY PALESTINE-ISRAEL ACTION GROUP

*The ethnic cleansing continues with over 25,000 home demolitions, routine imprisonment of those who resist their occupation and displacement, massacres and deliberate murders of their children, destruction and theft of the orchards and olive groves that have provided their livelihoods for hundreds of years, colonization of occupied land in violation of international law, and many other flagrant violations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 4th Geneva Convention that defines the responsibilities and limitations of an occupying power.*

**Stirling:** I wanted this nightmare to end. When J Street came to Eugene I became a member of the steering committee. I was new in Oregon and looking for a way to connect to the local Jewish community. J Street was promoting two states, which at the time I supported. They spoke about peace between the Palestinians and the Israelis, and I bought into the deceptive packaging without examining the contents.

It took about two years for me to discover that J Street was not looking for peace but for conquest, for Israel to occupy all the land and remove all the non-Jews under the guise of two states. My position was that the best way for Israel to become a peaceful, democratic state was for all inhabitants, Jews and non-Jews, to live in one state as equals, and when I published that position I was asked to leave J Street. This confirmed my suspicions.

**Jack:** *I think we agree that Israelis, not Palestinians, are the obstacle to peace. With power comes responsibility. Israel has all the power and has abused it egregiously. Frederick Douglass wisely observed, "Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never has and it never will." But demands upon Israel by the United Nations Security Council to comply with international law have been blocked 43 times by U.S. vetoes since 1972, each time acting in isolation from all other members. That is why international civil society must intervene with a boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement like that used to end a comparable long-standing system of apartheid in South Africa. With pressure from their unity government, Abbas has finally joined the International Criminal Court with stated intentions to bring charges against Israel for war crimes in Gaza and its illegal settlements in the occupied West Bank. This could add an S with teeth to the BDS movement.*

## The U.S. Human Rights Movement is Back in the House

By KEN NEUBECK

There is an exciting new social movement in this country called the U.S. Human Rights Movement. Represented by a coalition of large and small social justice and human rights groups known as the U.S. Human Rights Network ([ushrnetwork.org](http://ushrnetwork.org)), the chief goal of the movement is to bring this nation into accord with fundamental human rights principles and standards in its domestic policies. The national Human Rights at Home campaign, or HuRaH, works to bring this goal about at federal, state, and local government levels (<http://www.ushrnetwork.org/hurah-campaign>).

The City of Eugene's ordinance establishing the Eugene Human Rights Commission (HRC) was revised in 2011 by unanimous vote of the City Council to make specific reference to the HRC's commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The revised ordinance empowers the HRC to encourage implementation of the full range of fundamental human rights in the City organization and in the broader community. In doing so, the Council endorsed the goal of Eugene becoming a Human Rights City (<http://www.humanrightscity.com>).

As part of its education and outreach activity around various local human rights issues, each year the HRC hosts an International Human Rights Day Celebration on December 10 to honor the Universal Declaration and address some of its provision. The HRC's emphasis is on locally experienced, domestic human rights violations and issues, in line with its Council mandate. In recent years, the themes of the annual celebrations have included "bringing human rights home," immigrant rights, marriage equality, homelessness, and speaking up against discrimination.

This year the HRC's theme for its Human Rights Day Celebration was "Intersections of Racism & Rights." The event drew a very diverse audience of well over 100 people to the Hult Center Studio, including many families and youth. The NAACP's award-winning pianist and Eugene high school student Asia Wooten provided music, Mayor Piercy read a mayoral proclamation in which she encouraged members of the community to join her in championing human rights in the coming year, and HRC member Ken Neubeck presented a keynote address entitled "From Civil Rights to Human Rights: Raising the Bar Against Racism." His talk focused on the need for local implementation of the U.N. Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, one of the few human rights treaties that the U.S. Government has signed and ratified. The treaty would have local governments and other local institutions be proactive in addressing racism, address both intentional and unintentional racial discrimination, and require that those on the receiving end of racial discrimination play a key role in defining both the problems and the solutions.

One of the highlights of the program enjoyed by attendees was locally-created interactive displays referencing experiences of people of color in Oregon and here in Lane County. Topics of the displays included "Native American History and Culture in Lane County and Beyond," "Stories of Exclusion and Inclusion: Owning Our History, Creating our Future," "Japanese American Internment Memorial Garden," and "Latin Roots." Audience members heard talks by the creators of each of these exhibits, viewed them, and spoke with the creators.

The evening program closed with students from River Road/El Camino del Rio Elementary School reading from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The children read in both English and Spanish.

The HRC has been working since 2007, even prior to the revision of the City's Human Rights Ordinance, to raise community awareness of human rights and to help community groups frame problems on which they are working with a human rights lens. For example, HRC has helped groups frame the campaign for paid sick leave in Eugene as a human rights issue. Likewise, Eugene homeless advocacy groups now frame housing as a human right and homelessness and its criminalization as human rights violations.

The human rights perspective helps groups dealing with violations of civil, political, social, economic, and cultural rights — all of which are interrelated — break away from the issue silos within which they typically operate, join with others under an umbrella of commonly shared human rights values, and do mutually supportive cross-issue and coalition work around human rights violations. This is what the U.S. Human Rights Movement is all about and it is here and growing in Eugene.

Ken Neubeck is a member of the Eugene Human Rights Commission and a lead member of its Homelessness Work Group. Ken is active in the U.S. Human Rights Network and the national Human Rights at Home Campaign. The views expressed here are his own. He may be reached at [humanrightsoregon@gmail.com](mailto:humanrightsoregon@gmail.com).

***First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win. — Mahatma Gandhi***

# Big Hearted Woman: An interview with Tracy Joscelyn

By CATHERINE SISKRON

Tracy Jocelyn has been part of Occupy Eugene from the time the first camp was set up in 2011. She explains, "I came to Occupy because people came out of their houses to effect change. I thought I would join them . . ."

Tracy was not new to activism. When she arrived in Eugene in 1983, she felt she had found home. She became a forest activist. As friends in the movement were arrested and received extraordinarily long sentences, she became a "humanist — an advocate for fellow humans." She provided support for movement prisoners when she saw fellow activists getting harsh sentences under Eugene's conservative and punitive political and judicial systems.

While Tracy has a degree in Recreation and Parks administration with a minor in nutrition, she found that being a single parent made holding a full-time job difficult. Choosing parenting as a priority brought her face-to-face with financial hardship: "My issue is poverty. Once it's hard to make ends meet — you have to stay flexible to do what needs to be done."

Currently her work focuses on homelessness, but her engagement with the homeless goes back as far as 1992. "I am a friendly person and I am friends with the homeless, too. That's how it starts. You see somebody who needs help, you do it."

Tracy was involved with the Eugene Homeless Initiative (EHI), a group of unhoused people organized to stop the Eugene Police Department (EPD) from taking unhoused people's gear in the middle of the night. Some of the actions taken by EHI was Traveler occupying a tree in the Parks Block, meeting with the then-mayor Jim "they can go to the Mission" Torey's sub-committee on homelessness, and gathering on a weekly basis at Growers Market, where the majority of the attendees were unhoused people.

Back in 1998, Jeremiah, the Dining Room supervisor, was serving sandwiches around town because "singles" were not allowed in the Dining Room at that time. When Tracy saw a want ad for Jeremiah's position, she applied, got the job, and ran the Dining Room for two years. "We served about 200 people a day with our big days serving 250." Currently, the Dining Room serves 300 meals a day. Tracy welcomed unhoused volunteers in addition to the steady volunteer prep and serving crew from the housed community. "It was quite a beautiful experiment for all and a strong community flourished."

Following her two years' service at the Dining Room, Tracy supported herself and her son by doing landscaping, gardening and house cleaning. Her son, a Ford Scholar, earned a Mechanical Engineering degree from Oregon State University. He lives in Portland with his family.

Occupy brought Tracy back into social activism. She was involved with the camps from the movement's inception in Eugene. The best way she can describe what she felt is in the words of Jackson Browne's song:

*you are locked  
inside your houses,  
there's no time  
to find you now.*

"I decided to support Occupy because action is an antidote to despair," she says.

Her work with Occupy brought her to Whoville. She saw one of the residents who would be described by the police as a "frequent flyer" on TV saying she would never leave Whoville because she felt safe there and had not slept so well in years. That led Tracy to visit Whoville to see what kinds of miracles this camp was working. Whoville, however, shut down four days later.

In the meantime, she got to know Nathan "Red" Showers, and two months after the closing down of Whoville they were a couple working together to advocate for the unhoused. Currently they both serve on the steering committee of the Nightingale Health Sanctuary and have been instrumental in designing and implementing a winter site for the sanctuary. She and Red are a good team. They help each other stay grounded as they do their advocacy and protest work.

They are also working closely with the 2014 winter Whoville refugees. Tracy is very clear on the importance of the protest camp: "This protest site is necessary until the city has a homeless check-in center with a warming space and laundry and locker facilities. It is absolutely essential to have a place that accepts people with no judgment." She sees the protest camps bringing attention to the cruelty of living without legal shelter. Without Whoville there wouldn't have been the generous donation of \$400,000 to create the Nightingale Health Sanctuary.

While there are thankfully a number of agencies in Eugene that offer support to the unhoused, Whoville catches the ones that fall through the cracks. People keeping Whoville alive are there to help their brothers and sisters survive in community. And Nightingale Health Sanctuary is the next step — a County- and City-sanctioned space to shelter and promote healing for those in greatest need of a place to be.



PHOTO BY VICKIE NELSON

Tracy and her partner Nathan take a lunch break during a work party at the CSS workshop.

# Badass Feeding Frenzy

By VICKIE EMBREE

I first became involved with Badass Feeding Frenzy in November. Roman had been in Olympia a few months before and had witnessed community feedings there. He had some ideas about how these could work in Eugene. I was thinking about some meat pies I made back in 2012 for



PHOTO BY BR CHARLES OFS

Some of the Badass crew prepare food.

Occupy Outpost A. After Roman and I posted the idea of a community feeding on Facebook, Jan, Sandra, and Kristen volunteered food and time. There were five of us in my tiny kitchen that first night in November. Sandra brought fry bread dough and we made meat pies. That first night didn't get off the ground until pretty late, but we learned much and had lots of fun.

Feeding hungry people is an honor, but what makes Ba-



PHOTO BY BR CHARLES OFS

Roman portions out food into individual meals.

Badass Feeding Frenzy so special to me is the way our volunteers help each other in our work for a common purpose. Sometimes the way things come together is nothing short of magic. At our first meeting on December 6th, seven people showed up. We shared ways we were each able to help, and we ended the meeting by brainstorming and choosing the name "Badass Feeding Frenzy." Thirteen people attended our second meeting on January 5th including volunteers from Catholic Worker and Franciscan Order, Eugene Connect, Burrito Brigade, Occupy Medical, Occupy Interfaith, Avant Gardeners, Food for Lane County, and people with food rescue background.

So far, we are cooking on Thursdays, although many participants also cook and serve other days of the week. We are deliberately trying to grow slowly in a sustainable fashion so we can avoid burn-out of our volunteers. We have a Facebook page and our description says: "We love food.

We love people. It's pretty simple really. (More to Come)" Please contact Jan Zoll on Facebook for information or donations of cash, in-kind, kitchen facility, and supplies.



PHOTO BY VICKIE EMBREE

Meat pies waiting to feed the people.

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