

THE PORTLAND Alliance

New Writers,
Editors,
& Features

Of, by and for the people...

FREE!

VOL. 31 NO. 4

1981-2011 CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER

APRIL 2011

*"Americans haven't much capacity for grasping information. They're so used to being lied to."
--Gore Vidal (born October 3, 1925) is an American author, playwright, essayist, screenwriter, and political activist.*

Portland Rising! Rally & March to Demand Jobs, Not Cuts!

By MARK VORPAHL

In response to the passage of the law in Wisconsin that stripped public workers of their collective bargaining rights, the Oregon AFL-CIO posted the following on their website:

"American workers experienced an attack today. To quote a Japanese Admiral speaking about the American peoples' response after the attack on Pearl Harbor: "I fear all we have done is to awaken a sleeping giant and fill him with terrible resolve."

It is this determined resolve that will be mobilized in Portland on April 16. Portland Jobs with Justice initiated this event some time ago. But they have now been joined by a coalition of public and private unions and community organizations under the title "Portland Rising." By taking it to the streets in a massive way on April 16th, Portland Rising will be putting workers and community needs on the political scales in an undeniable display of strength.

Take Action! "Congress should focus on creating jobs, not cutting the safety net!"



Why Now?

Current unemployment rates are officially estimated to be 8.9 percent nationally and 10.4 percent statewide. If uncounted discouraged workers were included, the unemployment rate would be around 16 percent. This number is growing. By the end of 2011, four million workers will have been denied unemployment benefits and therefore not counted in official statistics.

There is no improvement on the horizon. In order for the official unemployment rate to get down to 6 percent by 2014, 300,000 new jobs would have to be added each month. Current job growth is not even coming close.

In response to this enormous jobs crisis, nationally-elected politicians

Please see PDX RISING page 8

Testimony before the Oregon hearing on Non-Profit Single Payer

Single-Payer: HB 3510 On Nonprofit Healthcare

By Barbara LaMorticella

Testimony before the Oregon
Congressional hearing
on HB3510, March 11, 2011

I write to express support for HB3510 and thank my representative, Dr. Mitch Greenlick, and the other sponsors of the bill. I am sorry that I am unable to attend the hearing, but would like for my comments to be entered in the record: American health care is an unraveling system, and everybody knows it. Every past attempt to patch it together has only made it more complicated and expensive. The US government currently spends more on health care for every American than the so-called socialist UK and Canada, and only \$40 less than France. But in "socialist" UK, Canada and France everyone is guaranteed necessary health care, and no one ever goes bankrupt because of medical expenses, or faces a choice between medical care

"Untreated mental or physical illnesses make a widening circle of misery in the family and in the community. Doctors are forced to put the interests of insurance companies and HMOs above the interests of their patients."

and food or housing.

It is difficult to overstate the damage to our national life and spirit that our dysfunctional health care system causes. The effects of untreated mental or physical illnesses make a widening circle of misery in the family and in the community. Doctors are forced to put the interests of insurance companies and HMOs above the interests of their patients. And it causes depression and stagnation that the price of quitting a job to go to school or launch an entrepreneurial enterprise could be the loss of home and savings if a health crisis hits.

Every attempt to reform health care at a national level has invited the health care industry to the table. Every reform has made the money trail more complicated and hidden. The results have been one dead end or another-- and many deaths. When Nixon signed on to HMOs as a health policy, one of his aides is said to have pointed out "You know, this will mean people will get less health care." And Nixon replied, "I understand that." This is not to indict Republicans. Both Democratic and Republican politicians have to this point been afraid to buck the various industries profiting from our way of doing things. "Your money or your life"-- the classic stick-up line, is now the foundation of the American health care system.

More and more people are waking up to this issue. A majority of physicians and everyday people now support "single payer" health care. What stands in the way at this point are those who profit from the status quo, both inside the financial and health

establishments and in government. This is an issue that crosses party lines. In a time of deepening joblessness and poverty, we cannot allow 40% of health care expenditures to go to overhead and corporate profit. HB3510 will be good for the Oregon economy. The bill includes money to sustain and retrain people presently employed in insurance companies. What it cuts out

Non-Profit Continued on page 6

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From: The Portland Alliance:
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A Few Words

Choices we Face

This has been a difficult month, both globally and locally.

Barack Obama has, in the tradition of the Bush family, bypassed congress and started another war. Under the cutesy cover of a "no fly" zone and then the cynical lie of a "no drive" zone... we are bombing a virtually helpless former colony. And too many Americans remain silent, or worse... condone this behavior.

Rachael Madow and others with progressive pretensions, have pointedly not criticized illegal, immoral, and unconstitutional war-making by the executive branch of government. We held a march here in Portland, but it was small and relatively poorly attended. Instead of twenty books and 50,000 people pointing out the futility and fecklessness of our invasion of Iraq... we had three blocks including perhaps a thousand people, reminding us about the constitution, the rule of law, and our moral scruples.

Some make the claim that the American Anti-War movement is dead. But those who make these claims have vested interests in keeping the American public in the dark. Those who elected Obama to deliver peace, jobs, health care, and functioning schools are becoming more, not less, active. Wisconsin was our Waterloo and it's wake-up time.

But for Americans to be heard, we need an active and informed free press. All newspapers have been suffering. Non-profits like the Alliance are disappearing. But a solid core of supporters have chosen to stand firm in support of PDX's progressive publication.

Our last survey results indicate our readers particularly enjoy investiga-

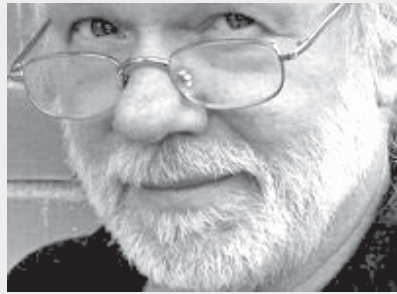


Photo by Peter C. Little

"Under the cutesy cover of a "no fly" zone and then the cynical lie of a "no drive" zone... we are bombing a virtually helpless former colony into the dust"

tive news stories, Active Community, Viewpoints & Commentary, Norman Solomon, Community Calendar, Arts & Cultures, Community resources, Ground View: Organic Gardening, Rotating Columnists, Poetry Pages, Letters, the Progressive Directory, Interviews, News Bytes, and features on local activists and organizers.

We also found support for sustainable, organic local restaurant reviews. We invite more of our readers to become our writers and submit their restaurant reviews!

This is the fourth issue in four months. Thanks for the support. To contribute ideas, writing, art, energy, or resources, write in and join the conversation:

editor@theportlandalliance.org

TIM FLANAGAN, ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Portland Alliance

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APRIL 2011

EDITORIAL GUIDELINES ▶

Letters to the editor should be 400 words or less. Include address and phone number to verify authenticity. E-mail is preferred. All material may be edited for clarity, style, and space considerations.

DEADLINES⁴

- ▶ Articles, Letters to the Editor, & Advertising: 14th-18th of Month
- ▶ Calendar Announcements: 19th

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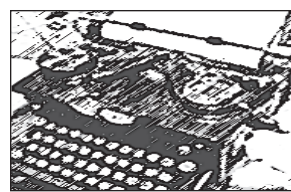
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ANOTHER SLAM DUNK!



Chut



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

" I encourage everyone who has supported the Alliance in the past to do so once again. I also encourage those who value the newspaper but never subscribed to show your support at this critical time."

Sincerely, Dave Mazza,
Former Editor (2000-2007)

On Bullies and Thugs Stop bullying through open communication

Dear editor

Every 7 seconds, a child somewhere in the U.S. is bullied on the playground, bus and/or online (National Institute of Child Health and Human Development). About 32 percent of students ages 12-18 reported having been bullied at school during the school year (2007 School Crime Supplement to the National Crime Victimization Survey.) The effects of bullying at any age can last a lifetime; it lowers the self-esteem and security of our youth, and has a deep impact in how people view themselves into adulthood. As President Obama

Please see Letters on page 3

Portland Alliance Community Meetings:

**Standing Editorial Collective
Committee Meeting**
Saturday, April 9 at 7 p.m.
Laughing Horse Books, 12 NE 10th
Ave. (20, 12, & 19 Bus)

Writers Workshop Collective
Tuesday April 12 at 6:30 p.m.
5109 NE Ainsworth Street
(Bus 75 to Columbia & 52nd Ave.
walk 2 blocks south to Ainsworth)
Office Warming Party at 8 p.m.!

Data Entry & Phone Banks
Monday, April 18, 7-10 p.m.
5109 NE Ainsworth Street (Bus 72)

Editing Party: Editorial Collective
Wednesday, April 20, 5:30 p.m.
5109 NE Ainsworth Street (Bus 72)

**NAAME/TBA Board of Directors
Meeting (New Members Considered)**
Monday, April 25, at 7 p.m.
Laughing Horse Books: 12 NE 10th
Ave.
(12.19, & 20 Bus lines)

Mailing Get Together,
Thursday, April 28, 6-9 p.m.
5109 NE Ainsworth Street (Bus 72)

There will be food,
bring some to share!

We support PDX progressives. As soon as we get enough cash flow, you can get PAID to write for *The Alliance!* We intend to pay a stipend to one writer per month for an in-depth investigative feature. We would also like to provide resources for quality cover art. To submit ideas for future issues, call 503-327-8377. We currently have opportunities for an advertising person to arrange, design, and place progressive partnership ads in upcoming issues. (% based) Contact: editor@theportlandalliance.org



Marla the media mutt says...

Are you an Alliance scavenger? Do you rely on free copies to get your monthly Alliance? If the answer is "yes," it's time you consider becoming a subscriber. For only \$30 a year you get the paper delivered to your door and we get much needed revenue to keep us going. Go to page 20, fill out a subscription form and mail it in today! <https://sites.google.com/site/theportlandalliance/>

Letters to Editor

Please send letters, questions, inquiries, submissions, or comments to the editorial board: editor@theportlandalliance.org

continued from Page 2

addressed to the nation recently, bullying is not a rite of passage and "no child should feel that alone."

Bullying goes beyond pushing and shoving. Today's youth use social

"Today's youth are utilizing technology to expand the reach and harm of bullying without any direct consequences."

search to expand the reach and harm of bullying without direct consequences. Bullying includes when a child suddenly finds no one will eat lunch or play with them at recess. This relational aggression, like physical aggression, is destructive.

Kids on the Block Awareness Program (through Impact NW) helps educate students with puppetry, an effective form of communication with young children. Our bullying prevention shows are frequently requested at Portland-metro schools. Our shows help open kids' eyes and give them an opportunity to talk about how to

respond to bullying in a healthy way. An elementary school student said: "I learned how to walk away when someone bothers me. I also learned to tell an adult when someone is hurting me. I learned how to not hide from bullies."

All children deserve secure, healthy settings for personal growth. ... Many children being bullied don't tell out of humiliation or fear. Please give children a chance to discuss these issues by talking to them honestly and by supporting the local programs they need. ... Visit <http://stopbullying.gov> for tips on how to talk to your child. For more information ... call 503-988-5961 ext. 238 or visit the website: www.impactnw.org/kids-on-the-block-awareness-program.html. As President Obama said, parents have "a responsibility to teach all children the Golden Rule: We should treat others the way we want to be treated."

Lynette Jelinek
Program Director Kids on the Block,
Impact NW

Dear Lynette,

Your letter on bullying is timely. And you are not alone. The Staff and Board at the Independent Publishing Resource Center (IPRC) have been troubled by multiple bullying incidents nationwide.

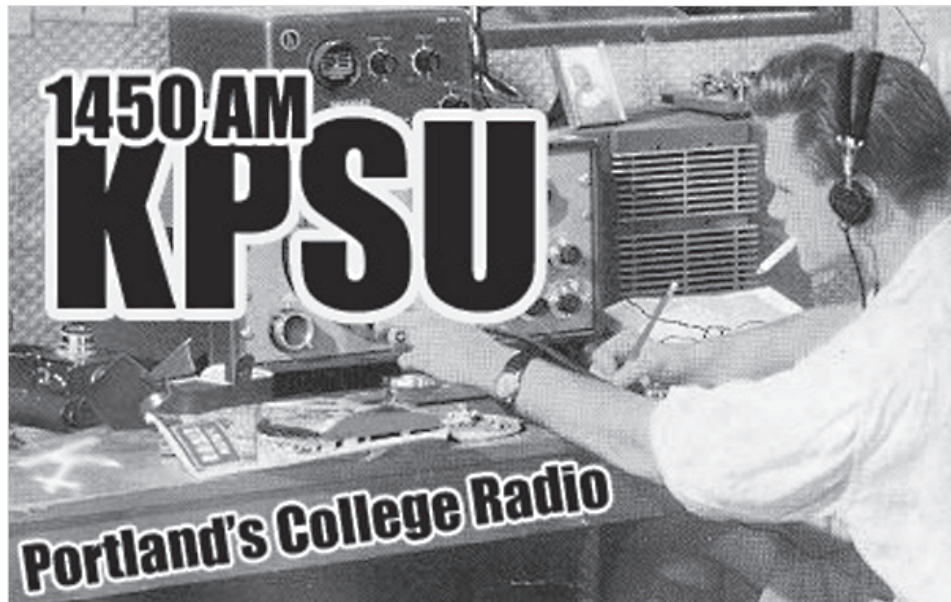
IPRC is implementing the Media Action Project (MAP). MAP helps young people form realistic, compassionate ideas about media-fueled issues and

empowers youth to share these ideas by creating their own zines. This program has the potential to change and save lives. Any Alliance readers who care about MAP programs at treatment centers, libraries, youth centers, and public middle and high schools can contribute to MAP on Kickstarter and help empower over 1000 teens. <http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1078496550/the-iprcs-media-action-project>

KBOO RESPONDS!

Dear Editor,
We read with interest Mr. Papadopoulos' letter regarding his lawsuit against KBOO (pg. 3, February 2011). While we do not intend to wage a war of words in these pages, we do note the absence of many facts that we believe are not only relevant, but, were

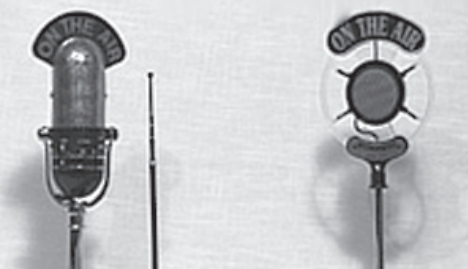
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Distributors deliver new issues of the Alliance to locations on their routes, remove any of last month's papers, advise the office of changes or corrections, and seek out new locations for the paper. Each route takes approximately 2-4 hours each month, including picking up the paper and dropping off, faxing, or mailing a distribution report afterwards. Depending on the production cycle, distributors usually have 5-7 days in which to complete deliveries.

An automobile or bicycle is required in most cases, but a bus can work! To find out more, call 503-327-8377.

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CALL 503-327-8377 TO FIND OUT MORE!

AARON VARHOLA
ATTORNEY AT LAW

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avarhola@integraonline.com

Revitalizing the Northwest Alliance for Alternative Media and Education: (NAAME): dba The Portland Alliance

BY THE STANDING EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

The Portland Alliance, Portland's progressive monthly newspaper, is always in a process of creative reinvention, but we remain a community staple since our founding in 1981 — and we are going into our 30th year of providing progressive alternatives, creative ideas, and critical news about political struggle. In those 30 years... staff, directors, editors, and volunteers have reported on issues important to progressives, radicals, and everyday people — peace, indigenous justice, the green scare, women's liberation, labor struggles, human, rights, and international struggles for social justice and against the cancer of invasion, occupation, and exploitation. We make a difference for peace, justice, & freedom.

After a sizzling summer, this fall when it gets cool... we would love to introduce a new overall design for the Alliance. We hope to appeal to a growing and variable audience of thinkers and readers, and provide quality work to retain our loyal readership.

Educators, writers, teachers, journalists, poets, columnists, or social change activists can join to help move community mountains.

Community Vision Writing Contest

A Portland/Vancouver Northwest Coastal Corridor Community Vision project desperately needs to be eternally reborn. So, The Portland Alliance announces our "Community Vision" writing project: 300 words or less, your idea to radically imagine a creative and dynamic new Portland. We're looking for a few good ideas from visionaries, builders, dreamers, inventors, educators, writers, artists, and everyday people. A whole range from surrealistic dreams to bold new social dynamics. The best will be published, authors winning a year subscription to the Alliance. The top entry nets the writer 100 bucks! Entries due August 10, 2011.

The Board of Directors

The Portland Alliance Board of Directors welcomes potential new members to the Board. For over 30 years, The Portland Alliance has

training volunteers, developing ideas for stories, writing grants, developing funding, and planning various community events and outreach.

The Board invites people who value the Alliance to consider joining our fiscally-disciplined band of pranksters, rebels, hell-raisers, visionaries, malcontents, eccentrics, revolutionaries, and troublemakers. We are bringing the newspaper back to heart and home.

The Standing Editorial Committee

The editorial board welcomes new writers and old friends to submit frequently. And these editors, writers, photographers, artists, journalists, and creative sorts assume the burdens and delights of providing shadings of truth, beautiful foils to power. They find material, do interviews, take pictures, report, examine, investigate, analyze, assess, and compare... And these community members write it down, send in pictures, and tell their stories. We invite more brave souls to join and help sustain our voice so that passion, commitment, and truth can endure... and prevail. We light a beacon. If you have a few hours a month to help sustain our Portland Alliance, please contact us. We accept self-nominations as well as tips on likely suspects for our board. Include in your communication:

- * Name and contact information.
- * Affiliation with the Alliance and/or other local progressive efforts.
- * 100 words or less, why you'd like to join the board or the editorial committee.



A beacon of light to dispell darkness: Truth to expose flat lies, ugly spin, and corporate disinformation.

“The Portland Alliance announces our ‘Community Vision’ writing project: in 300 words or less, share your idea for radically imagining and creating a dynamic new Portland.”

We will continue to offer radical analysis and in-depth investigation, and remain in solidarity as a traditional community resource to help organize disenfranchised communities and build bridges. We want to announce a Community Vision Writing Contest, and are asking for open nominations to join our Board of Directors Committee to help us achieve this vision.

been providing access and a voice for environmentalists, trade unionists, social justice activists, and others usually shut out by the mainstream press. As stewards of the Alliance finances, the Alliance Board meets regularly to guide the business aspects of the nonprofit: revenue stream maintenance, database update, communications, feedback, finding &

The Alliance is an affirmative action/equal opportunity/ progressive organizing kind of group. Good people from all walks of life contribute essential resources for publishing this treasure. We welcome new writing, raw talent, essential expertise, good reporting, great photos, and sharing the passions and ideas of our readers.

Volunteer Inside Sales

Can receive stipends for a percentage of advertising sales or progressive directory listings revenue. The Northwest Alliance for Alternative Media & Education (NAAME) (dba The Portland Alliance) is an Oregon 501C3 Nonprofit for public benefit. Accurate information and accountability matter. We make a difference.

Standing Editorial Committee

More Letters to the editorial board, writers, and editors at The Portland Alliance

Letters, continued from Page 3

they to be included, would paint a much different picture from that which Mr. Papadopoulos contends.

Among numerous exclusions, Mr. Papadopoulos failed to state in his letter that he was well aware that federal law prohibits there being more than 20% of KBOO's Board of Directors who are not U.S. citizens (47 U.S.C. §310). This means that no more than two (2) resident aliens may legally be seated on KBOO's Board at any given time. He himself stated this to the KBOO Board in

“Mr. Papadopoulos has contributed greatly to KBOO over the years and we regret the direction this relationship has taken.”

October 2009, and the Board received warnings from two FCC attorneys about serious consequences were we to break this law. This is the only reason Mr. Papadopoulos could not be seated.

Mr. Papadopoulos has contributed greatly to KBOO over the years and we regret the direction this

relationship has taken, but we must continue to hold paramount the interests of the KBOO Foundation and its members, its compliance with all state and federal regulations, and the many diverse communities that we serve.

Yours in radioactivism,
Justin S J Miller, Underwriting

Coordinator ...on behalf of the KBOO Staff Collective: 20 SE 8th Avenue
Portland, OR 97214
underwriting@kboo.org
Telephone: 503/231-8032

Please send us your feedback!
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Is this war working for you?

Endless invasions, wars, occupations and exploitation costs lives and resources we cannot afford!



March 19 Coalition Rally and Peace March!

Here's a link to Jim Lockhart's 16 minute video of the March 19 Peace March in Portland!

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_OnuMIK1MTU



Free Bradley Manning Direct Action in Portland

BY BETTE LEE

On March 21, shortly after noon, Malcolm Chaddock, who had served 4 years in the US army from 1981-85, drove his van down 6th Avenue and parked right next to Pioneer Courthouse Square in downtown Portland. With the help of several people, he unloaded a 7' black prison cell on the busy road. As 70 protestors, most wearing "Brad" name tags, shouted out, "Free Bradley Manning," Chaddock went inside the cell. He proceeded to take off his clothes, and stood, wearing flesh-tone body tights to simulate nudity, while covering his face with a picture of Bradley Manning.

"This direct action was both creative and powerful, and a timely followup..."

Chaddock, a member of Veterans for Peace, Chp. 72, did this to express his outrage at what the US military has done to Pfc. Bradley Manning. Manning has been imprisoned for over 300 days at the US Marine base in Quantico, VA., where he is held in solitary confinement, and forced to strip naked for seven hours a day. A big sign placed above Chaddock's cell called for "Arrest the Real Criminals. Free Bradley Manning."

The others in the direct action group, who stood by his cell, were Marion Ward, VFP, Chp. 72 member; Christy Murray, Portland Code Pink; Linda Wiener, peace activist; and Leah Bolger, Lt. Col., retired, vice president of the national Veterans for Peace. Bolger spoke out against the torture and cruel treatment of Manning for almost an hour, using the megaphone. She informed curious onlookers about who Bradley Manning is, "He is not a criminal, he is a hero; exposing this government's war crimes is not a

crime." All of them were ready to be arrested for this direct action. They were quickly approached by Homeland Security agents and the police. Surprisingly, the police concluded that there was no need to arrest them, since they were exercising their "freedom of speech." They re-directed traffic for the duration of the direct action, which lasted for almost an hour.

While Chaddock stood inside his "prison cell," protestors held signs with the names of the "Real Criminals:" CIA, FBI, UN, Halliburton, KBR, Bush, Obama, Cheney, Rice, Hillary Clinton, General James Amos, Attorney General Eric Holder, and Secretary of Defense Robert Gates. Others also accused "Capitalism, US Empire, Corporate America, Shell Oil and Blackwater" as the "real criminals." The activists chanted, "Bradley Manning is not a criminal, he is a hero," "I am Bradley, You are Bradley, We are Bradley Manning." Manning is an Army intelligence analyst, accused of leaking more than 260,000 diplomatic documents, and more than 90,000 intelligence reports on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to Wikileaks, including the horrific video of US pilots in a helicopter attack, firing on and killing unarmed civilians.

Chaddock was freed from his "prison cell," to the cheers and applause of the protestors. He quoted John F. Kennedy, who said, "Anyone can make a difference, and everyone should try." This direct action was both creative and powerful, and a timely follow-up to Saturday's anti-war march. Many passerbys who saw the action wanted to know what was going on. Some learned about who Manning is and what is happening to him for the first time.

The day before, 350 activists protested at the US Marine Base at Quantico where Manning is imprisoned. In an Egyptian-inspired moment, they broke out of the pen.

where they had been enclosed by the local police. to join 3 activists, Daniel Ellsberg, Ann Wright (Ret. Col.) and Elaine Brower, who sat in the middle of the road in an act of civil disobedience. The Virginia State Police reacted violently, stomping and almost trampling on the protestors, and yanking people to their feet by pulling their heads and necks. 30 activists were

arrested.

In Washington, DC, 113 activists were arrested on March 19 outside the White House fence during an anti-war protest on the eighth anniversary of the US invasion and occupation of Iraq.

Bette Lee, a local photographer, journalist & activist, took all pictures on this page.



ACTIVISTS PROTEST AIPAC FOR THE THIRD YEAR

On Sunday March 6th, about 75-100 demonstrators gathered outside the Mittleman Jewish Community Center to protest the annual AIPAC (American Israel Public Affairs Committee) fund raising dinner. AIPAC is the leading pro-Israel lobbyist group. The protest was mainly organized by two Palestinian human rights groups: Americans United for Palestinian Human Rights (AUPHR) and Students United for Palestinian Equal Rights (SUPER). This is the third year that AUPHR has protested the event, and publicized which of our public officials attend – which is not an issue covered by mainstream media.

Both protest groups are motivated to end the brutally inhumane living conditions imposed on the Palestinians by the government of Israel. The upside of the protest was the gathering together of people committed to a more just society and the rhythmic chants produced by the group. The rhythm was provided by drummer Renato Perada. The downside was that many of Oregon's Congressional delegation showed their support for AIPAC by coming to the dinner.

REASON TO PROTEST

Most Americans would not tolerate \$3 billion per year of U.S. support for a country that commits barbaric atrocities if they were well informed of the fact by a non biased media. Not so long ago, during the 2008 attack on Gaza, 1400 Palestinians were killed, including many women and children. The 2009 U.N.-commissioned report developed by the noted South African jurist Richard Goldstone, while criticizing both parties to the recent hostilities, provided ample description of the many serious actions that Israel took against civilians and the civilian infrastructure. Since then Israel has imposed a state of siege and closure on Gaza, to a large extent preventing food and building supplies from entering.

AIPAC goes to great lengths to create a positive image and deny any wrongdoing by its client, Israel. So, AIPAC criticized the Goldstone report for being biased and inaccurate, but no specific misrepresentations or inaccuracies were mentioned.

As an ongoing activity, AIPAC brags on its web site that it has been responsible for bringing Congressional sanctions and condemnation against Iran during

“The U.N. has passed over 40 resolutions critical of Israel since 1972, but the United States has consistently used its veto power to prevent passage.”

the last 15 years, for Iran's illicit nuclear program. Interestingly, Iran has signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and has no nuclear weapons, while Israel has not signed the Nuclear Non-



Picture by Herschel Soles
Proliferation Treaty and does have some 200 nuclear weapons.

WHO ATTENDED

In spite of the unspeakable war crimes committed by Israel, the Portland AIPAC Dinner was attended by these members of Oregon's congressional delegation: Congressmen David Wu, Peter DeFazio, Kurt Schrader, as well as Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley. (Blumenauer attended last year.) Merkley gave a talk at the event, but his office was reluctant to admit he even attended and refused to release a copy of his speech to AUPHR president

Peter Miller. Also leaders at the college and high school level often come to the dinners, as AIPAC seeks to influence the leadership of tomorrow. Former

Picture above by Bette Lee

PSU Student Body President, Hannah Fischer, was noted among the attendees this year.

We can say that it was "mission accomplished" for AIPAC: support for Israel was shown and discussion of Israeli war crimes avoided. We urge you to ask your representative or senator why they support AIPAC.

IN OTHER ACTIVISM:

Two Portland activists wanting justice for Palestinians, Peter Miller and Steve Goldberg, challenged U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice at her talk to the Portland World Affairs Council, on Feb. 11, about U.S. policy on the settlement issue and the upcoming related U.N. Security Council vote. The interchange between these Portlanders and the Ambassador can be found on You-Tube (under the label of "YouTube - US Campaign presents petition to U.S. Ambassador Rice"). Nonetheless, on February 19th, the U.S. vetoed the U.N. resolution declaring the settlements illegal.

It should be noted that the U.N. has passed over 40 resolutions critical of Israel since 1972, but the United States has consistently used its veto power to prevent passage. These resolutions would have passed overwhelmingly but for the U.S. veto.

TO LEARN MORE:

See AUPHR's web-site at www.auphr.org. A copy of the keynote speech from this AIPAC dinner can be found at <http://jewishreview.org/local/AIPAC-keynoter-reflects-on-changing-Middle-East>.

HB3510: Single Payer is Still Alive in the Oregon Legislature

Non-profit continued from Front Page

is the administrative overhead of our fragmented system, and the trading of health care on the stock market as if it is a simple commodity. It is not.

Our constitution guarantees every American "Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Health care is necessary for life. In any complex industrial society, one bad individual decision on a corporate or government level can adversely affect thousands of people-examples are the decisions to allow cigarette advertising, medicate children with drugs tested only on adults, allow tens of thousands of untested chemicals into our air, water and food, etc. Any civilized industrial society must provide responsible health care for those who do the work.

HB3510 gives Oregon a chance to be a national trailblazer. This would make a difference in morale, here and in the rest of the nation. The provision of basic health care serves the long-term political interests of every politician who offers support. The tide turning in this country will ultimately sweep away everyone who stands in the way of an efficient and humane American health care delivery system.

Barbara LaMorticella is a retired medical transcriber and co-host of KBOO's Talking Earth poetry show. Her second collection of poetry, "Rain on Waterless Mountain," was considered for an Oregon Book Award. She has participated in over 200 poetry readings, organized and hosted poetry events, and is the recipient of the Stewart H. Holbrook Literary Legacy Award

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Climate Justice Coalition Responds to Earthquake and Nuclear Disaster in Japan

The recent earthquake, tsunami, and subsequent nuclear crisis in Japan have, for the first time in more than a generation, raised widespread concerns about the use of nuclear power.

Japan is still in the early stages of what will rank as one of the world's most significant environmental disasters, as people throughout Japan confront radiation poisoning from their water, food, and air. Despite being initiated by causes out of human hands, the crisis is a human-made disaster – governments and corporations made the conscious decision to construct the Fukushima-Daiichi plant and considered the risks to be manageable.

What does this mean for existing U.S. nuclear power plants and proposals for new plants? Nuclear power has been touted by the Obama administration and mainstream media pundits as one of the best ways to provide for future U.S. energy needs – a supposedly climate-friendly alternative to burning fossil fuels. These proposals ignore the massive economic, environmental, and life-threatening consequences of nuclear power. As we have seen with the Fukushima-Daiichi meltdown, the risks are enormous – so great that

private insurance companies will not cover nuclear plants and Wall Street won't finance them without a 100% taxpayer loan guarantee. This saddles ordinary workers with the construction and insurance costs for each new \$12 billion plant. Additionally, the enormous costs for nuclear plants – which have skyrocketed since the 1970s – squander resources on a bloated, dangerous technology that instead should be spent developing and providing clean energy, protecting

environment for thousands of years.

There was a vibrant anti-nuclear movement in 1970s and 80s, and it is time to regenerate that movement today. Battles to stop nuclear power have been won in the past – the Trojan nuclear plant near Portland was decommissioned in 1993 after years of struggle. Oregon now requires voter approval prior to commencement of any nuclear projects.

Nuclear power is not an alternative to

to human and environmental health and livelihood – the majority of people in the United States live within 50 miles of a nuclear power plant, and the Indian Point Plant is located less than 40 miles from New York City. In our own region, the Columbia Generating Station at the Hanford Reservation in Washington state, upstream from Portland, has the same design as several of the reactors at Fukushima, Japan, including storage of spent fuel in dangerous open tanks.

The proposed 2012 federal budget earmarks more than \$36 billion for nuclear power. We must demand that this money instead be spent on actual environmentally friendly forms of energy production like solar, wind, tide, and geothermal, and energy conservation. We must also demand that the remaining 104 power plants, which generate a total of 8% of U.S. energy, be decommissioned. Decommissioning existing plants and investing in clean energy sources can provide thousands of jobs and protect the environment.

“Nuclear power is not an alternative to climate-altering fossil fuels. It is simply a different kind of unacceptable risk.”

public health, reducing climate risks, and providing good jobs.

These numbers say nothing about the high social costs and health risks of mining uranium – often on lands of indigenous peoples in the US, Canada, Australia, India and elsewhere – or the burden placed on future generations of trying to figure out how to store spent nuclear fuel that stays radioactive and hazardous to humans and the

climate-altering fossil fuels. It is simply a different kind of unacceptable risk. Four of the 104 U.S. nuclear plants in operation today are located near geological fault lines, two of which are also located on the coast. We're assured that these are “safe” and that a catastrophic accident would be impossible. The Japanese received the same assurances about their nuclear facilities. Accidents at any of the other 104 plants would also pose major risks

This article produced by writers working with the Climate Justice Coalition, in Portland, OR

Poetry from Page 17

as she writes of truths elusive
and surreal and deadly: old friends
from the generations, the millenia, she's embedded
with she sees things as they are
have always been and what rises
through it all to this moment
in her eyes, her clear absorbent gaze
no compliance, no complicity
as though she's been there and brought it back
for us

by Jay Thiemeyer

“Mdvanii Stirs Her Lover's Desire!”

The grand couturiers of Paris say Mdvanii is an immortal muse who lives in the heart of every artist
From her chair she imparts ideas to a grand couturier expecting nothing in return
Sitting on a silk seat containing the feathers of Zeus' eagle
The legs made from the crushed material of diamonds

She sees her master in all directions, a large man standing proudly
Yet, is trapped in a luxurious home with no one to keep her company
How can an emotional lady survive this arduous life?
Her enlarged heart and sophisticated walk enchanted the socialites of the city

Now, the reality of Mdvanii is a preserved muse for a demanding couturier
She looks upwards to see lust and creativity colliding
From such a powerful fight pearls strung with gold fall into her hands
A meager compensation for a sumptuous lady!

She sighs before changing into her evening dress
The spring season once blossomed like her marigolds
Surprising all who lounged at the saloons
As if Gaïa was splashed with the color of the forest trees!

“Mdvanii continued on page 15”

The poem at left by Jay Thiemeyer was written Jan 12, 2011, while he was reading “Haiti Noir,” by Edwidge Danticat)

Jay, a local activist, is a regular contributor to Street Roots and The Portland Alliance.

He is a candid proponent for universal non-profit health care rights and remedies for all.

Poetry Submissions:

Poets may submit materials for publication electronically to mary.otte@gmail.com

or send snail mail to

Mary Otte:
Poetry Editor
at

The Portland Alliance
Box 14162
Portland, Oregon
97293-0162.

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VIEWPOINTS & COMMENTARY

Biking to Avert Preventable Death is Only a Natural Choice

Once again the world is in a front row seat to human tragedy caused by natural disaster. This theater unfolds on the island state of Japan. The impact is felt world-wide in financial markets, tourism, ecosystems, and immigration patterns.

The Japanese government works around the clock to avert a possible nuclear emergency at a plant site, in a region devastated by an earthquake with deadly aftershocks, and a destructive tsunami. News cycles for natural disasters peak, and calm. The post-moment and lessons learned soon follow. And for now the mainstream media can be expected to ride the story even beyond its news value, because the goal is to keep you watching. That's when mainstream press begins its role as drug dealer. The viewer becomes a passive consumer, ingesting gluttony of information dumped from multiple news sources.

It's when the entertainment division of network broadcast frames how the news comes to us. From commercial breaks to special reports, every glitch is scripted to seduce and enable viewers to be tantalized and gawk at human suffering and destruction. As the commercial flashes across the screen everybody goes to the fridge; pop another cap on a beer or sugar-sweetened beverage to prevent choking on the popcorn, seconds before sitting down to learn 18 more bodies are discovered under smoldering rubble and debris.

So, what does biking have to do with broadcast news? To reframe the question, what happens to folks that lead sedentary lives when sitting for extended periods of time on a couch? Here in Portland, city government spent an estimated \$57 million on bike

Seek the Truth

BY YUGEN FARDAN RASHAD



infrastructure. My question is not about the health benefits derived from riding a bike. While death due to a natural disaster cannot be predicted, averting preventable death caused by inactivity and poor nutrition choices can. So, why the hell does our city spend millions of dollars on bike lanes and not budget a proper marketing campaign. A well-designed campaign would encourage specific populations, at higher risk than the mainstream, to make friends with a bike. Why wouldn't our city apply a health equity lens to ensure this health message reaches the most vulnerable members in society?

According to Multnomah County Health Department statistics, obesity is the second leading cause of preventable death. Half of adults are overweight, and therefore face higher risk for chronic disease, like heart, Type 2 diabetes and stroke. These numbers are higher for black and brown populations, the biggest targets of the fast food industry. We gorge more processed foods and hormone-laden chicken and burgers than any other demographic group. I bet a dime-to-a-dollar the fast food industry, unlike our beloved city, didn't miss creating a cynical marketing strategy. The industry encourage behavior that increases their profits. The city should have consulted the public health department before ramping up on the bike lanes project.

A person of low social economic

status requires more attention than mainstream. Education, income, and discrimination are drivers that prevent better health outcomes for these populations. Plus, under and unemployment often means self-medication with tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs and fast food to cope. This "medication" ultimately contributes to a sedentary lifestyle. Encouraging folks to ride a bike would certainly turn the endorphins on and improve stamina, digestion, and outlook. We need to turn the tables and see a shift in how biking is viewed by minorities.

This is why watching a natural disaster abroad is no more than an

"Many minority families eat what is affordable, to cope, for taste rather than nutrition."

entertainment event when one is unfolding right in 'your own lap' - being over weight. Recently a local bi-weekly published a story on how much money bike riding can save in health care cost. What the cost analysis overlooked, in addition to a failure to sell the health benefits of biking to minority populations, is how black and brown people experience health services at the clinic or hospital. Racism happens in emergency and preventive care. People of color die in emergency care more often than the mainstream. This continues to have a disproportionate impact, and leads to poorer health outcomes.

Another part of the problem is the health treatment model is based on

a white, European, Anglo-Saxon, Protestant male. Even while the emergence of a health equity practice is bringing much needed changes in culturally-appropriate treatment plans in psychiatry, psychology, and medical treatment, we're still just beginning.

Over the last two years interviews were conducted in the homes of African Refugees and immigrants to look at barriers and challenges in access and delivery of quality health care, and how to make clinics and hospitals a safe space for ethnic and racial minorities. The project was funded by Northwest Health Foundation. This population participatory report was a partnership between Lutheran Community Services Northwest, and African Partnership for Health. An interviewer visited homes of African refugees and immigrants and asked questions about challenges based on language, cultural difference, and affordability. The data was compiled to be published. Policy recommendations from the project include increased culturally-appropriate education, methods of communication and interviewing skills for doctors, nurses and medical support staff.

Many minority families eat what is affordable, to cope, for taste rather than nutrition. Recommendations from the completed project include a broader discussion and the role public health should play in shaping policy.

Studies conducted by state and county health departments report black and brown folk die more frequently from tobacco-related and other preventable disease than their white counterparts. Upon arrival to America, immigrants have health profiles similar to those of

See Biking, Page 15

PDX Rising: Profiteers Steal our Future

Portland Rising from the Front Page

have been sitting on their hands and leaving it to the private sector to create jobs. Corporations are hoarding \$2.4 trillion in their reserves, rather than investing in job creation.

Federal funding is needed to create jobs. This money is already in the hands of the Fortune 500. But these corporate transnationals invest in India and China instead of investing in the working families who "bailed them out."

If congress intends to protect and represent the majority of the American people, our Senators and Representatives should demand that Wall Street pay for the damage it has done to Main Street. They would do this by demanding that Wall Street fund jobs to eliminate unemployment, rebuild our infrastructure, retool our productive capacity on an environmentally sound basis, strengthen our education and healthcare systems, etc. If the rich were paying their fair share, Americans would be optimistically looking

towards the future. Instead, Wall Street gets enormous tax breaks. For instance, in 2009 Bank of America not only paid no US Federal tax on their \$4.4 billion in profits, they received \$119 million in tax credits.

Outrageously, not only are the politicians not demanding the rich pay their fair share to fund job creation, they are insisting that working people tighten their belts! On the chopping block are Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, heating oil assistance for low income people, public housing, and more. This is not to mention cuts

to public workers' benefits, wages, and attacks on their collective bargaining

rights. Workers and the entire economy will pay dearly now and in the future for such austerity measures. The corporations and economic elite will be left off the hook while they luxuriate in bail outs and tax cuts - that is, unless Main Street is heard.

Raising Our Voices

Wall Street's voice is currently determining the national political dialog because of the power residing in money and political connections. Labor and community members can begin to exercise their voices by taking it to the streets. There must be a united effort to support demands for a federally-funded jobs program. Massive demonstrations may be the best tactic to avoid cuts in the social safety net.

The outpouring of people in Madison Wisconsin in opposition to Governor Walker's anti-union legislation has had a powerful impact on public opinion.

On April 16th Portland Rising will build on these inspiring developments and set an example of the resolve needed nationally. When we raise our voices behind workers' and community members' collective needs, the current political dialog can be shifted in favor of policies that benefit the great majority rather than the wealthy few.

JOIN THE RALLY AND MARCH ON APRIL 16! TELL YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, CO-WORKERS AND NEIGHBORS. LET'S SEE PORTLAND RISE TO THE CHALLENGE!

LABOR'S POWER IS FIGHTING

FOR THE INTERESTS OF MAIN

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PROGRESSIVE DIRECTORY of Social Change Groups in PDX

Progressive Directory of PDX Social Change Groups

Alliance for Democracy

Portland Chapter is a progressive populist movement to end corporate dominance of our economy, society, political environment and lives. We advocate for democratic values to create fair and equitable society. We believe in united action by the people and for the people, standing opposed to mega-corporations while envisioning and working for our shared future. Current campaigns include education about and opposition to "Free Trade" agreements and corporate globalization; education about the danger of water privatization; support for campaign finance reform; and support for formation of Public Utility Districts. We joined with other grassroots organizations to form Local to Global Coalition, working to promote a Fair Trade future. Contact: david-denk@afd-pdx.org. We meet the fourth Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at 112 NE 45th Ave, Portland OR 97213. www.afd-pdx.org.

Americans United for Palestinian Human Rights

AUPHR is an association of American taxpayers united by mutual concern for human rights in general and Palestinian human rights in particular. Our aim is to eliminate the substantial U.S. funding and discriminatory policies that directly or indirectly support the oppression and violation of the human rights of Palestinian people in Israel and the Israeli-occupied territories. Our tools are public education & political and legal action. www.auphr.org or 503-287-1885.

Amnesty International is a worldwide movement of people from across the world standing up for humanity and human rights for all. Amnesty International works to improve human rights through campaigning and international solidarity. Portland's Amnesty International chapter, Group 48, has been in existence since 1973. Meetings are held on the second Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church, 1011 SW 12th Ave. For more information: call 503-227-1878 or visit <http://aipdx.org/>.

Bridgeport Community United

Church of Christ Politics and spiritual life can connect! We are a multicultural, multiracial community of progressive political people exploring and celebrating the Christian faith in a manner that is both intellectually-engaging and spiritually nurturing. We are pragmatic and passionate, LGBT & straight, and our children are valued members. 11:00 Sunday mornings, 621 NE 76th Ave. Portland. 503-258-0992. www.BridgeportUCC.org. Great music, good coffee, not boring.

Code Pink — Portland stages strong, playful actions to confront local and global power mongers—you may have seen and heard us with our signs and songs at anti-war rallies, on street corners and elsewhere around town. CODE PINK is a broad international movement for peace and justice led by women. The name "CODEPINK" is a play on the Bush administration's color-coded homeland security alerts. Although we enjoy colorful antics that highlight hypocrisies in government and corporate business, we thoughtfully plan our costumes, lyrics and other high-jinks to broadcast our message effectively. We welcome individuals who seek community in standing up against economic inequality and violence. More information: Contact the National Organization at this website: <http://codepinkalert.org> for info on local actions.

Columbia County Citizens for Human Dignity

(CCCHD) is a citizens group in Columbia County working to assure the basic rights and human dignity of all Oregonians. We are a progressive, volunteer-driven and volunteer-funded organization promoting inclusive democracy. Join us in our efforts to promote social and economic justice, human rights, and human dignity in Columbia County and through

out Oregon. CCCHD is a member group of the Rural Organizing Project. For more information, call 503-543-8417.

Committees of Correspondence is an inclusive and progressive non-sectarian national coalition of left and socialist activists from communities, unions, the peace movement and social interest groups, whose mission is to build unity among the left/progressive forces. We include, welcome, and fight for the interests of all people of any color, religion, gender or sexual orientation. P.O.Box 372, Albany, OR 97321. (541) 926-7070.

Community Alliance of Tenants is a grassroots, tenant-controlled tenant membership organization. We educate and organize tenants to demand affordable, stable and safe rental homes. CAT prioritizes development of low-income renters as community leaders. We organize tenants to change unjust laws and improve property management policies. Our Renter's Rights Hotline gives tenants information about their rights. CAT's Hotline: (503) 288-0130.

Environmental Justice Action Group (EJAG) is a membership driven, community-based organization that believes "The community that educates and speaks out for itself can best protect itself." We do this through developing leadership in people of color and low income residents of North and Northeast Portland to change the power dynamic by becoming the decision makers in their own community. Our primary focus is air quality, transportation and public health issues with a particular emphasis on the high rate of asthma in our community. For information, contact us at (503) 283-6397.

First Unitarian Church of PDX has been a voice for liberal religion in our community for over 130 years. Our core beliefs about spiritual growth and acting for social justice are reflected in the work of the church's Economic Justice Action Group (EJAG). EJAG, a welcoming and affirming group, is guided by its mission to raise awareness about and act to promote fair and just economic policies, life-sustaining and life-enhancing values, equal access to economic opportunities, and democratic participation in national, state, and local decisions on economic issues. We sponsor speakers and forums on current economic

Portland, OR 97232; 503-239-7456 or 503-321-5051(showtimes/voicemail); email ffvc@flyingfocus.org; webwww.flyingfocus.org.

Freedom Socialist Party is a socialist & feminist party that wants more members! Help create a revolution for full economic, political and social equality for all working people and those who are exploited and disenfranchised by capitalism. A multi-issue platform that prioritizes the equality of women, people of color, sexual minorities, disabled people, elderly and youth is key. Our heritage stems from Trotsky and the Bolsheviks. Please visit our bookstore at 6834 NE Glisan Street, Portland, OR 97213. Phone for an appointment at 503-240-4462. Visit our website at www.socialism.com or e-mail us at fsp@igc.org.

In Other Words: Women's Books and Resources A non-profit organization with a comprehensive collection of women's writing, women-positive videos, magazines and gifts. Free information about women's organizations, activities and networking. A monthly events calendar. Space for dialogue and debate about the complex issues facing women today. Contact us about volunteer opportunities. 14 NE Killingsworth, Portland, OR 97211.232 (503)-232-6003. Open seven days.

Jews for Global Justice: We're committed to ending oppression in all its forms. Our work spans a range of issues including opposing the U.S. bombing of Afghanistan, fighting racism, stopping religious persecution, and supporting the struggle for workers' rights and economic justice. We build bridges between targeted communities and the Jewish community. We call for an immediate end to Israel's military occupation of Palestine. The repression of the occupation, the mass detentions, torture, executions, and collective punishments are in direct opposition to our Jewish values. We mourn the deaths of civilians on both sides. Contact: (503) 299-4772.

Jobs with Justice: A coalition of labor and community organizations defending workers' rights. Members pledge to be there at least five times a year for someone else's fight—on picket lines, marches, rallies or hearings. We defend civil rights and the struggles of exploited workers and their communities, especially people of color,

violence and life-in-community, the people of Metanoia seek first the "kin-dom" of God as a radical alternative to the ways of the dominant culture. Gay friendly. Phone the 18th Ave. Peace House, 503-281-3697, for information about frequent gatherings to which newcomers and visitors are invited. See our website at www.metanoiaumc.org.

Military Families Speak Out Family members in the *Against the War Military Families Speak Out*, offer a support group the first Saturday of each month in Wilsonville. www.mfso-oregon.org. (503)-757-0323.

Money Is Not Democracy: Statewide group working on Campaign Finance Reform. Oregon is 1 of 6 states with no limits on contributions to political campaigns. This initiative establishes enforceable limits on political contributions and expenditures in Oregon for the first time. Bans contributions by corporations. Volunteers needed to get this initiative on the ballot. Visit our website at www.fairelections.net <<http://www.fairelections.net>> or call 503.246-2906 in Portland.

NW Resistance Against Genetic Engineering (NW RAGE)

is a non-violent, grassroots community organization dedicated to promoting a responsible, sustainable and just use of agriculture and science. We work to prevent the intrusion of genetic engineering into our food, bodies and ecosystems, through education, agitation, community-building, advocacy and action. Get activated: meetings are every 2nd Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at 3347 SE Belmont St., Portland. Contact us: POB 15289 Portland, OR. 97293. Phone: 503-756-4369 www.nwrage.org or contact us by e-mail: info@nwrage.org.

NW Vegetarian Education and Empowerment Group: Northwest VEG is active in the Portland and Vancouver area. The mission is to educate and empower people to make vegetarian choices for a healthy, sustainable and compassionate world. Reducing consumption of animal products leads to better health, reduced impact on the forests and streams, and kinder treatment of animals. The group holds potlucks with educational programs every month, alternating between the west side and the east side of the Portland area. In addition, the group organizes dine-outs, and coordinates several other events throughout the year. Volunteers are always appreciated. Visit our Web site at: www.nwveg.org, send e-mail to: info@nwveg.org, or leave message at: (503) 746-8344.

Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc. (OTI) is dedicated to promoting the success of women in the building, construction, mechanical and utility trades through education, leadership and mentorship. Founded in 1989, OTI offers 3 core programs and services: Trades Offer Girls Options (TO GO) encourages middle- and high school-aged girls to learn about options for trades careers; Pathways to Success recruits, trains, places and retains women in trades careers through its free Trades and Apprenticeship Career Class, a state-certified pre-apprenticeship program; and Tradeswomen Organized for Outreach, Leadership, and Support (TOOLS) supports and builds leadership with women already in the trades and provides technical assistance to help employers, apprenticeship programs and government agencies achieve a diverse trades work force. OTI is a membership based organization and holds quarterly networking and support meetings for members.



Listings continue on page 12



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justice issues, lobby elected officials, collaborate with like-minded organizations, and we strive to live and act to create a fair, just and sustainable society. E-mail: info@ejag.org; Web: www.ejag.org; Phone: Kate Lore, 503-228-6389, x44.

Flying Focus Video Collective (FFVC) is a group of activists using video as a tool for social change, providing a voice for the voiceless. We videotape speakers, events and actions, and produce programming through cable access facilities. Ask for our catalogue of available tapes or check out the selected videos in lending libraries at LaughingHorse Books, BlackRose Collective Bookstore, or Small A Projects. Contact: 3439 NE Sandy Blvd. PMB #248,

immigrants and women. Our offices are in the AFSCME Council 75 building, 6025 E. Burnside, Portland, OR 97215. 503-236-5573, www.jwjpdx.org

Laughing Horse Books & Video An all-volunteer, collectively run radical bookstore and resource center. In addition to books, periodicals, buttons, stickers, tapes and other activist tools, we have a lending library, and sponsor events ranging from politics and music to book signings and poetry readings. Currently not wheelchair accessible. 12 NE 10th Ave., Portland, OR 97214; (503)-236-2893.

Metanoia Peace Community Following Jesus' way of revolutionary non-

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street roots

Real news from the streets



Ongoing

Community Film Night The 3rd Space, 5014 NE 24th, (behind the Star E Rose Cafe) every Sunday at 6pm (FREE!)

Democracy Now! On KBOO 90.7 FM Radio weekdays 7-8 a.m., again 4-5 p.m., and on cable TV channel 23 from 9-10 a.m. and 4-5 p.m. Channel 29 shows Democracy Now from noon-1 p.m. and 9-10 p.m., Mon-Fri. This is the BEST news program in the country. Or, sign up on your computer for daily e-mail digests at www.DemocracyNow.org. The Friday Program repeats on Sundays 1:30-2:30 on Channel 29.

Laura Flanders & GRIT TV is on Channel 29 from 5-5:30 p.m. and 10-10:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday. Show is repeated on Saturday and Sunday from 5-5:30.

Portland Books to Prisoners weekly mailing, 5-8 Tuesdays in garage at end of driveway at 1112 NE Morton, between Ainsworth & Dekum, east of MLK Blvd. These books are sent to prisoners across the country. We need new or used dictionaries and thesauruses. www.pdxbookstoprisoners.org email: pdxbookstoprisoners@riseup.net.

Basic War Tax Resistance & Redirection, In Other Words Books, 14 N. Killingsworth, 7-8 p.m., every 3rd Monday. What is war tax resistance & redirection? How can someone participate? An informal workshop, no charge, materials provided. More info at 503-238-0605. Sponsored by War Resisters League. FREE.

NW RAGE Public Meeting and GE Free Video Night, 3347 SE Belmont (ring bell #5 and we'll come open the door for you), doors open at 6:30, film starts at 7 p.m., the second Wednesday of every month. Watch films relating to genetic engineering and discuss how you can help promote a safe and sustainable food supply. All films are free though donations to support our work are greatly appreciated. Call 503-756-4369 for more info.

Washington Co. Peace Vigil, SW 5th & Hall, next to Beaverton Library, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesdays. Bring a sign or use one of ours.

Portland Central America Solidarity Committee monthly meeting 2249 East Burnside, 7 p.m. every first and third Wednesday. PCASC is a grassroots organizing group that educates and mobilizes community members, workers and students around struggles for human rights and social justice throughout the Americas. More info at 503-236-7916 or info@pcasc.net.

Ongoing Impeachment-Accountability Rally, 729 NE Oregon St., outside of Congressman Blumenauer's office, every Thursday,

noon to 2 p.m.

WILPF Women in Black: Peace in the Middle East vigil. Noon at Terry Shrunken Plaza, in front of City Hall, every Friday.

Portland Peaceful Response Weekly Friday Rally & Protest March, 5 p.m. Fridays, Pioneer Courthouse Square, SW Broadway & Y a.m.hill. www.pprc-news.org.

Feminist Film Society, 6:30 p.m., In Other Words Women's Books and Resources, 8 B NE Killingsworth St., every third Friday. The FFS watches a variety of movies and discuss them with feminism in mind. Screening starts at 7, with discussion to follow. \$1-5 donation, no one turned away. Find your feminist with the FFS Crew! More info at <http://www.inotherwords.org> phone: 503-232-6003

A Growing Concern, a Call-in Community TV Program, LIVE, every Friday on Cable channel 11, 7-8 p.m. Repeats: Sundays, channel 23, 10 p.m., and Thursdays, channel 22, 7 p.m. A Growing Concern features guests speaking on a wide range of political, environmental and social justice issues, as well as video of local events, etc. Hosted by local activist Jim Lockhart, since 1998. www.PhilosopherSeed.org

Oak Grove Peace vigil. Noon on Sundays, corner of SE McLaughlin & Oak Grove Blvd., Milwaukie.

The Mad Space Between the Stars! Radical weekly peer-led mental health discussion group. The Garfield House, 4011 NE Garfield, 7 p.m. Sundays. Building a strong radical mental health community here in Portland. We reject mainstre a.m. mental health and have decided to take control of our own needs. We support each other in daily struggles. Please join us. More info: www.themadaresane@gmail.com.

Labor Radio Collective: 6 p.m. first Mondays, <http://kboo.fm/LaborRadio> Of, by and for Working Families on KBOO 90.7 FM Call in and join the conversation: Studio Line (503) 231-8187

Jobs with Justice: First Monday Steering Committee Meetings at 6025 East Burnside: 5:30 p.m.

April - 2011

Thursday, April 7 ACLU of Oregon Lobby Day 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Capitol Building Salem, OR. There is a \$10 participation fee* to cover a portion of the costs for lunch and materials. Register online: www.aclu-or.org/lobbyday2011 or contact us at info@aclu-or.org or 503.227.3186 for more information.

Thursday, April 7 PCC Brown Bag Chat Noon to 1 p.m.

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A longer calendar: theportland



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Cascade Teaching and Learning Center, SSB 208 Portland Community College Faculty and AP (PCCFFAP) - Bring your lunch and come by for a chat with Federation President Michael Morrow about issues facing teachers.

Saturday April 9th: Senior Town Hall II Michael Dembrow, Sen. Jackie Dingfelder, and Rep. Ben Cannon will focus on issues impacting seniors. Please join them at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church (11229 NE Prescott St.) from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m..

Sunday, April 10: The Batle of Chernobyl, 6pm, at The 3rd Space, 5014 NE 24th (behind the Star Rose Cafe) a film revealing the sytematic cover-up of the true scope of the disaster.

Monday, April 11 Meeting about KBOO's Future at 7:00pm
Location: Tabor Space at

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April 9th Workers' power
Saturday, at 12 p.m. at Chit Chat Cafe,
1907 SW 6th Ave.
Readings: Meaning of Marxism

Wednesday, April 13, 1:30 p.m.,
PCC Reads Author Heidi W. Durrow
visit Rock Creek Campus Event Center
Room 122. Ms. Durrow wrote
"The Girl Who Fell From The Sky,"
a wonderful coming of age novel set in
North Portland.

Wednesday, April 13
Carnival of Debt Resistance!
at 12:00 p.m. Location: South Park
Blocks [Portland State University] Why
must we bankrupt ourselves going to
school? Resist!

**Wednesday, April 13th Landlord/
Tenant Forum** at the All Saints
Episcopal Church Cafeteria, at 4033

SE Woodstock Blvd., Portland, OR
97202 / from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Please
enter through the side door directly
by Woodstock Boulevard. Look for
the signs and head downstairs. A free
monthly forum for rental property
owners (and tenants) to learn more
about landlord tenant laws and
practices. to RSVP to attend please call
503.997.9035 or 503.772.8825. or email
kathryn@kjkproperties.com.
Print calendar at
www.landlordstudyhall.com.

**Thursday, April 14 Author Michael
Meade** will speak at The First Unitarian
Church, 7 p.m. on 1211 SW Main St. He
will discuss "Fate and Destiny," his new
book about fate, destiny, and human
potential for change.

**Friday, April 15, "Is Nothing Sacred
Anymore?"** with University of
Virginia's Professor of Philosophy
and Law, Cora Diamond. 7:30 - 9:00
p.m. at Tom Miles Theatre, in Warner
Hall, on the Pacific University campus
in Forest Grove, Oregon: Stanford
Philosophy Professors John Perry and
Ken Taylor, tackle the familiar, but
nagging, query,

**Friday-Sunday, April 15-17, The
Second Annual Law & Disorder
Conference** at 6 p.m. Portland
State University, Smith Memeorial
Building, Third Floor More info:
[http://www.facebook.com/event.
php?eid=14422322309888](http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=14422322309888)

**Saturday, April 16 Mass Rally for
Jobs Not Cuts** at Noon in Pioneer
Courthouse Square! at 6th and Yamhill.
12:30 Music, 1p.m. Rally, 1:30 p.m.
March Speakers and a March. more
information at JWJ: call 503-236-5573
or visit www.jwjpx.org

and Rally for Climate Justice!
(a feeder march to the Jobs with
Justice rally) at NOON at NW 8TH &
DAVIS (North Park blocks)
HIT THE STREETS WITH US and
MAKE SOME NOISE
Adelante! Megan Hise 317-605-8566

and Bike Ride to the Rally!
meet at 11 a.m. at N KILLINGSWORTH
& COMMERCIAL (aka The Deli)

**Sat., April 16th Community History
Storytelling:** There will also be an
opportunity for anyone to share their
own experiences and memories of
North Portland. from 12:00 p.m. - 2:30
p.m. at Historic Kenton Firehouse,
8105 N Brandon Street / FREE and
open to anyone interested. Light
lunch provided. Please RSVP by
Monday, April 11th to outreach@
ourunitedvillages.org or 503.546.7499.
Child care (9 and under), transportation,
and/or interpretation provided upon
request. Sponsored by Community
Outreach of Our United Villages.
For more information, visit [www.
ouvcommunityoutreach.org](http://www.ouvcommunityoutreach.org).

Sunday, April 17: The Corporation,

6pm, at The 3rd Space,
5014 NE 24th (behind the Star Rose
Cafe) film explores the rise and nature
of the dominant institution of our time.

Sunday, April 17th 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
PCASC's first annual Spring Brunch
@ SEIU 503 6401 SE Foster Rd.

"You can cut down all the flowers
but you can't stop the Spring"
This year's brunch is inspired by
the defiant people's movement of
Honduras. Breaking bread will read
with us. Gerardo Torres, youth leader
of the resistance front, will speak to the
incredible changes in the hearts of the
Honduran people since the 2009 coup
d'etat. Register now:
<http://pcascbrunch.tumblr.com/>
more Details: brenda@pcasc.net

**Tuesday, April 19: April's Figure of
Speech Reading** at In Other Words
Bookstore features poets Barbara L
Morticella & Susan Wooldridge. 7 p.m.
at 14 N. Killingsworth. As always,
there will be cookies, poetry prompts,
and broadsides that you can pick up by
donating \$1-\$5 to the bookstore.
An open mic follows-- bring a poem
and add your voice!

**Sunday, April 24: The Shock
Doctrine**, 6pm, at The 3rd Space, 5014
NE 24th (behind the Star Rose Cafe)
film about the origins and rise of preda-
tory capitalism military, industrial insti-
tutional exploitation.

**Monday April 25, Solidarity Action
Against the Korea Fair Trade
Agreement** created by Oregon Fair
Trade Campaign, at 12:00 p.m. Outside
Sen. Wyden's Office, 911 NE 11th Ave
Portland, OR · Call (503) 736-9777 or
email orftc@citizenstrade.org

May 2011

**Friday May 6th Eva Golinger,
Wikileaks and the Empires Web**
7 p.m. at First Unitarian Church
1011 SW 13th, Portland 97201

May 14 JWJ Dinner

**Wed, May 25th Report back from
Honduras-** one Portlander's story (time
and location to be confirmed) Rachael
Townsend speaks about her 9 months in
Honduras doing human rights work.

**May 25-27 The Community College
National Center for Community
Engagement (CCNCCE) 20th annual**

Please send events to
jennybatesma@gmail.com.
Jenny and Robin are our volun-
teer editors. Please submit list-
ings or updates by the 14th.

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Thanks!



Low Tide Drifters, Page 14-15!

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Listings continued from page 9

For more information Contact: Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc., 1714 NE Alberta St., Portland, OR 97211, (503) 335-8200 or visit www.tradeswomen.net.

Oregonians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty The death penalty does not prevent crime and should be abolished. Oregon has penalties that provide alternatives to state killing. The death penalty is costly. Innocent people are sentenced to death and sometimes executed. These killings are disproportionately the poor and minorities. OADP promotes research, education, and discussion of issues relating to the death penalty. For information on the death penalty in Oregon and nationally, and to find out about meetings and events go to www.oadp.org. e-mail info@oadp.org or write to P.O. Box 361, Portland, OR 97207.

Pacific Green Party: Oregon's Green Party: Turn Green and join the fastest growing political party in Oregon, the United States, and the entire world. Oregon's Pacific Green Party offers the best hope of our lifetimes to break the corporate-controlled Republic duopoly and create a loud, clear, and unapologetically progressive voice in government. Help us build that peaceful, just and ecologically wise society your heart desires. In Portland call 503-772-3164 or visit www.PacificGreens.org. We need you as much as you need us.

Peace and Justice Works / Portland Copwatch Peace and Justice Works (PJW) has been actively educating and demonstrating for peace since 1992. PJW promotes non-violent conflict resolution on local, national and international levels. Iraq Affinity Group, addressing the U.S. invasion and occupation, meets monthly, usually second Tuesdays. Portland Copwatch, focusing on police accountability, usually meets first Mondays. Other issues include former Yugoslavia, School of the Americas. General meetings 3-4 times a year. Contact: PO Box 42456, Portland, OR 97242; 503-236-3065. Copwatch incident report line: 503-321-5120; e-mail: pjw@pjw.info, copwatch@portlandcopwatch.org; web: www.pjw.info.

Polyamory Circle is an informal gathering focusing on extended families, inclusive relationships and intentional community. Everyone is welcome to participate in our discussions. Meets 3rd Monday each month 7:30 pm. Call Larry 285-4848 for location+info.

Portland Central America Solidarity Committee (PCASC) formed in 1979 and is the oldest Latin American solidarity organization in Oregon. We mobilize opposition to U.S. military and economic intervention in Latin America and Mexico, and support cross-border struggles for peace, justice and self-determination. In Oregon, PCASC advocates for workers and immigrant rights and educates the Portland community about the economic and political impact of U.S. policies upon Latin Americans, Mexicans, and the U.S. through the Cross Border Labor Organizing Council (CBLOC). We build solidarity between workers in Portland and Latin America. 2249 E Burnside, Portland, OR 97214. 503-236-7916. e-mail: info@pcasc.net.

Portland Chapter of OWL Mid-life and older women working locally and nationally to improve the status of ALL women as they grow older: income and health security, affordable housing, ending discrimination and violence against women. Open to all women desiring these goals.



"I told you so."

Don't wait for retirement, it may be too late. Come and join us, call 503-721-0848. National OWL Web: www.owl-national.org.

Portland Community Media: PCM is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote broad participation in civic and cultural life by encouraging effective use and understanding of community media. We teach affordable classes in digital television and multimedia production, and program daily for cable television channels 11, 21, 22, 23, 29 and CityNet 30. Check our website for more information! 2766 NE MLK Jr. Blvd., Portland, OR 97212; 503-288-1515; www.pcmv.org.

Psychologists for Social Responsibility (www.psysr.org) is an organization whose mission is to use psychological knowledge and skills to promote peace with social justice at the community, national, and international levels. Portland-area psychologists and counselors have recently formed a PsySR affiliated group. Our goal is to address issues connecting poverty, mental health, and human rights. This group meets monthly to plan projects, develop resources, and discuss relevant issues. For more information and meeting times, please write samantha@pacificu.edu.

Portland Indymedia is a tool for the creation of radical, accurate, and passionate tellings of truth. As the local Independent Media Center of a global network, Portland Indymedia is a decentralized movement of autonomous working groups and individuals contributing to various projects, including video, radio, television, the web and print. The website features open publishing, empowering anyone to post their own text, images, audio and video directly to a news-wire without approval or editing. Corporate media is a disease. Indymedia is the cure. e-mail: contact@portland.indymedia.org or portland.indymedia.org.

Portland IWW: A democratic, self-organizing labor union committed to direct action and struggle to bring about a better world. We welcome all those who wish to organize with the rest of the working class for mutual aid and collective bargaining. Call 503-231-5488, e-mail branch@iwwpdx.org, or drop by our office at 2249 E. Burnside.

Prananda Yoga & Arts Center Yoga isn't about sticking your foot in your ear. It starts where you are right now. Four levels of yoga are offered at PRANANDA (7 days a week), making it accessible to everyone and every body type. Yoga moves the body/mind/spirit in such a way that all three function better for a more enhanced life. The postures increase strength and flexibility. Meditation allows you to let go of the stressful and distracting thoughts of daily living. The breath allows us to breathe in that life force all around us that we need

to thrive and glow as human beings. 7035 N. Concord Ave. 503-249-3903 or www.prananda.com

Progressive Student Union: PSU-PSU coordinates Transit Riders Union and Tenant Rights Project, advocatnig for low-income tenants and TriMet riders (www.trimetriders.org). On campus, we organize the Coke-Odwalla Boycott for labor rights in Colombia, human rights in Darfur, and National Bottle Bill/recycling legislation. (www.killercoke.org) Progressive Student Union was the founding publisher/editor of both PSU Rearguard (Iraq War I) and PSU Agitator (Iraq War II). We coordinated PSU campus Taco Bell Boycott, making PSU the 9th U.S. college to kick Taco Bell off campus (the national boycott was successfully settled with a pay raise for Florida farm workers). PSU-PSU is anti-imperialist, anti-capitalist. Contact info: 503-222-2974 or Progressive Student Union, PO Box 40011, Portland, Oregon 97240.

Radical Women: A socialist feminist multi-issue organization that trains women to be leaders in the struggle to replace capitalism with socialism in order to achieve full equality for everyone. Our leadership—as women of color, workers, unionists and lesbians—is pivotal. We believe in the power of the working class. Monthly meetings every second Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. 6834 NE Glisan St. Portland. Phone: 503-240-4462, Fax:503-240-4463, E-mail: rwpdx@igc.org. Website: radicalwomen.org

Socialist Party of Oregon: A progressive party working for across-the-board democracy — political, social and economic. For over 100 years we've advocated much of what's best in America. We support ballot access for all parties; campaign finance reform; civil rights (Socialists helped found the NAACP and the ACLU); a humane foreign policy; environmental and consumer protection; general welfare, not corporate welfare; tax fairness; people over profits (consumer coops and credit unions); Social Security (first advocated by the Socialist Party); universal health insurance (socialists in Saskatchewan launched Canada's single-payer national health program). REGISTER, VOTE, VOLUNTEER SOCIALIST. For info write P.O. Box 5633, Portland, OR 97228, or phone 503-241-8217 or 503-289-3511. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=107668484150> more info at www.thesocialistparty.org.

Solidarity: A socialist-feminist organization standing for workers' democracy and international solidarity. We are revolutionary, in that we regard capitalism as both a human and environmental disaster — unredeemable by reformist politics. We are committed to a creative rethinking of socialism and are engaged in struggles against racism, sexism, and homophobia. Local members include environmental, child care, reproductive rights, labor, and KBOO activists. Call 503-234-2306.

The Sunrise Foundation The Sunrise Foundation is dedicated toward working to improve the working knowledge we all have concerning our national, and international currencies. Through this effort we hope to foment a popular movement-gearred to create the needed reforms in this critical infrastructure. We believe our success in this endeavor will be a major factor in determining the timely success or failure of needed progressive efforts. Visit us at www.thesunrisefoundation.com or contact us at Sunrisecontact@aol.com or 503-713-8872.

Sustainable Business Network of

Portland We are a group of business people dedicated to creating a local, vibrant and sustainable business community here in Portland. Founded in 2003, we are a new and independent networking group working to promote and support each other and the local business community. We have a networking and educational breakfast meeting every other Tuesday morning at Old Wives Tales. We have other events as well. Visit www.sbnportland.org for our current schedule. We are also the force behind the "Think Local First" and "Keep the Green in Portland" campaigns. For more info or to join, visit www.ThinkLocalPortland.org Now unplug from that corporate supplier, go out and support your favorite LOCALLY OWNED business!

Technocracy, Inc. originated in 1918-1919 when Howard Scott formed a group of scientists, engineers, and economists. Technocracy is a social design for living engineered for the distribution of an abundance to all citizens from birth to death. For more information, call 503-283-9517 or visit the technocracy web- www.technocracyinc.org (continental site).

Voter Power Foundation Marijuana is Safe and Effective Medicine. Voter Power holds weekly clinics helping people qualify for Oregon's Medical Marijuana Law (OMMA). Voter Power is a group of activists who have fought for and won: both on Measure 67 (Oregon Medical Marijuana Act) and Measure 57 which stopped the legislature's attempt to recriminalize simple marijuana possession in 1998. Get up, stand up, and act up today. We currently need volunteers to circulate the petition for OMMA2 creating licensed dispensaries in Oregon where medical marijuana may be safely purchased. Call 503-224-3051 or visit us online at www.voterpower.org.

Veterans for Peace Ch. 72 Having defended this nation, we believe that national security comes only through peace and justice at home and abroad. Chapter activities include counter-recruiting in the schools, supporting land mine removal programs, and organizing, sponsoring, and participating in anti-war efforts. Our speakers offer their experiences so that others might better understand the true costs of war. We can help returned veterans come to terms with their experiences, because they are us. Veterans, and friends and family of veterans, are welcome to join us on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Friends Meeting House at 4312 SE Stark St. For more information call 503-282-5015, or see www.vfpchapter72.org, or visit the website of our national office www.veteransforpeace.org.

War Resisters League PDX Chapter: As conscientious objectors to war, we promote alternatives to militarism and military service. The Military & Draft Counseling Project provides draft counseling, counter-recruitment organizing, and civilian advocacy for military personnel and those considering enlistment. The Oregon Community for War Tax Resistance provides information and support for persons conscientiously refusing to pay for war, and we publicly redirect refused tax dollars to local service organizations. We also promote Peace Tax Fund legislation, through lobbying and public speaking, to provide a legal alternative for war tax objectors. 2000 NE 42nd Ave., Suite 224, Portland, OR 97213. 503-238-0605.

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) has been working since 1915 to unite women in all countries who oppose war, exploitation, and oppression. The Portland WILPF branch holds public meetings addressing peace and justice related issues. The monthly newsletter can be received free upon request. 1034 SW 13th, Portland, OR 97205; portland.wilpf.org, wilpfdx@gmail.com.

For just \$85 per year your group can appear in these pages. Call 503-327-8377 or contact Terrie Rodello at tarodello@igc.org for details.



"For a penguin, you're not very funny."

Progressive Arts and Culture!

By ELIZABETH RATHBUN

Art Events

Wed, April 6 to May 8: Oregon College of Arts and Crafts. Undergraduate

Thesis and Post-Baccalaureate Exhibition in Hoffman Gallery; April 6 to May 1: Fibers Dept. Exhibition; April 22: Artist in Residence Exit Presentation, Art and Pie.

Thurs, April 7: Pearl District First Thursday Portland Galleries Walk, 6 to 9. firstthursdayportland.com

Fri., April 1 to June 19: Oregon Historical Society Exhibition. 'Peace Corps: 50 Years of Service.' Peace Corps alumni loaned artifacts, extraordinary photos along with written and audio recollections of their travels.

Wed, April 27: Oregon History Museum: 'Face to Face with Masks from the MNCH Collection.' Contemporary masks of U.S. Culture, including the Northwest Coast and around the world.

Fri., April 29 to Sunday, May 1: Ceramic Showcase/The Gathering of the Guilds: Jewelry and Metal Arts, Oregon Potters Association, the Oregon Glass Guild, the Oregon Hand Weavers Guild and the Portland Bead Society, at the Oregon Convention Center. Hours Friday: 10-9, Saturday:10-7 and Sunday:10-5, Free Admission.

Blues and Jazz

Blue Monk, 3341 SE Belmont, thebluemonk.com. Curtis Salgado and Alan Jones rotate Thursdays; 8 p.m. \$10 cover. Sunday nights: Jazz at 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.

Candlelight Room: 2032 SW 5th Ave.; 503-222-3378; Price: Free; All shows: 9:30-to-1:30
Friday, April 1: Gretchen Mitchell;

Tuesday, April 2: Andy Stokes;

Friday, April 8: Chris Baum;

Saturday, April 9: Strange Tones.

Jimmy Maks: 221 NW 10th Ave 503-295-6542

Monday, April 4: Terry Robb Electric Band; April 11: Soul'd-Out Music Festival, Louis Hayes, Adv. Tickets at Tickets Oregon Gen. \$20, Reserved \$25; Mondays, April 18 and 25: Dan Balmer Band at 8 (Cover charge varies) Wednesdays, April 13, 20 and 27: Mel Brown Quartet Friday, April 15: Cutis Salgado, Adv Tickets at Tickets Oregon, Gen.\$20, Reserved \$25.

Comedy

Sunday, April 10: Max Jobrani, **Aladdin Theatre**, founding member of the Axis of Evil Comedy Tour; Middle Eastern/American Comics. Reserved seating: \$34 at 7 p.m.

Helium Comedy Club on Hawthorne and S.E. 9th. Tues through Sun; doors open at 6 with show at 8 p.m. Additional 10:30 p.m. show Fri and Sat. April 6 to 9: Aries Spears from 'MADtv'; Friday, April 15-16: Dana Gold, writer, 'The Simpsons'. April 21-23: Todd Barry, Comedy Central; April 28-30: JP Smooth, Curb Your Enthusiasm; Open Mike Night every Tues. with sign-up at 6:30 to 7, line-up posted at 7:30 and show at 8 p.m. Heliumcomedy.com

Dancing

Belly dancing

Fri., April 29 to Sunday, May 1: The Saqra Belly Dance Showcase, Washington County Fair Complex, Hillsboro. Workshops include: circle and double veil, sword, Bangra and Bollywood. Live dancing includes soloists, troupes and vendors. See: "www.bellydanceshowcase.com"

Wed. in Blue Monk basement, 3341 SE Belmont, Belly dance begins at 8 p.m. with a \$5 cover.

Tango.

Evening milongas from Monday through Saturday and Sunday afternoon. Visit Portlandtango.com for details.

Mon: Portland Police Athletic Association (PPAA), 618 S.E. Alder, Basic lesson 7:00 to 8:00, dancing to 12 p.m.

Wed: Norse Hall, 11th and Couch St.; Basic lesson 7:30 to 8:30, dancing to 12 p.m.

Thurs: Norse Hall, 11th and Couch St.; Basic lesson 7:30 to 8:30, dancing to 12 p.m.

Fri: Paradise Ballroom: 826 S.E. Belmont; Practica, 2 to 6 p.m.

Sun: Viscount Studio at 724 E. Burnside; 1 to 5 p.m.

Film

Hollywood Theatre Film Action Oregon; 4122 N.E.Sandy; See Hollywoodtheatre.org for times.

Sun, April 3 to April 17: The Portland Jewish Film Festival opens for a two-

week run in which 14 films representing the work of filmmakers in eight nations will be presented. <http://www.nwfilm.org/festivals/jewishfestival> General admission tickets are priced at \$7. Students, seniors and Portland Art Museum members pay \$6. A festival pass for admission to all 13 films is \$75. Pass holders have express entry.

Garden

Chinese: lansugarden.org;

Highlights: Music in the Teahouse, Bloom Walk, Art Exhibits, Summer hours.10 to 6 daily

Japanese: japanesegarden.org

Summer hours: 10 to 7 Tues through Sun and 12-7 on Mondays. Fri, April 8 to May 1: Art in the Garden, Come back Koi!; April 23: Annual Plant Sale.

Lectures

The 2011 Illahee Series includes leaders in energy policy, sustainability, biotechnology, food systems, economics and governance.

Sat, Apr 16: Michael Pollan - Author - Food Innovation Made Simple

Wed, May 4: Beth Noveck - Obama's Open Government Architect - Networked Governance

Wed, May 11: David Bollier - Author/Activist - Innovating in the Commons

Wed, Aug 31: Elinor Ostrom - Nobel Prize Winner - Social Innovation

\$20. per event; tickets for all events also available at slight discount. All events: First Congregational Church, 1126 SW Park, Portland.

Music at McMenamins:

Monday, April 4: **Edgefield.** 2126 SW Halsey St., Troutdale; Skip von Kuske. 7 pm. Multi-genre cellist with cross-cultural influence of many countries including E. Europe.

Thursday, April 10, 14: Edgefield. 2126 SW Halsey St., Troutdale: Hanz Araki: Irish flute player. 7:00. Free.

Tuesday, April 5: **Mission Theatre.** 1624 NW Glisan: Kora Band: Jazz with W. African Influence, 8:30 show. Kora is a harp from W. Africa \$7.00 tickets.

Thursday, April 7: **Crystal Ballroom** at

1332 W. Burnside. Preservation Hall Jazz Band at 7 and 8 pm \$25 tickets.

Theatre - Plays

See this link for list of Portland theatres. <http://www.all-oregon.com/state/info/theatre.htm>

Artists Reparatory Theatre, artistsrep.org, 1516 SW Alder, (503) 241-1278

Week nights at 6:30 p.m. reduced price tickets available for \$20 each. (30 min. before curtain)

March 15- April 17: Jack Goes Boating, A romantic comedy featuring idle Jack's plans to take the girl of his dreams on a Central Park boat ride and dinner.

April 19 - May 22: Chekhov's The Cherry Orchard; Characters return to their ancestral home and Cherry orchard on eve of an auction for its delinquent mortgage.

Milagro Theatre, milagro.org, Box office: 425 SE 6th and Theatre 525 SE Stark, (503)236-7253

Shows Thursday through Sunday with evenings and Sunday matinee.

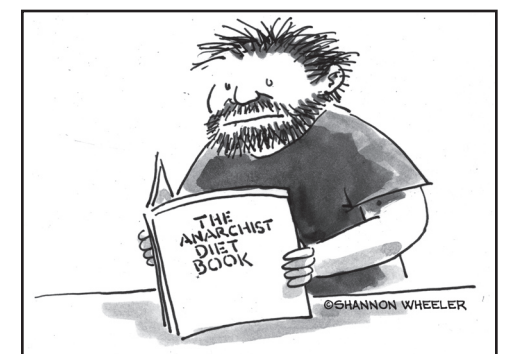
March 25 to April 16: Boomcracklefly, Three disparate stories woven together to create a science fiction/magical realism eccentric show that is unsettling yet irresistible. In English.

Portland Center Stage, pcs.org, 128 NW 11th Ave. (503) 445-3700

April 26 to June 19: 'Bust', Comedian Lauren Weedman, former Daily Show faux correspondent presents her one woman show about her experiences in-between jail and Hollywood.

Elizabeth Rathbun has a science, business and landscape design background. She has worked as a landscape designer; she gardens and writes from Tigard. She is former co-editor of Washington Co. Democratic Party Newsletter (2004-2007) and a member the League of Women Voter's Legislative Action Committee.

Please send events to Elizabeth Rathbun via editor@theportlandalliance.org



Shannon Wheeler: tmcm.com



"Bartender, there's a miniature man writing a post-modern critique on urban alienation in my beer."

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Low Tide Drifters: TPA Arts & Culture Interview with a Grassroots Progressive Band!

BY ELIZABETH RATHBUN

The band 'Low Tide Drifters' creates alternative music for regular working people - those who plug away at low paying jobs and struggle through hard economic times.

This kind of Americana music developed in 1995 as an alternative because listener interests stretched beyond one style. Contemporary Americana music is clearly inspired by traditions and is a vast genre which encompasses a wide range of music.

Most of American popular music, no matter what genre, takes a mainstream approach. What passes for pop tunes on MTV, the radio, or 'You Tube', does not portray reality in America. The lyrics are trivial because the corporate powers produce them that way. Songs are recycled and some of the talent is mediocre. Recording corporations restrict what gets out by avoiding the risk of unknowns.

Around the globe, people see American pop videos and stereotype the women as sex sirens and men as silent, strong and hard-working. To compete with mainstream music, alternative artists forge their own industry. If no alternative voices are getting through, people perceive all American music as substantially the same.

One Oregon-based group -- the Low Tide Drifters -- believes that much of American popular music oversimplifies and generalizes things. Spokeswoman Kate Downing says that too many songs are about romance and petty things that don't touch on the important issues. Although, she says, "It is safe for the industry to market this type of music, it is so shallow."

Disgust with the status quo has rekindled a folk music revival that speaks of reality in America-- it led to a new release this summer from Low Tide Drifters. It's called 'The New Hard Times Blues'.

Folk music has a way of turning up in hard times. It provides an oral history of events not found in history books. From its origins, folk music represented the working class. It is community-focused and the songs cover war, work, civil rights, hardship, broken hearts and satire.

The songs of Folk singers resonate with all walks of life. And their legacy is astounding.

Low Tide Drifter's Downing, and husband Nathan Moore, are part of a five-person Americana band from Eugene. "We wanted a name that expressed the connection to our coastal roots and what our songs reflect," Downing said. "People say you can't drift at low tide. But, we have our feet stuck in the mud."

They play a blend of folk/country/Piedmont style blues music to diverse crowds around the Pacific Northwest. Band members include Chico Schwall (instrumentalist), Wendy Schwall (bass) and Dennis Soper (harmonica.)

Their music provides an alternative to what most of the world sees as American popular music. Although they represent a small subgroup of the alternative folk industry, their songs reach people through the Internet and CD Baby. Low Tide Drifters has attracted an audience from around the U.S, Australia and the UK. And Downing says that listeners include

people from 'all walks of life' who enjoy the colorful stories and characters of realistic America.

The Low Tide Drifters were influenced by famed folk artists Woody Guthrie, Utah Phillips, Guy Clark, John Prine and Rosalie Sorrels. The band's music is about 'real people and real issues' in the Pacific Northwest: the difficulties of a waitress in a dead-end job, and people retraining to work in the low end service sector after losing family wage jobs in fishing and timber sectors. Downing grew up in Lincoln City and moved to Eugene in 1997. She experienced the frustration of the dead-end jobs that she sings about and says, "People in the Northwest are more independent than in other places and

they have a different take on things." She believes that their 'eccentric' qualities make them good subjects for interesting songs.

Group members spent time in coastal towns, like Lincoln City and Astoria, where the economies have suffered from lost family-wage jobs, Downing says. "One of our songs is called 'Lincoln County Blues.' It's about how hard it is to make a living and get out of your rut there."

In 2008, the Low Tide Drifters started playing publicly and have performed at Jobs with Justice fundraisers, regional union/labor causes and other charitable events. Downing says they support and are actively involved with



the progressive community. "It isn't specifically about unions. It's about people speaking up for what is right."

She writes lyrics with Nathan about the stories after finding causes that move them. After hearing that a 13-year-old El Salvador migrant crossing the Sonoran Desert, was found dead of dehydration, they wrote "Prayer for Josseline." It was crafted to shed light on a Tucson-based group -- 'No More Deaths' -- that puts water jugs in the desert to save migrants from dehydration and death.

Low Tide Drifters' songs are originally written and include a few traditional ones, Downing says. "We don't have a lot of love songs, but most people are just trying to get by and they need [those] songs too. We do always close performances with a longtime favorite."

The Low Tide Drifters' CD "New Hard Times Blues" is tentatively planned for early summer. It will be available on Myspace.com/lowtidedrifters, CD Baby, or iTunes.

May 27th, they will be in town at McMenamain's White Eagle Saloon on 836 N. Russell St. in Portland. They are

up first at 9:30 and share the bill with Back Porch Revival <http://www.backporchrevival.com/> and Whiskey Puppy <http://www.whiskeypuppy.com>

May 28th they will be at the Portland Saturday Market.

Their Facebook page is: HYPERLINK "http://www.facebook.com/pages/Low-Tide-Drifters/35106354588" <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Low-Tide-Drifters/35106354588>

Elizabeth Rathbun and Barbara Ellis collaborated on editing Elizabeth's Interview with Low Tide Drifters... If you have questions, contact Elizabeth: waterwise@frontier.com



cartoon by Shannon Wheeler

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their white counterparts, but the longer new arrivals stay, the more they develop health problems like their black and brown neighbors.

Preventable death, illness, and riding a bicycle are mutually exclusive. Biking is a fun, healthy activity. It makes a person feel good and helps the human body function more effectively.

When we lead physically active lives and make better nutrition choices, we can make ourselves whole. Good health helps us to avoid preventable deaths, illness, and expenses.

Biking is a fun form of exercise that empowers. You don't have to spend a bundle for a health club or sophisticated exercise machines. Everyone can use a bicycle for short trips around town.

Let's keep the conversation going about healthy options that are accessible for all members of our community. Riding a bike is a natural choice. Ride it out.

Yugen Fardan Rashad is a local community activist and commentator.

**PDX
POETRY
EVENTS**

LOCAL AUTHORS CELEBRATE NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

Joan Maiers hosts a poetry reading by local authors Greg Chaimov, A.Moloktov, and Sandra Stone on Sunday, April 17 at 6:30 PM. New books available for purchase and signing. Free and open to the public. \$5 donation suggested to assist Haitian girls' orphanage.

Moonstruck Chocolate Cafe,
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Contact: 503-697-7097.

Space is limited, so arrive early!
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Monthly Third Thursday Open Mic and Featured Reader at PAPER TIGER COFFEEHOUSE
Thursday, April 21st, 7pm
Paper Tiger Coffeehouse is at 703 Grand Blvd. in Vancouver, located between Mill Plain and Evergreen about a mile east of I-5), Allison Apotheker will be the featured poet.

In the corner of her room a closet with shelves perfectly lined with shoes made from colors of the rainbow
Pink, blue, red, orange and yellow!
Each day she picks a pair to match her silk gloves
A string of pearls to tie around her waist, gold bracelets to place on her light wrists, and moonstone pins to hold her thick hair in a chignon

A refined lady has choices, choices and choices!
Twenty evening dresses made for the Queen of Norway hang from the hooks
They're waterfalls of creamy colors from the Amazon jungles
For each one gold thread was sewn into the fabric to form a blossoming magnolia

As she puts on her heels Charles wraps a silk shawl made of crushed rose quartz around her supple body
He adorns her smooth neck with a ruby necklace so long it rests between her breasts
She barely notices this sweet gesture while applying pink blush
Her eyes in the shape of the waning Seln are lost in serenity

A man who drinks to squash his guilt must continue to lavish his goddess with pieces befitting the Queen of the Universe!
Gemstones smuggled from India are crushed into light powder
He sprinkles it onto white strips of cloth then smoothes it out
Although, a doubt pricks his mind, making him feel guilty for doing a cruel deed

His clients knock on the rotting door of his studio demanding their garments
Charles shoos them away as if they are wandering beggars
His mind fixated on a refined woman entrapped in his heart
He gives her potent lust to taste yet Mdvani rejects it

What seems to be the magnificence of couturier is in fact Mdvani!
She runs along his arms tickling him
With one hand the resplendent muse blows blue petals into his mind
To her surprise the wind snatches her white hat snickering in delight

Mdvani's eyes turn red with bubbling anger
She's a cat ready to pounce a taunting mouse!
On his sewing table a large red gemstone manifests
Cut in the shape of a tulip, its sharp edge is hardly noticeable
Passion gives it color for which Charles fixates on

He rubs the edge unaware of blood sliding down the treasure
Mdvani plays her games without giving a reason
She is a muse of few words but her actions have a language of their own
Charles will never see her inner world for he was devoured by his own

By, Sunil P. Narayan

(Mdvani is a registered trademark and copyright of BillyBoy (2010).*

It is used with permission from BillyBoy & Lala.*

Visit here for more info on the muse Mdvani: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mdvani>)

Sunil's work has been a long, enriching journey that he describes as having absorbed the world's eccentricities to create a masterpiece of color, surrealism and human emotion. The past two years witnessed a climatic moment in which his writing churned out emotionally-inducing poems.

*It is his intent to help people access feelings they rarely get to experience.
His work has been published in many venues, including but not limited to,*

*GuyWriters Magazine, Supraterranean, Kritiya: A Journal of Poetry,
and right here in The Portland Alliance.*

"Raven"

Raven,
what can we make of this war for our village?
Raven,
explain all this plunder and pillage.
It's all so frightfully clear.
Since, Raven's been wavin war flags around here.
So, Raven stop wavin war flags around here.
Raven,
It blows, as blood flows, on our heads and our toes.
Heaven knows, we're shedding much more than a tear.
Since, Raven's been wavin war flags around here.
So, Raven stop wavin war flags around here.
Raven,
who are you savin
with points you've been shavin,
the lives you are stakin,
the ground you have shaken.
No haven is safe from blind hatred we fear.
Since, Raven's been wavin war flags around here.
So, Raven stop wavin war flags around here.
Raven,
You want to blast us into outer space.
First let's feed, house, and clothe the human race.
Cause, there's gore over here, death and war over there.
We have not any other worlds to share or spare,
it's all too painfully clear.
Since, Raven's been wavin war flags around here.
So, Raven stop wavin war flags around here.

Raven,
Don't go engravin, dull colors of your framin,
of our red, our white, and our blue.
It shames us to see the dirty tricks that you do,
it is all too famously clear,
since, Raven's been wavin war flags around here.
so, Raven stop wavin war flags around here.

by Buddy Bee Anthony

Buddy Bee on Buddy Bee:

*I know who I am, and what I want to be when I grow up.
Just who I am now. A minstrel, entertainer. I would love
to travel. Tour the world, Entertaining others. I am an
addict. I need an audience. Simply put, music and song
are my drugs of choice. Poetry is one delivery system
for these drugs.*

Buddy on Portland:

*Street minstrels and merchants have coexisted for ages.
I understand not playing music in front of your house or
next to a nursing home, but Downtown Portland is where
the people are. It's noisy there too. It's supposed to be diverse
and weird. As they say. Let's not turn Downtown into a wax
museum, a theme park, or a mausoleum.*

More Poetry & Events Online at: <http://www.theportlandalliance.org/poetry.html>

War in Afghanistan

I n c a l c u l a b l e

By KATHY KELLY

Recent polls suggest that while a majority of U.S. people disapprove of the war in Afghanistan, many on grounds of its horrible economic cost, only three percent took the war into account when voting in the 2010 midterm elections. The issue of the economy weighed heavily on voters, but the war and its cost, though clear to them and clearly related to the economy in their thinking, was a far less pressing concern.

U.S. people, if they do read or hear of it, may be shocked at the apparent unconcern of the crews of two U.S. helicopter gunships, who attacked and killed nine children on a mountainside in Afghanistan's Kunar province, shooting them "one after another" on Tuesday March 1st. ("The helicopters hovered over us, scanned us and we saw a green flash from the helicopters. Then they flew back high up, and in a second round they hovered over us and started shooting." (NYT 3/2/11)). Four of the boys were seven years old; three were eight, one was nine and the oldest was twelve. "The children were gathering wood under a tree in the mountains near a village in the district," said Noorullah Noori, a member of the local development council in Manogai district. "I myself was involved in the burial," Noori said. "Yesterday we buried them." (AP, March 2, 2011)

General Petraeus has acknowledged, and apologized for, the tragedy. He has had many tragedies to apologize for,

just counting Kunar province alone. Last August 26th, in the Manogai district, Afghan authorities accused international forces of killing six children during an air assault on Taliban positions. Provincial police chief Khalilullah Ziayee said a group of children were collecting scrap metal

on the mountain when NATO aircraft dropped bombs to disperse Taliban fighters attacking a nearby base. "In the bombardment six children, aged six to 12, were killed," the police commander said. "Another child was injured."

In the Bamiyan province of Afghanistan, Zekirullah, a young Afghan friend of mine, age 15, rises at 2 a.m. several mornings each week and rides his donkey for six hours through the pre-dawn to reach a mountainside where he can collect scrub brush and twigs which he loads on the donkey in baskets. Then he heads home and stacks the wood - on top of his family's home - to be taken down later and burned for heat. They don't have electrical appliances to heat the home, and even if they did the villagers only get electricity for two hours a day, generally between 1 - 3 a.m. Families rely on their children to collect fuel for heat during the harsh winters and for cooking year-round. Young laborers, wanting to help their families survive,

mean no harm to the United States. They're not surging at us, or anywhere: they're not insurgents. They're not doing anything to threaten us.

They are children, and children anywhere are like children everywhere: they're children like our own. Sadly, more and more of us in America are getting used to the idea of child poverty - and even child labor - as our own economy sinks further under

"Things are getting bad here, but in Afghanistan, children are bombed. Their bodies are casually dismembered and strewn by machines already lost in the horizon as the limbs settle."

the burden of our latest nine years of war, of \$2 billion per week we spend creating poverty abroad that we can then emulate at home. Things are getting bad here, but in Afghanistan, children are bombed. Their bodies are casually dismembered and strewn by machines already lost in the horizon as the limbs settle. They lie in pools of blood until family members realize, one by one, that their children are not just late in getting home but in fact will never return.

In October and again in December of 2010, our small delegation of Voices for Creative Nonviolence activists met with a large family living in a wretched refugee camp. They had fled their homes in the San Gin district of the Helmand Province after a drone attack killed a mother and her five children. The woman's husband showed us photos of his children's bloodied corpses. His niece, Juma Gul, age 9, had survived the attack. On a chilly December morning, Juma and I

huddled next to each other inside a hut made of mud. Her father stooped in front of us and gently unzipped her jacket, showing me that his daughter's arm had been amputated by shrapnel when the U.S missile hit their home in San Gin. Next to Juma Gul was her brother, whose leg had been mangled in the attack. He apparently has no access to adequate medical care and experiences constant pain.

The pilot of the attacking drone, perhaps controlling it from as far away as Creech Air Force Base here in the United States, knows nothing of this family or of the pain that he or she helped inflict. Nor do the commanders, the people who set up the base, the people who pay for it with their taxes, and the people who persist in electing candidates intent on indefinitely prolonging the war.

But sometimes the war is like it was this past Tuesday March 1. Sometimes the issue is right in front of us - as it was to those helicopter crews - it's up close so there can be no mistake about what we are doing. According to the election polls we see the cost of war dimly, but as with the helicopter crews, it doesn't affect or prevent our decisions. Afterwards we deplore the tragedy; we make a pretense of acknowledging the cost of war, but it is incalculable. We can't hope to count it. We actually, finally, have to stop making people like the nine children who died on March 1st, pay it.

~~~~~  
*Kathy Kelly co-coordinates Voices for Creative Nonviolence (www.vcnv.org) and has worked closely with the Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers (www.livewithoutwars.org) contact info: (Kathy@vcnv.org)*

## Vegetable Gardening Basics, Part 1

**W**ow! This column marks the 120<sup>th</sup> time I have shared my gardening thoughts with readers of The Portland Alliance. That's ten years' worth since I began back in October of 1999. When I looked back at the topics I've covered through the years, I was surprised to find I have never written a column on my recommended procedures for starting a vegetable garden. That changes starting with the next paragraph. Thanks, readers, for letting me share, rant, and rave.

### General considerations before you begin.

Start small. Get a feel for what it takes for a garden to thrive. In the beginning, it will take a lot of your time and energy to prepare the soil, water, and especially to weed. I want you to WANT to tend to your garden, not dread it. So start with just one or maybe two 4- by 8-foot raised beds.

Consider using raised beds, which have several main benefits. Because the beds are raised up 6 to 8 inches (more than that is usually neither necessary nor desirable), they dry out sooner. And because the soil dries out sooner, it heats up sooner, and that is what is needed to get seeds germinated in our cool, wet springs. I usually use reclaimed 2- x 6-inch fir lumber. Even if you don't use sides (oftentimes, soil

### Ground View

BY GLEN ANDRESEN



Picture by Glen Andresen

*Natural gardening educator and organic gardener Glen Andresen teaches Beekeeping, Gardening, & More at [Http://kboo.fm/TheDirtbag](http://kboo.fm/TheDirtbag)*

is just mounded up), raised beds are a good idea. Another benefit of raised beds is that you know exactly where your garden bed is - so you don't walk on it! Compacting your garden soil is one of the worst things you can do.

Build your garden bed in the sun. Most vegetables do best in full sun. That's a tall order for most of us city-dwellers, who have to deal with houses and trees that create shade. Shoot for at least six hours of full sunlight a day; eight is better.

Set up a compost bin NOW. There is no reason to wait to begin composting. The three most important words in the gardener's vocabulary are - or should be - compost, compost and compost.

Compost is essentially the food for microorganisms that live in the soil. Those tiny critters turn compost into the nutrients that your plants need to thrive and stay healthy.

Create a complex ecosystem. In other words, don't plant just vegetables. Try to plant lots of flowers that attract beneficial insects - both pollinating insects (such as bees) and pest-consuming insects (such as ladybugs and parasitic wasps). The flowers don't have to be right in your raised bed. Around the perimeter of your yard is fine. A garden is more than just plants.

Plan to use supplemental water. Here in the Willamette Valley we cannot rely on natural rainfall to supply all the water that our veggies require. So you will need to think about how you will get water to your garden beds. I recommend drip irrigation, or some kind of trickle irrigation, which is very efficient and allows you to do pinpoint watering; this leads to healthier plants with fewer problems and fewer weeds. If you can't set up a drip irrigation system, you'll need to use a hose or watering can. Whatever type of watering system you use, you should strive to water the soil deeply, but less often. Be careful with the hose or watering can: often water comes out way too fast and furiously to allow for good soil penetration.

These vegetable gardening considerations will give you something to think about and plan for as you await next month's topics: planting, soil amendments, tools, and weed and pest control (think slugs!).

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The public is invited to a front-row seat at the garden. The 80 acre botanical attraction has events for adults and children:  
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April 9, Lecture on caring for cane-bearing fruit. 1pm in the OSU room. \$15  
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**"When I looked back at the topics I've covered through the years, I was surprised to find I have never written a column on my recommended procedures for starting a vegetable garden."**





by Clyde List

# POETRY PAGE

“Happy National Poetry Month!”  
*Subversive Verse*  
BY MARY OUGHT SIX

## “READING A STORY BY EDWIDGE DANTICAT”

RedWhiteBlue

what soon emerges, after all  
gulping shouting,  
is a school of color fish in their  
vari-colored undershorts  
and hats, one size too large, vivid, foetally blue and promising,  
very much alive in their unsought death they float  
after catastrophe, with a Grace  
only the rich  
in spirit know  
a long tall wall of color green  
shouting at you, welcoming you aboard-  
fish in extreme positions on a crowded plate  
away from their accustomed bowl, but still  
batting their fins, flipping it to birds- welcoming  
sunlight  
floating as if in air only  
belly up, in the indifferent brine  
so flat after the end of time  
as though one of those bombs  
went off  
again this storm has passed  
for now

swimming smiling stirring magical  
currents in the water  
on the surface of water and deeply steeply-  
below as well  
extreme remoteness dealt with without love,  
only a singular horrific love-  
that hits like a shark-  
or an earthquake-

what stings worse than  
the remoteness of a drone  
fathered in air from Nevada, batting its fins  
stiff as blades, showing its sharp teeth just once,  
over Heimand Province  
(US military busts another  
Heimand for Christ)

saying hello to the children,  
telling them they matter,  
as they explode. They are welcome to come back  
always welcome to come back

if they don't move and don't shoot back  
and behave themselves loyally  
like children on a Haitian beach-  
and drones love children-  
but Haitian children on the beach just don't deserve  
drone-orchestrated attacks. They aren't valuable enough to bomb

They aren't worth the love invested in making  
a drone attack work right  
the yanqui taxpayers want to see something  
for their dollars

better leave the demise of black children  
to the inexorable!

Deluge!  
-of climate change, seismic uproar with  
only a tease of Hope and Audacity

You're always welcome back  
You can always go

home again  
if you can dig  
deep enough

to uncover  
the remains of it  
beneath the beach where the vermin live, crawl dig  
and recreate you are left to search

Edwidge would add with a fist perhaps  
color, bucketsfull more than likely, swatches  
as broad  
as the Caribbean sunset,  
finger painting on the ocean, a smudge  
of a passing winged creature winking or  
sand crabs assaulting  
the luminous peaceful beach  
its remoteness the remoteness

of an arm bloodless, without  
color, black or white, not one dot of it!  
peeking out from rubble  
remoteness like a globalized bank, the invisible  
arms  
securitizing us out of our communities, out of every  
red cent

as we watch, alarmed we are paralyzed by  
the entertainment, we are  
..compliant complicit..

indignant

but not illegal (we need these police state guides, right? They'll save us  
when we need it and they'll tell us  
when we do.(gawdamm! Duck!  
Herre comes one now!!)

toatly in the American grain  
of today  
but we DID notice, we were paying  
attention,  
we saw we were so over-  
incredibly good movie we thought  
such an ending  
deserves a prize at least

remoteness of answers to boring everyday  
needs just to survive (we shake our heads in well-rehearsed alarm  
-we've seen many movies, we think we've seen this one-  
; we watched our parents and their's do the same  
shedding the light outside  
for a comfortable place in the dark  
thumb-sucking optional)

The story goes:

a fisherman loses his wife in a phosphorescent night sea  
as paralyzed he waits  
for the shark to strike  
he loses his wife she disappears  
before him in a swirl of brilliant eyes  
a new child is left over  
Who can afford to raise such a child, he gives her away  
for her own good, for someone else to use  
for cheap labor and the rest of it,  
what rape the defenseless provide

A remoteness  
the remoteness of the Koch Bros or Roger Ailes  
who have their monuments  
and invite who will  
to come pay homage-  
presidents will, fascist tribes  
will- they are all alike  
like all other tribes, they revolve  
around power or its symbols, the ocean  
or the globe and anchor  
these rich buy democracy and give us the right  
to live our death in compliance,  
our guilelessness our ruin,  
but we remain legal  
till our utter dismissal  
with our names forgotten  
before you finish this page-  
if we matter at all  
(probably not enough, we're  
devaluing like spent breath  
or yesterday's hydrogen explosion  
in Reactor 2)

they send us to war, they always send us  
to a war  
we die like the rest  
breathlessly alone  
mouths legal  
agape  
a body in the dirt alone

Edwidge's extremes of clashing colors  
don't run

She will speak to the extreme usefulness of a black president  
excellent marketing shrewdness of the unreachable unnameable  
god

anonymous oligarchs who have it all  
and want more money their substance,  
their endless rumination  
the preoccupation of all their wits  
which speaking legally  
is standardized as sanity  
for the handful at the tippy top  
of the capitalist mound  
All of it, everything,  
is what's required for them to sleep  
nothing left for any other soul  
THAT'S winning all the toys  
even the top  
tenth of one percent  
are upwardly mobile  
punks

Please see More Poetry Pages page 7

# NEWS BYTES! PROGRESSIVE IDEAS IN MOTION

## Building a bigger tent:

Street Roots Executive Director Israel Bayer joined Commissioner Nick Fish and others on a tour of Seattle housing and homeless programs and solutions. Read the whole interview at **Street Roots**: <http://streetroots.wordpress.com/>

## Obama's Libya War: Unconstitutional, Naïve, Hypocritical

By Matthew Rothschild, March 19, 2011 at **Progressive Magazine**

Our founders would be appalled that a President of the United States could launch the country into an armed conflict half a world away without a formal declaration of war by Congress... At this point in the warping of our system of checks and balances, a President can wage war almost whenever he feels like it — ... We, as Americans, need to face facts: We have a runaway Executive Branch when it comes to warmaking. More info: <http://progressive.org/wx031911.html>

## Hotel Workers Crack Hilton, Face Quickie Hyatt Elections

UNITE HERE: Hilton Hotel workers in three cities have wrested contracts from Hilton after a year and a half of pickets, lobby takeovers, boycotts, and short strikes. They hope this victory will set off a cascade of agreements in the recovering hospitality industry. See rest of article in Labor Notes! <http://labornotes.org/2011/03/hotel-workers-crack-hilton-face-quickie-hyatt-elections>

## Labor finds its fighting spirit

Wisconsin Attacks spark outrage & resistance across US. Linda Averill with on-scene reporting by Mary Ann Curtis: Imagine labor candidates campaigning for creating jobs through a shorter work week with no pay cut, mass jobs programs, hiking corporate taxes, ending U.S. wars, redirecting money to universal health care, restoring social programs, etc. More info: <http://www.socialism.com/drupal-6.8/?q=node/1605>

## Doris Murphy dies at 101

Posted by Andrea Granahan

Doris Murphy died Monday at the age of 101 in her Occidental home. Known to be elegant, flirtatious and gracious, she rests on the laurels of enormous contributions to her community. Doris was born in Portland, Oregon, and attended Reed College, a hotbed for socially progressive young people. The Great Depression was in full swing. More info: <http://bodega.towns.pressdemocrat.com/2011/03/news/doris-murphy-dies-at-101/>

## From Truthout by Noam Chomsky The Cairo-Madison Connection

Wednesday, March 9, 2011

An Egyptian union leader & prominent figure in the Jan. 25 movement recently expressed solidarity with the "workers of Wisconsin." "We stand with you as you stood with us." Labor movements



*"Thanks to WikiLeaks, everyone knows I'm a dog."*

have been in the forefront of protecting democracy and human rights and expanding their domains, a primary reason why they are a counterweight to public and private systems of power. Labor struggles in Egypt and the U.S. are moving in different directions: toward gaining rights in Egypt, and defending rights under harsh attack in the U.S.

<http://www.truthout.org/the-cairo-madison-connection68333>

**"We, as Americans, need to face facts: We have a runaway Executive Branch when it comes to warmaking."**

From **Truthout** by Dave Lindorff

## Madison, a foretaste of things to come, the next big occupation could be boomers taking over the capital building.

Thursday, March 3, 2011

In Wisconsin we saw a preview of coming attractions: outrage over attempts to cut social security and Medicare. As 79 million Baby Boomers begin to reach eligibility, an uprising could take place in the US congress ... more info: <http://www.truthout.org/madison-a-foretaste-things-come-next-big-occupation-could-be-boomers-taking-over-capitol-building682>

From **Truthout** by Mike Ludwig

## Activists Hold Wall Street Accountable for the Economic Crisis

Monday, March 7, 2011

Demonstrators rallied in Washington, DC at the spring meeting of the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG) to demand that all 50 states file criminal foreclosure fraud charges against banks. An investigation is underway into banks' practice of signing foreclosure documents without checking for accuracy - a practice the NAAG calls "robo-signing." <http://www.truthout.org/activists-hold-wall-street-accountable-economic-crisis68286>

From **Labor Notes** by Mark Brenner and Mischa Gous

## Citing unstable staffing, LA and DC Nurses strike

Thurs., March 3 and Friday, March 4 Administrators said that they would lock-out 1600 nurses protesting in Washington D C against short staffing and compensation cuts. [<http://labornotes.org/2011/03/>

citing-unstable-staffing-dc-nurses-strike" More than 1000 NUHW Nurses went on strike in LA over staffing levels they say threaten patient care. more: <http://labornotes.org/2011/03/nuhw-nurses-strike-los-angeles-over-staffing-levels>

## From the Jewish Review by Paul Haist Groups back Oregon-Israel Business Ties

Thursday, March 3, 2011

60 business, professional and government leaders, including former Gov. Kulongoski, gathered in Portland Feb. 22 to mark the formation of the Oregon-Israel Business Alliance, dedicated to promoting economic ties between Oregon and the Jewish state. Kulongoski made a commitment while on a trade mission to Israel for Oregon and Israel to work together to identify projects in which private businesses can collaborate on research and development while also developing a framework to help finance those efforts. more info: <http://www.jewishreview.org/local/Group-backs-Oregon-Israel-business-ties>

From **El Hispanic News**

## Intercultural Organization Endorses Three Bills

Thursday, March 3, 2011

The Center for Intercultural Organizing follows three bills in the Oregon Legislature: SB 655 would create a Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs to study how immigrants and refugees interact with business, non-profits, and the state of Oregon, SB 654 creates Racial Impact Statements to determine how any new law pertaining to child welfare or criminal justice would affect different ethnicities. SB 97 ensures that medical professionals receive ongoing cultural competency training. More: <http://www.elhispanicnews.com/2011/03/03/intercultural-organization-endorses-three-bills/>

## From El Hispanic News by Richard Jones Two (Proposed) Pro-Immigrant Bills are Introduced in Oregon

Thursday, March 3, 2011

SB 742 would entitle all graduates from Oregon high schools with outstanding records to pay in-state tuition to Oregon universities. With out-of-state tuition rates nearly twice as high, the proposed bill would offer a more affordable in-state rate to undocumented graduates. SB 845 would allow Oregon residents, regardless of citizenship, to apply for driver licenses. Both bills have bipartisan support. more: <http://www.elhispanicnews.com/2011/03/03/two-pro-immigrants-bills-introduced-in-oregon/>

## From The Skanner by Brian Stimson New Study Reveals Public's Ignorance of Crime

Thursday, March 3, 2011

Despite having the lowest crime rate since the 1960s, a majority of Oregonians believe crime rates have risen or remained high. A study done

by Portland State University's Criminal Justice Policy Research Institute revealed those who believed crime had increased or remained the same mainly identified as conservative, did not have a bachelor's degree, and made less than \$50,000 a year. Violent crimes have dropped steadily since the mid-1990s and property crimes are at their lowest level since 1966. more: <http://www.theskanner.com/article/2011/03/03/Study-Reveals-Publics-Ignorance-of-Crime-Drop>

## From Northwest Labor Press Mr. President, America Can't Afford Job-Killing Trade Deals

Friday, March 4, 2011

Labor rights activists reminded President Obama during a visit to Intel on Feb. 18 of his 2008 campaign pledges to renegotiate NAFTA and another treaty with Korea started under Bush. Obama has not renegotiated NAFTA and is sending the Korean treaty to Congress for approval. Obama's motorcade entered Intel by a different gate and didn't see the protesters. He was visiting to announce the appointment of Intel CEO Paul Otellini to a "Council on Jobs and Competitiveness" and to deliver the message that education is what will make the U.S. more competitive in the global economy.

Protester Arthur Stamoulis said, "No one's going to speak against better education. But what the country really needs is jobs, and what the president is putting out there is trade policy that makes it easier for companies to offshore jobs." more: <http://www.nwlaborpress.org/2011/0304/3-4-11FTAs.html>

From **The Skanner**:

## Obama's Attack on African Soil was Unjustified

Libyan sovereignty should have been respected; is invasion an impeachable offense? by William Reed, at Business Exchange

March 28, 2011

Saying that "It's time for Gadhafi to go," President Barack Obama joined a coalition of colonialist countries to invade Africa. Ignoring protests from leaders of the African Union, Obama partnered with NATO's (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) league of neo-colonialists to "get Gadhafi." ... America's first Black President is proving himself "one of the boys" when it comes to participating in imperialists' interventions. For more information: <http://www.theskanner.com/article/2011/03/28/Obamas-Attack-on-African-Soil-Was-Unjustified>

## Still in the Dark about 911

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

For a decade, we have been obsessed with a terrorist enemy that we still barely comprehend. What the public knows about the events of 9/11 is through the report of the bipartisan 9/11 Commission. The commission was denied access to the prisoners whose testimony, elicited after torture, provided the basic narrative for Sept. 11, 2001. The Obama administration has shown no interest in pursuing the alleged perpetrators of the 9/11 terrorist attack. A fair and public trial would reveal motives of those we must defeat. Conservative ideologues who

[continued on page 15](#)

# On Speaking Truth to Nuclear Power

The other night, as news from Japan took a turn for the worse, I stayed up late and wrote about Nuclear Power Madness. I hope you'll read the article and pass it on.

My opposition to nuclear power is longstanding. In the late 1970s, while advocating for solar and wind energy as well as conservation, I devoted two years to public education and nonviolent civil disobedience that aimed to shut down a large nuclear power plant operating just forty miles from Portland, Oregon.

Later, I served as director of the National Citizens Hearings for Radiation Victims and co-authored *Killing Our Own: The Disaster of America's Experience with Atomic Radiation*. The book is now online.

Despite the latest in a long line of presidential assurances, the nuclear facts are dire. As the director of Public Citizen's Energy Program wrote this week, "There are alternatives. Had Japan invested in rooftop solar and wind turbines to the degree it spent maintaining and building nuclear reactors, the country wouldn't be grappling with the potential of a full-scale nuclear meltdown."

The ominous power of the nuclear industry extends from Sacramento to Washington, D.C., where an atomic lobbying force throws buckets of money at Capitol Hill.

"On Speaking Truth to Nuclear Power" was published Monday, March 14, 2011 by CommonDreams.org

Like every other president since the 1940s, Barack Obama has promoted nuclear power. Now, with reactors melting down in Japan, the official stance is more disconnected from

reality than ever.

Political elites are still clinging to the oxymoron of "safe nuclear power." It's up to us -- people around the world -- to peacefully and insistently shut those plants down.

There is no more techno-advanced country in the world than Japan.

**"I devoted two years to public education and nonviolent civil disobedience that aimed to shut down a large nuclear power plant operating just forty miles from Portland, OR"**

Nuclear power is not safe there, and it is not safe anywhere.

As the New York Times reported on Monday, "most of the nuclear plants in the United States share some or all of the risk factors that played a role at Fukushima Daiichi: locations on tsunami-prone coastlines or near earthquake faults, aging plants, and backup electrical systems that rely on diesel generators and batteries that could fail in extreme circumstances."

Nuclear power -- from uranium mining to fuel fabrication to reactor operations to nuclear waste that will remain deadly for hundreds of thousands of years -- is, in fact, a moral crime against future generations.

But syrupy rhetoric has always marinated the nuclear age. From the

outset -- even as radioactive ashes were still hot in Hiroshima and Nagasaki -- top officials in Washington touted atomic energy as redemptive. The split atom, we were to believe, could be an elevating marvel.

President Dwight Eisenhower pledged "to help solve the fearful atomic dilemma" by showing that "the miraculous inventiveness of man shall not be dedicated to his death, but consecrated to his life."

## Media Beat

BY NORMAN SOLOMON



Even after the Three Mile Island accident in 1979 and the Chernobyl disaster in 1986 -- and now this catastrophe in Japan -- the corporate theologians of nuclear faith have continued to bless their own divine projects.

Thirty years ago, when I coordinated the National Citizens Hearings for Radiation Victims on the edge of Capitol Hill, we heard grim testimony from nuclear scientists, workers, downwinders and many others whose lives had been forever ravaged by the split atom. Routine in the process was tag-team deception from government agencies and nuclear-invested companies.

By 1980, generations had already suffered a vast array of terrible consequences -- including cancer, leukemia and genetic injuries -- from a nuclear fuel cycle shared by the "peaceful" and military atom. Today, we know a lot more about the abrupt and slow-moving horrors of the nuclear industry.

<< To read the rest of this article, go to: <http://www.normansolomonexploratory.com/index.php/events> >> ays and years ahead.

*Norman Solomon is president of the Institute for Public Accuracy and a senior fellow at RootsAction.*



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# Another Illegal War, This time in Libya

## Random gleanings on Obama's third war...

Steven Walt on the similarity between neocons and "liberal interventionists" (or better, neoliberals?) points out that the US promised Libya would be "amply rewarded" for giving up its WMDs program and even donating its nuke centrifuges to Oak Ridge). [http://walt.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2011/03/21/what\\_intervention\\_in\\_libya\\_tells\\_us\\_about\\_the\\_neocon\\_liberal\\_alliance](http://walt.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2011/03/21/what_intervention_in_libya_tells_us_about_the_neocon_liberal_alliance)

Its reward is now being delivered via the missiles and bombs of "Operation Odyssey Dawn." Perhaps Sarklozy,

**"The rescue was conducted with a Marine jump jet and there were US boots on the ground..."**

Cameron and Obama (the main warmongers) would have thought twice if Libya had nukes). <http://www.tinyrevolution.com/mt/archives/003470.html>

"...A Marine Corps officer said that two Harrier attack jets dropped two 500-pound bombs during the rescue of the pilot [of the \$23M F-15E that crashed], about (4:30 p.m. Monday E.D.T.). The officer said that the grounded pilot, who was in contact with rescue crews in the air, asked for the bombs to be dropped as a

precaution before the crews landed to pick him up "My understanding is he asked for the ordnance to be delivered between where he was located and where he saw people coming towards him," the officer said, adding that the pilot evidently made the request "to keep what he thought was a force closing in on him from closing in on him." The officer said he did not know if the people approaching the pilot were friendly or hostile or whether any Libyans had been killed or injured in the explosions from the bombs. The rescue was conducted with a Marine jump jet and there were US boots on the ground during the operation. Channel 4 News in Britain

reported that six villagers were shot by American troops during one of the rescue operations, but it was unclear whether it was the rescue of the pilot or the weapons officer. None of the villagers - who were interviewed by a Channel 4 reporter in a nearby hospital - were killed, though a 20-year-old man could have a leg amputated. "[http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/23/world/africa/23libya.html?\\_r=1&hp](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/23/world/africa/23libya.html?_r=1&hp)

Still, as a presidential candidate who



Michael Munk

promoted his background as an instructor of constitutional law, Mr. Obama appeared to adopt a more limited view of executive power when he answered a question about whether a president could order the bombing of Iranian nuclear sites without a use-of-force authorization from Congress. "The president does not have power under the Constitution to unilaterally authorize a military attack in a situation that does not involve stopping an actual or imminent threat to the nation," Mr. Obama told The Boston Globe in December 2007.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/22/world/africa/22powers.html?scp=1&sq=president%20power%20to%20attack&st=cse>

There's an argument going on about whether crediting "Obama's women" (Hillary Clinton, Samantha Power and Susan Rice) with pushing a "reluctant" president to go to war with Libya is sexist. UN Ambassador

Rice had to leave the Security Council to round up the ambassador of South Africa, who had pledged to vote for the war resolution but evidently had second thoughts. If she hadn't found him, the intervention go-ahead (camouflaged as a "No fly zone") would have received only the minimum nine to pass. Security Council rules require that none of the "Big Five" use their veto (a "no" vote) but may abstain and that nine of the 15 members agree. In the recent failure of a resolution against then illegal Israeli land grabs, 14 of the 15 members agreed, but the US used its veto and the resolution failed.

On the Libya intervention vote, two of the veto holders which had indicated opposition--Russia and China--abstained and thus enabled passage. They were joined by more heavy-weights-- Germany, Brazil and India. So, the three veto holders who pushed the resolution--France, UK and the US--were able to persuade Lebanon, Gabon, Nigeria, Portugal, South Africa, Columbia and Bosnia & Herzovogina to vote with them for a total of ten.

[visit www.michaelmunk.com](http://www.michaelmunk.com)

*Michael Munk is a Portland writer, political analyst, researcher, historian, and author of "The Portland Red Guide."*

The Portland Red Guide, 2nd Edition, will be available May 1st in honor of the international celebration of rights--Mayday.

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http://www.idealist.org/view/

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# TOO MUCH COFFEE MAN

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