

**VOL. 31 NO. 3** 

1981-2011 CELEBRATING OUR 30TH YEAR OF SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER

MARCH 2011

"If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear."
--Eric Arthur Blair (aka George Orwell, English novelist and essayist, 1903-1950)

# When will the occupations end?

BY ALLIANCE STAFF

Portland Chapter of Jewish Voice for Peace Condemns US Veto of Israeli Settlement Resolution at The United Nations.

he Jewish Voice for Peace expresses its dismay that our government has chosen to play a non-productive, obstructionist international role by, for the first time in the Obama Administration, using our veto on the United Nations Security Council, in order to block a resolution supported by all of the other 14 current member nations on the Council, including the United Kingdom and France thus preventing the Counsel from issuing a resolution condemning the ongoing construction of more and larger Israeli Settlements upon Palestinian land, in the Occupied

Please see Occupation page 6

# LET'S MARCH!



#### **ACTIVISM!!!**

We're "takin' it to the streets" Show up and walk the talk:

Monday, March 7, Rally for Jobs, Steps of the State Capitol, 900 Court St NE, Salem, contact Oregon AFL-CIO for more info: 503-287-3114, Carpool from JwJ office at 10:30 a.m.

**Friday, March 18**, Stand Up for Fairness Rally, details TBA

Saturday, March 19, Pioneer Court- House Square Peace March and Rally: Eight Years in Iraq -- Nine in Afghanistan: How is the War Economy Working for You? 12:30 p.m. Music 1 p.m. Rally / 1:30 p.m. Peace March

**Saturday, April 16** Mass Rally for Jobs Not Cuts, SAVE THIS DATE! Downtown Portland, Details TBA

For more info go to Portland Jobs with Justice Website <a href="http://www.jwjpdx.org/">http://www.jwjpdx.org/</a> wr call at 503.236.5573.

# Non-Profit Health Care: It's alive!

# Single-Payer Healthcare is back on the table

**By Samuel Metz** 

Two facts to disturb your coffee break.

1. Oregonians already pay enough health insurance premiums to provide every Oregonian with comprehensive, no deductible, no co-pay, all medications included health care.

2. We aren't getting it.

Where's the disconnect?

It's not the usual suspects: undocumented immigrants, medical malpractice, insurance fraud, government waste, or fee-for-service reimbursement. The answer is that private health insurance is the most inefficient method of financing health care known to man.

Any health care financing agency must keep administrative costs low. Single-payer agencies like Medicare and the Veterans Administration are under 4%. Private single-payer agencies, like Taft-Hartley multi-employer heath plans, are less than that.

To:

The private health insurance industry, sacred cow of Democrats and Republicans alike, produces a 40% administrative loss. This is not a misprint. Private health insurance financing is ten – repeat – ten times more costly than all known single-payer agencies.

Grip your coffee cup for the obvious question. How on earth can this happen? First, private health insurance companies keep 20% for lobbying, marketing, profit, salaries and benefits of employees.

"The Oregon House is considering health care legislation as we speak, HB 3510 submitted by Michael Dembrow, and Senate SB 888 submitted by Chip Shields."

Of the 80% passed on to health care providers, another 20% is spent by providers to collect money owed them by insurance companies in the first place. After all, this industry denies

30% of all claims, not because they are bad people, but because denying claims is good business.

This staggering 40 % administrative loss totals four billion dollars in Oregon. How much additional money do we need to pay for comprehensive care for every Oregonian? Less than that, \$3.5 billion. Clearly if we finance this with private health insurance, Oregonians must cough up another \$3.5 billion in premiums, taxes, and out of pocket expenses. If we use single-payer financing, the money is already there.

So there you are, with your coffee cup frozen an inch from your lips, realizing the solution to our health care crisis is so simple: single-payer health care. And it has arrived in Oregon. Yes, the Oregon House is considering health care legislation as we speak, House Bill 3510 submitted by Representative Michael Dembrow, Oregon House District 45 and Senate Bill 888 submitted by Senator Chip Shields, State Senate District 22. You can learn more about these bills: http://gov.oregonlive.com/bill/2011/HB3510

You are not the only one who should know about this legislation; your legislators should as well. Write, call, e-mail, or corner your legislators. Tell them single-payer health care is important and they should learn why. Do not let this historic opportunity pass. But finish your coffee first.

Samuel Metz, M.D. is with the Oregon Single-payer Campaign Physicians for a National Health Program, Portland Chapter and Mad As Hell Doctors cell 503.754.1329 fax 503.296.2267

#### IN THIS EDITION:

- 2 A Few Words, Masthead, Letters, Meetings
- 3 Letters & Legislature
- 4 Active Community 9/115. Yes to State Banks!
- 6 Celebration for Martin Police, Banks, Occupations
- 7 Libyan Atrocities Chinese Garden
- 8 Viewpoints & Commentary Yugen Farad Rashan Michael Parenti
- 9 Progressive Directory
- 10-11 Community Calendar
- 12 Progressive Directory
- 13 Arts & Culture14 Ground View
- Ecological disaster 15-16 Poetry
- 17 Norman Solomon
  - Michael Munk
- 18 News Bytes Poetry
- 19 Environmental Truth
- Garden Blessings
- 20 Alien Boy / James Chasse Subscriptions & Classifieds

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1

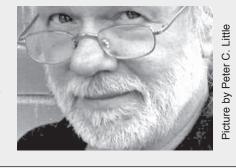
# A Few Words, Letters, Cartoons, Masthead, Meetings, & more!

We have made some improvements in this issue, but we want feedback! The Portland Alliance is now compiling responses to our February survey. We want to hear from you! Please fill out the survey and mail it to: The Portland Alliance, PO Box 14162 / Portland, OR, 97293-0162. Or, you can fax the completed survey to us at (503) 327-8949. Thank You!

### **A Few Words**

#### The Choices we Face

This March is the ninth anniversary of the Afghan war and the eighth anniversary of the war on Iraq. U.S. political platforms encourage aggression, invasion, and occupation. Everyday people pay a price.



Precious funds wasted in these corporate adventures abroad are staggering. The misuse of our military to enforce invasion, occupation, and exploitation... is tragic. Spending these funds does not make us safer.

Hate-mongers who encourage us to attack, invade, and occupy our neighbors, are advocating criminal behavior. These crimes must be nipped in the bud. We are supposed to be a nation of law.

Wiretapping, torture, beatings, rape, and murders of "convenience," are immoral, illegal, and dangerous. We must restore the rule of law and constitutional supremacy. Most Americans are fed up with the know-nothing, do nothing, mean right wing slime machine rooting for war, applauding torture, encouraging ignorance, and cheering for rendering, rape, and murder.

The American people demand peace. President "Ike" Eisenhower had it right. Corporate cons had better get out of the way, because if they refuse to deliver peace, the American people will take it.

Some are invested in peace and some invest in endless war. Most people want peace. Those who preach the "inevitability" of war need to grow spines. In the meantime, level-headed, clear-thinking Americans will lead us towards peace and security. The cure for war is enough people with the courage to enforce the law.

Cowards who insist on attacking, invading, and occupying non aggressive

"More and more everyday people are rediscovering the courage of their convictions."

> der, and theft, must not be allowed to try to make crimes somehow "legal,"

Cowardice is not "inevitable." We can study the past and embrace moral scruples. Those credulous or terrified enough to buckle under and surrender to fear, must not distract us from the peace we seek. We will keep our eyes on the prize. And even more of us must "man and woman up" so stability, peace, and progress can rule the day. We can do better.

More and more everyday people are rediscovering the courage of their convictions. We can help those who are frozen by fear find the courage to demand freedom. Freedom is not simple or easy, and feckless aggression makes peace more

We must buck up, quit whining, and do the right thing. It's wake-up time. We must conquer our fears and embrace hope, values, and courage. No surrender, compromise, or negotiation. Reality persists and facts remain. And when you walk the talk, the Alliance has your back.

editor@theportlandalliance.org

nations... or thugs who like torture, murengage in these crimes. Legislators who

must be removed.

Write in and join the conversation

#### TIM FLANAGAN, ASSOCIATE EDITOR

# The Portland Alliance

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Cartoon by Shannon Wheeler



### 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)

#### And a Lovely Letter

Dear Editor,

I had stopped reading the Alliance some time ago because I found little in it that interested me.

I just received the February Alliance. I think this issue is delight f ul. I enjoyed the article on Joe Cotter, and I know Joe Cotter. I enjoyed the poetry, and I don't normally read poetry.

I have been following the local police issues in Dan Handelmans e-mails and his Peoples Police Report, as

Please see Letters on page 3

#### **Portland Alliance Community Meetings:**

**Standing Editorial Committee Collective** Saturday, March 12 at 7pm Laughing Horse Books, 12 NE 10th Ave. (20, 12, & 19 Bus)

NAAME/TBA Board of Directors Meeting Monday, March 14, at 7pm Laughing Horse Books: 12 NE 10th Ave.

(12.19, & 20 Bus lines)

**Writers Workshop Collective** Tuesday March 15 at 6:30pm 6935 SW Merry Lane, Beaverton (Bus Line 56)

The Spring Fling! An Alliance Dinner Party: music, dancing, silent auction, & entertainment Location TBA Saturday, March 19, 6-10p.m.

> **Editing Party** Tuesday, March 22, at 5:30pm until issue complete. at 6935 SW Merry Lane, Beaverton (Bus line 56)

There will be Food! (please bring some to share.)

We support PDX progressives Want to get PAID to write for *The Alliance*? We now pay one writer per month a stipend for an indepth investigative feature. We also provide a stipend for one graphic designer's quality cover art. To submit ideas for future issues, call 503-327-8377. We also 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/

2

#### Letters to Editor OREGON LEGISLATORS HAVE A LOT ON THE TABLE

continued from Page 2

well as in the Oregonian and theh Willamette Weekly. I thought your summation of the issues was excellent.

I also like the News Bytes. Found some things I didn't know about. The problems at KBOO are sad, but I have seen them before.

When I taught at Lewis and Clark forty years ago, I found the faculty progressive to radical in dealing with the outside world, but very conservative when dealing with our issues.

Congratulations to the new blood. May you thrive.

Grant S. Raddon

"I had stopped reading
the Alliance some
time ago because I
found little in it that
interested me.
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February Alliance.
I think this issue is

# What's On the Agenda this session for the Salem Legislature?

Two initiative reform bills are coming up for consideration:

- <u>SB 267</u> requires a petitioner to divulge any bonuses or incentives for petition passers.
- HB 2258, the Petition
  Signature Gathering Integrity Act,
  establishes a toll-free hotline to
  report suspected fraud, forgery or
  other election law violations; amends
  the payroll section to require hours
  worked, the pay period and number
  of signatures gathered; and extends
  the ban on gathering for fraud, forgery or identity theft to five years
  after completion of any sentence.

Bills affecting women and families.

A six-bill package concerning human trafficking. The bills will cover services to youth victims, increase penalties for engaging in sexual services with minors, and prosecuting pimps/traffickers

• <u>HB 2038</u>, expression of breast

milk in the workplace. Amends state law to conform to federal law as it relates to employers and protected rest periods.

- <u>SB 433</u> expands the eligibility of women being treated for breast and cervical cancer if they are diagnosed by a provider outside of the Breast and Cervical Cancer program.
- A bill which has no number yet to prohibit the use of Bisphenol A (BPA) in sippy cups, baby bottles and plastic water bottles. BPA is highly toxic.

#### Campaign Finance Reform

The Supreme Court declared a contribution limits bill unconstitutional in 1997. The only campaign finance laws Oregon has are those related to disclosure of campaign contributions and expenditures. Now, some amendments to disclosure are being proposed and were heard in the Senate Rules Committee February 3, along with hints about new bills to limit how much can be received by a campaign.

• <u>SB 270</u> modifies the penalties for candidate and measure campaigns that violate campaign finance regulations. No fine over \$5000 will

be levied per month. This protects voluntary campaign treasurers who are not typically aware of finance procedures and forms.

- SB 271 creates a Campaign
  Finance Fund using the monies from
  civil penalties charged to candidate
  and measure campaigns for
  violations. Its particular importance
  is monetary support for ORESTAR,
  the transparency online filing system
  that tells who is supporting which
  campaigns and at what level.
- <u>SB 272</u> modifies the definition of campaigns by eliminating the filing of pledge amounts. This relieves campaign treasurers from filing pledges and then removing them when the actual amount is credited as a contribution.

#### **Ethics Reform**

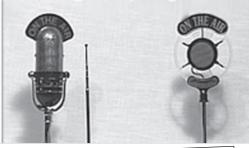
• HB 2259 changes reporting requirements in the last 42 days of a campaign. Any contribution of more than \$5000 must be reported in 48 hours. The bill extends the reporting period from seven days to 14 days for any contributions less than \$5000, and shows greater transparency for large contributions and expenditures.

Elizabeth Rathbun



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Distributors deliver new issues of the Alliance to the 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

the Alliance office and dropping off your distribution report afterwards. Depending on the production cycle, you usually have 5-7 days in which to do your deliveries.

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

AARON VARHOLA

CHAPTER 7 & 13 BANKRUPTCIES

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# ACTIVE COMMUNITY

4 ► Twin Towers, WTC, & September 11

State Banks are More Accountable

5 ► The PDX Celebration for Dr. King

# What Really Destroyed the Twin Towers and the World Trade Center on 9/11?

By Barbara Ellis, Ph. D. Senior Researcher, Legislative Division, WTC Research Alliance

House Members Mulling Proposed Bill From PDX Research Group Asking for Science/Tech Probe of WTC Destruction Causes http://norfidid.wordpress. com/2010/03/25/8-house-members-to-mull-2nd-draft-bill-on-sciencetech-probeof-wtc-destruction-causes/

approaches, so will calls around the country for a "real" investigation of what destroyed New York's World Trade Center. Five buildings that once stood beside the 110-floor Twin Towers "evaporated" in under 11 seconds that day. One in the cluster was a 47-floor building that housed a half-dozen federal agencies: FBI, Secret Service, Central Intelligence Agency, Internal Revenue Service, and Securities and Exchange Commission.

Few survivors or First Responders ever believed that two airplanes could have caused such damage. The Empire State Building easily survived a deep hit at the 79th floor by a fog-bound B-25 bomber back on July 29, 1945. And nearly 10 years after 9/11, a Scripps-Howard poll showed that more than 50% of Americans want Congress to do a substantive investigation of the 9/11 attacks. This means more than half the nation no longer believes the government's version of events, presumably because too much evidence was needlessly covered up in the days, weeks and years following the Center's destruction. Mayor Rudy Giuliani blocked federal investigators from Ground Zero until September 29 when the site was swept clean of evidence. Most was speedily destroyed. Some of the tower beams were stored in a JFK airport hangar. Some were dispatched to a Louisiana shipyard, others to two nearby recycling centers, to the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and, it was claimed, most beams to Asian scrapyards. The Republican chair of the House Science and Technology committee said he heard talk of dumping most of the beams in the Atlantic Ocean. (A New York group is working to indict Giuliani on charges of removing evidence from a crime scene, a felony carrying a 15-year prison sentence.)

Statements of 503 First Responders and the disaster's records were locked up immediately, despite New York City's decades-old open records rule on disasters. Key witnesses, such as New York City's chief council Mike Hess, fell silent. The co-chairs of the 9/11 Commission called that probe a "coverup" in a book exposing its glaring flaws. The families of those who died in the Towers agreed. A spokesperson for one family group sat through three brief House hearings and indicated all were a sham.

Both federal reports (2002/2005) on the WTC were either scored or scorned by scientists, engineers, architects, and demolition experts. The one from FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) was branded nearworthless by outspoken engineers on its investigative team because of Giuliani's



• Missiles or Aerial Bombardment

- Chemicals or High-Yield Explosives
- Directed Energy Weapons, including Laser Beams

Nuclear-based Explosions

To illustrate several of the bill's hypotheses, House aides were shown revealing points in aerial photographs released by the New York police department. Other pictures were of the 20-30 ton beams and aluminum cladding thrust from WTC 2 into upper floors of the Deutsche Bank building across the street and those embedded in the American Express building across from WTC 1. Heavy vapors were seen rising from street grates blocks away from the Center. The transformation of concrete into dust for two-thirds of the North Tower's upper floors was shown. And close similarities of basal-surge characteristics in Bikini Atoll atomic tests to the dust-cloud formations pouring into surrounding streets from the Towers was noted. NOAA and U.S. Army aerial lidar photographs show huge circular roof-to-basement holes in WTC 6 and 5 as well as the six-floor crater from WTC 4's cleanly sliced southern wing.

Documents included Richter-scale records of underground explosions recorded by Columbia University's seismic station across from the Center. A conceal data about the WTC's destruction on the pretext of protecting national security. The investigation inspired by this bill can stave off proposed international investigations and tribunals from performing work that should be done in the United States. Iran recently asked the United Nations to institute a formal inquiry.

An external investigation will finally reveal the truth about what happened on September 11, 2001. The significance of this bill resides in the fact that the events surrounding the WTC destruction have been the engine driving almost ten years of two avoidable wars and the seemingly endless occupations in Iraq and Afghanistan. These conflicts have cost trillions of dollars and the blood and property of millions. There are more than 6,000 dead Americans and the near 3,000 who died at the World Trade Center. The U.S. reaction to that destruction has aroused hatred of our country around the globe, even from one-time allies, and spawned a new generation of terrorists abroad. The recent overthrow of two regimes (Egypt and Tunisia) may have been related to their then-leaders' support of the American invasions and occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan. Domestically, reckless aggression by our leaders has brought

"lock-out." And NIST's report (National Institute of Standards and Technology) four years later was dismissed by scientists and engineers as equally worthless based as it was, mostly on computer-modeling guesswork. Meantime, both amateur sleuths and professional engineering and science researchers have joined a public increasingly dubious about the federal government's official version of events. Inexplicable conflicts in the "official" story, new evidence, and suspiciously excessive secrecy (going far beyond national security) has concerned many.

In Portland, nearly two dozen major hypotheses about the cause of the Twin Tower destruction triggered the formation of the WTC Research Alliance. This small group of investigators decided to gather up hypotheses for testing by the scientific method to draft a U.S. House bill setting up an independent science and technology probe by national and international renown experts in those fields. The door was left open for them to discover additional hypotheses in the process. The 14 hypotheses in the the bill included widely circulated national and international conjecture, Internet posts, films, CDs, print mediums, and ideas shared at public events since September 12, 2001. The overall thrust was to lay to rest untruths, rumors and educated-guesses about the Center's destruction. Key members, co-director Barry Ball and senior researcher Barbara Ellis, traveled to Congress, most recently last spring, to present the proposed bill to science and technology aides for 18 House members and the director of research for the House Science and Technology commit-

The hypotheses were divided into five categories:

• Aircraft Impact or Fires

# "More than 50 percent of Americans want Congress to do a substantive investigation of the 9/11 attacks."

chart indicating significantly elevated elements of strontium, barium, zinc, vanadium, and uranium was discovered in the U.S. Geological Survey's WTC 35 grab-samples taken six days after 9/11. There was a significant increase in nuclear-specific cancers in First Responders and New York City residents. And the NIST exhibit showed that on September 11, fire alarms in the 47-floor WTC 7 were switched off at 6:47 a.m. and back on at 2:48 p.m. Yet the agency still claimed fires caused the 6.5-second free-fall collapse of that steel-framed building.

If this suggested \$11 million bill is accepted by one or several House members in concert with Senate colleagues for joint action, it will be revised for hoppering in the second Congressional session and presumably assigned to Science and Technology committees for hearings and a vote. If passed, it will move to both houses for floor votes and, from there, to President Obama's signature. The committee will have a six-month deadline to issue a report on findings and recommendations to Congress.

The bill provides Congress and the Obama Administration with a second chance to rectify the heavily discredited, significantly flawed, previous investigations. This bill can be a vehicle used to explore the Bush Administration's questionable and self-serving efforts to

the nation to its knees in financial ruin. And our wars of choice have made us easy prey for our enemies. The unprecedented Bush agenda, that might makes right, has all but overthrown constitutional law and social order. Aggressive federal action has converted freedoms to fear and sacrificed our global reputation for taking the moral high ground. Conflating national security with corporate adventurism has exposed leaders willing to surrender to cruelty, immorality, cynicism, and overt imperialism.

#### ~#~#~#~#~#~#~

Dr. Ellis is the principal of Ellis & Associates, LLC, a writers group in Portland OR. She was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in history in 2004 (The Moving Appeal), and a former journalism professor at Louisiana's McNeese State University and Oregon State University. She is a member of the South Side DFA MeetUp Group of Portland and a member of the Portland 9/11 Legislative Alliance.

\*A pdf of the bill is avalable. The WTC Alliance website contains links to their additional research, including the text of the three House hearings (2002/2005) to tout the NIST report.

The website's URL is: http://norfidid.wordpress.com

# STATE BANKS, AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME

#### ADVOCATES SEE PUBLICLY OWNED BANKS AS A PRACTICAL SOLUTION FOR OREGON'S CREDIT CRUNCH

#### State Legislature To Take Up State Bank issue During 2011 Legislative Session

Steve Hugjes provided picture at right

Portland, OR – On the first day of the 2011 legislative session, members of the local community, small business leaders, political party leaders, family farmers and public officials gathered in Portland to discuss the proposal to create the Oregon State Bank.

"Two years ago we started talking to community bankers, small business owners, and farmers about creating a state bank to get credit flowing again...," stated Barbara Dudley, Co-chair of the Oregon Working Families Party. "What we heard then, and what we heard again last night, is that there is a dire need out there, and the time is now to get the state's money working for average Oregonians."

Dudley was speaking at a public forum focused on the problems small businesses and family farmers are experiencing seeking credit during the current economic downturn. Current efforts and legislative proposals to create a State Bank are on the table for debate during the current legislative session.

"Small businesses are constantly on the defensive, and access to credit is just the latest battle in our efforts to keep our

state bank continued page 6

"...THERE IS A DIRE NEED OUT THERE, AND THE TIME IS NOW
TO GET THE STATE'S MONEY WORKING FOR AVERAGE OREGONIANS."

BARBARA DUDLEY, CO-CHAIR: OREGON WORKING FAMILIES PARTY



# Local Celebration for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Well Attended!

#### Portland Turns out to Celebrate the man behind Martin's Dream

by Tom H. Hastings

The Hallmarked memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr is too often sanitized and blackwashed until he is no more than a sentimental husk hoping that little children of all races will one day be able to play together. Then you'll see shots of just that, as if to indicate, well, thanks, that's all done, nice historical figure. Bye.

One of these years they will probably launch the USS Martin Luther King Jr, a spanking new destroyer, or perhaps they will name a class of drone aircraft the MLK Ground Dominators. But who was this King guy? What did he really stand for and how can we most accurately and sincerely honor his name and legacy?

Martin Luther King Jr was a radical pacifist who used Gandhi's tactic of nonviolence. And then, with others in his movement, he improved on these strategies. Gandhi was the Henry Ford of nonviolence, inventor of the mass liberatory action. Gatling may have industrialized warfare with his machine guns, Napoleon may have industrialized the human side with his levee en masse, but Gandhi industrialized strategic nonviolent civil society uprisings and Martin Luther King Jr improved on the model.

How did he and his folks do that? First. they weren't so sensitive to giving away their advantage once they had earned it. When Gandhi saw the British empire stressed during various wars, he dialed back on the resistance. By contrast, in Nashville, during the sit-in movement in 1960, the students were shocked at 5 in the morning when their lawyer's home was bombed and they immediately wired the mayor, demanding a meeting, pressing him that morning and gaining his admission that segregation was wrong and his pledge to work to end it. The Civil Rights movement watched various windows open and generally shot straight through, not holding back for some gentleman's courtesy, as Gandhi seemed to do. And MLK was more

consistent than Gandhi in some key ways. Although it took him a while to do so (several years after the frontline spokespeople such as Bob Moses), King denounced the war in Vietnam, whereas Gandhi volunteered to help the British or stood aside without objection during several wars.

In what was both a stirring and powerful speech delivered in the Riverside Church in New York on 4 April 1967, Martin Luther King Jr said a great deal that mightily angered the federal government, from J. Edgar Hoover to Lyndon B. Johnson, including:

Over the past two years, as I have moved to break the betrayal of my own silences and to speak from the burnings of my own heart, as I have called for radical departures from the destruction of Vietnam, many persons have questioned me about the wisdom of my path. At the heart of their concerns this query has often loomed large and loud: "Why are you speaking about the war, Dr. King?" "Why are you joining the voices of dissent?" "Peace and civil rights don't mix," they say. "Aren't you hurting the cause of your people," they ask? And when I hear them, though I often understand the source of their concern, I am nevertheless greatly saddened, for such questions mean that the inquirers have not really known me, my commitment or my calling.

This is the Martin Luther King Jr who may be invisible in mainstream media as the U.S. celebrates the birth of a hero for racial reconciliation. But he was also a hero for peace, no war, and nonviolence, a man who died with a (peace and justice) felony on his record and yet is the only American for whom we celebrate a national holiday.

Dr. King's call for peace was powerfulthe best speech of his life, in my view. But it will not be featured in the history of his life and contributions. If he were alive today he'd probably be in jail for resisting the occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan, or perhaps for resisting our client state, Israel's, occupation of Palestine. At the least he would be reflecting on his evolved and holistic Dr. King deserves full honors; he was a fearless and brilliant campaigner for human rights, civil rights, economic justice and peace. Our young people need to know who he really was.



Mayor Sam Adams muses about the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Picture by Peter C. Little
was taken during the Martin Luther King Birthday Celebration at the
Highland Christian Center at 7600 NW Glisan

attempt to move to the next level of activism, past the termination of Jim Crow segregation and forward to ending poverty and stopping war. He never stopped evolving but the mainstream historians have gone to the period five years before he was murdered and regard him as forever frozen there, just giving an 'I Have a Dream' speech. Dr. King deserves full honors; he was a fearless and brilliant campaigner for human rights, civil rights, economic justice and peace. Our young people need to know who he really was. We cannot pretend in honesty that he would support the wars and corporate bailouts featured in today's America.

Tom H. Hastings is Director of the PeaceVoice Program, at the Oregon Peace Institute http://www.peacevoice.info/ And he is a member of Whitefeather Peace House 3315 N Russet Portland OR 97217 503 327 8250

peace education notification list sign-up: https://lists.riseup.net/www/info/peacejusticeportland

http://www.whitefeatherpeace.org/

Tom is also a professor with the PSU Conflict Resolution MA/MS Program at 724 SW Harrison Neuberger 221 / Portland OR 97201 / 503 725 9173

~#~#~#~#~

# PDX Police Bureau has not learned much

Taser Use by Officers has Cost the city \$138, 000..."

By Tim Flanagan

Portland Officer Leo Besner, cost the people of Portland more than \$852,000 in tort claims or jury awards since 2003. In December he was promoted to sargent.

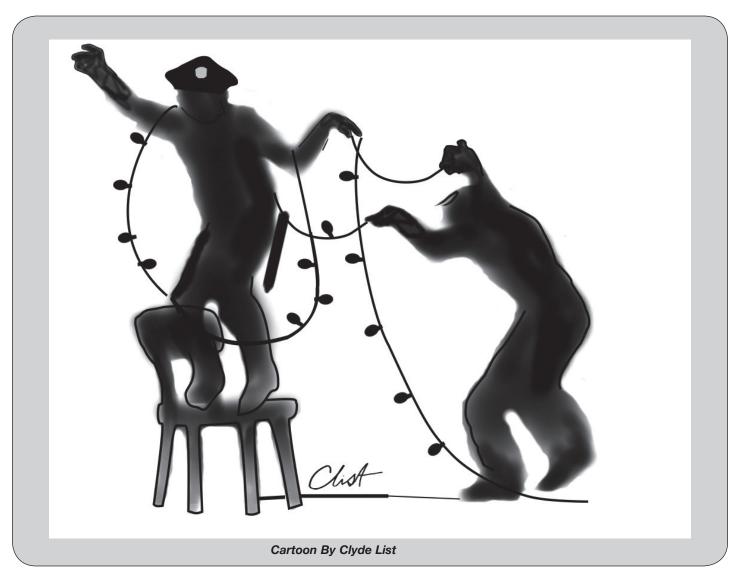
When James Chasse was beaten to death in broad daylight, his assailants were given an award. Last spring their fatal brutality cost over 2.5 millions dollars, but they're still on the force.

These are not isolated incidents. Police abuse of authority, bullying, gunplay, and other misbehavior has cost precious lives and resources. Because of multiple murders of unarmed citizens, many people in Portland are afraid to call the police.

Now PDX officers have cost us \$136, 000 because they precipitously use Tasers, sometimes on innocent bystanders. In January we paid \$81, 766 to a man who was tasered in the back while cuffed and kneeling. Officer Thompson denied using the taser on the cuffed suspect, but but arbitrator Allen Bonebrake found that she had lied.

The city of Portland settled the case, we paid the bill and no discipline followed. There oughta be a law.

Tim is a writer, educator, radio show co-host, & associate editor of The Portland Alliance.



#### Occupations cannot be won State Banks a good option



Jobs with Justice and The Working Families Party support state banks

"It's frustrating to watch the State of Oregon deposit its money into the same big banks that crashed"

continued from page 5 doors open," said Jim Houser, co-owner of the Hawthorne Auto Clinic in Portland. and co-chair of the Main Street Alliance of Oregon. "The possibility of a state owned bank in Oregon, making financing available for community banks to loan to qualifying small businesses makes it much more likely that we will be able to stay open, and even expand our business."

Teresa Retzlaff, small farmer and member of Friends of Family Farmers added, "It's frustrating to watch the State of Oregon deposit its money into the same big banks that crashed the economy when they could be investing it here at home, helping small farmers like me who are struggling to grow fresh food for our local communities in Oregon."

While the federal government bailed

out the nation's biggest banks and corporations, the rest of the country has been left to fend for itself. An Oregon State Bank will tilt the playing field back in the favor of Oregon's Main Street businesses and small family farms.

There is a model for this. The State of North Dakota has been successfully operating its own state bank-the Bank of North Dakota-for over 90 years to the exclusive benefit of their citizens. The 2011 legislative session may see many bills regarding this subject - the first, introduced a few weeks ago by State Representative Bob Jenson (R-Pendleton, District 58), HB2972 calls for the creation of a State Bank similar to the Bank of North Dakota, Advocates from the coalition look forward to working with Rep. Jenson, and others who will be submitting similar bills.

For more information or to get involved, please contact: Daniel Lombardi, Main Street Alliance of Oregon – at 401.580.3483 or Steve Hughes, Oregon Working Families Party – 503.412.8041 Check out "Oregonians for a State Bank" on Facebook and/or visit http://www.Oregoniansforastatebank.org/

Continued from front cover (Page 1)

Territories.

"This Israeli policy of continued settlement expansion and land

annexation on the West Bank, plainly is in direct violation of the long-standing and oft-repeated official positions of the United States, and those of virtually all the other nations of the world - positions holding that such activities by Israel are blatantly illegal, in violation of the Geneva Conventions, and pose a dire threat to the Middle-East peace process ever attaining a just and democratic resolution of this long-standing conflict," explained Josh Standig, a founding member of the Portland Chapter of Jewish Voice for Peace.

"As American Jews, we must urge our government to abide by its own stated principles, and to democratically permit the strong consensus of the World Community, condemning the continuing expansion of the Israeli Settlement

program, to be given unfettered and appropriate international expression, in the form of official United Nations resolutions such as this one."

For more information, contact the Portland Jewish Voice for Peace jvp\_pdx@riseup.net

or call Will Seaman 503-888-7455 or Ned Rosch 503-234-3501

Editorial note: The occupations of the Palestinian Territories, Iraq, and Afghantistan are dangerous trends. Before the unprovoked invasion of Iraq, the United States had refrained from attacking nonaggressive nations unless they attacked or posed a viable threat to this nation. But according to "Bush doctrine," the USA has inherent rights to attack anyone, anywhere, anytime, for any reason... or for no reason at all.

> Americans have good reason to be seriously distrubed by this brutal and fatal error.

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# Protesters deserve compassion, restraint, & justice

By Reverend Chuck Currie

In the aftermath of the Egyptian revolution, people across the Middle East have taken to the streets. NPR reports this morning on the crisis in Libya:

eadly Assaults
On Libyan
Protesters are
Reported

A doctor says Moammar Gadhafi's forces have killed at least 200 protesters in the eastern city of Benghazi as it tries to crush a rebellion that has spread to more than a half-dozen cities across the country.

Witnesses told the Associated Press that a mix of special commandos, foreign mercenaries and Gadhafi loyalists assaulted demonstrators in Benghazi on Saturday with knives, assault rifles and heavy weapons. Those protesters were burying 35 marchers who were slain Friday by government forces.

Benghazi has been at the center of a

six-day revolt by Libyans inspired by uprisings in Egypt and Tunisia and frustrated by Gadhafi's more than 40 years of authoritarian rule.

The Benghazi doctor said his hospital, one of two in Libya's second-largest city, is out of supplies and cannot treat more than 70 wounded who were hit in the attacks and need attention.

"I am crying," the doctor said. "Why is the world not listening?"

President Obama said late this week:

I am deeply concerned by reports of violence in Bahrain, Libya and Yemen. The United States condemns the use of violence by governments against peaceful protesters in those countries and wherever else it may occur. We express our condolences to the family and friends of those who have been killed during the demonstrations. Wherever they are, people have certain universal rights including the right to peaceful assembly. The United States urges the governments of Bahrain, Libya and Yemen to show restraint in responding to peaceful protests, and to respect the rights of their people.

It will be important for the U.S. to review all our relationships with nations that respond violently to protesters calling for democratic reforms. The United



Rev. Chuck Currie, his wife Liz Smith Currie, and daughters Frances & Katherine.

States has for far too long supported repressive regimes for strategic politics reasons. That has put us on the wrong side of history. Now is a moment we can correct that.

His Blog: http://chuckcurrie.blogs.com/.a/6 a00d8341c5f6253ef0133eed3d2f0970b-pi

Rev. Currie earned a Master of Divinity degree at UCC-related Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis, MO. He is a former board member of the National Coalition for the Homeless in Washington, D.C., chair of the Multnomah County Community Action Commission, and board member of Burnside Community Council (Baloney Joe's).

Rev. Currie is married to Liz Smith Currie, who works as a policy advisor for a local elected official. They have twin daughters, Frances and Katherine, who attend first grade in the Portland Public School District.

# Chinese Garden: Poetry, plants, peace, balance, & harmony

By Elizabeth Rathbun

The concept for Portland's Chinese Garden began with a story poem. In classical Suzhou, popular anecdotes defined the space to meet scholarly ideals. A panel of honored Suzhou scholars selected the stories for Lan Su just as previous generations did. In a well-known story called 'Knowing the Fish', two Masters stroll in the garden. The Taoist observes the fish swimming in the pond and says that the fish look happy. The Confucian does not believe his friend knows how fish would feel. But the Taoist contends his friend doesn't know he can't tell the fish

"In designing his garden, a scholar strived for balance and harmony because he believed it would benefit the cosmic universe."

A landscape architect transformed these stories into a garden plan finished in 2000. In classical times, artisans drew their inspiration from opera, storytelling and ballads. Their artistry manifested itself in gardens with a genuine cultural richness.

Former tour guide Garreth Marks developed an appreciation for how the scholar's garden became a refuge from the stresses of an official life. "The most important element is poetry, the plants are mere jewelry," Marks said. Scholars were adept at composing poetic couplets about various observations.

are happy. All of the symbols used in this well-known legend are present in Lan Su's 'Knowing the Fish' Pavilion.

The couplet over the Square Pavilion reads:

"This is the River Hao, a realm of happiness, be it for me or for the fish;

"Casually stopping at the pavilion, I find lingering fragrance over mountain and water."

It's refreshing to find such a unique garden as Lan Su in downtown
Portland. Marks says that in a scholar's garden, the Taoist ideal of being at one with nature is central. Confucian



thought hinges on order and stability.

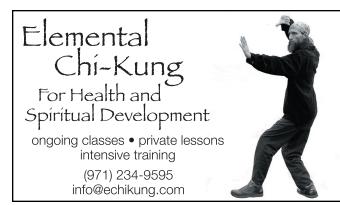
In designing his garden, a scholar strived for balance and harmony because he believed it would benefit the cosmic universe.

The use of leak (lattice) windows and moon gates (circular doorways) extend the view. By doing this, Marks says, "the limitless (quality) of the Tao exists within a confined space." Lattice windows installed in the white wall around the perimeter of Lan Su create a two-way portal between the street and garden.

Round moon gates provide a frame for 'painted' scenery. As visitors pass through the Fragrance Courtyard, an overhead inscription translates, "Read the landscape." Just as a scroll unfolds a little at a time, the garden reveals itself slowly and cannot be seen entirely from any one spot. A scholar relished this change through multiple perspectives.

The five elements present in a classical Suzhou garden are stones, water,

See Gardens on page 19

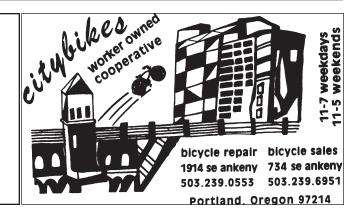


#### Mia Butzbaugh

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# VIEWPOINTS & COMMENTARY

reedom is a subversive idea for oppressed people.

So when the oppressed rise up against their oppressor, the quest for freedom is alive. All their hopes are hung on the courage to stand up, to put it on the line. Freedom movements challenge the humanity of the oppressor, and question the systems it rests upon. In the belly of the oppressed lives an urgency that manifests in the eyes. A quickened step, jockeying for position to toss another rock or swing a stick, without a zip code. It's personal and communal.

Nation states and countries in Africa and the Middle East find people rising against oppressive regimes. The leaders, so accustomed to adulation and unquestioned authority, are now under a people's interrogation, as this clash of ideas meets in the streets. We in the West have a front row seat to freedom's drama. Some of us experience unbridled joy, others have a "gotcha moment."

Right wingers surmise 'If we fail to act now the violence will spill the borders, and clandestine 'foreign' elements will set up house to blow America to kingdom come - we should have used more military might in Iraq, Iran; we need to intervene over there, before it gains enough steam to get here...'.

This unnerving and debilitating fear fuels conservative right wingers, always ready to take flight over the lives of Americans with their propaganda of 'be scared.' But luckily, brave souls who understand fear bows to courage, will stay the course towards freedom.

Fear is a nerve gas. Sometime during WWI, II, Viet Nam, or another war time, this nation became a cottage industry to exploit our fears. Fear is an industry that sells into the billions. From airport screenings equipment to electronic and print media, enough money is passed

# Restlessness Across Globe, **Movements Afoot for Freedom**

### Seek the **Truth**

BY YUGEN FARDAN RASHAD



many times over. Turn on the radio, tube, or a network,

around to equal economies of nations

where billions of advertising dollars are spent to keep the drama churned needs no opening act, program, or script. The theatre is living space; downtown, capitols, town squares, and the market places. These are the spots, now is the moment. The page is turning.

Appealing to the logic of dictators, regimes, or the oppressor is no longer an option. Folks want freedom, and they want it now. Lives are at risk and people die. Families are forced to flee their homes, and soldiers set up posts along boarders. Such is the case whenever absolute power partners with the oppressed for a turbulent dance of protest, in the name of freedom.

systems, even politicians with agendas and control issues - are confronted with new choices to consider.

Love is a choice. Hate is a choice. With choice comes responsibility. But not every choice is made based on the concept of freedom.

It's personal. Suffice to say not everyone makes the right choice. When others are negatively impacted by our choice the need to evaluate is paramount. A parent that openly smokes or abuses alcohol in front of children has made a bad choice. Profanity or violence in public spaces, or at home, is inapprpopriate. Perhaps world leaders will take a page from responsible parents.

There is enough room in the world for everyone. This means we need responsible government. Personal responsibility must be more than a slogan. Authority over any one, group, organization, or nation carries responsibility informed by trust, love, and empathy.

We have enough resources and knowledge for folks to enter into a higher form of human consciousness. A world according to Gandhi's visions is afoot around the globe. This path begins with all of us in deeper reflection, with discerning hearts. We must exercise an ethos eliminating hate as a choice. Let freedom ring. Write new songs. Be the world we want. Embrace the blessings and own the moment.

Yugen Fardan Rashad is a local writer and organizer who cares about civicengagement and community-building.

"At no time in the recent past has the consciousness of people around the world been so 'in tune and aligned' with the struggle for freedom."

on mainstream television and talk radio. But more folks today than any other time in history do no buy into the propaganda.

At no time in the recent past has the consciousness of people around the world been so "in tune and aligned" with the struggle for freedom. The volume is very different than during the American Revolution or the trials of South African apartheid. The moment

After reading "Hope on a Tight Rope" by Professor Cornel West my learning took me to many places. With this book the professor provides a treatise, a narrative that sends a message to the most right wing, conservative elements in society. A simple message about choice. Racism, homophobia, greed, sexism, and oppression are choices. Families with oppressive parent(s), companies with overbearing bosses, police or court

#### Corporate Profiteers Steal our Future

#### **Profit Pathology and Disposable Planet**

by Michael Parenti

Some years ago in New England, a group of environmentalists asked a corporate executive how his company (a paper mill) could justify dumping its raw industrial effluent into a nearby river. The river—which had taken Mother Nature centuries to create-was used for drinking water, fishing, boating, and swimming. In just a few years, the paper mill had turned the river into a highly toxic open sewer.

The executive shrugged and said that river dumping was the most costeffective way of removing the mill's wastes. If the company had to absorb the additional expense of having to clean up after itself, it might not be able to maintain its competitive edge and would then have to go out of business or move to a cheaper labor market, resulting in a loss of jobs for the local economy.

Free Market Über Alles

It was a familiar argument: the company

had no choice. It was compelled to act that way in a competitive market. The mill was not in the business of protecting the environment but in the business of making a profit, the highest possible profit at the highest possible rate of return. Profit is the name of

abiding faith in laissez-faire for it is a faith that serves them well. It means no government oversight, no being held accountable for the environmental disasters they perpetrate. Like greedy spoiled brats, they repeatedly get bailed out by the government (some free

"The function of the transnational corporation is not to promote a healthy ecology but to extract as much marketable value out of the natural world as possible."

the game, as business leaders make clear when pressed on the point. The overriding purpose of business is capital accumulation.

To justify its single-minded profiteering, Corporate America promotes the classic laissez-faire theory which claims that the free market—a congestion of unregulated and unbridled enterprises all selfishly pursuing their own ends—is governed by a benign "invisible hand" that miraculously produces optimal outputs for everybody.

The free marketeers have a deep all-

market!) so that they can continue to take irresponsible risks, plunder the land, poison the seas, sicken whole communities, lay waste to entire regions, and pocket obscene profits.

This corporate system of capital accumulation treats the Earth's lifesustaining resources (arable land, groundwater, wetlands, foliage, forests. fisheries, ocean beds, bays, rivers, air quality) as disposable ingredients presumed to be of limitless supply, to be consumed or toxified at will. As BP has demonstrated so well in the Gulfof-Mexico catastrophe, considerations

of cost weigh so much more heavily than considerations of safety. As one Congressional inquiry concluded: "Time after time, it appears that BP made decisions that increased the risk of a blowout to save the company time or expense."

Indeed, the function of the transnational corporation is not to promote a healthy ecology but to extract as much marketable value out of the natural world as possible even if it means treating the environment like a septic tank. An everexpanding corporate capitalism and a fragile finite ecology are on a calamitous collision course, so much so that the support systems of the entire ecosphere--the Earth's thin skin of fresh air, water, and topsoil—are at risk.

It is not true that the ruling politicoeconomic interests are in a state of denial about all this. Far worse than denial, they have shown outright antagonism toward those who think our planet is more important than their profits. So they defame environmentalists as "eco-terrorists," "EPA gestapo," "Earth day alarmists," "tree huggers," and purveyors of "Green hysteria."

Continued on page 19

# 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 educationabout 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: daviddelk@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 colorcodedhomeland 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 throughout Oregon. CCCHD is a member group of the Rural Organizing Project. For more information, call 503-543-8417.

9

Committees of Correspondence is an inclusive anrogred non-sectarian national coalition of pssive. 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

#### **T**enants

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. Call CAT's Hotline at (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 justice issues, lobby elected officials, collab-

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 97211.232-6003. Open seven

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 ourJewish 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,

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 offers a support group the first Saturday of each month in Wilsonville. www.mfso-oregon.org. 503-757-

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 <a href="http://www.">www.fairelections.net</a> <a href="http://www.">http://www.</a> 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. Foundedin 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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Committed to Sustainability

orate 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 accessfacilities. Ask for our catalogue of available tapes or checkout the selected videos in lending libraries at LaughingHorse Books, BlackRose Collective Bookstore, or Small A Projects. Contact: 3439 NE Sandy Blvd. PMB #248, Portland, OR 97232; 503-239immigrants 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 notwheel-

Metanoia Peace Community Following Jesus' way of revolutionary nonviolence and life-in-community, the people

OR 97214; 236-2893.

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#### **Ongoing**

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-1pm and 9-10pm, 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. Democracy Now repeats the Friday Program on Sundays 1:30-2:30 on Channel 29.

GRITtv is on Channel 29 from 5-5:30 p m and 10-10:30 pm Monday thru Friday. This show is repeated on Saturday and Sunday from 5-5:30.

Elders Reading Group, Laughing Horse Books, 12 NE 10th Ave, off E Burnside. We are reading Naomi Klein's The Shock Doctrine, 1-2 p.m. every Monday. More info: 503-236-2893.

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 are always in need of new or used dictionaries and thesauruses. www.pdxbookstoprisoners.org email: pdxbookstoprisoners@riseup.net.

R.E.P. (Renewable Energy Policies) Action Project, 1st University Church, SW 12th and Main, 7 p.m., every 1st & 3rd Monday, FREE. This group supports and promotes adoption of a REPs policy in Oregon that creates good social and environmental outcomes for reasonable costs. We are talking about ordinary people being able to generate clean renewable energy to sell at above normal cost, back to the utilities (PGE, etc)! Call Judy at 503-232-1911 for more info www.afd-pdx.org.

Basic war tax resistance & redirection, Laughing Horse Books, 12 NE 10th, 7-8 p.m., every 3rd Monday of the month. What is war tax resistance & redirection? What are some ways to participate? An informal workshop, no charge, materials provided. More info at 503-238-0605. Sponsored by War Resisters League. FREE.

The Unemployed Workers Progressive Summer Film Fest, was last held at PSU, in 2009, and we are currently looking for a new venue. If you are interested in helping to organize a new event and brainstorm about jobs issues, global social justice issues, and other issues that effect all of us, please contact PSU Progressive Student Union. We plan to work with Portland Jobs With Justice, PSU Model UN, PSU MEChA, and at least a dozen other campus groups. To get involved, contact LewChurch@gmail.com

Weekly book study group, David Korten's "Agenda for a New Economy: From Phantom Wealth to Real Wealth, Why Wall Street Can't be Fixed and How to Replace It." 7-9 p.m., Tuesdays. 1st U. Church, Buchan Bldg, enter through gate on SW 12th & Salmon. Currently experiencing the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, is giving us an incredible opportunity to change our economic story. To register call First Church 503-228-6389 or, for more info, call Marcia @ 503-665-3957.

Anarchist Discussion Group, Black Rose Collective Books, 4038 N. Mississippi, 7-9 p.m., every 1st & 3rd Tuesday. A selfled, free-form group. Bring cookies.

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 503-239-6841 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, Liberty Hall, 311 N Ivy St.., off N. Vancouver, 7 p.m. every 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 Shrunk 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 & Yamhill. Info at: 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, but no one is turned away. Come 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,

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# COMM CALE

# March 2011sa

A longer calendar: theportland



since 1998. www.PhilosopherSeed.org

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

The mad space between the stars! Radical weekly peer-led mental health discussion group. The Garfield House, 4011 NE Garfield, 7-9 p.m. Sundays. We are interested in building a strong radical mental health community here in Portland. We reject mainstream mental health and have decided to take control of our own needs. We strive to support each other in our daily struggles. Please join us. More info: www.themadspace@riseup.nef

Portland 9/11 Truth Alliance weekly meeting, Laughing Horse Books, NE 10th Ave just North of Burnside, 7 pm. Exciting news from NYC about a new independent and impartial 9/11 Commission on the ballot. http://www.

# **Trial Lawyers for the People**

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nyccan.org. Every other week the group presents a film or a special guest speaker. More info at 503-701-3481.

#### March-May 2011

Friday, March 4 "Not Waiting for Superman" plays at 9:30 PM on Channel 11, Cable Access Network, Portland.

**Monday, March 7**, Rally for Jobs, Steps of the State Capitol, 900 Court St NE, Salem, contact Oregon AFL-CIO for more info: 503-287-3114, Carpool from the JwJ office at 10:30am

Tuesday, March 8, Portland Chapter of PFLAG March Meeting at 7:00 PM, 1st Methodist Church, Portland, OR.

Tuesday, March 8, the second round of Sisters of the Road Empowered Voices Media Project kicks off with a new group of participants learning to create amazing digital shorts which will tell their story.

Participants from the first EVMP will help train the new group!

#### Wedmesday, March 9,

Event: School of the Environment Seminar Series: Biodiverse Ecoroofs In Europe Starts: 4:00pm Ends: 5:00pm Where: Cramer Hall 271, Portland State University / Speaker: Jim Labbe Audubon Society of Portland

Wednesday March 9th forum/speaker 6:30 pm Derrick Jensen lecture at PNCA "Civilization and Resistance" Portland, OR Location 1241 NW Johnson St Derrick Jensen will be speaking on "Civilization and Resistance" at the Alfred Edelman Lecture at Pacific Northwest College of Art. The lecture is at 6:30 PM and is free. PNCA Main Campus Building, Swigert Commons 1241 NW Johnson St. Portland, OR. http://cal.pnca.edu/events/126

#### Thursday March 10th

Oregon New Sanctuary Movement's Love Has No Borders Celebration Dinner Ascension Catholic Church 7507 SE Yamhill, Portland, OR

Friday, March 11, 2011 Event: Social Sustainability Colloquium series: Positive Mental Health Promotion and Mental Health Equity in Multnomah County Starts: 1:00pm Ends: 3:00pm WHAT: Social Sustainability Colloquium series: Positive Mental Health Promotion & Mental Health Equity in Mult. County WHERE: Academic and Student Recreation Center room 660 Kari Lindahl (plus panelists) For more information about this event please contact Marion Sharp, sharpml@ pdx.eduor 503-725-4876. Saturday,

March 12, Pacific Green Party Convention 9 am and 5 pm on Multnomah Friends Meeting House, 4312 S.E. Stark Street. www.pacificgreens.org for more

Sat, Mar 12th, 2011 Give Peace a Dance. Admission is \$18 at the door or \$15 in advance. for more information, call 503-585-2767.

Time: 6:00 pm - 11:00 pm Location: Grand Ballroom 187 HIGH ST NE SALEM, OR, 97301-3689 www.oregonpeaceworks.org

Saturday, March 12 at 7 pm Standing Editorial Committee Collective Laughing Horse Books, 12 NE

10th Ave. (20, 12, & 19 Bus) **Monday. March 14** at 7 pm

NAAME/TBA Board of Directors MeetingLaughing Horse Books: 12 NE 10th Ave. (12.19, & 20 Bus lines)

Tusday, March 15 at 7 pm Writers Workshop Collective 6935 SW Merry Lane, Beaverton (Bus LIne 56)

Thursday, March 17 International Sustainable Community Development 2011 Speaker Series promoting international community development that is

environmentally sound, economically productive, & socially just brings Esperanza En Accion, from Managua, Nicaragua on Thursday, March 17 at 2pm in Room 270 - the Urban Center - 506 S.W. Mill St. 7pm in PSU Multicultural Center (Rm. 228) Smith Center – 1825 S.W. Broadway

Friday, March 18th: Sisters Solidarity Salsa Party! Awesome Sisters staff member Lucilene is holding a salsa party benefit for Sisters at Copacabana (17 SE 8th St.). \$10 advance purchase, \$12 at the door Wed-Sunday, March 9-13! Womens Film Festival Hollywood Theatre and other venues! http://www.theportlandalliance.org/

Friday, March 18, Stand Up for Fairness Rally, details TBA Saturday,

Saturday, March 19,1:00 PM, Pioneer Courthouse Square: Eight Years in Iraq - Nine Years in Afghanistan: How is the War Economy Working for You? Anti-War rally & march: End the Wars and Occupations - Bring All the Troops Home Now: Fund Jobs, Health Care and Human Needs, Not the War Machine Stand for Civil Libeties at Home and Abroad Take Action! Rally at 1 PM March at 1:30 PM

#### Saturday, March 19,

Fundraiser for The Portland Alliance. Silent Auction, Speakers, Music, Dinner, and Dancing. 6-10 pm. Location TBA More information: editor@theportlandalliance.org

Tuesday, March 22, at 5:30pm until issue complete. Editing Party at 6935 SW Merry Lane, Beaverton (Bus line 56) There will be Food!

Saturday, April 16 Mass Rally for Jobs Not Cuts, SAVE THIS DATE! Downtown Portland, Details TBA FRIDAY. MARCH 18, Economic Crisis Rally on State Furlough Day, details TBA

Sunday, APRIL 17, PCASC Annual

Please send Calendar Events to jennybatesma@gmail.com. Jenny is our volunteer Calendar Event Editor. Please submit listings or updates promptly by the 14th of each month.



Is your nonprofit looking for funding, grants, or support? Checkout the lowdown on: OregonGrantWatch.com

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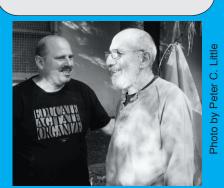
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Please phone us at 503-327-8377 or e-mail editor@ ThePortlandAlliance.org



Greg and Bill at Peace Rally last Oct.



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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 sentencedto 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 Republicratic duopoly and create a loud, clear, and unapologetically progressive voice in government. Help us build thatpeaceful, 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 Yugoslovia. School of the Americas. General meetings 3-4 time 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 oppositionto 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. 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.pcmtv.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. Portlandarea 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,



"And no, I'm not being ironic when I say I'm tired of irony."

Shannon Wheeler: www.TooMucCoffeeMan.com

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 newswire 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, selforganizing 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 in Liberty Hall, 311 N. Ivy.

#### Prananda Yoga & Arts Center

Yoga isn't about sticking your foot in your ear. It startswhere 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 Unon: PSU-PSU coordinates Transit Riders Union and Tenant Rights Project, advocatnig for lowincome tenants and TriMet riders (www. trimetriders.org). On campus, we organize the Coke-Odwalla Boycott (www.killercoke. org) for labor rights in Colombia, human rights in Darfur, and for a National Bottle Bill/recycling legislation. 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 Bocyott, 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 antiimperialist, 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 foreveryone. 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. 819 N. Killingsworth, Portland, OR 97217. Phone: 503-240-4462, Fax:503-240-4463, E-mail: rwpdx@igc.org. Website: radical-

women.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 toimprove the working knowledge we all have concerning our national, and international currencies. Through this effort we hope to foment a popular movement-geared 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 successor 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 communityhere 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 engineeredfor the distribution of an abundance to all citizens frombirth to death. For more information, call 503-283-9517or 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 usonline 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 see the website ofour 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, wilpfpdx@gmail.com.

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

IN SEARCH OF THE PROGRESSIVE AGENDA



# Progressive Arts and Culture!

By Elizabeth Rathbun

MARCH ARTS AND CULTURE EVENTS

#### Art

March 3: Pearl District First Thursday Portland Galleries Walk, 6 to 9. firstthursdayportland.com

March 3 to March 23: Oregon College of Arts and Crafts. Juried High School Exhibition; best work from 29 private and public high schools. March 3 to April 3: Metals Exhibition featuring functional, wearable and sculptural work.

Feb. 5 through May 22: Portland Art Museum Exhibition. 'Riches of a City, Portland Collects.' More than 150 works selected from museum curators from Portland's private collections.

#### **Blues and Jazz**

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

Candlelight Room 2032 SW 5th Ave.
Portland Oregon 97201 USA
503-222-3378 / Price: FREE
Friday, March 4th, Ocean 503 - 9:30-1:30
Sat. Mar. 5th, Return Flight - 9:30-1:30
Fri., March 11th, Kurt Green - 9:30-1:30
Saturday, March 12th, Elite - 9:30-1:30
Fri., Mar. 18, Norman Sylvester 9:30-1:30 Friday, March 18th, Hot
Property - 9:30-1:30 Fri., Mar. 25, Hip
Replacements - 9:30-1:30 Saturday,
March 26th, LaRhonda Steele - 9:30-1:30
Friday, April 1st, Gretchen Mitchell 9:30-1:30

#### Classical

Saturday March 19 - 8:00 PM
WHERE:Artihoke Music Backgate
Stage 3130 SE Hawthorne Blvd.
Portland, OR 97124
ADMISSION: \$10 at the Door
MORE INFO: Call 503-232-8845
Beltaine is proud to announce a great
night of music with David Rogers on
Saturday, March 19th, 8:00 PM at the
Artichoke's Backgate Stage.

#### Comedy

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 on Fri and Sat. March 3 to 5: Michael Ian Black from 'Stella' and NBC's 'Ed'; March 10 to 12: Kevin Nealon from 'SNL' and 'Weeds'. 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**

Bellydancing every Wed. at Blue Monk in basement, 3341 SE Belmont, beginning at 8 p.m. with a \$5 cover.

Tango. Evening milongas from Monday through Saturday and Sunday afternoon.

Mondays: Portland Police Athletic Association (PPAA), 618 S.E. Alder, Basic lesson 7:00 to 8:00, dancing to 12 p.m. are only \$20 Pre-Register for All Five classes for \$90

Chinese Garden. Lansugarden.org March 1 to 31: Bats, Birds, Frogs and Fish. Activities for children focus on creatures with special meaning to the Chinese culture. March 19 from 10 to 3: Annual Spring Plant Sale. Purchase unique plants and receive care tips directly from the grower. Winter Hours: daily 10 to 5. Lansugarden.org

All Five **Great Discussions**Friday, March 4

12:00 noon
Room 001, Academic Student Recreation
Center, SW Fifth Ave & Montgomery St,
Portland
The annual Great Decisions lecture

The annual Great Decisions lecture series at PSU ends March 4. It is free and open to the public. The subject is: Germany Ascendant.

#### **Persian Celebration**

Wed. March 16: Annual Chahar Shanbeh Soori festivities for Persian New Year.

Saturday, March 28: Persian New Year Celebration, 'Nowruz 1388' from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. at Portland State University.

Sat and Sun through March 30: On the Eve of Friday Morning, Oregon Children's Theatre performed at Newmark Theatre, at 2 p.m. An Iranian girl experiences what values are by stepping into and becoming part of an ancient tale.

April 1: Nowrooz Shams Ensemble Music Performance.

#### 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

Feb. 8 through March 13: The Lieutenant of Inishmore, How love for a cat led to murder and mayhem. 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.

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

Shows Thursday through Sunday with evenings and Sunday matinee.

Feb 11- March 5: Ana en el Tropico. Winner of 2003 Pulitzer Prize for drama, story set in a Cuban-American cigar factory of 1929 Florida where an lecter (entertainer) reads Tolstoy's Anna Karenina to workers, completely in Spanish with subtitles provided above the stage. Immerse yourself in Spanish through theatre.

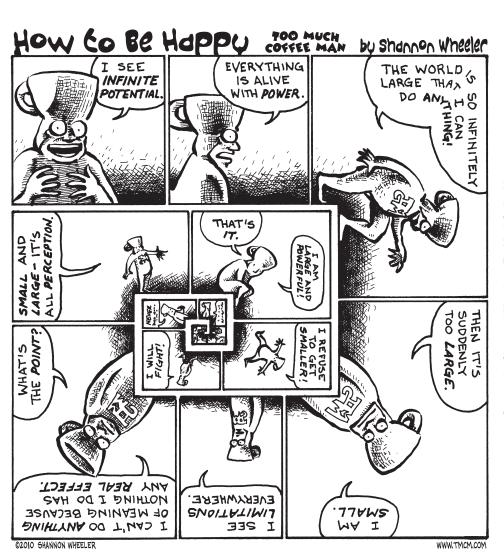
March 25 to April 16: Boomcracklefly, Three disparate stories woven together to create a science fiction/magical realism eccentric show that is unsettling yet irresistible. In English.

Portland Center Stage, pcs.org, 128 NW 11<sup>th</sup> Ave.; (503) 445-3700

Feb. 1 through March 27: Futura by Jordan Harrison in Ellyn Bye Studio, A few years ago, warnings about extinction of the print media seemed all too spooky, but now it's a reality.

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 a former co-editor of Washington Co. Democratic Party Newsletter (2004-2007) and is a member the League of Women Voter's Legislative Action Committee.

Please send events to
Elizabeth Rathbun
editor@theportlandalliance.org



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

Thursday: Norse Hall, 11<sup>th</sup> and Couch St.; Basic lesson 7:30 to 8:30, dancing to 12 p.m.

Friday: Paradise Ballroom: 826 S.E. Belmont; Practica, 2 to 6 p.m. Sunday: Viscount Studio at 724 E. Burnside; 1 to 5 p.m.

Thurs., March 17 – Wed., March 23
Tango Workshop Classes
and Private Lessons
Teachers: Tomas Howlin
& Shorey Myers
Contact Steven Payne to Register:
tangopayne@yahoo.com
All Classes held at The Tango Berretin,
6305 SE Foster
PRICING: Drop-In \$25 per class

Pre-Register by March 15th and classes

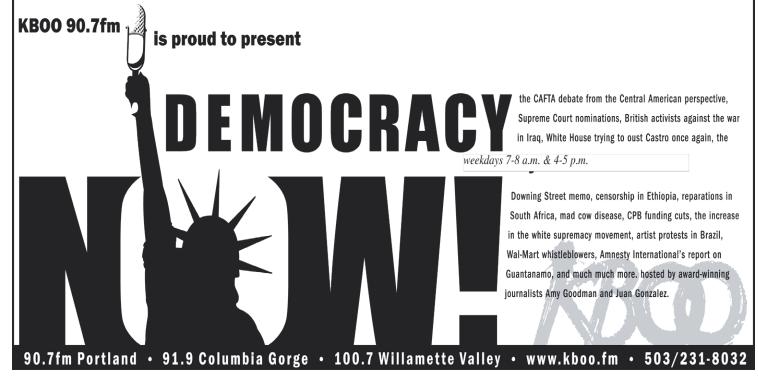
Japanese Garden. Japanesegarden.com March 5 to 6: Bamboo Fence Building workshop, March 26 to 27. Ohara Ikebana Exhibition at 10 to 4. Winter hours 10 to 5.

#### Illahee Lecture Series

First Congregational Church; contact "http://www.illahee.org" for tickets and information.

Mon. March 14: Searching for Solutions. Innovation for Public Good. Alan Atkisson. Accelerating Innovation. Atkisson helps businesses, governments and nonprofits accelerate innovation for sustainability.

Wed. March 30: Richard Jefferson, Open Source Innovation. Molecular biologist, Jefferson conducted the worlds' first field release of a transgenic food crop.



# Got Clay Soil? It could be worse!

f you've ever had the misfortune of trying to garden in total clay "soil," you may have had a very short gardening career. When clay soil is wet, it sticks to everything and drains very slowly - if at all. When it is dry, it is either so rock hard or so powdery that the survival of any type of plant seems about as likely as an overhaul of Oregon's tax structure. So what could be worse than having clay soil? The answer is sandy soil, and here's

Soil (as opposed to dirt) is a complex mix of some basic components: very small rocks, air, water, organic matter and organisms. For now our focus is on the rock component. The very small rocks that help make up soil are classified by size. The largest particle is sand, the smallest particle is clay and in between is silt. Clay particles – unlike sand or silt have negative charges (called anions) scattered about on their surfaces. Think of these negatively charged anions as one-poled magnets that attract anything with positive charges (called cations). Here's what's so sweet about this scenario: because most plant nutrients are positively charged cations, they are attracted to clay particles which can hold onto them and release them later for use by plant roots. In other words, clay particles are the only soil particles that give soil fertility.

Soil scientists and gardeners have even come up with a name for this ability of

Ground View

> BY GLEN Andresen



"Here's what's so sweet

soil to hang on to nutrients. It is called cation exchange capacity (CEC) and it is a good way to measure soil fertility. Soils with a healthy mixture of clay particles have a high CEC. This means that, if you have clay particles in your soil, water percolating through your garden is not

Plant nutrients that were once "attached" to the clay particle are now available for the plant to use.

Now, how does someone remedy the clay situation so they can begin to garden? First, a mention of what NOT to do. Oftentimes people assume that adding sand to clay soil will help "even out" the problem. This "remedy" ignores the complexity of soil. What you will end up with is a problem akin to trying to grow vegetables in cement. (And I've read that until sand becomes more than 80 percent of the total volume of the soil, adding sand actually reduces drainage.)

The best material to add to improve clay soil – and

sandy soil, for that -is

matter

about this scenario: ...clay particles are the only soil particles that give soil fertility."

taking with it valuable plant nutrients. Of course as long as the clay particles hang on to the nutrients they are not available to your plants. But as carbon dioxide (which is given off by plant roots) reacts with water in the soil, chemical reactions take place and there is essentially an exchange of one molecule for another on the surface of the clay particle. Voila!

compost or other forms of organic matter, such as cover crops, green manures, leaf molds and crop residues. No matter how you add organic matter - by spreading it on the surface, by burying it or by tilling it in – it will decay and form a very stable form of compost called humus. And it so happens that humus molecules also are

covered with those negatively charged anions

But just how does compost improve the tilth (that is, the structure) of your clay soil? Once again we turn to our animal friends in the microscopic world: the bacteria and fungi found in compost and healthy soil. Certain groups of bacteria produce sticky substances that help bind the small clay particles together to form small aggregates, and fungal hyphae (those small, whitish, rootlike underground growths) physically bind soil particles together. Thus both bacteria and fungi create stable aggregates that help increase water infiltration (which is so important in clay soils) and the soil's ability to hold water (which is so important in sandy soils).

So don't despair even if you have clay soil and fear your gardening career may end just as it begins. And on that note, one final thought: If you do have clay soil as deep as you care to dig, try adding copious amounts of compost on TOP of the clay soil and just plant in that for a few years. Good things will be happening below.

Natural gardening educator and organic gardener Glen Andresen teaches Beekeeping, Gardening, & More at Http://kboo.fm/TheDirtbag

all, they live not in the long run but in the here and now. What is now at stake for them is something more proximate and more urgent than global ecology; it is global profits. The fate of the biosphere seems like a remote abstraction compared to the fate of one's immediateand enormous-investments.

With their eye on the bottom line, big business leaders know that every dollar a company spends on oddball things like environmental protection is one less dollar in earnings. Moving away from fossil fuels and toward solar, wind, and tidal energy could help avert ecological disaster, but six of the world's ten top industrial corporations are involved primarily in the production of oil, gasoline, and motor vehicles. Fossil fuel pollution brings billions of dollars in returns. Ecologically sustainable forms of production threaten to compromise such profits, the big producers are convinced.

Immediate gain for oneself is a far more compelling consideration than a future loss shared by the general public. Every time vou drive vour car, vou are putting your immediate need to get somewhere ahead of the collective need to avoid poisoning the air we all breath. So with the big players: the social cost of turning a forest into a wasteland weighs little against the immense and immediate profit that comes from harvesting the timber and walking away with a neat bundle of cash. And it can always be rationalized away: there are lots of other forests for people to visit, they don't need this one; society needs the timber; lumberjacks need the jobs, and so on.

#### The Future Is Now

Some of the very same scientists and environmentalists who see the ecology crisis as urgent rather annoyingly warn us of a catastrophic climate crisis by "the end of this century." But that's some ninety years away when all of us and most of our kids will be dead-which makes global warming a much less

Continued on page 19

# Pathological Profiteers Promote Pollution

Continued from page 8

In an enormous departure from free-market ideology, most of the diseconomies of big business are foisted upon the general populace, including the costs of cleaning up toxic wastes, the cost of monitoring production, the cost of disposing of industrial effluence (which composes 40 to 60 percent of the loads treated by taxpayer-supported municipal sewer plants), the cost of developing new water sources (while industry and agribusiness consume 80 percent of the nation's daily water supply), and the costs of attending to the sickness and disease caused by all the toxicity created.

With many of these diseconomies regularly passed on to the government, the private sector then boasts of its superior cost-efficiency over the public sector.

The Superrich Are Different from Us Isn't ecological disaster a threat to the health and survival of corporate plutocrats just as it is to us ordinary citizens? We can understand why the corporate rich might want to destroy public housing, public education, Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. Such cutbacks would bring us closer to a free market society devoid of the publiclyfunded "socialistic" human services that the ideological reactionaries detest.



And such cuts would not deprive the superrich and their families of anything. The superrich have more than sufficient private wealth to procure whatever services and protections they need for themselves.

> "Don't ... corporate lobbyists inhabit the same polluted planet, eat the same chemicalized food, and breathe the same toxified air as everyone else?"

But the environment is a different story, is it not? Don't wealthy reactionaries and their corporate lobbyists inhabit the same polluted planet as everyone else, eat the same chemicalized food, and breathe the same toxified air? In fact, they do not live exactly as everyone else. They experience a different class reality,

often residing in places where the air is markedly better than in low and middle income areas. They have access to food that is organically raised and specially transported and prepared.

The nation's toxic dumps and freeways usually are not situated in or near their swanky neighborhoods. In fact, the superrich do not live in neighborhoods as such. They usually reside on landed estates with plenty of wooded areas, streams, meadows, and only a few wellmonitored access roads. Pesticide sprays are not poured over their trees and gardens. Clear cutting does not desolate their ranches, estates, family forests, lakes, and prime vacation spots.

Still, should they not fear the threat of an ecological apocalypse brought on by global warming? Do they want to see life on Earth, including their own lives, destroyed? In the long run they indeed will be sealing their own doom along with everyone else's. However, like us

email: p2r9s@hevanet.com





# POETRY PAGES Subversive Verse

BY MARY OUGHT SIX

#### "SHE PLODDED, SHE NODDED"

At first she was barely there at all just a nipple on the horizon moving barely forward inching, her butt in the air like an earthworm, away from where she began, a bus shelter, indistinct, her past was fading so fast, toward a bus stop empty of people, empty of with no dawn to follow anyone who could tell her she couldn't be there she was trash, a druggie freak, so she wasn't welcome anywhere,

she headed toward it like it was a raft in the ocean

she plodded, she nodded she pushed forward in ghost tracks inching and probing the great beyond like a bloody worm off the dirt for good this time your time alone taking the high road

one foot rose, then dropped;

one foot rose, then dropped like a boot down a garbage chute a loud flatulent slap then a great bumping humping sound coming from the impassive chute: then the other too, foot folded like a piece of laundry rising only a little and slowly, then dropping feet dropping and plopping, she staggered then stopped. she came from no place discernible visible to a standstill at a stoplight, then down to the gutter and across against the light indifferent to oncoming traffic

her shoes had left her for some sewer line somewhere closer to the Moon

the twilight took them in a breath and with them her feet out from under had a path to fall down

as it inched toward her

as to where she was, as to where we ever were:

she proceeded willy-nilly; and not toward any home not toward anywhere seen by another only wanted by all others the high road

she plodded, she nodded she proceeded in her own tracks of habit retracking her run

and the night came on surround her like a doorway with no light like an inch without a mile

an itch like an overpass's eave or a bridge's deep throat underneath or a river's mouth

an itch like a friend when no other was therewould never be there like that ever again

she disappeared before I could see where the scratcher might be

that corner? which corner? when any corner would do, it was too dark to see.

her low-slung staggering, refusing reprieve, taking her to a melted bench in the dark? or to some river's mad mouth?

By, Jay Thiemeyer

# POETRY EVENTS

#### Thursday, March 17th at 7pm

at Paper Tiger Coffeehouse, (703 Grand blvd. in Vancouver, located between Mill Plain and Evergreen about a mile east of I-5), we will be featuring, in addition to our usual open mic, the by turns literary, real and surreal, funny, shocking, emotive and always entertaining poet, Alex Birkett. Alex Birkett is a joyful malcontent, whose brief tour through community college served to illustrate how little he knows. And he is okay with that. A painter and philosopher at birth, he discovered writing while dreaming on a Grey Hound bus bound for Vancouver Washington where he now resides.

Jay Thiemeyer is a Portland activist who supports single-payer health insurance reform. Jay URGES everyone to get on board and help bring wellness as a human right. Together we make a difference.

#### "THE LAYOFF"

Layoff's comin,

Ain't no stoppin it. You can smell it Thick in the air As you milk what's left Of the work And you see the calendar Sayin the boat is sailin Friday They sold all Your completed work To that ship. Layoffs comin And the new guys With families Are sweatin it, Fishin for rumors. The old guys Used to layoffs Are laughin Cause they're tired Of lookin busy And the bullshit's risin And they're ready To go home Work on they're side jobs, Go home, go on vacation. Layoffs comin And the brown noser's Noses gettin browner. Friends try to hang on On the bodies of friends And some of us Get the Hell out Cause we don't have the stomach

To watch.

The Layoff by Mary L. Slocum

One of 4 poets in Gaston, Oregon population 625. A shipyard electrician for 17 years with a MSW. Semiretired activist. The last winner of the Portland, Artquake competition in the 1990's. A winner of Washington State Poetry Association humorous poetry competition, also in the 90's. Has been published in Stanza, NW Literary Review, Upper Left Edge, Tradeswomen's Network Newsletter, Black Cat and Carcinogenic.

#### "Stocks & Bondage"

I want a woman in chains: not to rein her in, hardly the speaker is no sovereign with power to reign over one hour after hour, but to have and hold in a way which will break the mold, not drive home old clichés. I don't want to dawdle away days, keep life backburned at half-throttle; I need it turned around, shaken at the throat and thrown to the ground before dirt and me meet to make a mound. I love splinters and bruises, muscle aches reminding you of unknown muscle uses, homegrown meals that make you muse on days flown by with tin can radios, nooses, the blues, and real no-man's-land. I can't stand the ruses and masks of today, the way flask abuses make house cats stray and the fat felines rake earth for real worth they'd find if they just dug their hands in clay. Sometime soon there'll come a boon for believers who mind the rug pulled out down under and as they rise off that hardwood floor they'll roar like thunder: This ain't no oft-foot-trod way that awed God

Please see Poetry Pages page 16

#### from Poetry Pages page 15

would want us flaunting – the prize is from above, and no amount of tugging can topple this Love. So maybe if you tug enough this dapper roughand-tumbler can tough his way out of his candy-wrapper cage and keep grip on the humbler strip. That hearth and home radar blip, the lost age where man didn't have to roam to truly know and be known. Those are chains of freedom; read 'em and weep if that's required – this trained brain will keep what all's transpired.

#### By, Christopher Keller

Christopher Keller earned his B.A. and M.A.T. at Western Oregon University. His work has appeared in The Northwest Passage and Pointed Circle. He currently breathes the allergen-rich air of the Pacific Northwest and loves it. He substitute teaches throughout Oregon and works part-time at Victoria's Secret. Neither are as glamorous as one would think, but both are perfect fodder for poetry.

# "Short Hike Through the McCormick and Baxter Superfund Site"

down from the Port Way Tavern meandering Edgewater Avenue ignore warning signs Do Not Enter Danger-Danger-Danger beyond barb wire, around locked gate overstuffed chair suffocates under ivy

at the base of an oak shaded hillside line of dead elms define the waterline patches of dead grass poking out of an abandoned parking lot dwarf maples stagger along railroad tracks

creosote grave bubbling over half century of telephone poles now entombed by a bentonite slurry mix designed to suck up pentachlorophenol while arsenic, chromium and zinc continue to slip between chemical scrubbing fingers

first identified decades ago children in a waterhole burned by caustic acids

today a lone jogger quickly disappears down dusty trails yard service illicitly dumps lawn debris

well concealed tent city along the polluted river hollowed eyed men with yellow dogs fishing the Old Mormon Slough

outside a graffiti infested factory rusted 55 gallon barrel in the ditch cradling a Blue Heron nest rookery abandoned by the trees

By, Casey Bush

# SUBVERSBVE VERSEB

Casey Bush is a longtime Portland poet with many publications and readings. Casey is a Senior Editor, Book Reviews and Poetry, for The Bear Deluxe, an environmental arts magazine and is also the Community Editor for the online magazine, WritersDojo.Com.

#### "A General Education"

in Linguistic Philosophy,
included Chomsky, Wittgenstein and Korzybski,
began one night in a bar,
in the company of a couple of Graduate students
from the Psychology department
from whom I was sponging drinks and cigarettes.
One of them responded angrily
in a debate over the relative merits of Freud vs. Jung,
"No, you've got to follow Wittgenstein in this,
you've got to shift the paradigm!"

I looked down, deep in my cups, at the table, saw that there were indeed, two dimes, along with other small change and bills, scattered between the empty glasses, overflowing ash trays.

I shifted the pair o' dimes, some of the rest of the change, into my hand, thought, "I'm hungry."

By, Max Linden-Levy

#### "No Damn Good"

1

I'm come out of Fred Meyers Bag of groceries balanced on my shoulder,

And it's raining and cold --

Gonna catch the bus back down to Mississippi Street

And there they are, on the curb,

The man, in his twenties maybe, standing with the sign,

"Out of Work, Homeless, Need Help, God Bless You . . . ;"

And the woman, young and thin and pretty and tired and cold and hard eyed,

The butt of some cheap tailor made burned down into the filter,

And she still hits on it,

Holds the round faced child on her knee, red hair, blue eyes,

Dirty faced with crumbs from a Little Debbie snack cake,

The sodden box at her mother's feet,

All the collected innocence of ten thousand round bellied cherubs

I'm so pissed off they sit there ask for handouts with this little kid --

Who should be home and warm and dry with banana in her mouth and milk on the table -- My mind just jumps out on itself and snarls

"no 'count!"

Maybe that thought was so loud that it traveled across the entrance drive to the parking lot, She heard it – She turns her head and looks at me with tired, empty eyes.

"Idiot," my thoughts run angry, "don't even think of it!"

"Sucker!"

"Dope!"

"Jesus H. Christ!"

And so I turn away think I will walk around them, My eyes to one side, my ears closed,

POETRY Continued on page 18





Submissions: Poets may submit
materials electronically to
mary.otte@gmail.com or by regular
mail to:
Mary Otte, Poetry Editor,
The Portland Alliance,
Box 14162,

Portland, OR 97293-0162.

# When "Good" Dictators Go bad

A standard zigzag of political rhetoric went for a jaunt along Pennsylvania Avenue on Tuesday (Feb. 15) with a speech by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton at George Washington University. "Iran is awful because it is a government that routinely violates the rights of its people," she declared. During the last few weeks, much has changed in the politics of the Middle East – but not much has changed in the politics of Washington, where policymakers turn phrases on a dime.

The currency is doublespeak, antithetical to a single standard of human rights.

And so, the secretary of state condemns awful Iran, invoking "our sense of human dignity, the rights that flow from it and the principles that ground it." But don't hold your breath for any such condemnation of, say, Saudi Arabia – surely an "awful" government that "routinely violates the rights of its people."

It wasn't long ago that Hosni Mubarak's regime – with all its repression and torture – enjoyed high esteem and lavish praise in Washington. For Egyptians, the repression and torture went on; for the bipartisan savants running U.S. foreign policy, the suppression was good geopolitics.

As recently as Jan. 27, when Joe Biden appeared on the "PBS NewsHour," the official U.S. line about the despot of Egypt was enough to make Orwell's coffin spin. Was it time for Mubarak to go? "No," Biden replied. "I think the time has come for President Mubarak to begin to move in the direction that – to be more responsive to some . . . of the needs of the people out there."

The interviewer, Jim Lehrer, is hardly a tough questioner of red-white-and-blue officialdom, but he did press the

vice president on whether Mubarak was a dictator. Biden replied: "Mubarak has been an ally of ours in a number of things. And he's been very responsible one, relative to geopolitical interest in the region, the Middle East peace efforts; the actions Egypt has taken relative to

"The currency is doublespeak, antithetical to a single standard of human rights."

normalizing relationship with – with Israel. . . . I would not refer to him as a dictator."

Secretary of State Clinton is correct when she says that Iran's regime is "awful." I caught a glimpse six years ago, at Tehran University, when police and Basij thugs broke up a peaceful demonstration for women's rights. Over lunch one day, an Iranian talked about the torture of friends in prison and described the people in charge as "monsters." These days, the repression

in Iran is far worse.

Meanwhile, the torture of political prisoners in Saudi Arabia is no less horrific – while the U.S. government's winks and nods toward the Saudi regime are no less pernicious today than they were for decades while Mubarak's henchmen did their foul deeds in Egypt. In both cases, the cruelty has been OK with Washington since it has been perpetrated by (cue Biden) "an ally of ours in a number of things" that has been "very responsible . . . relative to geopolitical interest in the region."

On the same day as Clinton's selectively righteous speech blasting an awful regime in the Middle East, my colleagues at RootsAction launched "An Open Letter to the People of Egypt." [http://salsa.wiredforchange.com/o/6503/p/dia/action/public/?action\_KEY=3369]

"From the United States, we watched as you stood up for democracy, faced huge obstacles and used nonviolent action to depose a dictator," the letter says. "We send you our congratulations and appreciation for showing us – and people all over the planet – the power of mobilized humanity in the quest for

#### Media Beat

BY NORMAN SOLOMON



justice and freedom."

The letter adds: "As Americans, we have a responsibility to reset U.S. government policies in Egypt and the entire region. Last week, thousands of us signed a letter [ http://salsa. wiredforchange.com/o/6503/p/dia/ action/public/?action KEY=3264] demanding that Obama apologize for our country's three decades of support for the Mubarak regime. Now, in the absence of a presidential apology, we take it upon ourselves to apologize. We resolve to work for human rights in solidarity with you, calling for a swift transition for democracy in Egypt. We intend to work so that U.S. foreign policy truly becomes aligned with the values of democracy and human rights."

Signing the open letter [ http://salsa. wiredforchange.com/o/6503/p/dia/action/public/?action\_KEY=3369 ] is a statement of solidarity with prodemocracy movements – and a rejection of Washington's ongoing double standard on human rights. But our words won't accomplish much unless we match them with effective political organizing in the days and years ahead.

Norman Solomon is president of the Institute for Public Accuracy and a senior fellow at RootsAction. His books include "War Made Easy: How Presidents and Pundits Keep Spinning Us to Death."



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# Military Madness: The numbers do not lie

#### By Michael Munk

On Saturday, Marine Sgt.. Matthew DeYoung of Talent--Oregon's 743rd combat casualty of the BU.S.h/Obama wars--was buried in Medford. When Sgt.. DeYoung was killed in Afghanistan last week he became one of the 102,159 casualties suffered as of today in the "wars of choice" that began when the U.S. invaded Afganistan in November, 2001. Of the 743 Oregonians the Pentagon lists, 95 have been killed and 648 wounded in action.

Washingtonians, who live in a state with many more and larger military installations than Oregon, suffered 1,208 casualties so from his vehicle, as well as making false statements and derelicton of duty. A court martial sentenced him to nine months in confinement and reduction in rank. Despite testifying that he tried to prevent the war crimes, Cpl. Emmitt Quintal of Weston, who admitted he U.S.ed drugs and beat up another solider witness in a related drug investigation, received a harsher sentence: a bad conduct discharge and 90 days at hard labor.

#### My weekly total casualty count:

U.S. military occupation forces in Iraq and Afganistan under Commander-in-Chief Obama suffered 67combat casualties in the eight days ending February 23, as the

"The total includes 77,742 casualties since the US invaded Iraq in March, 2003 (Operations 'Iraqi Freedom' and 'New Dawn') and 24,417 since the US invaded Afganistan in November, 2001 (Operation 'Eduring Freedom')."

far, including 125 dead and 1,082 WIA.

Sgt. DeYoung was buried with full military honors, but not every Oregonian who served is considered a hero. The two Oregon soldiers accU.S.ed in the Afghan "killing civilians for fun" atrocities recently pleaded quilty to some of the charges against them. Army staff Sgt.. Robert Stevens of Portland admitted he fired at Afghan farmers and threw a grenade

official casualty total rose to 102,159.

The total includes 77,742 casualties since the U.S. invaded Iraq in March, 2003 (Operations 'Iraqi Freedom' and "New Dawn") and 24,417 since the U.S. invaded Afghanistan in November, 2001 (Operation "Eduring Freedom").

IRAQ THEATER: U.S. forces suffered seven combat casualties in the 8 days



#### Michael Munk

ending Feb 23, as the total rose to 77,742. That includes 35,547 dead and wounded from what the Pentagon classifies as "hostile" causes and 42,195 dead and medically evacuated (of Feb. 7) from "non-hostile" causes.

AFGHANISTAN THEATER: U.S. forces suffered 60 combat casualties in the 8 days ending Feb 23, as the official total rose to 24,417. The total includes 11,552 dead and wounded from "hostile" caU.S.es and 12,865 dead and wounded (as of Feb 7) from "non-hostile" causes.

U.S. media divert attention from the actual cost in American life and limb by only reporting regularily the total killed (5,915-4,442 in Iraq, 1,473 in Afghanistan) but rarely mentioning those wounded in action (42,453--32,046 in Iraq, 10, 407 in Afghanistan). They ignore the 55,060 (42,195 in Iraq, 12,865 in AfPak as of Feb 7) military casualties injured and ill serioU.S.ly enough to be medivaced out of theatre, even though the 5,915 total dead include 1,269 (941 in Iraq, 328 in Afghanistan)

who died from those same "non hostile"

causes, including 280 suicides (as of Feb 7 3) and at least 18 from faulty KBR electrical work.

WIA are usually updated on Tuesday at www.defenselink.mil/news/casualty.pdf

Non combat casualties are usually reported monthly at http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/castop.htm

#### <u>visit my website:</u> www.michaelmunk.com

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

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# News Bytes! Progressive Ideas in Motion

**From Truthout** 

# The Betrayal of Public Workers

February 19, 2011 Wednesday, 16 February 2011 by Robert Pollin & Jeffrey Thompson Thompson, The Nation, Report

The Great Recession and its aftermath are entering a new phase in the United States, which could bring even more severe assaults on the living standards and basic rights of ordinary people than we have experienced thus far. This is because a wide swath of the country's policy- and opinion-making elite have singled out public sector workers—including schoolteachers, healthcare workers, police officers and firefighters—as well as their unions and even their pensions as deadweight burdens sapping the economy's vitality. more info: http://www.truth-out.org/ the-betrayal-public-workers67939

#### From Truthdig by Robert Scheer

#### Hey Obama, Read Wikileaks

Tuesday, February 8, 2011

After a good start, the Obama administration's response to the democratic revolution in Egypt has eroded and it has distanced itself from protesters demands that the dictator must go. The administration has fallen back on the sordid option of backing a new and improved dictatorship.

http://www.truthdig.com/report/item/ hey obama read wikileaks 20110209/

### From Truthout by Mona Alami

Thursday, February 10, 2011

Jordan Feels a Jolt

Protests in Egypt and North Africa have touched off public discontent in Jordan with demands for political reform, and in particular, efforts to initiate price and anti-corruption control.

http://www.truth-out.org/jordan-feels-a-jolt67634

#### From Truthout by Chase Madar

# Why Bradley Manning is a patriot, not a criminal

Thursday, February 10, 2011

For bringing to light classified



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

information which shows war crimes committed by U.S. troops, Pfc. Manning has been treated not as a whistleblower, but as a criminal and a spy. He is charged with violating not only Army regulations but also the Espionage Act of 1917

http://www.truth-out.org/why-bradley-manning-is-a-patriot-not-a-criminal-an-opening-statement-defense-private-manning67640

# From El Hispanic News by Richard Jones

#### Five Oregon bills aimed at Immigrants generate wide range of reactions

Friday, February 4, 2011

Rep. Kim Thatcher of Keizer is sponsoring bills to target undocumented immigrants. Proposed bills would require alien registration documents, only allow driver licenses and voting to citizens, and dictate that counties check immigration status before jailing someone.

http://www.elhispanicnews. com/2011/02/04/five-oregon-bills-aimed-at-immigrants-generate-wide-range-of-reactions/

# From Jewish Review by Polina Olsen

# Gazan doctor brings peace vision to Portland

Tuesday, February 1, 2011

The first Palestinian medical doctor to practice in an Israeli hospital, Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish, spoke at Powell's Books on Jan. 18 about losing three daughters during the Israeli siege on Gaza. Abuelaish was transformed by his

tragic experience to speak to others about the need for co-existence between Israelis and Palestinians.

http://www.jewishreview.org/arts/ Gazan-doctor-brings-peace-vision-to-Portland

#### From Labor Notes by Alex Caputo Pearl and Cathy Garcia

#### **Education Reform the Union Way**

Friday, February 4, 2011

Progressive Educators for Action is a caucus working to transform the 45,000 United Teachers Los Angeles into a social justice union. Their plan focuses on full funding of schools and social services, and creating schools which teach and represent social justice.

http://labornotes.org/2011/01/education-reform-union-way

#### From Oregon Peacework's News by Peter Bergel

# Rep Kurt Schrader shares national security views

Friday, Feb. 4, 2011

OR Rep. Kurt Schrader is asked about his views on supporting the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, timelines for withdrawal, military spending and what we should do to counter the threats of global warming, peak oil and the financial crisis.

http://peaceworker.dreamhosters.com/2011/02/rep-kurt-schrader-shares-national-security-views-with-opw/

#### From the Skanner by Helen Silvis

#### Controversy Builds over Oregon Department of Transportation Contracts

Monday, January. 31, 2011

Oregon Dept. of Transportation's budget includes \$2.5 billion for highways, roads and bridges. This budget covers contracting opportunities and jobs locally, but there are concerns that no African-Americans were hired as subcontractors by the large contracting firms. A 2007 study confirmed that Asian and African American firms had been locked out of contracts.

http://www.theskanner.com/ article/2011/01/31/Controversy-Builds-Over-Oregon-Department-of-

2

#### <u>Transportation-Contracts</u>

### From Street Roots by Joanne Zuhl

#### **Under Their Thumbs**

Monday, Jan 31, 2011

How immigration and customs enforcement has co-opted local law enforcement to find their targets for them. Increased calls from the immigrant community about deported family members led to investigations which showed many had been stopped by police and then became entangled in the immigration system leading to deportation.

http://www.streetroots.org/past\_issues/index.shtml

Article on pdf <a href="http://www.streetroots.org/past\_issues/2011/01-02/roots-jan-21-2011.pdf">http://www.streetroots.org/past\_issues/2011/01-02/roots-jan-21-2011.pdf</a>)

#### Multnomah County Library now offering 24/7 text-a-librarian service

PORTLAND, Ore. — Feb. 28, 2011 — Whether it's a research question, a question about library services, or a question related to your library account, the answer is now only as far away as your mobile phone with Multnomah County Library's new text-a-librarian service. Multnomah County Library is collaborating with other libraries to offer patrons this service around the clock.

To text a question to a librarian, a patron simply sends it with the word multcolib to 66746. A librarian responds within a few minutes. There is no charge to use the service, other than the user's standard text messaging rate.

#### From Truthout.org

Feb. 17, 2011 Reasons for Rising Food Prices? Supply, Demand, Climate By Paul Krugman

Emerging markets are having an effect on supply and demand of food and on prices. Reports of Wall-street interference in the speculation of food commodity markets is not influencing inflation in food prices, according to Paul Krugman, NYTimes Op/ed columnist.

http://www.truth-out.org/reasons-rising-food-prices-supply-demand-climate67832

#### "No Damn Good" by Levi continued from Pae 16

My heart velcroed shut like a flack vest.
But, instead, my sore feet carry me around 360 degrees
There I am again, looking;

1

Shit fuck piss, God fucking damned it!

I wanna shout at them,"

Are you so fucking weak?
Are you stupid?

Do you think I'm some kind of ass-hole-rube?" Three denials.

But I don't.

I dig into my pocket.

I am so freak-fucking angry right now,

So angry at myself

I could bash my head into the glass front of the grocery store. But I don't.

It is such a shit-hole world

My fist comes up clutches three bucks.

Crap!

Even discount, the cigarettes will cost five.

That kid will never see any milk out of this.

I have to stop,
anger is one of my big problems.
I make an inventory:
Gotta bus pass,

Got my groceries, Got a warm and dry place to stay.

Three bucks won't be missed.

Three bucks won't make any difference;

Not in your world god --

Wonder if I'm just trying to slide through To some karmic heaven

I don't believe?

But good old god, there or not, Irrelevant to pretty much all things human, So I walk over

Push the three dollars into the child's grubby hand say, "This is for you, Darlin."
Hope her mother hears me.
But her mother stares past me

Looks for the next player says,

"God Bless You Sir."
No, not for god.
Not for heaven.
Maybe because the woman looks a little like my daugh

3

looks a little like my daughter's mother.

Maybe because I'm so fuckup angry that I can barely breathe.

But mostly because I can't live no 'count.

By, Max Linden-Levy

#### Bio

Max was born in Sioux City, Iowa in 1949. He avoided writing, whenever possible, for the first ten years of his life. He was, on the other hand, good at blowing things up, starting fires, jumping off garage roofs and sand lot baseball. Max both graduated from high school and celebrated his eighteenth birthday in June of 1967. He got a BFA from the University of Nebraska at Omaha in 1977. He got an MFA from Goddard College in 1979. Max spent three years working in the National Endowment for the Arts; Artists in the Schools Program in the late 1970s. He has been the editor/contributor of a half-a-dozen small magazines that nobody ever heard of but are in some libraries somewhere. You can often hear Max read his poetry on a Monday night at Three Friends Coffee House in SE Portland.

18

# Environmental disaster looms

Continued from page 14

urgent issue.

There are other scientists who manage to be even more irritating by warning us of an impending ecological crisis then putting it even further into the future: "We'll have to stop thinking in terms of eons and start thinking in terms of centuries," one scientific sage was quoted in the New York Times in 2006. This is supposed to put us on alert? If a global catastrophe is a century or several centuries away, who is going to make the terribly difficult and costly decisions today whose effects will be felt far in the future?

Often we are told to think of our dear grandchildren who will be fully victimized by it all (an appeal usually made in a beseeching tone). But most of the young people I address on college campuses have a hard time imagining the world that their nonexistent grandchildren will be experiencing thirty or forty years hence.

Such appeals should be put to rest. We do not have centuries or generations or even many decades before disaster is upon us. Ecological crisis is not some distant urgency. Most of us alive today probably will not have the luxury of saying "Après moi, le déluge" because we will still be around to experience the catastrophe ourselves. We know this to be true because the ecological crisis is already acting upon us with an accelerated and compounded effect that may soon prove irreversible.

The Profiteering Madness
Sad to say, the environment cannot defend itself. It is up to us to protect it—or what's left of it. But all the superrich want is to keep transforming living nature into commodities and commodities into dead capital. Impending ecological disasters are of no great moment to the corporate plunderers. Of living nature they have no measure.

possessed by their pursuit of profit as to not see the disaster looming ahead. There was a New Yorker cartoon showing a corporate executive standing at a lectern addressing a business meeting with these words: "And so, while the end-of-the-world scenario will be rife with unimaginable horrors, we believe that the pre-end period will be filled with unprecedented opportunities for profit."

Not such a joke. Years ago I remarked that those who denied the existence

"Today we are facing an Arctic meltdown that carries horrendous implications for the oceanic gulf streams, coastal water levels, the planet's entire temperate zone, and world agricultural output."

Wealth becomes addictive. Fortune whets the appetite for still more fortune. There is no end to the amount of money

one might wish to accumulate, driven onward by the auri sacra fames, the cursed hunger for gold. So the money addicts grab more and more for themselves, more than can be spent in a thousand lifetimes of limitless indulgence, driven by what begins to resemble an obsessional pathology, a monomania that blots out every other human consideration.

They are more wedded to their wealth than to the Earth upon which they live, more concerned about the fate of their fortunes than the fate of humanity, so of global warming would not change their opinion until the North Pole itself started melting. (I never expected it to actually start dissolving in my lifetime.) Today we are facing an Arctic meltdown that carries horrendous implications for the oceanic gulf streams, coastal water levels, the planet's entire temperate zone, and world agricultural output.

So how are the captains of industry and finance responding? As we might expect: like monomaniacal profiteers. They hear the music: ca-ching, ca-ching. First, the Arctic melting will open a direct northwest passage between the two great oceans, a dream older than Lewis and Clark. This will make

for shorter and more accessible and inexpensive global trade routes. No more having to plod through the Panama Canal or around Cape Horn. Lower transportation costs means more trade and higher profits.

Second, they joyfully note that the melting is opening up vast new oil reserves to drilling. They will be able to drill-baby-drill for more of the same fossil fuel that is causing the very calamity descending upon us. More meltdown means more oil and more profits; such is the mantra of the free marketeers who think the world belongs only to them.

Imagine now that we are all inside one

big bus hurtling down a road that is headed for a fatal plunge into a deep ravine. What are our profit addicts doing? They are hustling up and down the aisle, selling us crash cushions and seat belts at exorbitant prices. They planned ahead for this sales opportunity. We have to get up from our seats, quickly place them under adult supervision, rush the front of the bus, yank the driver away, grab hold of the wheel, slow the bus down, and turn it around. Not easy but maybe still possible. With me it's a recurrent dream.

Michael Parenti's recent books include God and His Demons (Prometheus 2010), Contrary Notions: The Michael Parenti Reader (City Lights, 2007); and The Face of Imperialism (Paradigm, 2011). For more information, visit his website: www.michaelparenti.org

# Chinese Garden Blessings...

Continued from page 7

architecture, plants and poetry. In the Taoist philosophy, water is the lifeblood and stones are the bones of the scholars' garden.

Water is a main feature that adds depth and dimension by reflecting scenery to endow a bewitching and tranquil quality. It flows around and underneath the buildings, so that they appear to be floating.

Piles of rock resemble hills or artificial mountains and add substance and height. The use of Lake Tai stone is symbolic of the mountains that connect heaven to earth. Scholars value the

rocks filled with holes as meditation objects to free the mind from stress.

Words and sounds are cemented in the memory of the garden. Pavilions are for hearing the wind and the waterside kiosks are for listening to the rain. To the scholars of the classical period, involvement of multiple senses was enjoyable. One such sign reads, "Listen to the fragrance."

Seasonal changes alter the landscape in an intriguing way, so that the winter garden is as interesting as spring or summer: water forming channels in the icy pond, the rain dripping from drain tiles and the changing reflection of the willow trees in the water.



Wanda Dishman toured 36 Suzhou gardens in 2002 and 2004 and has been a guide at Lan Su since 2001.

Dishman mentioned some additional special effects she noticed while on tour in Portland's sister city of Suzhou. "The water in Suzhou is called jade water," Dishman says. It is dark green to conceal depth and protect the fish habitat. Dark water in a Suzhou garden means more remains to be seen.

Dishman added that, "the stone areas of Suzhou were much more elaborate and accessible." Climbing on the stone is a family event. The stones are enormous and full of shapes to provide unlimited images.



At left and above some of the exotic landscapes

The Portland scholar's garden is remarkably like those in Suzhou.

Leak windows, moon gates and 'endless knot' picture windows frame various perspectives. All remind a visitor of nature and the changing landscape.

Zigzag paths, rainbow bridges and curved paths ward off evil spirits (which follow a straight line). Symbolism takes several visits to fully appreciate. For example, the bat drip tiles on the roof in Chinese culture signify the Five Blessings: health, wealth, love of virtue, old age and natural death.

The poetry is the main focus of a Chinese scholar's garden, rather than plant collections. The plants integrate with the architecture and enhance the scenery.

What the beholder sees is a re-

creation of the age-old civilization of Suzhou gardens of the Ming and Qing dynasties. Such a scholar's garden captures the spirit of Chinese philosophers of past centuries. A retired gentleman with refined taste would relish the idea that he could be in harmony with nature.

Dennis Lee, volunteer at the Chinese garden for several years and president of the Asian Art Council, said that "Scholar's were men of learning with different ideals and tastes. The scholar's vision of the garden is more important than the structure of it -- his calligraphy and poetry, his artwork and respect for nature and longevity."

Elizabeth Rathbun is a local writer and contributing editor at The Portland Alliance. She also does reporting, Arts & Culture, News Bytes, copy-editing, layout, & design.

# Alien Boy: the Death and Life of James Chasse

The Mental Health Association of Portland is using Kickstarter to finish the documentary film, Alien Boy: the Death and Life of James Chasse. Over 500 have already contributed to create this important documentary film.

Join them - and your contribution is fully tax deductible. http:// www.kickstarter.com/ projects/1588834897/alien-boythe-death-and-life-of-james-chasse

#### What Happened to James?

On September 17, 2006, James Chasse, a small and gentle man with schizophrenia, was tackled by three law officers in front of dozens of eyewitnesses on a downtown street corner in Portland,

He was not suspected of a crime, nor had he committed one.

Eyewitnesses report the officers used "knees to the chest, punches to the face" and a Taser to subdue Chasse. He was handcuffed and lost consciousness for several moments. Eyewitnesses feared he was dead.

Paramedics arrived to the scene, but police neglected to share the truth of their violent struggle with Chasse, or his loss of consciousness. Chasse was then hogtied and loaded into the back of a police car and taken to the police station, not a nearby hospital.

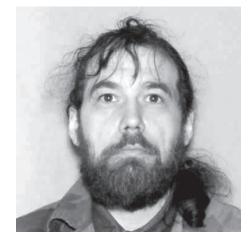
Jail nurses refused to admit Chasse due to the extent of his injuries, and demanded he be taken to a hospital. Rather than going to one of three emergency rooms within two miles, the officers who beat him started to drive Chasse to an emergency room six miles away. He died in the back of the police

The autopsy reports Chasse suffered 17 broken ribs, a separated shoulder, a punctured lung, and numerous bruises and contusions. At the scene of the struggle, police told on-lookers Chasse was homeless and had 14 felony convictions for selling cocaine. Not true: Chasse had no criminal record and lived in an apartment just a few blocks away.

#### The Film

Alien Boy: the Death and Life of James Chasse, a feature-length documentary:

Examines the death and life of James Chasse, Explores the impact and meaning of James Chasse's death to the city of Portland, and Asks questions about how we as a society treat persons with a diagnosis of mental illness.



The film takes a deep look at Chasse's life, uncovering his suburban childhood, participation in Portland's early punk rock scene, the onset of his schizophrenia in his teen years, the peeling away of friendships and opportunities as his illness progressed, and his ability to carve out an endependent existence despite his mental illness.

#### Your Help is Crucial

The documentary film Alien Boy: the Death and Life of James Chasse is a project of the Mental Health Association of Portland. All donations are tax deductible, and all revenue generated by the film goes to support the nonprofit advocacy organization.

Our final post-production budget is \$12,500. This will go to sound composing, engineering and mixing, still image recording, promotional artwork and printing, DVD reproduction, web site development, music rights, film festival submission fees and travel to festivals.

#### Who's Making Alien Boy: the Death and Life of James Chasse?

The director is Brian Lindstrom, who has made two other feature length documentaries, Kicking, about drug detoxification, and Finding Normal, about recovery from drug addiction.

John Campbell, cinematographer of Alien Boy, is a veteran cameraman with credits on dozens of Hollywood films.

Charlie Campbell composed the score and select additional music for the film. Charlie is a semi-retired rock musician most famous for fronting the band Pond. He now creates music for TV and movies, including Full Grown Men and Winter's Passing.

Andrew Saunderson is Alien Boy's Co-Editor and Associate Producer. He joined the production team in 2008 while a student at Lewis & Clark College and quickly established himself as indispensable. He was Assistant Editor on the feature-length documentary To Pay My Way With Stories (2009) and the award-winning narrative/documentary hybrid Old Town Diary (2010).



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