

# OUTSPOKEN



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## DANCE WITH THE DEMS ON MARCH 17

Kick off the campaign season and event will also be available. Kick up your heels with the Democratic Party of Lane County! Our bi-annual fundraiser will be held on March 17th, at 6:00 pm at the Valley River Inn, and will feature dinner, dancing, a silent auction, special guests and more! Individual tickets will be \$75; table sponsorships will be available. Tickets to a VIP reception before the

event will also be available. Information on how to purchase tickets will follow in January, but be sure to mark your calendars for this fantastic event!

Also, if you're interested in learning a few dance steps to prepare for the event, the DPLC will be hosting a free (and fun!) dance lesson on Wednesday, February 8th. Details to follow!

## DPLC CREATES NEW PLATFORM

By Chris Wig, Outspoken Editor

On December 11, forty Lane County Democrats convened at the OEA building to update the DPLC platform. Our new platform outlines the DPLC's positions on national and economic security, health and education, corporate and government accountability, human rights, and the environment.

Members will have the opportunity to ratify the platform on February 16 at the Central Committee meeting.

Special thanks to Tony McCown, Platform Committee Chair, for his hard work organizing and leading the DPLC Platform Convention.



## COLLEGE DEMS FALL QUARTER RECAP

By Kathryn Mauer, UO College Democrats President

Over the fall quarter, a lot of new and enthusiastic members have joined College Dems, and the group as a whole has prospered. On November 17th, the College Democrats and College Republicans held their first debate of the year, and the event was a huge success. We'd like to thank to the Oregon Daily Emerald, who hosted the event, as well as our fearless debaters: Andrew Becker, Jason Newell and Godwin Nwando.

While the debate was a great accomplishment, there is still a lot of work ahead this school year (and in the upcoming elections in 2012). We have introduced committees to encourage our members to get involved in politics and on campus.

The welcoming committee will work on recruiting students, welcoming new members and distributing fliers around campus. The events committee will focus on social events, philan-

thropic events and political awareness events (such as movie screenings). Also, we will introduce a voter registration committee towards the end of winter quarter.

I have great confidence that the College Democrats will continue to be a very active and progressive group on campus and in the community. Many of our members are planning—and excited—to attend more central committee meetings this quarter.

If you are interested in financially supporting the College Democrats so that we can purchase a canopy, feel free to check out our webpage:

[pages.uoregon.edu/colleged](http://pages.uoregon.edu/colleged).

We send a big thank you to the DPLC for your continued encouragement!



## YOUNG OREGON DEMOCRATS UPDATE

By Steve Coatsworth, YODA National Committeeperson

In a speech at American University, President Kennedy said that peace and prosperity are not the deluded machinations of a few wild-eyed dreamers, but the rational end of rational beings willing to make practical strides. The Young Oregon Democrats of America are working toward that end. After eight months, the organization is going strong and gaining momentum. In 2011, we saw a renaissance of youth civic engagement, and YODA is working hard to drive our peers to concerted and sustained involvement in the struggle to restore America.

While pursuing our long-term objective of recruiting and activating Young Oregon Democrats in an effort to create a community and movement that lasts between the wash cycle of an election year, we are already providing boots on

the ground to help Oregon Democrats win big in 2012. On Saturday, January 7, members of LCYD and YODA bussed to Oregon's 1st Congressional District and knocked almost 600 doors for future congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici. To join us for our next trip, please contact YODA Membership and Outreach Director Kevin Cronin at [cronin@uoregon.edu](mailto:cronin@uoregon.edu).

Also, YODA joined Mayor Kitty Piercy for a mass canvass to kick off her campaign Saturday, January 14—the following weekend. Please contact Kitty's Campaign Manager Jake Foster at [jake@kittypiercy.com](mailto:jake@kittypiercy.com) to knock doors with us in the future or to volunteer in other capacities.

Finally, YODA would like to acknowledge Greg Diamond—YODA's Information Technology Director—who has been hired as a General Regional Manager for President Obama's reelection campaign.

## DENISE BEAN LAUNCHES SPRINGFIELD MAYORAL CAMPAIGN

By Denise Bean,

I appreciate the strength of the Democratic Party in Lane County and the welcome reception I have received as a new political candidate. I did not graduate from the University of Oregon saying, I want to be Mayor of Springfield someday. I am a small business owner, a mom, a wife and a volunteer, and that is a great life. Sometimes life takes us down paths we may never have thought we would be on. I have lived long enough to know how truly blessed my life is and I have dedicated myself to serve others.

I currently serve as Springfield Planning Commissioner, Willamalane Board, Springfield Chamber Government Issues and Chair of the Greeters Committees, Springfield's Main Street Design Committee, as well as a Board member of the Springfield Renaissance Corporation. I have been on my kids PTA, a Sport Parent and active church member.

This past year I founded Springfield City Club because I believe informed, involved citizens create a healthy vibrant community.

I have worked to fix current systems that at times seem to be set up to work against people. I know the frustration of having to work within the system, but I have taken that frustration and created solutions. I then worked to get those solutions implemented, so that now those systems really do serve the community better.

What is at stake in this Springfield election?

Simply this—the good governance of Springfield. New leadership is needed to address major issues, the slow downward drift of our downtown, our failing infrastructure and the performance of our economy. A few months ago, I set these as my principal strategic goals, and I have made them central to my campaign.

As Mayor, I will fan Job Creation and fast track any and all job opportunities into Springfield. I will push to create a vibrant



Downtown to compliment Gateway as Lane County's premier destination to Dine-Shop-Stay. I will showcase Springfield as the Medical Hub of Western Oregon as we face Health Care Transformation. I will bring a new and immediate focus for keeping teachers, schools, and the future of your & my children. I will be a never-ending advocate for our residential communities, all 8 of them. And most of all, I will show up to the table regionally and advocate for respect of Springfield.

Two years after the worst recession most of us have ever known, the economy is growing again and Springfield will not be left behind.

Lastly I will seek not only to preserve but grow our Democratic base. Springfield like our neighbor city Eugene is largely Democratic by statistic and nature. I vow to keep the values that make us strong; equality and respect for all persons.

Thank you for the support of the Democratic Party. I don't feel isolated or alone in this endeavor. It takes a village to raise a candidate.

*[www.denise-bean-for-mayor.com](http://www.denise-bean-for-mayor.com)*

## EXCERPT FROM THE PRESIDENT'S ECONOMIC SPEECH

Delivered by Barack Obama in Osawatomie, Kansas on December 6, 2011

My grandparents served during World War II -- he as a soldier in Patton's Army, she as a worker on a bomber assembly line. Together, they shared the optimism of a nation that triumphed over a Depression and fascism. They believed in an America where hard work paid off, responsibility was rewarded, and anyone could make it if they tried -- no matter who you were, where you came from, or how you started out.

These values gave rise to the largest middle class and the strongest economy the world has ever known. It was here, in America, that the most productive workers and innovative companies turned out the best products on Earth, and every American shared in that pride and success -- from those in executive suites to middle management to those on the factory floor. If you gave it your all, you'd take enough home to raise your family, send your kids to school, have your health care covered, and put a little away for retirement.

Today, we are still home to the world's most productive workers and innovative companies. But for most Americans, the basic bargain that made this country great has eroded. Long before the recession hit, hard work stopped paying off for too many people. Fewer and fewer of the folks who contributed to the success of our economy actually benefitted from that success. Those at the very top grew wealthier from their incomes and investments than ever before. But everyone else struggled with costs that were growing and paychecks that weren't -- and too many families found themselves racking up more and more debt just to keep up.

For many years, credit cards and home equity loans papered over the harsh realities of this new economy. But in 2008, the house of cards collapsed.

We all know the story by now: Mortgages sold to people who couldn't afford them, or sometimes even understand them. Banks and investors allowed to keep packaging the risk and selling it off. Huge bets -- and huge bonuses -- made with other people's money on the line. Regulators who were supposed to warn us about the dangers of all this, but looked the other way or didn't have the authority to look at all.

It was wrong. It combined the breathtaking greed of a few with irresponsibility across the system. And it plunged our economy and the world into a crisis from which we are still fighting to recover. It claimed the jobs, homes, and the basic security of millions -- innocent, hard-working Americans who had met their responsibilities, but were still left holding the bag.

Ever since, there has been a raging debate over the best way to restore growth and prosperity; balance and fairness. Throughout the country, it has sparked protests and political movements -- from the Tea Party to the people who have been occupying the streets of New York and other cities. It's left Washington in a near-constant state of gridlock. And it's been the topic of heated and sometimes colorful discussion among the men and women who are running for president.

But this isn't just another political debate. This is the defining issue of our time. This is a make or break moment for the middle class, and all those who are fighting to get into the middle class. At stake is whether this will be a country where working people can earn enough to raise a family, build a modest savings, own a home, and secure their retirement.

Now, in the midst of this debate, there are some who seem to be suffering from a kind of collective amnesia. After all that's happened, after the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, they want to return to the same practices that got us into this

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mess. In fact, they want to go back to the same policies that have stacked the deck against middle-class Americans for too many years. Their philosophy is simple: we are better off when everyone is left to fend for themselves and play by their own rules.

Well, I'm here to say they are wrong. I'm here to reaffirm my deep conviction that we are greater together than we are on our own. I believe that this country succeeds when everyone gets a fair shot, when everyone does their fair share, and when everyone plays by the same rules. Those aren't Democratic or Republican values; 1% values or 99% values. They're American values, and we have to reclaim them.

You see, this isn't the first time America has faced this choice. At the turn of the last century, when a nation of farmers was transitioning to become the world's industrial giant, we had to decide: would we settle for a country where most of the new railroads and factories were controlled by a few giant monopolies that kept prices high and wages low? Would we allow our citizens and even our children to work ungodly hours in conditions that were unsafe and unsanitary? Would we restrict education to the privileged few? Because some people thought massive inequality and exploitation was just the price of progress.

Theodore Roosevelt disagreed. He was the Republican son of a wealthy family. He praised what the titans of industry had done to create jobs and grow the economy. He believed then what we know is true today: that the free market is the greatest force for economic progress in human history. It's led to a prosperity and standard of living unmatched by the rest of the world.

But Roosevelt also knew that the free market has never been a free license to take whatever you want from whoever you can. It only works when there are rules of the road to ensure that competition is fair, open, and honest. And so he busted up monopolies, forcing those companies to compete for customers with better services and better prices. And today, they still must. He fought to make sure businesses couldn't profit by exploiting children, or selling food or medicine that wasn't safe. And today, they still can't.

In 1910, Teddy Roosevelt came here, to

Osawatomie, and laid out his vision for what he called a New Nationalism. "Our country," he said, "...means nothing unless it means the triumph of a real democracy...of an economic system under which each man shall be guaranteed the opportunity to show the best that there is in him."

For this, Roosevelt was called a radical, a socialist, even a communist. But today, we are a richer nation and a stronger democracy because of what he fought for in his last campaign: an eight hour work day and a minimum wage for women; insurance for the unemployed, the elderly, and those with disabilities; political reform and a progressive income tax.

\*\*\*

"We are all Americans," Teddy Roosevelt told them that day. "Our common interests are as broad as the continent." In the final years of his life, Roosevelt took that same message all across this country, from tiny Osawatomie to the heart of New York City, believing that no matter where he went, or who he was talking to, all would benefit from a country in which everyone gets a fair chance.

Well into our third century as a nation, we have grown and changed in many ways since Roosevelt's time. The world is faster. The playing field is larger. The challenges are more complex.

But what hasn't changed – what can never change – are the values that got us this far. We still have a stake in each other's success. We still believe that this should be a place where you can make it if you try. And we still believe, in the words of the man who called for a New Nationalism all those years ago, "The fundamental rule in our national life – the rule which underlies all others – is that, on the whole, and in the long run, we shall go up or down together."



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## OCCUPY EUGENE

By Jeremy Hedlund, UO Student Labor Action Project Coordinator

Occupy Eugene and I have had a love-hate relationship over the past few months. Seeing so many people come together around economic justice issues was hugely inspiring, and the time I spent camping the first week of the occupation was one of the most eye opening experiences I have ever had. That being said, the paralysis and inaction that came out of Occupy Eugene, and all of the wasted potential has been truly tragic to watch. As I write this, I still feel conflicted about the tactics of the movement, but I can definitely say this: the issues that Occupy has raised cannot be forgotten.

As a working class college student, I have seen firsthand what income inequality has done to our country. In my second year of school, I have already amassed over \$10,000 in student loans, and have watched friends drop out of school for lack of financial security. In a country as wealthy as ours, this is completely unacceptable. We are not a broke country, as much as the right-wing would have you believe. Somehow we still manage to maintain and expand corporate tax



loopholes and exemptions for the rich, while we simultaneously gut education funding and safety nets for the most vulnerable of our fellow citizens.

At the Occupy Eugene camp, I witnessed the consequences of the right-wing agenda from the last 40 years. Our camp was full of the homeless, drug addicts, and people with mental conditions. This has been fuel for critics of Occupy Eugene (and critics of the movement as a whole), but we are all complicit in the these

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people’s situations. When we allow our government to kill programs that support people that are down on their luck, we cannot be surprised at the results. Unfortunately, the camp became so focused on providing direct aid to these people, that it lost its political direction. The organizers were focused on providing direct and necessary aid, such as food and shelter, but had almost no time to organize further marches and actions.

The community that came together to provide services to all members of the camp was incredible, but I can't help but think that it was a Band-Aid solution. If we're serious about addressing the needs of the homeless (and the rest of the 99%), we need to look at the issue through a wider lens. Our standard of living is under attack, and we cannot roll over and let more and more people slip out of the middle class. We need to hold our politicians accountable, and we must do more than simply vote (let me be clear though,

we do need to vote!). A movement is needed; one that disrupts this track that our nation has been placed on. Whether the national Occupy movement will manage to shift back into that role is unknown, but if it does not, we need to create a new one. We have to keep trying until we get it right. Because if we don't, we will lose everything that generations of progressives have fought for. And that is not an option.

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## BOOK REVIEW: LIFE INC.

By Carolyn Dalton and Colleen Shields

The latest book by Douglas Ryshkoff, media critic and PBS documentarian, traces the history of corporations since the Middle Ages. Formed because merchant class prosperity was returning income to the aristocracy, corporations limited local economic activity by controlling currency, centralizing the money system and restricting commerce to exclusive charters.

Today, the concept of the corporation has encroached on nearly every aspect of life. For example, the focus on home ownership turned from enjoyment to Return on Investment has driven the recent inflationary bubbles and predatory lending practices. The resulting "boom to bust" cycle—along with unsustainable lending practices and an already declining economy—led to the downward spiral of housing values while the drivers of this boom indulge in profit taking.

A concept that has made corporate control so

insidious is Individuality, a notion that disconnects the individual from their real needs to manufactured ones. This disconnect is the major theme of this book: "Corporatism" has disconnected us from ourselves, our experiences and each other, and disconnected our culture from the land and from ecology, science and technology. Ryshkoff notes that Corporatism depends on this disconnection: "the less local, immediate and interpersonal our experience, the more likely we are to adopt the self-interested behaviors that erode community and relationships."

A comfortable read, I recommend this book to anyone interested in knowing how corporations have recreated the fabric of our lives and culture into their image. For more background on booms and busts read Jon Kenneth Galbraith's *Money: Whence It Came, Where It Went*.

## DPLC LENDING LIBRARY NOW OPEN

By Jill McKenney

The lending library was started in 2007 by Jill McKenney. It has been organized and maintained by Linda Eastgate. The library has recently been reorganized and revitalized by Colleen Shields, and its books are now available for checkout.

If you have books with a political bent, please consider loaning them to the library. We especially need some more current books, books on environment, social issues, minority issues, etc. There is no guarantee that your books will not disappear, but most are returned to be loaned again.

Please drop loaners at the new DPLC office at 228 E 11th Avenue, Eugene.

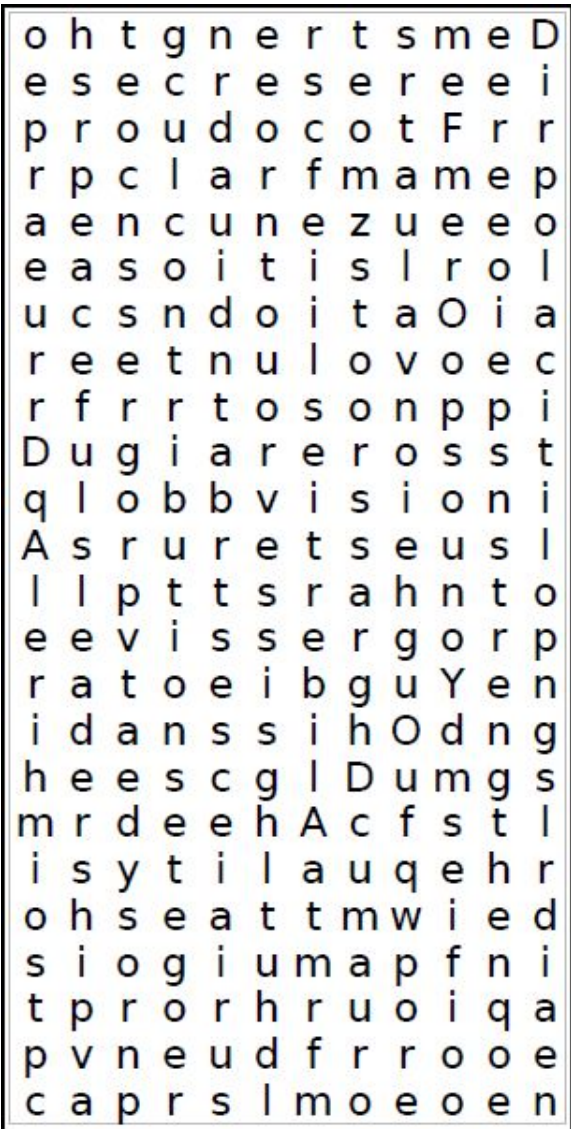
Our newest loaners include *Fair Game* by Valerie Plame Wilson, *A Singular Woman: The Untold Story of Barack Obama's Mother* by Janny Scott and *Revolt!: How to Defeat Obama and Repeal*

*His Socialist Programs* by Dick Morris and Eileen McGann. We need to know the opposition's plans!

If you have questions, feel free to email [membership@dplc.org](mailto:membership@dplc.org) or call 541-556-3736.

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The Outspoken is published quarterly by the Democratic Party of Lane County. Many past issues of the Outspoken are available online at [www.dplc.org/outspoken.htm](http://www.dplc.org/outspoken.htm).

**Deadline for April 2012 Issue**

Advertising and content for the **April 2012** Outspoken must be received by **Monday, March 12, 2011**. **Newsletter contributions are encouraged.** Please deliver letters, press releases, timely notices and editorial submissions to the DPLC office or send via e-mail to [outspoken@dplc.org](mailto:outspoken@dplc.org).

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Letters and articles reflect only the opinions of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or policy of the Democratic Party of Lane County. Acceptance of letters will be based on the space available, the timeliness of the topic, and the policies of the Outspoken.

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136 State Capitol  
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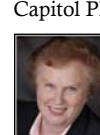
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#### District 14: Val Hoyle (D)



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HD 9 Chair	Harold Titus	hd9@dplc.org
HD 9 Vice Chair	<i>(Vacant)</i>	hd9vc@dplc.org
HD 10 Chair	Karin Radtke	hd10@dplc.org
HD 11 Chair	Richard Cundiff	hd11@dplc.org
HD 11 Vice Chair	Kevin Cronin	hd11vc@dplc.org
HD 11 Vice Chair	Becky Gladstone	hd11vc@dplc.org
HD 12 Chair	Michael Bean	hd12@dplc.org
HD 12 Vice Chair	Ron Craig	hd12vc@dplc.org
HD 13 Chair	Jeree Anderson	hd13@dplc.org
HD 13 Vice Chair	Dianne Sciacca	hd13vc@dplc.org
HD 14 Chair	Zenia Liebman	hd14@dplc.org
HD 14 Vice Chair	Kevin Kidwell	hd14vc@dplc.org

**Caucuses**

Position	Name	Email
African-American	Henry Luvert	afro@dplc.org
College Dems	Kathryne Mauer	college@dplc.org
LGBTQ	Travis Prinslow	lgbtq@dplc.org
Labor	CJ Mann	labor@dplc.org
Latino	<i>(Vacant)</i>	latino@dplc.org
Peace Caucus	Betsy Steffensen	peace@dplc.org
Rural	George Letchworth	rural@dplc.org

**STANDING COMMITTEES**

Committee	Name	Email
Budget	Domini Stecker	budget@dplc.org
Campaign Services	Justin Cox	campaign@dplc.org
Community Action	Kevin Cronin	community@dplc.org
Vice Chair	Bryan Shanafelt	community@dplc.org
Fundraising & Revenue	Julie Fayhe	fundraising@dplc.org
Information Services	Dan Kinkler	Is@dplc.org
Organization	Richard Cundiff	organize@dplc.org
V-Chair HDs	Kevin Kidwell	support@dplc.org
V-Chair Volunteers	Sloan Heermance	volunteer@dplc.org
V-Chair Members	Jill McKenney	membership@dplc.org
Outspoken	Judy Smith	outspoken@dplc.org
Platform/Resolutions	Tony McCown	platform@dplc.org
Publicity/Public Relations	Christy Desermeaux	pr@dplc.org
Vice Chair	Chris Wig	pr@dplc.org
Rules	John Cuff	rules@dplc.org
Website	Christy Desermeaux	website@dplc.org

**Delegates**

State DPO Delegates	Alternates
Becky Gladstone	Pat Riggs-Henson
Matt Davis	Skip Smith
Carleen Reilly	CJ Mann
Matt Keating	Richard Cundiff
Laura Gillpatrick	Dianne Sciacca
Gerry Rempel	Dan Kinkler
Denise Bean	Domini Stecker
Pat Reilly	<i>(Vacant)</i>

**4th CD Delegates**

Delegates	Alternates
Pat Riggs-Henson	Becky Gladstone
Matt Davis	Skip Smith
Laura Gillpatrick	Christine Desermeaux
Matt Keating	Richard Cundiff
Julie Fahey	Karin Radtke
Andrew Becker	Kevin Cronin
CJ Mann	Carleen Reilly
Gerry Rempel	Pat Reilly

**DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF LANE COUNTY**

DPLC Address:

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P.O. Box 11138

Eugene, OR 97440-3338

Email: [outspoken@dplc.org](mailto:outspoken@dplc.org)

Phone: 541-484-5099

Visit [www.dplc.org](http://www.dplc.org) for more information.

**DPLC MEETING**  
**6:30 P.M.**  
 Every Third Thursday  
**THIS MONTH**  
 (January) the meeting is at  
**Harris Hall**  
 Normally at **EWEB**  
 Check **DPLC.org**  
 (No meeting in August)



Democratic Party of Lane County  
P.O. Box 11138  
Eugene, Oregon 97440-3338

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