

ECOSEXUALS AND ETHICAL SLUTS

People worry about the chemicals in the foods they eat, but they don't think about, or are sometimes uncomfortable talking about, the chemicals that go into their sex toys and lubricants, according to Kim Marks, the owner of the newly opened As You Like It — The Pleasure Shop. That's why Marks wants to bring attention to the idea of being an ecosexual and being "green between the sheets" as well as provide access to products that are free of phthalates, petrochemicals, synthetic fragrances and other chemicals that could harm the body or the environment.

As You Like It just started its online sales page and will be coming to Eugene Jan. 26 to host a workshop on "ethical sluthood" by author Janet W. Hardy. There are plans in the works for a Portland-based store, and future events in Eugene that will offer products for sale face-to-face.

Marks, a longtime environmental activist and former Eugenean, says that — in addition to helping people with healthy, sex-positive products — one of the reasons she started As You Like It was the dearth of gender-inclusive, body-positive stores for sex products. "People don't have to wonder if they belong in my store; I have the products that everybody needs," Marks says. The store offers, in addition to the more traditional sex toys, products for the transgendered, including breast forms and underwear to reduce or increase the appearance of male genitalia.

Not everyone has the time to research the chemicals that go into their lubricants, dildos or vibrators, Marks says, or knows that sandalwood, a commonly used essential oil, is an endangered species. And some products are marketed as "novelties," she says, which essentially means, "it's not going to be used for something," and so doesn't undergo the sort of testing something that is going on or in your body should. So Marks and As You Like It will do the research

and shoppers reap the benefits.

Hardy's workshop, "Ethical Sluthood: Foundations of Nontraditional Lifestyles," will address polyamory (non-monogamous relationships) and questions such as: "How do you feel secure when your partner has a date (with someone cuter than you)? What is jealousy, and can it be overcome?"

Ariel Howland, who is the event organizer for As You Like It, says she would like it emphasized that "Janet Hardy has great advice for monogamous couples as well. I think of her as a 'relationship expert' not a 'polyamorous relationship expert.'"

A second workshop, "Making Intense Sensation Sexy," on Jan. 28, requires advance registration; you can check it out on Facebook at <http://wkly.ws/163>

For questions about the Hardy talk, which will be at 7 to 9 pm Jan. 26 on the UO campus (Lawrence 177), email Howland at phowland@uoregon.edu or go to asyoulikeitpdx.com where you can also check out the products.

— Camilla Mortensen

JUSTICE FOR FARMWORKERS

A scholar-priest and a union president will share this year's St. Thomas More Lecture at the St. Thomas More Catholic Church and Newman Center, 1850 Emerald St. in Eugene. The theme of the lectures is "Social Justice for Farmworkers."

John Morris, a Dominican priest and professor at St. Mary's College in California (Moraga), will offer an overview of Catholic teaching on social justice, highlighting the church's teaching about labor unions and immigration at 7 pm Thursday, Jan. 26. At 7 pm the next night, Jan. 27, Ramon Ramirez, co-founder and president of *Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste* (PCUN), will describe the lives of Northwest farmworkers, the issues involved,

and the role of the union. He will also assess the future of the union and leadership development among the members.

After Ramirez' talk, Ramirez and Morris will make summarizing comments and then open the discussion to the audience. Finally, Xavier Lara, the volunteer coordinator of the union, will invite the audience to help the farmworkers finish construction of their leadership training center in Woodburn.

The two-night event is free, but donations are welcome.

ACTIVIST ALERT

• Lane County **Commissioner Rob Handy** filed for re-election this week and has kicked off his campaign for the May 8 primary. He will be running against Pat Farr and Mike Clark so far. Handy's campaign website is www.robhandy.com and he can be reached at rob@robhandy.com

• "**Empowering the 99%**" is a gathering of local residents concerned about foreclosures, Wall Street abuses, health care and jobs, to be held from 6 to 8:30 pm Thursday, Jan. 19, at First United Methodist Church, 13th and Olive in Eugene. Organizers include Mel Bankoff, Brad Averill, Bill Klupenger, Mark Hurwitz, Mike Barnes, Joshua Frankel and Mary Wagner.

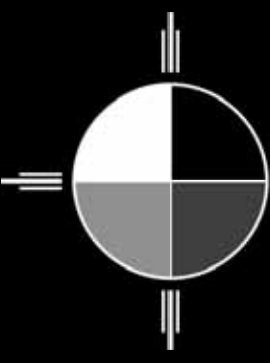
• **Jan. 20 marks the second anniversary** of the *Citizens United* Supreme Court decision equating corporate donations with free speech. Move to Amend, We the People-Eugene, Occupy Eugene and others will hold a march from the 8th and Oak at 11 am to a rally at Eugene's U.S. Courthouse from noon to 5 pm Friday "to celebrate our freedom and our democracy, and to urge the Eugene City Council to pass a resolution calling for an amendment to the United States Constitution which will end the dominance of corporations over our political process," says Fergus Mclean, of We the People. Speakers will include Gordon Lafer, Roy Keens, Stan Taylor, John Davidson, Paul Cienfuegos and members of Friends of Parvin Butte, the Pitchfork Rebellion, GMO-Free Eugene and Occupy Eugene. If the weather is really bad, the event will move to the First Christian Church at 11th and Oak. See www.WeThePeopleEugene.org

• A new Eugene-based political group **Get Money Out of Campaigns** (GMOC) is now meeting about once a month and planning its next meeting in mid-February. On the agenda are a review of excessive money collected for GOP primary caucuses, as well as by Obama; identifying major Oregon corporate donors to both parties; and the benefits of public financing of campaigns. To get on the group's email list, contact George Beres at geosilberes@q.com or call 344-0282.

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DARING TO LOOK

The Photographs of Dorothea Lange in Oregon

Featuring ANNE WHISTON SPIRN, author and photographer

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

110 Knight Law Center

4:00 p.m.

In conjunction with the *Dorothea Lange in Oregon, 1939* photo exhibit at the Knight Law Center, January 23-February 26.

Sponsored by the Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics. Cosponsored by the UO Department of Landscape Architecture, the School of Law, the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, the History Department and Oregon Humanities Center.

