

ACTIVIST ALERT

• **Valentine's Day** finds Basic Rights Oregon and Oregon United for Marriage pushing for same-sex marriage legislation. Events are happening all over Oregon on Feb. 14, including a gathering from 4 to 6 pm at Temple Beth Israel, 1175 E. 29th Ave. In Corvallis the event will be the same time at First United Methodist Church, 1165 NW Monroe Ave. Google Oregon United for Marriage for details and registration.

• St. Vincent de Paul's **Heart for the Homeless** celebration will be at 10:30 am Valentine's Day, Thursday, Feb. 14, at First Place Family Center, 1995 Amazon Parkway. The event will celebrate Mayor Piercy's successful "A Home for the Holidays" campaign as well as some new donor/partners of First Place, volunteers for the Egan Warming Center, etc. RSVP to Judy Hunt at St. Vinnie's, 998-8787.

• **One Billion Rising**, a movement against violence against women, is organizing a "rise up and dance" event from 5:30 to 7 pm Thursday, Feb. 14, at the Lane County Fairgrounds Wheeler Pavilion. See onebillionrising.org

• The Eugene/Springfield winter **Pride Festival** will be from noon to 7 pm Saturday, Feb. 16, at Alton Baker Park. Entry is free but a \$5 donation will be asked to cover expenses.

• The annual **Asian Celebration** will be from 10 am to 7 pm Saturday, Feb. 16, and from 10 am to 6 pm Sunday, Feb. 17, at the Fairgrounds.

• A free presentation on "Hidden in Plain Bite: **The Impact of Factory Farming**" will be at 7:30 pm Monday, Feb. 18, at the McNail-Riley House, 601 W. 13th Ave. with free parking across the street at the Fairgrounds. Sponsored by the Eugene Veg Education Network. Speakers include Katie Catrell of the Factory Farming Awareness Coalition. For more information, email eugveggedunet@comcast.net

• Author **Woody Tasch** will speak on "Slow Money: Investing as if Food, Farms and Fertility Mattered," at 7 pm Tuesday, Feb. 19, at the Global Scholars Hall on the UO campus.

• **No Kill Lane County** will meet at 6 pm Tuesday, Feb. 19, at Market of Choice upstairs meeting room, at 29th and Willamette.

• Three positions on the **LCC Board of Education** are up for election May 2, including Zones 1, 3 and 4. Candidates may file from Feb. 11 to March 21 at Lane County Elections, 275 West 10th Ave., Eugene, call 682-4234 or visit wkly.ws/1fd

NEWS

SOCIAL JUSTICE, REAL JUSTICE AT UO

The roster of speakers for the UO's Social Justice Real Justice (SJRJ) conference reads like an all-star cast of activists, journalists and thinkers. From national luminaries, including Cornell West and Winona LaDuke, to activists fomenting change on a local level such as Eugene's Michael Carrigan and Jason "Pleado" Wellman, the Feb. 14-17 conference is loaded with issues, causes and ideas.

SJRJ aims to "promote personal growth, leadership development, cultural pluralism, community education, positive social change and the ending of human oppression by exploring ways to mobilize and organize," according to its organizers.

Samantha Klotz of the UO Multicultural Center, which is one of the conference sponsors, says that 2,000 people have already registered for the events. Some talks are expected to fill rooms to capacity. The conference kicks off with caucuses for women of color, LGBTQ, people of color and their allies, and the first day's keynoter is civil rights activist Dolores Huerta, who together with Cesar Chavez founded United Farm Workers.

On Feb. 15, sex trafficking survivor Carissa Phelps will share her story — trafficked at age 12 and later spending time in juvenile hall, Phelps went on to finish high school, go to college and get a law degree and an MBA from UCLA. She wrote a book, *Runaway Girl*, about her experiences, Klotz says. The book is for sale at the UO Duck Store. "It's rare to find survivors who even want to tell their story," Klotz says.

Panels include journalists on drones, media spin and the Middle East with Reese Erlich, Norman Solomon and David Barsamian; other panels address community organizing, indigenous issues, hegemony and hip hop, raw foods and immigration. The full list of panels and speakers is available at wkly.ws/1fe and registration is free. — *Camilla Mortensen*

PROPOSED HOUSING IRKS LAUREL HILL NEIGHBORS

The city of Eugene is reviewing plans to build multi-story apartment complexes in east Eugene's Laurel Hill neighborhood, but people who call this area home are none too happy about the proposal and have let their voices be heard. During a recent meeting held by the Laurel Ridge PUD (Planned Unit Development) Response Commit-

tee, Jan Wostmann of the Laurel Hill Valley Citizens led a discussion on the steps necessary to deter this possible development, citing its effects on current residents and the environment.

"The biggest concern that you will hear from people who live close to this proposed PUD is that the multi-family dwellings, so basically apartment buildings, that are being proposed are right on their doorstep," Wostmann says.

The Laurel Hill neighborhood is heavily forested, which means an abundance of wildlife is part of its charm. This is one of the reasons why the response committee believes this isn't the right region for this PUD. Downtown Eugene is where apartment buildings of this magnitude belong, they say.

The proposed apartment complexes are three- and four-stories high, approximately 608 residential units spread over 126 acres. Much of the density would be on the west side of the parcel, nearest rural neighborhoods that include Laurel Hill.

Laurel Hill Valley Citizens is in the process of planning a comprehensive response to the PUD application that was submitted to the city's Planning and Developing Department by planner Steve Ochs in August. The city of Eugene doesn't have final say in the matter; a hearings official who isn't a city employee does.

One of the developers who attended the Laurel Ridge Response Committee's Feb. 7 meeting said they are willing to discuss the proposal.

"Hopefully at some point we will be able to sit down with the developer and they will modify their proposal to something that the neighborhood can live with," Wostmann says. "It doesn't happen often, but it has been known to happen where there are developers who would rather compromise with the neighborhood than go through a fight about the approval process."

More meetings held by the response committee are expected, with dates and times to be determined. For more information, visit wkly.ws/1fc — *Nick Poust*

CONFIDENTIAL SUPPORT FOR DV SURVIVORS

The U.S. Department of Justice estimates that about 25 percent of women and 7.6 percent of men were raped or physically assaulted by a current or former partner or date at some point in their lives. Groups like Womenspace, Sexual Assault Support Services and the Domestic Violence Clinic provide survivors of domestic violence with

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