

- The **Metropolitan Policy Committee** meets from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm Thursday, March 5, at Springfield City Hall Library, 225 Fifth St. Scenario planning is on the agenda. Contact Paul Thompson, 682-4405.

- Author **David Barsamian**, founder of Alternative Radio, will speak at 1 pm Thursday, March 5, at Building 17, Room 309, on the main LCC campus. His topic is "Media and Democracy."

- A community forum on "**A Fair Shot for Oregon**" will begin at 6:30 pm Thursday, March 5, at First Christian Church, 1166 Oak St. Discussion will focus on legislation regarding the minimum wage, paid sick leave, retirement security, profiling and discrimination. Sponsored by Lane County Strong Voice.

- The Eugene School Board 4J has narrowed the field **to three finalists for superintendent**. Parents, students, staff and community members are invited to meet and provide input on the candidates at a community forum from 6 to 8:30 pm Thursday, March 5, at the 4J Education Center, 200 N. Monroe St. Each of the candidates will share information about themselves, then respond to questions. Community members will be asked to share their input. The board expects to name a new superintendent before spring break, and the new superintendent will begin July 1.

- "**The End of Debate Programs** in Our Public Schools" is the topic at City Club of Eugene at noon Friday, March 6, at the Downtown Athletic Club, 999 Willamette St. Speakers include students Matt Bucy, Liliana Hernandez and Henry Lininger, along with Steven Clemmons of UO forensics. \$5 for non-members.

- A symposium on "**Media, Democracy & Technology**" will be from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm Friday, March 6, at the Knight Library Browsing Room on the UO campus. Panelists will include Madeleine Blair, Danny O'Brien, Endalk Chala, Tewodros Workneh and Gabriela Martinez. Free and open to the public.

- **Maxine Kaufman-Lacusta**, a Quaker Jewish activist and writer from British Columbia, will speak on "Nonviolence in Palestine" at 7 pm Saturday, March 7, at the UO Wesley Center, 1236 Kincaid St. She is the author of *Refusing to be Enemies: Palestinian and Israeli Nonviolent Resistance to the Israeli Occupation* and will be available for book signing. Sponsored by CALC and Women in Black. Contact CALC at 485-1755 or email calcpeace@efn.org. Free.

- The **Post Ignorance Project** is planning a protest at the Capitol in Salem from 10 am to 2 pm Wednesday, March 11, to demand solutions for Fukushima and all nuclear pollution. Email nutzforart@gmail.com for more information.

- A "**Medical Freedom Rally**" in opposition to mandatory childhood vaccinations is planned for 1 to 2:30 pm Monday, March 9, on the Capitol steps in Salem. Several speakers have signed up and signs will be available. More information at noonsb422.com.

- An all-day symposium on "**Public Engagement in Latin@ and Latin American Studies**" will begin at 9 am Thursday, March 12, at the Knight Library Browsing Room on the UO campus. See cllas.uoregon.edu for details and registration.

- A "**Forest Pesticide Reform Advocacy Day**" is being planned for 9 am to 4 pm Thursday, March 12, at Room 350 of the Oregon State Capitol, Salem. Contact Lisa Arkin at Beyond Toxics, 465-8860.

NEWS

EUGENE CITY STAFF TIME FOR COMMUNITY GARDENS CUT IN HALF

Eugene's six community garden sites, from Amazon Park to the Whit, brighten local neighborhoods with colorful bursts of tomatoes and chard. It takes a network of volunteers, nonprofits and city staff to keep the garden plots up and running.

Last year, however, the city of Eugene reorganized its staffing and cut the staff time of the community gardens manager in half, from .5 full-time equivalent (FTE) to .25 FTE.

Lorna Baldwin, the city's current community gardens manager, says she has 10 hours a week to make sure Eugene's six garden plots run smoothly. She is also volunteer coordinator for Eugene Parks and Open Space.

"There've been a string of people doing management of the gardens, and at that time, staff were allocated 20 hours a week to do it," Baldwin says. "Then those funds went away."

Neil Bjorklund, parks and open space planning manager for the city of Eugene, says there has never been a dedicated position for community gardens manager, and the period in which staff spent 20 hours a week on the gardens was a trial "career development" program. At that time, a different staff member each year could spend half his or her FTE on the gardens.

"There's no funding for this," he says. "There's no community

gardens line-item in the budget. Each year we propose that in our internal process and it hasn't been funded, so we continue to run the program 'smoke and mirrors,' in a way."

Alice Aikens, a longtime community gardener and site coordinator for Amazon Community Garden, says the city's dwindling staff time for the gardens is challenging.

"In the past, the city would mow the grass adjoining the community garden plots, but last year it was mowed only once, so grass has slowly encroached into the gardens," she says.

Gardeners are supposed to keep the plots tidy, but Aikens says that without mowing it's difficult to accomplish. Additionally, she says, the city used to trim weeds around the base of the garden fence, but that hasn't happened for a few years.

"It's really difficult for that person to do the job adequately," Aikens says. "They're really overworked but trying their best."

Baldwin says she thinks the community would like to see more resources allocated toward community gardens. "I became a master gardener in 2012, and the interest here in learning to grow food is really broad and deep," she says.

The interest is there, Bjorklund says, but not the money. "It's ironic,

because it's a really popular program, and we do get lots of requests to expand. But until we find funding to support it, that's not going to happen."

The deadline to enter the lottery for a garden plot is March 16. Find information at wkly.ws/1p9. — Amy Schneider

'It's ironic, because it's a really popular program, and we do get lots of requests to expand. But until we find funding to support it, that's not going to happen.'

— NEIL BJORKLUND,
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE
PLANNING MANAGER



KAREN DEBRAAL

"My goal was to work at the Los Angeles Zoo," says Karen DeBraal, who grew up in nearby Glendora. She earned a two-year vet tech degree, studied zoology at Cal Poly Pomona, then worked as a zookeeper for four years. "I was severely disillusioned," she says. "I thought zoos should be genetic arks and participate in reintroduction." DeBraal moved to Santa Cruz, where she worked for Greenpeace, served as media rep for Earth First! and returned to school at UCSC for a degree in environmental science. After graduating in 1986, she suffered a severe head injury in a car wreck. "I got acupuncture during recovery," she says. "I was inspired to learn it." She cared for a friend with AIDS until he died, then worked for an in-home care agency while completing a four-

year master's program at Five Branches University of Traditional Chinese Medicine. "I'm licensed in acupuncture and certified in Chinese herbology," she notes. DeBraal and Tom Kruzik, her partner of 30 years, moved to Springfield in 2007. She took a job at Evergreen Nutrition and practiced acupuncture at home until September 2014, when she opened Wise Turtle Acupuncture at 807 A Street, Suite D, in Springfield. WTA offers affordable community acupuncture sessions in a room equipped with recliners and massage tables. "I can see as many as eight people at once," she says, "or as few as one." She also schedules private treatments, either acupuncture or Acutonics, where tuning forks are used in place of needles. Find details online, or drop by during Springfield's Second Friday Art Walk to check out the facility and the monthly exhibit.