

ACTIVIST ALERT

- A discussion of "White Supremacy, Anti-Semitism and Building a Resilient Community" is 5:45 pm Saturday, May 13, at Temple Beth Israel, 1175 E. 29th Avenue.

- A campaign to divest the city of Eugene from **US Bank** is gearing up in May as part of a national effort to weaken the fossil fuels industry and "open up more space for climate solutions to flourish," according to Community Alliance of Lane County. Contact Michael at CALC at 541-485-1755 or visit world.350Eugene.org.

- Eugene's 21-year-old **Toxics Right-to-Know Program** has announced that data from the 2016 Toxics Reports are now available on the Toxics Program's website eugene-or.gov/toxics, and in printed form at the Eugene Public Library. The TRK program says the 2016 materials balance reports have been filed electronically by all 35 businesses that are required to report what toxics they are using. The TRK program requires that "businesses meeting certain criteria report their hazardous substance use to the city, that the city make that information public, and that hazardous substance users pay fees as necessary to operate the program."

POLLUTION UPDATE

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) sent the **City of Florence** a warning letter on May 4 following an April inspection at the city's sewage treatment plant during which DEQ noted multiple Clean Water Act violations. DEQ noted that the city does not have an emergency response and public notification plan, an operations manual, or a written quality assurance and quality control program. DEQ has asked the city to correct these violations by June 5.

Doug Quirke/Oregon Clean Water Action Project



- **Poppi's Anatolia**, the popular Greek and Indian eatery at 992 Willamette Street, will be closing on Tuesdays beginning May 16 to deal with "some deferred maintenance projects as we head into summer," says owner George Schaefer. The casual restaurant has been open seven days a week for nearly 30 years. Schaefer says Tuesdays were chosen since they are "typically the quietest of days" at the restaurant. Find a menu and more information at poppisanatolia.com.

- **J. Michaels Books** at 160 E. Broadway has been ranked #17 on the *Huffington Post* list of "50 Best Indie Bookstores in America." The business was launched by Jeremy Nissel and Linda Ellis in 1975 when they were fresh out of college, and managed to survive not only the proliferation of big-chain bookstores but also the rise of Amazon and other web-based booksellers. The owners say they were surprised by the story that came out as they were celebrating a 42nd anniversary party at the store. The *Huff Post* article describes the store as "A cozy and colorful fixture of one of America's most colorful small cities. The owner is usually behind the counter, obscured by his curated selection of new releases. His arrangements never fail to compel even this most casual of bookworms to purchase." See jmichaelsbooks.com.

- On May 4, the **Oregon Community Foundation** announced the creation of the Oregon Impact Fund, which will "provide impact investments in organizations that are addressing problems facing urban and rural communities, such as access to affordable housing, health care, and jobs." OCF plans to raise \$10 million from donors and match it dollar-for-dollar. Involved in this project are The Gray Family Foundation, Dave and Christine Vernier, Randy Weisberg, Tom Bowerman, Barre and Robert Stoll, Cindy and Duncan Campbell, Chris and Tom Neilsen and The Headwaters Fund of OCF from Central Oregon. More information can be found on the OCF fund on the Oregon Community Foundation website.

- A career fair at **HealthFirst Financial** is 10 am to 2 pm Saturday, May 13, at the company's Springfield offices, 400 International Way, suite 320. The locally based and diversified financial services firm is taking applications for multiple entry-level and professional full-time positions. For more information, call 541-393-3184.

- A small business clinic "**Ask the Experts**" is 5 to 7 pm Thursday, May 18, at the Eugene Public Library downtown. For a confidential, one-hour free appointment, call 541-682-5450.

Send suggestions to bizbeat@eugeneweekly.com.



HAPPENING PEOPLE

BY PAUL NEEVEL

CARTER MCKENZIE

"I loved the mountains," says Carter McKenzie, who spent her childhood in Colorado Springs. She studied English literature at Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin, on her way to a master's from the University of Virginia, and she worked on American history projects in the Library of Congress. "I was writing poetry and short stories on my own," says McKenzie, who got married and followed her husband's theater production career from New York City to Berkeley. "Poetry has been my calling ever since." Daughter Ryan was born in California in 1992, and daughter Eavan arrived in 1996, after the family had moved to rural Dexter, Oregon. "I'm still living in the same house," she notes, though her marriage ended in 2000. She first taught poetry to kids as a volunteer at her daughters' elementary school, but since 2004, when her chapbook *Naming Departure* was published by Traprock Books, she has made a career of school residencies, summer camps, and workshops for all ages.

"Poetry offers an opportunity to engage in language and engage with the world in unexpected ways," she says. "It's a subversive art that works against cliché." Following the Charleston church shootings by Dylann Roof in 2015, McKenzie joined the new local chapter of Showing Up for Racial Justice, a mostly-white group opposing racism and white privilege. As convener of its immigrant rights subcommittee, she has reassembled and expanded the photography exhibit, *We are Neighbors*, portraits of immigrants, first presented by Community Alliance of Lane County in 1996. See it at the Springfield Museum, 590 Main Street, during the Second Friday Art Walk on May 12 and through the month of June.

Know anyone whose good work deserves attention in this space? Call the editor at 541-484-0519 or editor@eugeneweekly.com.

