

Building Democracy in Western Mass:

A participatory two-day retreat on shifting power from corporations to citizens in the Pioneer Valley & Berkshires

Hosted by Shays 2: Western Mass Committee on Corporations and Democracy

September 16 - 17, 2006 Saturday morning through Sunday afternoon

Includes folk concert on Saturday night, Sept. 16th with singer/songwriter Si Kahn, author of *The Fox in the Henhouse: How Privatization Threatens Democracy* (in Northampton)

Location: Sirius Community in Shutesbury, MA

15 min from Amherst, 30 min from Northampton, 35 min. from Greenfield, 1.5 hr from Lenox

Special Retreat Facilitators

Kaitlin Sopoci-Belknap: Measure T Campaign Coordinator, Humboldt County, CA

The Measure T victory bans non-local corporate campaign donations and asserts citizen authority over corporations in Humboldt County, California. Kaitlin is an inspiring young democracy organizer who has built a national reputation as speaker and workshop facilitator.

Ward Morehouse: Shays 2 and POCLAD (Program on Corporations, Law and Democracy)

Co-founder of both Shays 2: Western Mass Committee on Corporations and Democracy and POCLAD will share the 12 years of national anti-corporate democracy work that has spawned similar grass roots movements around the country.

This retreat is organized by Shays 2

We will examine strategies we can use to fight corporate power in our Western Mass region, while also addressing proven ways to create a culture of solidarity among Western Mass local organizers, communities, and independent businesses. Such connections provide fertile ground for local empowerment and region-wide efforts to challenge corporate rule. The "Building Democracy" retreat will help us explore together how we can reclaim our rights to democratic self-governance, and why democratic self-governance is impossible when corporations wield so much power.



Shays 2: Western Mass Committee on Corporations and Democracy is a grassroots organization working in the Pioneer Valley and the Berkshires, the historic region of "Shays Rebellion," as part of a growing nation-wide movement to build real democracy in America. We are committed to working with local citizens to strip large multinational corporations of powers that have been usurped from we the people, local citizens, in the law.

Fees for Retreat: Sliding Scale -- TWO DAYS: \$75 to \$125*, ONE DAY: \$50 to \$100*

Includes snacks and lunches and *Defying Corporations, Defining Democracy*. Meals are organic, vegetarian, and mostly local. Saturday night overnight accommodations available at Sirius: \$25 to \$40 (includes breakfast). Please let us know your needs when you register.

*Additional donations are gratefully accepted to enable lower income participants to be involved

For more information or to register:

Email: info@shays2.org

Web: <http://www.shays2.org>

Phone: (413) 584-0722