

# Building Democracy in Western Mass

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

**September 15 - 17, 2006** (Fri. evening through Sunday early afternoon)

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, California  
Fresh off her recent *Measure T victory* banning non-local corporate campaign donations and asserting citizen authority over corporations in Humboldt County, California. She will share her skills and help us develop strategies to connect our local issues & campaigns throughout our region.

**Ward Morehouse:** Shays 2; POCLAD (Program on Corporations, law and Democracy)  
Co-founder of Shays 2 and co-founder and current member of *POCLAD* (Program on Corporations, Law and Democracy) 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:

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. 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 local organizers, communities, and independent businesses. Such connections provide fertile ground for local empowerment and region-wide efforts to challenge corporate rule.



**Shays 2: The Western Massachusetts Committee on Corporations & Democracy** is a grassroots organization working through education and peaceful action to strip corporations of powers, that have been usurped from we the people, in the law. We are committed to working in the Pioneer Valley & the Berkshires, the historic region of "Shays Rebellion," as part of a growing, nationwide movement to build real democracy in America.

**Fees:** Sliding Scale of \$125 to \$75

Fees include materials, the book *Defying Corporations, Defining Democracy*, and Friday dinner and snacks and lunches on Saturday and Sunday

Meals are organic, vegetarian, and mostly local. Overnight accommodations, additional dinners, and breakfast are also available onsite for small additional fees. 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](mailto:info@shays2.org)  
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