

## WALL STREET BEWARE: MOVEMENTS HAVE SUCCEEDED IN THE PAST!

**By: George Wolfe**

The Occupy Wall Street phenomenon has been spreading across the country. It is the latest movement in the history of labor activism. The main difference is that this labor movement is not comprised solely of blue-collar workers. It includes main street professionals – teachers, social workers, nurses, middle managers, fireman, policeman – who make up the middle class fabric of America. It turns out that history is on the side of the activists.

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, there were no labor laws to prevent employers from exploiting workers to increase their financial bottom line. In response, a dynamic socialist movement took root that was inspired by the economic and political theories of Friedrich Engels and Karl Marx. In 1906, a novel entitled *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair drew public attention to the corruption in the U.S. meatpacking industry and the plight of immigrant workers in general. Sinclair was dubbed the original “muckraker,” a term coined for him by President Theodore Roosevelt. In 1917, the October Bolshevik Revolution overthrew the Russian Czar. These events strengthened the International labor movement that had emerged in the middle-to-late 1800s. The labor movement in the United States was shaped by such activists as A. J. Muste, Norman Thomas and Indiana native Eugene Debs, all of whom

called for the use of nonviolent strategies of direct action rather than Bolshevik-style armed uprisings. By organizing unions and calling for labor strikes, they succeeded in winning the forty-hour workweek, the right to overtime pay, workman’s injury compensation, the prohibition of child labor, and federal oversight of the food industry. In the 1960’s the United Farm Workers led by Cesar Chavez inspired what became a worldwide boycott of California grapes. Their efforts won migrant workers in California higher wages, better working conditions, and the right to form a union.

Occupy Wall Street is a promising new workers movement standing up against corporate greed, right to work legislation, and the growing economic divide between rich and poor in the United States and the world. Unlike the radical and uncooperative Tea Party, this workers movement could reach the tipping point. If it does, politicians will be forced to face the music, and we will again be able to call America the land of opportunity.

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### **About George Wolfe**

George Wolfe is the Coordinator of Outreach Programs for the Ball State University Center for Peace and Conflict Studies. He is also a trained mediator and the author of *The Spiritual Power of Nonviolence: Interfaith Understanding for a Future Without War.*

## SPREAD THE WORD!

- **The Center for Peace and Conflict Studies is looking for interns for the Spring Semester! If you are interested in being an intern, or know of someone who would be interested, please contact the center at 765-285-1622 or [peacecenter@bsu.edu](mailto:peacecenter@bsu.edu). The interns will be selected by October 21.**
- **ID 301: Introduction to Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution will be offered again in the Spring of 2012! The class will cover the “methods of achieving peace within communities and among nations; history of peace movements and the causes of conflict; and analysis of principles to resolve conflict using case studies.” More course information is listed below. For additional information, please contact Gerry Waite ([gwaite@bsu.edu](mailto:gwaite@bsu.edu)), Research Fellow, BSU Center for Peace and Conflict Studies.**

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS— ON CAMPUS

### Wednesday, October 19

- Last day to register for the Conference on Multiple Aspects of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Advocacy: Finding the Road in Indiana. For more information, please see the upcoming events section on page 4.
- *Amnesty International Meeting:*  
4:00 PM in Bracken Library Room #301

### Monday, October 24

- *OXFAM America Meeting*  
5:30 PM in WB 140. For more information, contact [oxfambsu@gmail.com](mailto:oxfambsu@gmail.com).
- *Social Justice League Meeting*  
6:00PM at the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies (310 N. McKinley Ave.) For more information, contact [SJL@bsu.edu](mailto:SJL@bsu.edu) .

### Tuesday, October 25

- *Feminists for Action Meeting*  
6:00 PM in BB 220. Come have tea, discuss current events, and become an activist for gender equality. Everyone is welcoming, including non-students and community members. For more information, contact [feministforaction@gmail.com](mailto:feministforaction@gmail.com) or [ckhurst@bsu.edu](mailto:ckhurst@bsu.edu).
- *International Ambassadors Club*  
7:00PM at the L.A. Pittenger Student Center in Room 306. For more information, contact [IAC@bsu.edu](mailto:IAC@bsu.edu) .

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS— ON CAMPUS (CONT)

### Tuesday, October 25

- *Free the Slaves Meeting*

9:00PM at Bracken Library in Room 301. For more information, contact Chelsey Outcalt at [cloutcalt@bsu.edu](mailto:cloutcalt@bsu.edu).

### Wednesday, October 26

- *Amnesty International Meeting*

4:00PM at Bracken Library in Room 311. For more information, contact [kylea.wright515@gmail.com](mailto:kylea.wright515@gmail.com).

- *Continuum Brown Bag Series*

12:00-1:00 PM in Student Center 306.

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS— OFF CAMPUS

### Wednesday, October 19

- [Indianapolis] *The IPS Latino Resources Roundtable*, which promotes and supports the programs, services and activities of organizations such as Immigrant Welcome Center, Indianapolis International Center, Muslim Alliance of Indiana, African Community International, Sociedad Amigos de Colombia, Mexican Consulate and the National League of Cities, will meet at 9:00 am at IPS John Morton-Finney Educational Services Building, 120 E. Walnut. For more info, contact Nora Trincado at 226-4831 or [trincadn@ips.k12.in.us](mailto:trincadn@ips.k12.in.us).
- [Indianapolis] The Indianapolis Chapter of Amnesty International will meet at 7:00 pm in the Willkie Room at The Athenaeum, 401 E. Michigan. For more info, contact Noel Fliss at 916-6050 or [info@amnestyindy.org](mailto:info@amnestyindy.org).
- [Indianapolis] Environmentalist Julia Butterfly Hill (see below) will speak at 7:30 pm in UIndy Hall A in Schwitzer Student Center at University of Indianapolis, 1400 E. Hanna. For more info, email Greta Pennell at [gpennell@uindy.edu](mailto:gpennell@uindy.edu)

### Thursday, October 20

- [Indianapolis] Fast for Gaza will meet at 12 noon at Lulu's Electric Café, 1460 W. 86. For more info, contact Lew Weiss at [ljweiss@clarian.org](mailto:ljweiss@clarian.org) or 962-8580.
- [Indianapolis] There will be an Anti-death Penalty Witness, 12:30-1:30 pm, at the east steps of the State House, Capitol Ave. and Market, sponsored by The Indiana Information Center on the Abolition of Capital Punishment (IICACP). Bring a sign or use one of ours; come for any part of the hour. For more info, phone 466-7128
- [Bloomington] The Research Committee of Hoosiers for a Commonsense Health Plan will meet at 4:30 pm at Boxcar Books and Community Center, 408 E. 6. For more info, visit [hchp.info](http://hchp.info) or contact Milton Fisk at (812) 336-7184 or [fiskm@indiana.edu](mailto:fiskm@indiana.edu).

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS— OFF CAMPUS (CONT.)

### Thursday, October 20

- [Indianapolis] Julia Butterfly Hill (see below) is coming to CITYOGA School of Yoga and Health, 2442 N. Central Ave., to do a benefit for Y12SR: The Yoga of 12-Step Recovery (see below) from 7 - 8:30 pm (Cost: \$20 in advance, \$30 at door). For more info, email Nikki Myers at [myersnikki@sbcglobal.net](mailto:myersnikki@sbcglobal.net)

### Friday, October 21

- [Indianapolis] The weekly vigil protesting warfare will take place, 4:30-5:30 pm, in front of the Federal Building, North and Pennsylvania, sponsored by the Indianapolis Peace and Justice Center. Bring an appropriate sign or have one provided. For more info, phone Gilbert Kuhn at 926-3068 or email Ron Haldeman at [ronjane@igc.org](mailto:ronjane@igc.org)

- [Bloomington] The creative team of Abraham Lincoln's Big, Gay Dance Party is excited to announce the following events for the weekend:

#### Friday

4.30p Academic panel titled "Queer History in 'Real America'; Subjugated Knowledges in 21st Century Education" (John Waldron Auditorium)

5.30p Artist's talk by Len Prince and a gallery opening immediately following (Kinsey Institute)

8.00p ALBGDP opens (John Waldron Auditorium)

#### Saturday

12-1.30p Forum Theatre Session (Rachael's Cafe)

2-6.00p Rachel Mattson presents: "Teaching Queer Histories: A Workshop for K-12 Educators" (IU's campus – e-mail [rallivin@indiana.edu](mailto:rallivin@indiana.edu) to reserve a spot)

8.00p ALBGDP (John Waldron Auditorium)

11.00p A Big, Gay Dance Party (Rachael's Cafe)

#### Sunday

11.00a Talkback with Cast and Creative Team (Kirkwood)

2.00p ALBGDP (John Waldron Auditorium)

For more information on these events please email: [biggayabe@gmail.com](mailto:biggayabe@gmail.com)

### Saturday, October 22

- [Indianapolis] C.U.R.E. (Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants) will hold a monthly meeting, 10-12 am, at North United Methodist Church, W. 38 & Meridian. For more info, phone Marilyn Reed at 352-0358 or Lela Ewers at 831-0765.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### ON-CAMPUS

- October 28: A Conference on Multiple Aspects of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Advocacy: Finding the Road in Indiana Sponsored by the SAFE-ZONE Project at Ball State University and Indiana Equality: Check-in and coffee from 8:30-9:30. Conference begins at 9:00 AM in Cardinal Hall in the LA Pittenger Student Center. Registration ends October 19. The Center for Peace and Conflict Studies and many other campus organizations will have a booth at this event.
- November 2: Free Fair Trade Chocolate Fondue Party Sponsored by Free the Slaves—Fondue for anyone who attends. Marti Macgibbon, a former stand-up comedian and current activist for human rights, will be the guest speaker. Macgibbon will be sharing her story of her experiences as a former sex slave in Japan.
- November 8: Continuum Monthly Meeting 4:00-5:00 in Student Center Room # 303
- November 9: Falling Whistles at Emens Auditorium 7:00-10:00 PM. Come out and hear the founder of Falling Whistles speak. This is a FREE event and open to everyone, not just students! Through: COMM CLUB Sponsored by: SGA, WLBC 104.1, Cool Cayenne, Ball State Federal Credit Union. Twitter : #1000whistles. Falling Whistles gives a small window into our world's largest war. Originally just a journal written about boys sent to the frontlines of war armed with only a whistle, readers forwarded it with the same kind of urgency in which it was written and demanded to know – what can we do? The Falling Whistles campaign launched with a simple response – make their weapon your voice and be a whistleblower for peace in Congo. Read the story and buy the whistle. Together we partner with local leaders to advocate and rehabilitate for those affected by war. Share their story and speak up for them. Together, we'll become the voice of a growing coalition for peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo. For more info, visit [www.fallingwhistles.com](http://www.fallingwhistles.com) .
- November 15: A documentary called “Invisible Children– The Rescue” will be shown from 7:00-10:00PM in the Student Center Ballroom. There will be a guest speaker, merchandise, and on-campus organizations.

**DISCLAIMER: The events described in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies.**

If you would like for your events to be included in this newsletter, please contact Lacey Lord at [lglord@bsu.edu](mailto:lglord@bsu.edu).