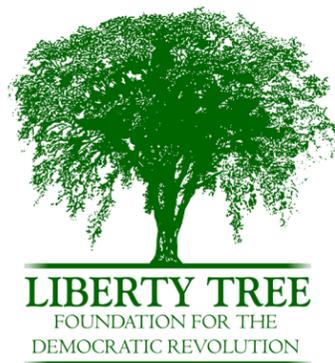




Democracy Is Coming to the U.S.A.  
The Liberty Tree Foundation for the  
Democratic Revolution at 10 Years





## The Original Liberty Tree

The first, famous Liberty Tree stood on the Boston Common, an American Elm with a political history. The elm was a common tree in the pre-Norman 'English borough' tradition: A place for the people of the shire to gather on their own terms and for their own purposes.

In the decade of agitation that fed into the American Revolution, Boston radicals rallied beneath the tree's canopy, speaking against imperial authorities and calling for home rule in the colonies.

After the speeches, the people marched. In one case, hundreds of marchers ended their protest at the docks, where they cheered on scores of activists as they dumped British East India Trading Company tea into the harbor. In another case, the march ended in a volley fired from imperial rifles, martyring Crispus Attucks and four others as the first casualties of the revolution.

In the first months of the Revolutionary War, British troops occupied Boston, and cut the elm to the ground. Yet the Liberty Tree lived on. In hundreds of towns, and in every colony, the revolutionaries consecrated new Liberty Trees and Liberty Poles, and flew their likenesses on their flags.

Thomas Paine wrote of the Liberty Tree in poetry and prose, and soon the tree was an international symbol. French revolutionaries hailed the tree, as did Irish and South American republicans. In Haiti, the great Toussaint L'Ouverture prophesied:

*By overthrowing me, you have succeeded in cutting down the tree of liberty of the blacks in Santo Domingo, but have failed to destroy the roots that are deep and strong. The tree will grow again.*

The original Liberty Tree served as a physical and symbolic gathering place for revolutionary, democratic movements. It is our intention that this new Liberty Tree serve in the same purpose. As an organization, the Liberty Tree Foundation for the Democratic Revolution provides material support for the growth of a broad based, deeply rooted, aggressive democracy movement in the United States. At Liberty Tree, we echo the sentiments of the abolitionists of the 1850s who wrote that:

*Revolutions must be prepared for gradually, outrages must be resisted, and outrageous laws must be resisted and refused obedience to, before a revolution can be prepared for, long before it can be matured.*

~ The Racine Advocate, 1851

## Our Vision

The Liberty Tree Foundation for the Democratic Revolution is a nonprofit organization rooted in the belief that the American Revolution is a living tradition whose greatest promise is democracy.

In order to achieve that promise, Liberty Tree works to create a society in which communities and individuals have the desire, skills, and capacity to participate in the vital decisions that affect their lives. Such a society, we believe, is most likely to emerge from a genuine democratic revolution -- one that focuses on deep structural, legal, and institutional change, dismantles oppression in all its forms, and is organized through the transformation of communities, institutions and local governments into conscious agents of democratic change.

## Our Mission

Liberty Tree is uniquely committed to building a democracy movement for the U.S.A.. We provide vital support to grassroots campaigns for democratic reform in many areas of American life, and bring those campaigns together to form a united movement for democracy.

## Our Values

At Liberty Tree, our work is guided by the following values:

- Feminist, democratic principles of collective and individual accountability, mutual responsibility, active power sharing, and non-hierarchical organizing.
- Effective movement building grounded in the real needs and experiences of people and communities struggling for democratic power and liberation.
- American internationalism in the traditions of Thomas Paine, the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, and the Seattle WTO protests.
- Nurturing relationships and an organizing culture that is joyful, hopeful and celebratory.
- The concepts of Sankofa and the Seventh Generation: Sankofa reaches back into our history and carries it into the present; the commitment to the Seventh Generation means that decisions we make today must be evaluated by their impact on generations to come.

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# 10 years of research, organizing, and action

*The Liberty Tree Foundation for the Democratic Revolution incorporated in the summer of 2004 and went public in 2005 with the launch of its first website and quarterly journal. The following timeline gives highlights of some of the major developments and accomplishments of Liberty Tree in its work to "build a democracy movement for the U.S.A.."*

## 2004: No Stolen Elections!

**The No Stolen Elections! campaign** of 2004 brought together voting rights and pro-democracy activists and organizations in preparing for the possibility of a repeat of election fraud like that of Florida in 2000. Operating at the websites Nov3.US and NoStolenElections.org, Liberty Tree built a coalition of scores of prominent individuals and organizations in issuing a pledge of action on July 4th, 2004:

*"I remember the stolen presidential election of 2000 and I am willing to take action in 2004 if the election is stolen again. I support efforts to protect the right to vote leading up to and on Election Day, November 2nd. If that right is systematically violated, I pledge to join nationwide protests starting on November 3rd, either in my community, in the states where the fraud occurred, or in Washington DC."*

By November 2nd, Election Day, nearly 27,000 people across the United States had signed the No Stolen Elections! Pledge. On Election Night, as reports came in from around the country, the No Stolen Elections! coalition held conference calls hourly and then every two hours. By midnight, it became apparent that the presidential election had come down to the outcome of the vote in Ohio, where thousands of voting rights violations and flagrant vote reporting manipulations had been documented. The Green Party and Libertarian Party presidential nominees, David Cobb and Michael Badnarik, joined together to file for a recount of the Ohio vote. In turn, the No Stolen Elections! campaign mobilized its networks to

go to Ohio and to send funding to Ohio to support a full and impartial recount of the vote.

One outcome of the recount mobilization was the conviction of several Ohio election officials for attempting to rig the recount. Another was the formal congressional objection by U.S. Senator Boxer and 31 members of the U.S. House of Representatives to the certification of Ohio's Electoral College delegation. A third outcome was a congressional investigation led by U.S. Rep. Conyers into voting rights violations in Ohio and around the country. Finally, the campaign succeeded in seeding local voting rights groups across the United States, many of which remain active to this day.

## 2005: The Liberty Tree Emerges

Liberty Tree launched its first website at **LibertyTreeFDR.org** on January 1st, featuring news, publications, and event listings and organized around various the different areas (e.g. economic democracy, media democracy, local democracy, etc) in which pro-democracy work was happening in the United States. Later on, Liberty Tree moved its primary web url to **LibertyTreeFoundation.org**.

In June of 2005, Liberty Tree convened the founding meeting of the **Democratizing Education Network (DEN)** in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. The Ottawa meeting brought 30 students and professors from 8 campuses in the United States across the border to connect with with activists, union organizers, and intellectuals at the forefront of anti-austerity and pro-democracy campaigns in Canada and Quebec. Inspired by those conversations, the Americans returned to the states with a call to launch a new wave of student-worker higher education unionism in the United States. Attendees went on to organize new campus unions in Missouri, Wisconsin, Michigan and Massachusetts; of these efforts, the Public Higher Education Network of Massachusetts (PHENOM) is the most successful example.



In October, the DEN reunited at its first Democratizing Education Convention, held at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. This time over 250 student, faculty, staff, and community activists came together to plan common action for the following years.

Later that year, **Liberty Tree: The Journal of the Democratic Revolution** published its first issue with a new look at the old debate of "Reform or Revolution?" Over the course of the next several years, Liberty Tree published seven additional issues of its journal, covering themes of democratizing elections, democratizing education, global democracy, constitutional reform, race and democracy, economic democracy, and local democracy. The Liberty Tree Journal eventually reached a distribution of 15,000 and was carried in major bookstore chains. The Journal was discontinued due to a major drop in donations stemming from the global financial crash of 2008.

Throughout 2005, Liberty Tree joined with other organizations to convene conferences intended to strengthen local and community democracy. Two such gatherings included the **Green Policy Conference**, cosponsored with the Green Institute, which brought together local elections officials from across the country and the **Midwest Social Forum**, the first mass social forum event to take place in North America, which was organized by the A.E. Havens Center with substantial support from Liberty Tree. In June of 2005, Liberty Tree took part in the **Mediterranean Social Forum** in Barcelona.

## 2006: Democratize Everything

Liberty Tree's major work in 2006 employed local democracy to develop a new program area, **Democratizing Defense**. Liberty Tree provided legal, media, and other key strategic support to organizers in Wisconsin, Illinois, Massachusetts, and California who wanted to bring the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan home by placing **anti-war ballot measures** on municipal, town, and county ballots. The Wisconsin campaign, led by the Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice and the Wisconsin Greens, was the most successful of these initiatives, with voters in 34 of 42 Wisconsin municipalities voting for the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. military per-

sonnel from Iraq and Afghanistan. The campaign drew international attention, with front page headlines in newspapers from Italy to Australia to California reading "Wisconsin votes for troop pullout." Within a year, over 200 communities across the country had adopted similar resolutions. Liberty Tree founder and attorney Ben Manski provided legal research and representation to the Wisconsin effort, and worked with attorney David Austin to bring successful legal challenges against three municipal governments that attempted to prevent their citizens from voting on the withdrawal initiatives.

Our Local Democracy Program built on the antiwar ballot measures and on Liberty Tree's earlier work on participatory budgeting to convene the first **Local Democracy Convention** in September of 2006. This national gathering brought together leading proponents of local home rule, community self-determination, and participatory democracy from across the country, including major speakers Rev. Ed Pinkney of Benton Harbor, Rev. Lennox Yearwood, Jane Anne Morris, Shannon Biggs, Gar Alperovitz, Joshua Lerner, City Council Presidents Brenda Konkel and Austin King, and Daniel Chavez of the Transnational Institute. One direct outgrowth of the gathering was the formation of a standing **Local Democracy Network**, which met again several times in subsequent years. Another, more indirect result was the formation of the **Participatory Budgeting Project**.

Work continued on other fronts as well. Liberty Tree's **Democratizing Elections Program** built off the base laid with the No Stolen Elections! campaign and the Ohio Recount to convene a Voting Rights Summit in Atlanta, Georgia. This was later followed by co-convening an election reform and voting rights gather, the first **Claim Democracy Conference** in Washington, DC, with our partners at FairVote.

The Democratizing Education Network (DEN) partnered up with the organizers of **Tent State University** at Rutgers University to help them spread the Tent State outdoor, popular university model across the United States. DEN affiliates at several campuses were attacked by campus police, most notably at UC Santa Cruz, in a foreshadowing of violence later experienced by campus activists in the Occupy movement. DEN also organized a national **Virtual March on the Corporate Lobbyists**, in which tens of thousands of students and their supporters deluged state and national offices of the Chamber of Commerce with demands that they stop lobbying for higher tuition via cuts public education funding. Later that year, in September, activists gathered for a leadership meeting of the **Democratizing Education Network**, held this time in Chicago. Participants drafted a Democratizing Education Charter intended to guide their future work and to serve as a statement of principles for constitutional reforms in the education sector.



**Read the call to action from Rev. Jesse Jackson, Barbara Ehrenreich, Bill Fletcher, Daniel Ellsberg, David Cobb, Frances Moore Lappé, Frances Piven, Holly Near, Jerome Scott, Jim Hightower, John Cavanagh, John Nichols, Manning Marable, Marcus Raskin, Maude Hurd, Medea Benjamin, Mimi Kennedy, Norman Solomon, Rabbi Michael Lerner, Rev. Lennox Yearwood, Robert McChesney, Starhawk, Tom Hayden, Van Jones, & scores more!**

Continuing its involvement in the World Social Forum process, Liberty Tree sent several staff members and Liberty Tree Fellows to participate in the **Social Forum of the Americas**, held that summer in Caracas, Venezuela.

### 2007: Get on the Democracy Track

Liberty Tree organized convened a **Democracy Track at the first U.S. Social Forum** in June in Atlanta, Georgia. The Democracy Track gathered together under a giant **Democracy Tent** in the sweltering Atlanta heat, and involved over 120 sessions at the U.S. Social Forum itself. Organized together with key partners like the Alliance for Democracy and Democracy Unlimited, the Democracy Track was able to make visible an emergent, broad-based pro-democracy politics in the U.S..

Otherwise, in terms of visible work, 2007 was largely a movement and organization-building year. Liberty Tree launched a new drupal-based multisite web platform called **Democracy Square**. This replaced the organization's earlier, custom-made CMS and CRM. Via Democracy Square, Liberty Tree and its partners have been able, over the years, to quickly launch new web presences and to maintain independence from major corporate providers. As of 2016, 14 websites have been developed and used that are part of the Democracy Square platform.

### 2008: Bring the Guard Home: It's the Law!

Liberty Tree's work to build a movement to democratize defense made its next major foray with **Bring the Guard Home: It's the Law!**, a national effort that eventually grew to include campaigns in 20 states to end the unconstitutional deployment of National Guard units to Iraq, Afghanistan, and other wars of aggression. Based in legal research by former Vermont ACLU Executive Director Benson Scotch and by Liberty Tree's Ben Manski, and led by activists like Leah Bolger, Elaine Brower, Jean Athey, Steve Burns and Dan Handleman from Veterans for Peace, Cities for Peace, Military Families Speak Out, CODE PINK, Peace Action, Iraq Veterans Against the War, and independent grassroots coalitions in key states, as well as key state legislators such as Rep. Michael Fisher of Vermont and Rep. Spencer Black of Wisconsin, the campaign centered on state legislation requiring governors to review federal callups of the state National Guard units for their constitutionality. Legislation was introduced in 13 states, and won approval by the lower chamber in Maryland and Oregon. The campaign continued through 2009 but, while initially involving support from Democratic, Green, Libertarian and some Republican party organizations, eventually suffered attrition among Democrats due to opposition from the newly elected Obama administration.

Over the course of 2008, Liberty Tree organized the **No More Stolen Elections!** campaign, a followup to the 2004

No Stolen Elections! work. Because the margin of the 2008 presidential election was not close, no presidential recount occurred. Nonetheless, voters gathered together in nearly 50 Voter Assemblies across the country on the day after the election to review reports of voting rights violations and election fraud compiled by the No More Stolen Elections! staff and volunteers.

Finally, Liberty Tree went through a major and difficult **re-organization** as internal governance problems combined with a huge decline in fundraising stemming from the 2008 financial crash. The organization suspended publication of the Liberty Tree Journal, laid off all of its staff, and restructured to a more traditional board of directors oversight model. Nonetheless, the work continued, and by the end of 2009, the organization was back in the black and remained in the business of making history . . . read on!

### 2009: Who Decides About War?

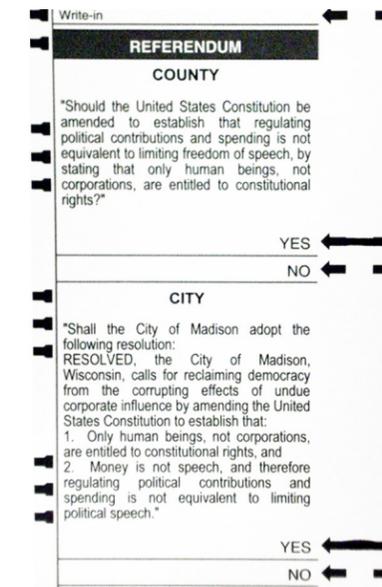
2009 began with a national gathering of the Bring the Guard Home movement in Washington D.C. on January 21st, the day after President Obama's first inauguration. In addition to a press conference at the National Press Club, activists held a strategy meeting at which they developed plans for mutual support of their state legislative campaign and also a national conference to be held later that year. That conference eventually took place in October of 2009 at Georgetown University's School of Law, bringing together a wide range of academics, activists, lawyers and former administration officials from left and right to address the question raised in the conference title, **Who Decides About War?**

In November, Liberty Tree formed a partnership with Mayors for Peace and the Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy in organizing a national conference in Madison, Wisconsin called **Future Cities 2009: Local Democracy in Action for a post-Carbon, Post-Nuclear, Greener World**. The Future Cities conference brought together mayors, city officials, and local activists from around the country, as well as Hiroshima, to strengthen the role of municipalities in transforming the global economy and politics.



### 2010: Move to Amend against Citizens United

On January 21, 2010, the U.S. Supreme Court released its decision in Citizens United v. FEC. That same day, MovetoAmend.org went live, and within two days nearly 30,000 people had signed the **Motion to Amend** the U.S. Constitution to make clear that corporations are not persons entitled to constitutional protection, that money is not speech, and also to protect the right to vote and have one's vote counted and to establish that federal and state laws establish a floor and not a ceiling for human rights, civil rights, and environmental protections enacted by local governments. **Move to Amend** was founded by a coalition of longtime partners, and initially anchored by several key groups including Democracy Unlimited, the Center for Media and Democracy, the Alliance for Democracy, together with Liberty Tree, which provided Move to Amend's initial website, staffing, and much of its initial financing.



Liberty Tree organized the first mass protest against Citizens United on February 6, 2010, as well as the first national conference post Citizens United, **We the Corporations? Life and Law After Citizens United**, at the University of Wisconsin School of Law on April 16th. Today, Move to Amend is an independent 501(c)3 organization based in Sacramento, California, with local affiliates in most of the

country. It is the nation's largest and most grassroots organization working to overturn Citizens United v. FEC through constitutional reform.

In June of 2010, Liberty Tree joined with its partners in Move to Amend in organizing the **Democracy Track at the second U.S. Social Forum** in Detroit, Michigan.

### 2011: Wisconsin Uprising, Democracy Convention

"On Valentine's Day, February 14th 2011, eleven hundred students and teachers from the University of Wisconsin and Madison Area Technical College entered Wisconsin's Capitol in protest of a proposed state budget and so-called "Bud-

get Repair Bill." By the next evening, upwards of ten thousand people had joined the protest and begun occupying the Capitol Building. Within days the crowds on the Capitol Square swelled to 30,000, and then 50,000, and eventually 150,000, giving global visibility to the six-month period of mass sit-ins, political strikes, encampments, assemblies, re-



call elections, marches and rallies known today as the **Wisconsin Uprising**." (Excerpted from the published Master Thesis of Ben Manski, *When Uprisings Aren't Spontaneous: The Wisconsin Uprising as a product of movements in struggle*).

The Wisconsin Uprising was largely not spontaneous, but instead, the result both of decades of movement building activity by many groups and individuals as well as of deliberate organizing and action in the months and days leading up to the uprising coordinated by a Liberty Tree program begun in November of 2010, the **Wisconsin Wave**. On February 14th, as the first major Capitol protest began, the Wisconsin Wave became public with a statement signed by over 100 union, community, student, farm, and environmental leaders calling for a "Wisconsin Wave of Resistance Against Corporatization and Austerity and for Democracy and Shared Prosperity."

Over the course of the following months, the Wisconsin Wave worked to build solidarity beyond the ranks of organized labor, to train activists in non-violent direct action escalation tactics, and to challenge directly the role of the Chamber of Commerce in promoting austerity in Wisconsin. The Wave made a series of critical interventions through mass rallies, direct actions, and the first popular assemblies of 2011 (a preview of Occupy). In early October of 2011, a delegation of Wisconsinites affiliated with the Wave led a ceremonial march into **Freedom Plaza** in Washington, D.C. in a mass occupation of public space that coincided with Occupy Wall Street. The Wisconsin Wave continued its organizing against the Chamber of Commerce and maintained

a door-to-door canvassing operation and grassroots activist network until the end of 2015.

Even as the Wisconsin Uprising was underway, Wisconsinites continued their Move to Amend organizing, and began petitioning to place **resolutions on municipal ballots** calling for the adoption of Move to Amend's **We the Peo-**



**ple Amendment.** As before with the anti-war resolutions of 2006, Liberty Tree provided support for this effort. On April 6, 2010, the voters of Madison, Wisconsin and of Dane County voted at rates of 82% and 78%, respectively, in favor of the Move to Amend resolutions, making those two localities the first among what are now over 600 municipal, county and state plebiscites and legislative resolutions in support of the provisions of the We the People Amendment.

From August 24-28th of 2011, the first **Democracy Convention** took place in downtown Madison, Wisconsin, drawing nearly 1000 participants from 37 states and several countries. More than one conference, the Democracy Convention is a process involving many conferences under one roof. As the great reformer Fighting Bob La Follette said, "democracy is a life," and "involves constant struggle" in all areas of society. The Democracy Conventions recognize the importance of each separate democracy struggle, as well as the need to unite them all in a common, deeply rooted, broad based, movement for democracy.

The conferences at the Democracy Convention are more than simply "tracks." Because these conferences are gatherings of activist, networks, and organizations that are engaged in ongoing work together, each conference features plenaries, trainings, and decisionmaking sessions. Each conference is a project of one or more convening organizations; these conveners take responsibility for designing the program of their conference, recruiting presenters and participants, and coordinating with the conveners of other conferences. In 2011, the nine conferences of the Democracy Convention were the Constitutional Reform Conference, Democratizing Defense Conference, Economic Democracy Conference, Education for Democracy Conference, Local Democracy Conference, Media Democracy Conference, Race and Equality Conference and the Representative Democracy Conference.

### 2012: Recalls and Recounts

The Wisconsin Wave and other key movement formations of the Wisconsin Uprising continued well beyond 2011, playing critical roles in efforts to safeguard from abuse the recall elections of state legislators and of Governor Walker. The Wave played a key role in pushing back against efforts the Democratic National Committee to end the recall drive against Scott Walker, and later, in the summer of 2012, organized a mass volunteer **hand recount and audit** of critical counties and districts in the gubernatorial recall election. The handcount found a variance of as much as 14% from official vote totals in particular jurisdictions, but was unable to demonstrate conclusively that the election had been stolen.

Later in 2012, Liberty Tree initiated and coordinated a third **No More Stolen Elections!** campaign, which, like that of 2008, produced Voter Assemblies in multiple communities and an accounting of widespread vote suppression and ballot manipulation, but no evidence of anything significant enough to alter the outcome of the presidential election itself.



### 2013: Shutting the Chamber, Convening the Movement

In 2013, Liberty Tree launched an effort to nationalize the Wisconsin's Wave's divestment organizing against Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce. From May 18-23th, in a joint effort by Liberty Tree and Operation Green Jobs, unemployed workers and their supporters marched 150 miles from Philadelphia to the headquarters of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Washington D.C.. There, they launched the national **Shut the Chamber! campaign**, demanding that businesses and local chambers of commerce across the country cut off all ties with the national Chamber. Support from small business owners across the country started to pour in. As one businesswoman put it, "The chamber does not represent consumers or small businesses, it only represents big corporate interests, which are anti democracy." Over the course of the next two years, the Shut the Chamber! campaign organized national days of action and a series of virtual marches against the Chamber modeled on the action by the Democratizing Education Network in 2006.

Later that Summer, August 7-11 of 2013, 740 people from 48 states and a dozen countries returned to Madison for the second **Democracy Convention**. This second convention involved the same conferences as the first, though some were renamed and reframed. Thus, in 2013, the nine conferences of the Democracy Convention were the Constitutional Reform Conference, Democratizing Defense Conference, Earth Democracy Conference, Economic Democracy Conference, Education for Democracy Conference, Community Democracy Conference, Media Democracy Conference, Race and Democracy Conference, and the Representative Democracy Conference.

One direct result of the Earth Democracy Conference at the Democracy Convention was the formation of a new coalition effort called the **Global Climate Convergence (GCC)**, sponsored by Liberty Tree's new **Climate Democracy** program. Since 2013, the GCC has coordinated annual Earth Day to May Day (April 22-May 1) mobilizations that bring together poor people's organizations, labor unions, farmer organizations, and student and community groups around the world. The goal of these mobilizations is to develop the networks, trust, and shared politics required to organize a **Global Cli-**



**mate Strike** intended to cause sufficient economic and political disruption to bring about the rapid transition to a democratic, socially just, renewable, and post-carbon economy.

### 2014: Converge for Climate

Over the weekend of September 19-21, the Global Climate Convergence (GCC) joined with System Change Not Climate Change (SCNCC) in bringing together over 3500 people for the **Converge for Climate** organizing conference "for People, Peace, and Planet Over Profit," in New York City. On Sunday, the 21st, the two coalitions (GCC and SCNCC) formed a large system change bloc at the 300,000 strong People's Climate March, the largest climate protest in world history.

### 2015: 10,000 for Democracy

Celebrating 10 year of "building a democracy movement for the U.S.A.," some of the U.S.A.'s leading activists and intellectuals launched **10,000 for Democracy**, a campaign to enlist 10,000 people as Liberty Tree members in the cause of building, "an unstoppable movement for deep systemic democratic change."

Also throughout 2015-2016, Liberty Tree joined the efforts of the Next System Project to organize **Next System Teach-Ins** on college campuses across the country. The largest of these teach-ins drew over 1500 students, faculty and staff to a three day event at the University of California, Santa Barbara and involved many key Liberty Tree staff, board members, fellows, and advisors.

# LIBERTY TREE'S ROOTS: Before 2004

Liberty Tree's approach to achieving social change is rooted in the long history of pro-democracy movements in the Americas, as well as the more recent anti-corporate, pro-democracy campaigns of the 1990s. For a discussion of the continuing importance of the movements and organizing of the 1990s, including the Democracy Teach-Ins and the Program on Corporations Law and Democracy, read two articles: *Seattle Uprising Still a Force in World Events, 15 Years Later* and *The Democratic Turn of the Century: Learning from the U.S. Democracy Movement*, both authored by Ben Manski.

The first planning meetings that led to the founding of Liberty Tree occurred in 1999, in the buildup to the protests against the World Trade Organization in Seattle. Over the next five years, some of those who were to become part of the first generation of Liberty Tree's leadership coordinated five projects:

1999: **The Olympia Round Meeting on Corporations and Democracy** took place December 3-5 at the campus of Evergreen State University immediately following the Battle in Seattle against the World Trade Organization (WTO). The Olympia Round was conceived as an alternative to the WTO's so-called "Seattle Round" meeting. It brought together 60 leading activists and media intellectuals from across North America. Much of the documentary film, *The Corporation*, was shot at the Olympia Round Meeting.

2001: **Democracy Summer** took place in the aftermath of the presidential election of 2000 in Tallahassee, Florida, June 17-23, as an organizing and training program for a new wave of voting rights and pro-democracy activists.

2002: **Cities for People!** was a national coalition of twenty seven community, youth, labor, religious, political, and other civic organizations dedicated to offering an alternative, democratic agenda for the nation's largest cities. Cities for People! organized mass demonstrations protesting corporate involvement in setting the priorities of the June, 2002, annual national meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. Cities for People! also organized a conference on progressive municipal policy as an alternative the official mayors' meeting. PIC

2002: **Community Power 2002: First International Conference on Local Democracy** drew participants from 25 states and six countries. Panelists described the lessons

of experiments in local democracy conducted in Montevideo (Uruguay), Porto Alegre (Brazil), Manchester (England), San Francisco, Arcata (CA), rural Pennsylvania, Hartford, and Madison. The purpose of this conference was to educate citizens, community leaders, and elected officials about groundbreaking initiatives in local democracy around the world, including participatory budgeting, Instant Run-off Voting (IRV), citizen town halls, and community-driven economic policy.

In the summer of 2004, Ben Manski incorporated Liberty Tree as a non-stock corporation in Madison, Wisconsin, organized and coordinated Liberty Tree's first project, the No Stolen Elections! campaign, and began approaching others about joining the Liberty Tree team. In 2005, Liberty Tree launched its website and issued the first edition of the Liberty Tree Journal.



## Executive Staff



### Timeka Drew, National Director

Timeka Drew is National Director of the Liberty Tree Foundation, a position she has served in since February of 2016. Previously she served as Liberty Tree's Communications Director and worked as lead organizer of the Global Climate Convergence. Timeka came to the Liberty Tree community via her work with the Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign (PPEHRC) and local democracy and good sovereignty organizing in Los Angeles and her hometown of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

## Liberty Tree Board of Directors



### Medea Benjamin, Director

Medea Benjamin is the co-founder of the creative women-led peace group CODEPINK and the international rights organization Global Exchange. A former economist and nutritionist with the United Nations and the World Health Organization, Medea has authored and edited eight books, with her latest being *Drone Warfare: Killing by Remote Control*. In 2010 she received the Martin Luther King Jr. Award for her peace activism and in June of 2005 she was one of 1,000 exemplary women from 140 countries nominated to receive the Nobel Peace Prize collectively.



### Karen Dolan, Director

Karen Dolan is a Fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies. Her public scholarship and activism has linked community-led organizations with policymakers at the local, state, and federal levels. The focus of her work is on anti-poverty issues, local democracy and empowerment, and peace. Some of Karen's publications include: *How to Fix it; Our Communities are Not for Sale; Paying the Price: the Mounting Costs of War in Iraq; and Foreign Policy Goes Local*.



### James Patrick Jordan, Director

James Jordan cut his political teeth in the anti-apartheid struggle in Chicago, where he was a member of the Clergy and Laity Concerned South Africa Task Force. Moving to Tucson in 1983, he became heavily involved in local anti-war, labor and environmental movements. Since 2007, he has been employed by the Alliance for Global Justice, where he focuses on program development, with particular focuses on AfGJ's Colombia Watch, Eco-Solidarity Project, and Respect for Democracy Campaign, as well as coalition work around prison and repression issues. He has written a number of articles over the years for progressive publications, including *TeleSur, Upside Down World, Counterpunch, Narco News, and Z Magazine*. He is a frequent speaker on college campuses and at conferences.



### Ben Manski, President

Ben Manski is a scholar, lawyer, and activist who has been committed to building a U.S. democracy movement since the early 1990s. He is president of the Liberty Tree Foundation, a strategy center he founded in 2004, a co-founder of Move to Amend, and an Associate Fellow with the Institute for Policy Studies. In 2010, Manski co-founded the Wisconsin Wave, which played a leading role in the Wisconsin uprising of 2011 and which continues today. In 2012, he managed the Jill Stein for President campaign; from 2001-2004 he served as co-chair of the Green Party of the United States. Manski is currently pursuing an advanced degree in sociology at the University of California, Santa Barbara.



### George Martin, Director

George Paz Martin, a peace and justice activist/educator currently serves as a Fellow at the Marquette U. Center for Peacemaking and on the Boards of the Liberty Tree Foundation and Peace Action Education Fund. A former Co-Chair of United for Peace & Justice and Program Director of Peace Action WI, he has been a delegate to the World Peace Council, World Social Forum and an NGO delegate to the United Nations. Martin has been honored with lifetime activist's awards from the WI Network for Peace & Justice and the Foundation for a United Front, with the Peace & Justice Studies Association's Social Courage Award and for international work for peace by the tribe of his roots in Ghana as a chief with the name "Nii Adjetye."



### Suren Moodliar, Vice President

Suren Moodliar founded and helps coordinate encuentro 5 - a "movement-building space" in Boston. He is also a coordinator of Massachusetts Global Action and several of its projects including the Majority Agenda Project, the Color of Water, and the Du Bois Forum. Previously he was a coordinator of the North American Alliance for Fair Employment and served as the program coordinator of the Boston Social Forum. He has a background in union and immigrant organizing. His writing has focused on the World Social Forum and networks as agencies and spaces for social change.



### Leland Pan, Secretary Treasurer

Leland Pan is an activist, labor organizer, and Dane County Board Supervisor. A student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison from 2010 to 2014, Leland was heavily involved in the 2011 Wisconsin uprising. Building on his extensive experience organizing around student, labor, and racial justice issues, Leland successfully ran for a seat on the Dane County Board of Supervisors in 2012, and represents a majority student district. He was reelected to a second term in 2014.



### Nancy Price, Director

Nancy Price is currently Co-chair of the Alliance for Democracy working to realize AfD's mission to build a populist movement to end corporate domination, establish true democracy and build a just society with a sustainable and equitable economy. She edits and writes for AfD's Justice Rising magazine. She is also a founding member of the National Election Integrity Coalition, on the Leadership Team of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom's new Earth Democracy Issue Group, and writes for WILPF's Peace & Freedom magazine. Nancy has been an active leader of Liberty Tree's Global Climate Convergence since its inception.



### Jill Stein, Director

Jill Stein is a mother, physician, pioneering environmental-health advocate, and longtime Massachusetts resident, who began advocating for the environment as a human health issue in 1998. She worked to pass Massachusetts's Clean Election Law referendum, later repealed by the legislature. Recognized for leadership in successful campaigns for a healthy environment, she accepted the call in 2002 to run for MA Governor and later for State Representative and Secretary of State under the Green-Rainbow Party banner. Dr. Stein was the 2012 Green Party presidential nominee and today leads the Green Shadow Cabinet. Dr. Stein also continues to play a pivotal role in the development of Liberty Tree's Global Climate Convergence, which she helped found in 2013. Note: As of February, 2015, Jill Stein is on leave from the Liberty Tree Board of Directors as she pursues election to the presidency of the United States.



### Victor Wallis, Director

Victor Wallis teaches in the Liberal Arts department at the Berklee College of Music and is managing editor of the journal Socialism and Democracy. His articles on ecology and politics have also appeared in Monthly Review, Capitalism Nature Socialism, Organization & Environment, New Political Science, International Critical Thought, and the Historical-Critical Dictionary of Marxism, and have been translated into twelve languages.

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Howard Zinn was a member of our board of advisors until his passing in 2010 and remains an inspiration to us all on Liberty Tree's mission.