

# Building Democracy in Western Mass

Hosted by Shays 2: Western Mass Committee on Corporations and Democracy  
*A participatory two-day retreat on shifting power from corporations to citizens  
in the Pioneer Valley & Berkshires*

**September 16 - 17, 2006** (Saturday morning 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)

(\*\*Included as an optional part of our retreat schedule is the folk concert in Northampton on Sat. night by SI KAHN, author of "The Fox in the Henhouse: How Privatization Threatens Democracy"\*\*)

## 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. Kaitlin is an inspiring young democracy organizer who has built a national reputation as speaker and workshop facilitator.

**Ward Morehouse:** Shays 2 (Western Mass Cmtee on Corporations and Democracy); POCLAD (Program on Corporations, law and Democracy)  
Co-founder of Shays 2 and co-founder of **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 organizers, communities, and independent businesses in this area. 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.



**Fees for Retreat:** Sliding Scale :: Both Days: \$75 to \$125 :: One Day: \$50 to \$100

Fees include materials, the book *Defying Corporations, Defining Democracy*, and snacks and lunches on Saturday and Sunday. Meals are organic, vegetarian. Overnight accommodations available for an additional \$25 to \$50 per night (including breakfast on Sunday)

**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.

## For more information or to register:

Email: [info@shays2.org](mailto:info@shays2.org)

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