Issue

"First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win."

Mahatma Gandhi Tuesday, December 31, 2013

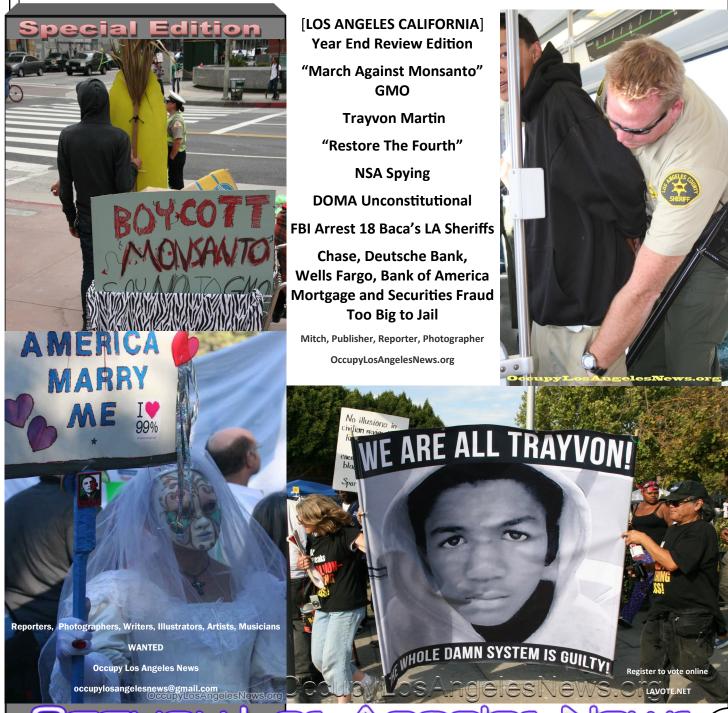
## **OCCUPY**



# LOS ANGELES NEWS

OCCUPY LA MEDIA NEWS

TOP PHOTOS & STORIES OF 2013



<sup>'</sup>Issu**e** 

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[LOS ANGELES CALIFORNIA] Undoubtedly some of the biggest news stories of 2013 were

- ....1). A Florida trial over the 2012 killing of an unarmed teenager Trayvon Martin (black) by an armed man named George Zimmerman (white) a neighborhood watchman. Zimmerman claimed he felt threatened by Martin when he confronted the teen who was heading home after purchasing a can of iced tea and bag of "Skittles" candy from a local store. Zimmerman used Florida's "stand your ground" law successfully before a jury of his "peers." This law passed in Florida and elsewhere was funded by ALEC (American Legislative Exchange Council) a Koch Brothers and corporate sponsored political organization...
- .....2). Mortgage, securities, and lending fraud was proven to be part of the practice of major banks like JP Morgan Chase, Deutsche Bank, Wells Fargo, and Bank of America. Each paid fines totaling billions of dollars for their fraudulent and illegal activities yet few went to prison. Too big to jail...
- ....3). The sweeping indictment by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) of 18 of Sheriff Lee Baca's Los Angeles County deputies. The Feds concluded Baca's department had an "institutionalized" level of corruption which included deputies moving one prisoner from one county jail to another then the deputies changed the inmate's electronic computer records to say he had been released from custody. Equally disturbing were the FBI's charges which claimed Baca's sheriffs physically beat some visitors to the County jails. They even detained and arrested an Austrian diplomat and his wife who were visiting an Austrian national who was being held at the jail...
- ....4). Rallies took place across Los Angeles and Orange County to protest police brutality and shootings in places like Hawthorne, Oxnard, Torrance, Anaheim, Riverside and Fullerton where its city's police beat a mentally ill man named Kelly Thomas to death. Thomas was heard calling for his "dad" during his final pleas for his life...

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#### [LOS ANGELES CALIFORNIA] (continued)

- ....5). The highly successful "March against Monsanto" rally downtown Los Angeles attracted over 1000 activists opposed to genetically modified foods (GMOs) and the harmful effects which they claim GMOs have on the body...
- ....6). President Obama's signature "Obamacare" or Affordable Healthcare Act became the law of the United States of America. Affordable Care Act signups began October 1, 2013 @ healthcare.gov. Up through 2013 millions of citizens could be dropped from their insurance plans or denied coverage completely because of what the insurance industry called pre-existing conditions. These pre-existing conditions included things such as a prior pregnancy, past mental health and alcohol treatment, prior treatment or diagnosis for diseases such as high blood pressure, diabetes and cancer. The new Affordable Healthcare Act allow families to keep their children up to the age of 25 on their family plans. Millions of people that didn't have care or adequate insurance at the beginning of 2013 will have it going forward thanks to the Affordable Healthcare Act beginning in 2014. Health care for all is a mainstay demand from Occupy LA and Occupy Wall Street and this law does not deliver that at all. Yet the new law does open more access to insurance-for-profit agencies and requires these agencies to focus more on providing access to healthcare, disease preventative measures and overall consumer benefits rather than, as they did in the past, almost exclusively on profits...
- ....7). A "Restore the Fourth Amendment" rally saw hundreds of Los Angeleans gather at Pershing Square Park to protest the United States Government's use of the National Security Agency's (NSA) spying techniques described by Edward Snowden the former Booz Allen Hamilton federal government contractor who exposed the United States' rampant email and phone spying program...

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#### [LOS ANGELES CALIFORNIA] (continued)

- ...8). The fall of DOMA or the Defense of Marriage Act was monumental in that it advanced civil rights and liberties for lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender (LGBT) Americans. DOMA was signed into law in 1996 by William Jefferson Clinton and its downfall in 2013 was a historical pivot in 21st Century American society. In particular LGBT married couples can no longer be federally discriminated against because of the person they love and to whom they are married. A conservative controlled U.S. Supreme court concluded DOMA was unconstitutional because it violated the rights of same sex couples legally married in states where same sex marriage is lawful. These couples, the court found, are entitled to the same federal benefits and inheritance rights as other opposite sex couples under the U.S. Constitution's equal protection and liberty clause...
- ....9). The demise of Marijuana laws in the states of Washington and Colorado. Both states made the sale, purchase, and use of marijuana for recreational purposes legal beginning January 1, 2014...
- ....10). Include your own top 10 event here...

The photography Occupy Los Angeles News took over the course of the past year reflected the mood of many people living here in Southern California and across the nation. Please enjoy this 2013 contemplative series and feel free to forward to your friends, colleagues, fellow activists and anyone else you please.

We are Occupy Los Angeles News, Occupy LA, and we reserve the right to occupy the news wherever it may occur this year and beyond.

Mitch. Reporter, Photographer, Publisher. Occupy Los Angeles News - occupylosangelesnews.org

There is always room in media for one more voice....we welcome yours at Occupy Los Angeles News.

**Happy New Year!** 

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