

## Justice Rising

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**JUSTICE RISING** is a publication of **the Alliance for Democracy**, whose mission is to end the domination of our politics, our economics, the environment, and our culture by large corporations. The Alliance seeks to establish true economic and political democracy and to create a just society with a sustainable, equitable economy.

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**John Fadeff**, cover maestro for this issue of *Justice Rising*, is a multi-talented print artist, book illustrator, painter and animator living in San Francisco. His animation of Ralph Branca's lament after throwing the losing pitch to Bobby Thompson, who hit

the home run heard around the World, can be seen at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=QozDkplns-Q](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QozDkplns-Q) You can also see John discuss his recent art opening in Madeira, Portugal at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=pe9USndKhNs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pe9USndKhNs) He is now putting together a website of his art and creativity, which will be ready soon.

# Justice Rising

by Jim Tarbell



The world is on the move. People are making changes in our economic system that will be necessary to live on our planet in a peaceful and sustainable future. Each one of us has to seize the moment and get on board the Solidarity Economy Express.

In Appalachia, where the natural resources have been extracted and the society has been left in poverty, people are climbing on board and creating a new resilient economy. According to Anthony Flaccoveto in his article "Appalachia in Transition" in *Solutions Journal* "there is a new culture emerging in Appalachia and the nation, one focused on restoring connections between farm and table and utilizing the market to create ecologically healthy rural economies. This sustainable Appalachian economy is emerging through the efforts of several key entrepreneurial non-profit organizations and hundreds of small businesses in food and farming, forest management and wood products, energy efficiency and green building, and other sectors. These enterprises use asset-based strategies, building on the ecological, cultural, and human strengths of the region. They are developing cooperative networks to overcome isolation and problems of scale, and cultivating self-reliance and community wealth."

On an industrial level, Gar Alperovitz (see pages 8-9) notes that "the nascent Cleveland effort points to the possibility of an important new strategic approach. It is one in which economic policy related to activities heavily financed by the public is used to create, and give stability to enterprises that are more democratically owned, and to target jobs to communities in distress." He then goes on to declare that a whole new industrial economy could be built to deliver the mass transit infrastructure that will be needed as the world's fossil fuels are depleted.

There needs to also be a transition in our lives, which Japanese scholar Norihiro Kato calls the "new maturity." In the wake of decades of economic recession, he now sees in Japan "a new breed of youngster: the nonconsumer. Japanese in their late teens and early 20s do not have cars. They don't drink alcohol. They don't spend Christmas Eve with their boyfriends or girlfriends at fancy hotels downtown the way earlier generations did... These are the Japanese who came of age after the bubble, never having known Japan as a flourishing economy. They are accustomed to being frugal... They seem not to feel the urge to grow outward. Look, they say, 'Japan is a small country. And we're okay with small'... Japan now seems to stand at the vanguard of a new downsizing movement, leading the way for countries bound sooner or later to follow in its wake. In a world whose limits are increasingly apparent, Japan and its youth, old beyond their years, may well reveal what it is like to outgrow growth."

It is time for all Americans to also have a new maturity about our culture and our lives. We have to support the movement for a new Solidarity Economy. We have to think about our money: What is it doing? Does it have to move around so fast? Can it provide more benefit for the world if it moves slowly? Is it better to have it in a credit union or a community bank than in a transnational financial conglomerate? We have to think about what we are buying and the effects of its production, packaging and transportation on all living things and the planet. We must channel our purchasing dollars to support enterprises that fit into the Solidarity Economy. We also have to think about the impacts of working in a system where "fair is foul and foul is fair." Can we change that into a system where "fair is fair and foul is foul?" In a world of decreasing consumption, increasing automation and a dwindling of jobs, are we willing to work less, earn less and consume less? Are we ready to outgrow growth and achieve a new maturity that will ensure that humans, other plants and animals and our planet will survive together in a bountiful future? The time has come for us all to become part of the Solidarity Economy.