

**2007-2008  
Sidney Lezak Fellow**

First Lezak Fellow George Zaninnovich worked as a Team member of the Bridges Planning Group with city of Vernonia citizens to create and implement a vision for the city. They published the [Vernonia Vision 2020 Plan](#) (PDF, 14MB).



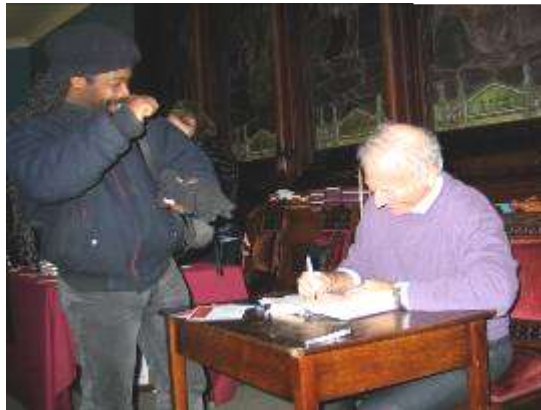
**Vernonia Vision 2020 Plan**



**Vernonia, Oregon-early morning January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020**

*Rain falls on Douglas firs perched on hilltops, looking down into the Upper Nehalem Valley and the confluence of Rock Creek and the Nehalem River. The waterways are swollen and seem to be rising as the morning turns from black to grey. The fields where the schools used to be are waterlogged wetlands, like a towel tub-side diverting the splashing overflow from spilling into town. Buildings and houses are set back from the riverbanks, and as the water rises it flows into the lowlands. These riparian areas will soak up the excess and keep the town safe. Smoke winds upwards out of chimneys, toward the treetops and the saturated sky. The town sleeps.*

*Just outside of Vernonia's downtown a few blocks off Bridge Street, where the cafes and bakeries are enticing the early risers with the scent of black brewed coffee and warm cinnamon buns, fluorescent lights beam out of the wall-sized windows of the new school's common space. A young teacher, who just moved to Vernonia with his wife and daughter to teach the renewable energy unit of the high school science curriculum, is working out the kinks of the wind-energy storage system to be built with a group of seniors. He walks to the windows and stands staring, hands on hips pondering the decision to relocate his family to Vernonia. The school, the downtown, the people, the commitment to the community's future leads to thoughts of his daughter sleeping soundly, securely beyond his reflection in the glass. This is her town, her future.*



**2007-2008  
Lezak Lecture Series**  
John McKay, former US Attorney for Western Washington Speaks out about firing of US Attorneys  
June 2007  
  
Andy Stern, SEIU President  
*America: A Country of Greed or Greatness?*  
January 2008  
  
Coming soon... Watch for 2008-2009 Lecture Schedule



ABOVE: Lezak Project past-Chair John Russell speaks with Andy Stern and Secretary of State Kate Brown before Stern's talk. LEFT: Stern signs copies of his recent book, *A Country That Works*.



LEFT: The Sidney Lezak Project co-sponsored [Jared Bernstein](#), PhD, author of *Crunch: Why do I Feel So Squeezed? (And Other Unsolved Economic Mysteries)*. He spoke at Portland State University April 2008.



ABOVE: Susan Hammer and Barnes Ellis co-hosted a screening of the documentary *King Corn* followed by dinner at Susan's. Susan is chair of the newly formed Lezak Project's Advisory Committee. Barnes is a member of the Advisory Committee. His son Curt Ellis who co-produced and starred in the film, joined the group for the post-film discussion and dinner. July 2008

RIGHT: Maya Wiley, Founder & Director for the [Center for Social Inclusion](#), spoke at the 2008 Regional Livability Summit which was co-hosted by the Sidney Lezak Project in May.



▶ Co-Sponsored Jared Bernstein for PSU's *What's The Big Idea?* Free Lecture Series  
 ▶ Co-Hosted the 2008 Regional Livability Summit with Coalition for a Livable Future  
 ▶ Hosted Screening of *King Corn* and a discussion with Curt Ellis, the documentary's co-producer and star  
 Upcoming Activities:  
 2008 Gun Violence Conference [Cease Fire Oregon](#), September 10, 2008  
**Watch for Developments & Save the Dates!**  
**Sidney Lezak Institute, Camp Westwind, August 24-28, 2009**