



Terese Agnew poses with her quilt at the art museum during the PBS filming by director Carol Sauvion (right).

PBS threads together Agnew's art, intellect

By Dominique Paul Noth, Editor, Milwaukee Labor Press

A PBS crew landed in Milwaukee November 9 not just to ooh and ahh as everyone does over the Milwaukee Art Museum or dine in its scenic Café Calatrava, which of course they did.

It was mainly to shine a spotlight on a Milwaukee artist, now set up with her family in a rural studio in western Wisconsin. Her concern about society joined with her creativity with needle, fabric, thread and diverse material may not have brought in much money or household fame. But it has brought acclaim, reflected in the national TV recognition.

It started with headlines in 1985 when the UWM student leapt into controversy and attention by installing a 30 foot Fiberglass sculpture dragon on Milwaukee's Gothic castle-like water tower at North Ave. and Lake Drive.

Terese Agnew has been slaying proverbial dragons since with highly detailed quilts and penetrating conscience exploring the disconnect from people in corporate and societal behavior. She was being interviewed for Episode 8 of the Peabody award-winning "Craft in America" series to be aired next spring. The first seven episodes celebrating craft artists are already available on DVD and online.

Agnew, a generation younger than the three other established names, will be featured in "Threads" directed by apparently tireless creator of the "Craft" TV series, director Carol Sauvion, who led the film team. In Milwaukee, Agnew has often linked her individual fabric art and public landscape creations with intellectual revelation about such social concerns as worker injustice and disregard for our surroundings and the world that sustains us.

That combination of art and message is subtly reflected in the quilt owned by the art museum and brought out for the PBS filming. For "The D.O.T. Straightens Things Out," Agnew stitched an image of an intact forest and then cut the whole thing up to accommodate a road grid.

Her labor activism has been visible daily since 1995 to downtown Milwaukee pedestrians. She and landscape artist Mary Zebell won the commission from Milwaukee County and the Milwaukee Area Labor Council to design a tribute to workers injured or killed on the job, honored every April 28 in a ceremony. The design used hundreds of skilled workers (sheet metal leader Marc Nordberg donated tools from his father, who died from work-related injuries).

This Workers Memorial design turned the park between 3rd and 4th at Michigan St. into Zeidler Union Square Park. It embedded common labor tools in reconstructing a central gazebo. Chains lining the

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OH, WI, US - BIG MOJO!

By Dominique Paul Noth, Editor, Labor Press

The United States' first step back to sanity took place November 8 -- most prominently in Ohio but also from Maine to Mississippi.

Many believe Wisconsin started it all with energy in Madison and now the country is returning the favor.

Citizens left and right have clearly had it with seeing their families served up as piñatas to extremist attacks on the middle class., so they are moving to wipe away the gains of a rabid minority in 2010 and exercise the powers of common sense.

The next target on the road to balance is back home, the recall of Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker. But that Nov. 8 Tuesday brought the first strike in the public's coming of age -- refuting the ideas of Ohio's Gov. John Kasich, who tried to strip -- nearly eliminate - bargaining rights of public workers.

He went further than Wisconsin's Act 10 by including police and fire. But that was not the key difference. Ability to respond was. Wisconsin voters had no opportunity to ask for a do-over. Ohio's determined voters did and Nov. 8 they struck back in a referendum by voting "no" before Kasich's law could go into effect.

It wasn't close - as night's count ending, the vote against the Kasich plan was 61%, also sinking him

lower in the polls, undercutting his political support and forcing his Republican legislature to go back to the drafting table. More people voted "no" in Ohio than voted in 2010 to elect Kasich.

Expect that vote to be explained away by the right as the power of union money, which suggests they are still angry that the left almost balanced their considerable coffers. But it was much more than a union victory, though clearly the unions were motivated and many came in from states like Wisconsin to support the effort. The numbers and areas of victory, both industrial and agricultural, reveal that this was the will of the people, involving far more than the private sector union workers and 350,000 public sector union workers.

It was citizens of all stripes and backgrounds on the march - retirees, students, business owners, shop workers, all sensing that cutting into any workers' modest take-home pay was not a believable step to fixing the economy and was clearly a massive fabrication of the state's fiscal issues.

The loss of anyone's right to bargain, the lies about the size of state budget - all that may have driven the unions but it clearly resonated with a larger community that found Kasich's approach ludi-

Ohio, continued Page 8



Recall Walker occupied Occupy Milwaukee even as the purpose was demanding more jobs in that march Oct. 29 down Capitol Drive to the abandoned site of manufacturing dynamism at 34th St., all under the coordinated eyes of abundant and courteous police and deputy sheriffs.

Nuts, bolts, bluntness as Recall heats up

The clock started ticking Nov. 15. Events and rallies have been piling up since, while skeptics keep harping on no big-name opponent to reassure independents.

But those independents seem to be signing petitions almost as readily as union workers and Democrats. The days are long past when Recall Walker relied on who would replace him - the realization throughout the state is it's high time somebody did.

Even GOP spokesmen concede the issue is no longer the minimal threshold of 540,260

signatures by Jan. 17, 2012, but how many more will be collected.

Unions and bargaining rights may have spurred the early protests, but it's a lot bigger now. All those GOP governors' retreats back to the baron age has caused rethinking around the nation.

You can still find some resistance to the concept of recall. The concept, maybe. But not the target in Wisconsin.

Granted, it remains an effort to maintain civility in talking about Walker and his policies.

But the flip side is that Walker's thumb in the public eyes has wiped away any sense of shyness. "Walker's own actions are removing hesitations," one Republican corporate attorney conceded. Another angry traditionalist, an official in a rural community, sourly described the Madison legislature as "the gift that keeps on giving - to the Democrats."

Here's another change - much less scoffing in the general media about recalls being a desperate weapon of last resort. Of

Recall continued Page 6

Civic leaders pound on

By **Dominique Paul Noth**
Editor, Labor Press

Gov. Walker's concluded "special session" didn't address the economy by all accounts though the legislature was supposed to focus laser-

like on creating jobs. But it turned into a comedy of false premises and an exercise in medieval social mores. Just another farce. Its one success was to further convince Wisconsin to move quickly and

even radically to undo the disaster allowed back in 2010.

"It's not that I support the Recall Walker movement," noted Wisconsin native and nationally known columnist and TV presence John Nichols, an outspoken and ferocious champion of the "Fighting Bob La Follette" heritage.

"It's that I can hardly wait!"

In a thunderous speech Oct 27 before hundreds packed into the Potawatomi Woodland Dreams Ballroom for the 10th anniversary gala of Voces de la Frontera, Nichols pulled no punches, bringing the crowd to its feet with a flamboyant detailed recitation of the state's current horror show.

"Walker is an economic failure. Walker is an ethical failure. Walker is a moral failure," said Nichols in his crescendo building attack, each element supported by facts.

Economics? Aside from heading in the negative direction by several thousand in his promise to create 250,000 jobs, Walker took a state under a Democratic governor with a much lower unemployment rate

than the national average, about 7.2%, and headed the other way, in large part through his policies and "scorched earth" attitude. Even as the US economy is doing somewhat better, and all the adjacent states are doing better, unemployment here has climbed to near 8%.

That underscores how hard it is for local officials and corporations to attract families to live here given the extremist policies that go against the advice of even law enforcement experts, given how teachers are being treated, given how average government debt is blown up into a crisis. All are points Nichols and other speakers and award recipients made at the event.

The ethical failure is apparent in news stories about how many people who worked with Walker, were hired by Walker or gave money to Walker are under investigation for campaign finance abuse, corruption, dubious financial practices and in some cases authorities aren't saying for what.

Two years ago, you could find Nation columnist Nichols recording how he hoped for nicer things from the Walker he knew in earlier days. But his eyes opened and now he blasts the Walker who once preached his churchgoing roots and values.

"He's betrayed the basic tenets of Wisconsin principles and forward movement," said Nichols, citing case after case of the governor's mistreatment or disinterest in the plight of citizens under his care — and his abandonment of the basic traditions of fair dealing and humane concern the state was long famous for. And that is the moral failure.



John Nichols draws cheers at the Voces de la Frontera gala.

If you think Nichols was being hard on the governor, you should hear what legislators say about him and his followers - and that includes many who still pride themselves on bipartisanship and are savaged by the obdurate left for still believing in compromise and negotiation.

"Even citizens concerned about politics can't keep up with every strange bill these folks introduce," said state Sen. Chris Larson in a speech Nov. 1 at the opening of the Organizing for America (the Obama OFA) office on Milwaukee St. Such a politically involved audience almost couldn't believe the litany of what Walker and his troops were stampeding through in Madison under the guise of job creation. "You're not expected to keep up, that's my job," joked Larson.

"Backing off when faced with facts is clearly not Gov. Walker's style, and frankly he can't even seem to control his own flunkies," one angry legislator told me.

Another, Democratic Rep. Fred Kessler, a former judge and self-described partisan who still

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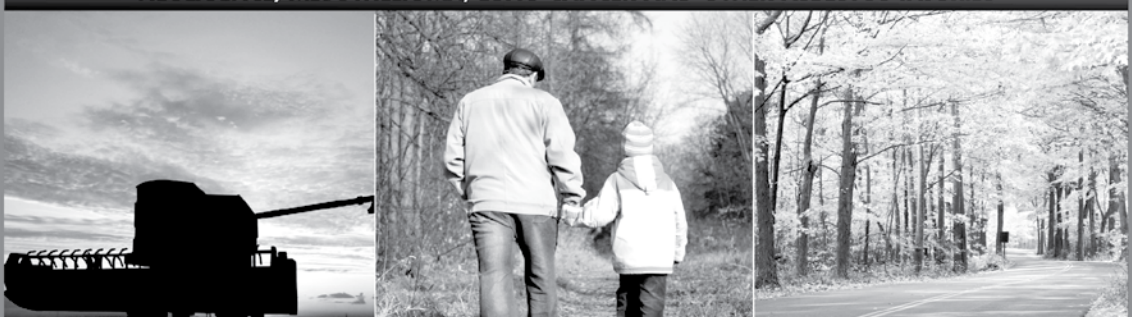
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Walker's policy failures

From Page 2

believes in manners and conversation, can't quite fathom how extreme the other side of the aisle has become and "how they just won't listen." Even as the Assembly passed a bill that would routinely excuse deadly force against an unarmed interloper, Kessler wondered aloud why a special session on jobs was "not dealing with jobs. I am deeply troubled."

His concern is revealed in a busily downloaded YouTube video now at tinyurl.com/44urw6o -- an unbelievable sequence when the Assembly GOP sent officers into the gallery under the glowering eye of GOP Rep. Joel Kleefisch to remove quiet protesters because they had statements of concern hanging around their necks - even as the GOP barred video cameras and approved carrying concealed guns in the gallery!

Free will? It has been muffled by exaggerations about free enterprise. Gun rights and protecting babies are pounded out so hard and so often and with so little connection to the facts that the goal seems to be scaring children along with the grownups. Milwaukee DA John Chisholm called this entire storm and raging "a solution in search of a problem."



Sen. Larson Nov. 1 at OFA.

It's not just concealed carry, requiring every shop and church to post signs if they want to keep guns out. It's not only the curious effort to discriminate against everyone sent to prison over two centuries, by letting employers reject any former felon without reason. It's not just shooting unarmed visitors without genuine consequence. (Larson quips this bill should be named "Kill the Milkman" or "Death of a Salesman.")

One of the largest casualties called out by Rep. Sandy Pasch is women, denied access to health care and family planning services.

It's not just weakening women's rights, environmental standards and lowering qualifications for school nurses or forcing Family Care waiting lists and bizarre income tests or



Rev. Willie Brisco

promised support for unilateral wage freezes on state workers that allow cronies and political toadies to operate unchecked.

What tops off the growing disgust is the pretense that any of this has anything to do with creating jobs. Few citizens anymore are taken in by the notion that businesses only hoard profits because the government is in the way of their normal beneficence. Every day more and more understand that it is not regulations that are holding down growth in jobs but old-fashioned greed and covetousness, furthered by Walker policies and tactics.

As the president of MICA (churches allied for hope), the Rev. Willie Brisco, notes with blunt humor, "We all know there's only one thing that trickles down."



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Wednesday, December 7

Special Town Hall
 Open meeting for community to discuss Recall Walker, sign petitions or apply for training.
 6:30 p.m., Serb Hall, 5101 W. Oklahoma Ave.

Friday, December 16

Holiday Open House
 Milwaukee Are Labor Council's annual holiday get-together with refreshments, guests but mainly all union members.
 Noon to 4 p.m. Yatchak Hall, 633 S. Hawley Rd.

Wednesday, January 11

Delegate Meeting
 6:30 p.m., Serb Hall, 5101 W. Oklahoma Ave.

Strange times, when Obama has to thank GOP for doing right thing for veterans

Perhaps it's civility to send a thank you note for doing the obviously right thing, but it is sort of embarrassing when the president of the United States feels forced to issue a press release complimenting the Senate Republicans for doing the obvious - approve tax credits to companies that hire unemployed veterans.

Why thank people for an obvious slam dunk? The GOP stubbornly at first rejected this because it was part of Obama's job initiatives act. Bending was the first tiny break in the intractable dam against anything that benefits Obama, The vote Nov. 10 was near unanimous - and that alone shocked media pundits used to partisan gridlock - and perhaps another small sign that electorate disgust may indeed be changing the Republican stance.

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End of Frontier seen as bamboozle from start

By **Dominique Paul Noth**
Editor, Labor Press

Comment

The MMAC swooned over a CEO on a white horse come to rescue our town damsel in distress in late 2009. Bryan Bedford of Republic Airways Holdings announced he would turn bankrupt Frontier Airlines into the new Midwest Airlines - abandoning long-respected Midwest's name, to be sure, in favor of Frontier's more dubious one, but using Milwaukee as a co-hub, save 800 jobs here and add or transfer 800 more.

Few industry insiders could make that math work, but city, state and business leaders sure did in fulsome press conferences. MMAC sought Bedford for its board, touted Republic Airways as a salvation, basked as he announced more routes, beamed at renaming the downtown convention center from Midwest to Frontier and dismissed as marketing talk when Bedford derided Milwaukee as a business destination for air travel.

Investigating the old Midwest and its veteran employees who were vanishing under these buyout strategies, talking to analysts who watch this volatile industry replete with mergers and deal-making, I was hardly alone in questioning the numbers and Republic's actual motives.

Frontier chugged along with smaller planes, less skilled crews, soggy Internet service and a game approach to low-cost service. Yes, the chocolate chip cookies were poor imitations of the old Midwest, the animal-laden TV commercials were just weird, the layoffs and route cuts continued, but maybe this was just another well-meant business gamble despite the evidence to the contrary. Maybe it wasn't what the most cynical said -

from the start a deal to provide golden parachutes to departing Midwest executives, a financial game to acquire more routes, equipment and cheaper personnel to create a favorable low-cost buyout in the future, a series of maneuvers to dump Milwaukee while pretending to love the place.

Bigger media seemed uninterested in what had happened and Bedford and Republic sure had a lock on the public relations machinery, with business journalists profiling his family and religious beliefs and CBS' "Undercover Boss" featuring him even as he laid off more workers and cut more routes. And hey, he did clean airline seats for the TV camera.

Did you hear a big thud in November? Did the coin finally drop for the media? Republic will unload Frontier by 2012 if it can find a buyer. It will remove Milwaukee as a co-hub with Denver, emanate 80% of its capacity from there, cut routes here in half and eliminate 333 Milwaukee jobs at mach speed - 213 in early November and the rest in early January.

Rather than seek to preserve its shrinking lion's share at General Mitchell Airport, parent Republic concedes the growth to a variety of better heeled and better operated competitors and fleets, including AirTran now owned by Southwest Airlines.

Well-run Mitchell will endure the ups and downs of the industry. But few expect any buyers for Frontier, just asset sales, and none think its operations will be based in Milwaukee.

The end game sure seems typical. Local businesses

embraced Bedford and Republic just as Wall Street companies, several now defunct, embraced default swaps and bundled bad mortgages, just as it was prominent investors most quickly sucked in by Bernie

Madoff.

Somehow the public quickly forgets all this. It sits silent while MMAC pretends its schemes on education and government finances are best, and that citizens should also

buy its machinations to lift the city out of the very poverty and stagnant wages that its own attitudes helped create. It's the flashiest people who are most successful in conning you to buy the Brooklyn Bridge.

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Recall

From Page 1

course, historically it's true that recalls were usually the rarely rational instrument of the angry right upset about taxes. That past along with cowardice may explain the Journal Sentinel "plague on all your houses" edi-

torial last June that it would not back any side in a recall election no matter the issues. (We shall see.)

The times have brought validation to recalls that stem from process flaws in the regular electoral calendar.

- Slow response or none at all to genuine injury.

- Big money hijacking values in scheduled elections.
- Opposition silenced by majority rules and legal tightrope walking.

All this had led to a profusion of successful recalls not just in Wisconsin, where it weakened the GOP power in the state senate, but in Michigan and even Arizona. Events once again have made the editorialists look out of step with technology.

And all the pressures for change in American priorities do intersect. While United Wisconsin has said it will not supply its bank of 200,000 Recall Walker names to the senate recall efforts, that doesn't mean many of those recalls won't be married to the main fever. Already named as targets by Voces de La Frontera and teachers' unions: Racine's Van Wanggaard (District 21) and northwest Wisconsin's Terry Moulton (23) and Pat Galloway (29). All replaced Democrats in 2010.

Organizers also say they are prepared to respond if separate petitions are deemed necessary against Lt. Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch. After Dec. 1 some citizens may also be circulating nomination papers for sympathetic area candidates in the non-partisan April election with recall

Recall Town Hall announced

Noted Milwaukee Area Labor Council Secretary-Treasurer Sheila Cochran, "We have ONE candidate. Scott Walker. And he has got to go. All he's left us is the right to fight!"

Mindful of the rules - unions in their offices or official capacities cannot conduct recall signups, though every citizen can become involved - Cochran announced that the council will forgo its monthly meeting in December. Instead, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday December 7 at American Serb Hall, 5101 W. Oklahoma Ave., will be given over to a free open meeting for the entire community.

Recall Walker will be the central topic Notices are going out to unions, the jobless coalitions, Citizen Action Wisconsin, Occupy the Hood and other community groups, all invited to pack the place - and sign the abundant petitions available.

petitions in tow for both Walker and area senators. As long as each is handled separately it can be done by the same person.

"It all works together," noted one local candidate, who expects to pull some street power from all these movements and also give some street power back.

"I think the recall movement will benefit from our presence," said a marshal for the Occupy Milwaukee events. In fact, Recall Walker signs and slogans have become a hefty part of that movement.

The Occupy movement, the call for jobs from churches and community coalitions, the Obama groundswell in the state, the veterans and peace groundswell, the employment groundswell, the economic data groundswell are all coming to a point and Walker is that point.

Even conservative communities are grasping that he is sending their schools and municipalities underwater, with no way to "tighten your belts" unless you chop out your stomach.

Recall centers are setting up all over the state and experts are prepared to deflect some nonsense that Walker backers keep attempting, such as fake IDs and

petitions. But Milwaukee is still key to the action.

United Wisconsin has its own office at 2604 N. Booth St. Recall Walker offices are staffed 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. with weekday hours at 7984 W. Appleton Ave. and 3208 W. National Ave. in Milwaukee and at 1370 S. 74th St. in West Allis. Cell phones and Internet connections and centralized sites like www.unitedwisconsin.com and wisdems.org spread the news around the state. -- D.P.N.

Labor wall calendar offered by delegate

Solidarity Forever, the 2012 labor history wall calendar, is indeed the best of a three decade lot created by the Wobblies (IWW), with historical dates and striking photos from 1919 to Madison in 2011.

Gerry Gunderson, both an IWW and USW member, showed it to impressed fellow MALC delegates in November and revealed that he was serving as discount middleman, \$10, for any union office or home office that wanted one. Contact him at (414) 545-5789 or gergun1@wi.rr.com.

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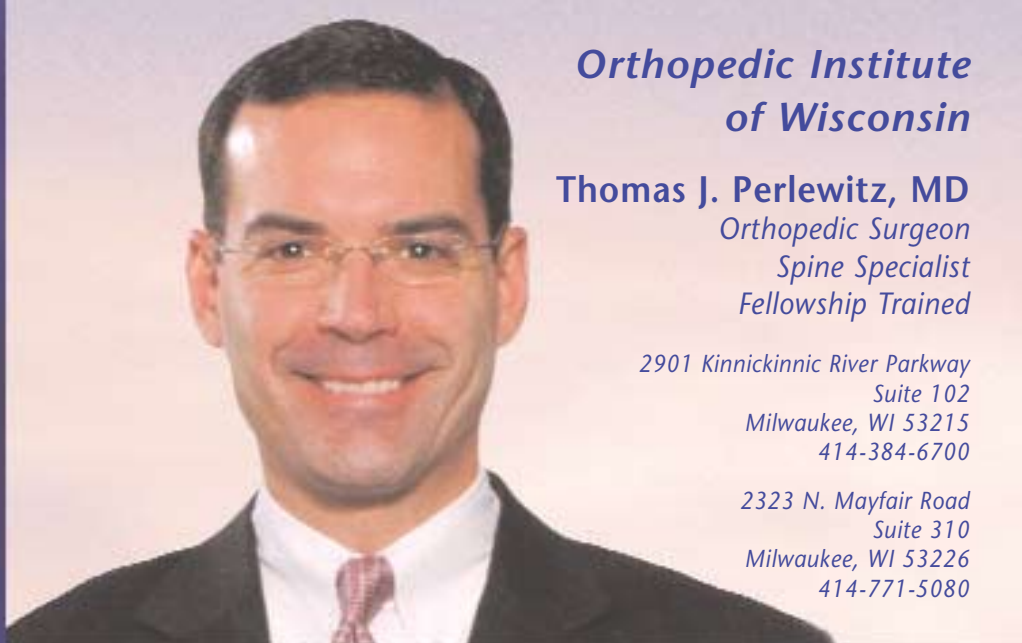
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Agnew

From Page 1

pathways bear historic union sayings and milestones. Laborfest and the Memorial Day parade take off from this park, and so did Occupy Milwaukee.

Agnew laughingly recalled during the PBS shoot that while the traditional worker tools and gears are still in regular use and probably always will be, she knew that the desk phone and computer she stole from her own home were the items that would look most outdated a mere 16 years later.

But while it always needs upkeep, the concept lovingly maintains the simple commune with urban green space and the working class that marks much of her work.

That is, when respect for art and the worker is maintained and not junked up with holiday commercial bric-a-brac. Because that sure happened Nov. 9 when the PBS crew sped from the art museum to Zeidler Park to film an interview with a longtime Agnew supporter and friend, labor council leader Sheila Cochran. They found an insult to both workers and public art (a perversion to be amplified in a future column).

But this was not the only time in Agnew's career that her prescient artistry has been impeded by bad timing and economic disparities. One could argue that is happening right now to her most famous and important creation, "Portrait of a Textile Worker."

On the one hand it made her internationally known, supported by several patrons and helped anchor the opening of a landmark Manhattan museum devoted to the crafts in 2008 - MAD on Columbus Circle, the new Museum of Art and Design.

But plans for the Portrait to travel overseas or to other museums in 2009 and 2010 were halted by the very economic forces and dislocation the Portrait comments on, so it is now locked away in MAD vaults.

Which is deeply ironic because New York City, where it can't be seen, has erupted in both Occupy Wall Street and other protests against corporate behavior even while theater grabs at related human and global themes in pointed revivals and new plays, even as movies such as "Margin Call" and others capitalize on the impact on everyday lives and portraits of how families are reacting to the forces they can't control.

Only the visual arts seem strangely silent, partly because Agnew's predictive vision from a few years ago is in storage. And hers was visual art that involved people in its creation and in the visceral response so much of today's foment is stabbing around to find.



Agnew, the PBS crew and friends grab a lunch at Cafe Calatrava.

"Portrait of a Textile Worker" began in Milwaukee in the early 2000s when Agnew was shown (by international labor leader Charles Kernaghan) a photo of a Bangladesh sweatshop worker. Her mind linked the determined woman at a sewing machine to the massive international brand-name clothing business, which often uses young workers as slave condition garment drones to create fancy attire for sale at both posh shops and discount palaces.

Calling first on Milwaukee workers, then on garment union retirees, then on citizens from all walks and global locales, she created a network of mailings that delivered hundreds of thousands of the brand-name labels sewed inside shirts, trousers, suits and dresses. Sorting the offerings to match her vision, she then sewed a giant revision of the photo as a haunting portrait. Early exhibitions left viewers transfixed as they moved closer to the seemingly black and white image to see it jump into colorful depth and visible brand names like Calvin Klein, Eddie Bauer, Kathie Lee, Gap and Disney.

As Labor Press wrote in a 2005 award winning story, all sides of the political divide

couldn't escape the realization that the little labels in our clothing "speak volumes about the hidden and sometimes tragic human effort hanging unnoticed in our closets."

"The artist ends up sounding overly important," commented Agnew in a recent email discussing the Portrait. "All the people who cut out and sent in labels are the reason it works, the most important part."

But if it is the community involvement in understanding global commerce and the loss of jobs and economic power that has energized America's streets, it becomes curious that the PR experts at MAD, a museum eager to gain more attention, haven't plucked from storage the prime link hidden away.

Other notable weavers and craft masters profiled in the "Threads" episode will be Consuelo Jimenez Underwood,

now a professor emeritus in California who built weaves out of the Huichol techniques and tradition she learned from relatives; Randall Darwall, whose contemporary multi-colored weaves with designer Brian Murphy have been acclaimed for decades, and black feminist pioneer and story quilt creator Faith Ringgold.

The larger context of Craft in America is that it is a nonprofit organization devoted to advancing original handcrafted work. The documentary series on PBS may be its most prominent face but the project has also produced a book, a traveling exhibition and a study center, all of which is detailed at

www.craftinamerica.org.



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Tammy Baldwin has stepped up her political organization around the state even as she darts back to D.C. to fulfill her House duties. The lone progressive Democrat running hard to replace Herb Kohl in the Senate in November, here addressing Hispanic voters, also seems to sense a shifting political ground.

Ohio

From Page 1

crous - and knew how easily they could become the next victim.

The money argument didn't fly either, though the AFL-CIO, union coalitions and other groups were open about their spending. They were up against a variety of efforts -- pro-Kasich businesses, outside funded third-party hidden-network using imported mouthpieces like Liz Cheney and concocting warnings and misstatements that kept media watchdogs running to discredit. Even if the power of money wound up even, though my crunching suggests the right-wing had a considerable edge, that deafening 61% dominance shows far more than cash at work.

Since Ohio is a key swing state in the 2012 presidential race, no matter how you slice the calendar and the results, Nov. 8 was akin to the first 2012 test of the public pendulum.

It is clearly swinging to reject the excess of the GOP, and right now excess is the key component of the dysfunctional presidential field. Ohio was a warning if the GOP continues its "pity me" complaint that critics are engaging in "class warfare." The offended classes seem to have more votes as well as more class.

In scrambling for a glimmer of hope, the GOP leadership pointed to a little noticed symbolic ballot issue where voters opposed a mandate for health insurance on all Ohio workers.

But any effort to paint that as anti-Obama was immediately shattered that day when a federal appeals court in D.C. -- with an opinion written by a conservative jurist appointed by Ronald Reagan -- upheld the constitutionality of the entire Affordable Health Care Act. Even the dissent from another notable conservative jurist slapped down opponents of the health care bill, opining that the courts lack juris-

restore decency by getting rid of Kasich, Walker and their ilk.

The election results nationally give further weight to what is actually playing out in conservative communities and adding momentum to the other team.

• **Thinking emerged in Mississippi**, a state where anti-abortion policy almost seems its own religion. If the initiative on the ballot had read, "Life begins at conception," many observers think it would have sailed home.

Instead, the right-wing trying to manufacture a Supreme Court attack on Roe vs. Wade made it read "life begins at fertilization," whether the fertilization lands in the right place or not. Despite much wailing and spending on the right, a grassroots uprising of voters recognized that most forms of birth control, any smell of incest and even in-vitro births were at risk and they soundly rejected the idea, by plus 58% as the night unfolded.

• **In Phoenix**, voters recalled Arizona's state senate president Russell Pearce, notorious architect of the controversial immigration law, replacing him with a Republican who condemned both Pearce and the state's governor for the immigration attack.

• **In Kentucky**, where Rand Paul's 2010 election to the US Senate was hailed as the big Tea Party win (followed closely by Ron Johnson in Wisconsin), a correction is at work as Democrat Gov. Steve Beshear readily won re-election by some 21%. And despite a well-heeled, celebrity dominated GOP attack on him because he opposed Paul, Atty. Gen. Jack Conway survived with 55% of the vote.

• **In Iowa**, Democrats won a special election for a vacant state senate seat, clearly to keep Republicans from gaining control of the state government.

• **In Maine**, where a Republican governor passed a

law eliminating long-time highly regarded same day voter registration, angry voters by some 60% took the same-day back.

• If Walker can't read all this handwriting on the wall, **even in Wisconsin Nov. 8**, the voters wrote large what is about to hit him.

When Jennifer Shilling easily won a state Senate seat away from a Republican last summer, it left her Assembly District 95 vacant in the La Crosse region. For Jill Billings, another alum of Emerge Wisconsin, the margin of Democratic win was enormous -- 72%. (The GOP still has a 59-39 Assembly margin, but many of those first term Tea Party candidates have to be looking over their shoulder now.)

So dance as they will, Walker and the other right-wing governors elected in 2010 were receiving a clear "Get Out of Dodge!" warning from an aroused American public.

diction until 2015 when the full law goes in effect.

Aside from slightly coloring presidential politics, Ohio immediately puts the citizenry into opposition to the right-wing governors who interpreted 2010 as a mandate to behave like "petty tyrants,"

If that smells of partisan blistering, look at the turnout! Many moderates and traditional GOP voters sided with the unions. What's happening? Pragmatic faithful clearly fear the party they once knew has evaporated into invisibility. So however they vote down the road, right now they want to

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- Plumbers Local Union 75, AFL-CIO
- Painters & Allied Trades Local Union 781
- Painters District Council No. 7, AFL-CIO
- UAW Southeast Wisconsin Area CAP Council, AFL-CIO
- United Food & Commercial Workers Local 1473
- United Steelworkers International Union Local 2-209, AFL-CIO
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