

Eyewitness to an
inauguration transformation

PASA speaker Raj Patel on
the global food crisis

Guide to crisis services
in Centre County

Educating teachers
to teach green

Nuclear waste: The issue
for this generation

LGBT community responds
to the inauguration

Opinion: Letter to President
Obama, the school board
race and more

Cosmo, Birdwatch,
Your Green House

Voices Reader Survey

February 2009

Running out of air?

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that strangle
oxygen suppliers
...and their
patients Page 3**



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Community Newspaper

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BOARD OF EDITORS

general manager
Suzan Erem
suzan@lastdraft.com

managing editor
VACANT
voices@voicesweb.org

Politics and Economics
Zac Taylor
politics@voicesweb.org

Community and Lifestyles
Delia Guzman
community@voicesweb.org

University
Tamara Conrad
university@voicesweb.com

Environment
Heather Simmons
environment@voicesweb.org

Arts and Entertainment
Adam Eshleman
arts@voicesweb.org

Opinion
Paul Durrenberger
oped@voicesweb.org

webmaster
Bill Eichman
4bille@windstream.net

ART and DESIGN
Mali Campbell, Britt Drayton

PHOTOGRAPHER
Doug Bauman

CIRCULATION
Kevin Handwerk
circulation@voicesweb.org

ADVERTISING INQUIRIES
advertising@voicesweb.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
president
Arthur Goldschmidt Jr.
axg2@psu.edu

vice president
Bill Eichman
4bille@windstream.net

secretary
Steven Lachman
stevenlachman@gmail.com

treasurer
Paul Durrenberger
pauldurren@verizon.net

Voices is currently interviewing prospective board members. If you'd like to be part of a growing free press in Centre County please contact Art Goldschmidt at axg2@psu.edu.

Did you get this paper for free?

Welcome to 2009! For the last six months, *Voices of Central Pennsylvania* has been reaching out to new audiences with free papers delivered to homes around Centre County. We did what we could with the budget we had, and we hope those of you who received the paper enjoyed it.

But nothing in life is free, as they say, and the *Voices* budget for such marketing is maxed out. So we hope if you received this issue free, either at home or around the county, or even read it on the Web, you'll consider a donation to keep us going.

Someone mentioned the other day that he never thinks about *Voices* going under. It's just always there. And while we're stronger than we've ever been, we're still not at the level of self-sustaining. *Voices* must be able to attract top-notch local journalists, photographers and editors by rewarding them for their work with more than a pat on the back. Our community will have to decide if *Voices* will go professional, or stay all-vol-

from the desk of general manager
Suzan Erem

unteer for as long as it can and then slowly slip away.

After dedicating five years to this paper and seeing incredible support from so many great people, I'm confident we can go professional. At this year's annual Fun! Raiser March 23 at India Pavilion we will announce new initiatives to continue our trek toward sustainability. I hope to see you there.

In the meantime, enjoy this issue packed full of news and views of these exciting times. Our cover story is the first you'll see anywhere about Medicare's deteriorating services related to medical oxygen and how our citizens are faring because of it. We tap the inauguration in local ways, and our profiles of arts endeavors, university groups and environmental activism may offer up more pleasant surprises.

This year we plan to bring you regular

coverage of the impact on our community of the recession, the Obama Administration's policies and our own local elected leaders' decisions. *Voices* gives you all-local and all-original reporting.

While the corporate newspaper industry suffers massive losses, alternative papers like ours are thriving all around the country, right along with the entire movement back to local. With your support, we can grab that opportunity here and build a paper and Web site packed with local news and information that can affect the very fabric of our community. Please help with our survey on Pg. 28.

Would you like to support a local cause? Promote an upcoming event? Celebrate Women's History Month or Earth Day? Just contact me and we'll make it happen. Promote your free and non-profit events on our calendar at www.voicesweb.org. Submit stories, ideas, photos and letters. Without you, we have no *Voices*. We look forward to hearing from you!

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LETTERS POLICY

Voices encourages letters commenting on our news coverage and editorial policy. Letters should be typewritten, double-spaced and a maximum of 250 words. Include address and phone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit letters for length and to reject those deemed beyond the limits of good taste. Due to space limitations, we cannot guarantee publication of all letters. Letters become the property of *Voices of Central Pennsylvania*. E-mail to oped@voicesweb.org.

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MAILING ADDRESS:

Voices of Central Pennsylvania
133 S. Allen St.
State College, PA 16801
TELEPHONE:
(814) 234-1999
ON THE WEB:
voices@voicesweb.org
www.voicesweb.org

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