

# Community Economics

## An RQ Theme section

Last Spring, we were tossing around ideas for the theme section of RQ#101. We talked about magical themes, about discussions of working in diverse traditions and with diverse pantheons, and more.

But we kept coming back to one topic that was foremost in people's minds: Economics.

At first sight, it might seem a stretch for "the magazine of witchcraft and magical activism" to tackle the dismal science. Sure, we've done articles and resource guides in the past. But devoting the heart of an issue to Economics?

Still, we recognize that our activism and magical work take place in a world fundamentally shaped by economic forces. When we seek to build a better world, we need not only to criticize existing institutions (something we are pretty good at), but to figure out how to recast our economic relations in a way that actually works for all of us.

The entire process of envisioning and producing this issue of Reclaiming Quarterly has taken place in the broader context of global, political-economic crises. In our early production meetings, we found ourselves passionately talking

about how we perceived these events, and about our lived experience trying to make it through these difficult machinations, many of which seemed beyond our control.



This energy carried us through the work to bring you a broad range of stories, analyses, and guides which we hope inspire you with hope and make a difference in your lives.

- Our first article is a personal story of survival on all levels, recasting the difficulties to allow greater reliance on inner and community resources. Luz writes from roots in organizational and depth psychology, brain science, Pagan

and Sufi spirituality, and the recognition that what we believe and practice has profound effects on the quality of our lives.

- Next we visit veteran progressive and humorous commentator Doug Hen-

wood, writing about the dreaded arena of money and high finance. Tongue-in-cheek quips alternate with astute translations of high-finance gobbledygook.

- Formerly an investment banker and government official, Catherine Austin Fitts left those worlds to build a progressive practice that offers financial expertise to the rest of us. In this distillation of portions of her work, she presents tools to rethink how we can navigate the current economic crises within the arms of family and community.

- Financial coach Briana Cavanaugh paints the story of how money came to occupy a position of centrality in our lives and how we can take back control. She blends spirituality, activism, and practical business skills to help people be more free, at ease, and enjoy lives of well-being.

- We close our Economics section with a discussion with Starhawk about economics and "changing consciousness at will." Culture, politics, and class are the lenses through which she presents her thinking on scarcity, abundance, and the role of magic as we work toward greater sustainability for all.

We're excited about this collection of articles. We hope you find them intriguing, relevant, and beneficial.