

Winch Report

Occupy Wall Street picks up steam

Depending upon the source, Occupy Wall Street is either a patriotic protest against corporate greed, or it is a chaotic cluster of disenfranchised hooligans.



The Occupy Wall Street movement, which began in New York with about 1,000 people on Sept. 17, has spread to cities on four continents. Demonstrators have set up tent cities in London, Rome, Chicago and Sydney and the movement appears to be picking up steam.

Even as it grows, though, Occupy Wall Street's mission is tough to pinpoint.

Only about four-in-10 Americans say they support the Occupy Wall Street movement, according to a Pew Research Center/Washington Post poll released Monday. Almost as many, 35 percent, say they oppose the protests. The telephone survey of 1,009 adults was conducted Oct. 20-23 and had an error margin of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

The atmosphere in New York's Zuccotti Park, the de facto birthplace of the movement, ranges

from festive to dangerous as protesters hunker down. Neither major political party in this country has publicly supported

the movement, probably because no one is really sure who the protesters are and what exactly they want.

According to hip hop mogul Russell Simmons, a vocal supporter of Occupy Wall Street, "They're compassionate. They're politically astute, educated, they're nonviolent, and they're idealistic, and they're patriotic."

The Wall Street Journal devotes an entire section of its online newspaper to the movement. That section quotes Leo Muijica, an unemployed construction worker, Occupy Wall Street protestor and father of an eight-year old son. "There's a lot of diversity here. If people look around they might see mixed messages, but if you stick around you'll see that it's one message: change. Everyone is worried and they want change," he said.

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We like Best Friends of Neenah-Menasha because it is a charity people can support either with their time or with a donation.

As a 501(c)(3) youth serving organization, Best Friends has been serving children and teens throughout Neenah and Menasha since 1973.

The program is designed for boys and girls ages 5 to 18 who are looking for a friend within the community. It is a mentoring program that addresses issues of the entire family at a local level.

For more information about Best Friends, please see their website at www.bestfriendsnm.org.

An evening of elegance supports a good cause



The Donald Driver Foundation supports many charities, but the featured charity at this year's Evening of Elegance was Blessings in a Backpack, a national nutrition program for elementary school children.

Designed to feed children whose families qualify for the federal Free and Reduced Price Meal program, and have little to no food on the weekends, the program costs \$80 per child for the entire school year, which is fitting because Driver's jersey number is 80.

Blessings in a Backpack provides a backpack full of nutritional food to get school children through the weekend. The backpacks include ready-to-eat food items such as granola bars, peanut butter, tuna, crackers, mac & cheese, cereal, juice boxes, etc. Blessings in a Backpack reviews its standard menu with a nutritionist annually to make sure the food is kid-friendly, nutritious, non-perishable and easy-to-prepare. For more information, including ways you can donate to this program, please check out their website at <http://www.blessingsinabackpack.org>.



For the third consecutive year, Winch Financial sponsored a table at the Donald Driver Foundation's Evening of Elegance. This year, we sponsored two tables.

We support this foundation because we like its emphasis on education, the charity supports causes right here in Wisconsin and the evening is just plain fun.



Our fall seminar series offers wide variety of topics

We kicked off our fall seminar series with two presentations designed for fun and for healthy living and a third seminar that offered an historical perspective. The first, Football 101 – A Girls’ Guide to the Game discussed the fundamentals of the game.

The second, Eating for Energy, offered healthy food tips that are easy to incorporate.

Our third seminar, Inside the Debt Obsession, traced the history of debt in the world.

Our investment analyst Christian Peterson talked

about the comparison of today’s debt against the Gross Domestic Product and examined how we arrived at the massive debt situation we currently face and how we’re going to work out way out of it.

Given that both the Green Bay Packers and the UW Badgers were undefeated, we thought it was an excellent time for folks to learn about football.

(Unfortunately, while the Packers remain undefeated at 7-0 since that particular seminar, the Badgers suffered a close loss at Michigan State and are now 6-1.)

After a detailed discussion of the game itself, we talked about Fantasy Football and its impact. We’re anticipating a nice long professional football season and we think the more everyone knows about the game, the more

they’ll enjoy the season.

Lani Herner, an integrative health counselor, offered a seminar on eating for energy. She listed ten ways to increase your energy.

These include:

- Reduce or eliminate Caffeine
- Drink Water
- Eat dark leafy green vegetables
- Use gentle sweets
- Get physical activity
- Get more sleep, rest and relaxation
- Evaluate the amount of animal food you eat
- Take time for yourself

- Get in touch with your spirituality
- Get rid of relationships that drain you

Lani also displayed a group of fresh food that she said would improve your energy if you eat two cups a day of each at least three times a week.

These foods included watermelon, raspberries, blueberries, blackberries, swiss chard, watercress, spinach, kale and collard greens.

Fortunately, she also provided recipes for

those of us who are unfamiliar with preparing some of these items.

Lani will return in January for a follow-up seminar on how to decrease the amount of sugar in your diet.

We will offer Inside the Debt Obsession again when we launch our spring seminar schedule.

If you have any suggestions for seminars you’d like to see us host, please let us know.

As always, our seminars are free and open to the public, so please feel free to invite your friends and family.

Fall Seminar Schedule

All seminars scheduled for 6 p.m.
at Winch Financial

Technology 101 “Click this not that”	Nov. 15
Clean Sweep “How to shrink paperwork”	Nov. 29
Year-end Tax Strategies	Dec. 6
Yoga Basics	Dec. 13

Winch Financial

Founded in Appleton, Wisconsin by Christina Winch more than 30 years ago, Winch Financial has become a nationally recognized, full service financial planning firm.

424 East Wisconsin Avenue
Appleton, WI 54911
920-739-8577
800-640-8010

www.winchfinancial.com



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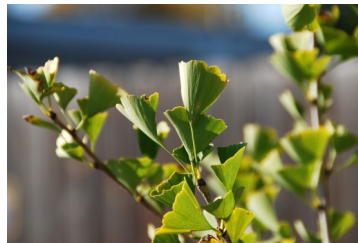


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Ginkgo Tree Planting Ceremony

Appleton Mayor Tim Hannah joined Winch Financial CEO Christina Winch and Operations Director Sandy Shultz for a Ginkgo tree planting ceremony during the Grand Opening of Wisconsin Avenue. Winch Financial president Sam Winch and his band provided the entertainment.



Photos courtesy Jason Shultz



Occupy Wall Street movement goes global

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Perhaps the one unifying sentiment of the global movement can be summed up in the oft-quoted line from the 1996 movie Network, "We're mad as hell and we're not going to take it anymore."

Whether you support the protestors or disdain them, certain aspects of the Occupy phenomenon do merit examination.

We believe an honest examination of the relationship between corporations and government certainly is warranted. We support a bi-partisan job creation plan and drive to lower the unemployment rate nationally.

Transcending all of this, we emphatically agree that something has to be done to reduce our national debt.

If the movement accomplishes any of these goals, it will have succeeded.

Until then, though, we wonder if the gentleman quoted on a Wall Street Journal video blog may have the most accurate description of the movement.

He said, "We'll be here until we complete our goals and essentially completely restructure a lot of the government and financial system... or until they stop feeding us."