Community Oregon Camp was held July 13-16 in Warm Springs. Camp is the first part of the three-part Community Oregon program, which seeks to strengthen relationships among different kinds of people, starting in our home state of Oregon. It is the inaugural program of our Democracy As Community area of programs.

Seventeen Oregonians of different races, genders, political perspectives, religions, and geographies came together for Community Oregon Camp at the Kah-Nee-Ta resort on the Warm Springs Indian Reservation. Over a period of four days, they got to know one another by exploring the forces that have shaped their identities and viewpoints. One early learning: the work of building community and democracy is not easy, but it is worthwhile.

As always, we did our best to incorporate joy and fun into our work together. See the photos below for a taste of the Camp experience, and stay tuned for future updates about the participants' homestay exchanges!

With special gratitude to the Oregon Community Foundation and the Saling Foundation for providing funding for this project.

Learn more about Community Oregon at healthydemocracy.org/communityoregon
Healthy Democracy World Tour!
Well, sort of. We’ve been to some cool places recently!

In June, Robin, Linn, and Jessie traveled to Boston, Massachusetts for Frontiers of Democracy, a conference of democracy innovators hosted by Tufts University’s Tisch College of Civic Life. Check out Wendy Willis’ talk on civic loneliness and Ashley Trim’s remarks on pluralism and disagreement. We hosted a session on the relevance of democracy innovators in a "downgraded democracy."

On the invitation of the Barcelona City Council, Jessie Conover attended the Jornades sobre Democràcia Directa (Conference on Direct Democracy), in Barcelona, Spain. She joined direct democracy experts from Spain and around the globe. Watch her remarks on the Citizens'
Staff Spotlight: Andy Puthenpurayil

Andy is a summer intern at Healthy Democracy. He is entering his sophomore year at Penn State, where he studies Criminology and Spanish. Andy grew up and attended school in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. During the school year, he works for PSU Campus Dining, will be the Vice President of his housing community, and is involved in several different clubs, from the Liberal Arts Undergraduate Council, to the Asylum Music Club.

Andy comes to us from Penn State University as part of the Nevins Democracy Fellows initiative, an internship program of the McCourtney Institute for Democracy focused on deliberative democratic methods. Andy is Healthy Democracy’s second Nevins Democracy Fellow! Watch out for a blog from Andy later this summer. He'll write on the applications of the Citizens' Initiative Review to criminal justice policies.

More interesting reads:
- Martin Carcasson weighs in on whether citizens can handle democracy.
- Eitan Hersh on "political hobbyism," and a response by Wendy Willis.
- Jessie Conover on nonpartisan hygiene in a politically active world.
- Wendy Willis reflects on the first Democracy Salon.
Massachusetts considers making the Citizens’ Initiative Review a part of state law (WWLP)

Healthy Democracy is a national nonpartisan nonprofit working to elevate the voice of the people and improve public discourse.

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