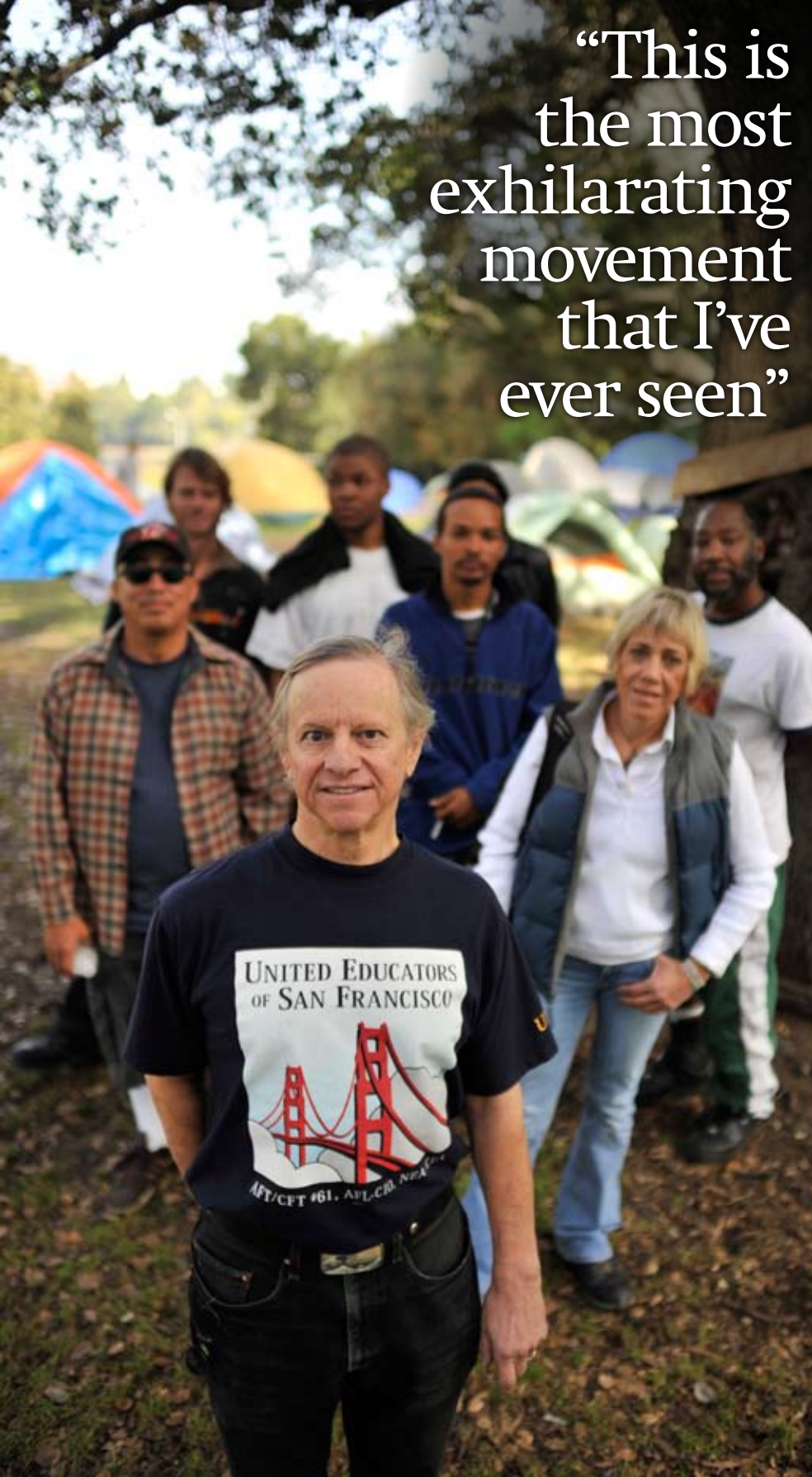


One last thing...

A photograph of Allan Brill, a man with grey hair, wearing a dark t-shirt with a logo for the United Educators of San Francisco. He is standing in front of a group of people at an outdoor campsite with colorful tents in the background. The text "This is the most exhilarating movement that I've ever seen" is overlaid on the right side of the image.

“This is the most exhilarating movement that I’ve ever seen”

Allan Brill, a longtime activist, explains why he decided to get involved with the Occupy movement in Oakland, California.

What motivated you to get involved in Occupy Oakland?

“I have a long history of trying to bring about social, economic and political change. Occupy Oakland is focused on the same priorities that I’ve seen throughout the decades I’ve been an activist. We’re looking at issues such as the attack on social services, benefit programs like Medicare, social security and after-school programs here in Oakland. [The city has] threatened the closure of libraries and increased the cost of transportation, which makes it difficult for people to afford a bus ride. These aren’t just Oakland’s issues; it’s California that’s bankrupt. It’s the country that’s bankrupt. I think we have a worldwide movement where everyone is getting on the same page, at least the 99 percent of us.”

What is your perspective on the Occupy movement?

“I lived through the sixties. I lived through a time when we could call a march and get 100,000 people out on a weekend. But I’ve never seen anything as broad as this. This is the most exhilarating movement that I’ve ever seen. It’s amazing. So if at 63 years old, I can feel that much excitement and be willing to spend so many hours getting to know what’s going on and how I can help, you can imagine how people who have been feeling hopeless, alone, despondent, must feel, saying, “I’m not all alone.” It’s very hard to come by to see something like that in anyone’s lifetime.”

What do you hope to achieve?

“I don’t think any of us really knows. As far as I’m concerned, until we have the broad kind of changes that we want, having Occupies in cities as reminders about what’s going on in our country and the kind of change that we need is a very valuable thing.”

| SERENA RENNER