



# Works in Progress

Advocating for social justice since 1990

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## Olympia police, vigilantes and a safe community

Bethany Weidner

It was the end of a week of demonstrations in Olympia: peaceful marches punctuated by broken windows and nighttime confrontations between opposing groups. During the week, men armed with assault rifles had patrolled the streets of Olympia's downtown and neighborhoods.

### Attention armed citizenry!

On Thursday, June 4, the proprietor of a gun shop in West Olympia heard a rumor that Antifa was coming to "burn down the city" and had "plans to destroy the westside." He issued an urgent call on Facebook asking any and all "ARMED CITIZENRY" to come "in a well-regulated fashion to secure the business" in his building. He said his landlord had confirmed a good portion of the threats with law enforcement contacts.

In response to the call, a couple dozen armed men showed up at the gun shop and stationed themselves in the parking lot. They were outfitted in military gear and bullet-proof vests and carrying AR-15s. Olympia police stopped by to check on them during the night "just driving around, not anything formal."

### They are here for us

Around 1 am, an officer came by and chatted with the men: there had been a complaint about noise. Another officer had radioed a message that the men were "super friendly" and that turned out to be true. Later, the officer messaged her supervisor:

"I found a group probably 25 men ... all of them carrying AR-15s and wearing vests. They were standing by making sure the Antifa group had gone home. They're a group called Washington 3%... The leader told me they are here for us and support us. They also support the peaceful protestors despite popular belief (mostly by the protestors). Their mission is to protect the businesses and the community. ... They're also a nonprofit and help veterans in need..."

That would normally have been the end of it. The men providing security for the gun shop and "protecting the community" would have gone home and waited for the next call to arms.

### Are the police asking the 3 Percenters for help?

But one of the men posted a picture of the group standing around the smiling officer: "This is us at 1:40 am with an OPD when she came to thank us for being there ..."

A huge public outcry followed. Olympia citizens flooded officials

with emails asking why an Olympia police officer was thanking a group of vigilantes. Many emails described the way in which the presence of armed men seemingly condoned by the police frightened them and their families:

Others wondered, "are the City and the Olympia Police Department asking for help from the Three Percenters?" "We have untrained, unaccountable paramilitary Three Percenters coming ...trying to protect us from supposed "looters." Some noted

The OPD chose to ignore peoples' primary concern, which was not with political attitudes but with the fact that these men were vigilantes and vigilantes are a threat to the community.

"I learned last week of an armed militia group, welcomed by our own Olympia PD, congregating in our community in order to "protect" us. If my daughter had asked to demonstrate on the day this armed militia group was in our neighborhood, there is absolutely no way I would have allowed her to go."

that the hand sign made by the men was a white supremacist sign.

### A justification not an investigation

Faced with several hundred complaints, Olympia's interim police

chief Aaron Jelcick announced an investigation. The investigation was not intended to respond to the concerns that the behavior of the officer in the photo—as well as the other officers stopping by—gave tacit endorsement to men armed with assault rifles and styling themselves as defending the community and providing security for a business.

The investigation wasn't going to be about the way the police fraternized with vigilantes. Instead it was to determine whether one officer was endorsing white supremacy by posing with men holding up a three-fingered sign often associated with that ideology.

In early September, the OPD issued results of its investigation: Why did the officer thank the men? (for protecting businesses, for being law-abiding). Were the Three-percenters a white supremacist organization? (No) Was the officer a racist? (No) Did the officer properly pose for a picture with these and other community members? (Yes).

► OPD and Vigilantes, contd on page 13

## In memory of RBG 1934–2020 "Never enough"

Delores Nelson

"People ask me sometimes... 'When will there be enough women on the court?' And my answer is: when there are nine." —Ruth Bader Ginsburg

I was never "enough" to be cool enough or arty enough—never punk rock enough. But when a friend told me never give up. I decided to muscle up and pretend that I am. My conclusion? I am—you are—absolutely everything enough! So grab some pens and paper, whatever you have lying around and get to work. First explore the word ENOUGH. It is defined as adequate, plenty, satisfactory, ample and sufficient.

But for women of the 20th Century—did/do we have enough? RBG didn't think so.

"To know when you have enough is to be rich beyond measure." —Lao-Tzu.

When you write from memory, self-reflection you are writing from an angle of perception. It requires awareness of underlying patterns of your life and your presumed identity. Your memoir provides tools for exploration of self and soul through personal narrative, but how do we writers do that? How do we re-examine everything we know?

Good question. Here is how, we take another look into the family, wake up a few of those ghosts again. As stories are written about lives of our mothers, grandmothers and self, we may come to realize, not how much we lost rejecting their

values, but how much is at the core of our being.

If you imagine that the reader will find value in your story, ask your self," have I told enough of the story to understand what was going on? When, where, why and how much?

In other words it's a matter of what came before and what came after.

Sometime ago I was teaching at the Olympia Senior Center, the central subject was "The War Years and



the Years in Between." One woman, whose family were country people, told a story about a frightening experience she had when she was a girl. She said at about dusk she was going home after school on her usual route. When she passed the neighbor's barn a faint light issued from the inside. Looking in from the darkness she could see a man hang-

ing. The scene was eerie and she was frightened, she ran home but she did not tell anyone.

What more does the audience need to know? Of course this event was shocking for a young person, it would be for an older person too. Is the emotional content of this story enough to make it's telling complete... for it to be compelling? What more would you like to know? Was it a secret found many years later wrapped in mystery, never mentioned, nor meant to be divulged? An open secret, maybe or just left unsaid?

A writer is a person familiar with secrets. The art of telling a story by an adult about a child who superficially resembles the writer is quite acceptable. To be a writer is to be able to see to the horizon where nothing is distinct.



"In 1988 when the Cosmos Club, after years of effort from many of its male members, finally voted to admit women. Against my better judgment, I agreed to be proposed as one of the first female members. But, as it turned out, I was blackballed."

Some time later, RBG was invited to visit the club, and at the end of a tour of its lovely interior, her escort invited her to become a member. As the story was related to me, Ruth paused, and in that quiet, low voice of hers, said to her escort, "You know, I think that a club that is too good for Nina Totenberg is too good for me, too."

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**Works in Progress (WIP)**, is a community newspaper based in Olympia WA, that has been published monthly since 1990.

WIP's mission is to contribute to the struggle for justice across economic, social, environmental and political realms, and to expand participatory democracy across classes, races, and genders.

**Editorial policy**

Our priority is to focus on stories that are ignored or misrepresented in the media, especially those that relate directly to our mission. We seek well-researched news stories, serious analyses of issues confronting our communities and account of personal experiences or reflections by local writers. We encourage articles that relate to the monthly theme, but material on other topics is also welcome.

Informed opinion pieces are accepted when accompanied by facts, examples, and sources. We discourage writing where a key point is stated as fact when it's unproven or in serious dispute. Writing that stereotypes groups or categories of people won't be accepted.

Once we receive a submission, we may choose to publish it or not. While the views expressed in the material we print are those of the author alone, WIP aims to print material that is consistent with our mission. WIP reserves the right to edit all submissions for accuracy, length, and clarity of expression. We will work with authors if there is a need for editing that extends beyond those areas.

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# The struggle for justice

The struggle for justice is the theme for this issue. For 30 years it has been embedded in the mission of *Works in Progress* and reflected in its pages.

Should the struggle for justice be hard? When something is “just” we see that it's deserved or merited, and often we believe that what is just is right or fair.

But wait. When “just” morphs into “justice” it changes. It's no longer simply something measured by how deserved or fair it is. Instead, “justice” is tied to the law: justice becomes the use of power to uphold what is lawful.

This tells us why the struggle for justice is hard and seemingly endless. Justice is a condition of the law. Since laws are made by and for the powerful, there is no reason to assume that their application will mean they are “just.”

Thoughts on the themeNo law was broken when police obtained a “no knock” warrant to storm Breonna Taylor's apartment and shot the young woman to death. This was “lawful” but was it just? It would be “just”—merited or fair—for there to be consequences for the men who sought the warrant with skewed information, the men who stormed the apartment with insufficient warning; the men who fired 32 shots and killed Breonna Taylor.

## THOUGHTS ON THE THEME

So far there are no consequences. In Louisville and among questioning Americans elsewhere, the struggle for justice goes on.



In this issue of WIP, there's a story about US Marshals and other “law enforcement” agencies shooting a suspect to death in Lacey. Killing Michael Reinhoel not only failed to meet the definition of “just,” it eliminated the possibility of “justice.” There will be no determination of whether Reinhoel deserved to be put to death even under the concept of justice tied to upholding the law.

Even that concept has morphed. It seems to refer simply to the use of power in the interests of the powerful. This, too, is evident in the legal response to Breonna Taylor's death. The only consequence facing any of the police involved is a charge of wanton endangerment for the man who shot wildly into a neighboring apartment; a Class D Felony punishable by up to 5 years. In contrast, in Tennessee camping on public property is a Class E felony punishable by up to 6 years.

You can see the struggle against this evolution toward the unconstrained exercise of power in our special section covering 30 years of WIP (pages 7-10). The centerfold reveals an amazing array of activist contributions to the life of our community and beyond. We're happy that all issues from 1990 onward are archived at the University of Washington because they show the powerful resistance from below and how it

has helped to shape our world.

In this issue, we've summarized citizen resistance over time to Olympia's housing policies and the way the City's decisions contribute to the persistence of homelessness, along with use of our public port for private purposes.

Also in this issue, we're reminded of Ruth Bader Ginsberg, a “justice” who applied the law not to serve the most powerful but in the cause of fairness. On page 12, read about Larry Jefferson, another individual who has found a way to make things more just while working in the criminal justice system. Stories like the Haki Farmers Collec-

tive, Skokomish Farm and “Setting the bar higher” in Grays Harbor describe the search for a way of life that is “just,” and does not depend on the exercise of power. Bob Vadas' critical review of Olympia's urban zoning plans is only the latest to track resistance to continuous attempts by the City to sacrifice communities to the demands of developers. The article about attempts to reinterpret a special taxing district law in order to indebt people in behalf of Black Lake recreational interests. It is another illustration of how power is used not to uphold the law, but to impose the interests of the powerful.. —BW

## In the coming months

**November-December. “What is political?”** If political activity is only activity around elections, we're in trouble, especially if people in positions of power decide that they can nullify the election. Sometimes it seems that our politically elected officials have too much power—but then we look at how corporations shape our lives; at how their attempts to rein in the police are rejected, and wonder if they have enough. Democracy may not exist, but we'll miss it when it's gone. What are your experiences in the “political” realm? Plus this is the issue we'll be publishing after the election—assuming there is one and we actually know the re-

sult. *Deadline for this 2-month issue is later than usual so you have more time!* **Most submissions due October 25. Commentary on the election due November 6.**

**January. What we can't face.** Since we should know in January who will be the president for the next four years, this theme might be relevant to that. But our thought originally was to encourage submissions that talk about what we avoid dealing with and how we overcome that. **Deadline December 13.**

**February. Time.** This is a topic that has a million possibilities. Please take advantage of them. **Deadline January 16.**

**WIP's 30th anniversary party  
has been postponed.**

*Stay tuned for a new date!*



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A modest proposal

# A win-win for the Port and campers evicted from Port property

with thanks to Jonathan Swift



On Monday Sept. 14, 2020, a group of people camped on property belonging to the Port of Olympia were confronted by Thurston County Sheriff deputies and a big dumpster: they were to leave immediately. Port Commissioner Joe Downing explained that “the particular piece of land that the campers were on was not an appropriate piece of land, so action had to be taken.”

The Sheriff’s deputies were there because Tumwater officials had refused to evict the campers, stating via a spokesperson: “we do not believe police are the best resource to respond to those experiencing homelessness, and arresting people camping on this Port property is not appropriate.”

For the Port Commissioner it was about a billionaire developer. A Port spokesperson said that the Port had to evict the campers because it has “contractual obligations to the developer Panattoni” who signed a lease option agreement that includes the encampment area. But nothing in the lease prevents a few people from camping on the property for the next couple of years. Panattoni isn’t going to do anything relating to the property until the Port completes a habitat study that can take up to two years...and if it turns out to cost too much, the Port can cancel the lease.

For Tumwater officials, it was about the people camping. Homeless advocates pointed out that removing the campers was against

Port dock within easy reach of services downtown and just racking up moorage charges with no one to pay them. The Port welcomed

There is a solution right in front of the Port: an abandoned Washington State ferry, capable of housing hundreds of people...

the law: a state court decision forbids removal of people from public property unless they are offered adequate alternatives. Plus, Governor Inslee has issued a moratorium on evictions. In response, the Port argues that despite its status as a public entity, its property is private. A statement by the sheriff’s deputy sidestepped the Governor’s moratorium: “It’s not an eviction, we were removing trespassers.”

At their meeting the night of the evictions, the Port Commissioners decided to offer a different piece of land for lease as a homeless site. EJ Zita, the one Port Commissioner who hadn’t approved the decision to evict the campers, proposed that they commit to doing that within two weeks—but Joe Downing and Bill McGregor voted against that.

There is a solution right in front of the Port: an abandoned Washington State Ferry, capable of housing hundreds of people, sitting at the

the aged vessel enthusiastically when its entrepreneurial owner approached them in 2018. Their enthusiasm waned when the owner stopped paying moorage fees and then disappeared, leaving the vessel to whoever might eventually tow it away.

The ferry has plenty of room to house the campers evicted from

the Tumwater site—and even many more. The spacious car decks could accommodate many camp sites. There is a cafeteria with a kitchen and eating area. Plenty of bathrooms. Benches and tables line the upper deck, where people could study or play board games during the day. With 30,000 gallons of fuel, the ferry could be kept warm for the entire winter. It could even be named (temporarily) in honor of the two responsible Port Commissioners, the McGregor-Downing Manor.

Or the converted ferry could be named the Panattoni Palace, after Carl Panattoni, in whose behalf McGregor and Downing approved the removal of the campers. It would be only fitting to house people displaced from land leased with a significant tax subsidy from the people of Olympia. Carl Panattoni has been on a mansion-buying spree since 2018 when he bought a Palm Beach mansion for \$18 million, followed in 2019 by a \$38 million mansion in Newport Beach California and then another Palm Beach house for \$29 million in 2020.

This is enough mansions to house any number of people who don’t have a roof over their heads. Surely Mr. Panattoni would be pleased that his having a lease option on land where homeless people camped didn’t deprive them of a place to live. He clearly knows the value of a home. Or, many homes.

Information and quotes in this essay came from the excellent article in the Sept 16 Olympian “Port addresses homeless camp sweep, explores plan for sanctioned site,” by Brandon Block, as well as from local Port watchers. Jonathan Swift is the patron saint of all satire writers.

Photo by Ricky Osborne

## Then this happened

**No shots were fired** when US Marshalls arrested the MV The Dream, formerly the Evergreen State ferry without incident, at the request of the Port of Olympia on Sept 15. The 310-foot ferry, which has a fuel capacity of 30,000 gallons has been occupying a moorage at the Port since April 2018. There’s a new custodian—but the ferry will sit at the port until something bad happens—unless someone buys the near derelict vessel, pays its debt and tows it away.

**...“antifa” got blamed** for all the towering fires on the west coast—but it turns out that the biggest California fire was caused by a nice little family shooting off fireworks at a party for their baby. In Washington 107 of 816 fires were caused by regular ol’ people camping: Public land managers say they’re “fit to be tied with the behavior of people this summer” who don’t know or don’t care what they do in the woods. It doesn’t take much to start a blaze that in this hot dry weather

will burn out of control: campfires not properly doused, firing up your off-road vehicle, a cigarette flicked out the window. Illegal fireworks. Most of the rest of the fires were caused by burning debris. But let’s blame “antifa”—young people in black hoodies must be dangerous.

**....get rid of those pesky ballots!** Less than 6 weeks before the election, the President of the United States said he wouldn’t commit to a peaceful transfer of power! And then he doubled down: “Get rid of the ballots and ...there won’t be a transfer—frankly, there’ll be a continuation...” The “law and order” President who warns against violence in the streets if the Democrats win is apparently planning to make sure of that. Remember, this is the guy who said “there has to be retribution.” Maybe this explains why Trump is so supportive of armed vigilantes: he expects them to weigh in on his side...

## The Community Sustaining Fund fall grant cycle is here

The Community Sustaining Fund of Thurston County is accepting grant applications up until Friday, November 13, 2020. The grants are available to Thurston County organizations and individuals.

Grants will also be available from a fund created by the Olympia Kiwanis to honor Sue Lundy, a long-time community activist and volunteer at the Kiwanis Food Bank Garden. Download applications from our website beginning in October /oly-wa.us/csf/index.php Specify which fund you are applying for.

### Criteria for CSF Applicants—this grant cycle only

- Align with the emergent social and health concerns brought to our community by COVID-19.
- Reach for system approaches regarding basic needs (i.e., food supply, emergency housing, local economies).
- Account for the potential of continued physical distancing by utilizing available digital technologies that support social engagement.
- Grant requests can be for amounts up to \$1,000 (however, depending on the funds available, actual awards can be in the \$100-500 range).

### Sue Lundy Fund Applicants

- Projects that support young farmers especially women
- Projects that assist in starting up Community Supported Agriculture
- Projects that facilitate connections between beginning and established farmers
- Projects that promote community gardens
- Initiatives that provide support for single mothers with special needs and immigrant mothers and families
- Application grant requests can be up to \$2,000

The Sustaining Fund thanks the generous contributors to the Oly Food Co-op’s “Round Up at the Register” option.



# PERSPECTIVE

“There has to be retribution”

# The extrajudicial execution of Michael Reinoehl

Daniel Mootz

Washington police deprived Michael Reinoehl of two crucial rights, the right to a fair trial and the right to be alive. By killing Reinoehl, the police took on the role of judge, jury and executioner. This illegal role, which has been particularly directed against black citizens after the killing of George Floyd, precipitated over 100 days of rage-filled protests across the country. These demonstrate a growing unity in America against racism and police brutality. Popular discontent has engulfed the US, the West Coast and Portland, Oregon, in particular.

The superimposed media narrative, always ready to ignore the essence of events, has focused primarily on petty looting, minor property destruction, the metaphor of violence with fireworks, and a supposed “woke” irrationality flooding the streets. At the same time, it ignores the long ‘irrationality’ of racism, police viciousness and the open presence of right-wing paramilitary groups, as well as unidentified government security units terrorizing citizens.

Reinhoel's recent execution at the hands of US law enforcement reveals the political and cultural bedrock of the police for what it is—an institution of indisputable bigotry and oppression—against which Reinoehl revolted, and for which he was gunned down.

In July, federal forces were deployed to Oregon's largest city, where they kidnapped activists and assisted local cops in brutalizing an outpouring of diverse and committed community members standing in solidarity with Black Lives. Michael Reinoehl was one of the people involved in these demonstrations, formed around antifascist coalition-building with an intent to reclaim the means of power otherwise monopolized by the state, in order to envision them anew.

On the night of August 29, Aaron Jay Danielson was with a partner prowling the streets of Portland after a day-long “Trump 2020 cruise rally” with people in trucks flying pro-police “thin blue line” flags shooting paint balls, and pepper spraying BLM protestors. As a local activist, Michael Reinoehl had been involved in some of these clashes. Aaron Danielson was a “good friend” and follower of Joey Gibson, founder of the conservative Christian “Patriot Prayer,” a far-right group involved in a number of violent demonstrations.

A cell phone video posted online of a confrontation between Danielson and Reinoehl shows a number of shadowy figures moving in the background, a few muffled voices, and simultaneously, a cloud of mace and a gunshot, and then another loud bang before the body of Danielson stumbles to his death.

In a VICE interview posted five days later, Reinoehl admits to the shooting and explains how, as a protester, he and those he was with felt strongly that they were in “immediate danger” as the two, apparently armed, Patriot Prayer mem-

bers stalked the streets at night. During the interview, Reinoehl admits to feeling his life was in grave danger, given the propensity for contemporary fascists and the police to work together to undermine the progressive cause.

supporter who went to a BLM demonstration in Kenosha, Wisconsin where he shot and killed two protestors. The Right's definition of “Law and Order” that criminalizes all forms of dissent paved the way for Reinoehl's execution, as it has



Reinoehl's fear of being hunted down and killed was confirmed on September 3, at an apartment complex in Lacey, Washington where he was ambushed by four officers with the PNW Violent Offenders Task Force and left for dead. The officers were not wearing body cams; at this time there is no known footage of the encounter.

for many others.

Political violence and murder are not new to America. In fact, they constitute the baptismal water of the nation. Michael Reinoehl's extrajudicial killing is a loud reminder of the power of our militarized police-state to reinforce the interests of those who rule the economy. The very notion of justice

## By killing Reinoehl, the police took on the role of judge, jury and executioner.

Nathaniel Dingus, an eyewitness to the attack, described seeing an unarmed Reinoehl being shot at by the police as he was walking to his car. He then saw Reinoehl attempt to flee as two SUV cruisers accelerated towards him. Reinhoel was felled in a hail of some 50 bullets, fired instantly, without any command to stop or freeze clearly given. At the time of writing, police said they had not determined whether Reinhoel fired, brandished or even displayed a gun.

The Thurston County coroner has ruled Reinhoel's death a homicide. The unrestrained, inter-state coalition among Patriot Prayer based in Vancouver, Washington and Oregon fascists, the Portland Police Department, the Washington Police and the US Marshals engenders policies that exonerates them of criminal consequences for their actions, and increase violent social control, so it is not surprising that Reinoehl didn't make it to trial.

When questioned about the shooting, President Trump responded by saying the marshall's killing of Reinoehl was “retribution” for Danielson's death “and that's the way it has to be.” This came after months of the White House labeling autonomous antifascists as a “domestic terror group.” President Trump had mass-tweeted his condolences on the death of this Patriot Prayer member -- a gesture echoing his earlier pro-fascist defense of the 17-year old police

is itself on trial. The police took another life needlessly and will not have to face the consequences.

No court can truly say what Reinoehl deserved for standing his ground in Portland. The question, then, for the Thurston County Sheriff's Office, which is investigating Reinoehl's death, is whether it can impartially apply justice without succumbing to the toxic ideology of absolute authority stemming from Trumpian fantasies. The police have always ruled with impunity, knowing that their interests -- as members of the repressive apparatus of the state whose main function is to block and suppress social movements --align closely with the values of capitalism, the violent Right and the status quo.

The case of Michael Reinoehl is clear, even if the evidence is incomplete, or is too incendiary to be fully brought to light. Totalitarian white nationalism, embedded in this country's history, is responsible for the deaths of both Reinoehl and Danielson, and is also what keeps the police a well-funded and well-functioning fixture in society.

Daniel Mootz graduated from The Evergreen State College, and likes the woods, art and travel.

# Retribution or justice?

Is our commitment to our system of justice strong enough to resist the current attacks on it?

Donald Trump recently praised the killing of a man sought in connection with a shooting in Portland: “US Marshalls killed him...there has to be retribution.” Trump had used the same phrase earlier talking about people who tore down monuments: “...there's going to be retribution because there has to be...”

Retribution is defined as punishment inflicted on someone as vengeance for a wrong or criminal act. The concept comes from ancient times “an eye for an eye” or returning evil for evil.

Retribution is antithetical to our system of law and order. In a system of law and order -- one that is more than a campaign slogan -- punishment is administered according to established rules and principles. In the United States we cherish these rules and principles: everyone is innocent until proven guilty; everyone is accorded due process; everyone has the right to a trial by jury. In a just system based on law and order punishment comes only after an impartial judgment.

If we accept Mr. Trump and his proposition that “there has to be retribution” we open the door for individuals to settle scores themselves—even individuals who wear police uniforms. President Trump not only praised Reinhoel's killing as retribution, he also defended a man accused of murdering protestors on the streets of Kenosha; he counts among his supporter's vigilantes—armed groups who undertake “law enforcement” without legal authority. That's how death squads operate in othe countries.

We've already gone some way down the road to accepting retribution instead of justice: police kill a thousand people a year on the street or in their homes. We've gone down that road with things like “pre-trial detention,” and “up charging” individuals so they wil forego a trial and enter a guilty plea in exchange for a “lesser” sentence. Will we turn back?

--BW

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FOR INFANTS TO SENIORS**

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to discuss your needs!

~ Trevor J. Marum,  
Chiropractor

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# Moving forward with black indigenous people of color and marginalized communities

Mercy Kariuki-McGee and  
Elisa McGee

Haki means Justice in swahili—a widely spoken language in Africa. Haki Farmers collective seeks to bolster and reincorporate traditional and inherently sustainable farming knowledge that is present in our migrant and indigenous communities. By holding close decolonization frameworks, Haki seeks to encourage people of color (POC), including indigenous peoples and the black decendents of American slavery, to reclaim life-giving knowledge of sustainable farming and plant medicine creation.

At Haki we believe the need to find our roots, examine and use our nearly erased traditional practices, and disseminate this knowledge is an urgent mission to care for our bodies, souls, and especially our planet.

Black farmers and farmers of color have a long history of being discriminated against and left out of many government-sponsored agricultural programs. This has led to a huge gap in farm ownership in America. Data from Washington State Department of Agriculture reveal that there are only three black farmers and 19 American Indian/Alaskan Native, 27 Asian, three Hawaiian Native/Pacific Islander, 63 Hispanic, 20 Laotian, Spanish, 20 mixed race farmers, compared to 2,048 white/caucasian.

Haki will be led and will work with Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Transgender, LGBTQIA, Disabled, and other marginalized community members, to educate, train and increase accessibility to healthy food. We are honored to partner with two leaders in food and farming justice, GruB, a local leader in urban farming, and the Community Land Trust of Thurston County, a leader in reclaiming and protecting agricultural farms. Haki will also partner with other organizations whose vision is to dismantle racism in our community and increase food accessibility to marginalized communities.

Haki plans on engaging youth in educational programs throughout Thurston County, working with local schools as well as other programs whose work aligns with Haki's mission. Through this program, middle and high school aged youth would learn decolonized farming

practices that include nutritional foods and plant medicines—much needed during unprecedented events such as the COVID-19 pandemic. The programs will also give opportunity to youth and communi-

ditional knowledge from different communities to be taught on-site with the aid of an educator. There, we will showcase the various ways of farming from our immigrant and indigenous communities to keep

## Haki will also partner with other organizations whose vision is to dismantle racism in our community

ty members to explore new healthy foods from around the world.

Haki farms programming will offer free education to BIPOC community members, ranging from entry level at-home farming to more technical knowledge based on the needs of specific communities, and the natural resources provided at various Haki Farm sites. Programs will also include the opportunity for tra-

this knowledge alive, keeping open minds and introducing new ideas of sustainable farming.

COVID-19 has tremendously affected the BIPOC community. Haki recognizes that this pandemic has magnetized the systemic injustices and discrimination faced by BIPOC and other marginalized communities. Our goal is to provide a continuous outreach pro-

## Skokomish Valley Farm

# “The best possible stewards of the land”

### Community Farmland Trust

The first time all 18 new owners of Skokomish Valley Farms got together, they discovered that none of them had ever lived or even worked on a farm. The structure of the farm was also new: each of the 18 owned a 40-acre parcel in what had once been a family farm in Shelton. What they had in common was a strong desire to be involved in producing food in a way that regenerates the land, sustains the people who depend on it and remains financially viable for future generations.

That was about 10 years ago. Now the farm has four enterprise activities: vegetables, chickens, hay and an orchard. In addition to a fully-subscribed CSA, they deliver to farmers' markets in Bremerton, Olympia, Shelton and Union. They're also part of South Sound Fresh, which began as a way to link local farmers with local chefs.

To meet the strictures of the pandemic, this year they turned South Sound Fresh into an on-line food market that now delivers to households in Mason County and parts of Olympia. That “food hub” element has taken off, with dozens of participating farms and producers offering a whole raft of things—

fresh vegetables of course, but baked goods, preserved foods, dairy, chicken and beef, fish and more. The number of orders has grown to 75 each week (see contact information at the end of the article).

Farm manager Paul Miller explained the structure of the farm.



steads” and others come and work part time. A few live elsewhere and haven't actually been to the farm. Miller pointed out that the “community around a farm” with its cooperative use of land offers a model with multiple advantages including land accessibility, capital for startup, generational

All of the owners purchased their parcels separately. On each parcel, there is a five-acre homesite with the majority of the remainder of each parcel in an agricultural easement held by the Owners' Association. A Board of Directors appoints a manager for each of the four enterprises, authorizes a budget and sets overall policies. The farmed acreage is operated as a whole—the chickens, for example, hang out with the vegetables.

Sustainability, preservation, restoration and conservation are key components of how they manage the farm. Over seventy acres are in a Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program easement to preserve and restore riparian areas along the Skokomish River. They also have more than 30 acres in an Emergency Watershed Protection program to protect wetland areas in perpetuity.

Each farm owner decides on the role they will play on the farm. Five families live and work there full time. Some are “kind of home-

transition, varied experience and expertise, support from multiple owners among other things.

It turns out that it's possible to learn to be a farmer—for the aspiring farmers at Skokomish Valley it meant reading a lot of books, going to conferences, talking to other area farmers and checking in with the Mason Conservation District and WSU Extension. They are organically certified by WSDA and are working with the Mason CD on other conservation and farming practices.

There is work to do on the farm year-round. Right now, along with three employees, the vegetable harvest is mostly coming to an end—they're finishing up the greens, high tunnels and storage crops—then it will be time to plant again.

Both Paul Miller and his wife Andrea had careers in the military and with their children had moved all over the world for many years.

► Skokomish, continued on page 12

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# Can flood control bonds be used in behalf of recreation interests on Black Lake?

Esther Kronenberg

Citizens for a Clean Black Lake has made progress in its effort to show the County Commission that it is illegal to use a flood control district to fund treatment of algae bloom in Black Lake. The Black Lake Special District (BLSD) had requested Thurston County Commissioners to back a bond issue for \$1.4 million to pay for an alum treatment to the lake.

The Department of Ecology (ECY) has now contacted the Attorney General's office to determine if BLSD, formed under RCW 85.38 whose purpose is to allow for flood control, diking and drainage, can be used in behalf of lake management actions related to recreation on Black Lake.

CCBL argues that BLSD as a flood control district never had the authority to do lake management activities under the Clean Water Act. Research into the District's meeting minutes discovered a 2014 Board Resolution that specifically states "BLSD does not intend to engage in flood control except to the extent of encouraging Thurston County to fulfill its obligations to maintain storm water flows into and out of Black Lake to minimize flooding."

As Black Lake has no controllable flooding, no flood control dikes or ditches and the BLSD declares it has no intention of "engaging in flood control" its very establishment was improper. According to

Nathan Lubliner, ECY unit manager for general permits in the water quality division, this issue has not previously been considered by the Department.

The County is attempting to circumvent this law by claiming the flood control district would be conducting lake management activities according to RCW 36.61 a statute that governs Lake Management Districts. According to the Citizens' group, this is like saying that someone with a driver's license also has the right to fly an airplane.

In effect, the County delegated its authority and responsibility to protect and manage Black Lake to the exclusive BLSD board, whose

previous incarnation was as the "Save Black Lake Coalition." Their primary objective was stated as "to keep our lake water clean of noxious weeds, invasive species, and nuisance weeds that prevent lake enjoyment and damage boat and watercraft engines."

The flood control district has already carried out several lake management activities. Their own County-approved 2012 Integrated Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan recommended manual pulling of weeds after two years. They have violated the plan by continuing to use herbicides, including glyphosate and diquat through the current year, long past the two years allowed. And though this was never mentioned in their approved Plan, the district spent \$790,000 on alum treatment that promised to be effective for 5-10 years but lasted only three years.

Thurston County Commissioner Gary Edwards is opposing the \$1.4 bond because of the negative effects it will have on mobile park residents and other low-income seniors on the lakefront because they couldn't afford the pass-through fees they would inevitably shoulder.

Commissioner Tye Menser responded to CCBL concerns in a letter stating that he favors an "aggressive approach to addressing external phosphorus loading in Black Lake due to stormwater runoff and failing septic systems," but he is reluctant to intervene in an issue that he perceives to lie within the purview of the flood control district.

Menser's letter did not address the question of violation of the 2012 plan, nor the possible effects that continued dumping of chemicals will have on the County's strategic groundwater reserve. This requires "local governments with land-use authority to protect the quality of the public groundwaters reserved for future public water supply" as designated in WAC 173-591, or on the 16 Critical Aquifer Recharge areas which, like the strategic reserve, are in hydraulic continuity with Black Lake.

He also did not respond to CCBL's claims that according to the purposes of the statutes that formed them, flood control districts can only engage in activities related to flood control, so that any aquatic management done must also be for flood control and cannot be done for a completely different purpose as is the case at Black Lake.

Even if the Department of Ecology ultimately decides to allow the flood control district to do recreational lake management activities, CCBL plans to challenge the ruling. The County will still have many questions to answer about its responsibilities as the land use authority for Black Lake, including the lack of any State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review, and the effects of this project on the surface and groundwater of the area.

*Esther Kronenberg follows water issues in Thurston County and writes often for WIP. To support CCBL, please contact Suzanne Kline [suzannedkline@gmail.com](mailto:suzannedkline@gmail.com)*

## Setting the bar higher

# No potash export facility at Port of Grays Harbor

Lee First

It was good news and bad news in Grays Harbor when BHP Billiton announced September 4 that it is withdrawing its permit applications for a proposed potash export facility at Terminal 3 in Hoquiam, Washington.

The good news, for those of us who live in Grays Harbor who have been attending meetings, hearings, and writing letters since 2015, is that our voices were heard loud and clear. The county's regulations, permits and environmental protection processes worked.

Potash is the main ingredient in industrial fertilizer. The company exploring the terminal was BHP Billiton, the second largest mining company in the world. It is developing a huge underground potash mine near Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. From there, BHP's plan is to ship heavy train cars full of potash (rocks) 1,200 miles to Hoquiam, load huge bulk-carriers, exit the bar, and on to world fertilizer plants.

Negotiations between the Port, Quinault Nation, and the permitting agencies had been going on for 5 years when BHP abruptly announced it was withdrawing its application. BHP states it is looking instead into Fraser Surrey Docks in British Columbia along with several other terminals on the northwest coast of North America.

But it is also a hollow victory because Grays Harbor County needs economic development, now more than ever. The announcement of BHP's withdrawal came just three years after the Port of Grays Harbor publicly announced that shipping crude oil by rail and sea was "off the table" with the withdrawal of Contanda Grays Harbor and REG crude terminal projects. Our unemployment rate was 14% in July 2020.

If we want to achieve sustainable economic growth for Grays Harbor, we must stop selling our region short. What can we learn from the recent rejection of these two

major Port of Grays Harbor development projects? According to a Port of Grays Harbor press release, BHP blamed "continuous local stakeholder concerns and ongoing regulatory hurdles with no resolution or permit completion timeline in sight."

But is this really the fault of stakeholders, the permitting process and environmental regulations, or are there other considerations at work?

## We do not need to pit economic development against community stakeholders and the environment.

I thought hard and long about why so many Grays Harbor residents opposed the BHP terminal as I listened to hours of testimony during the hearings. There are things we can do to produce a better outcome when the next development proposal comes around:

### Fix the railroad infrastructure to eliminate potential accidents

A few years ago, during the crude oil terminal threat, I looked at every single over-water (bridge) that the trains would have to cross in Grays Harbor County. There are a lot of such bridges and at that time, up to a quarter of them were in poor condition. The crude oil terminal would have relied on heavy trains traveling over 1,200 miles to Grays Harbor. How could we protect our waters with all the heavy trains crossing bridges?

### Address the sediment problem at the source

Any proposal to add bulk carrier vessels with their deeper drafts would raise the question of deeper and more frequent dredging to remove sediment. Yet the costs of dredging, both to the bay's health and to businesses, have not been fully considered. The first step would be to identify sources of sediment coming into the Harbor. Sources from the watershed such as construction sites, eroding shoreline, urban and agricultural

runoff can be controlled at the source. Relying on continual dredging to keep the navigation channel open is hugely expensive, harms the environment and has a negative impact on harbor-dependent industries like oyster growers. Proposals that bring Increased shipping traffic also increase the risk of groundings and potential spills as ships cross the Chehalis River bar.

### Clean up toxic contaminated industrial sites

Within the city limits of Aberdeen and Hoquiam, there are over 150 sites listed under the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA). Ten of the sites are rated #1 as posing the most risk to humans and the environment. If the BHP Billiton project had proceeded, compensa-

tory mitigation would have been required. BHP proponents said they would "restore" a toxic site on Port property that is listed as needing cleanup. One way to attract new economic growth would be to clean these sites up and prepare them for sustainable development. The Port should create a target for cleaning up promising sites, building a budget that could include aggressive pursuit of grants.

### Recognize and support tribal treaty rights from the start.

If we stop proposing development that is in direct conflict with tribal rights it will save time and be more productive.

Protect and promote what is unique about Grays Harbor

Grays Harbor is home to vibrant shellfish, crab and fishing industries. The Grays Harbor National Wild Refuge is internationally known as significant shorebird habitat. Thousands of tourists visit the Refuge annually to participate in festivals, making it an economic engine of this community. Cumulative impacts of noise, light, traffic, dust, air pollution, and stormwater pollution that have a negative impact on birds threatens the viability of this source of economic activity. We should be working to minimize these impacts at the same time

▶ No potash, continued on page 11



## An ode to volunteers

**The current cadre of WIPsters**  
It is a sensible warning that if you're going to acknowledge the work of anyone, you have to acknowledge everyone—and since inevitably you will leave someone out, you better figure out another way.

This is the better way we've hit upon. We'll tell you about the three groups of people who, over three decades, have made *Works in Progress* the unique and enduring newspaper that it is.

**First there are the protestors,** demonstrators, educators, creators, builders and questioners who do the things that get into the pages of the paper. Then there the people who write about them, take the pictures, draw the graphics. Finally, there is that strange breed of human who pulls all that together into 8 or 12 or 16 (maybe on occasion 20) pages and sees that it gets into your hands.

Over the years, the first group has organized educational forums and street demonstrations to demand an end to police brutality and systemic racism. They have fought for action to address climate change and for real measures to stop gun violence. They have demanded respect for black lives and the whole spectrum of identities that make up the vibrant world we want to bring about. They worked to make Olympia a sanctuary city and pushed for immigrant rights.

They celebrated our forests and farmlands and fought to restore native fishery habitat and environmental protections for endangered species. They protested making it a crime to sit on a public sidewalk or to be homeless, while creating services to make the absence of a house to live in less onerous. They impeded the shipment of war materiel, of infrastructure destined to poison water and extend the stranglehold of fossil fuel companies on our energy supply.

We honor the people, nameless to us, who over the last 30 years have gone to meetings and rallies to push for justice and peace and for the preservation of our home, the Earth. Thank you for your work. May you continue to persevere and to celebrate life. Your unselfish display of thoughtfulness and energy have helped all of us to survive.

**Second, there are those who** brought the stories of these actions to the pages of *Works in Progress*—very often the same people who carried out the actions, protests, demonstrations and creative interventions. Without their contributions year after year after year, showing up on handwritten or typed pages in early days and now attached to emails, the paper would have failed in its mission and disappeared long ago. We owe them for requesting and poring over public records, for interviewing people, for getting below the surface that usually passes for “news.” For choosing to write for free and ...

**Third, there are the people** involved in turning all of this into a newspaper and making it available to readers. Reading through the pdfs online (beginning with 2012) there is an extraordinary history of citizen attempts to demand and

create a more just society. It is clear, too, that this record is a truer one than you would find in the pages of *The Olympian* or most other official “organs” of the establishment. This includes people who for 30 years have worked to make sure that paper

**A brief note of gratitude and a clarification**  
*Works In Progress* came into being and continues to exist, thanks to three decades of generous and the mostly anonymous volunteer labor of hundreds of individuals. The publishing Committee would like to pause and thank all of those who have taken part in the change of production that make WIP possible. This large group encompasses: printer workers, carriers, distributors, advertisers, grant founders, donors, subscribers, writers, editors, graphic artists, translators, doers, talkers, haranguers, fellow travelers, and critics in good and bad faith. Not to mention our readers (real or imaginary), that with different levels of agreement or disagreement have plowed through our pages for thirty years. This in itself, constitutes a peculiar event considering that reading printed material has become a rare skill in our digital world (WIP-online addresses that particular cultural fact).

On the other hand, to all of those located at the opposite end of our political spectrum, those who, on more or less regular bases, continue to vandalize and destroy our distribution boxes, etc., let them be the recipients of our contempt, and let their actions prove the failure of their intellect.

**WIP as a collective contrarian**  
Given the progressive ideology that since 1990 defines our paper, each issue of WIP can be understood as the diary entry of a collective contrarian. As a monthly oppositional voice questioning existing social conditions. In other words—and this is perhaps one of the keys to understand the longevity of the paper—WIP exists in critical relation to the existing social reality of our community, the nation and the world. What gives life to WIP is that it stands in opposition to the existing conditions imposed by a society which we consider to be marked by social inequality, corporative greed, racism, restrictions to popular political participation, and environmental destruction, among other malevolent traits.

Granted, WIP's voice is not, it has never been, and cannot be, the voice of a single political idea or ideology, but a platform for a combined group of voices, not always at unison, sometimes not even in the same ideological

gets out into the community, into the hands of readers. It includes volunteers who edit, layout, advertise, distribute, who take those stories, emails, manuscripts, cartoons, photographs and turn them into a newspaper that is readable, that challenges our community, that helps us see the work being done and the work to be done.

**Finally you the reader.** Alternative

language and with different talents and levels of knowledge. Nonetheless, they are united around the general principles of democracy and social justice. That is what has always mattered in the nearly 5,000 pages published since 1990, and those principles constitute the core of the paper.

WIP has survived thirty years, and yes, we continue to be dissatisfied, question, and oppose the current outcomes of our society. The following paragraphs intent to provide the reader with a panoramic, albeit incomplete view, of the last three decades of social life in the U.S. With that in mind, we have used some key categories to which we have added some brief information to illustrate the current conditions in America.

**Thirty years later**  
**Democrats vs. Republican Presidents since 1990**

- ▶ Number of Elected Presidents: Republican (3), Democrats (2)
- ▶ Years at the White House: Democrats (16), Republicans (14)
- ▶ Party in control for each United States Congress/ Senate: Republicans (8), Democrats (6)
- ▶ Party in control for each United States Congress /House: Republicans (10), Democrats (6)

**Wars since 1990**

- ▶ Number of Wars involving the United States Initiated by Republican vs Democrats Presidents: Republicans (8), Democrats (12)
- ▶ Larger number of wars initiated by an administration: Obama (7), Clinton (5), Bush, H. W (4), Bush, G. W. (4)
- ▶ Wars that were the result of Congress' official declaration of war: 0
- ▶ Total number of U.S. military deaths since 1990: (7,188)
- ▶ Estimated number of people displaced by “war on terror”: 31 million.

**What About the Economy?**  
(And no, you don't have to be stupid!)

- ▶ **Income inequality:** Income inequality in the U.S. is the highest of all industrialized nations. Which in simple words, means that the already super-rich keep getting even richer, and the poor keep getting poorer, the difference being that in the U.S., the ultra -rich get richer than anywhere else in the world. (Pew Research Center)
- ▶ Since 1989-1998 the richest families are the only group to have gained wealth since the Great Recession. Middle class incomes

papers like *Works in Progress* typically have a short lifespan—a few months or maybe a few years. It is remarkable that *Works in Progress* has been produced for 30 years by a changing cast of volunteers, distributed free throughout Thurston County and neighboring counties. Thank you for subscribing or for grabbing a copy and sharing it, year after year.

have grown at a much slower rate than the upper-tier incomes in the last five decades (Pew Research Center)

▶ **The Bailout of the Banks:** Both Republican and Democratic administrations have been willing to use people's money to bailout banks and corporations. In 1989-1990 during the Savings and Loan Crisis, George H. W. Bush used around \$160 billion to save greedy and socially irresponsible S&L organizations. Almost a decade later, his son George W. Bush signed the malignant Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP), meant to bailout the banks for their financial mismanagement. Not too many Americans know that the TARP act wasn't signed by Obama, but by Republican G.W.Bush. Nonetheless, a few weeks later TARP was duly implemented by the Obama administration in spite the fact that having a majority in Congress, he could have easily stopped it. Instead Obama preferred to exonerate the criminal activities of bankers and placed the financial burden not on wealthy financial institutions but on borrowers. Overall, Republicans and Democrats shamelessly joined forces and authorized \$700 billion to bailout the wealthy. This is a fact not well known by most of Americans.

**Public Health:**  
In spite of being the wealthiest nation in the history of humanity, we rank 37 in the quality and efficiency of our health system. Suffice to say that regarding the Covid-19 epidemic we have surpassed the death toll of 200,000 and over 7 million cases. Paradoxically, in this infamous category we have “Made America Great Again” and rank first in the world. It is difficult not to compare the billions assigned to bailout the banks and big finance, versus the meager help provided by the Trump administration to public health institutions to fight this lethal virus.

**Race, Police Brutality, and Criminal Justice:**  
The Pew Research Center reports that currently majorities of both white and black Americans say black people are treated less fairly than whites in dealing with the police, and by the criminal justice system as a whole. The months of continuous protests against police brutality, and the growing acceptance of the BLM movement speak for themselves about the condi-

▶ **Against the backdrop,** cont'd on p 10



# WIP stories show citizens making up for local government failures

## A long-time WIP reader

Looking back at WIPs coverage of development in Olympia and Thurston County, the conclusion has to be that citizen opposition to many initiatives has kept planners from sacrificing neighborhoods to the demands of the market. Yet overall, development decisions continued to erode the basis for an inclusive city. Housing was and still remains out of reach for many people. Ever-renewing government plans to end homelessness are as predictable as the growth in homelessness and the claim that “bad choices”—not bad policies adopted by elected officials—are to blame.

Scanning the stories submitted to WIP offers insight into some nitty gritty details of local history. And there's lots more than touched on here. Lots.

Stories about Olympia's Westside tell about the community's refusal over a 20-year period to let City planners turn the intersection of Harrison and Division into a traffic nightmare. Neighbors organized and defeated city-approved developments because the approval violated the city's own rules. Without citizen opposition, the intersection would have had a Jack-in-the-Box drive-in on one corner and a “fuel/mini-mart” or a second convenience store on another.

In the case of the convenience store (a 7-11), WIP's pages show how the City spent thousands of

dollars defending the staff errors even up to the Superior Court where they lost a final time. Today, a community park occupies the space intended for the 7–11 – testament to the persistence of the community.

When citizens showed that new zoning rules called the “Missing Middle” failed to comply with their own laws, the city sidestepped that finding and asked the legislature to eliminate citizen's ability to challenge them. More recently, con-



Neighbors celebrated their victory over 7-11 at Vic's Pizzeria

The pages of WIP also tell what's been lost to “market forces” and what's been saved. “On the Trail of Harmen Verbrugge and the Westside Center” shows how local businesses like Peterson's grocery, At Home with Books, Olympic Drugs, Rainy Day Records, the Asterisk were forced out when their Canadian landlord raised rents. On the other hand, organized citizens were able to preserve open space at Grass Lake and Trillium Park.

tributors researched city policies designed to promote higher-end apartment building downtown by exempting their owners from property tax. Read in sequence the articles chronicle 30 years of policies that are driving working people out of the city and low-income people into the street.

Stories of homelessness started with the first issues of WIP and continues to this day. Generally this “problem” was left to citizens to solve as governments did noth-

ing or made things worse. In 1992 regular people formed Homeless Empowerment and Lodging (HELP) to offer shelter with a commitment to social integration as an alternative to the Salvation Army which denied people entry based on a list of bad behaviors.

Throughout the 90s, police regularly roused homeless camps while businesses called for elimination of Bread and Roses, an organization that played an important role in the creation and ongoing support of other citizen efforts including Olympia's first syringe exchange, emergency winter overnight shelters, Partners in Prevention Education, Camp Quixote, SideWalk, EGYHOP, and Food Not Bombs, among others. And then welfare reform and changes to disability rules impoverished more people.

When a key shelter at the First Baptist Church closed, the people who had been there set up camp in Sylvester Park – kicking off a 3-year successful community-led battle to convert The Fleetwood (an abandoned Pacific Telephone Central Office) into housing. A few businesspeople created “the Downtown Merchants Association” and “Friends of Sylvester Park” that failed to derail the proposal (“Homeless smear campaign targets Fleetwood”). WIP stories helped (see Pat Tassoni's comments on next page). In 1997 the Fleetwood opened across from Sylvester Park with 43 supported apartments prioritizing veterans and other very low income people. It is still going strong. Years later, Camp Quixote, an early tiny house project (now at Mottman) was also ushered into existence by highly visible camping, assisted by churches and other activists.

In 1997, Congress repealed a law that called for replacing 1 for 1 every house lost from low income public programs – contributing to other rollbacks in funding for housing. More citizen efforts produced the “Mission of Hope Church and Sanctuary” with formerly homeless men coordinating a shelter with county-wide services. Crazy Faith offered weekly free food downtown and was warned by police that they were breaking the law by standing in a parking lot. Amahora House “Hospice without Borders” was formed to provide end of life care for the homeless. In the meantime, the County's Crisis Clinic and Emergency Housing Network distributed a “resource guide” that said there were more shelters available in Seattle and Tacoma and suggested people could get creative: “Is camping an option?”

Into the 2000s, community members continue to be on the front lines confronting the urgency of homelessness. Two street outreach coordinators started Just Housing Olympia in 2016 to include homeless people (better described as houseless) to advocate for and meet urgent needs like a legal places to sleep and use the bathroom and as encampments grew, providing garbage removal, laundry and basic supplies. As for local jurisdictions, a table in the August 2020-WIP featured a graphic showing their 5- and 10-year plans to end homelessness, beginning in 2010 and stretching ahead seemingly forever.

Explore more coverage of these issues at [www.olywip.org](http://www.olywip.org).

## The backdrop of American history

From page 7

tions of race in America. Equally illustrative—and concerning—is the government tolerated public presence of armed, white supremacist militia groups used to intimidate public civic dissent.

### Thurston County

- ▶ As August 2020, the average rent in Olympia shows a 12.89% increase from last year.
- ▶ According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2018, the population living below poverty in Thurston was 8.4%
- ▶ In 2018, 835 people were counted as homeless in Thurston County, which represented a 56% increase compared with the previous year. We assume conditions have not improved in 2020.
- ▶ The Thurston County Homeless Census Office considers four main reasons for becoming homeless: Job loss/ unemployment, Eviction /loss of housing. Family rejection, and domestic violence.
- ▶ The Port of Olympia' questionable management style has been persistently opposed and continues to be criticized by local citizens ( see article in this issue)

### The Environment

- ▶ The Trump administration has accelerated a de-regulation process within the EPA (Envi-

ronmental Protection Agency) practically eliminating all environmental protective measures put in place by Obama. Trump and his administration have created within government an ‘official discourse’ favorable to carbon-based extractive industries, and paved the way to increase their economic interests with complete disregard for the environment.

- ▶ Internationally, a recent report by Oxfam and the Stockholm Environmental Institute, notes that from 1990 to 2015 the carbon emissions of the wealthiest 1% of the world population, was three times greater than the emissions of 50% of the poorest half.

### The Years to Come

The previous panoramic social vignettes of the nation are not, by any means flattery. The inner logic of capitalism is meant by definition to benefit a minority, that is, those who own the means of production and the overall wealth of the nation; and that logic hasn't change either with Republicans or Democrats. Also, by definition, as reflected by the name of our paper, our struggle for social justice since 1990 is continuous, it is a ‘work in progress’ meant to persevere as long social reality remains unchallenged. But the contrarian voice of WIP is not enough, if social change is to occur, and if humanity makes it possible to live in a better world—if there is to be a world for humans at all in the future—we need the

participation of the largest number of people. In the words of social critic Noam Chomsky:

As long as the general population is passive, apathetic, diverted to consumerism or hatred of the vulnerable, then the powerful can do as they please, and those who survive will be left to contemplate the outcome

Let's stop the powerful from doing as they please!

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# The political origins of Works in Progress

Our story begins with the 1988 presidential campaign of Jesse Jackson. All around the country “Rainbow Coalitions” organized at the local and state level in support of the campaign. In Washington state, there came into being an incipient Rainbow Coalition with various components including the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition (TCRC).

After the election, various efforts were made to create ongoing Rainbow Coalitions. The Washington Rainbow Coalition under the leadership of Larry Gossett decided to hold a founding convention in February. Jackson, who had plans other than creating semi-autonomous democratic progressive electoral organizations, asked us to refrain—but we ignored his request and went ahead with the convention.

I was elected one of seven officers (Corresponding Secretary) of the newly formed Washington State Rainbow Coalition (WSRC). Organizationally, we got off to an excellent start, with top leadership being mainly persons of color; the WSRC Executive Committee (“ExCom” consisting of the seven officers) had only two white persons including me.

Then in early March 1989, Jackson and his National Rainbow Coalition (NRC) tried to rein in the incipient local and state Rainbow Coalitions by imposing an authoritarian, top-down organizational structure. It provided for the NRC to appoint or remove any state or even local officer, to determine the state organizational structure and to (only) call state conventions.

## A LOOK BACK Dave Jette

Alone within the WSRC ExCom, I vigorously opposed this transformation of the WSRC, forcing a statewide meeting of the members by circulating the new NRC bylaws to the various local components. Fortunately, as Corresponding Secretary I had the addresses of all the local officers so, to the anguish of the rest of the ExCom, I was able to do this. They would have preferred to keep the membership in the dark about what was going on. The result of this meeting was to keep the WSRC on its track of building a democratic organization from the ground up. The whole experience is detailed in my article “Washington State Rainbow” on my political website [www.bcmsocialism.org](http://www.bcmsocialism.org), at <https://bcmsocialism.org/the-washington-state-rainbow-coalition/>.

Fast forward to the middle of 1990. In June the Thurston County Rainbow (TCRC) had started publishing a free monthly newspaper Works in Progress (WIP). There were strong signs of life in Yakima, but otherwise the state coalition was steadily going downhill. The membership had dropped from over 1000 to around 300. People were not renewing their membership, and the WSRC was turning into a paper organization. The TCRC asked me to write a regular column for WIP commencing in September. With my first column, I tried to save the WSRC by enlightening members as to what was going on.

“The Rise and Fall of the Washington State Rainbow Coalition” The piece was so long it would have taken up three full pages of WIP. So we broke it into two parts, with the first part giving the history and current status of the WSRC,

detailing efforts to combat Jackson and the NRC attempts to transform the WSRC into a component of Jackson’s campaign organization. The second part, published in October as “Rebuilding the Vision,” suggested a way to resurrect the WSRC. As Corresponding Secretary I still maintained the membership role, so I gave WIP the mailing labels and they sent the September issue out to all the remaining WSRC members.

Then the fun began, for the WSRC ExCom was aghast at my sending out what they considered to be a trashing of the WSRC. I asked for permission to send out the second part of the article, and although they were given the October issue, they didn’t seem to accept that trying to reinvigorate the organization was a positive thing. They forbade me to send the issue and instead “fired” me as Corresponding Secretary. This was illegal under our bylaws, and I just resigned from the position.

Not willing to give up, I asked the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition to send the October issue to all WSRC members in defiance of the ExCom. They agreed almost unanimously to do this. (One person wasn’t happy with this course of action, but declined to block consensus.) A sheet accompanying that mailing opened by stating “You are not supposed to be getting this mailing!” and went on to explain that “we do not believe it is the proper role of the leadership of an organization to control, to filter, to restrict in any way, the flow of information and opinions to the members about what the organization is doing and how it is functioning.”

The TCRC had passed its baptism of fire, speaking truth to power. The critical importance of a free, independent press had been demonstrated. The deep respect with which Larry Gossett and I held each other had been unaffected by these intense struggles within the WSRC: in 1993 I served on the campaign committee that helped to place this outstanding African-American leader on the King County Council for the first of 27 years.

Thus commenced my close relationship with WIP. In the first two years I published twenty columns in my “On the Mark” series, mostly on theoretical questions such as democracy, socialism, Marxism, etc. Since then I have published the occasional article in WIP, and now, of course, I am writing the bi-monthly column “Looking Forward.”



I should like to impress on readers how politically significant the WIP project has been, not only because of its unabashedly progressive content, but also because in Washington state it alone has survived for three decades, from the ashes of the Washington State Rainbow Coalition. (In Seattle there have been several attempts over the years to create a progressive newspaper, but to no avail.)

*In addition to his history with WIP outlined in this column, Dave Jette is the author of A Reformation of Dialectical Materialism, which incorporates feminist theory into a traditional Marxist framework (available at [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com))*

# Who does the Port of Olympia serve?

Interested readers answer

Works in Progress accounts reveal a 21st century history of a government that serves many interests, but without a focus on helping people in Thurston county.

Following the invasion of Iraq 2003, local peace, anti-war and non-violence activists became concerned about the use of the Port to support military shipments. By 2004 they had sparred with the Port enough to learn that the Port Commissioners intended to continue with the shipments, and many misleading statements about what types of materials and equipment were included. Numerous protests around the Port of Olympia were organized from late 2004 onward.

WIP published many pieces between 2005 and 2008 that touched on facets of Port Militarization Resistance (PMR). Articles included headlines such as, “Stand-Off at the Port of Olympia Gate” (July 2006); “Olympia 22 Win Initial Court Battle: First Iraq War Protest Case to be Allowed to argue Defense of Necessity” (November 2006); “Port Militarization Resistance: We Must Act Locally and Directly to Stop the US Occupation of Iraq” (March 2007); “Olympia 22 Case Ends in Mistrial: Reveals Surveillance of Activists” (April 2007); and “Blocking the Strykers: Thirteen Days of War Resistance at the Port of Olympia,” (December 2007).

Stryker vehicles were a major point of contention, and they were part of the cargo of a shipment in May 2006 that set off the biggest protests. A total of 37 people were arrested in protests that month. The military claimed it would cease shipments through the Port of Olympia in favor of the much larger Port of Tacoma, and PMR moved its protests there. Yet in November, a shipment of returning Strykers and related equipment showed up at the Port of Olympia and triggered more protests by anti-war activists. The November protests led to 66 arrests.

The anti-war protestors had to deal with a share of police brutality, and they learned they were infiltrated by members of the US military, who had spied on them for years. In November of 2009, public records requests exposed John Towery as an infiltrator. Further records requests confirmed that numerous local law enforcement groups, federal agencies, and branches of the US military participated in the spying on Port Militarization Resistance.

The Port spurred another wave of protests when it imported bags of fracking proppants from China shipped by Houston-based Rainbow Ceramics after signing a contract in 2012. The proppants were loaded onto railroad cars for transport to the Dakotas and nearby. In 2016, protestors occupied a section of railroad track in downtown Olympia, and tensions flared between the city and the Port as the security and cleanup costs mounted. When the market collapsed, the Port was literally stuck holding the bags for years, revealing how the drafting of Port contracts favored marine terminal users and failed to protect the public.

The money-losing contract with Weyerhaeuser and a couple of other large local logging companies is the most persistent example of bad deal making by the Port. The companies store, debark, sort and ship raw logs at the Port’s marine terminal, on such bad terms that the Port loses well over a million dollars every year. The logs caused so much pollution in Budd Inlet that the Port built stormwater infrastructure costing more millions, yet still found itself fighting and losing two major clean water lawsuits, which cost even more millions in attorneys’ fees, restitution, and further storm water mitigation. Port Commissioners spent more millions upgrading log loaders.

## No potash

From page 6

that we enhance our ecotourism sector. A recent US survey put the economic value generated every year by bird and other wildlife watchers at around \$32 billion.

Identify the economic development we want

Finally, permitting processes are not onerous if we are clear from the start about what we want economic development to look like. We do not need to pit economic development against community stakeholders and the environment. A good healthy environment promotes and supports economic development that improves our community. There is no reason to let big international corporations prey on our willingness to ignore stakeholders and degrade our environment, as they try to water down regulatory processes. We can and should set the bar much higher.

*Lee First is the Twin Harbors Waterkeeper. For more go to [twinharborswaterkeeper.org/about/](http://twinharborswaterkeeper.org/about/)*



# Attorney Larry Jefferson selected to receive the 2020 Daniel Bigelow award for outstanding achievement

*From the TCBA May Legal Brief*

Attorney Larry Jefferson was selected by the Board of the Thurston County Bar Association (TCBA) to receive this year's Daniel Bigelow Award in recognition of outstanding achievement in professional and community service. Jefferson is a lead attorney for the Superior Court Adult Felony team at Thurston County Public Defense. The May issue of TCBA's Legal Brief, describes Jefferson's many contributions to the community and to the constructive evolution of the criminal justice system as follows:

Throughout his twenty plus years in public service, Mr. Jefferson has been the personification of the TCPD Mission Statement. "To defend and protect our clients' Constitutional Rights, one person at a time." In partnership with Wayne Graham, Mr. Jefferson spearheaded the First Look Program which provides alternatives to charges and incarceration for cases identified as low-level and non-violent. This assisted in reducing the rate of incarceration in our community.

In addition, Mr. Jefferson was instrumental in establishing the new Pretrial Services Diversion



support for clients in need of services. Through his employment, Larry Jefferson has served in work groups and committees such as Innovative Justice, The Opioid Task Force, Felony Leadership Improvement Project and Cielo.

In addition to the committees and workgroups already mentioned, Mr. Jefferson contributes hundreds of hours of personal time in our local community. He has served as a board member for the Campaign for Equal Justice and former member of the Olympian Editorial Board and Disciplinary Advisory Round Table.

In addition, Larry Jefferson served on committees for Olympia Beer and Justice which provides legal aid for low-income families. He was instrumental in resurrecting the TCBA Criminal Law Section and in 2019, he and Mike Martinez introduced the TCBA Diversity and Inclusion Section.

Mr. Jefferson was active on the Thurston County Bar Association Board of Directors from 2009 to 2015. During that time, he served as an Officer and as President from 2013 to 2014. It is no surprise Mr. Jefferson was nominated and received the Washington State Bar Association Local Hero Award in 2018. Although he is always busy with a new committee or workgroup, Mr. Jefferson finds the time to serve breakfast every week at the Salvation Army Community Kitchen in Olympia. Through his actions and dedication, Mr. Jefferson is an outstanding professional and leader in our community

## Skokomish

From page 5

Along with the others, they were looking for a more connected way of life. Paul said, "Some people thought we were crazy to leave steady jobs, build our own house and live on the farm. We built a small cabin while we were still in the airforce. But we love it here. And the others love it as well."

The Skokomish Valley Farm offers those connections—to the land, to a community, to meaningful work, to the future. The Miller children, who range in age from 11 to 17, are home schooled—as they had been during their mobile lives with the military. There are on-line courses, classes in the community and a

community choir to participate in. During the pandemic, sports activities were curtailed but on a farm, there is plenty to do out of doors.

Often on a holiday, there will be a get-together, or a party for a kids' birthday—the youngest child on the farm is one year old. There is a community area in a grove of trees, with a wood-fired pizza oven. There's a pond.

Three miles up a gravel road, another road leads to this special arrangement at the foot of the

The "food hub" has taken off, with dozens of participating farms and producers offering a whole raft of things...

Olympic Mountains, where a small group of people are creating a farm that could be part of their lives for generations.

Sources for this article are the Community Farm Land trust and a conversation with Paul Miller, SVF farm manager. To contact SVF or find out more about the Food Hub, go to [www.skokomishvalleyfarms.com](http://www.skokomishvalleyfarms.com) or email [farmer@skokomishvalleyfarms.com](mailto:farmer@skokomishvalleyfarms.com)

The Community Farm Land Trust is a local nonprofit that brings the community together to preserve working farmland forever. The CFLT keeps working farmland affordable and accessible for the next generation of farmers in the South Sound. The CFLT also provides education outreach and supports the local farm economy with the annual publication of the South Sound Farm Map.

Program which is a low-cost diversion program. Over the course of two years, he worked with the Prosecuting Attorney's Office and Pretrial Services in developing and implementing the program. Mr. Jefferson was a critical team member of the Trueblood Diversion Program. He worked tirelessly to obtain the release from custody of mentally ill clients who then obtained treatment and evaluations within the community.

The program is a model for the State of Washington and a basis for future requests to obtain peer



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# OPD and vigilantes

From page 1

### Three Percenter aren’t racists, but...

The aim of the OPD investigation was to exonerate their officer from the charge of racism, so they accepted the Three Percenters' self-description as inclusive do-gooders. If they had looked more closely at the groups' website, they would have seen this chilling statement:

Groups like BLM, Antifa, Indivisible and more want and work for the destruction and abolition of our way of life. Socialists are working with the Democratic Party to destroy America. This is sad and infuriating to many people from all walks of life. While people sit in the comfort of their living room watching Don Lemon and Rachel Maddow and sip their sweet Koolaid we are watching our Liberties and Inalienable Rights being stripped from us faster than we can react.

The OPD chose to ignore peoples' primary concern, which was not with political attitudes but with the fact that these men were vigilantes and vigilantes are a threat to the community.

### Public officials get it right

The OPD also chose to ignore the same concerns put forth by 33 local elected officials and later signed by 2000 other members of the community:

We oppose the presence of armed vigilantes patrolling our communities. Organized armed groups have escalated an already tense situation, carrying both lethal and less-lethal weapons in an intimidating fashion.

Arrival of armed self-appointed “peacekeepers” is historically how paramilitary forces gain control of local areas during times of national instability such as the time we are living through now.

We have heard concerns about law enforcement cooperation with nonpermitted militia activity. Any appearance of indifference or camaraderie further erodes fragile relationships between the public and law enforcement and jeopardizes the entire community's safety.

### “Militia-style group” is another name for vigilante

Why did the OPD direct attention away from these concerns? The investigation report makes clear that if “militia-type groups” are peaceful and law-abiding and don’t espouse racist views “there does not appear to be any Department policies (sic) that requires treating them differently than groups...who espouse racial-justice or other ‘liberal’ goals.”

“Militia-style groups” are self-appointed groups of citizens who are undertaking law enforcement in their community without legal authority—in a word, they are vigilantes. Such groups and individuals are emerging all over the country, often supported by the idea that local police forces need help or are in some way inadequate.

### A false equivalency

Is the OPD willing to overlook the fact that these vigilantes intimidate the residents of Olympia because of state laws allowing people to carry a weapon openly? In the report, the police interviewer points out that the police won’t restrict the access of “Open Carry groups” during demonstrations. “Although some members of the community have negative views of [militia-style] groups, others support the right of such groups to exercise their First and Second Amendment rights.”

It is increasingly common to see armed gunmen walking neighborhood streets, with the police treating it as normal, even, as in this case, welcoming the support of vigilantes. Many of these groups subscribe to the proposition that those “liberal” protestors the police report mentioned are working for the abolition of their way of life. Are people walking around with assault rifles expressing their Second Amendment rights no different from “liberals” carrying signs and singing?

### When will the police enforce these laws?

There are laws that clarify that it's not an abridgement of Second Amendment rights to cite someone for intimidating unarmed citizens and playing the part of law enforcement.

RCW 38.40.120 forbids unauthorized groups to “associate themselves together as a military company or organize or parade in public with firearms.” RCW 9.41.270 outlaws the carrying of any weapon “apparently capable of producing bodily harm, in a manner, under circumstances, and at a time and place that either manifests



an intent to intimidate another or that warrants alarm for the safety of other persons.” Given the increasing polarization of our country, the meaning “time and place” is “now and here.” Despite open carry laws, no one has the right to use semiautomatic rifles that intimidate others exercising their rights or feeling safe going for

an ice cream cone at Baskin Robbins.

The OPD could also familiarize itself with RCW 18.170.160 (4) which states unequivocally that it is a gross misdemeanor for groups like the Three Percenters to act as security guard without a license, even if not paid. The officer (whose salary is \$79,000 a year) has had training in State laws. She could have asked the Three Percenters if they had security guard license.

Olympia's interim Police Chief issued a statement that the department doesn't align itself with any group or “seek the help of any militia, any armed civilians, or any vigilante groups,” and doesn't need “the assistance of armed citizens to keep our community safe.”

That should have been the message delivered by the Olympia police officer to the 25 men and others parading around Olympia with assault rifles at the ready. To assume that nothing bad is going to happen is a grave mistake. It's already happening. Will we wait for a “rigged election” to act?

*Bethany Weidner is a frequent contributor to these pages, with years of government and private sector experience. Sources for quotes and specific descriptions came from a public records request to the city of Olympia for emails about the incident. The full investigation report is available online on the OPD Accountability & Transparency page. It makes for instructive reading. Research assistance was provided by JD Ross.*

# Be a voter beginning now!

The League of Women Voters of Thurston County urges all eligible citizens to make sure that they are registered to vote at their current residence and VOTE as soon as possible before November 3, 2020.

If you are uncertain whether you are currently registered as a voter in Washington at your current address, you can verify your voter status or register at [vote.wa.gov](http://vote.wa.gov). The deadline for on-line voter registration is October 26, 2020; you can register in person at the Auditor's Office up to 8:00 pm on November 3, 2020. In person registrations this year will be taken at South Puget Sound Community College (SPSCC) on Mottman Road, not at the county courthouse.

This year, the Voter Pamphlets will be mailed to all eligible voters on October 2, 2020. Ballots will be mailed to military personnel by September 18, 2020. In Thurston County, ballots will be mailed to all other voters on October 8, 2020. Ballots will be able to be picked up at the Auditor's Office at SPSCC after October 14, 2020 if you need a replacement. “We’re offering convenient drive through voter services. You don’t even need to get out of your car,” said Auditor Mary Hall. “It’s important we do all we can to keep workers and voters safe during this pandemic.”

In Washington State and Thurston County we are fortunate to have proven vote-by-mail systems in place. People automatically receive their ballot in the mail. Voters can complete their ballots in the comfort of their home and



then mail the ballots in or drop them off at one of several secure drop boxes throughout the county. Drop box locations can be found at <https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/auditor/pages/elections-dropbox.aspx>. Postage is prepaid on all ballots in Washington State. Due to conflicting messages about the security of the mail system, LWV recommends that people return their ballot in a drop box or mail the ballot at least seven days before November 3 which is October 27.

To prepare for voting, please watch our videos, co-produced with Jenna Mason Multimedia with local actors and settings: Be A Voter [www.youtube.com/watch?v=PV59jHKc5A8&t=2s&ab](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PV59jHKc5A8&t=2s&ab) and How To Vote [www.youtube.com/watch?v=8lWHrjjUXJg&t=5s&ab](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8lWHrjjUXJg&t=5s&ab)

We urge you to research all candidates. These positions have a direct impact on you and your family. Local election races include Thurston County Board of Commissioners, Thurston Superior Court Judge, WA Senate District 22 and WA House District 22. Non-partisan forums moderated by LWV for these candidates can be found at [lwvthurston.org/forums](http://lwvthurston.org/forums)

It is our right as citizens of the United States to elect our public officials. This year and every year, the League of Women Voters encourages you to *Be A Voter*.

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## REFLECTION

# The future of Olympia’s urban zoning

## In the face of covid-19 and climate change

Bob Vadas, Jr.

The paradigm of ever-expanding development on a finite planet is ill-fated, especially forcing neighborhoods to sacrifice to accommodate more “yuppie” transplants. This doesn't meet Growth Management Act requirements and would change Olympia from being a small, close-knit city into a mess similar to Surrey, BC, Canada, where my son lives.

There, efforts to promote multi-family housing have led to traffic snarls; gang violence; loss of forests, parks, and salmon; and overcrowded schools that require students to take classes in trailers. In the Olympia area, rising apartment rents have compelled residents (e.g., my girlfriend) to take displaced renters into their houses, as apartment rents are increasing elsewhere to make way for a “yuppie” influx (e.g., the Angelos' Easterly development on Eastside Street [Leahy 2020]). Market-rate housing makes developers more money and has been shamelessly promoted by the Olympia City Council, in contrast to low-income housing.

Just before the COVID-19 outbreak, a long-time friend (now a retiree) asked if I knew anyone to rent a room from, so I showed her my house. She was afraid that her commercial-housing rent would double when the apartment complex changed ownership (more recently). Her retiree status would make that tough because her social-security payments are modest. Indeed, the Lacey Community Center hosted a forum a while ago (pre-COVID-19) for senior citizens concerned about such golden-year gentrification.

In examining the three presentations about Olympia's housing-code amendments for residential-area infill by the rental industry, I have major concerns. Notably, I dislike Missing Middle (MM) and state-level bills (e.g., HR 1923) that promote high-density, market-rate housing (especially for Seattle transplants) at the expense of poorer, homegrown people (Leahy 2020) that are becoming increasingly homeless since the Great

to haunt the rest of us. Too often, Olympia is subsidizing market-rate housing as poorer tenants (including our retired folk) are ousted to accommodate Central Sound transplants willing to pay higher rents. This isn't social justice, and Olympia must do more to cap endless rent increases.

Hence, it's time to rethink city development planning to avoid the mistakes that are bankrupting

regulations.

Unfortunately, multi-family housing won't necessarily help poorer people. I once had “sticker shock” when trying to rent a duplex near downtown Olympia, which was less economical than buying a small house nearby. Moreover, such shared dwellings don't typically incorporate progressive technology like solar panels or eco-gardens. Indeed, Prime Locations, Inc. lacked organic bin recycling and removed my son's garden and banned others after we moved out.

The American dream is to own our own home, which allows federal-tax breaks to make life more affordable. So the Missing Middle and HR 1923 (as promoted by politician Beth Doglio) will potentially gentrify Olympia the way that's happened in larger Pacific Northwest cities (e.g., Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, and even Spokane), as well as more broadly in California (see <http://www.densitydoneright.org>). Such squelching of public input by ignoring potential environmental impacts (Lively 2020) contradicts Doglio's environmental roots.

Seattle's homeless population is so large that the unfiltered sewage threatens to reverse gains that we've made to clean up Puget Sound (Goodman and Stewart 2020). Likewise, some state lands (e.g. Morse Creek Wildlife Area Unit and Irving Lawson Access Area) have recently closed because of the growing homeless populations there. Hence, we've got inadequate environmental justice to reduce stormwater runoff into Puget Sound (Ballash 2016). As emphasized by Raworth (2018) and Czech (2020), we need to focus on economic sustainability, rather than on the “cancer” of endless growth. This includes more emphasis on smart-building standards to save imperiled Southern Resident orcas (Pulkkinen 2020). Indeed, California has recently promoted solar panels for new developments.

In times like these, I recommend the (a) classic ‘Who’ song *Won't Get Fooled Again* or (b) the recent film *The Last Black Man in San Francisco*. Can't we learn from past mistakes? Olympia shouldn't be a “puppy-dog” suburb of Seattle for many quality-of-life reasons. Moreover, why should two-car garages for townhomes be approved along bus lines (Olympia's MM focus), as along Boulevard Road for market-rate housing that removed a dozen homeless tents during land clearing? Are we OK with more homeless people along Capitol Lake and I-5? As poorer people lose options and become homeless, so too are the rest of us impacted.

*Bob Vadas, Jr. is a longtime Olympia-area resident who has interests in environmental issues and music. After tiring of exploitative apartment living, he now lives in the first Green Built home of Olympia, including installation of solar panels since moving there. Before COVID-19, he regularly cycled to work, although crossing the road was tough via traffic congestion.*

Sources can be found with the article online at [olywip.org](http://olywip.org).

## Now that we’re in a long-term pandemic and entering another recession, the focus should be on apartment rent-control and helping homegrown businesses stay afloat,

Recession (Lively 2020).

Especially in this COVID-19 and climate-change era, we don't need further clogging of I-5 and our neighborhoods with rich Central Sound people who'd rather live here, but still work up north, i.e., JBLM, Tacoma, or Seattle (so the state has expanded public transit between them via bus, rail, and van-pool options and now has evening traffic lights at Olympia-area I-5 on-ramps heading south, to modulate traffic flow). So the Olympia Planning Commission's continued focus on promoting multi-family housing in residential neighborhoods seems akin to rearranging deck chairs on the Titanic.

Now that we’re in a long-term pandemic and entering another recession, the focus should be on apartment rent-control and helping homegrown businesses stay afloat, to preserve our way of life. If the homeless situation isn't dealt with, viral outbreaks could come back

California. That is, there should be subsidies for low-income housing but NOT market-rate housing (Leahy 2020), the latter an example of what I call “reverse Robin Hood socialism”. Else we’re in danger of Einstein's definition of insanity, i.e., “doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results”.

When I was an Olympia apartment dweller a few years ago, annual rent increases really stressed out my poorer, disabled neighbors. Such businesses (i.e., Brentwood Apartments and Prime Locations, Inc.) also collectively ignored health and safety concerns like anti-mold protection (e.g., double-paned windows away from heaters), replacement of rotting wood, and proactive hill safety for non-motorists (via early-morning sanding, before people go to work in winter). New apartment complexes would eventually experience the same problems without better

## Pie in the sky on the campaign trail

While campaigning for the presidency in 2016, Donald Trump promised to “repeal and replace” Obamacare with a “fantastic” health plan: a better plan that would “cover everyone” and “cost less!” He made the promise repeatedly for the next four years. He has yet to offer any plan let alone a better and cheaper plan.

But his tactic has not changed. Today Trump campaigns for another four years with another empty promise. He will eliminate the payroll tax that funds social security—but he promises this will have “zero impact” on Social Security benefits.

An earlier President had an answer for that kind of claim. The year after passing the Social Security Act of 1935, Franklin Roosevelt warned of those who proposed to eliminate the government program because they would do everything social security did ...without costing anyone anything. Here is FDR foretelling the fate of Social Security if we listen to Donald Trump!

Let me warn you and let me warn the Nation against the smooth evasion [of those who say] “Of course we believe all these things; we believe in Social Security; we believe in work for the unemployed; we believe in saving homes. Cross our hearts and hope

to die, we believe in all these things; but we do not like the way the present Administration is doing them. Just turn them over to us. We will do all of them- we will do more of them, we will do them better; and, most important of all, the doing of them will not cost anybody anything.”

Our baker-in-chief is still trying to sell us pie in the sky.

*[See Trump making his repeated promises online at [olywip.org](http://olywip.org) “ The health plan that never came: A brief history”]*





# Community Spotlight

## Haki Farmers Collective

Join a Facebook livestream launch party for Haki Farmers Collective, a benefit show hosted by Mazigazi Band, Roxy's Rock'N'Rocks Productions, and CapCity Presents. More information on the event can be found at Haki Farmers Benefit Show event page By Mazigazi. Or contact them at [hakifarmerscollective@gmail.com](mailto:hakifarmerscollective@gmail.com). **October 3rd, 2020 at 7 pm.**



## Stream Team turns 30!

We're the same age! WIP sends its congratulations to the Stream Team, another amazingly enduring volunteer-driven program. They're offering a webinar celebrating 30 years of camaraderie, education, restoration and all around fun. You'll meet Stream Team coordinators, play trivia, watch Samba Olywa live streamed, slide shows and of course: More! **Friday, October 9, 6:30 pm.** Register at [streamteam.info/events](http://streamteam.info/events). Or contact Michelle at [mstevie@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:mstevie@ci.olympia.wa.us)



## Dispute Resolution Center Seeking Volunteers

**October is Conflict Resolution Month.** The Dispute Resolution Center of Thurston County is seeking volunteers to help resolve conflict, promote civility and create peace in our community. Volunteers can be trained as mediators and work with people in conflict, both in-person, over the phone and through our new Online Dispute Resolution Services. For more about volunteer opportunities and trainings, call 360/956-1155, email [info@mediatethurston.org](mailto:info@mediatethurston.org) or visit [MediateThurston.org](http://MediateThurston.org). DRC is a community-based, volunteer-powered non-profit organization dedicated to preventing and resolving conflicts.

## SHRUQ 4.5 - A Digital Festival of Arab Culture

Since 2012, the Rachel Corrie Foundation for Peace and Justice has provided a biennial Arab Festival coinciding with Olympia's Fall Arts Walk. This year, it's a free online festival showcasing culture, food, music, art, dance, poetry, stories and social analysis through celebration of voices from 22 Arab countries. Viewers will be able to select, enjoy, and be inspired by an array of events ranging from cooking classes and dance tutorials to stories and discussions of topics arising from life in Arab regions. [www.rachelcorriefoundation.org/events](http://www.rachelcorriefoundation.org/events) Throughout the month of October, beginning **October 5 - October 30**



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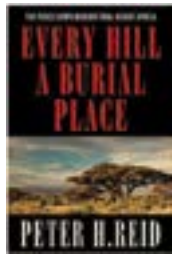


## Apply For Your Free GRuB Backyard Garden!

Due to increased food insecurity within our community tied to the COVID-19 pandemic, GRuB is expanding its regular backyard garden-build capacity from 50 free gardens to AT LEAST 100! We are now accepting applications for our second round of 50 garden installations! 50 gardens are available for 2020 and you can apply until filled. Gardeners applications will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis. Review our free garden application materials, and apply here <https://www.goodgrub.org/victory-garden-project>. Questions? Email: [backyardgardens@goodgrub.org](mailto:backyardgardens@goodgrub.org) or call (360) 522-3476.

## True crime virtual reading with Olympia author

Orca Books Cooperative will host a virtual reading of the new true crime book *Every Hill a Burial Place* by Peter Reid. The story scrutinizes the investigation into the 1966 death of a Peace Corps volunteer in Tanzania whose husband was tried for murder. The incident had the potential to be disastrous for both the Peace Corps and the newly independent nation of Tanzania. Reid, who served in Tanzania at the time of the murder, draws on considerable legal experience to expose inconsistencies and biases in the case through the lens of culture and politics.



Orca Books Co-op serves as Olympia's community bookstore from their new location at 5th Avenue. The cooperative is proud to foster community education through the support of authors and artists, creating a friendly, open, and safe space for all—as well as allowing access to a diverse collection of fiction and non-fiction books.

*Every Hill a Burial Place* with Peter Reid, **Wednesday October 7, 2020.** <https://www.orca-books.com/event/every-hill-burial-place-virtual-discussion-peter-reid>. For more information [www.facebook.com/orcabooks](http://www.facebook.com/orcabooks)



## Democratic Socialists of America New Member Orientation



Are you new to Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) or new to our Olympia chapter? Come to our New Member Orientation via Zoom to learn more about DSA, the work we're doing in the South Sound, and how you can get involved!

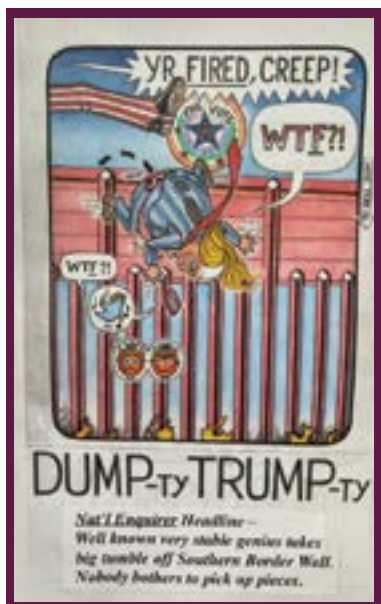
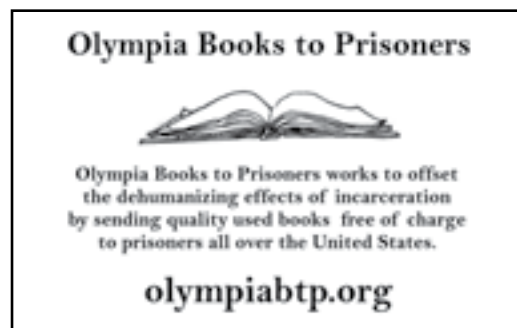
**Fri, October 16, 6:30pm – 7:30pm.** Register through Zoom here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6428621262>

## Steering Committee on Defunding the OPD

Olympia DSA has created a Steering Committee on *Defunding the Olympia Police Department* that meets regularly. If interested, please email committee chair, Huntress Stansel at [witchhuntress@gmail.com](mailto:witchhuntress@gmail.com) for an onboarding call before attending your first meeting. **Thursday, October 22, 7:00pm – 8:30pm**

## Tickets for YWCA womxn of achievement dinner NOV 6, 2020

The YWCA Womxn of Achievement awards celebrate contributions of incredible leaders in our community, who are not only making a huge difference, but who don't get honored and celebrated nearly as much as they should. Womxn of Achievement is a platform for centering Womxn of Color who have always led change at the intersections of race and gender justice. Ticket information is available online at [www.ywcaofolympia.org](http://www.ywcaofolympia.org), under Events (2020 Womxn of Achievement). All proceeds from ticket sales benefit YWCA Olympia. For more information contact Hillary Detamore, CEO at [hdetamore@ywcaofolympia.org](mailto:hdetamore@ywcaofolympia.org)



"Dump-Ty Trump-Ty" illustrated by Brydon Stewart, local Northwest artist, poet and jeweler. Read his hilarious poetic ramble at [dumptrumpworld.net](http://dumptrumpworld.net)

## "Vote November 3, 2020" Dumpty Trumpy T-shirts in sizes M, L, XL & XXL

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