

Works in Progress

Advocating for social justice since 1990

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INTERVIEW

Creating an anti-racist, equity based education at North Thurston Public Schools

Christine Yorba is part of a coalition of educators from the North Thurston Public Schools (NTPS) working for meaningful teaching around equity and anti-racism. She recently talked to WIPster Matt Crichton about her experiences with the implementation of that goal at NTPS. This is a condensed and edited version of their interview.

WIP: How long have you been teaching?

CY: I have been a public school teacher for four years with NTPS, mostly at Mountain View Elementary. I teach all subjects through community minded, social justice based practices.

I'm currently on leave because NTPS perpetuates an environment that is racially hostile for educators who are Black and Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC). This has negatively impacted my mental and physical health. I am open and honest about my experience teaching in North Thurston because I care about the communities I serve, my BIPOC and white ally colleagues, my students, their families and all the other communities I am a member of and represent.

WIP: What prepared you to be a teacher for social change?

CY: I grew up in Orange County, CA, a very white upper middle class environment. I did not learn about Cesar Chavez or United Farm Workers until I was an undergrad at The Evergreen State College. I knew racism and prejudice existed, but I wasn't aware of how oppressive systemic racism is in different institutions—family, government, economy, education and religion.

Evergreen's rigorous Master's in Teaching program taught me how to critically analyze the history of schooling, critical race theory, community responsive practices and other pedagogies. Once you realize how oppression of BIPOC is "built in" to our institutions, then you can begin to prepare yourself to teach for liberation.

WIP: Tell us about Mountain View Elementary and the community it serves.

CY: Mountain View Elementary is a Title I school, which classifies it as a high poverty school, and therefore underserved. The majority of students—58.4%—are BIPOC. The teaching staff is 88% white.

This year at Mountain View, I served 17 students, predominantly Latinx English Language Learners (ELLs). Some of my students are experienc-

ing the American school system for the first time, and learning English at the same time. Despite the many obvious achievement gaps due to COVID-19, structural inequities

ELLs. I've always had a high number of ELLs, under the guise of my ability to serve them better, but it has always felt as if my high case load was to lessen the workload for my white

The disheartening truth is BIPOC educators don't last as long as they should in the public school system because the system was not made with us in mind.

and lack of translated materials, I successfully advocated for my ELL families virtually.



I have the highest number of English Language Learners on the first grade team at my school. Although 53% of my students were students of color in the 20-21 school year, I was given a disproportionate number of ELL students. Of the nine students in my class who were BIPOC, eight were

colleagues. I have advocated for bilingual educators to be compensated for their translating, but instead we are expected and guilted into doing this work for free.

WIP: Talk about the importance of teaching for equity and liberation.

CY: Historically, the average K-12 learning experience doesn't produce resilient adults ready to teach/talk about race to the next generation. Teaching is political. There's no getting around that.

I am a member of the Minoritized Educator Roundtable (MER), started in 2017 by a Black assistant principal from Meadows Elementary. The MER decided we needed a document to hold NTPS accountable for their oppressive behaviors towards BIPOC staff and students. The MER created the "Equity Resolution," during the 20-21 school year that NTPS eventually adopted. This resolution lays out specific steps NTPS needs to enact to create safer, more inclusive spaces, and to establish a commitment to equity in education.

This includes solidarity with Black Lives Matter (BLM) at school, engaging in truthful and safe discourse and retaining and hiring educators of color. Ultimately the document states that the School Board, all NTPS employees, students/families and future employees must display a strong commitment to anti-racism. However, in my experience, NTPS is purposefully non-compliant with the MER's Equity Resolution.

NTPS' excuse for not complying with the Equity Resolution is its workforce is not ready to teach about race and justice. Interestingly, educators aren't ready for these changes because the training to implement social justice standards is not supported by NTPS. The training requires the educator to be reflective about their race and intersectionality within the community. It requires a new set of responsibilities that can cause discomfort up front.

Educators who are currently trying to teach these standards have been met with opposition from administration, colleagues and conservative families. They are told not to teach them, but to wait until others catch up. This is how white privilege and fragility operate in our communities.

WIP: Talk about trying to hold NTPS accountable to move forward on equity and anti-racism.

CY: In February 2021, we realized that if we wanted these issues properly addressed in our lifetime/careers by NTPS, we needed to take matters into

► Anti-racist, continued on page 8

By and for the community

A major mural with a climate message

Press release

Six Thurston County artists with the support of Thurston Climate Action Team (TCAT) met with members of the public on June 26 to imagine and plan for a large climate justice mural to be painted in Olympia in the coming year.

The workshop was the kickoff of TCAT's Climate Justice Mural Project. The project will include a series of workshops that bring together artists, volunteers, and subject matter experts to envision what Climate Justice looks like in our community and bring that vision to life through public art. These workshops will be followed up by mural painting parties open to the public, culminating

in a new piece of public art in our community.

A diverse six-artist team is leading the project. They're all from Thurston County, including students from two high schools. The team is made up of local artists Darshima Alphonse, George Galvez, Karina Greenlee, Imani Mabwa Childress, Ahna Rader, and Carrie Ziegler.

"We are so often bombarded with negative, hard things in response to climate change. This project takes a different perspective, one filled with hope and art, one that can break down barriers and inspire real action. This project brings together art, science, and action," says Ziegler, the lead artist for the project.

The Climate Justice Mural Project aims to engage a broader swath of Thurston County residents in a conversation about Climate Justice using collective imagination to dream up solutions for climate change, COVID, and racial justice. The goal is to share those solutions via a public mural as a permanent reminder to the community of what is possible.

You can learn more about the project and how to participate at:

thurstonclimateaction.org/2021/01/26/the-climate-justice-mural-project/

Alice Grendon, Communications Coordinator
Email: alice@thurstonclimateaction.org

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 corporate media, especially those that relate directly to our mission. We seek well-researched news stories, serious analyses of issues confronting our communities and accounts 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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What does it mean, “the ballot or the bullet”?

When we first thought of the theme for the July issue, we were thinking about Malcolm X’s declaration that 1964 “would be the year of the ballot or the bullet.”

He meant that in the absence of meaningful electoral choices open to black voters informed as to what the ballot is supposed to produce, their frustrations would generate a powder keg—a bullet—ready to go off. But Malcolm was an optimist. It was the ‘60s, when the anti-war movement and the civil rights movement had real supporters in Congress, and there was hope that the US would enter a period of reconstruction. Malcolm observed that, “when white people are evenly divided, and black people have a bloc of votes of their own, it is left up to them to determine who’s going to sit in the White House and who’s going to be in the dog house.”

THOUGHTS ON THE THEME

That’s not what it looks like today. Republicans, especially, are of the same persuasion as Malcolm: black voters could change the outcome of an election.

So we’re confronted with a very different meaning of the ballot or the bullet. A substantial segment of the ruling class is unwilling to chance an election where everyone can vote. Now, it appears that in the presence of meaningful elections accessible to all, the elites encouraged militias that threatened the 2020 election results; a threat that hangs over us even as their Republican allies work to torpedo democracy by steadily making it harder and harder for black people to cast a vote. And by extension, making it harder for everyone else who can’t get through the obstacle courses they are setting up.

Ease of voting in Washington State goes hand-in-hand with election integrity—protected by a commitment to educate voters and election officials, and to open all aspects of the electoral process to scrutiny. Check out the website of our Secretary of State, Kim Wyman (a Republican) for a guided tour of security arrangements, signature verification, how to be a voter, how to run for office—backed up by easy-to-read data on everything else related to voting. <https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/>. In 17 other states, Republican legislators have enacted a host of new laws to restrict voters’ access to the ballot. In the meantime, it has to be acknowledged that throughout the summer of 2020 and leading up to the general election, militias and other armed groups intervened in protests, plotted to kidnap the Governor of Michigan, threatened election officials, and stormed the capital.

The possibility that this threat will manifest itself in the elections coming in 2022 and 2024 can’t be discounted. What happened here in 2020-21 was unthinkable a few years ago. But the existence of formal electoral arrangements no longer serves as a guarantor of legitimacy for a government. Around the world, voting coexists with

violence—pro-state militias target supporters of opposition parties; the state calls on security forces to suppress dissidents.

There are other aspects of our electoral system that contradict its claim to be a functioning democracy that serves all of its people. Campaigns are financed by the wealthiest and their corporate interests. Ilana Smith’s story tells how Thurston County Democrats are challenging this by deciding not to endorse candidates who accept corporate funds. A similar dynamic exists when we look at the amount of resources that the leaders of our country devote to military weapons and war. The article about Trident submarines and the continuing “modernization” of our nuclear weaponry describes the extraordinary power that the directors of military corporations have over our local and national politicians—voting notwithstanding.

Our segregated cities and unequally funded schools contribute to disenfranchisement of people by defining them out of “the mainstream.” Our interview with North Thurston school teacher Christine Yorba is a thoughtful picture of how difficult it is to transcend the racism embedded in our institutions.

Finally, take a look at another way voting produces unanticipated consequences. A new bill pending

in Congress would offer some of the nearly 10 million “unauthorized” immigrants who have lived and worked for years in the US a way to gain legal status—admittedly after a slow and bureaucratically fraught process. Seemingly a straightforward acknowledgement of reality.

Such proposed legislation would have no hope of getting enough Republican votes to pass. So the bill includes a trade-off in favor of grower interests. Republicans, including Washington Rep. Dan Newhouse, a Yakima Valley grower, added provisions to increase the number of “guest workers” growers can bring in just for the season, and to weaken requirements otherwise applicable to pay and working conditions. David Bacon’s article tells the full story and the consequences for Washington’s “guest workers.”

—BW

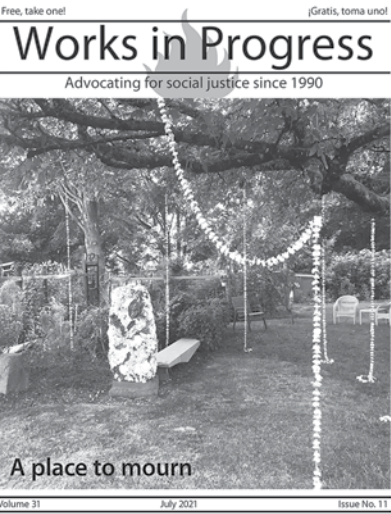


Upcoming themes

August: How things change; how they don’t change; whether we can even tell. **Deadline July 15.**

September: Back to school. In every way you can think of. **Deadline Aug 15.**

About the cover



loss and grief, initiation and transformation. Gore-Fuss invited poet Ashly McBunch to visit the site (a copy of the poem she wrote in response is on page 3). Inspired by the community’s enthusiastic response, Gore-Fuss plans to create more temporary art installations in the future.

In late May, artist Kathy Gore-Fuss brought to fruition an idea that had been building in her mind for months - an outdoor art installation addressing the physical and emotional losses of the pandemic. Gore-Fuss and other artists wrapped thousands of flowers onto the surface of a large stone sculpture (by local artist Boucante, who also donated the use of his NE Olympia yard), creating a bower-like space with flower garlands that hung from trees and defined the space around the incense-topped stone. A blank journal allowed visitors to transcribe their thoughts while sitting on a nearby bench. As intended, A Place to Mourn acted as witness and recorder of collective and personal

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Public support isn’t just for developers

WIPster summary

Washington is known for having a strong economy; however, even before the pandemic, one in four Washingtonians struggled to make ends meet. Obscured by the one in four number is the fact that those who are Black, indigenous or people of color in Washington are sometimes two to three times as likely to live in deep poverty as those who are white.

To explore solutions to address the needs of 1.75 million Washingtonians in poverty, Governor Inslee created the Poverty Reduction Work Group (PRWG) in 2018. This group recently released their ten-year plan to reduce poverty and inequality in Washington. The plan includes 60 specific recommendations to help build a more just and equitable future. These range from undoing structural racism, prioritizing urgent needs such as home-

lessness or addiction and decriminalizing poverty. These and other initiatives are covered in the new report found here: dismantlepovertyinwa.com.

Dismantle Poverty

The work of the Dismantle Poverty Initiative helped spur the creation by Gov. Inslee of the Economic Security for All (EcSA) initiative. The legislature has appropriated over \$10 million dollars for this initiative over the last three years.

The money provides grants to workforce development organizations in areas of the state with the highest levels of poverty. Workforce groups assist with transportation to appointments, co-locate multiple services in one place for ease of access, offer skills training programs, as well as assistance for those searching for decent employment.

Self-Sufficiency Standard

The Self-Sufficiency Standard is a living wage measure that defines the real cost of living for working families. It's a project of the Center for Women's Welfare (CWW) at the UW School of Social Work. The Standard is an affordability measure and a potential alternative to the flawed official poverty measure, important for policy makers, program managers and researchers.

The federal poverty level is used to determine social service eligibility in many cases (such as for food stamps, Medicaid, TANF, etc.). However, it was devised in the early 1960s by the Social Security Administration based on 1955 data

for spending patterns at the time. This has become increasingly out of step as housing costs have risen substantially and families are now expected to shoulder increasing expenses such as prescription drugs, child care or transportation costs.

In contrast, the Self-Sufficiency Standard determines the amount of income required for working families to meet basic needs at a minimally adequate level, taking into account family composition, ages of children, and geographic differences in costs. Learn more here: <http://www.selfsufficiencystandard.org/>

Then this happened...

...attention 3 Percenters and Proud Boys. In June, three Olympia City Council members—the Ad Hoc Committee on Public Safety—were briefed on new state laws affecting policing. One of them forbids individuals to carry firearms and sharp objects in certain public places—and during permitted public demonstrations. Gosh.

...a new tactic to nullify the First Amendment right of people to peaceably assemble in search of redress by the government? Customs and Border Patrol sent a helicopter to circle low over people in Northern Minnesota who were resisting construction of the Embridge 3 pipeline, choking indigenous protestors and allies with dust and debris. Canadian owners want a pipeline to transport hundreds of thousands of barrels of tar sands oil across more than 200 bodies of water, cutting through sacred wild rice lakes and fragile watershed ecosystems as it traverses parts of the White Earth Nation and Anishinaabe treaty lands. Tar sands are among the dirtiest sources of oil on the planet and the inevitable spills into water are nearly impossible to clean up.

...with friends like this... The guy who was Obama’s Secretary of Labor and then chair of the DNC just took a job with a big corporate law firm that specializes in training for “union avoidance”. The guy is Tom Perez. He’ll be “helping with dynamic...labor and employment issues.” Gosh.

...just stop complaining! Senate Republicans filibustered a bill that would have made it easier for women and LGBTQ workers to sue for pay discrimination. Gosh.

...Jeff needs help with childcare! In 2011, Amazon multibillionaire Bezos reported so little income that he claimed and got a \$4,000 child tax credit. Gosh.

...One dollar, one vote...a billion dollars—well you do the math! People who are part of the \$4.5 trillion private equity industry avoided paying billions in taxes and repeatedly derailed efforts to equalize its tax obligation. The ability of the rich and their lobbyists to buy Congress and thwart the IRS helps explain the deep inequities in our society.

The Grief We Hold

Blackbirds carry tear filled carnations
wrapped with green fern leaves, twisting

together memories floating among laced
flowers as words trickle like blessed

waters through summer rivers. Carved
stones, on sheltered ground, comforts

fallen names whispered into cyclic breaths
of remembrance. And peace brought forth

within small moments honor timeless dimensions
where love for those lost nourish all the life that follows.

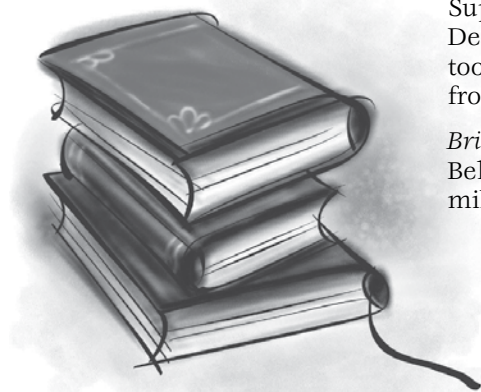
—Ashly McBunch



Readers’ Alert—new book titles for review!

WIP still has funds from our “Readers Review” grant. Each month we publish a list of books (see right column). If you’d like to be considered to review one of them, email us and put BOOK REVIEW in the subject line. We will buy the book (or reimburse you if you buy it) and pay \$50 if the review is accepted. See the review of *Mirage of Police Reform* on page 10.

We run a review each month with a maximum length of 750 words. We currently have no reviews scheduled, so if any of these books looks interesting, let us know. Or propose a book yourself.



The Sum of Us—Heather McGhee (how racism allowed public goods to be replaced by private benefit)

Sometimes You Have to Lie: The Life and Times of Louise Fitzhugh, Renegade Author of *Harriet the Spy*, Leslie Brody (about Fitzhugh's masterpiece and her hidden life as a lesbian).

When Machines Can Be Judge, Jury and Executioner: Justice in the Age of Artificial Intelligence, Katherine B. Forrest (how current AI tools are inconsistent with fairness and justice).

One Person, No Vote: How Voter Suppression is Destroying our Democracy, Carol Anderson (all-too-current events on the electoral front).

Bring the War Home—Kathleen Belew (white power movement & militias)



The Topsy Theologian

3 hrs • 



Just a reminder that the Confederacy only existed for five years. It’s not Ireland where centuries of ancestors lived and died. It’s not your heritage.

Nirvana lasted longer than the Confederacy.

My emo phase in the early 2000’s lasted longer than the Confederacy.

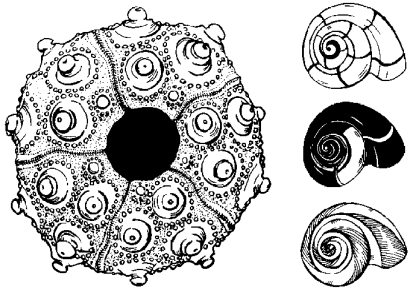
You’re not proud of those five years of your great-great-great-great-grandfather’s life. You like the white supremacy. Stop pretending it’s something else.

— a Kentuckian

CSF awards spring grants for “culture”

Each year, the Community Sustaining Fund (CSF) awards funds to local groups based on applications in the Spring and Fall. The Fund is supported primarily by people contributing via the “Round Up at the Register” option at the Olympia Food Co-op; and in recent years by the Sue Lundy Fund (created with the help of the Kiwanis Club).

This spring’s awards emphasized “culture”—agri-culture, aqua-culture and musical culture. Meet the 2021 Spring awardees.



The Estuarium—fostering stewards

Every summer, the Olympia Estuarium hosts a program—*Meet the Beach*—designed to bring people, particularly youth, to deeper awareness and appreciation of our sea life and of the estuary where the Deschutes River enters Budd Inlet on the southernmost Salish Sea. This is the area once tended by the Lushootseed-speaking Steh’chass band, ancestors of the Squaxin Island Tribe. The goal of the Estuarium program is to foster stewards who will protect and care for our part of the Salish Sea ecosystem. The program depends on volunteers and a core group of Beach Naturalists. The Beach Naturalists are contract educators who receive a minimum wage for their time, serving much like paid

interns. Some may later become part of the Estuarium staff. The Estuarium was granted \$1,000 to help cover essential office expenses as well as wages for one month.



Helsing Junction Farm—farm succession

Helsing Junction Farm was founded in 1992 by Annie Salafsky and Susan Ujcic as one of the country’s first CSA operations. Both are graduates of The Evergreen State College and have deep roots in agriculture. Helsing Junction Farm has for over 30 years provided our community—especially via the Olympia Food Co-op—with a wide array of nutritious organic produce. The Farm has offered school tours to educate youth about the benefits of eating organic, partnered with The Gleaners Coalition to gather produce at the end of each season, and supported the Thurston County Food Bank with a CSA program.

The founders of Helsing are women who have given much to our community over these years. They are now ready to pass their leadership on to younger folk. As women farmers, they are looking to pass on their well-established farm to other women farmers, which is consistent with the goals and criteria set out for awarding grants from

the Sue Lundy Fund. Helsing Junction was awarded \$1,000 to help with legal fees that are required to smooth the transition.

A note on Community Supported Agriculture (CSA): Helsing Junction Farm, like many other small farms in our area, operates a CSA that provides access to local organic produce at very fair prices. You end up eating a lot more vegetables fresh from the ground they grew on. Consider joining a CSA program and become part of the growing movement to keep water and soil safe as well as maintain open spaces and to keep farmland in the hands of farmers themselves. Millions of acres of farmland are owned and rented out by nonfarmers (including Bill and Melinda Gates!!), depriving the actual farmers of growing equity as they grow crops. CSAs put the culture back in agriculture—and farms in the hands of farmers.



New Traditions—A Baby Grand Piano for Concerts

New Traditions, formerly Traditions, has literally been a tradition in Olympia for many years. Since its founding in 1996, the café and retail space has evolved into a community center for concerts, workshops and public forums. It’s a gathering place for a community of interesting and involved people, and a unique music venue. Despite a year of challenges due to the pandemic, the retail space selling fair trade wares from all over the world has remained open. The situation for the restaurant has been more complicated.

As a site for serving food as well as hosting concerts, the restaurant saw ups and downs with the changing requirements associated with safety during COVID 19. But as we emerge from lockdown and other restrictions, the possibility exists for expanding the restaurant space to accommodate more people, new menu offer-

ings, and more concerts. As one element to enhance the music opportunities, owners Jody and Stacey are looking for a used baby grand piano. The CSF was pleased to award them \$1,000 toward its purchase. (If you happen to have one sitting around needing a new home, please call Jody or Stacey at 360.705.2819.)



Metamimicry—fungi experiments

Metamimicry Eco Consulting is a recently-formed business aimed at exploring and implementing low-tech biological solutions to address some of our most pressing environmental pollutants. The project leads have been working in the field studying fungi for a number of years. They are concerned about the effects of water runoff from our roads into our waterways and eventually into the Puget Sound (more precisely, the Salish Sea), and how that affects salmon.

Metamimicry requested support for experiments with fungi and the enzymes they produce that can help mitigate the effects of the runoff, particularly from tire pollution. Working with other local groups also exploring the great potential of using fungi for remediation, creating bio-retention bags will be one experiment. CSF awarded the full amount of their request: \$1,000 toward fees and equipment needed for experiments with several native species of fungi. For more information and to support this work: www.gofundme.com/f/spawn-for-spawn-project

The Community Sustaining Fund aims to use its resources to create a more democratic, equitable, nonviolent and ecologically sound society. CSF tends to award funds for start-up costs of projects that might otherwise go unfunded, but with the expectation that these projects will become self-sustaining. Grant funds are derived from contributing individuals and businesses. The Community Sustaining Fund is always looking to expand and diversify our volunteer base.



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*"I went out for a walk, and found I was really going in"**

An opening to life with Wild Grief’s teen wilderness programs

Monica Anney

Wild Grief is an Olympia-based non-profit whose mission is to facilitate peer groups for teens, young adults and families who are grieving a death by creating the space for sharing, connecting and healing in nature. We do this because we know and have witnessed that nature heals. Our vision is for a vital, resilient, and connected community with a healthy response to death.

Our programs combine peer grief support with an immersive experience in nature. During our time together, participants focus on what’s happening to them and around them in nature. We lead peer discussions on the experience of grief while simultaneously focusing on their experience in the natural world through exercises that bring attention to their surroundings.

We do this by encouraging participants to use all their senses. We allow them to find the metaphors of life and loss surrounding them in nature, teach them about the history of where they are, and simply support them in connecting with each other and sharing about their experience of loss.

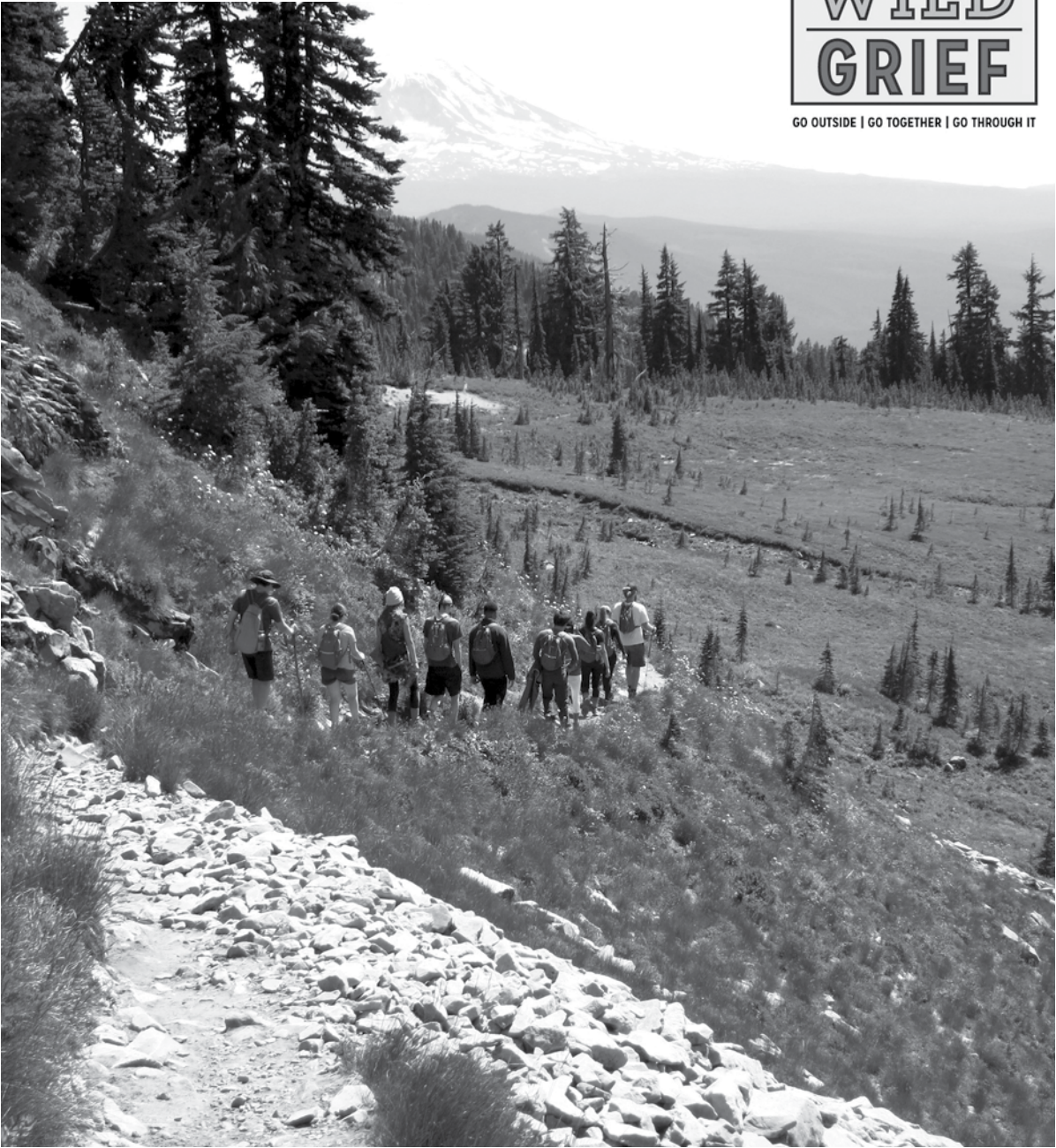
We’ve witnessed countless transformations as people engage with their grief in a natural setting alongside others on similar journeys.

People may experience barriers to accessing the outdoors based on race, class, gender, sexual orientation, disability and poverty. For grieving youth and families, all these barriers are magnified.

Our families report being overwhelmed as they rebuild their lives without the person who died. Youth who are grieving, teens in particular, can be resistant to asking for help. Wild Grief’s emphasis on outdoor experiences opens doors to young people who may be hesitant to look for grief support elsewhere.

One applicant wrote “I think that out of all the tedious and depressing ways to deal with my grief, backpacking sounds actually enjoyable.” Our program creates an entry to outdoor recreation that is low-pressure and focused on group support, connection and skill building.

To help further reduce some barriers, our programs are offered at no cost. We provide all gear, and we recruit trail leaders that reflect the diversity of our participants. This year, thanks to a generous sponsorship from the Department



Teens on a Wild Grief wilderness hike in 2019.

of Fish and Wildlife, all participants will also receive a Washington State Discover Pass.

Our cornerstone program since 2018, the Teen Wilderness Trek, is a four-day backpacking trip for grieving 13-18 year olds. We also offer guided day hikes for youth as well as a monthly drop-in Hike Habit for all ages. In 2020, when COVID hit, we developed a series of programs combining virtual peer support experiences with independent nature connection and grief activities, including a Family Journey and Solo Together for Teens and Young Adults.

This summer, we have both in-person and virtual + independent programs available, for teens, families, and all ages. Read more about our programs and sign up at www.wildgrief.org/ programs.

Monica Anney is the Program Coordinator for Wild Grief.

**The full John Muir quote is: “I only went out for a walk and concluded to stay out till sundown, for going out, I found was really going in. Nature’s peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves.”*





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**All food is prepacked and distributed
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Walk-Up distribution model.**

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and volunteers will bring your food out
and load it into your vehicle.

If you are on foot, line up along the
Thurston Ave wall where there are
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distancing. Your food will be brought out
to you once you check in.

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Washington State and the production and deployment of nuclear weaponry

Ground Zero and news services

Citizens of Washington State consistently vote for government officials who support building and stationing nuclear weapons in our state. In the 1970s, Senator Henry Jackson convinced the Pentagon to locate the Trident submarine base on Hood Canal. Senator Warren Magnuson obtained funding for roads and other consequences of building the base there. Since 2012, with the establishment of the Washington Military Alliance (WMA), our elected officials have tried even harder to promote Washington as a place to expand military investment, including in nuclear weapons.

We are a target and a threat

But even though we have voted for candidates willing to spend ever greater amounts of our tax money on an ever-expanding nuclear arsenal—few of us are aware of the reality. Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, just 20 miles west of Seattle, is homeport to the largest concentration of deployed nuclear warheads in the US. The nuclear warheads are deployed on Trident D-5 missiles on SSBN submarines and are stored in an underground nuclear weapons storage facility on the base.

People at Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action are trying to make us aware of this. Beginning June 7, they will be holding banners over Interstate 5, on the NE 45th overcrossing, with messages to commuters stressing the imperative to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. They'll be there every Monday between 8:00 and 9:00 all summer.

At a time when a new Cold War, involving not only the US and Russia, but also China, is heating up, the bannering is intended to remind citizens of Puget Sound to accept their role and responsibility—as taxpayers, as members of a democratic society and as neighbors to the Trident nuclear submarine base in Hood Canal—to work to prevent the use of nuclear weapons.

Busy buying more weapons despite the pandemic

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, or ICAN,

just published a report revealing that global spending on nuclear weapons increased by \$1.4 billion last year despite the pandemic. The United States spent by far the most—\$37 billion—three times

Trump initiatives to expand the US nuclear arsenal. In his new budget, Biden is seeking \$43 billion for nuclear weapons, including money to develop a new submarine-launched nuclear cruise missile.



more than the next country, China, which spent \$10 billion. All told, the world's nine nuclear-armed countries spent \$72.6 billion on nuclear weapons in 2020—that amounts to nearly \$138,000 every minute.

The report features a few of the 20 companies that produce these weapons. Boeing, of course; and Raytheon, Northrop Grumman, Honeywell International and on and on. Another report, this one by the Congressional Budget Office, found that over a 10-year period, the embedded cost for US nukes would be \$140 billion higher than the same 10-year projection in 2019.

Biden follows in Trump's footsteps despite his claim to differ

Biden campaigned for limits on nuclear arms; and for diplomacy to replace nuclear threats. But as President, Biden has continued

(As a candidate, he described this as a "bad idea.") The Trump administration withdrew from a key arms control pact (Open Skies)—and Biden decided not to re-enter it.

Running on "change," governing on more of the same

Here is the limit to the proposition that the ballot is the guarantor of representative government. It turns out that the ballot can be rendered meaningless by entrenched money that commands ever more of our resources for bullets—a \$1.25 trillion "national security" budget devoted to building and deploying weapons. Candidates run for office on statements that play to the public's desire for change—and then govern on behalf of the corporate leaders who bankroll their campaigns—and pour money into local economies based on manufacturing more new weapons.

Spending tax money to get more tax money

After the nine nuclear powers decided in 2020 to spend \$72.6 billion on their nuclear weapons, they gave out over \$27 billion in contracts to the companies that build and maintain these weapons. These companies spend money to make sure that they keep getting money in years to come. They spent over \$117 million lobbying policymakers to increase spending on defense, and another \$10 million funding major think tanks that research and write about nuclear weapons.

An era of mass protests and treaties limiting nuclear weapons

Evidently, it takes more than voting. The 1970s and '80s saw the emergence of mass movements demanding an end to testing, production and deployment of nuclear weapons. At Bangor, thousands demonstrated against nuclear weapons and hundreds were arrested. The Nuclear Freeze Campaign swept across the US, attracting the support of peace groups and mainstream religious, professional and labor organizations. The largest protest was held on June 12, 1982, when one million people demonstrated in New York City. (Surprised? Read a report here: www.armscontrol.org/blog/2018-06-10/fight-continues.)

In this period, the US and Russia signed several treaties promising to limit and scale back the production and deployment of nuclear weapons. In recent years, however, awareness of the spread of nuclear arms has diminished even as the investment in nuclear weaponry has grown exponentially and governments have reverted to plans for their use. In the absence of organized public opposition, the US is pumping money into new nuclear technologies—and playing wargames that envision their use.

The Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action was founded in 1977. The center is on 3.8 acres adjoining the Trident submarine base at Bangor, Washington. Ground Zero offers the opportunity to explore the roots of violence and injustice in our world and to experience the transforming power of love through nonviolent direct action. We resist all nuclear weapons, especially the Trident ballistic missile system. Contact: Leonard Eiger (360) 375-3207, outreach@gzcenter.org

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Thurston County Democrats take a step toward eliminating corporate money in local politics

Ilana Smith

I think back to instances where the real state of America, so flagrantly defined, stood unabashedly before us, baring itself for all to see. I often referred to my husband's favorite sports team as "Team Xbox" which caused unrest in our home. I could not stand the corporate take-over of America, and he hated to be reminded of it.

When a sports team's sponsor exerts so much control over them that the sponsor's name grossly overshadows the team's name, the relationship between the players and the money behind them is blatantly displayed. Could a person observing from afar really know which team they were rooting for? Or would they only know the corporation behind them?

Corporate influence in politics

What is truly preposterous is that this is happening in our political arena. Corporate money finances the politicians who make the laws that govern us. The only thing worse than blatant corporate ownership is knowing that this type of relationship exists for our political leaders, yet the sponsors are hidden behind a veil of civic mindedness and words of service to community.

Thurston County Democrats (TCD), on a late night in early June, voted to end this level of beholdeness that paves the way to corruption in local politics. While the policy change passed, it was not without contention.

The updated policy has a clause that concerned some current political office holders and candidates. Thurston County Democrats will support or endorse only those candidates who do not accept corporate money, defined as follows:

"Candidates must agree to take no corporate PAC or lobbyist money, or any contributions from the following types of companies: fossil

fuel, drug, insurance, weapons manufacturers, big tech, big banks, private equity firms, hedge funds, and development and real estate corporations, and a contribution limit of \$200 dollars from any officer or executive who works for these companies."

Successful campaigns without corporate contributions

This progressive stance answers the question of where the party's support should be placed. This approach has already shown to be effective in the campaigns of Senators Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, Raphael Warnock, Mark Kelly, Cory Booker, and Beto O'Rourke' as well as for Representatives Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Katie Porter, and Washington's own Pramila Jayapal and Kim Schrier, among others.

Many Thurston County politicians expressed fear at the prospect of having limits on the source of their campaign funds while needing to run effective campaigns against Republicans with unrestricted sources of income. However, they might have missed the polls showing that the majority of Americans want money out of politics. While TCD isn't saying that candidates can't accept funds from political action committees (PAC), adoption of the new rule means simply that the Party will no longer support or endorse the campaigns of Democrats who choose to take corporate monies.

Problems with state and national campaign financing regulations

State regulations are not as stringent as TCD's new rule, which may have increased frustrations for some. Washington State's Public Disclosure Commission currently monitors election cycle limits for contributions from individuals and PACs to ensure that they don't exceed certain amounts: \$2000 for state executive, judicial, and Port

Commissioner candidates; and \$1,000 for legislative, county, city, school board, and hospital district candidates. Limits on PAC contributions to candidates in national races stands at \$5,000 per primary and \$5,000 per general election.

There are no limits on the amount that corporations or individuals can donate to the PAC itself. With average citizens unable to donate to this extent, it is easy to see why there is concern about entities spending large amounts of money to influence political races under current regulations.

Citizens United, a case decided by the US Supreme Court in 2010, has been corrupting politics ever since. It leaves localities with no ability to restrict the influence of PACs and SuperPacs over our elections. When the 1% bankrolls politicians of their choosing, the next step is for those politicians to rewrite our laws to favor the repeal of fair taxation and business regulations; to remove the ability for many Americans to have a living wage, accessible healthcare, affordable housing, sensible gun legislation, green energy, and equity in education.

Public funding leads to diversification of candidates and donors

One sensible solution is in place in some political arenas where public funds are provided to candidates running for office. Since 1974, the number of states offering refunds, grants, and matching funds for campaign finance has been growing. Close to home, in 2015, the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission (SEEC), enacted a voucher program for candidates running for mayor, city council, and city attorney.


The SEEC program is funded through the city's taxes. It gives residents four \$25 vouchers that they can donate to candidates who have pledged to hold ethical campaigns. This puts the people in charge of backing candidates who most reflect their needs and concerns, and restricts the influences of corporate PACs over local elections. Studies have shown that the voucher system in Seattle improved the representation of women, BIPOC, low income and younger voters in the city's elections and increased the amount of campaign funds coming from small donors by about 40%.

What TCD support will now mean

The step that TCD took to support the reformation of campaign finance is groundbreaking for a local party. TCD chair Jeff Sowers believes that the new policy "makes the party more relevant... allowing us to more effectively hold candidates accountable to the platform." While it will not prevent candidates from accepting corporate donations, you can be assured that if a candidate wears the TCD logo, that candidate has vowed to represent the people and not the corporations that are widening the divide between the haves and the have-nots.

Ilana Smith is the pen name of a contributor who has laid down roots in Lacey. She is a lover of progressive ideals and the hope they embody.

Additional reading on campaign finance: www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/public-campaign-finance; www.seattle.gov/democracypoucher; www.endcitizensunited.org/candidates/



Felons have voting rights

Your right to vote is restored

- If you were convicted of a **felony in a Washington State** court, your right to vote is restored automatically once you are no longer under the authority of DOC (in prison or on community custody). If you have questions about your status with DOC, call at **(800) 430-9674**.
- If you were convicted of a **felony in another state or in federal court**, your right to vote is restored automatically as long as you are not currently incarcerated for that felony.
- You do not lose the right to vote for a misdemeanor conviction or a conviction in juvenile court.
- You do not need a certificate of discharge (COD) to have your voting rights restored.

Registering to Vote

Once your right to vote is restored, **you must register to vote** if you want to vote. If you were previously registered to vote, you must re-register to vote. You can register online with **VoteWA**, printing and returning a form, in person at your county elections department or request a voter registration form be mailed to you. You do not need a certificate of discharge (COD) to register to vote. You must also be a citizen of the United States, legal resident of Washington State, 18 years old, not under the authority of the DOC, and not disqualified due to a court order.

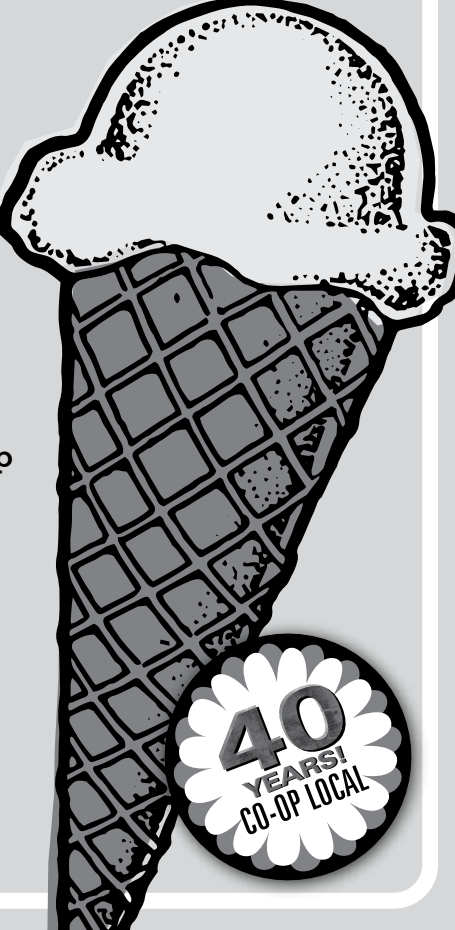
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Anti-racist education

From page 1

our own hands.

We formed Concerned Educators for Racial Justice, a small group of trusted educators committed to working towards an anti-racist system. I wanted to control my narrative and support the narratives of others. Instead of being oppressed, I wanted us to liberate ourselves and each other. We had colleagues lined up to tell us their stories, but as soon as we asked them to share their traumatic experiences publicly, they told us they were afraid to lose their jobs or get demoted like they had witnessed happening to other BIPOC staff in the district.

Currently there are about nine staff in our group. We have teacher and para representation from elementary, middle, and high school. We consist of strong, authentic and capable educators of color and our co-conspirators (aka allies) who are white. We ask for a school environment that is safe and inclusive for all, led by anti-racist policies.

We started by talking to media and reaching out to other education organizations. I drafted a “Call To Action” letter and sent it to the Washington Education Association (WEA). The letter listed in detail our experiences working in NTPS and provided evidence of how NTPS leaders continue to uphold white supremacy culture. It was challenging to write because we had to relive the trauma of our experiences.

Our group aims to pass anti-racist policies and implement practices that protect our staff and students of color and our white allies. We believe that anti-racist training should be mandatory at all levels in education. There are observable patterns of staff calling out sick on equity and diversity training days or exempting themselves. Our communities deserve educators who are ready and willing to do the hard work of anti-racist teaching. If our community leaders and educators are not able to prove they are anti racist by their words and their deeds, then our communities have no need for them.

As Concerned Educators for Racial Justice, we reached out to state and national organizations that claim to fight for justice. The National Education Association (NEA) and the WEA, say they have no power to enforce anything. They suggested more equity teams and resolutions.

NTPS already has multiple equity teams, strategically separated into small factions that simply perpetuate suffering from racial trauma with no power to protect BIPOC and white allies. The people sitting in positions of power at NTPS effectively silence the equity groups and bar them from making necessary changes.

WIP: How do you approach the teaching of equity with students in your classroom?

CY: Before I start teaching curriculum, I focus on building community. Before we can engage in deep learning, together we establish a safe community with shared expectations.

We start each day with an intentional morning meeting. I have a prompt on the board, an emotional check-in, a quote to reflect on, or something based on current events that have affected members of our class emotionally. I do this with all the classes I have taught, and I

have found it to be beneficial in developing voice equity. Everybody has a chance to speak, be heard, validated, and to connect with their peers in our meeting circle.

At the end of the day, I want every student to walk away as a valued member of our community, feeling a sense of belonging. Equity is an ongoing conversation and a theme we talk about throughout the year. Students ask, ‘Why do they get that kind of chair? How come they get to...?’ kids come to understand equity isn’t equality; equity is receiving what you need to be successful.

I share with students that I am not the only educator in the room. Students are active participants in learning and teaching. There is a

CY: Acknowledge the truth, the facts, and the hard evidence. The fact that educators are not teaching holistic histories and diverse perspectives shows how difficult it is to acknowledge the truth. Teaching for equity and antiracism is not just teaching about oppression, but also teaching about liberation.

One way to identify white supremacy culture indoctrination in our education is to pay attention to perspectives, language, bias etc. For example, do you remember educators using the word ‘slaves’ or ‘enslaved peoples’ when teaching about slavery? Do you believe educators teach multiple perspectives and critical analysis when it comes to topics of manifest destiny, colonization, and genocide? Sadly, given my experience, the answer is overwhelmingly ‘No’.

Educate yourself, be curious, lean

The fact that educators are not teaching holistic histories and diverse perspectives shows how difficult it is to acknowledge the truth.

very strong sense of community in my classroom, based on mutual understanding of co-created norms. My students are free to represent themselves authentically. Student voice is very important.

I reinforce the idea that we all have a voice in decisions that impact us and our education. I do my best to raise student voice and lower teacher voice as much as I can. I have found that co-facilitation among students is very important for them to explore and for me to model. I remind students that their voice is their superpower, and that they need to use their superpower. It is my job to ensure students feel safe and valued.

Before I took leave, our music specialist wrote me a note that said, “I could tell when your class came into music that they were loved and cared for. You treat them with the intellectual respect that is often not granted to our youngest students.” These words validate the intentional practices I implement with my students.

WIP: How can the community begin to see the value in teaching for equity and antiracism?

in. Once you recognize the reality of how encompassing the oppression of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color is, you cannot go back to being blissfully ignorant. At that point, white privilege/fragility cannot be an excuse to avoid meaningful and necessary conversations. You now have the moral obligation to disrupt and dismantle the oppression BIPOC experience daily.

In my coalition, we see the value in fighting for equity and antiracism. The solidarity that our group has formed is valuable to the communities we serve. We call out racism in our schools. We know that if we don’t say or do something, nobody else will. I am glad that collectively we still have energy to persist, but we need additional support from our neighboring communities and anti-racist leaders who have decision-making power. To quote Anti-racist Education Now, “the right time to take action against racism is, always.”

WIP: The petition asking that racism and white supremacy in the North Thurston school system be addressed called for termination of some

Groups helpful in the fight for racial justice and equity in schools

Other groups that try to fight for racial justice and equity are the JEDI Council (Justice Equity Diversity and Inclusion) and the North Thurston Education Association (teachers’ union), but they also are trying to maintain relationships with District decision-makers who won’t budge. These groups work independently and sometimes collaboratively.

I have found a FB group, *Anti-racist Education Now*, led by a Latinx science educator who is focused on ending racism in all forms. I reached out to them to help our group gain visibility and exchange resources. They helped me network to get my letter seen by the President and Vice President of WEA, Larry Delaney and Janie White.

Another trustworthy organization is *Washington Ethnic Studies Now*. They are an amazing team of anti-racist educator-activists who formed a nonprofit in Washington to support the implementation of ethnic studies statewide. They provide professional development for teachers and also lobby on equity policies.

Rethinking Schools and *Teaching for Justice* are organizations that have credible tools, lesson plans and articles for all teachers to help you reflect and strengthen your practice. We, BIPOC teachers, shouldn’t have to carry the burden of dismantling systems of oppression by ourselves. If everybody who is ready to become more anti-racist, can do so, I think we will start to see changes in teaching and educational policy. Anti-racist teaching is not about explaining the existence of systems of oppression; it is about teaching students to identify its existence and to empower them to use their agency to dismantle systems of oppression.

—Christine Yorba

administrators

CY: NTPS does a great job of convincing the community they are following the Equity Resolution, but they are not.

My principal, Heather McCarthy, claims to be an ally for social change, but her actions don’t support the claim. She controls the culture of a school where the implementation of social justice and equity moves at the pace of white privilege—a rate that is effectively zero. Heather McCarthy has bullied and tone-policed staff for our equity and social justice work. She had a hand in pushing me and other BIPOC staff out of Mountain View.

When a group of educators at my school wanted to create a safe space to collaborate around teaching BLM lessons, Heather told us that we couldn’t have a group centered on BLM. As a result, our communities lost opportunities to heal, grow and collaborate.

Recently, a mother was encouraging her daughter to incite hate speech during one of my remote lessons. This mother is always present for remote lessons; she has made it clear she doesn’t support teaching BLM material. After I reported the incident to Heather, I learned that she had comforted the white family. The parents were heard and validated, while I was not supported and was made to feel unsafe.

Others in leadership roles are also part of the problem. The Director of Equity, Kate Frazier is fully aware of how BIPOC staff are treated, but she has repeatedly told me, “I have no decision-making power.”

Staff are supposed to report instances of discrimination and incivility to Charles Burleigh, Executive Director of Human Resources and NTPS Civility Officer. However, Charles is known throughout the district, especially by BIPOC educators, not to be trusted. He treats BIPOC reports of incivility and discrimination with incompetence and cultural dissonance. Because of this, most BIPOC experiences of discrimination go unreported.

The NTPS School Board and NTPS are proud of the white supremacy culture they uphold. If NTPS School Superintendent Deb Clemens, and the District Cabinet remain in power, our BIPOC communities will continue to be oppressed. Kate Frazier agreed when I told her, “the wrong people (BIPOC) are leaving, and the wrong people are leading,” when I said the only solution for the problems facing BIPOC educators is the removal of key NTPS administrative staff. They consistently demonstrate an inability to recognize and repair the traumas they cause in our communities.

Our communities need new anti-racist leaders, who have gone through anti-bias training, who have shown that they are working for all students and not upholding white supremacy culture in our schools. We need to keep constant pressure on NTPS so they know the community is watching. I encourage readers to reach out to NTPS and ask for an update on our Call to Action [See the petition at tinyurl.com/norththurstonpetition.]

WIP: What advice would you give to other educators who may face similar conditions of injustice, but are afraid to step out/speak up?

CY: Vet your allies with your gut. There were times I didn’t listen to

► **Anti-racist**, continued on next page

Guest workers at risk in WA farms

David Bacon

[This article was produced by Capital & Main, an award-winning nonprofit journalism outfit focused on inequality. It is republished here with permission.]

The Farm Workforce Modernization Act would likely lead to enormous increases in the number of workers brought to the US by growers.

Growers are just beginning to bring this year's wave of contracted laborers into Washington State for the coming season to pick apples, cherries and other fruit. The laborers are arriving to just-relaxed COVID-19 health and safety requirements for farmworkers, courtesy of a Superior Court judge in Yakima County, the heart of the state's apple country.

At the same time, adoption of the Farmworkers Modernization Act would lead to the massive expansion of the H-2A guest worker program, used by growers across the country to recruit these laborers.

In 2020, despite the pandemic, growers and labor contractors brought 28,959 workers, nearly all from Mexico, to work in Washington's fields and orchards, a 10% increase over the previous year. Nationally, the number of H-2A workers brought to the US annually has mushroomed from 79,011 to 275,430 in a decade.

Guest workers win some improvement in living conditions

COVID-19 outbreaks struck Washington's guest worker barracks last April, starting with 36 laborers in a Stemilt Growers housing unit in East Wenatchee. Within months eight other clusters were found,

Anti-racist

From previous page

my gut because I was invested in people who had been my mentors. Pay attention to the impact of someone's actions: what they're saying, the questions they are asking. Use a critical lens. Talk to people you trust. I reached out to nearly all of my professors from my undergrad and graduate programs. I asked them for resources that could help our community at large. Their advice got me here, talking with you. Creating, maintaining and collaborating with existing networks of support is crucial to being able to endure this work.

Sadly, my story/experience teaching in public schools is not unique. The disheartening truth is BIPoC educators don't last as long as they should in the public school system because the system was not made with us in mind. Because of the adversity we face, our students suffer from not having the authentic representation they need in their classrooms.

Dismantling systems of oppression on your own is not sustainable. You need a network of trusted allies, working as a team, delegating responsibilities and modeling self-care. In the end, to create safer communities for all, together, we need to overwhelm oppressive systems with our superpower: our voice.

and by mid-May rural Yakima County had 2,186 cases—122 were reported on May 15 alone—and 73 people were dead.

With 455 infections per 100,000 residents, the county had the highest COVID-19 rate on the West Coast. Then Juan Carlos Santiago Rincon, a Mexican H-2A worker, died in a Gebbers Farms barracks in July. A second death followed a week later—a 63-year old Jamaican farmer,

that it has 90 such dormitory units in central Washington, with 1,677 beds, half of which are bunks. It adds up to a “unique risk,” according to a court declaration given last May by University of Washington epidemiologists Drs. Anjum Hajat and Catherine Karr.

Familias Unidas por la Justicia, the state's new farmworker union, Columbia Legal Services, and other advocates sued the state a year ago



Farm workers and their supporters march to protest the H-2A guestworker program and the death of Honesto Silva. Photo copyright David Bacon

Earl Edwards, who had been coming to Washington State as an H-2A worker for several years.

State health authorities only found out about Santiago's death through anonymous phone calls from workers. Ernesto Dimas,

in March, demanding better safety measures. Although they didn't win a ban on the bunk beds, they did secure other protections, including twice-daily medical checks for workers with COVID-19 symptoms, quick access to emergency services and clearance for commu-

Washington State was hardly a fierce enforcer of the regulations. Even before the ruling, the state Department of Health said the monitoring requirements weren't feasible, and the Department of Labor and Industries said it would not enforce them.

another Gebbers worker, told the *Spokane Spokesman-Review* that the company sent workers into the orchards even when they showed symptoms of illness. “You could hear people coughing everywhere,” he said. Sick workers were sent to an isolation camp, but one infected worker, Juan Celin Guerrero Camacho, said, “I got scared seeing what happened—that workers were not getting medical attention.”

The barracks for H-2A workers leave them vulnerable to infections. They are divided into rooms around a common living and kitchen area. Four workers live in each room, sleeping in two bunk beds, making it impossible for them to maintain the required six feet of distance to help avoid contagion. Stemilt Growers says



nity advocates to contact workers on the farms.

Those victories were invalidated by Yakima County Superior Court Judge Blaine Gibson's April 21 decision.

In a news release, John Stuhlmiller, chief executive officer of the Washington Farm Bureau, called it a “common sense ruling” and “science-based adjustments.” He called for “repeal or modification” of other requirements, including any limits on bunk beds or other distancing measures, which he had previously labeled “crippling business restrictions.”

Washington State was hardly a fierce enforcer of the regulations. Even before the ruling, the state Department of Health said the monitoring requirements weren't feasible, and the Department of Labor and Industries said it would not enforce them. State communicable disease epidemiologist Scott Lindquist said in an April 13 court declaration that a daily phone call to a sick worker, from an unspecified source, could take the place of medical visits.

But Edgar Franks, political director for *Familias Unidas por la Justicia*, said such a measure “wouldn't have helped the workers who died at Gebbers, since there was no phone service because they couldn't get a good signal in that rural area.”

Minimal gains can be taken away

Meanwhile, Congressman Dan Newhouse, a grower from the Yakima Valley, has pushed the Farm Workforce Modernization Act through the US House of Representatives, and it now awaits a vote in the Senate.

“The Farm Workforce Modernization Act is the dream of the industry,” said Franks, “because it lets them do what they want with workers, including paying them low wages, and blacklisting and deporting them if they protest. The judge's recent ruling just gives us a taste of what's coming down the line. Even the minimal gains we've fought for can be taken away, just like that.”

The bill contains a complex and restrictive legalization program for some of the country's 1.2 million undocumented farmworkers, along with enforcement provisions that would prevent undocumented people from working in agriculture at all in the future.

Preserving a system that puts workers at risk

The bill's main impact, however, is the relaxation of restrictions on the use of the H-2A visa program, which would likely lead to enormous increases in the number of workers brought to the US by growers and labor contractors.

Dan Fazio, director of the country's second-largest labor contractor for H-2A workers, the Washington Farm Labor Association, told Capital Press, “the program works, and we don't have an alternative.”

Even though unemployment skyrocketed during the pandemic, growers claim they couldn't find local workers willing to pick Washington's fruit. “We don't see any effect from the unemployment rate for US workers,” Fazio claimed.

According to Washington State Tree Fruit Association President Jon DeVaney, unemployed people don't want to work because “they are collecting state and federal unemployment benefits.”

Rep. Newhouse was successful in winning grower support for the bill, but only 30 Republicans voted for it. The bill's cosponsor is Silicon Valley Democratic Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren, and every Democrat in the House—except Maine's Jared Golden—voted for it, even the party's leftist representatives.

“There's a real disconnect among policy makers from the reality on the ground,” Franks charged. “They're preserving a system that is putting workers at risk. With this judge's decision, community organizations and unions are now denied access to these workers, while growers have them in a stranglehold.”

Nevertheless, Stuhlmiller asserted, “We all share the same goal: protecting farm worker health while keeping our farmers in business.”

Within days of the judge's decision, Gov. Jay Inslee warned, “we now are seeing the beginnings of a fourth [coronavirus] surge in the state of Washington.”

Affected guest workers will no doubt receive a phone number they can call when they get sick.

David Bacon is a photojournalist, author, political activist, and union organizer who focuses on labor issues, particularly those related to immigrant labor.

An indirect approach to challenging white supremacy

My last column discussed the movie *Imperium*, about the infiltration of white supremacist groups by FBI agent Mike German. The commercially available disc of this movie has some extra features, one of which is an interview with the producers and German. They make the crucial point that many white supremacists are fundamentally motivated by fear that they will lose what little they have due to the political and social ascent of people of color. It doesn't matter what you tell them about Trump's blatant lying and misogyny, for example, or about the oppression suffered by people of color in our country. As long as they hold on to this fear, you won't be able to get through to them.

LOOKING FORWARD

Dave Jette

This raises the question as to how we can interact effectively with such people? One possible answer is provided in a book called *Strategy*, by Basil H. Liddell Hart. The author is an outstanding British military strategist who has written comprehensive histories of the two world wars as well as detailed analyses of the classic battles of history, such as of Napoleon.

This book, published in 1967, advocates a break with classical military strategy such as that exemplified by Clausewitz who advocated an overpowering frontal attack to effect victory. Against a well-placed defense, such a course of action will fail even if used by a considerably stronger military force. Rather, Liddell Hart calls for using an indirect approach (such as an unexpected flank attack) to weaken the strength and resolve of the enemy prior to the main assault. It is especially important to attack the enemy's morale in this way, so that he is no longer an effective fighter.

How can such military strategy of indirect approach be applied to the problem of getting through to white supremacists, of challenging their basic fear for their own livelihood? An answer is provided by an article in *The Fulcrum* and reprinted in the *Seattle Times* on April 18, 2021. The headline of the article is "I'm a conservative. Here's why I support voting rights." It points out that manipulations such as voter gerrymandering and the use of huge amounts of "dark money" (hidden sources of funding) are in contradiction to the conservative

values of honor and integrity. Here is an honest conservative whose values lead naturally to supporting "one person, one vote" in spite of the threat that his party will thereby be unlikely to win elections in the future.

Specifically, what I suggest is that we be powerful advocates for the rule of law, as being fundamental to the functioning of our society. This is a cause that people representing a wide range of political outlooks can unite upon—it is supposed to be the bedrock of American society. Placing the rule of law paramount does in fact mean rejection of the "dictatorship of the proletariat" of classical Marxist theory. It means that a socialist government will step down if it loses the election, for example. Especially with Trump's Big Lie concerning his recent presidential election loss, the rule of law creates a contradiction between support of white supremacy and American (claimed) fundamental values. This indirect approach may cause many supporters of white supremacy to reconsider where they really stand, thereby opening them up to arguments against continued white supremacy. But without such a morale-challenging opening, our arguments and views will flow off them like water off a duck's back.

Furthermore, our strong advocacy of the rule of law will help us in our work toward building an anti-right front against Trumpism. However, we must keep in mind that electoral work can be only secondary (in the long run) to our undertaking the transformation of society in a progressive direction. What crucially we must do is to promote the self-organization of progressive mass struggles, and to do this we must unabashedly promote our political views, even to the detriment of work in the electoral sphere. But such political views must still be in accord with the primacy of democracy and the rule of law.

Dave Jette writes this bi-monthly column and has been involved with Works in Progress since its beginnings. He has written three books, all available at www.lulu.com: A Reformulation of Dialectical Materialism, which incorporates feminist theory into a traditional Marxist framework; Beyond Classical Marxism, about socialism and how to bring it about in the US; and Looking Forward, mainly offering the columns that appear here over time.



BOOK REVIEW

Mirage of Police Reform

By Robert Worden and Sarah McLean

Tim Coley

If you were walking by your favorite independent bookstore and saw the title *Mirage of Police Reform: Procedural Justice and Police Legitimacy*, by Robert E. Worden and Sarah J. McLean, you might think what awaited you between the covers would be a look at the many cycles of proposed police reform of the past few decades. It would explain why Johnson's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice, Clinton's push for community policing in the 1994 Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act, and Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing (to name a few just at the federal level) have failed to take hold and why procedural justice would be the key to their implementation. Think again.

From a procedural justice perspective, when law enforcement officers conduct their work in a manner that demonstrates fairness in the process, transparency in their actions, opportunities for citizens to have their voice heard in a given situation, and the appearance of impartiality in the decision making, then the resulting actions of the police are much more likely to be viewed in a favorable manner and the legitimacy of the police generally will be strengthened.

Using academic literature and their own research, the authors make arguments as to why these four pillars, as they are commonly known, are demonstrably sound. But they reveal the limitations of this approach when they make such assertions as:

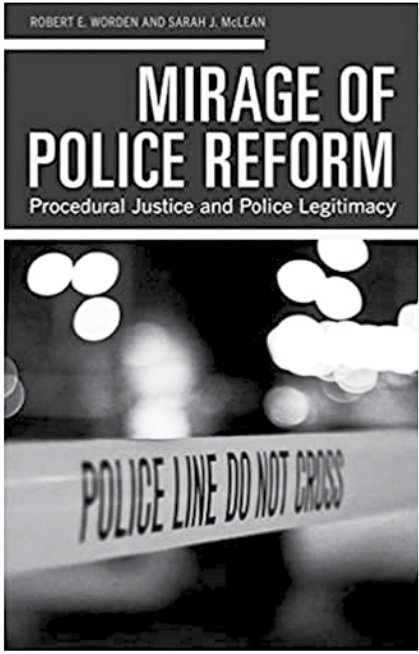
"Black citizens, compared with whites, are treated better on both dimensions of police behavior: other things being equal, blacks are accorded greater procedural justice and less procedural injustice. These estimated effects are in the unexpected direction, and they defy our attempts to account for them."

Of course the question really is why do those who are poor and/or non-white have such a greater chance of experiencing "procedural justice" in the first place? Arguably, all of the shared experience with police they have had since the LBJ days (and at least the century prior) makes for an incredibly low standard of approval with police action—which is to say coming away from a contact unscathed is notable.

The unrest and civil protests of the last few years, after so many questionable deaths as a result of police action, were not driven by a craving for more procedural justice.

More procedural justice is what has led the United States to top the world in rates of incarceration at 655 prisoners per 100,000. Do we really think if those in El Salvador, Thailand, Turkmenistan and Cuba pushed for more procedural justice they would desire to catch up to us one day?

There are two points from the book I do think are worth a deeper discussion at the policy level, especially at the Washington State Legislature.



First, it is undoubtedly true that police officers have increasingly been tasked with responding to situations they will be the first to admit they are not the best suited for: in a school setting, or a mental health crises, or addressing addiction and homelessness. This type of police work "is comprised of a variety of functions, all

or many of which are performed in a task environment that is heterogeneous, ambiguous, uncertain, and dangerous." There must be funding prioritized to address these other issues in a meaningful way outside of law enforcement.

Second, when compared to other professions, "police still enjoy more of the public's trust and confidence than all but two of the social institutions about which Gallup inquires." There remains a need, however limited, for police action and services. But we cannot continue to impanel commissions and issue reports and never actually take action on the real substantive (not procedural) problem issues with the criminal justice system.

It seems to me you would be more likely to conclude the mirage is in fact the title and the purpose of this book itself. This is not an activist screed in any sense of the word, but rather a review of some previous academic work and a dive into research done by the authors with two police departments on the East Coast. The target audience would appear to be scholars in the criminal justice field and perhaps some police management. Although a paperback version is easily obtainable, I would recommend the free e-book version available through Luminos if you feel compelled to take a look for yourself.

Tim Coley is a lieutenant with the Washington State Patrol, where he has worked since 2000. His true passion is reading and writing — when not walking with his dog Adele and husband Jason. He has a blog at TimothyColey.wordpress.com



Master Gardener Plant Sale, Dirt Works at Yauger Park.

Wednesday, July 7, 9am - noon

Master Gardener Foundation of Thurston County announces a 2021 personalized shopping experience hosted by MGFTC at the Plant Sale Nursery located adjacent to the Dirt Works Demonstration Gardens at Yauger Park. The nursery has a large inventory of beautiful perennials, sun loving shrubs and trees and native plants. Come and shop with the help of your very own MG personal shopper!



MGFTC is now scheduling Wednesday and Saturday appointments (the first and third Saturday of each month) for a one-hour shopping experience. Individualized plant-sale shopping events will run through the Spring and Summer months. Prices are highly competitive - credit/debit cards as well as cash and checks are accepted for payment.

Wild Grief Teen Day Hike, at Sunrise, Mt. Rainier

Saturday, July 10

If you are a grieving teen, this is a hike for you. We will hike through mountain meadows full of wildflowers, with breathtaking views of Mount Rainier and Edmonds Glacier. The hike is for teens only. You will have a chance to see how Wild Grief facilitates connecting with nature, your grief and each other. No previous hiking experience needed. We expect the hike to last at least 5 hours with time to honor our grief and soak up the beauty. Read more at www.wildgrief.org/teen-day-hikes



Solar panels at the Farmer's Market



Through the end of July

Sunflower Community Solar is installing panels at the Olympia Farmers Market. And...you can buy in and get an annual payment based on the electricity generated. Plus a satisfying punch at global warming! The project is the second community-owned system sponsored by Olympia Community Solar. Ownership of the project is publicly available in \$300 solar units that represent about half a solar panel.



You can purchase your own solar unit or donate to a local non-profit. You or the non-profit of your choice will receive an annual payment for the Solar Unit's electric generation. The project has 400 units available through the end of July. The Sunflower Project is dedicated to Steve Wilcox. Steve dedicated decades of his life to making the Farmers Market what it is today. Solar Unit donations in his honor may be made to the Friends of Farmers Market. Olympia Community Solar is a 501C3 non-profit organization with a mission to steward an equitable and accessible transition to clean energy.

Ecosystem Guild - Restoring watersheds through community

The Guild is looking for stewards and volunteers for the 2021 expedition season (COVID pending of course). It starts with a conversation. We assemble seasonal teams to meet the needs of your site and situation, building a shared long-term management plan. Guild members may

join a team to rebuild commons in the Salish Sea, develop relationships with the land and each other, enjoy a moment of simple living, or to test strategies and technologies that support bioregional economies. We work collectively to create bioregional regenerative cultures, as our response to global ecological collapse. We are not an institution. We are a network of humans working for regenerative bioregional culture.

Or maybe you are interested in helping us locate a Mobile Ecological Field Station in your watershed, or want to build a Public Interest Science & Design Team to support your neighborhood. It all starts with a conversation. Email us at info@ecosystemguild.org and say hello.

Estuary Explorers Summer Camp

Camp sessions: Sea Stars: K-2nd grade, **July 19-23**, 9 am - 3:30 pm. Salmon: Grades 3-5, **Aug 2-6**, 9am-3:30pm. Orca: Grades 6-8, **Aug 16-20**, 9am-3:30 pm.

Explore the natural wonders of South Sound and discover the wild world of estuaries! Investigate the plants and animals living in Puget Sound, while learning how to become a steward of the environment. Engage in hands-on estuary-centered education with our trained staff and volunteers. Participate in a range of investigations -- touch-tank time, live feedings of estuary animals, beach exploration, shark dissections, visit a local nature preserve. Prices: Members (Fish Friend Family Membership and above) = \$175.00, Non-Members = \$200. For more information about Estuary Explorers Summer Camp visit: pugetsoundestuarium.org/summer-camp/

Big Brother/Big Sister orientation

July 20, 5:30 – 6:00 pm via Zoom

Learn more about the BBBS program. We will talk about the youth and families in the program, the role of volunteer Bigs, and next steps to become a part of igniting the potential of youth in our community! No program application needed to attend this orientation. Learn about the program and have your questions answered. Event website. Link to sign up: bbbs.tfaforms.net/4841966. Or contact Moriah Candler 360-943-0409.

We must get rid of nuclear weapons

The Olympia Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons meets via Zoom on the **3rd Thursday** of each month starting at 5:00 pm sharp. Please join us! Contact Glen Anderson (360) 491-9093 or glenanderson@integra.net in advance for the agenda and the Zoom link. See related story in this issue.



Stonewall Youth turned 30!

Stonewall Youth is a youth-led organization that empowers LGBTQ+ youth to speak for themselves, support each other, educate our communities, and work for racial, disability and social justice. They started as peer supports in 1991 and have grown to encompass much more. For LGBTQ+ youth, there are dances, Open Mics, workshops, self-care days, camping trips, Glitter Camp, and performances led by youth staff and Fellows! We provide educational events, performances, art shows, potlucks and other events for the greater community. If you're an LGBTQ+ youth who's interested in our regular weekly programs, please check out



our activities page. Looking for a job? You can look for announcements on our jobs page. We provide paid Fellowships for youth and internships for college students. All community members are welcome to participate in our public events and apply to join our Board of Directors. Folks age 23 and older are invited to volunteer!

Washington: Easy to vote!

July 7 - Voter Pamphlet mailed. **July 14** - Ballots mailed & available. **July 26** - last day to register or update your voter registration online.

The County Auditor will send a primary ballot to every Thurston County resident registered to vote. No need to submit a request -- its the way democracy needs to work. You can still register or update in person up to 8:00 p.m. on Election Day at any county Auditor's Office, voting center or other designated location. And if you were convicted of a felony but have served your time you have the right to vote - **so register!**

So vote! Primary Election Day is August 3. Grab your ballot, fill it out, return it by mail or drop box by election day. There are non-partisan primary races for Olympia and Lacey City Council seats, for District 3, Port of Olympia and for two Olympia School Board positions.. The top two candidates in each race will go on to the General Election in November. Your vote on **Aug. 3** means more of a choice in November. The most common reasons for rejected ballots are late postmarks, unsigned envelopes or signatures not matching the ones on file - **so pay attention!**



Glen's Parallax Perspectives

Nonviolent Grassroots Organizing

The July episode of Parallax Perspectives is "Nonviolent Grassroots Organizing." The program is designed to help people make progress toward a goal related to issues of concern: peace, racism, climate, economic justice, criminal justice system, etc. Being empowered depends on being grounded in profound nonviolence and obtaining the skills and strategies to organize winning campaigns locally and beyond. The program airs on Thurston Community Media (www.tcmedia.org) at 1:30 pm **Mondays**, 5:00 pm **Wednesdays**, 9:00 pm **Thursdays**. View the program or get a summary plus more information at www.parallaxperspectives.org under "TV Programs" and "Organizing." Questions? Contact Glen Anderson at (360) 491-9093 glenanderson@integra.net

West Central Park

What would be music to your ears at free summer concerts?

Plans are underway to safely restart free summer music concerts at this neighborhood park at the



intersection of Harrison and Division in West Olympia. There are a bunch of great bands ready and willing to help re-energize the outdoor stage -- so many in fact that there are more bands than available summer weekends. What a problem! To solve it, WCP is looking for feedback from the community -- how often would you come to a free concert at the park? How about small afternoon or lunchtime concerts? What days are best? What kind of music sounds like music to your ears? Use your imagination and transmit your desires via the contact form on the Park website at www.westcentralpark.org or by email to info@westcentralpark.org. Better yet, come on over to the park on **Sundays** to talk to the staff and volunteers, 11 to 1pm. One more thing: there's a call for Stage Crew volunteers - dip your toe into the concert world for the experience and stay for the fun.

Ease-of-vote shifts

From 1996 to 2016, states with the most dramatic shifts in ease-of-vote ranks, with a rank of 1 being easiest and 50 being most difficult, based on the Cost of Voting Index.

| State | 1996 Rank | 2016 Rank |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|
| Washington | 46 | 11 |
| West Virginia | 47 | 16 |
| California | 32 | 3 |
| Louisiana | 48 | 20 |
| Connecticut | 43 | 15 |
| Oregon | 27 | 1 |

Moving Up in Rank

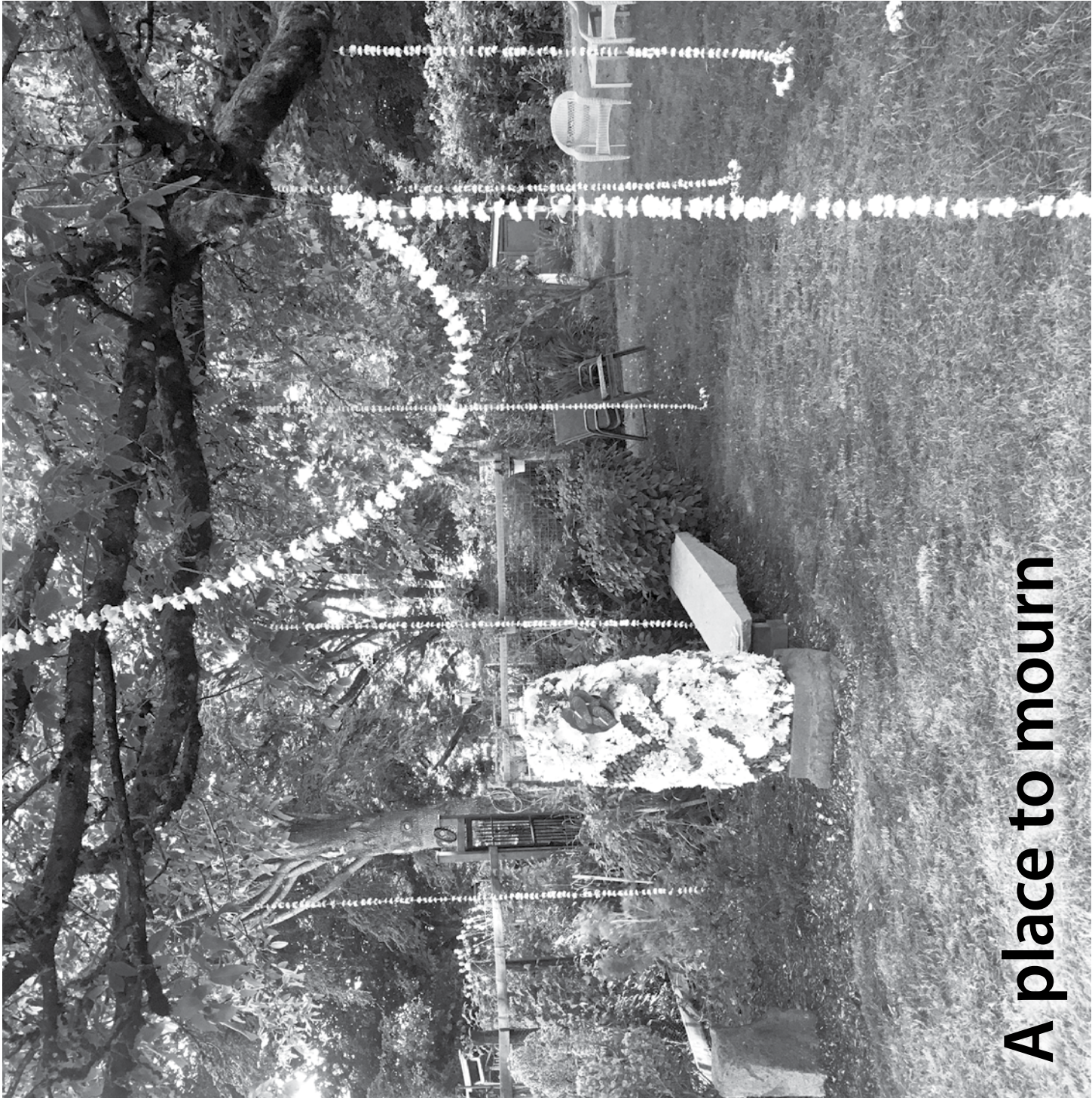
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|---------------|----|----|
| Georgia | 11 | 35 |
| Kansas | 17 | 42 |
| Wyoming | 2 | 28 |
| Texas | 14 | 46 |
| New Hampshire | 4 | 40 |
| Tennessee | 10 | 48 |

Moving Down in Rank

Source: Northern Illinois University

Works in Progress

Advocating for social justice since 1990



A place to mourn