

A stable income and predictable hours

# Cooper Point Starbucks workers vote for union and a say in working conditions

Bethany Weidner and  
Gary Webb

On the corner of Cooper Point and Harrison, it's a typical mall setting. Cars dominate the foreground, small chain shops border the asphalt parking lot; a Starbucks serves a steady stream of customers.

One thing is not typical. In front of the Starbucks, five people stand around a table holding signs: "Union busting is disgusting," and "Unfair Labor Practices." This location is one of two local Starbucks where employees have been organizing to form a union—and on April 30, their efforts were successful. The Cooper Point Village employees voted 19–2 to move ahead with their union. Employees at the Starbucks at Capital and Trosper in Tumwater also filed to form a union and will vote later.

**The organizing goal**

Outside the Cooper Point Village store, two employees were joined by several community supporters including members of the Democratic Socialists of America, Billie Adeosun and Star Wannamaker. They talked about the reasons they filed to form a union. Top issues for these working people are pay, guaranteed minimum 20-hour a week scheduling, collaborative decision-making on safety issues that affect them at the workplace—and an end to harassment aimed at derailing their union effort.

In short, they want to work more; in safe conditions and pleasant surroundings; for predictable pay that covers their living expenses.

**Pay that reflects the local cost of living**

Starbucks' beginning hourly wage is set just above Washington's minimum wage (\$14.49). That's the gross amount—not what ends up in your paycheck. Even at \$15/hour, it's a poverty wage. The barista working every day, 40 hours a week all 52 weeks in the year would bring home \$27,200 after deductions. But that kind of full-time work isn't what Starbucks offers.

Starbucks' business model relies on part-time employees. Many individuals are scheduled for less than 20 hours a week. To get above a poverty paycheck, they must be available at short notice to work more—based on management's assessment of the staffing situation on any given day.

Another pay issue, according to Dylan Lux, a shift supervisor at the Tumwater store, is fair seniority pay:

some longer term employees make less than their newer co-workers.



Jenni Post and Jessica Ryan were part of the group tabling at Starbucks Village on April 16. "With all the urgent crises of our time, supporting our local Starbucks partners in their fight to democratize their workplace and form a union, feels like a really productive use of my time. By being a pro-union, positive presence with people as they walk in or go through the drive through generates more support for what the workers are doing—a few supportive words or a donation to the relief fund. Plus, my comrades in DSA all contribute to making tabling enjoyable. It makes talking to strangers a lot easier."—Jenni Post

## PERSPECTIVE

Hilary Franz's "Carbon Project"

# A new era for old forests or business as usual at DNR?

### Some Friends of Legacy Forests

On April 6, the Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands launched an unprecedented carbon leasing project. The first of its kind on state trust lands, this initiative enters ecologically valuable forests into leases to generate revenue for trust land beneficiaries by reserving them for carbon storage uses. Through voluntary carbon markets, this project is intended to generate revenue for trustland beneficiaries without selling forest timber for logging.

The project will be implemented in two phases. The Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR), led by Franz, claims that the first phase (Phase One) protects a total

Lux also observed that the raise Starbucks issued to employees earlier this year was so insignificant it didn't make up for the effective pay cut caused by recent high inflation. "It's impossible to keep up at this point. As one friend said, 'if everything keeps going up like this, we're all going to be homeless.'"

Average apartment rent locally has increased by 16% in the last six years and continues to climb. Thurston Regional Planning shows the cost of living in Oly-Lacey-Tumwater is 10.3% higher than the average of all other urban areas covered by their 2021 survey.

Lux thinks that wages used to be what drew new staff to Starbucks, but that has changed: "Last year a good 70% of our staff left in their first few months because they kept finding better jobs—better pay, more consistent hours. Every day I walked in, another person had put in their notice or quit on the spot." A search for local barista job openings found hourly pay listed at \$18 and \$19.

**Guaranteed minimum 20 hours a week scheduling**

With no fixed schedule of hours, a Starbucks employee doesn't know until she gets a text which days and how many hours she'll be working in the next two weeks. According to Lux, twenty-hour/week shifts are

now routinely cut to four to eight hours a week. For part-time workers receiving a barely livable wage, having hours cut is a big issue.

Star Wannamaker, a Cooper Village barista, explains that her weekly scheduled hours don't amount to enough to live on. She's always checking her phone to see if there are more shifts she can work. "They know they can count on me to come in early and stay late" to inch her paycheck up. It's a common situation for Starbucks employees since the company policy is to flex employee hours depending on customer volume.

**Seattle's "secure scheduling" law defeated at the state level**

Washington has no law requiring a minimum predictable schedule for employees. An employer has the right to change an employee's schedule at any time, with or without notice. An employer is also not required to pay an employee a minimum number of hours when the manager dismisses the employee from work prior to completing their scheduled shift.

Only in Seattle do shift workers have the right to stable scheduling. After workers organized, the city in 2017 adopted "secure scheduling"

► Starbucks, continued on page 11

of 3,750 acres of land; however, at least 1,250 acres of that total was already off-limits to logging for other reasons.

**The areas DNR claims to have protected under Phase One all contain controversial timber sales, and most are located near large cities.**

The DNR website indicates that the remaining 2,500 of the acres were originally planned for harvest, and are now protected under Phase One of the new carbon project. Although the agency has not yet announced

areas protected in Phase Two, the DNR claims that their plan eventually will protect about 10,000 acres of ecologically valuable forests in Western Washington.

**How much additional protection?**

While this initiative marks a step in the right direction, it is a very small step. Data obtained from DNR's Public Disclosure Office by the Center for Responsible Forestry (CRF) contradicts DNR's statement that timber sales were planned on 2,500 acres of land included in Phase One of the project. In fact, DNR had definite plans to harvest only 1,000 acres out of the 2,500 acres it claims to have "protected." Furthermore, some of

► Timber, continued on page 10



**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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# THOUGHTS ON THE THEME

## No one here to tie up the loose ends

WIP editors began working on this issue of the paper with the idea that we would look back at our stories over the past few years to see where there are “loose ends.” What stories did WIP publish about government actions or environmental threats or citizen efforts to improve things—where there needed to be on-going coverage?

The reality is that there is no one covering the important matters that affect the lives of people in Thurston County. *The Olympian* is a shadow of a paper that even in its best days was not worthy of a Capital City and county.

Studies show that as newspapers stop covering City Hall and other local institutions, residents become less informed about the issues that affect them, and less engaged with local government. They will have no real idea of where their taxes are going, nor what policies are driving the shape of their communities.

Local government information is not designed to reveal who is making decisions, and whether decisions match policies or benefit all residents. Instead, the information that governments provide on their websites and via public communication focus on all the wonderful things that the government is doing...

In the absence of a robust daily paper, no one is being paid to ferret out what is going on and to synthesize their findings in a way that gives people solid, ongoing information about what their local governments—and the businesses that dominate them—are up to.

*Works in Progress* even with only volunteers published a number of stories where there are “loose ends.” Here are just a few that illustrate how vital it would be to have a real newspaper in Thurston County:

Housing policy and homelessness. The cities of Olympia, Lacey and Tumwater have collectively issued dozens of plans outlining the crisis in affordable housing—homelessness, rising rents, historical discrimination, and barriers to ownership.

WIP reported on three proposals to the Olympia City Council that offered means to address the problem of high rents; in contrast to automatic awards of tax exemptions. If there had been a local paper covering City Hall these would have remained in the news and action could have followed.

In November 2019, tenants asked the Olympia City Council to adopt an ordinance to remove a barrier that makes renting impossible for some, by allowing “move-in” fees to be paid in increments. It's two years later and nothing was ever heard again about this. Did the Council just forget it?

In March of 2020, registering rental properties emerged as a key need from a forum that involved tenants and landlords. That same “Housing Action Plan” states that a registry is envisioned—but when? And is anyone working on it?

A series of articles in 2020 brought to light the fact that the city of Olympia was awarding property tax exemptions to boost profitability for developers of downtown

market-rate apartment buildings. The practice of awarding tax dollars to developers over funding to increase housing affordable to those making workers' salary was not scrutinized beyond WIPs stories.

In January 2021, advocates went to the City Council with a proposed “Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Ordinance.” A TOPO allows renters the right of first refusal when a property is being sold by its owners. At the time, City officials said they would make TOPO a focus in their new Housing Action Plan. That Plan was final in June of last year. Is TOPO a priority? Are more renters in jeopardy of losing their homes?

Local democracy. Thurston County, its municipal governments and the Port routinely delegate their authority to unelected officials and allocate hundreds of thousands of dollars of tax money to non-governmental organizations. Works in Progress has shed some light on how these actions diminish democratic government, but they just become loose ends when they're not followed up in an ongoing way that reveals their long-term effect.

In August and October 2021, articles about the role of the Olympia Hearing Examiner revealed shortcomings in the City Council's oversight of this powerful official.

The Hearing Examiner position was opened up this spring, and the same individual was rehired. Nothing about alternative candidates, the issues, the prospects for better oversight ever made it to the public.

An article in October 2019 followed the Port Olympia acquisition of a business center in Lacey—based on staff's glowing projections of healthy returns in a robust rental market—only to be apprised too late that all of those projections were wrong. What's happened to that purchase? Did the Port simply indebt itself further? No one knows; no one is accountable; there is no transparency.

“Economic development” is a broad label that supports local government spending of millions of dollars of public money in ways that only a select portion of the community is privy to. The Chamber of Commerce, the Economic Development Council, certain favored developers—these appear from time to time in WIP articles. Neither the Chamber nor the EDC have to respond to public record requests, but it needs a real newspaper with paid professional reporters for citizens to know how these bodies influence our lives and the future they are creating for us.

—BW

## Works In Progress: Transitioning to four times a year

Enrique Quintero and Emily Lardner

**Ominous Up to a Point**

We are living in an age of full powered technological seduction, with significant implications for printed news. The last decade has witnessed, nationally and worldwide, a growing number of large and small printed journals lose the battle of adapting to the digital age and document their defeat as an obituary printed on their own pages.

We're not quite ready to write and print our obituary. Thanks to the work of many people, and a lot of work from a few people, *Works In Progress* has been around for over thirty years. During this time, WIP has opened and maintained a political space that gives voice to the concerns and desires of those who aspire to create a better and more just world. Those who imagine a different socio-economic system under which we can conduct our lives.

WIP has great readers. We continue to rely on community members who are writers and artists, web editors and social media posters, and distributors of the paper. We have support from community businesses. Our critical shortage is one of labor.

**Cards on the table**

Due to a number of factors affecting the existential conditions of some members of the publishing committee, and to a certain degree a confirmed reduction in the budget for next year, we've decided to reduce the production of the paper from a monthly to a quarterly basis.

We considered stopping publication altogether but ultimately decided to see if we can manage a quarterly publication for the next year. This has the following practical implications:

- Works in Progress can sustain a progressive space and provide reliable form of information in our community.
- In this next year, we need to hear from progressive groups in the community interested in “guest editing” four pages of an issue, to get a feel for what it's like to produce a paper.
- If we don't find strong collaborators, or even replacements for the publishing committee, WIP may have to fold next year.

**New publishing schedule**

This May issue marks the end of our monthly publishing schedule. We're taking a break and then beginning a quarterly publication schedule. The next issues of WIP will appear in September 2022, December 2022, March 2023, and June 2023.



So very easy

# \$2.3 million in new sales tax for Olympia

**Dan Leahy**

A Sales and Use tax was the only question on the April 26 ballot sent to Olympia's. 35,416 registered voters. Most of them didn't vote; only 12,465 did. Of those, 7,242 voted in favor of the tax.

This meant that 20% of Olympia's registered voters imposed a sales and use tax on everyone else. (Ed note: the 2022 adult population of Olympia is slightly over 42,000.)

The tax will generate an estimated \$2.3 million dollars each year for the next seven years. The purpose of the tax includes funding capital

expenditures or acquisitions of real property, construction of improvements to real property, technology and cultural access programs for Olympia's non-profit cultural organizations with a 501(c)(3) status recognized by the internal revenue service. Ten percent of the funds are reserved for administrative costs and ten percent for youth transportation costs. (from RCW 36.160 and City Resolution M-2280). The tax collection begins almost immediately —July 1, 2022.

The City of Olympia will create a special fund for the receipt of these tax revenues. Mayor Selby and the Council will create a nine-

person Cultural Access Program Advisory Board (CAP Advisory Board). This Board will make recommendations for funding to the Mayor and City Council.

Mayor Selby and the City Council sent a resolution to the County Auditor in December, 2021, asking that the sales and use tax initiative be placed on the ballot on April 26. That same month Cheryl Selby

along with Patty Belmonte, CEO of Hands on Children's Museum, donated \$500 each to begin funding the "Inspire Olympia" campaign which advocated for passage of the sales and use tax.

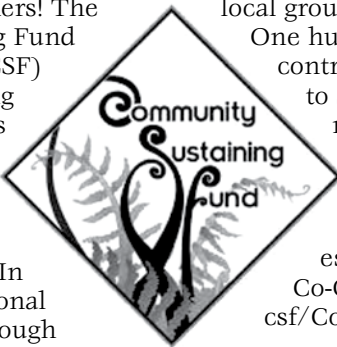
Their campaign raised \$36,746 in cash. The largest cash donors were the Washington Center (\$11,500), Patty Belmonte, CEO of Hands on Children's Museum (\$8000) and Cheryl Selby (\$1,755).

## Community Sustaining Fund Grant Applications due May 15

Calling all Changemakers! The Community Sustaining Fund of Thurston County (CSF) is now accepting Spring 2022 grant applications through May 16, 2022, for creative and impactful applications that serve Thurston County communities. In this grant cycle, additional funds are available through the Sue Lundy Memorial Fund, to honor Sue as a community activist and volunteer at the Olympia Kiwanis Food Bank Garden. Funding criteria and applications available at <https://oly-wa.us/csf/index.php>.

**How to Support**

CSF is celebrating its 35th Anniversary this year! In that time CSF has gathered and dispersed funds in spring and fall grant rounds, awarding over \$125,000 to 200 +



local groups and individuals. One hundred percent of CSF contributions are directed to support these community-based projects. Support this local granting model via:

- Round-Up purchases at the Olympia Food Co-Op: <https://oly-wa.us/csf/Coop.php>
- Donate via Paypal: <https://oly-wa.us/csf/index.php>
- Check mailed to: 2103 Harrison NW, Suite 2715 Olympia, WA 98502

Please contact Ashley McBee for more CSF content, scheduling interviews, and marketing partnership opportunities: [mcbec.ashley@gmail.com](mailto:mcbec.ashley@gmail.com) 865.363.1308

<http://www.oly-wa.us/CSF>

CSF on Facebook and Instagram.

## As sales taxes grow, so does Washington's income inequality

**WIP editors**

According to an index created by the Institute on Tax and Economic Policy, Washington state has the most unfair state and local tax system in the US. Their research shows that the lowest fifth of families by income (making less than \$27,000/year) pay 17.8% of that income in state and local taxes.

The percentage share of income a family must devote to paying state and local taxes diminishes as you go up the income ladder. The result is that incomes are more unequal in Washington after state and local taxes are collected than before.

For families whose income puts them at the top 20% (making at least \$150,000/year—no upper limit), as much as 7% and as little as 3% goes to state and local taxes. Do Washingtonians know how much we demand from the poorest among us in order to avoid

having a state income tax?

The picture is similarly distressing where Olympia is concerned. Olympia residents pay a higher sales tax than 89% of Washington localities. The total sales tax is currently 9.4%, of which 2.9% is levied by the City. That amount will go up to 3% in July when the City begins to collect the Inspire Olympia taxes passed by a vote of 7,242 this April. In 2017 and 2018, Olympia voters also approved adding additional amounts to the sales tax: 0.1% for "public safety," and 0.1% for a Home Fund dedicated to addressing homelessness.

In addition, Olympia Council members approved an increase in the municipal utility tax from 11.5% to 12.5%. This tax is calculated on the City's bi-monthly charge to residents for water/garbage/sewer services. City sales taxes are listed at [www.salestax-handbook.com](http://www.salestax-handbook.com) )

## If DERT is your jam

**Deschutes Estuary Restoration Team (DERT)** is looking for community-focused estuary enthusiasts to join our Board of Directors. DERT's Board of Directors are members of our community that have chosen to volunteer their time and resources to advocate for restoration of the Deschutes Estuary through the removal of



the 5th Avenue dam in downtown Olympia.

We can't achieve this vision without your help. DERT welcomes those from all backgrounds and identities. If interested, please visit <https://deschutesestuary.org/volunteer/join-derts-board/> or email our Executive Director, Paige Anderson, at [anderson@deschutesestuary.org](mailto:anderson@deschutesestuary.org)

## Discover a wilderness of healing with Wild Grief hikes

Wild Grief offers unique nature-based programs for grieving youth and families. Their programs combine peer support and nature connection to help anyone who has lost a loved one. The program helps young people build community, normalize the grief experience, and draw upon nature as a source of resilience and healing. All programs



are free as well as providing all needed gear up to and including gas cards if needed.

Wild Grief will be scheduling day hikes for teens and all ages throughout the summer. Two hikes will take place in June:

**Mt. St. Helens.** Saturday, June 4, 10:30 am to 4 pm. We will immerse ourselves in nature as

the landscape continues to evolve and recover from the 1980 volcanic eruption. With spectacular views of other mountains and wilderness as far as the eye can see, we will breathe deeply the healing quality of nature. Our skilled leaders will set a pace for the 5-mile hike that accommodates the group.

**Lower South Fork Skokomish River.** Saturday, June 18, 2022—10:30 am to 4 pm. This is a beginner-friendly hike. We will hike 4-5 miles at a pace that accommodates the group. This is a free event and

open to all ages. We may provide a van carpool from Olympia.

More information on these and other Wild Grief day hikes can be found at [www.wildgrief.org/events](http://www.wildgrief.org/events).

Wild Grief also offers overnight camping trips for families and teens, but applications for these events closed at the end of April. If you are interested in learning more about Wild Grief, their programs, and ways to support them visit [www.wildgrief.org](http://www.wildgrief.org).

## Don't say they're not reading!

Capital High students took first and third place in the 2022 "Battle of the Books" (BOB) Thurston County championships. Students from Timberline came in second. *Battle of the Books* is a team game based on reading a list of books selected during the school year. Students read the books and hold practice games during the school year. In a game-show type format, they compete to answer questions derived from those books. Each schools' teams then compete against teams from other schools in the Spring. At Capital, Battle of the Books is run by Mrs. Kristi Bonds, the CHS librarian. Other elementary and middle schools throughout Thurston County also have BOB teams and competitions.



**This year, high school students read the following books:**

*The Serpent's Secret* by Sayantani DasGupta; *One Crazy Summer* by Rita Williams-Garcia; *To Night Owl From Dog Fish* by Holly Goldberg Sloan and Meg Wolitzer; *The Someday Birds* by Sally J. Pla; *A Wolf Called Wander* by Rosanne Parry; *I Can Make This Promise* by Christine Day; *Before the Ever After* by Jacqueline Woodson; *Klawde: Evil Alien Warlord Cat* by Johnny Marciano; *Each Tiny Spark* by Pablo Cartaya.

Thanks to KOU GTV for reporting the BOB results for Capital.



An unfinished agenda

The words of Governor Dan Evans echo down the years

[Note: The Evergreen State College celebrated its inauguration and dedication on April 21, 1972 – colliding with a call for a national student strike against escalation of the Vietnam War. Eirik Steinhoff, an Evergreen adjunct faculty member, retrieved Governor Dan Evans' speech at the event as part of a year-long 50th anniversary inquiry into the past, present and future of the college. The speech is presented here with Eirik's comments and other material to provide context.]

True to form, and setting a precedent for consequential intersections between “current events” and College business, the Dedication/Inauguration ceremony was visited by what Founding Dean Charles Teske, who spoke at the ceremony wearing a black armband symbolic of protest of the war, called “a crisis of public relations and standing with members of the larger community around us”:

On Sunday evening, April 16, President Richard Nixon appeared on national television to announce that, in retaliation against fresh Viet Cong incursions in South Vietnam, he had ordered the resumption of the bombing of Hanoi and the new bombing of Haiphong. The high-altitude attacks by B-52 bombers flying from Guam had already begun. On Monday, April 17, the National Student Association asked for a Day of Moratorium—a nationwide strike of colleges and universities against the escalation of the War—on Friday, April 21, our day of Dedication/Inauguration. (Uncertain Glory of an April Day)

Speaking at the ceremony, Washington State Governor Dan Evans (who in 1967 signed the legislation that established the College, and was to serve as the College's second president), made note of another chronological conjunction:

**Evans begins:** “I think it's a particularly appropriate date on which we meet here—tomorrow, April 22nd, is Earth Day, or it was a celebration of Earth Day of a couple of years ago and you remember the interest and the nationwide dedication to a quality environment and a better future for this country.

Acknowledging “the turmoil and

the activism” by those “who have set out to reorder our priorities and to reorder society,” Evans called on his contemporaries “to reach inward, to reach down and touch the troubled spirit of America.”

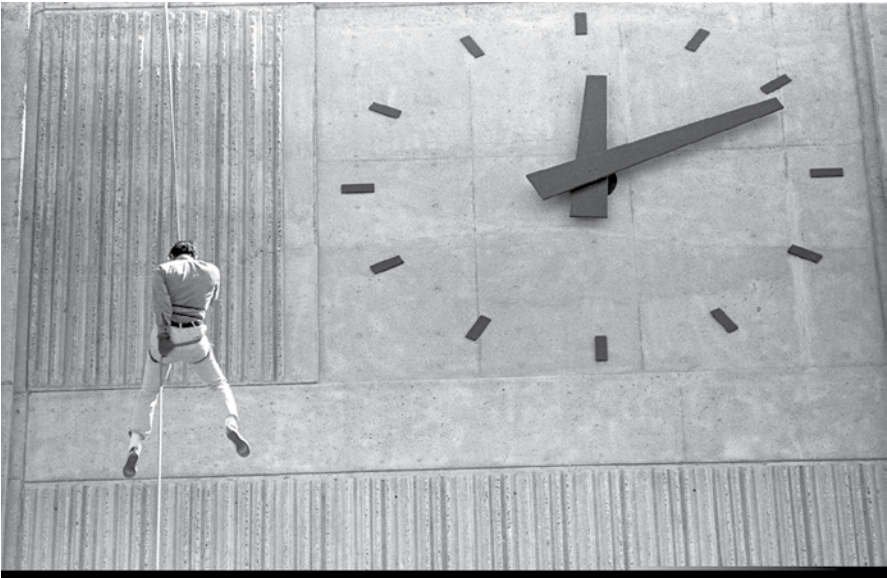


Photo copyright The Evergreen State College

**Evans relates these insurgent endeavors to what he understood Evergreen to stand for:**

“It is time to confront the issues of poverty and disease and human dignity, which lie beneath the violence that tears at every conscience just as it strikes fear in every heart. But if Evergreen means anything, if it means anything to the faculty, and to the administration and to the student body, and if it means anything at all, to the citizens of this state, then I believe it must mean that the tackling of this unfinished agenda must be formed, that somehow and in some way what Evergreen does helps to replace helplessness with hope.

Evans proceeds to slide the timeline forward, to imagine the future in overtly utopian terms, and to connect Evergreen to the realization of this vision of abundance, justice, and reconciliation:

“In 28 years, the millennium will have come again. The year 2000 will be here and those of you who are students at Evergreen today, will be my age—heaven forbid. *laughter* And I think the question you ought to ask yourselves today,

and I hope it is being asked by many, is “what will I face then?”

Do you ever really think about it, or do you ever really care? And I think the real question is not what it will be like in the year

2000, but “how can I make it what it should be?” in the year 2000, not for just myself, but for the entire community. If Evergreen is to fulfill its commitment, it as an institution must dream not the small dreams, but the very large dreams.

I hope by the year 2000 that education will be much more individualized and personalized than it is today, and that much of that education will occur in the community and not solely in the separate and sometimes rather isolated campuses of our colleges, universities, and even high schools.

I believe by the year 2000 there will be an extensive interchange of people, from one country and one continent to another, and throughout that exchange and through that better understanding at the person-to-person level perhaps we have the best single hope of reaching a peace that is lasting.

By the year 2000 we must have resolved the basic rights of each citizen of this nation to adequate medical care, adequate food and adequate housing for each citizen.

But most of all by the year 2000, I hope we have reached a society where success is not measured by the accumulation of material goods, but by how satisfying, how useful, and how personally rewarding a life becomes. [ *applause* ]

**Evans continues:**

“Some word got around, of this community, that I was going to participate in an unusual event today... [ *chuckles, audience laughs* ] William Unsoeld suggested that I rappel down the clock tower. [ *audience laughter and applause* ]

But in fact an even more improbable mode of locomotion was proposed:

What is vastly more important is that you leave your mark on Evergreen. To President McCann, to students, to the faculty members of this college—today the potential for doing that is unlimited because you have no footsteps to follow. Tomorrow's generation will travel in your footsteps, so I hope and trust that each of you will make these first steps innovative, and bold, and decisive, but most of all, make these first steps taken with a conviction that there is a future, that it is not preordained, but that it will be what we make it. That must be the Evergreen challenge. “

*The Governor's remarks were followed by the installation of Charles McCann as Evergreen's first president.*

*You can find Teske's full description of the day at [https://archives.evergreen.edu/1976/1976-12/teske\\_c/Notes\\_Future\\_Historians/UncertainGlory.pdf](https://archives.evergreen.edu/1976/1976-12/teske_c/Notes_Future_Historians/UncertainGlory.pdf)*

Join us and celebrate the 35th Annual BCC becoming the

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Everyone Welcome!  
All Bike Rides Count!  
Bike in May & Win Amazing Prizes!  
Fun for the Whole Family!

Learn more and  
sign up at:  
[bcc.intercitytransit.com](http://bcc.intercitytransit.com)  
and don't miss  
Bike to Work Day  
Thursday, May 19

INTERcity  
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Mon-Fri @ 9am  
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Sistersound  
with Mickey

Sunday 10-11:30am

.....

El Mensaje  
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# A SPLINTER IN THE EYE

## Ukraine and the Theater of War

Enrique Quintero

### Principles for understanding war, any war

If we are willing to understand war, any war, there are a few principles to keep in mind.

**The first** is that by definition, war is a barbarous event that causes enormous human suffering. The stream of close to four million refugees, the loss of Ukrainian and Russian lives, and the destruction of cities as a result of the Russian invasion of Ukraine constitute the latest example of atrocities caused by armed conflict.

**The second principle** comes in the form of Clausewitz's aphorism that war is the continuation of politics by other (i.e. violent) means.

**The third principle** lies with the ability to articulate an accurate characterization of the social forces and interests involved in the confrontation.

Finally, since not all wars are created equal, we must study each war separately in order to avoid abstract pacifist thinking and dovish proclamations that seek shelter from reality in moralism. History confirms that there have been wars that, in spite of the suffering, benefitted humanity at large, and stopped the advancement of forces antagonistic to social justice and human wellbeing.

### The war in Ukraine

That is not the case in Ukraine. The war in central eastern Europe has its theater of operations in Ukraine but its directors, screen writers, ideological propagandists and entrepreneurs of death, are to be found in the age-old expansionist addictions of the two main beneficiaries and puppeteers of this tragic spectacle.

On one side, the original members of NATO, which included Canada and thirteen western European nations led by the US. On the other side, contemporary Russia, as a mutated survivor of the now defunct Warsaw Pact (WP), which included the Soviet Union and seven nations in central and eastern Europe.

Both sides possess a long history of “war readiness” mentality, and a permanent state of mind of “preparation of new possible war scenarios” around the world. Each means to undermine and destabilize the other, while at the same time characterizing the adversary as the possessor of indelible criminal intentions.

### A decade of dancing

In the past decades, particularly after the dissolution of the Soviet Union and its republics (including Ukraine), the world witnessed a proliferation of political zig-zags, military confrontations, anemic peace treaties, commercial

accords, short-lived agreements, diplomatic dancing, subtle and not so subtle threats, and alluring promises of prosperity.

All these histrionics ended in the current geopolitical expansion of NATO, now grown to 30 members. Some of them are ex-participants of the WP, and some are the result of the creation of new national states such as Montenegro, Slovenia, Croatia, and Macedonia.

Nonetheless, a redistribution of the European world means just that—a new distribution. It does not signify a change in the bellicose natures of the main protagonists, or of the economic imperatives of their societies.

Within this context, the war in Ukraine is possible not because of the megalomania, resentment, or frail vanity of a given leader, but as the outcome of long-lasting policies embedded in the core functioning of the economy and culture of the societies in question.

These policies, within the confines of their own spheres of influence, generate arms, armies, and ideologies that are imposed upon their own population and those of their less powerful client-states or territories. So Ukraine, Donetsk, Lugansk, and Járkov find themselves reduced to impotence or trapped in what historian E. P. Thompson called “the absolute antagonism of a polarized world.”

### The culprits in question

Let's start with an uncomfortable reminder to some people on the left, who disappointingly, have opted to rationalize Russian actions as a justified response to encircling by the west. Both sides of the war equation are capitalist societies, and at the core of their military dispute are the interests of big corporations and oligarchs and not the wellbeing of their people.

The main protagonists are not just innocuous forces of capitalism. Russia, the US, Germany, France, and the United Kingdom, incarnate a type of capitalism defined by strong state formations that have gained increasing power and control not just over labor, but over most aspects of their population's lives and ways of thinking.

The economic imperatives of these societies are not conditioned solely by the traditional logic of capital accumulation and expansion. These societies inhabit a particular mode of capitalist production constrained by a military-industrial complex.

This is no longer a single component of the broad economic model of society as it existed until the mid '50s or '60s. It has become the economic model that articulates practically the whole economy of most of these nations. It determines their social priorities and delineates the paths of their economic growth and national culture.

### Adapting our beliefs to evidence

In spite of their search for ethical grounding in lies spread through their respective national media and intelligence agencies, these nations have not organized their societies according to principles of international peace and disarmament. Just the opposite: they operate under a cold war mentality and an insatiable appetite for profit. How else can we explain the following summary data?

**Income inequality.** Russia's 500 super-rich are wealthier than the poorest 99.8% of the population. In the US 10% of the richest people own 70+ % of the wealth. In Germany, the same proportion owns 66% of the wealth. In France, it's 55%. It's worth mentioning that this concentration of wealth has tendentially increased over the last thirty years.

**Military spending.** According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) The US spends more on its military than the other top 10 highest-spending countries combined. For 2022, the US military budget was \$778 billion—the highest in human history. Rank of other nations in military spending is: #4 Russia \$61.7B, #5 UK \$59.2B, #7 Germany \$52.8B, #8 France #8 \$52.7, #2 China \$252B, #3 India \$72.9B, #6 Saudi Arabia \$57.5B, #9 Japan \$49.1B, #10 South Korea \$45.7B. The US spends \$64.4 billion more than the other nations as a whole.

**Military personnel**—active, reserve, and paramilitary. For the same group of nations: Russia leads with 5,896,987; followed by the United States 5,137.860; India 5,121,950; South Korea 4,599.000; China 4,045,000; France 378,400; Japan 361,890; South Arabia 251,500; UK 232,900; Germany 207,000.

**Arms exports.** For the period 2016-2020 the world's five largest arms exporters were the US, Russia, France, Germany and China. Together they accounted for 76% of all exports of major arms.

A look at the data suggests that what these nations are producing—both in terms of their internal economies, and in their military and ideological exports—are the means of war, not the means of peace.

The surge in wars during the 21st Century should not be surprising. These include the Second Congo War (ended in 2003), as well as wars in Syria, Darfur, Iraq, Afghanistan, Nigeria and Yemen—and the current war in Ukraine. Hard as it may be, we must adapt our beliefs to evidence given by history. Consequently, ignore the summonings of those who want to assign moral superiority to their involvement in the war when history shows that the war resulted from their own doing in the immediate or recent past.

**The Doomsday Clock and true Internationalism.** The two most threatening factors to human life on the planet are the possibility of nuclear annihilation and the effects of climate change. The possibility of a nuclear confrontation lingers ominously behind the war in Ukraine. All the nations mentioned above are long-distance runners in the race for nuclear missile expansion.

And as a consequence of the perverse logic of capital, we find the US and Russia on the list of the five countries that produce the most carbon dioxide (CO2) on the planet. Because of these two factors the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists this January moved the hands of the metaphoric doomsday clock to 100 seconds to midnight — the point of no return.

Those who see the Russian attack on Ukraine only as an attack on a single country (my country, if you are Ukrainian; or a neighbor if you are western European) would do better to remember that:

the character of any war (the fact that it is revolutionary or reactionary), does not depend on who was attacked or the territory where the “enemy” is, but on the class that sustains the specific war. (Lenin, *The Ruling Class Sustains War*).

The current war is the result of long contradictions between the geopolitical and economic interests of two world-wide capitalist groups. Their ruling classes sustain the war and are the main beneficiaries of the conflict. True internationalism, in this sense, demands the unequivocal identification and rejection of the ideology and practices of capitalism worldwide, independently of national flags. True internationalism, at a practical level, provides non-discriminatory humanitarian support to all innocent victims of war independent of their race (in itself a questionable category), ethnicity or national origin. It allows us to avoid the double standard and inconsistencies in the treatment of Ukrainian versus African and Middle-Eastern refugees in Europe and the US.

**The sooner the better.** Today, when the survival of the planet is threatened by global capitalism, we must confront this type of social organization with the broadest possible popular alliance in each country and around the world.

The political authority of global capitalism must be permanently questioned and met with the removal of its representatives at all levels: national, state, regional, and municipal. We must challenge their ideologues and their presumptions to truth, unveil their inconsistencies, and support all progressive forces in order to open up spaces for equity, peace, and social justice for humanity as a whole. The sooner the better.

March, 2022

Enrique Quintero is a member of the publishing committee of Works In Progress. “A Splinter in the Eye” is a new column from Enrique that will appear in future issues of Works in Progress.

## A nod to some of WIP's recent contributors

Some contributors who have made *Works in Progress* what it is over the past five years or so are: Helen Wheatley, Tye Gundel, Denis Langhans, Esther Kronenberg, Lin Nelson, Emily Lardner, Enrique Quintero, Dan Leahy, Dave Jette, Eirik Steinhoff, Peter Bohmer, Philemon Bohmer Tapia, Judy Bardin, Bang Mei Shah, James O'Barr, Matt Crichton, Charlotte Persons, Lindsey Dalt-horp, Desdra Dawning, Dave Harris, Mercy Kariuki McGee, Heather Sundean, Ann Vandeman, Bethany Weidner, Paul Peck. Ricky Osborne, Rich Harris, Janet Jordan, Eleanor Steinhagen, Kyrian McMichael, Lee First, Paul Cereghino, Aaron Goings, Robin Ivy-Black, Linda Orgel, John Lace, Linda Nehm, Daniel Mootz, Max Elbaum, Ann Fischel, Bobby Karelton, Jeff Angus, Sarah Stockholm, Harry Branch, Alejandro Bejar, Elyanna Calle, Chase Patton. Sarah Keefe, Janine Lindsey, Mark Bean, Larry Mosqueda and...more. Thank you all. Hope to hear from you in the coming months!



Providing equity in two ways

# Habitat for Humanity takes the lead on affordable low-income housing

From press releases

**A rare opportunity to build intergenerational wealth**

South Puget Sound Habitat for Humanity last month hosted a Home Dedication for two families moving into homes they helped to build with their own hands. The Deyoe Vista community in Lacey is brought to life by hundreds of volunteers and donors each year to witness the transformative power of homeownership as partner families receive the keys to their new, affordable homes.

The first hammer swung in Deyoe Vista in 2012, and the neighborhood now consists of 33 Habitat homes built from the ground up by volunteers, donors, and the very people that live there today.

The vibrancy of the winding streets and brightly colored homes are echoed by the chatter of children, playing and thriving. This will be the last home dedication in this Habitat development before we break ground this summer on a major project in Tumwater.

Building generational wealth has no better catalyst than owning your own home and the need for decent and affordable places to live has never been more significant.

Families that partner with Habitat work hard to build a better life for themselves—and their children. Partner families spend many hours helping build their own homes, and when they have completed all the program requirements, they purchase their Habitat home at an

affordable price—mortgage payments are never more than 30% of their income.

**Another Habitat project will also include homeownership**

The City of Olympia has selected Habitat as the preferred development partner for city-owned property at 3900 Boulevard Road. The selection came after an outpouring of support for Habitat's proposal that promised housing for owners as well as a focus on affordability for low income working families.

According to the city, the Habitat proposal "articulates a vision for a mix of owner-occupied townhomes and 'senior cottages' with the inclusion of a small neighborhood center. Approximately 100-110 units are anticipated to be developed as part of this project. Over 50% of the homes will be ADA accessible,

and all units will be built to the Evergreen Sustainable Development Standard."

As a next step, the City will begin to work with Habitat on the creation of an Exclusive Negotiation Agreement. This agreement will outline shared commitments between the two parties for the next 180 days.

During this period Habitat will complete their due diligence for future development of the site and the two parties will negotiate a purchase price for the land.

Additionally, Habitat will initiate a neighborhood engagement process, refine their development concept and financing plan, and identify an additional development partner to assist with the neighborhood commercial center component.

## BOOK REVIEW

# City Builders and Vandals in Our Age: Articles and Essays on Socialism

by Caleb Maupin, 2019

Dave Zink

In two inspiring and optimistic books, Caleb Maupin lays out where we are politically, how we got here, and points the way forward. You may not agree with him on some things, but he presents ideas and asks questions that merit consideration by any who favor transformative progressive change.

**City Builders and Vandals**

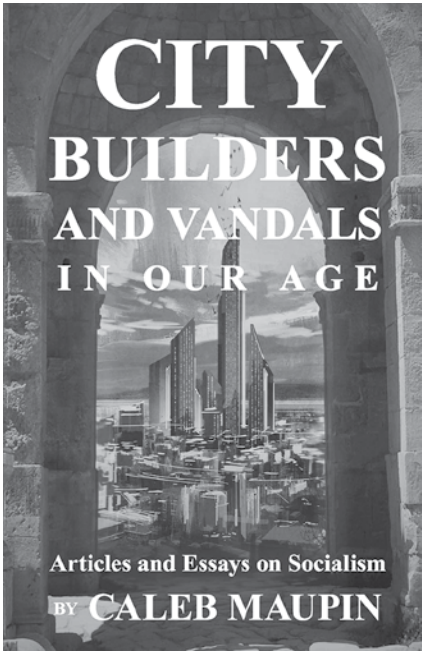
In this compilation, Maupin takes a long view of history, from the birth of civilization, through the Greek and Roman Empires, the emergence of feudalism, capitalism, and socialism to modern times.

Along the way, he sheds light on the Paris Commune, China and the Belt and Road Initiative, Russia, the Middle East, and how capitalism, imperialism, and militarism are tied together today.

Maupin describes "city builders" in his introductory essay: "Throughout human history, two distinct trends have been present among us. There have always been innovators, scientists, unifiers, [and others] who push civilization toward a higher state of being, driven by an inner flame of creativity and boldness."

Who are the "vandals?" "City builders have always stood in opposition to the efforts of vandals: hate-mongers, ignorance-celebrators, lynch-mob leaders, persecutors, snake-oil salesmen, bullies, [etc.]" who are forces for division and profit from tearing down what others have built.

Today's "vandals?" How about health insurance corporations



dead-set against a common-sense Single-Payer system that would diminish their profits and power? Proud-Boy Republicans who seem intent on turning the USA toward full-tilt fascism?

Maupin's essays cover a lot of ground. He reveals why Julius Caesar was executed by the Roman oligarchy. He looks into the

deep roots of American socialism and the origins of the "New Left."Throughout this book, you'll find interesting history you probably didn't get in school.

In the essay titled "Native Americans and the Confusion in American Politics", Maupin writes about the genocide against indigenous people:

"not as a crime to be blamed on all whites, but as a crime of capitalism... Exposing the crimes of this international economic order is not an attack on workers who happen to be white. On the contrary, opposing capitalism and fighting for the establishment of governments that represent the majority of people, rather than the millionaire elite, is in the interest of all Americans, of all backgrounds."

**We Are City Builders: The Center for Political Innovation (CPI) Education Manual**

In this anthology, you'll find some real gems. I really enjoyed "The Parable of the Water Tank,"by Edward Bellamy, "Why Socialism?" by Albert Einstein, a "Letter to America Workers" by Lenin, and speeches by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Vice-President Henry A. Wallace.

Traditionally, Henry Wallace would have been re-nominated as the Democratic Party's Vice-Presidential candidate for Franklin D. Roosevelt's unprecedented 4th Presidential campaign in 1944. Wallace was clearly the most popular choice for Vice President among Democrats. Many journalists predicted that he would win renomination.

Roosevelt, in failing health, sent a public letter to the Democratic Party convention chairman saying, "I personally would vote for [Wallace's] renomination if I were a delegate to the convention." If Wallace had become President after FDR's death, the USA would probably be much better off today. It's a tragedy of history that anti-New Deal backstabbers succeeded in getting Harry Truman onto the ticket instead.

These are just a few of the threads Maupin weaves together in the CPI's Educational Manual. After each section, there are thought-provoking questions for study and group discussion.

Dave Zink is a Veteran for Peace. You can find his book A Hundred Lifetimes at Orca, Olympia's cooperative bookstore.



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# An interview with Maria Siguenza

## Seeking to change the profile of leadership in Washington

*Note: This interview was submitted by Maria Siguenza, who will run for Position 1 of Washington's 22nd Legislative District. The seat is now occupied by Laurie Dolan who has announced her retirement at the end of this term.*

*Derek Day: Tell me about yourself.*

**Maria Siguenza:** I'm a first generation American, born in Veracruz, Mexico and grown up in the Skagit Valley. I like to say "where the tulips are" because The Valley is known for its picturesque festival each spring. I graduated from Western Washington University during the recession, and because of that had the opportunity to experience the service industry--agriculture (back office admin work and sales), small business ownership, and now public service.

I have lived in Thurston County for the past decade and cannot imagine myself in another place. I love the people, the downtown cores, and the scenery. Currently, I live in Olympia with my partner and our dog and cat.

*DD: What issues motivated you to run to represent the 22nd Legislative District in the state house?*

**MS:** Our world is shifting faster than we can keep up with. The cost of living was already too high due to the prevalence of wages that were insufficient for working families. Now rampant inflation is worsening household financial situations. Full healthcare is unaffordable at best and unattainable at worst, especially for mental, vision, and dental care. Our school-age children and teens require schools that meet their demands. And our unhoused neighbors deserve help to get back on their feet.

*DD: What approach would you take to help resolve these issues?*

**MS:** I think in terms of systems. It's hard for me not to get wonky, so indulge me for a bit. The issues I mentioned are part of systems and those systems are all interconnected. The health of our local economy is vital for our community. I will ensure that small businesses have access to programs and resources they need to bounce back from the effects of the pandemic.

The goal is to create a vibrant and diverse small business community and to sustain living wage jobs. I will ensure that our community hubs--schools-- are resourced to allow teachers to



teach, students to learn, and families to get the support they need. From what I see, that looks like expanding mental health supports and expanding connections from the community supports to families.

In the anti-poverty work that I do now, there's a term "benefits cliffs," which is when someone who is on state benefits gets a minor raise or some other new cash flow, and all of a sudden they are no longer eligible for benefits. BUT that cash flow is not enough to make ends meet. Sometimes people will forgo the raise or extra cash flow because they know they cannot afford it, even though it means giving up progress.

I will advocate for a solution to "benefits cliffs" so that working families can move forward without the risk of falling back. In regard to ensuring that our unsheltered neighbors receive

the help they need, I will advocate for affordable and accessible medical access that includes behavioral health support. I will advocate for solutions that don't create more spending. I know we are investing an unprecedented amount of money in programming and yet something is not working.

So much of this work requires leadership that exemplifies a common-sense approach and leaders who work with everyone so we move forward together. Let me stress that this work isn't about how much I know, it's about including all voices of our community so that we are working together,.

*DD: What kind of experience do you have that prepares you for a legislative position?*

**MS:** Most importantly, this work is deeply personal to me. I was undocumented until my early high school years. My mom raised me and my brother by herself. During our hardest years TANF, food stamps, child support and WIC helped us make ends meet.

I know what it's like to live at the margin and the stress and fear that comes with it. In my almost decade-long experience with the state, I have dedicated myself to anti-poverty and access policy work.

I am proud to have been part of the Poverty Reduction Work Group that published a nationally recognized 10-year strategic plan to reduce poverty. I'm proud of the work that I have done on the Governor's Business Diversity Subcabinet to reduce barriers for micro-, small-, women-, veteran-, and minority-owned businesses.

And I'm proud of the work of the Washington Commission on Hispanic Affairs and the work we've been able to do under my leadership. We expanded career pathways for Tri-Cities students with Career Connect Washington and helped to create a COVID 19 Immigrant Relief fund for folks that could not tap into unemployment benefits. We also carved out capital funding for a city park in dire need of repair and updating in Yakima in the heart of the Latino neighborhood.

*DD: How can people learn more about you?*

**MS:** I have a website: [www.electsiguenza.com](http://www.electsiguenza.com) For those who want to help, the best way is to donate and sign up for volunteering opportunities.

*DD: What do you like to do in your spare time?*

**MS:** Right now I'm an active member in the Junior League of Olympia. I serve as Chair of the CIELO Board of Directors. I go to the gym regularly and when it's nice I like to go on hikes, backpack, go on scenic drives, and soak up sun rays near a body of water. During the winter you'll find me likely working on a house project with my partner.

A couple fun facts are that I fall asleep during movies, so no one can count on me for quotes. I love music--all kinds-- however, my music app tells me that I'm in the top 5% of Brandi Carlile's listeners.

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## WANTED

Graphic designer *with* mad creative skills for occasional volunteer work

WIP is looking for designers to collaborate on cover art and other fun projects. Interested in having your original designs published? Let's talk: 360.480.5527 or [olywip@gmail.com](mailto:olywip@gmail.com)

### Thurston County Food Bank

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For more information go to our website: <https://thurstoncountyfoodbank.org/80-2/grocery-distribution/>

**220 Thurston Ave. NE downtown Olympia WA**



# Bridge Music Project nurtures young talent in collaborative songwriting workshops

Jaina Elaine Nehm

The stage is set with speakers, a foldout table with audio controls, and a MacBook. A mess of cords snake over the stage and three group members wheel a piano from the shadows behind the curtains and situate it within the temporary base. Behind them is the Bridge Music Project logo, printed on vinyl, stretched between a free-standing PVC frame. A separate table with bottled water and pizza is pushed against the wall, between the front row and the steps descending from the Capitol Theater Stage. With the elegant awkwardness of a teenager, a collaborator reads aloud from the Community Contract: “Don’t judge a book by its cover, or its prologue.”

It is Week Two of the Bridge Music Project’s program for aspiring musicians between the ages of 14 and 21. Students who participate will work with experienced musicians who act as mentors for eight-weeks. Geared toward at-risk youth, BMP provides the space, guidance, and equipment to openly express themselves and establish pride for artistic and personal endeavors through performance.

### Starting simply and following the lead of program graduates

Today’s goal is for each group to choose the electronic beat for their project. Keith, a returning Bridge Music participant, warms up the group as he strums absently on an acoustic guitar. When the proper adjustments are made, he closes his eyes and leans to the microphone,

*“I need you to fall for me...You make me feel like a creep”*

He plays a slow melody beneath soft vocals, swaying slightly. He finishes the song,

*“From afar I can see you’re not really into me”*

Amanda approaches the stage and Keith yields it to her. Another past student, she gives him warm praise and slides onto the piano bench. “I’m not braindead, I’m just really tired,” Amanda chirps, joking and light. She then sings soulfully,

*“My sensible ways...You’ve got something that makes me foolish”*

Her voice skips playfully with the keys as she sings passionately about troubled romance.

Amanda has become a mentor after visiting the project in Week Two, falling in with a group and performing with them in the final showcase. Her talent is obvious, and her energy elevates the space. Amanda is an example for the potential of Bridge Music—creating active community members who continue to enrich the lives of creative youths through their experience and compassion, as well as being a talented and engaging performance artist.

### A mission to foster healthy self-expression

This project, one of nine programs offered by BMP, builds a community of likeminded and abled peers who collaborate to write and record original songs and organize them into a final showcase. All the

programs strive to assist students in achieving BMP’s stated mission and vision statements:

*Through mentoring youth in songwriting workshops, we equip them with tools of self-expression and understanding that they will carry with them for the rest of their lives.*



*Our vision is to create a world where every youth is free to be their true, uncompromising self; a world where through music and self-understanding, young people can overcome any trauma to be the future leaders of tomorrow.*

To cover this story for WIP, I was welcomed into one of the small groups that met weekly, usually at Capitol Theater. Every meeting began with Announcements from Bobby, an overview of the group’s timeline and present focus. Each week a different student read the Community Contract as drafted during Week One, either looking deeply into the paper before them or cracking jokes between rules, like “No Biting, which means don’t plagiarize,” which was always good for a laugh. A rotation of former students performed past songs as a warmup and continued to practice their own expressions and support the new students.

### Regular meetings build trust and confidence

During Week Two, the students sit scattered in the theater. Bobby reads names from a clipped list and finalizes the groups. I follow Rachel’s group behind the curtain, up narrow steps, and to the end of the corridor. A blue room with a long vanity counter, a leather couch, a squat armchair, a Z-rack, and metal foldout chair will act as the center for collaboration. Students first discuss their strengths, musical interests, and hopeful direction for their project. They settle on dramatic romanticism, a choice which seems to come about naturally from this group of vocalists, a guitar player, and a shy poet.

Listening through the pre-made beats produced by DJ TM, offering quirky comparisons and associations, the students begin to warm to one another. Working to pick a

track which specifically complements their strengths, Fiscal Funnel—with birds chirping, a subtle yet strong base, and a charming production style—is an easy choice. Again, and again the music plays, the students stare into uniform composition books provided for them and hum softly beneath their breaths. Sharing themes, general

reflections, and praise, they light the kindling for an impassioned project. Other voices drift down the hallway from neighboring rooms. Similar processes are taking place across differing genres, ages, and experience level; the creative process and the consistent anticipation of progress.

### Coaxing confidence and self-expression

I chose to spend time with Rachel’s group specifically, only observing that group’s interactions, within the entirety of BMP. As a group they discussed layering vocals and adding instrumental, navigating the creative process, and working together to conceptualize a song which encapsulates each musician’s strength and passions. Charlee is quiet, a vocalist and lyricist. Kira describes herself as a poet, seemingly unaware of their full potential and current talent, harmonizing and aiding in group discussion, not yet comfortable with sharing their work.

Alaina is young, energetic, and has undeniable writing ability, which describes most of the group. Apollo and Adelyn excite each other, their musical back-and-forth inspiring and whimsical to observe. Both talented performers in their own right, they are knowledgeable and humble collaborators. Liam is a gifted guitarist, layering chords with the production to create a fuller sound.

### Preparing a solo audition

After practicing for a month at Capitol Theatre, the group temporarily assimilates their process during Week Five at the Olympia Family Theater. The stage lights are low, every bulb visible. A painted, standing backdrop hides the narrow “backstage.” Glossy wooden seats with muted patterned cushions

mirrored the backdrop along the opposite side of the room, framing the stage. A foldout table, two microphones, and a speaker define the performance space. This theater is much more intimate, and students sit closer together, practicing lyrics, chords, and encouraging one another to audition for a solo performance. Three musicians from Rachel’s group perform original songs.

Charlee. Usually shy, using strong descriptive and poetic imagery, Charlee performs a slow, narrative piece exploring personal trauma and the feelings of anxiety and depression associated with social injustice. “I never knew this world was so cruel. People die for this reason every day.” Reflecting deeply on racism and a seemingly cruel, apathetic society, the familiar feelings of doubt and hopelessness, but also their perseverance and obligation to act define the narrative. Throwing her head quickly aside between verses, she clears her throat of an ill-timed tickle.

Adelyn. Coming prepared with original beats and beginning by vocalizing in their native tongue, Russian, Adelyn demonstrates strong control and precision of craft. Transitioning in and out of English seamlessly, their strength as a performer, lyricist, mixer, and rapper entices the crowd. “A hunter lives a thousand lives. One is a nightmare, the other he survives.”

Apollo. Keith lingers around Apollo, adjusting the microphone in front of his acoustic guitar. A soft melody and poetic lyrics dance from Apollo to the audience, “I apologize for being a dead daughter.” A beautiful folk song, an impassioned performance, Apollo returns to their seat with hot cheeks, avoiding the gaze of well-deserved praise.

### Addressing creative and financial success

Week Three opens with a Zoom conference with Krizz Kaliko, most known for his collaborations with Tech N9ne and Eminem, who is projected over the stage larger than life. Bobby frames his questions to guide the discussion about pursuing a musical career, the songwriting process, and seeking wisdom from a notable musician. Krizz discusses many motivational sentiments—his upbringing, how he stays true to his values and intentions, and being a performer and a father, “The mind is powerful—you can’t let anyone deter you.”



Krizz talks about the importance of production, and the power of the “DIY World” emphasizing self-motivation and marketing. Bobby opens the floor to students, who ask about past songs, networking, and achieving work-life balance.

Most of the discussion is around how to be “successful” or making money from music. I wonder to how this emphasis on monetization of passion may taint a collaborative environment but say nothing.

As the Zoom call ends, the group gathers onstage to take a picture with Krizz. Once the screen is empty, the students returned to their seats, and after a quick catch up, filter back into their groups. We return to the room at the end of the corridor, and students resume their discussions of metaphor and creative approaches.

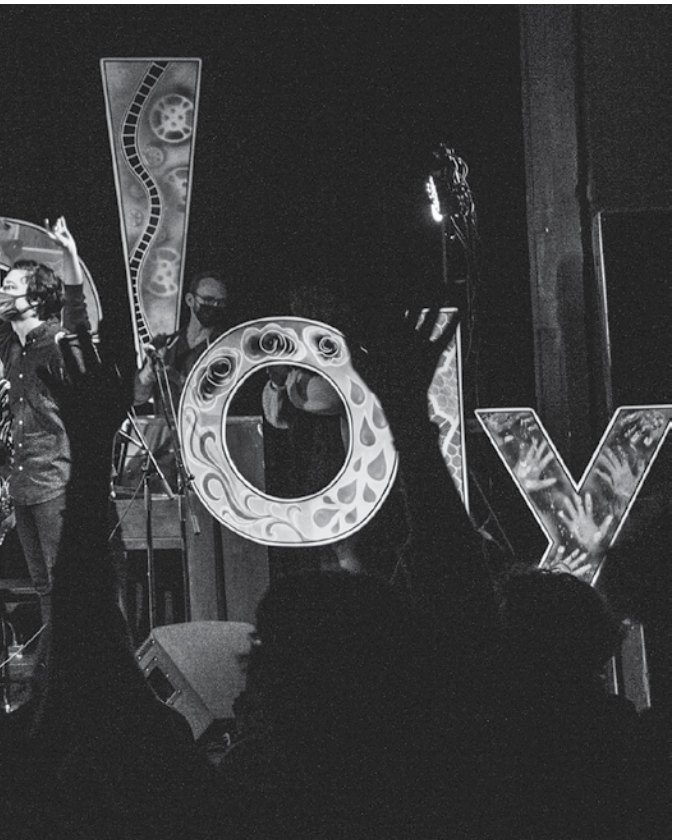


Photo by Lindsey Dalthorp

One more practice

During the final meeting, students listen to their recorded tracks and work out the kinks before the approaching performance. The stage was fitted with free standing, colored lights and speakers, a piano forte, an electric and acoustic guitar, and the staple transient Bridge Music sound equipment. Before the meeting officially begins, students fill out final surveys, and mentors test a fog machine. Students gawk and a few make comments to the entire group. “Don’t worry, it’s not a fire,” Bobby jests from stage.

When Rachel’s group is presented, they feign embarrassment and hide their faces as their song plays. Utilizing soulful harmonization, vocal layering, multiple guitars, two languages, and flowing spoken word, the group translates their collaborative potential into individual experience and expression.

Showtime

The theater fills slowly with friends and family. Fourth Avenue is still busy with Arts Walk festivities. The Inspire Oly campaign prop excites the space, along with additional art exhibitions displayed in the auditorium. Students are outside, scattered backstage, or jamming in one last-minute practice, either riding adrenaline, or calming their nerves. I meet briefly with Alaina backstage; she is happy to perform live, given the past disruptions of performance art due to COVID-19. Patrons flash ID and proof of vaccination and resume a practice that might have been taken for granted—budding talent presented and nurtured by a knowing and supportive audience.

The show is a curation of current and past projects, and individual artistic endeavors within the Bridge Music Project. A range of projects and genres are showcased by the students and mentors, creating an energetic and satisfying conclusion to “eight weeks of hard work and dedication” as Bobby states in his opening remarks. Rappers, folk singers, impassioned vocalists, well rounded musicians, and a “Pizza Star” (you had to be there) all braved the stage and held it joyfully. Presenting one’s work is always a worthy endeavor. Walking onto stage is daring and often the scariest step. The crowd is engaged, cheering, and clapping for every performer; in the wings, the students mirror the audience.

Jaina Elaine Nehm is a student at TESC pursuing a doctorate in Cultural Anthropology. This project was part of her work to practice ethnographic skills under the supervision of WIP and professors Eric Stein and Toska Olson. She can be reached at jenehm08@gmail.com.

# This is Olympia on music

Juli Kelen

Listening to live music is one of the most enduring sources of joy for humans but even though its roots are just as deep and its rewards every bit as satisfying, participatory music-making by non-professionals is hard to find in most communities. Not so in Olympia, where the sheer number of informal music circles—open to anyone with an interest in music, regardless of training—sets it apart from other towns of comparable size. Here are some of the regular opportunities for music lovers to sing, play and have fun creating tunes and tones.

Irish sessions

O’Blarney’s Irish Pub  
4411 Martin Way East, Olympia  
Tuesday nights, 7-10 pm

Not many towns the size of Olympia can boast two weekly Irish music sessions. After a pandemic hiatus, the Tuesday night sessions at O’Blarney’s are about to resume (and great is the rejoicing). The Tuesday night sessions at O’Blarney’s were set to resume on April 26, and will run from 7—10 pm. All instruments are welcome. These sessions can go late and anyone who likes to play an instrument is invited to attend.

Tugboat Annie’s  
2100 West Bay Dr. NW, Olympia  
Wednesday nights, 6:30—8 pm

The jam sessions at this Olympia institution on West Bay Drive are raging on Wednesday evenings again after being interrupted by the Covid virus. Come to eat and listen to ballads, jigs, reels and drinking songs or bring a fiddle, guitar, button accordion, Irish flute, mandolin, tinwhistle, or hammered dulcimer. Whatever you’ve got, including your voice—bring it any Wednesday evening.

For information on either Irish session, call Tom at (360) 280-4240.



Sacred Harp Singing

800 Wilson St. SE  
Lions Park, SE Olympia  
There is a strong community in our region of singers who gather to raise their voices in this early American music form. In Olympia, bi-weekly meetings are held outdoors, usually on weekends and usually in Lions Park in SE Olympia. New participants are most welcome. It is very helpful to have basic music-reading skills. Loaner books will be available. For information on upcoming meetings, see the Olympia Shape Note Facebook page.

Samba Olywa

Eagles Ballroom  
805 4th Ave. E, Olympia  
Sundays, 5-7 pm

Many Olympians know Samba Olywa from their vibrant and joyful performances at Procession of the Species. Although we have had (somehow!) to live life without Procession for three years now, Samba Olywa has carried on with Brazilian drumming and dancing throughout the pandemic. New participants are always

welcome. The group practices at Eagles Grand Ballroom on Sunday evenings. A Facebook page and website give up-to-date information about any changes in the rehearsal schedule, and upcoming performances. Samba Olywa asks that participants be covid-vaccinated, plus one booster shot, at this time. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/224380168293>

Marching Band

Fridays at the Kissing Statue  
Percival Landing, Olympia  
Fridays, 5-6 pm

The Artesian Rumble Arkestra meets each Friday in support of the weekly peace vigil there. If you care about peace and play a band instrument (using the most insanely expansive definition of “band”), you will be welcome there, except in the most hideous weather. Check <https://www.facebook.com/ArtesianRumbleArkestra> for updates.



Oldtime Music Festival

February 2023 (?)

In the Before Times, the Oly Old Time Festival lit up the middle of February with a weekend’s worth of jams, concerts, dances, and workshops. Participants came from far afield: Alaska, Canada, Appalachia, New England, and of course closer to home. Just prior to the pandemic, the 2020 Old Time Festival went forward in grand style (and then... you know what happened). There were no Old Time Festivals in 2021 or 2022, but hopes are high for a Festy in February 2023. Check <http://olyoldtime.weebly.com/> for updates.

Ukulele Song Circle

New Traditions Café  
300 5th Ave. SE, Olympia  
Mondays, 7-8:30 pm

A circle of uke-thusiasts of all levels of expertise gathers at New Traditions once a month. Whether you’ve been honing your skills for years, or just picked up a ukulele for the first time last week, you’ll find a warm musical welcome here. Much of the music is drawn from *The Daily Ukulele*, Vols. 1 and 2, but owning the books is not necessary—bring your instrument, a music stand, and copies of songs, words, and chords you wish to share (note: this is optional if you’d rather not lead a song). The uke group asks that you be vaccinated and boosted to attend. <https://www.facebook.com/Ukolympians/info>

The Olympia Peace Choir

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
September 2022  
The Peace Choir is an inclusive community chorus. They are not currently able to accept new members but those interested are encouraged to check the website at the beginning of September 2022 for information on joining. Rehearsals will be Mondays at Westminster Presbyterian Church. [theolympiapeacechoir.org](http://theolympiapeacechoir.org)

Juli Kelen, a New York native, has lived in Olympia for nearly 40 years. She had a long career at KAOS radio, and doing PR for the Mud Bay Tiki Lounge. She plays music in her spare time. Since she is retired, all her time is spare.



# Timber

From page 1

the parcels on which timber sales were planned may also have been protected under existing DNR policy guidelines that prohibit commercial logging of old growth. It is still not clear how much protection is actually gained under this phase of the project.

The following timber sale units are included in Phase One of DNR's carbon project: units 1 and 6 of "Smuggler," and all of the "Oracle" timber sale; unit 2 of the "Bessie" timber sale; all of "Echo System;" and the "Silent Hill" timber sale. The Smuggler, Oracle, and Echo System sales all contain known patches of old growth or old growth legacy trees.

DNR is already prohibited from logging old growth under the Policy for Sustainable Forests and the terms and conditions of its existing Habitat Conservation Plan. CRF has identified "Silent Hill" as a high priority sale in Capitol State Forest that is also likely to contain old growth.

### Protecting sites near populated areas

The areas DNR claims to have

protected under Phase One all contain controversial timber sales, and most are located near large cities. The Oracle and Smuggler timber sales are adjacent to a residential neighborhood twenty minutes from downtown Olympia. where multiple community hikes have taken place over the last 18 months. The Echo System timber sale is located adjacent to the town of Preston, just minutes from Isaquah.

Most notable is the amount of land protected near Lake Whatcom, near the City of Bellingham. Nearly two-thirds of the total area (2,200 acres) included in Phase One of DNR's carbon project is located in and around the Lake Whatcom watershed. Lake Whatcom is the drinking water source for more than 100,000 people (about half the population of Whatcom County).

DNR has come under heavy fire for the Bessie timber sale near Lake Whatcom. It would have involved the clearcut logging of 120-year old trees above the lake. The Bessie sale has been the subject of a series of newspaper articles in the Bellingham Herald. Nearly 2,000 residents of Whatcom County signed a petition opposing the sale, and the Whatcom County Council recently submitted a letter to DNR requesting that the agency delay the sale. Thus, the future of



this timber sale was in doubt even before the carbon project was announced. (See <https://www.c4rf.org/bessie>.)

### Still clearcutting thousands of acres elsewhere

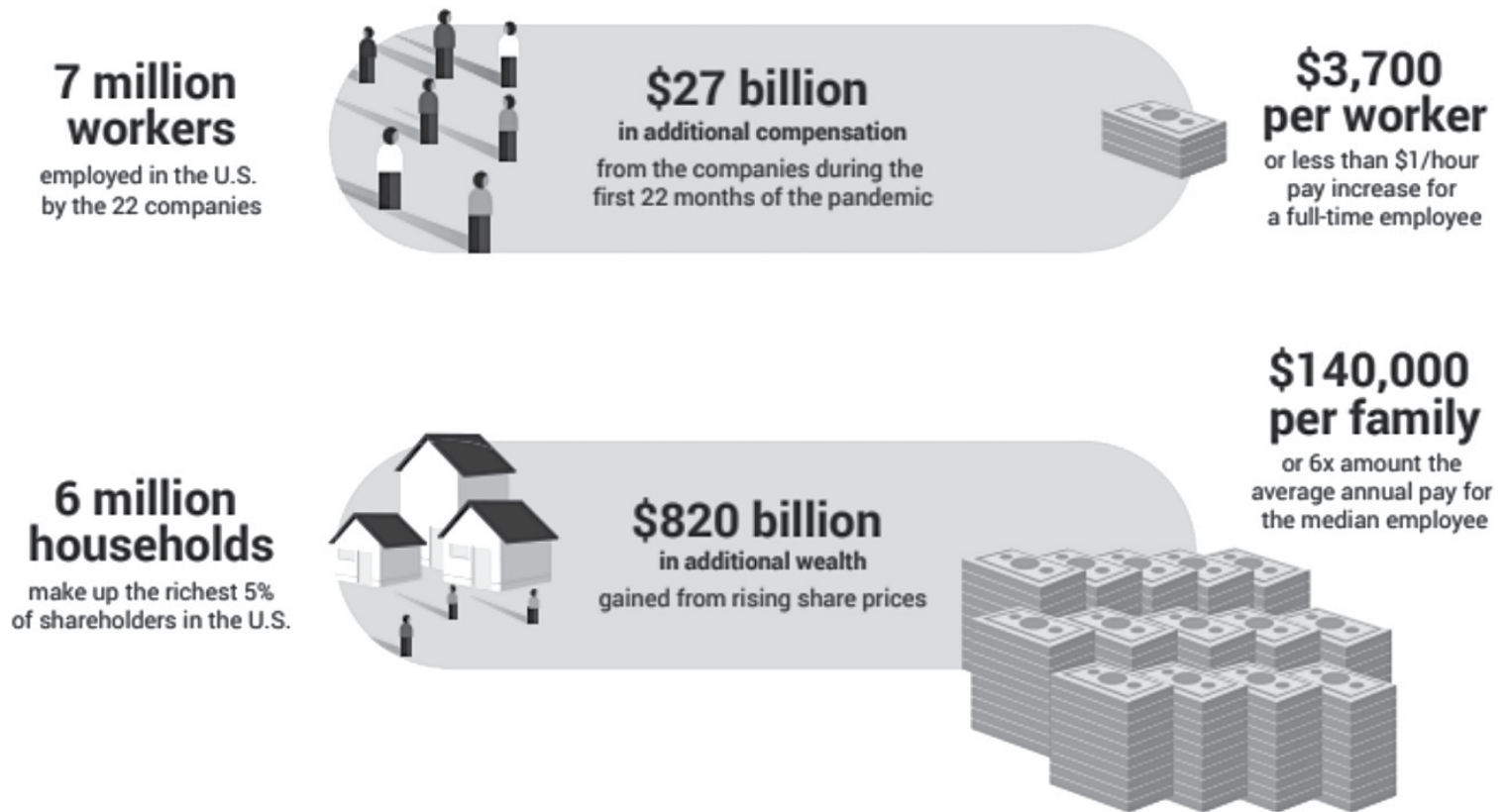
While we applaud Commissioner Franz for finally recognizing carbon credits as a viable alternative source of revenue, DNR has plans to clearcut close to 5,000 acres of similar forests elsewhere in the Puget Sound region and Southwest Washington over the next year.

In addition, much of the land supposedly "protected" under Phase One of DNR's carbon project appears to have already been protected or off-limits to logging for other reasons. The carbon project proposed by Franz therefore seems to be little more than a smoke screen —intended to fend off criticism and divert attention away from disastrous timber sales like Prospero, Bluehorse, and Green Thomas, which are located in remote areas, out-of-view of the public, and far away from any major population centers.

*Some Friends of Legacy Forests are a coalition of contemporaries dedicated to the conservation of structurally complex forests on Washington state land.*

*To learn more about planned, pending and completed DNR timber sales, visit the Center for Responsible Forestry website at <https://www.c4rf.org/timber-sales>.*

**Figure 12: Additional pay for 7 million workers compared to additional wealth for 6 million wealthy households**



## Corporations get massive pandemic windfall, stiff workers

Judd Legum

For most Americans, this pandemic has been a traumatic experience. Nearly 1 million Americans have died. Millions more lost their jobs. Nearly everyone had their daily lives upended dramatically. But for a number of large corporations, the pandemic created an unprecedented windfall and record profits. These profits would not have materialized without frontline workers, who put their lives at risk to keep companies operating and the economy functioning. However, corporations chose to use almost all of that extra cash to reward shareholders and executives, according to a new study by Brookings. Workers, comparatively, received almost nothing.

The Brookings study looked at performance of 22 major corporations, which collectively generated an additional \$1.5 trillion in wealth for shareholders between January 2020 and October 2021. That was 57 times more than the additional wages provided to the workers whose labor generated that wealth. —Judd Legum is the creator of "POPULAR INFORMATION" an extraordinarily reliable report on the ways government and corporations run our world. Read the 61-page study at the link below. The authors have provided 11 pages showing sources and data used. [https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Pandemic\\_Profits\\_report.pdf](https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Pandemic_Profits_report.pdf)



# Starbucks

From page 1

regulations. These ensure that people who work at large coffee, fast food, retail, and restaurants know when they're going to work and how many hours they're going to get.

A similar law was proposed in the State Legislature. It was successfully opposed by employers who argued that because they can't predict customer flow, they can't offer their employees predictable schedules—or stable pay.

### Collaborative decision-making on workplace safety

When she started at Olympis's downtown Starbucks in December 2019, Lux says it was a happy place to be. She never felt she was given more than she could handle; co-workers dealt with problems as a team.

The pandemic changed everything. Work became a daily fight to survive. Employees are overwhelmed and have no say in matters that directly affect their ability to do their work. At one point, managers informed employees they couldn't enforce the policy requiring masks. A move to open a store lobby during the pan-

demic (before vaccines) was a disaster that led to employees catching Covid.

Recently when an aggressive customer subjected a trans barista to verbal abuse, the incident was brushed aside by management. Only after



the employee called Starbucks' Customer Support was the customer banned from the store.

### An end to harassment aimed at derailing the union effort.

In response to the recent union organizing effort, Starbucks management has threatened to take away healthcare benefits available to (some) part-time employees. Such threats are illegal, but once made, their effect cannot be undone. Other forms of intimidation include promises by management that they will begin handing out more write-ups due to union activity.

### As profits grow, stock owners benefit, workers wait

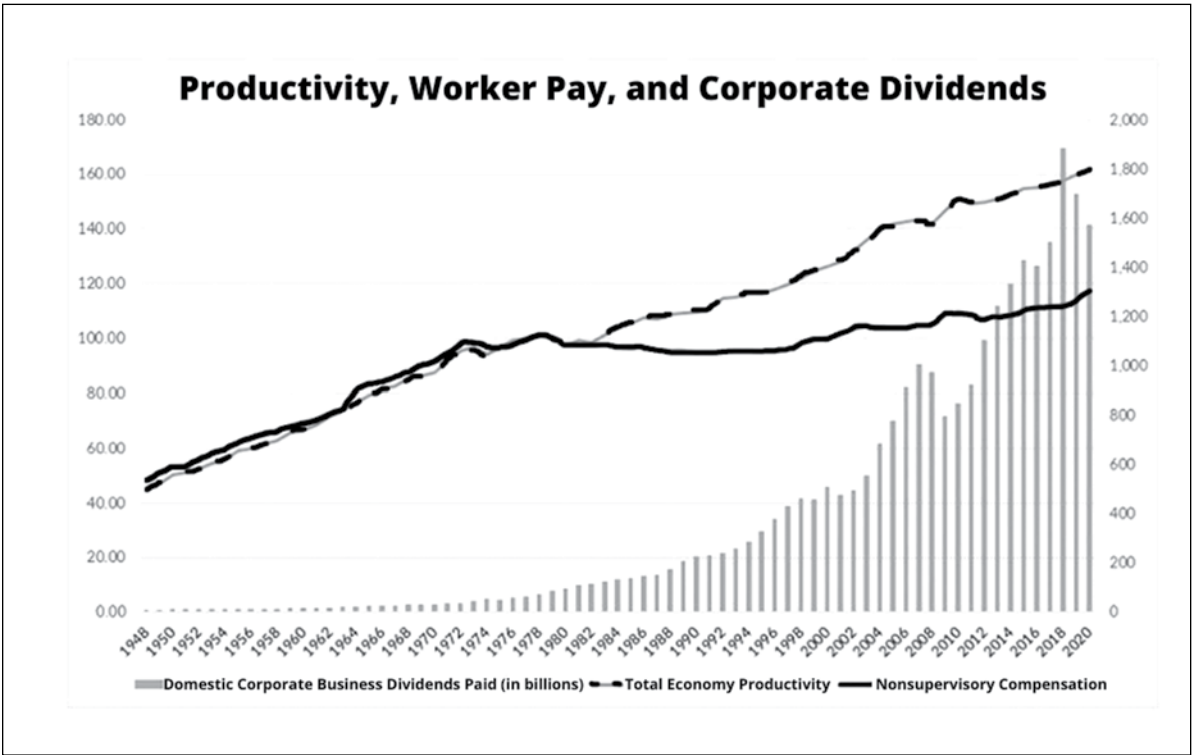
Starbucks annual gross profit for 2021 was \$20 billion, a 28% increase over 2020. The company has increased its dividend payout in each of the past 11 years. Last year, the company paid out billions in dividends at an annual rate of \$1.96 per share to the people who own shares of stock. In contrast, under the prospect of employee unions, Starbucks recently announced that it will set hourly pay for the people who produce the profits at \$15—and up to \$23—later this year. (1)

Starbucks says it calls its employees “partners” because “the term fosters a sense of equality and shared vision.” Apparently, that sense isn't shared by the “partners.” Recently-returned founder and CEO Howard Schultz unwittingly acknowledged this, “If [the employees] had faith in me and my motives, they wouldn't need a union.”

Some employees of this multibillion dollar international corporation who provide the service that drives the profits might offer this reply to Shultz: “Partners” should share more than a vision: real partners share in decision-making. A union will provide that opportunity.

1- Nasdaq—SBUX dividend history; and Starbucks Investor Relations press release, 9/29/21.

*Bethany Weidner believes context is everything. Gary Webb is the pen name of a corporate skeptic.*



## Zero credibility

# Amazon and other corporate climate pledges

Judd Legum

Corporations want the public to know that they take the climate crisis seriously. Most major corporations have taken a public “climate pledge,” promising to reach “net zero” carbon emissions by a future date. Amazon is so into this concept that it started “The Climate Pledge” in 2019, encouraging other companies to pledge to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2040. Amazon even bought the naming rights to the home of the NHL's Seattle Kraken and called it “Climate Pledge Arena.”

### Is there anything behind the pledges?

But it's easy to make a pledge to reach “net zero.” It's much harder to create a credible plan to reach that goal and then execute that plan. Beyond mere pledges, are these companies demonstrating real leadership on climate issues by taking meaningful action?

Nestlé, for example, claims that it “will halve our greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050.” But its plan received very poor marks from the NewClimate Institute. Nestlé's net zero by 2050 pledge includes “no defined target for own emission reductions.” The company further states it wants to remove 13 metric tons of carbon from the atmosphere by 2030 “but does not specify how.” The NewClimate Institute report estimates that the plan

will only reduce Nestlé's emissions by 18% by 2030. Nestlé's plan is rated “very low” for transparency and integrity.

### Amazon's plan: low transparency and integrity

Amazon, despite founding The Climate Pledge, fares only slightly better. The NewClimate Institute report notes that its pledge to achieve net zero emissions by 2040 “remains unsubstantiated without any explicit reduction target for the company's own emissions.” (In 2020, Amazon's carbon emissions grew by 19%.)

Amazon is aggressively seeking to decarbonize its energy use, acquiring fleets of electric vehicles and procuring large amounts of energy from renewable sources. But it provides little details on “Scope 3” emissions, which includes emissions from the goods sold by Amazon. Amazon's plan is rated “low” for transparency and integrity. Amazon did not provide a substantive response to these criticisms.

*This is excerpted from an article called “Zero Credibility” in Popular Information, a news site founded by Judd Legum “for people who give a damn.” One subscriber describes it thus; If you like your news to be succinct, sourced, and well-written, the Popular Information newsletter is the one for you. Find this article in its entirety and move at <popularinformation@substack.com>*

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GUEST COLUMN

Unfinished business

The continuing shame of Guantánamo

Jim Lafferty

Thirty-nine suspects remain in the United States' prison on Guantánamo Bay, or "GITMO" as it's commonly known. And nobody can reasonably predict when, if ever, they will be freed. Or be afforded a trial with any measure of due process.

In 2008, the Supreme Court, in *Boumediene v. Bush*, held that the GITMO prisoners' access to federal court was not only a statutory right, but that the prisoners also had the right in federal court to bring a writ of habeas corpus. But it left open the question of what rights, by filing such a writ, did they actually have? Did they, most critically, have the right to "due process of law" in their trials?

That question was answered, and answered in the negative, in the case of *Al Hela v. Trump*, a case out of the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, where most GITMO cases are decided. It ruled that GITMO prisoners have no right to due process. Period. And, of course, there is no reason to think today's Supreme Court will overturn that decision.

Once a front-page story, the US prison on Guantánamo Bay is seldom in the news these days or, apparently, on the minds of the American people. It should be. The history and ongoing operation of GITMO exposes the lie behind our claim to be a nation governed by the rule of law. Condemned by Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, and

many other such groups, it is a permanent stain on the character of the American people.

GITMO began taking in suspected enemy combatants from al-Qaeda in 2002. At the height of its operation, close to 800 "suspects" from many different Muslim nations were held there, under tortuous conditions, without any due process of law. The youngest was 13 years old! In fact, 21 of the detainees were children. Dozens of detainees were subjected to barbaric forms of torture.

Many committed suicide. Over 500 were convicted in sham federal court trials, and others in illegitimate military tribunals. Many, if not most suspects, clearly bore no responsibility for combat operations in the Muslim nations where we were waging war, and, in some cases, are still waging war.

I feel the same way about this shameful chapter of American history as does Linda Greenhouse, the brilliant NPR reporter on the rulings of the Supreme Court. Greenhouse wrote: "I've come to think of Guantánamo, born in fear and sustained through political cynicism and public indifference, as a mirror of ourselves during these opening decades of the current century, trapped no less than our 39 remaining 'forever' prisoners with no obvious end to their imprisonment."

And I would add, as well, that there is no obvious end to the US imperialism carried out by both US capitalist parties when in power, and who are both responsible for

the shame of GITMO. And in recent days the Congress and courts have poured more acid into the moral wounds in the operation of GITMO, by further restricting the rights of the detainees.

As recent disclosures have revealed, right from the start the supposedly confidential conversations between lawyers and detainees were in violation of a most basic principle of due process, listened to by the very US government officials who were prosecuting the detainees.

GITMO is, of course, a consequence of our wars in the Middle East; wars for those countries' oil, and for geopolitical gain. Over the many years of these wars, US presidents have repeatedly claimed we are not at war with Islam.

Well, tell that to the families of the millions of dead and wounded Muslims our bombing and invasion of Iraq caused; tell it to the thousands of Muslims forbidden to enter America through travel bans; tell it to the countless numbers of Muslim citizens and residents of America who've been discriminated against at work or in public; tell it to the Muslim children attacked on their way to school and called "terrorists;" tell it to the Muslim worshipers whose mosques have been infiltrated by government agents.

All US governing administrations love to preach about their concerns for human rights abroad. They even have the audacity to claim they invade other countries to bring human rights and democracy to those countries.

Many Americans, including some liberals, supported the invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan, seeing it as an opportunity to bring democracy and human rights to those countries. That was an obvious lie. They were invaded only for geopolitical advantage and for the rich resources those countries contain.

Then, too, American history is filled with countless examples of our elitist and racist nation looking down on the cultures of the countries we invade, as we all the while falsely proclaim our desire to bring human rights to those countries.

It is because the men and children held in Guantánamo were and are Muslim and people of color, seen to be of an inferior culture to the white, Western culture of America, that has allowed America to continue holding those still in Guantánamo under tortuous and brutal conditions, with no end in sight to their imprisonment ... or to our immorality and shame.

I urge all who read this to contact their congressional representatives, demanding freedom for all those still being held at GITMO; and demanding that our government return them to their country of origin, or to any other suitable country who will take them. And demanding, as well, that GITMO be permanently closed.

Only by keeping the American people aware of this shameful story, and then mobilizing ourselves to bring sufficient pressure on our government to finally close GITMO, will we have gone some distance toward lessening this grossly immoral and political blight on this nation, and on ourselves as citizens of this nation.

*Jim Lafferty is Executive Director Emeritus of the National Lawyers Guild in LA, and host of The Lawyers Guild Show on LA's Pacifica Radio station, KPFK.*

This article first appeared in the *LA Progressive*. It is reprinted from *Freedom Socialist*, April-May 2022.



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Wildwood  
(360) 688-1234

BILLY WAS SO HAPPY THAT AMAZON PRIME CONDITIONED HIM TO SEE TOTALITARIANISM AS A VIRTUE SO THAT WHEN THE POLITICAL VERSION CAME ALONG HE WOULDN'T EVEN NOTICE



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BOOK REVIEW

# Conundrum

By Jan Morris

New York Review of Books, 2002

Charlie McNabb

At a time when transgender youth are being threatened with parental separation [1] and transgender women and transfeminine people of color are being murdered at record rates [2], *Conundrum* is especially poignant.

Originally published in 1974, this slim but substantial memoir follows the life and gender transition of acclaimed travel writer Jan Morris. This 2002 edition includes a new introduction as well as some factual edits. Otherwise, it's unchanged, making it a sort of time capsule of the lived experience of a transsexual [3] woman undergoing transition in the 1960s.

Jan Morris was born James Humphrey Morris in 1926 in Wales. Although she knew herself to be female by the age of four, Morris kept this knowledge to herself as she grew up, praying by night to God to make her a girl, and by day braving the masculine rigors of the English school system.

## Peace is not always gentle

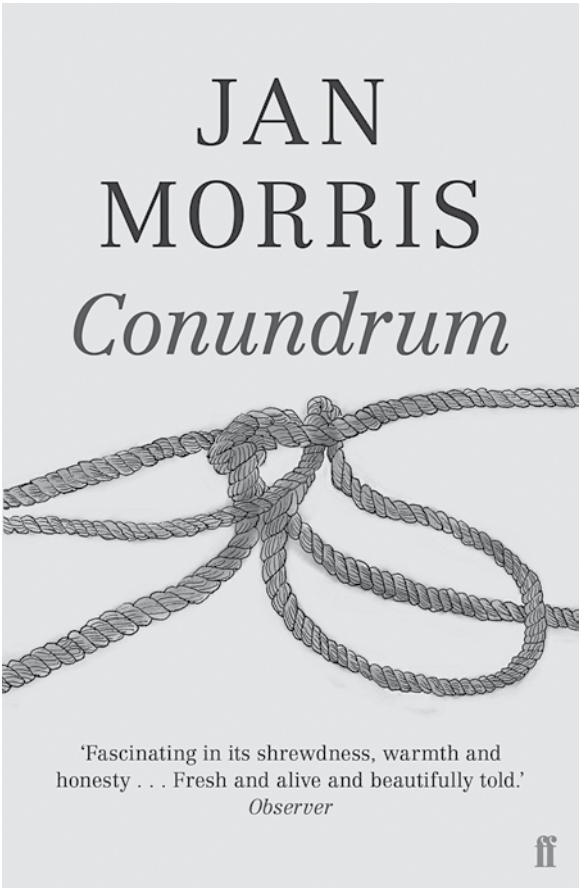
True peace is served by  
shattering our illusions with the  
stone of Truth  
chaining ourselves to the weight  
of Responsibility  
opening our hearts ever wider  
to the ravages of Love.

Peace is not easy.

Can you be all-encompassing?  
Can you keep your still center,  
seat of grace,  
and bring love to that which  
destroys?  
Its pain, after all, is your own,  
and also God forgetting itself.  
Nothing is beyond our embrace.

God, move within us.  
Open our hearts and our hands  
and our eyes.  
Your loving Sight heals all—  
here, look through my eyes.  
The work of your hands we see in the  
abundant beauty around us—  
use our hands to create,  
in Your image.  
In your heart is the home of every soul -  
let the lost find peace and respite  
within ours.  
We are here to do your work, Lord.  
Use us to bring your heavenly peace  
to Earth  
in the kinship of all things.

—Melissa Rasmussen



Morris entered the Army at 17 and marveled at the privilege of observing the secrets of a closed male society. While she made friends easily, she knew she didn't fit in. When at last Morris discovered a trans biography in a bookstore, she had confirmation that she wasn't alone in her condition.

After exiting the Army, Morris was determined to explore her identity and the world around her. She found an exciting job as a journalist, working for the *Arab News Agency* in Cairo, *The Times* of London, and the *Manchester Guardian*.

After a decade as a foreign correspondent during the 1950s, she branched out and wrote over fifty books about travel, historical-cultural studies of cities and countries, as well as biographies and novels.

Her yearning for children led her to marriage to a woman that she loved dearly, though she chafed at the masculine role. But though her career and home life were satisfying, her dysphoria grew to such an extent that she decided had no choice but to medically transition.

Morris spent the early 1960s seeking out psychiatrists and sexologists, most of whom were charlatans, to pursue medical transition. Al-

though she eventually gained access to estrogen tablets, she flushed them, preferring to wait until she and her wife were done having children.

When at last her children were grown, Morris began the long journey of transitioning, starting with hormone replacement therapy and ending with a risky surgery in Morocco. It was there in 1974, during her recovery, that she met others like her for the first time. Transition saved her from suicide; in meeting other trans people she realized that they too had been saved.

*Conundrum* was a fascinating and important book for me to read, but it was also difficult and occasionally painful. While Morris is an exceptional writer—her prose is beautifully descriptive and intellectual yet approachable—some of her ideas and opinions were troubling to me.

When writing about other trans women, for example, she frequently refers to them by their deadnames and incorrect pronouns. She also expresses racist opinions about indigenous and African/African diaspora folks. Finally, Morris has a great many ideas about gender roles that from a more informed perspective are quite sexist.

Despite the occasionally problematic ideas expressed within, I believe that *Conundrum* is a worthwhile read for anyone curious about mid-20th-century gender identity and transition. I would recommend pairing it with Leslie Feinberg's *Transgender Warriors* [4] for a deeper dive into historical trans identities and histories through a Marxist lens.

Charlie McNabb is a social scientist and librarian who studies transgender identities and histories. They are the author of *Nonbinary Gender Identities* and *Queer Adolescence*. Charlie also enjoys Bigfoot and birdwatching.

### Notes

1. Dey, Sneha, and Karen Brooks Harper. “Transgender Texas kids are terrified after governor orders that parents be investigated for child abuse.” *The Texas Tribune*, February 28, 2022. <https://www.texastribune.org/2022/02/28/texas-transgender-child-abuse>.
2. Transrespect Versus Transphobia Worldwide. “TVT TMM Update, Trans Day of Remembrance 2021.” November 11, 2021. <https://transrespect.org/en/tmm-update-tdor-2021>.
3. Although many trans folks prefer to be referred to as “transgender,” some (including Morris) use the older term “transsexual.”
4. Feinberg, Leslie. *Transgender Warriors: Making History from Joan of Arc to Dennis Rodman*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1996.

# With 750 global bases, US military uses 4.6 billion gallons of fuel annually

## Ground Zero

The Manchester Fuel Department (MFD) is the Department of Defense's largest single-site fuel terminal in the United States. The depot provides military-grade fuel, lubricants and additives to U.S. Navy and Coast Guard vessels, and to those from allied nations like Canada. Records available from 2017 show over 75 million gallons of fuel stored at MFD.

The facility sits on approximately two miles of Puget Sound shoreline, storing product in 44 bulk fuel tanks (33 Underground Storage Tanks and 11 Aboveground Storage Tanks) on 234 acres. Most of the tanks were built in the 1940s. The fuel depot (tank farm and loading pier) is less than six miles west of Alki Beach in Seattle.

Activists with Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, 350 West Sound Climate Action, and Earth Care Not Warfare demand that the U.S. military reduce its carbon footprint while reducing its global military footprint on the planet. The U.S. military has approximately 750 military bases around the world and emits more carbon into the atmosphere than 140 nations.

If the U.S. military were a country, its fuel usage alone would make it the 47th largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the world, sitting between Peru and Portugal.

Our proximity to the largest number of deployed nuclear weapons in the U.S. at Bangor, and to the “Pentagon's largest gas station” at Manchester, demands a deeper reflection and response to the threats of nuclear war and climate change.

While climate change and the threat of nuclear war are the two major threats to the future of humankind and life on our planet, their solutions are similar. International cooperation to solve one of the problems—whether to abolish or tightly reduce nuclear weapons or to reduce greenhouse gas emissions—would greatly help with the solution of the other.

The next Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action event is on May 7 at the Ground Zero Center in Poulsbo, and at the Bangor submarine base, in commemoration of Mother's Day. Please see [www.gzcenter.org](http://www.gzcenter.org).



# Revitalizing local food one cut at a time

James O'Barr

The founder and resident kitchen god at Delmonico's, "Olympia's only truly artisan butcher shop," Brian McDonald, who seems to have found his niche after years gaining experience and honing skills in the culinary arts, the food service business, and related pursuits. He says he got his start at home. "My grandmother taught me how to make a roux when I was four or five, and I grew my own herb garden around that time. In my teens, my palate expanded, and I got into ethnic foods."

Brian made his way to Olympia, and to Evergreen State College, in the late 1990's and though he says that working at the Evergreen cafeteria did not refine his culinary ambitions, some of the contacts he made, and the evolving food scene in Olympia, did. Through a fellow student he got his first professional cooking job at the old JJ North's Grand Buffet on the West Side, and eventually moved upscale to Portofino, not as a cook but in a management role. His résumé includes chef, caterer, and wild food broker.

Along the way, Brian built working relationships with people who grow, harvest, and produce local food, and it's this network, he says, that forms the foundation for Delmonico's Heritage Butcher Shop. His very big idea, and his passion, is "to revitalize the local food economy and transform the American food landscape by empowering small farmers and consumers."

In the shorter run, Brian wants Delmonico's to be a model of what a truly local food economy can look like when people know where their food comes from, who produces it and how, and who pro-

cesses it to get it into their hands. In the case of Delmonico's, this means that fresh, whole, grass and grain-fed cows, pigs, lambs, and chickens are brought in weekly, directly from local farmers, knowing that the animals have been treated well and never subjected to inhumane "processing." They are then expertly butchered into traditional



Photo by Lindsey Dalthorp

and custom cuts, and made ready for sale, offering the community not just a product, but "real food, wholesome practices, delicious results."

Walk into Delmonico's and have a look around. Just inside the door is a cold case. On the left, shelves full of grocery foods—sundry canned and bottled cooking ingredients and ready to eat delectations. On the right, a place for fresh Wild Yeast bread, and next to that, a case that holds assorted hanging, aging, and curing cuts. On the walls all around are racks full of wine bottles (selected by the legendary Justin Wilkes, of Wine Loft fame). Back to the cold case, there's an array of beef, lamb, pork, and poultry

in various presentations: cut, tied, rolled, stuffed, skewered, crowned, or ground. There is a selection of sausages: breakfast, Bratwurst, sweet and spicy Italian, Chorizo, Andouille, and a favorite, the lamb-rich Merguez, which seem to go out as fast as they come in. Occasionally there will be something out of the ordinary: rabbit, say, or

goat, turkey or game birds. On the upper shelves are an interesting cheese or two and a daily display of house-made cold cuts and delicatessen.

All good, all very good. But that's only what's showcased on the counter. At any given time in the workspace just beyond there may be two, or three, or even four people engaged in different tasks— butchering, cutting, prepping, washing, cleaning, setting up and breaking down equipment, making sausages, tying roasts. When whole animals, especially cows and hogs, are brought in for butchering, a lot of space and attention are required. But no matter how busy it is, when customers come through the door,

someone will immediately step out to see how they can be helped. There's nothing grudging about being interrupted; the workers are genuinely interested in what brings people in and, if necessary, are happy to help them better understand what it is they want.

What they all want, and what every human body needs, is good, healthy food. Sounds simple, but where to get that? Absolutely not from the industrial, profit-driven "food" production system, which can only offer products, which are, to one degree or another, deleterious to human health and which can never inspire anything but calculations of profit and loss. The craftwork of transformation that happens every day at Delmonico's by Brian and his crew—Jesse, butcher-in-chief, Kurt, head chef, Brionna, sausage queen, and Owen, Drew, Joey, and Sasha—give us an opportunity to witness the dateless magic of real food. In that vest pocket of a storefront, the words of poet Gary Snyder come to mind: "We are grateful for this meal, the work of many hands and the sharing of other forms of life." That sounds like another way of saying something to be grateful for: community.

*James O'Barr is a life-long carnivore and fine food enthusiast living in Olympia.*

*Delmonico's Heritage Butcher Shop at 916 Fourth Avenue East in Olympia is open Tuesday through Saturday, 11 am–7 pm and Sundays 11 am–5 pm. Ask about their new Monday night "Bistro in the Butcher Shop," a six-course dinner with wine pairing (by reservation only) at (360) 915-9795 or delmonicomemeats.com.*

## RETHINKING EVERYTHING

### Booming corporate profits drive today's inflation

The inflation spike of 2021 and 2022 has presented real policy challenges. In order to better understand this policy debate, it is imperative to look at prices and how they are being affected.

The price of just about everything in the US economy can be broken down into the three main components of cost. These include labor costs, non-labor inputs, and the "mark-up" of profits over the first two components. Good data on these separate cost components exist for the non-financial corporate (NFC) sector—those companies that produce goods and services—of the economy, which makes up roughly 75% of the entire private sector.

Since the trough of the COVID-19 recession in the second quarter of 2020, overall prices in the NFC sector have risen at an annualized rate of 6.1%—a pronounced acceleration over the 1.8% price growth that characterized the pre-pandemic business cycle of 2007–2019.

**Fatter profit margins.** Strikingly, over half of this increase (53.9%) can be attributed to fatter profit margins, with labor costs contributing less than 8% of this increase. This is not normal. From 1979 to 2019, profits only contributed about 11% to price growth and labor costs over 60%. Non-labor inputs—a decent indicator for supply-chain snarls—are also driving up prices more than usual in the current economic recovery—but far less than profits.

What does the abnormally high contribution of profits to price growth mean for how policymakers should respond to the recent outbreak of inflation?

**Corporate power channeled into raising prices.** It is unlikely that either the extent of corporate greed or even the power of corporations generally has increased during the past two years. Instead, the already-excessive power of corporations has been channeled into raising prices rather than the more traditional form it has taken in recent decades: suppressing wages.

**Profit margins need to shrink.** That said, one effective way to prevent corporate power from being channeled into higher prices in the coming year would be a temporary excess profits tax.

The historically high profit margins in the economic recovery from the pandemic sit very uneasily with explanations of recent inflation based purely on macroeconomic overheating.

**The exact opposite happened.** Evidence from the past 40 years suggests strongly that profit margins should shrink and the share of corporate sector income going to labor compensation (or the *labor share of income*) should rise as unemployment falls and the economy heats up.

The fact that the exact opposite pattern has happened so far in the recovery should cast much doubt on inflation expectations rooted simply in claims of macroeconomic overheating.

—Josh Bivens, Economic Policy Institute  
April 21, 2022



# Community Spotlight

## Olympia Little Theatre

### The Originals

**Performances on May 1, 5, 6, 7 and 8**

\$11-\$15 per ticket

Inspired by the true story of the women pilots who formed the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron during World War II and an elite squadron of women pilots who battle prejudice, betrayal, sabotage and personal loss to prove they belong in the U.S. Army Air Corps. Register at [www.olympialittletheatre.org](http://www.olympialittletheatre.org).



## Harlequin Productions

### Sovereignty

**Directed by Esther Almazán (Yaqui/Yoeme Tribe)**

**May 6 – May 28 The State Theater**

General \$35 • Senior/Military \$32 • Student/Youth \$20

This original play, written by Mary Kathryn Nagle of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma and partner at Pipestem Law, a firm specializing in tribal sovereignty of Native nations and peoples, covers the fight by Sarah Ridge Polson, a young Cherokee lawyer, to restore her Nation's tribal jurisdiction while confronting the ever-present ghosts of her grandfathers. An epic tale of the powerful intersections of personal and political truths that Gloria Steinem called "fundamental and revelatory." Content Advisory for children under age 12.



## Community Farmland Trust

**Farms Forever 2022 An online benefit June 1-4**

Join us in celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Community Farmland Trust with this annual auction and benefit. Register at [communityfarmlandtrust.org](http://communityfarmlandtrust.org).



## Solstice Women's Retreat

**Millersylvania Park Friday, June 17 – Sunday, June 19**

Wellness-centered classes, delicious nourishing food, community connection and good old fashioned summer camp fun to bring the community together for accessible collective healing that uplifts and supports us as a whole. Sponsored by Olympia's Empowerment 4 Girls. Non-binary folks and trans women welcome. Register or learn more about fees at [empowerment4girls.com/events](http://empowerment4girls.com/events) or call 360.878.2043.



## Olympia Fiddle Camp

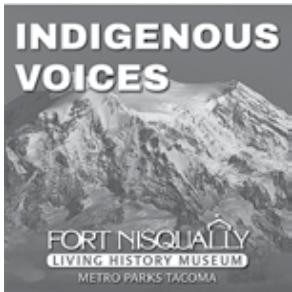
OFC welcomes students ages 7-15 who are interested in playing violin/fiddle in a nurturing environment. No previous music or violin experience is required. The program will run Monday-Friday, June 26-July 1 (no full-day or half-day camp program this year). All classes will be held at the **Olympia Center**. Contact for more information: <https://www.olympiakids-fiddlecamp.com/>

### Ongoing & regular happenings

## Fort Nisqually Living History Museum podcast series

**Episode One: Walking Two Trails**

The first in this new series of podcasts features local tribal historians sharing Indigenous Puget Sound history and tribal knowledge and expertise with representatives from the Muckleshoot, Nisqually, Puyallup, and Steilacoom Tribes.



**Episode Two: Reclaiming the Narrative**

This episode tells how tribal historians first came to learn about the Puget Sound Treaty War of 1855-56, the war through which tribes gained back access to reservation land that had been taken from them by the disputed Medicine Creek Treaty of 1854.

Available on iTunes, Spotify, Amazon Music, or at [www.metroparkstacoma.org/indigenous-voices-podcast/walkingtwotrails](http://www.metroparkstacoma.org/indigenous-voices-podcast/walkingtwotrails).

## Olympia Underground Pop Cassettes!

Cassette tapes are neat, concise, portable, sleek and terribly modern all over again. Olympia underground music-makers have released a stack of groovin' musics on cassette tape in the last few months, available now from The K Mail Order Dept.

## Deschutes Estuary Restoration Team

Ever wonder what microscopic organisms you're swimming with? Every week, biologists track plankton communities and screen for harmful algal blooms (HABs). The data is submitted to NOAA's SoundToxins program, to help protect human health and economic losses to fisheries. During this kayak activity, we will collect water quality data and plankton samples that will be analyzed onshore using microscopes. Learn more and register at <https://deschutesestuary.org/kayak-boat-patrols/>



## The Olympia Free Clinic

The Olympia Free Clinic is looking for both medical and non-medical volunteers to continue their effort to provide accessible and free health care to our community. Sign up for the OFC newsletter to receive updates at <https://www.theolympiafreeclinic.org/#>.



## Queer Body Love

**Tuesdays at 7 pm  
Yoga Sanctuary, 1522 4th Ave. E**

A gentle movement class that's adaptive for all bodies and abilities, including wheelchair access.

## Glen Anderson Parallax Perspectives

**"Nonviolent National Defense -- A Practical Way to Be More Secure"**

Mondays at 1:30 pm, Wednesdays at 5:00 pm, Thursdays at 9:00 pm on Channel 22

Instead of military violence, we could defend our nation better through carefully planned strategies of nonviolent resistance. Besides eliminating the danger of nuclear war, a non-violent national defense would also provide better security without all of the downsides that violent militarism causes. Learn more at [www.parallaxperspectives.org](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org), or contact producer/host Glen Anderson at (360) 491-9093 or [glenanderson@integra.net](mailto:glenanderson@integra.net).

## Thank you from The Rachel Corrie Foundation

We are delighted to report that 100% of our March 16th donations benefitting the Gaza Community Mental Health Programme helped raise \$10,000 for GCMHP, an organization guided by the principles of justice and human rights and



provides inclusive, integrated, and specialized community mental health services in Gaza. Enormous thanks to all who contributed! In doing so, you honored Omar As'ad, Hajj Suleiman, and Rachel Corrie, in whose memories the gift is given.



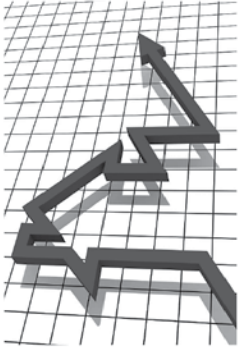

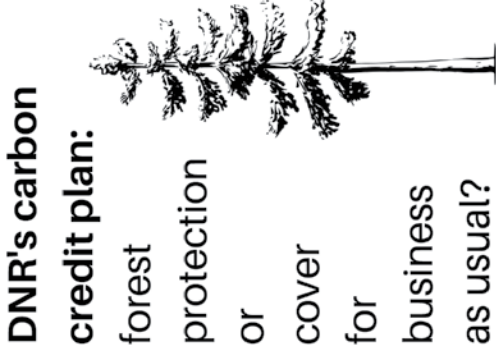

## Help us expand our community networks

Click "follow" on our Facebook page so you never miss our posts! [www.facebook.com/OlyWIP](http://www.facebook.com/OlyWIP) Hit "follow" on our Instagram page [@olywip](https://www.instagram.com/olywip)



# Works in Progress

Advocating for social justice since 1990

 <p><b>Your land...</b></p>	 <p>Still in the crosshairs</p>	 <p><b>Higher profits, fewer owners</b></p>
 <p><b>Who's minding the loose ends?</b></p>	 <p>DNR's carbon credit plan: forest protection or cover for business as usual?</p>	 <p><b>Public money, private gains</b></p>

## SEEKING GUEST EDITORS

As we consider the future of the paper. Works in Progress invites individuals or groups to try a practice run as Guest Editor, responsible for four pages of the September 2022 issue (we'll help). If you have writing or editing skills and want to help carry the WIP mission forward, drop us a line telling us why you or your organization might be a good fit for the volunteer (possibly ongoing) position:

olywip@gmail.org.

Put "GUEST EDITOR" in the subject line. Serious inquiries only!



Advocating for social justice since 1990.