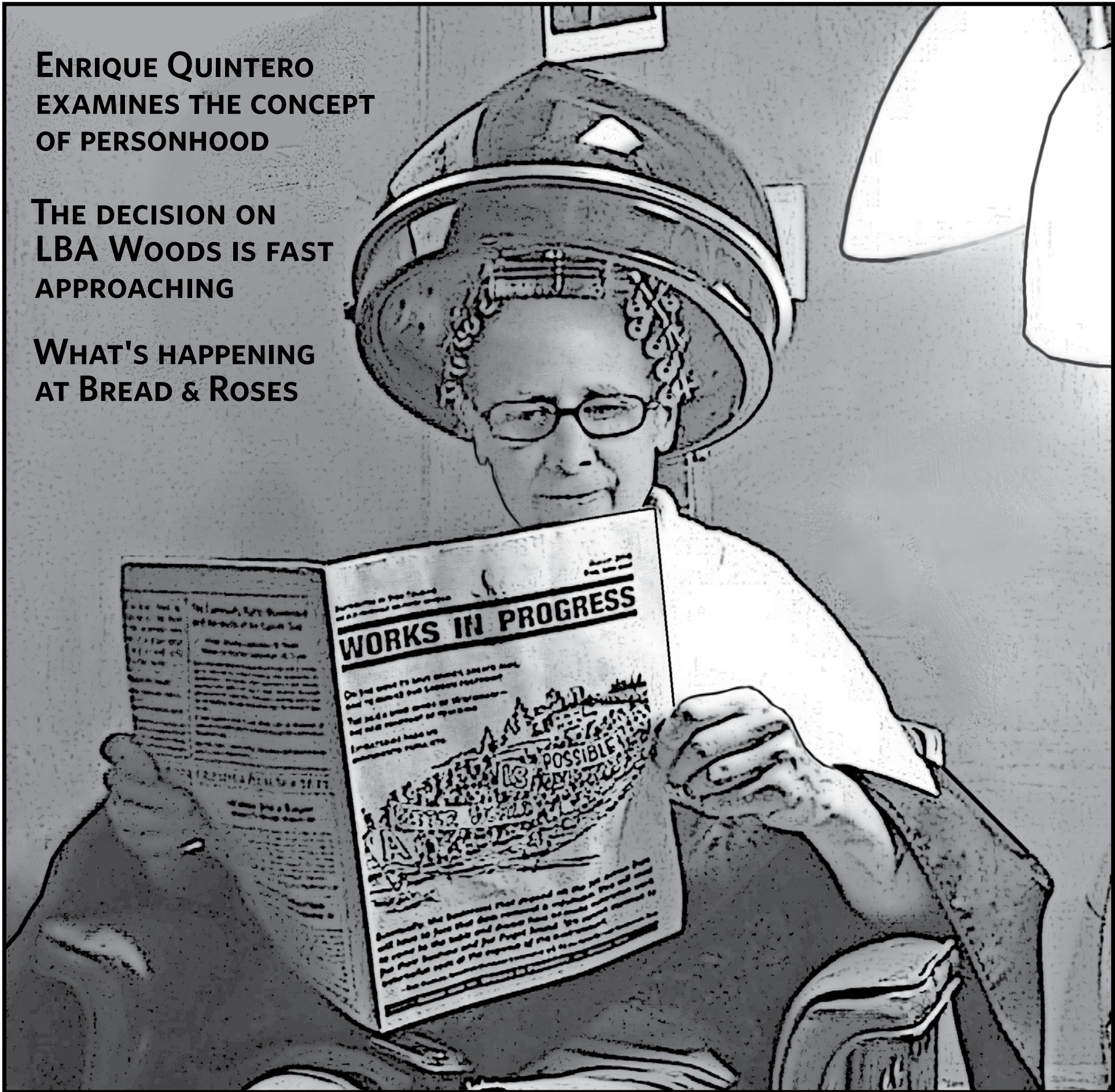


WORKS IN PROGRESS

ENRIQUE QUINTERO
EXAMINES THE CONCEPT
OF PERSONHOOD

THE DECISION ON
LBA WOODS IS FAST
APPROACHING

WHAT'S HAPPENING
AT BREAD & ROSES



Page 3	The rights of non-human things. (Los derechos de las cosas no-humanas)
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WORKS IN PROGRESS

ESTABLISHED IN 1990 BY THE THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

Works In Progress is a free, all volunteer-operated progressive community publication based in Olympia, Washington. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of Works In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions

Please send text as Word attachments. Artwork and photos can be sent electronically or we can scan them for you as camera-ready/black & white.

Works In Progress is committed to stories misrepresented or ignored by the mainstream media. We value local, well-researched news stories, accounts of personal experience and reflections by local authors. Opinion pieces, also valued, are often best supported by facts, examples, and sources, and we encourage writers to include these elements to submissions. We're also looking for graphics, poetry, cartoons, and articles that push the boundaries of conventional journalism.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number. Articles may be reprinted. Please cite sources.

If your issue isn't being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or haven't found someone else to cover it!)

Send submissions to olywip@gmail.com or mail to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295.

Governing Tool

The following statement is part of the Editorial Policy and is the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause:

WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.

Mission Statement

Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. Works In Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed.

Anti-Discrimination Clause

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Back Issues

WIP is archived on microfilm by the University of Washington Library. Some issues are held in the Timberland Library system. The last five years are online at www.olywip.org

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Submission Deadline

Friday, October 17
olywip@gmail.com

Proofreading Meeting

Saturday ♦ October 25 ♦ 1 pm

In our new WIP office
in the Labor Temple Building
(119 Capitol Way N, Olympia)

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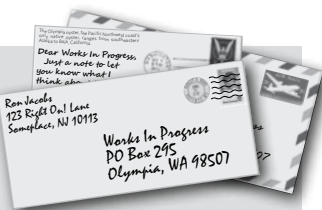
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On the front cover —

"Beautiful Curls, Beautiful Mind"

LETTER TO
WORKS IN PROGRESS



About the September 2014 Issue

To Works in Progress staff:

I am grateful for Works in Progress and what you provide to our community. I found the the Hobby Lobby article informative and insightful. I was however troubled by the cover of the September issue. The Celtic cross (the cross with the circle at the intersection of two lines) is figured twice on the cover and is clearly the most predominant. This Celtic cross symbol is used primarily by the Episcopal Church and also the Roman Catholic church. The

Hobby Lobby Green family seems to be affiliated with Assemblies of God churches and my Internet search finds no indication of their use of the Celtic cross symbol.

I think the Episcopal Church has been in the vanguard of inclusion, acceptance, and equality. I am Episcopalian and I was saddened to see this symbol associated with the Hobby Lobby story.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my thoughts.

Susan Todd, Olympia

An Apple Affair returns to
Steamboat Island peninsula

October 19, 2014 12:00 - 4:00 pm

Rignall Hall, Urquhart Rd NW
(near Steamboat Island Rd and 81ST)

After a one-year hiatus, An Apple Affair is back! "We couldn't help but respond to popular demand," laughs Jeannine Anderson who has coordinated the event for over a decade with her partner, Michael Manos. "We simply needed a break last year but we missed it as much as everyone else did!" she replies to questions about what happened to last year's Affair.

An Apple Affair is a once-a-year opportunity to sample and purchase some of the finest apple varieties in Washington State. Inspired by Feil Orchard in Wenatchee, An Apple Affair brings together varieties that have been grown for over a century by the Feil family, as well as some varieties grafted by the ever-curious Jack Feil, who as an octogenarian continues to experiment with grafting unique varieties onto old orchard standards. Many of the apples featured come from this farm, but there are several farms' hard work represented at the Affair, and each apple variety and farm get full credit on the table-talkers found next to each sample plate.

Apples specific for baking, drying, preserving, storing and eating out of hand are featured at this local food fair. If you are someone who thinks you wouldn't know the difference between the sweets, tarts, juicy and old-fashioned, there is a community apple potluck table where local residents prepare their favorite varieties in traditional and new recipes. Everyone is encouraged to taste for themselves

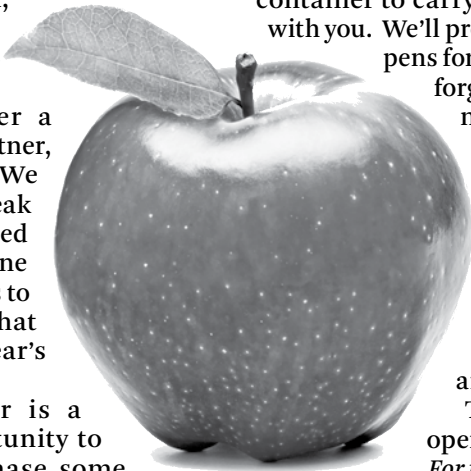
why one type is suggested over another. Bring your own favorite recipe to share, or just come and sip local cider while learning about the apples.

Apple inventory will be limited, but we suggest you bring along a box or other container to carry some apples home with you. We'll provide paper bags and pens for labeling so you don't forget the names of your newfound favorites.

Join us for An Apple Affair to taste old favorites, discover new ones, meet the neighbors and remind yourself why autumn isn't so bad after all.

This is a free event open to everyone.

For more information visit
www.farmandfruitstand.com
or email Jeannine at madronagrove@farmandfruitstand.com.



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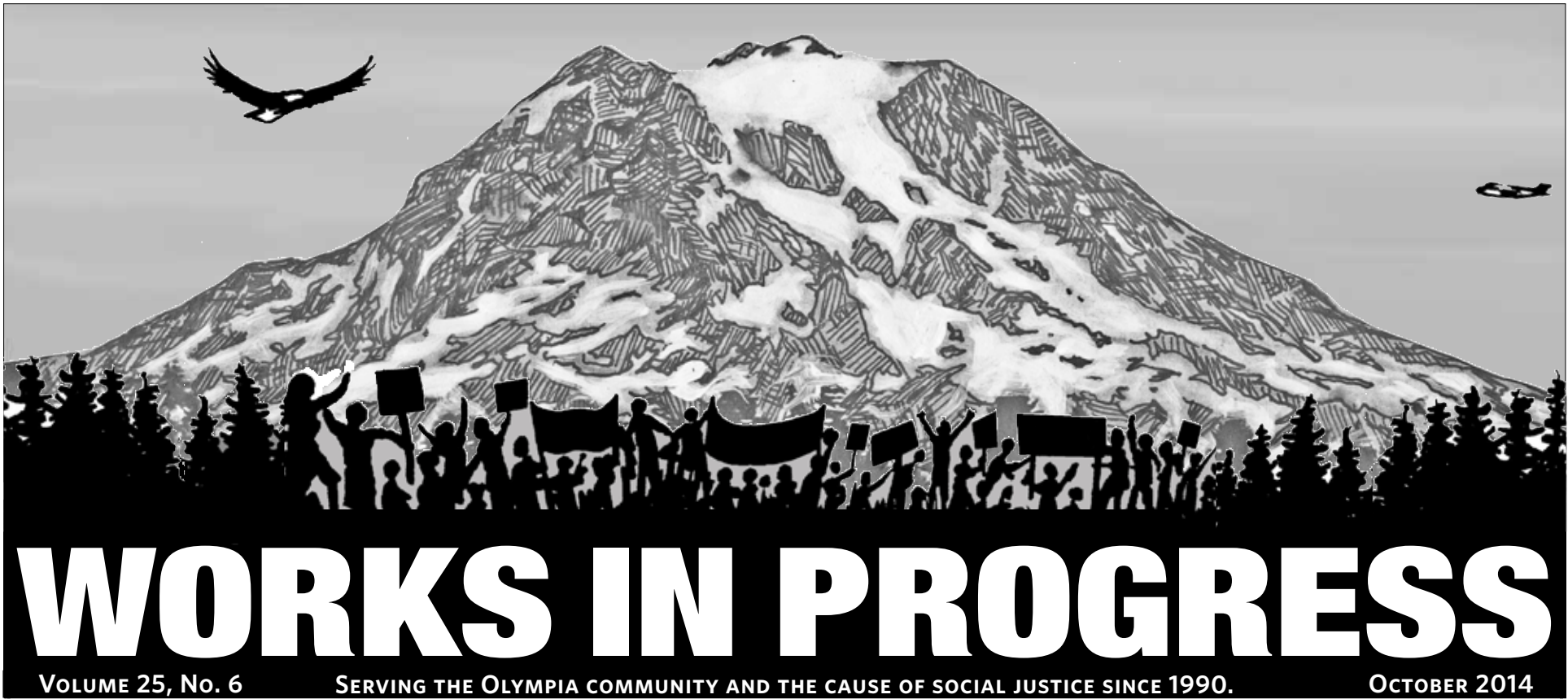
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WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 25, No. 6 SERVING THE OLYMPIA COMMUNITY AND THE CAUSE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE SINCE 1990. OCTOBER 2014

Los derechos de las cosas no-humanas

The rights of things non-human

The case of corporations and nature

El caso de las corporaciones y la naturaleza

Enrique Quintero

Historia de dos países

En septiembre de 2008 Ecuador se convirtió en la primera nación del mundo en reconocer los Derechos de la Naturaleza. Dos años después, la Corte Suprema de Estados Unidos dictaminó que las empresas y las personas tienen los mismos derechos. En cuanto a su historia y significación política y económica actual, los dos países no podrían ser más diferentes: Ecuador es un pequeño país de América Latina con una economía en desarrollo creciente pero todavía reducida; y conversamente, los Estados Unidos, a pesar de sus actuales problemas económicos, sigue siendo la superpotencia económica y militar más importante del mundo.

Por irónico que parezca, los dos países tienen algo importante en común: ambos han abierto un espacio dentro de sus sistemas jurídicos a los objetos no humanos, mediante el reconocimiento de la naturaleza y corporaciones como entidades con derechos similares a los de personas. Al así hacerlo los dos países han planteado importantes interrogantes con respecto al derecho, extensión y límites en el mapa y el territorio de los derechos humanos

Una Breve Genealogía—Ecuador

La Constitución ecuatoriana define la naturaleza utilizando la frase Quichua *Pacha Mama* o ‘madre tierra’, una expresión lingüística precolombina que pretende expresar la percepción indígena de la naturaleza como madre que nos cuida y que debe de ser respetada y venerada.

La idea de la preservación natural en Ecuador no es nueva. Se originó oficialmente en 1936 con la designación del Archipiélago de Galápagos como Parque Nacional. Esta primera medida era ‘insular’ tanto en términos figurativos como reales, especialmente cuando la comparamos con la actual Constitución de Ecuador, que en su artículo 10 establece:

Las personas, comunidades, pueblos, naciones y comunidades son portadores de derechos y gozarán de los derechos que se les garantizan en la Constitución y en los

► **DERECHOS**, continúa en la página 6.

A Tale of Two Countries

In September of 2008 Ecuador became the first nation on earth to recognize the Rights of Nature. Two years later, the United States Supreme Court ruled that corporations and people have the same rights. In terms of their history and current economic political significance, the two countries could not be farther apart: Ecuador is small Latin



American country with a growing but quite small developing economy; and the United States, in spite of its current economic problems, continues to be the world's most significant economic and military superpower.

Ironically as it may be, the two countries have something important in common: both of them have opened a

space within their legal systems to non-human objects, by recognizing Nature and Corporations as people-like bearing entities. By doing so the two countries have posed important questions regarding the entitlement, extension, and bounds of the human rights map and territory.

A Brief Genealogy—Ecuador

The Ecuadorean Constitution defines

Ironically, the two countries have something important in common: both have opened a space within their legal systems to non-human objects.

Nature using the Quichua language signifier *Pacha Mama* or ‘mother earth’, a pre-Columbian linguistic utterance that aims to express the indigenous perception of nature as a nurturing mother to be respected and revered.

The idea of natural preservation in

Ecuador is not new. It officially originated in 1936 with the designation of the Galapagos Archipelago as a National Park. This original measure was ‘insular’ both figuratively and realistically speaking, when we compare it to the current Ecuadorean Constitution, which in Article 10 states:

Persons, communities, peoples, nations and communities are bearers of rights and shall enjoy the rights guaranteed to them in the Constitution and in international instruments. Nature shall be the subject of those rights and the Constitution recognizes for it.

And further, in article 71:

Nature, or Pacha Mama, where life is reproduced and occurs, has the right to integral respect for its existence and for the maintenance and regeneration of its life cycles structure, and evolutionary

► **RIGHTS**, continued on page 8.

LBA Woods Park at critical juncture

Will there be adequate open space and parks available to meet future need?

Brian Faller

The 150 acres of woods surrounding LBA Park (located off Morse Merriman in SE Olympia) are the *last* large forested area within Olympia and its UGA that is not already a park. The owners of the two parcels that comprise the woods (Bentridge and Trillium) have expressed their willingness to sell, but unless the City acts quickly to secure the woods, the developments planned for those parcels will proceed.

The LBA Woods Park Coalition has now gathered over 5,200 signatures of area residents asking the Olympia City Council to purchase the woods for a park before these woods are lost to housing developments.

The City's Parks, Recreation, and Arts Advisory Committee voted unanimously with one abstention to move forward with a study of the feasibility of purchasing the Bentridge parcel.

The LBA Woods are a true gem. The woods have more than four miles of wooded trails through varied terrains, including mature forest (a dozen or so trees over 36 inches diameter) and alder groves. Hundreds of people walk and run there. It is especially popular for walking dogs, and the gentle slope trails

Shortly after the study is released in November, it is expected that the City Council will make a decision whether to buy either of the two LBA parcels.

are accessible to seniors. Black Hills Audubon birders have identified fifty-eight bird species in the woods. The woods provide critical habitat for birds and wildlife that residents enjoy seeing in their yards and streets.

A significant body of new scientific research has shown that walking in

larger forest parcels provides a number of surprising health benefits. Those benefits include: immune system boost, lower blood pressure, reduced stress, improved mood; increased ability to focus (even in children with ADHD), accelerated recovery from surgery or illness, increased energy level, improved sleep.

City polls have consistently found that city residents state their number one parks goals to be nature and trails.

The demand for open space forest trails will nearly double in the next 20 years. Over that period, Olympia's population is projected to increase 20,000 and Thurston County's by 120,000. This begs the question, if Olympia does not act now to secure the woods, where will the children play? How will we address the nature-deficit disorder that will increasingly undermine our physical and mental health.

Funds exist to purchase the parcels. In 2004, City residents approved the “voted utility tax” to raise about \$2 million a year until 2024 for parks. The voters' pamphlet and the City mailer

► **LBA WOODS**, continued on page 6.

Journalism, science groups
decry EPA move to muzzle
national science advisers

INDIANAPOLIS (August 12, 2014)—Journalists and scientists are urging the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to stop banning leading national scientists from talking to media outlets and the public. The EPA is placing new restrictions on independent scientists who advise the agency, according to a memorandum from the EPA's chief of staff. The memo instructs Science Advisory Board members to get permission before talking to the press, which inhibits their ability to speak freely to the public about important scientific issues, including air pollution, toxic chemicals and water quality.

"The EPA wants to control what information the public receives about crucial issues affecting Americans' health and well-being," said Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) President David Cuillier. "The people are entitled to get this information unfiltered from scientists, not spoon-fed by government spin doctors who might mislead and hide information for political reasons or to muzzle criticism."

Today, the SPJ, Society of Environmental Journalists (SEJ), Investigative Reporters and Editors, Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press along with the American Geophysical Union, the Center for Science and Democracy at the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), and the Society for Conservation Biology sent a letter to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy demanding the agency reverse its policy.

"If EPA scientists—or any other scientists—can't tell reporters what they know, then the public is likelier to remain in the dark," said Joseph A. Davis, Director of SEJ's WatchDog Project. "That makes it easier for political appointees to mislead the public about environmental issues that may critically affect their health."

In recent years, press groups have criticized the EPA for increasing roadblocks to information. For example, during the Elk River water crises in West Virginia earlier this year, the EPA stonewalled reporters seeking to find out how the released chemicals would affect citizens.

The new memo would extend EPA's already-restrictive vetting requirements for responding to external requests for information to independent scientists who advise the agency. The memo states: "If a representative member receives a request from a source that they do not represent or if a [special government employee] receives a request related to [their] employment from a non-EPA source (such as a member of the press, a trade association, or other non-governmental organization, or members of Congress or their staff), the...member should forward that request to" a designated agency employee, who will either "respond to the request or will forward it to the appropriate office within the Agency for response."

Andrew Rosenberg, director of the Center for Science and Democracy at the Union of Concerned Scientists, says that it's inappropriate for the agency to place these restrictions on independent scientists. The memo contradicts current guidelines for advisory board members and also cuts against EPA's own scientific integrity policy, which is supposed to guarantee agency scientists the right to speak with journalists and outside groups about their work.

"The public is best served by scientists who are able to speak directly about their work and expertise, without their views and interpretations filtered through public affairs officers or political appointees," Rosenberg writes on UCS's blog, the Equation.

The actions by the EPA mirror other federal agencies' increasing tactics to control the message and funnel reporters through public information officers rather than fostering direct interviews between journalists and expert sources. Last month, SPJ and 37 other groups voiced their concern to President Obama about this growing form of censorship

throughout federal agencies. They have yet to hear back from the president.

"Journalists, scientists and citizens need to stand up and push back against these information controls," Cuillier said. "If we don't, then the American public will be reliant on government PR practitioners for their information. We cannot adequately self-govern as a society if we do not have independently vetted information."

—The Union of Concerned Scientists

Senate fails to advance pay-
check fairness act

WASHINGTON (September 16)- In a procedural move, the Senate today blocked the Paycheck Fairness Act from advancing to an up or down vote on final passage. The Paycheck Fairness Act would help end wage discrimination in the workplace. This is the second time this year the Senate has declined to vote on the bill.

"The Senate's continued failure to give the Paycheck Fairness Act an up or down vote lets down millions of American workers," said Deborah J. Vagins, ACLU senior legislative counsel and co-chair of the National Paycheck Fairness Act Coalition. "Pay equity is not a partisan issue, and paying women what they have already rightfully earned is good for them, for the nation's economy, and for American businesses' bottom lines. The fact that the Senate finally allowed

debate on equal pay is a step in the right direction, but women workers need more than words when the next Congress takes up the Paycheck Fairness Act."

The Paycheck Fairness Act would strengthen the Equal Pay Act of 1963 and bar retaliation against workers who ask about their employers' pay practices or inquire about their own wages. It would allow women to receive the same remedies for sex-based pay discrimination that are currently available to those subjected to discrimination based on race and ethnicity. The bill also would provide technical assistance to employers and includes safeguards for small businesses.

Earlier this year, President Obama signed an executive order banning retaliation against employees of federal contractors for disclosing or inquiring about their wages. He also signed a Presidential Memorandum instructing the Department of Labor to establish new regulations requiring federal contractors to submit data on compensation paid to employees.

—The American Civil Liberties Union

Rapidly expanding frac sand
mining is hidden danger of
fracking boom in U.S.

BOSTON (Sept. 2) -- Frac sand mining—the extraction of the fine-particle sand needed for hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") of

wells—is expanding rapidly in the United States and poses a little-understood threat to human health, the environment, and local economies, according to a major report issued today by the Civil Society Institute's Boston Action Research and released in cooperation with Environmental Working Group and Midwest Environmental Advocates.

According to the report, a significant portion of frac sand mining in the U.S. is concentrated today in Wisconsin and Minnesota, which have a total of 164 active frac sand facilities, and another 20 that have been proposed. Wisconsin alone is on track to extract 50 million tons of frac sand a year—enough to fill the nation's second tallest building, the former Sears Towers in Chicago, 21 times a year.

Drilling companies are now finding that the use of more frac sand per well increases shale gas and oil yields. As a result, analysts estimate that fracking companies will require 95 billion pounds of frac sand this year, an increase of almost 30 percent from 2013 and 50 percent above initial forecasts. Given the explosive growth in fracking nationwide, extraction could spread to several other states with untapped or largely untapped frac sand deposits, including Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Vermont and Virginia.

—The Environmental Working Group



Volunteering at the Family Support Center

“Working Together to Strengthen All Families” Visit our website: www.fscss.org







FALL 2014 UPDATE

The Family Support Center envisions a community where all families are valued and nurtured and have the resources to be strong, healthy, and self-sufficient.

The Family Support Shelter is the largest emergency family shelter in Thurston County, and moved to a brand new, renovated, beautiful building on July 1. **Pear Blossom Place** offers 30+ beds for homeless families with children, and is now open 24 hours a day. It is staffed 100% by volunteers from 5:00pm-7:00am every night of the year.

If you are concerned about homelessness and working together to strengthen families, this volunteer opportunity could be great for you!

Volunteer Opportunities Available:

- *Greeters, typically from 5:30pm – 7:30pm
- *Overnight Hosts from 7:00 pm – 7:00 am
- *NEW! Daytime weekend shifts available; 9:00am-1:00pm and 1:00pm-5:00pm
- *NEW! Volunteer to facilitate an activity (arts & crafts, reading circle, gardening etc.)
- *Also, this is a family friendly place; children can volunteer alongside their parents!
- *Sign up with a partner /friend; we need at least 2 people for greeter and host shifts!

All volunteers are given:

- *A 3-hour training prior to volunteering and at least one training shift.
- *Access to supportive and knowledgeable staff
- *24-hr. on call support while on shift

We welcome **college students** in need of internship credits, community service hours, or experience in the human service field.

In high school and looking for community service hours for graduation? We can help!

Interested? Have questions? We would love to hear from you!

Please contact Katherine, AmeriCorps VISTA at katherinec@fscss.org or (360)628-4585 ext. x 1

Zahid Shariff 1939-2014

Gentle, soft-spoken former Evergreen professor inspired his students in the cause of social justice

Political science professor, Zahid Shariff, had a gift for connecting with students during lectures at The Evergreen State College. Former students recall Shariff's gentle demeanor and soft-spoken voice required them to lean in and listen close as he relayed what one described as "the most intensely beautiful things. Every sentence was poetry."

"Zahid set minds free," says Michelle Ryder, a former student who graduated from Evergreen in 2009 and works for a nonprofit in Bonney Lake. "His classroom always held the promise of building a better self, of connecting heart, mind and experience and situating them in lived reality and the broader struggle for global social justice and equality."

Shariff, 75, passed away late Sunday, August 10, 2014, at Providence St. Peter Hospital in Olympia. A funeral service and burial were held Tuesday, August 12, 2014, through the Islamic Center of Olympia.

Shariff served 22 years on the Evergreen faculty. His colleagues remember him as a devoted advocate for his students and campus community, and as a keen, respected observer of geo-political events and trends.

"Zahid could be counted on to give his all to his students," says Lin Nelson, a sociology professor at Evergreen. "He helped build thoughtful, reflective and wise classes, and did much to cultivate human rights work on campus and in the community. He will be missed so very much."

"A true intellectual and a gentleman in both senses of the word, Zahid was a proper man who was gentle with people," adds Larry Mosqueda, a political science professor at Evergreen. "He was also a favorite of students. I was proud to be his friend and his colleague."

"Zahid was generous with his time and knowledge, mentoring new

University. Shariff pursued his studies in New York City, earning a Doctorate in Public Administration from New York University in 1966. He then returned to Pakistan to participate in efforts to build a modernized, peaceful nation.

In 1971, Shariff accepted an offer to teach at Brooklyn College in New York. In 1977, he and his family moved to Illinois, where he earned tenure as a political science professor at Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago. In 1991, he relocated to Olympia to begin his teaching at Evergreen.

In addition to several nieces and nephews, Shariff is survived by two sisters, Hamim Aftab and Farida Shariff; two daughters, Syra (Jim) Postelnick and Nina (Lance) Helgeson; two stepsons Evan (Ann) Schofer and Jonathan Schofer; and three grandchildren, Mollie and Mark Schofer, and Lucas Helgeson.

"Our family feels profound gratitude for the love and support that our father, brother and uncle received from colleagues, friends and students throughout his time in Olympia, and especially in his final days," Syra Postelnick, Shariff's daughter, says in a family statement. "We will all miss his intellect, generosity, gentleness and beautiful smile."

Colleagues, family and friends are planning a memorial at The Evergreen State College in the fall. Memorial donations may be made to Evergreen's Annual Fund, which supports the First People's Foundation and other student scholarships. —Zahid Shariff's family

A memorial for Zahid Shariff
Saturday, October 11, 2 to 5 pm
Evergreen Longhouse, TESC

This will be an opportunity to spend some time together and honor our friend and colleague.

All are welcome to this event.

Evergreen faculty, and inspiring them with his dedicated approach to teaching," says Therese Saliba, professor of Middle Eastern studies at Evergreen. "Even after retirement, he stayed intellectually engaged with book discussion groups and post-retirement teaching."

Shariff brought a real-life perspective to his classes on colonialism and imperialism. Born on March 7, 1939 in India, his parents and eight siblings were required to move in 1948 as part of the Partition of India. The family re-settled in Pakistan, where Shariff earned a Master of Public Administration degree from Karachi

Special Events

Open House Celebration
Friday, October 3, 4 pm - 7 pm
NW Cooperative Dev. Center, Oly

Please join us during the Fall Art Walk for food, beverages and conversation.

Our new office is located on the 2nd floor of the historic Train Station Building in downtown Olympia. Between 4th and 5th Avenue on Adams Street (formerly the Olympic Outfitters - now Pet Works)

Spoken Mic featuring the Big Funny
Saturday, October 4, 6 pm - 8 pm
Cafe Love, 205 4th Ave E, Olympia

Spoken mic sign up starts at 6 with a feature from Travis Simmons aka The Big Funny. He has millions of views on YouTube and is the voice of Dank Vapor in the upcoming hemp wars anime production.

Arts Walk Halloween Dance
Oly Dance House Party
Saturday, October 4, 10 pm - 2 am
The Track House
511 7th Ave SE, Olympia

Get costumed up and dance on Dance Oly Dance TV on Art Walk Saturday night!

Show up early and Elena will do your make-up! Zombies, fairies, ghouls and corpse paint galore! Costume shop open from 7 to 10pm, first come first serve. Just look for the devil in the green room passing out kool-aid!

Filming for Dance Oly Dance begins promptly at 11 pm and goes to midnight.

The Track House is wheelchair accessible, but bathroom access is still rather difficult.

Citizenship Day Legal Training
Saturday, October 18, 10 am to 3 pm
SPSCC, Olympia

This is an important announcement to the over 180,000 Washington residents who are eligible for citizenship but haven't yet naturalized.

Washington New Americans, a partnership between OneAmerica and the State of Washington, is hosting a Citizenship Day on Saturday, October 18. At this free legal clinic, volunteer immigration attorneys will help eligible Legal Permanent Residents navigate the complex naturalization process.

With neither Congress nor President Obama making any progress on a broken immigration system, this event is a positive opportunity for immigrants who are one step away from citizenship.

This event is open to the public.

Court date for Zahid Chaudhry
Monday, October 20, 1 pm
Immigration Court
1000 2nd Ave, Seattle

There will be a peaceful vigil & solidarity rally for justice outside the court building on the street.

If you plan to be in the courtroom at 1 pm, please remember to bring ID and give yourself plenty time to go through security checks.

Car/Van-pool from Lacey Park & Ride 4800 Martin Way E., Lacey, WA leaving at 10:30 am.

For more information call/text/leave message at 360-529-1109.

Evolution, Civilization, and the Future of Planet Earth
Wednesday, October 22, 7 pm - 9 pm
Traditions Cafe, Olympia

Potluck first (please bring utensils)

Heather Heying and Bret Weinstein

Talk about several second order issues, rather than addressing empirical evidence of extinctions directly (e.g. starfish wasting, whitenose syndrome in bats). Some of the questions we have generated include: What are the big dangers? Is there hope? If there is hope, are humans structured in such a way that we will do the right thing, or the wrong thing? Is there something that individuals can do? Where are we missing big opportunities? What does the evolutionary nature of human beings have to say about the nature of the crisis? Hosted by Marylea Coday and Mike Coday

2014





Women of Achievement Gala

Join Us
THURSDAY
November 6
for a fun evening
in celebration of
incredible women.

Enjoy
delicious food,
connect with
friends,
be inspired and
support the
YWCA.

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
olympia

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Parenting through tough times:
Stories of resilience in
collaboration with Family
Education and Support
Services

Friday, October 10, 7:30 pm
Traditions in Olympia

Each month we invite a guest artist(s), community organization, arts program or social service agency to be a part of our performance. This month we are collaborating with Family Education and Support Services, a community organization that promotes healthy childhood development by supporting adults who care and influence the children in their lives.

Cost: Suggested Donation
\$7-\$12 (No one is turned away)

Playback Theatre is a spontaneous collaboration between performers and audience. People tell moments from their lives, then watch them re-created with movement, music and dialogue.



360.943.8044
233 Division St NW

Be a member of the summer 2015 delegation to Santo Tomás

Wednesday, October 22, 7-9 pm
Olympia Community Center
222 N. Columbia, Room 101
Olympia

The Thurston-Santo Tomás Sister County Association is pleased to announce the hosting of another Community Delegation to Nicaragua in the summer of 2015.

Delegates will spend up to three weeks in Nicaragua, the majority of which will be spent in Santo Tomás. We will visit and volunteer in projects such as the children’s free lunch program, the library, several preschools, the health clinic, the model farm, youth programs and Lincoln Elementary’s sister school Rúben Darío. Homestays provide the visitors opportunities to share in the daily lives of Nicaraguan families; many previous delegates have maintained lifelong relationships with their hosts. Delegations from Santo Tomás to Olympia have provided Olympians the opportunity to reciprocate hospitality.

Got kids? Children who’ve traveled with us to Santo Tomás have had particularly wonderful experiences, with many of them returning as young adults to rekindle the friendships they formed years earlier.

Interested? To find out more, attend our introductory presentation on Wednesday, October 22, from 7-9 pm, at the Olympia Community Center, 222 N. Columbia, Room 101.

You’ll see photos and hear stories from previous delegations, as well as dates and costs of the trip. No RSVP is needed, but if you have questions in the meantime you can e-mail us at tstsca@gmail.com.

Sanders proposes wealth tax

“A nation will not survive morally or economically when so few have so much while so many have so little. We need a tax system which asks the billionaire class to pay its fair share of taxes and which reduces the obscene degree of wealth inequality in America,” Sanders said in a speech here this morning at the Vermont AFL-CIO

► **LBA Woods**, cont. from page 3.

stated that the tax-generated park funds would be *prioritized* for park acquisition before the remaining lands are lost, and estimated the funds would acquire about 500 acres, mostly open space. To date, the City has acquired only 51 acres. The City can use the park acquisition funds from the voted utility tax to finance purchase of the Bentrige parcel now, which is currently on the market for a favorable price of \$6.5 million. As Jane Kirkemo, the City Finance Director, has explained, the City could issue a bond anticipation note now to pay for the parcel, and pay off that note in 2016 when it sells a new round of general obligation bonds that would in turn be paid off using the voted utility tax revenues.

If the City supplements its bond funds supported by the utility tax with

funds from other sources such as County conservation futures and state grant programs, the City would likely be able to purchase Trillium also by 2016.

the existing woods and walking trails. The City is conducting a site suitable study now that would confirm those uses.



Flat areas on the edges of the LBA woods can potentially address the City’s longstanding need for rectangular sport fields and an off-leash dog park without compromising

Shortly after the study is released in November, it is expected that the City Council will make a decision whether to proceed to buy either of the two LBA parcels.

Council members indicate that heartfelt and thoughtful emails and letters are the most persuasive. If you want to help save the LBA woods and create LBA Woods Park, please write the City Council at citycouncil@ci.olympia.wa.us. Letters to the Olympian are also helpful.

For more information or to sign the LBA Woods Park petition or to donate, please go to LBAWoodsPark.org.

Brian Faller is a board member of the LBA Woods Park Coalition, which may be reached at LBAwoodspark@yahoo.com.

annual convention.

The growing wealth gap in the U.S. is worse now than at any time since 1928, the year before the Great Depression began. The top one percent of Americans own more wealth than the bottom 90 percent. The richest 400 Americans have amassed more than \$2 trillion in wealth, a sum greater than all of the assets of the bottom 150 million Americans combined. One family, the Waltons of Wal-Mart fame, owns more wealth than the bottom 40 percent of Americans.

While the rich are becoming richer, more Americans live in poverty today than at any time in our nation’s history. Half of all Americans have less than \$10,000 in savings. We have the highest rate of childhood poverty – 22 percent – of any major country.

Sanders said the fairest way to reduce wealth inequality, lower the \$17 trillion national debt and pay for investments in infrastructure, education and other neglected national priorities would

be to enact a progressive estate tax on the wealthiest Americans, the top 0.25 percent.

Under his proposal, 99.75 percent of Americans would not pay a penny more in estate taxes. For those who would pay more, the tax rate on estates valued from \$3.5 million to \$10 million would be 40 percent. There would be a 50 percent tax on estates worth \$10 million to \$50 million and a 55 percent levy on estates worth more than \$50 million. A 10 percent surtax would be applied on estates worth more than \$1 billion, a category that today includes fewer than 500 American families. The bill also would close estate tax loopholes that have allowed the wealthy to avoid an estimated \$100 billion since 2000. On all estates, the first \$3.5 million for individuals and \$7 million for couples would be exempt from federal taxes.

Sanders’ proposal won praise from leading economists.

America “is creating an aristocracy of wealth populated by heirs who

don’t have to work for a living yet have great influence over how the nation’s productive assets are deployed,” according to Robert B. Reich, a former U.S. Department of Labor secretary who is now a University of California at Berkely professor. Reich called Sanders’ estate tax bill “a welcome step toward reversing this trend.”

Thomas Piketty, the top-selling author and Paris School of Economics professor, said the United States pioneered progressive estate and income taxes but today is on the verge of becoming even more unequal than pre-World War I Europe. “To avoid this, one needs stronger investment in skills and education, better paying jobs and a more progressive tax system. Sen. Sanders’ estate tax bill is an important step in this direction.”

**Bernie Sanders' Senate Office,
United States Senator for Vermont**

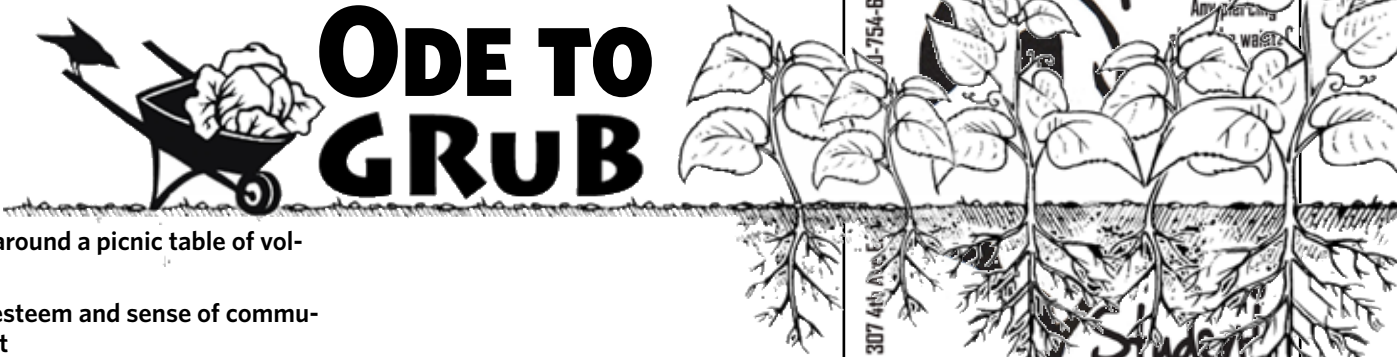
Lennée Reid

GRuB doesn’t just feed the hungry food
Or the youth truth
They serve up hope for the future too
Their staff walks on water
Blue and Gaffi made sure was collected
In an up cycled rain barrel
They don’t just grow food on that farm
Or hope or futures
They grow wings on the backs of solitary angels
Once slumped over lost in despair
Now found on their knees with dirt in their hair
Smiling friends everywhere
And just like disenfranchised youth with pink hair
They lifted me up
Through the dirt of a ten by ten garden plot
Next to a housing project
But then real projects

Happened around a picnic table of volunteers
In the self-esteem and sense of community we built
You see we planted and grew respect in each other
It seems they grow nothing but deep roots and wings
Because everyone who is given the opportunity
To just be
At an urban farm run by old Evergreen-ers
Comes back to roost
Like a pigeon homing in on personal growth
And seeds of truth
And I have the tag on my leg as proof
That’s why I keep coming back
Giving them time and money
Because they gave me the bounty any good farm grows

But they did it to my heart mind and soul
And it doesn’t rot or expire like things you desire
You can’t buy GRuBs brand of food on any shelf
I know I had some myself

Lennée Reid is a truth seeker, nature lover, poet and spoken word artist. She has one child and lives in Olympia. She can also be found on YouTube.



Big changes at Bread & Roses

Meta Hogan

Since its inception in 1982, Bread & Roses has provided hospitality to the poor and homeless of our community in a wide variety of ways. When I joined the household as a live-in volunteer in 2003, the Cherry Street community kitchen and day center had just closed and the new Advocacy Center was getting started. Shortly after that, our Devoe Street men's shelter was replaced by Catholic Community Services' Drexel House. We published the *Voice of Olympia* street newspaper for several years. Other organizations have also benefited from our support, including the Tenants' Union, Partners in Prevention Education, EGYHOP, the Family Emergency Shelter, SideWalk, and Interfaith Works. Throughout it all, we have continued to provide hospitality at the Women's Guesthouse shelter.

We took a break from sheltering for the month of August to provide a break for the live-in volunteers, to deep clean the house and to conduct much-needed repairs. (This is the first such break in decades—literally every day for over fifteen years, live-in volunteers have shared life in these houses with our homeless guests.) We also used the month to reflect on our mission, our history, and our role as providers of hospitality.

The demand for our shelter services has changed significantly over the last two years. Rent assistance programs at SideWalk and at the Community Action Council have been highly successful at quickly moving the homeless off the streets and into permanent housing. Overall shelter demand among women has fallen so quickly that when we closed our doors in August the only impact was that the Salvation Army filled a few of its empty beds. For this and other

reasons, we will not reopen as a shelter in September.

Bread & Roses will continue to offer hospitality, but in a new way. Beginning this September, we will provide affordable housing to low-income people who have demonstrated a sincere commitment to service. We will rent rooms to low-income students, Americorps volunteers, and other community volunteers, and provide an environment tailored to support their service and encourage collaboration.

Residents will also benefit from the combined wisdom and experience of Selena, Phil, and Meta, the hosts at Bread & Roses who, along with many current and past board members, have contributed significantly to the creation

Bread & Roses will continue to offer hospitality, but in a new way. Beginning this September, we will provide affordable housing to low-income people who have demonstrated a sincere commitment to service.

of a long list of local projects. Our hosts are a vital asset of this intentional community who will mentor and develop a new generation of social justice leaders and activists.

There is still a very serious and specific need for shelter and intensive, long-term services for homeless women with severe disabilities. We've found that an increasing percentage of the women who seek shelter have complex needs that cannot be met at Bread & Roses.

An unprecedented number of our guests in the past 18 months moved to adult family homes or other supportive housing, were hospitalized, or were admitted to inpatient treatment facilities. At least five of our recent guests required mobility assistance devices, in a house where every bed is at

the top of a flight of stairs.

One guest experienced severe and frightening hallucinations on a daily basis; most days she was unable to prepare food for herself, bathe or tend to other necessary self-care tasks. It took us four months of persistent advocating with mental health providers to get her access to appropriate medication, and another month before she was hospitalized. While it has not been unusual for us to have one or two guests each year with similar issues, during those same four months we had *eight other guests* with serious mental health symptoms, two of whom were developmentally disabled young adults, and at least four of whom struggled with active substance abuse problems.

These women deserve accessible and affordable treatment and permanent housing. In the absence of adequate support services, we cannot provide hospitality to such high-needs individuals without risking their safety and ours. Nor can we count moving them to an apartment, without those services, a success.

Fortunately, our advocacy efforts and the efforts of others have paid off: The local mental health system is preparing for long-overdue reforms, the county is recognizing the need to create permanent supportive housing, and increasing inpatient treatment and psychiatric beds has become a priority at the state level. Lastly, the Interfaith Works shelter is opening a year-round location this November and will be admitting the most vulnerable among the homeless. Despite these positive developments, we will continue to advocate for a functional, responsive, and well-funded safety net for the most vulnerable

in our communities.

Over the next year, as we host our first intentional community of service volunteers, we will continue to examine how we can best serve the community. We invite you to become part of that conversation. There are a lot of possibilities and we are certain - with your continued support - that Bread & Roses will be as vital and as valuable as ever.

B&R is a 501(c)3 non-profit inspired by the Catholic Worker movement and dedicated to serving the homeless, poor and marginalized of Thurston County. Over the years, thousands of generous people throughout this community and beyond have contributed to the success and accomplishments of B&R. Current live-in volunteers are Selena Kilmoyer, Meta Hogan, and Phil Owen. We continue to operate from the original House of Hospitality and Guesthouse on 8th Avenue on Olympia's east side. You can contact us at admin@breadandrosesolympia.org, or call Meta at 360-259-9619, Selena at 360-951-0326, or Phil at 360-545-3174



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► **Rights** cont. from page 3.
processes. All persons, communities, peoples and nations can call upon public authorities to protect nature to enforce the rights of nature.

United States

In the American case, the personification of corporations has a more recent lineage than the Ecuadorean personification of Nature. The most immediate ancestry of this legal prosthetic of humans on corporations was “Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission” which ruled that corporations have the same rights as individuals. According to NPR’s Nina Totenberg:

The Supreme Court’s 5-4 First Amendment decision in 2010 that extended to corporations for the first time full rights to spend money as they wish in candidate elections — federal, state and local. The decision reversed a century of legal understanding, unleashed a flood of campaign cash and created a crescendo of controversy that continues to build today.

Do people really count?

It may be important to consider the possibility that the existence of a universal human nature that would justify the existence of universal human rights is historically a relative new concept. The concept of ‘human rights’ practically did not exist in antiquity, and rights (of any kind) tended to be rather selective and exclusivist (think of women and slaves in the past). Historically people have counted very little. The American Philosopher Richard Rorty notices:

For most white people, until very recently, most black people did not count. For most Christians, until the seventeenth century or so, most heathen did not count. For the Nazis, Jews did not count. For most males in countries in which the average income is less than two thousand ponds, most females still do not count

In the United States, the ‘people don’t count’ record does not get any better. The idea that Blacks were not really human allowed the Founding Fathers to think of themselves as enlightened humanists, and not as cynical and hypocritical violators of the constitution they have just written down. Even when blacks were recognized as people with the abolition of slavery in 1865 (The Thirteenth Amendment), this situation remained unchanged. Prejudice, stigmatization and discrimination practically continued—with small degrees of variation—for a hundred and eighty eight years, from 1776 to 1964 when the Civil Right Act was signed.

But in Ecuador the ‘people don’t count’ record does not get any better. Although slavery was formally abolished in 1821, (simultaneously with Colombia, and Venezuela), the semi-feudal and semi-enslavement conditions of production and existence inherited from the Spanish colonization continued to

affect most of the indigenous people. This state persisted also with small variations until the first half of the 20th. Century.

The Role of Culture and Politics

Historically it wasn’t a ‘self evident truth’ about human nature that made possible the acknowledgement of the rights of people. The determinant factor was closely related to the ways society was organized at any given historical time, and who controlled power at the time (generally speaking those who controlled it write the laws). But also, and most importantly, it had to do with the actions and struggle of those who challenged that power and made possible changes within the system, or the replacement of the system itself. Think of the Civil Rights Movement in the first case, and the French Revolution in the second. People count when they make themselves count.

Do things count?

Given the tortuous history of ‘people’s rights’, the granting of rights to non-human entities (Nature and corporations) rests apparently on even more trembling grounds, since neither decision can be defended or criticized on superior moral considerations. Both decisions came to be as the result of legal resolutions of two different independent states at a particular time in their individual history, deciding to transfer human rights to inanimate things.

In the Ecuadorean case, Nature is granted rights as the result of a wide leftist coalition of popular forces in opposition to neo-liberal forms of political and economic organization. In the United States corporations acquire the same rights of people as an expression of the power and insatiable appetite of the capitalist neo-liberal elites of this country. Things count depending on how we use them.

Who Should Have Rights?

Nature or corporations, who should have rights? Well ... they both do at the time, so the question is void of meaning. A better question probably is, which right bearing entity would be more beneficial to larger numbers of people? Or, because of that reason, which one should be deprived of those rights and how do we make it happen? You have the right to choose and most importantly, the right to do something about it. A few days ago hundred of thousands of people marched all over the world (eighty blocks long rally just in NYC) to express their concerns about climate change. They are doing something about nature and at the same time expressing their rights.

Enrique Quintero, a political activist in Latin America during the 70’s, taught ESL and Second Language Acquisition in the Anchorage School District, and Spanish at the University of Alaska Anchorage. He currently lives and writes in Olympia.

► **Derechos**, viene de la página 1.
instrumentos internacionales. La Naturaleza será objeto de esos derechos y la Constitución los reconoce como tales.

Y más adelante, en el artículo 71: *Naturaleza o Pacha Mama, donde la vida se reproduce y se produce, tiene derecho a que se respete integralmente su existencia y el mantenimiento y regeneración de sus ciclos de vida estructura y procesos evolutivos. Todas las personas, comunidades, pueblos y naciones, pueden recurrir a los poderes públicos para proteger la naturaleza para hacer cumplir los derechos de la naturaleza.*

Estados Unidos

En el caso estadounidense, la personificación de las corporaciones tiene un linaje relativamente más reciente que la personificación Ecuatoriana de la Naturaleza. El antecedente más inmediato de esta prótesis jurídica de seres humanos en las corporaciones se dio en el caso legal llamado “Comisión Federal Electoral versus “Citizens United”, que dictaminó que las corporaciones tienen los mismos derechos que las personas. Según NPR Nina Totenberg:

La Decisión 5-4 de la Primera Enmienda de la Corte Suprema en 2010, que extendió a las corporaciones por primera vez el pleno derecho de gastar el dinero como deseen en las elecciones de candidatos—federal, estatal y local. Esta decisión revocó un siglo de entendimiento legal, desató una avalancha de flujo de dinero para las campañas, y creó un crescendo de controversia que continúa hasta el presente.

La gente realmente cuenta?

Puede ser importante tener en cuenta la posibilidad de que la existencia de una naturaleza humana universal que justifique la existencia de los derechos humanos universales, es históricamente un concepto relativamente nuevo. El concepto de ‘derechos humanos’ prácticamente no existía en la antigüedad, y los derechos (de cualquier tipo) tendieron a ser antes que nada selectivos y excluyentes (pensemos en las mujeres y los esclavos del pasado). Históricamente la gente ha contado muy poco nos dice el filósofo norteamericano Richard Rorty:

Para la mayoría de la gente blanca, hasta hace muy poco, la mayoría de la gente negra no contaban. Para la mayoría de los cristianos, hasta el siglo XVII, más o menos, la mayoría de los paganos no contaba. Para los nazis, los judíos no contaban. Para la mayoría de los hombres en los países en los que el ingreso promedio es de menos de dos mil dólares, la mayoría de las mujeres todavía no cuentan.

En los Estados Unidos, el récord de que “la gente no cuenta ‘ no es mucho mejor. La idea de que los negros no eran realmente humanos permitió a los Padres Fundadores el pensarse a sí mismos como humanistas ilustrados, y no como infractores cínicos e hipócritas frente a la Constitución que acaban de escribir. Años después, incluso cuando los negros fueron reconocidos como personas con la abolición de la esclavitud en 1865 (La Decimotercera Enmienda), esta

deplorable situación se mantuvo sin cambios significativos. El prejuicio, la estigmatización y la discriminación continuaron -con pequeños grados de variación- durante ciento ochenta y ocho años, de 1776 a 1964, cuando se firmó la Ley de Derechos Civiles.

Pero tampoco en Ecuador el record de que «la gente no cuenta” luce nada halagador. Aunque la esclavitud fue abolida oficialmente en 1821, (simultáneamente con Colombia, y Venezuela), las condiciones de semi-feudalismo y semi-esclavitud en la producción y la existencia, heredadas de la colonización española, continuaron afectando a la mayor parte de los pueblos indígenas. Este estado se mantuvo también con pequeñas variaciones hasta la primera mitad del siglo XX.

El papel de la cultura y política

Históricamente no fue la existencia de una ‘verdad evidente “sobre la naturaleza humana que hizo posible el reconocimiento de los derechos de las personas. El factor determinante estuvo relacionado con las formas de organización social en un momento histórico dado, y con las clases sociales que controlaban el poder en dicho momento (en general quienes controlan el poder escriben las leyes). Pero también, y esto es quizás lo más importante, la forma de derechos existente tenía que ver con las acciones y la lucha de aquellos que desafiaron el poder e hicieron posibles cambios dentro del sistema, o el cambio de sistema. Se piense en el Movimiento por los Derechos Civiles en el primer caso, y en la Revolución francesa en el segundo. La gente cuenta cuando se hacen contar por si mismos.

¿Cuentan las cosas?

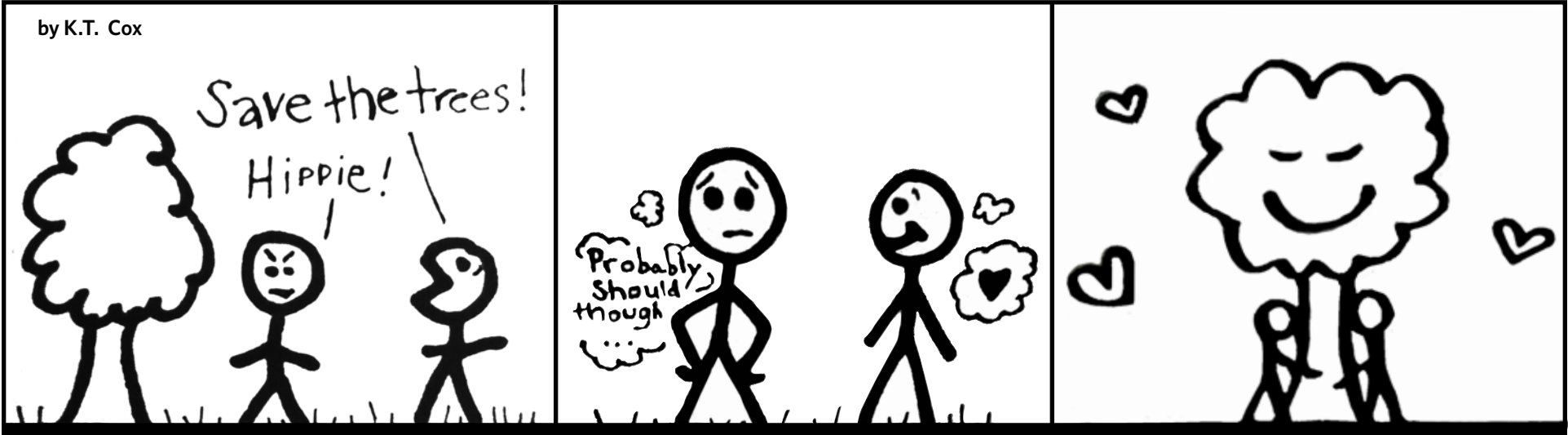
Dada la tortuosa historia de «los derechos de las personas», la concesión de derechos a entidades no humanas (Naturaleza y corporaciones) descansa incluso en terreno mas tembloroso, puesto que la decisión no puede ser defendida ni criticada basándose en consideraciones morales superiores. Ambas decisiones llegaron a ser como el resultado de las resoluciones judiciales de dos estados independientes y diferentes, que en un momento determinado de su historia individual, deciden transferir los derechos humanos a cosas inanimadas.

En el caso ecuatoriano, la naturaleza tiene derechos como el resultado de una amplia coalición de izquierda de las fuerzas populares en oposición a las formas neo-liberales de organización política y económica previamente existentes. En los Estados Unidos las empresas adquieren los mismos derechos de las personas como una expresión del poder político y del apetito insaciable de las élites neoliberales capitalistas de este país. Las cosas cuentan en función de su uso.

¿Quienes deben tener derechos ?

Es la Naturaleza o las corporaciones que deberían tener derechos? Bueno ... ambas los tienen en este momento, así que la pregunta es vacía de

► **Derechos**, continúa en la página 9.



► **Derechos**, viene de la página 8.
significado. Una pregunta mejor sería si nos preguntáramos, cual entidad con derechos sería más beneficiosa para un mayor número de personas? O, por esa misma razón, que entidad debería ser privada de estos derechos y que podemos hacer para que esto suceda? Usted lector tiene el derecho a elegir y lo que es más importante, el derecho a hacer algo al respecto.
El sábado pasado, cientos de miles de personas marcharon en todo el mundo

(ochenta cuadras de llenas de gente en largo mitin sólo en la ciudad de Nueva York) para expresar sus preocupaciones sobre el cambio climático. Ellos están haciendo algo acerca de la naturaleza y, al mismo tiempo, expresando sus derechos.
Enrique Quintero fue un activista político en America Latina durante los años 70. Luego trabajó como profesor de ESL y Adquisición de Segunda Lengua en el Distrito Escolar de Anchorage y Profesor de Español en la Universidad de Alaska. Actualmente vive y escribe en Olympia.

— YWCA of Olympia's 2014 Women of Achievement —

20th annual gala honors South Sound women

The YWCA of Olympia is pleased to announce their 2014 Women of Achievement:
Dr. Rhonda Coats, Racial Justice Award

Vice president for Student Services at South Puget Sound Community College, Dr. Coats is a longtime advocate for access, retention, and success for students of color and other underrepresented student groups and she led efforts to establish and maintain the SPSCC Diversity & Equity Center.

Rev. Marti Ensign

Minister and humanitarian, Rev. Ensign has helped women locally and internationally for the last 60 years. Marti received her BA in pre-med in 1958 followed by graduate degree, was the first woman to be fully ordained as a Free Methodist minister, and served on the task force to begin the medical program at Hope Africa University in Burundi. As a member of the Soroptimist of Olympia International she implemented the Hope Africa Scholarship to help women obtain medical education.

Lynn Grotsky, LICSW

Co-founder, board president, past volunteer executive director, facilitator consultant and event coordinator of Pizza Klatch. Lynn, a clinical social worker, also was one of the founders of Thurston County's Monarch Children's Justice and Advocacy Center where she established and directed a therapy program for abused children and their families. In 1989, she and her wife, Lisa Brodoff, won a landmark lesbian second parent adoption case in Washington State, paving the way for same-sex parents to legally adopt here and throughout the nation.

Dr. Leticia Nieto, Racial Justice Award

Dr. Nieto is a psychotherapist, certified psychodramatist, accredited Playback Theatre trainer, and anti-oppression educator and author specializing in cross-cultural communication, motivation and creativity.

Dr. Nieto is a professor in the Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology program at Saint Martin's University.

Christy Peters

Currently, the administration chief at the Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney's office, Christy has also served as former president of Junior League of Olympia, past president of the South Sound Reading Foundation, and currently serves on the boards of NOVA School, the Olympia Youth Chorus, and the Olympia Downtown Rotary /Club.

Thursday, November 6, 5:30 pm - 9 pm
Red Lion Hotel Forest Ballroom, Olympia

Nominees were selected for their professional achievements(s), peer recognition, personal growth, demonstration and inspirational involvement in the community, and/or how she models her life in accordance with the YWCA of Olympia's mission to empower women and eliminate racism through education, advocacy, service and leadership opportunities.

The 20th Annual Women of Achievement Gala, presented by Titus Will, takes place on Thursday, November 6 from 5:30 pm—9 pm at the Red Lion Hotel Forest Ballroom. The nt is open to the public and tickets (\$80) will

be available by contacting the YWCA of Olympia at 352-0593 or online at www.ywcaofolympia.org under Events. Once again Titus Will has stepped up as the Women of Achievement Gala presenting sponsor with WSECU and Lucky Eagle serving as our Sustaining Sponsors. Full biographies/photos are available on the YWCA of Olympia website.

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ECONOMIC JUSTICE FOR THE 99%

WESTERN WASHINGTON FOR's 2014 FALL RETREAT

Saturday ▪ November 8 ▪ 9 am -- 5 pm
Gwinwood Conference Center, Lacey, Washington

Most Americans are suffering from economic injustice:

- Many millions can't find decent jobs or work for wages that are too low.
- The gap between extremely rich people and everyone else has been widening since the 1970s.
- Many Americans are homeless or are suffering from foreclosure.
- Young people know their standards of living will be worse than their parents' generation.

The Occupy Movement and millions of Americans' ongoing experiences have convinced more and more people that capitalism is failing to meet most people's needs, so they are looking for alternatives. Western Washington FOR's 2014 Fall Retreat—"Economic Justice for the 99%"—will bring us together to better understand the problems and to work together at the grassroots to organize solutions.

Our annual Fall retreat will bring together people from throughout our region to stimulate grassroots progress toward economic justice. A keynote panel, eight participatory workshops, and other opportunities will help us share information and work on solutions, including after we return home.

At 9:00 a.m. we will welcome people with light refreshments and social time. We'll begin in earnest at 10:00 a.m. and continue (with your own brownbag lunch) until 5:00 p.m.

Cost: We keep costs low and try to just break even. \$15 per person will cover our costs. We give discounts to young and low-income people upon request. Persons who can afford to give more will help offset the cost for those who have less. PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH. We will provide coffee, tea, and light refreshments throughout the day.

Please pre-register by Wednesday November 5, but even if you don't pre-register please come anyway. To pre-register, please go to www.wwfor.org and www.olympiafor.org, or contact Glen Anderson at (360) 491-9093 glen@olympiafor.org



Arab Fest Shuruq II 2014

Saturday October 4, 11 am - 7 pm
Olympia Community Center
222 Columbia Street NW

During the Fall Arts Walk, the Rachel Corrie Foundation for Peace and Justice will host Olympia's second Arab Festival - Shuruq II. This fun-packed celebration of Arab culture features music, dance, art, food, educational panels and speakers, vendor and country tables, children's activities, films and more.

The Arab Festival Cafe and Lounge (5 pm Friday - 5 pm Saturday at the Rafah mural site) features music, dancing, games, refreshments, and hookahs!

On Saturday, Olympia Arab Festival - Shuruq II unfolds at The Olympia Center, 11 am to 7 pm, with fabulous Arab food, debke and belly dancing, the critically acclaimed House of Tarab Arabic Music Ensemble from Seattle and other performers, a parade of Arab fashions, and displays and information from all 22 Arab countries!

Join us as our entire community joyfully and authentically celebrates and experiences the food, culture, traditions, lifestyles and peoples of the Arab world. We will focus on the diversity and complexity of the Arab peoples by challenging stereotypes, showcasing Arab arts and performance, and celebrating diversity within our own community. Make Arab Festival one of your Fall Arts Walk stops! Admission is FREE to the public.

For information and updates: <http://rachelcorriefoundation.org/> or call the Rachel Corrie Foundation at 360-754-3998.

Volunteers are needed!

The Aberdeen City Council passes resolution opposing crude oil in Grays Harbor County

Resolution No. 2014 — A resolution in opposition to the transport and storage of crude oil in the City of Aberdeen and the Grays Harbor Estuary

WHEREAS, between April 29, 2014, and May 21 2014, there were four derailments on the Genesee and Wyoming rail line between Centralia and Aberdeen that raise serious questions about the capability of this rail line to handle current export commodities let alone the 150 car unit trains of explosive Bakken and tar sands crude oil;

WHEREAS, the Genesee and Wyoming railroad has admitted that they were unaware of the poor condition of the railway and the rail bed of the line through Grays Harbor County;

WHEREAS, in July 2013 a line of DOT 111 tank cars filled with Bakken and tar sands crude oil derailed in Lac Megantic, Quebec resulting in the destruction of 40 buildings and the deaths of 47 people;

WHEREAS, the emergency response teams of the city of Aberdeen as well as the surrounding cities, are not adequately equipped to handle explosions and fire from railcars carrying crude oil or other flammable petroleum distillates;

WHEREAS, various groups and organizations such as the Washington State Council of Firefighters through their legislative lobbyist Geoff Simpson, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 77 SeaTac through their business manager Lou Walter, the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union Local 4, Vancouver through their president Cager Claubaugh and Railroad Workers United, Spokane through their Steering Committee member Robert Hill have registered strong opposition due to safety concerns, to the transportation and storage of crude oil anywhere in the state of Washington;

WHEREAS, catastrophic explosions, spills and death due to derailments of tankers carrying Bakken, tar sands and other crude oil have also occurred in Castleton, North Dakota, New Brunswick, Canada, Aliceville, Alabama, Lynchburg, Virginia and other sites within the year since July 2013 and could occur in any town along the rail line including Aberdeen;

WHEREAS, the seafood industry accounts for nearly half of the region's economic value and that industry would be irreparably devastated by spills of crude oil into the waters of Grays Harbor;

WHEREAS, shipments of fruits, grains and other vital commodities are experiencing delays and stoppages due to precedence being given to crude oil trains resulting in goods damage and higher prices;

WHEREAS, agencies of the United States government, including the Federal Railroad Admiration (FRA), have, in July of 2014 proposed an overhaul of safety standards for transporting crude oil and alcohol by rail due to the safety concerns over railroad conditions and the conditions of the DOT 111 tank cars; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ABERDEEN: Based upon the previously unknown dangers to the health, welfare and safety of Grays Harbor communities and citizens, the city of Aberdeen strongly urges the Port of Grays Harbor not to execute any new leases for facilities or storage tenninals that would accommodate crude oil transport or storage within the Port properties and to carefully examine the terms of any existing leases to determine if grounds exist to tenninate provisions which would allow crude oil transport or storage facilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the city of Aberdeen strongly requests that cities and other governing bodies responsible for permitting crude oil transport and storage facilities deny future permits in light of the new information regarding rail safety and the volatility and explosiveness of the crude oil products involved and to carefully examine the terms of any existing permits to determine if revocation would be justified based on this information not being presented at the time of the original permit requests.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the city of Aberdeen strongly urges the Washington State Department of Transportation and the Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board to analyze and study the potential economic effect of crude oil train traffic on the displacement of existing economic activity and the potential loss of access to rail transport by local and regional shippers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the city of Aberdeen urges Governor Inslee, in accordance with the Centennial accord between the federally recognized Indian tribes and the state of Washington established in 1989, work directly with the Skokomish Indian Tribe, Chehalis Confederated tribes, the Nisqually tribe, the Squaxin Island tribe, the Quinault Indian nation, the Shoalwater Bay Tribe and other such tribes as are necessary to protect their treaty rights and fishing resources which are threatened by proposed oil terminals, expanding oil refineries and the routing through their territories of crude oil unit trains carrying Bakken, tar sands and other crude oil.

PASSED and APPROVED on September 24, 2014.

(Aberdeen City Councilman Alan Richrod reported, "The resolution passed unanimously to great applause.")

Art reception during Arts Walk at Butterfly Gallery!

Friday, October 3, 6-9pm

421 Water Street SW, Olympia (next to Traditions)

Come hear singer/songwriter extraordinaire Brad Andrews kick off the latest art show and meet the artists. This months featured artists are Grace Cooke, Diana Fairbanks, Kathleen Guest, Robin Levin, Dorthea Paulson, Maitri Sojourner, Dotti Wilke, Ginsy Stone, and Rosemary Nichelini.

Butterfly Gallery is an emerging new space, run by artists for

the arts with a mission to encourage art of all types in Olympia to thrive. Come visit us in person or find Butterfly Gallery on facebook for a full calendar of events, including workshops and art shows.

For more information, please call (360) 943-0553, or contact us on Facebook or through our website at <http://butterfly2gallery.com>.

Obamacare: A family-friendly policy

Critics argued the ACA would increase involuntary part-time employment. The rationale was that employers would cut back workers' hours to less than 30 per week to avoid penalties associated with not providing insurance. However, involuntary part-time employment has been decreasing while voluntary part-time employment increased in the first six months of 2014.

The data shows the biggest increase is for young people with children. This is consistent with many workers who previously needed to work full-time to get health care insurance. Instead they are taking the option of buying insurance and working part-time to have more time to be with their children.

This ending of job lock was an important goal of the ACA. Workers are taking advantage of the freedom from not being dependent on a job for their family's health care insurance.

— CEPR

TRADITIONS
CAFÉ & WORLD FOLK ART

Brass and Bead
Necklace
Women's fistula
rehabilitation
project,
Ghana
Ojoba Collective

Earrings
India
Mata Traders

Handbag from
recycled
grocery bags
Women's group,
India
Asha Imports

Cotton batik dress
Women's coop,
Ghana
Global Mamas
Ojoba Collective

Fair Trade & Sweatshop-free

300 5th Ave. SW, Olympia 705-2819
Concerts of international and local performers.
www.traditionsfairtrade.com

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Latest Census data strengthen case for helping childless workers

(Sep 23) Poverty and incomes worsened last year for childless adults while improving for children and their families, the new Census data show. The new figures highlight the need to do more to help low-income workers not raising minor children, as both President Obama and House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan, among others, have proposed.

- The poverty rate for individuals not living in families (primarily people living alone and unrelated people who share a household) rose to 23.3 percent in 2013, the highest in over 30 years. The poverty rate for childless families (childless couples, elderly couples, families whose children have moved away or turned 18, and other relatives who live together), while much lower at 6.2 percent, was also the highest in over three decades. (See chart below.)
- Median income fell 1.4 percent (\$949) for childless families in 2013.

Working families with children receive significant help from the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit, which together lifted 10.1 million people (including 5.3 million children) out of poverty in 2012,

under the government’s Supplemental Poverty measure, which, unlike the official measure, includes these tax credits. But poor workers without children receive little help in making ends meet. In fact, childless families and individuals are the only group that the federal tax code taxes into (or deeper into) poverty.

That’s in part because the EITC for childless workers (and for non-custodial parents) is very small. The average beneficiary receives about \$270 from the EITC for workers without children, and workers with incomes of \$14,340 earned “too much” to qualify at all in 2013.

A growing bipartisan group of policymakers—including House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan and President Obama—as well as researchers and analysts from across the political spectrum have called for expanding the EITC for these workers. An expansion could both reduce poverty among these workers and encourage more individuals to enter the labor force, as the EITC has done with parents. A broad array of academic research has shown that the EITC has been highly effective at increasing parents’ employment and reducing poverty. —Arloc Sherman, CBPP.org

Gee, I’m Oh So Hungry

It tastes good this shit they shovel, I swallow

Monsanto

Mon Santo Clause (That’s lawyer speak)

Stuffing stockings with poison year round

(Know Yer Law Everyone) = KYLE

WHILE

We Haul Insecticide (,) Leaking Everywhere

Hey, Insects, Go to Hell

HIGH

Hi, I have the munchies and will eat anything

Everything in SIGHT

Smoking Increases Guys (and girls (and gods)) Hunger and Thirst

See?

GMO so hungry and STONED

September Today Or Nearly Every Day

Feed me

Give Me Osteoporosis

Go Make Olives

Go Massacre Orchards



Go Marr Oranges

Graze My Oates and heather

Hall & Oates

You’re a rich girl and you’ve gone too far

‘cause you know it don’t matter anyway

You can rely on the old man’s money

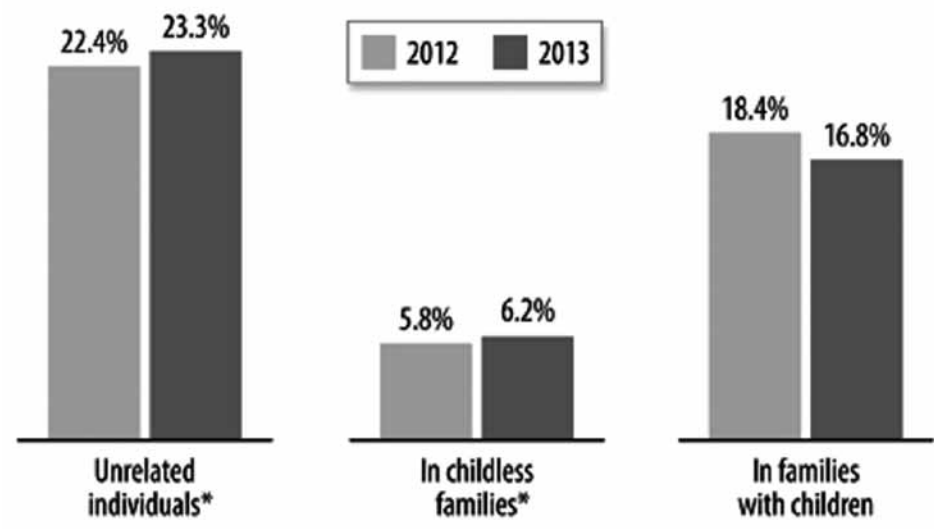
You can rely on the old man’s money

God Made Oxymoron

by broKEN

Kenneth is an Evergreen grad. He spends his days sleeping, reading outside with cat in lap when weather allows, buying records at Rainy Day, and working on art projects. He spends his nights stocking products at a convenience store.

Poverty Rate Rose in 2013 for Unrelated Individuals and People in Childless Families, Fell for Families with Children



*Unrelated individuals = individuals not living in families, primarily people living alone and unrelated people who share a household. Childless families = childless couples, families whose children have moved away or turned 18, and other relatives who live together without related children under 18.
Source: CBPP analysis of March 2014 and March 2013 Current Population Survey
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities | cbpp.org

Canal through Nicaragua approved and in the works

In the August issue of Revista Envio, the hot topic of the pending interoceanic canal across Nicaragua was explored by member Emily Calhoun Petrie. Most of their friends in Santo Tomas eagerly anticipate an economic boom with the construction of a \$50-billion shipping canal that will divide Nicaragua in two. From the Pacific to the Caribbean, it will cross Central America’s largest lake and dwarf the 100-year-old Panama Canal. It will cut through tropical Pacific forests; through modest farms on one side of Lake Cocibolca and vast cattle ranches on the other; and, finally, through indigenous communities on Nicaragua’s Caribbean coast. The planned canal will be up to 30 yards deep, and extensive dredging will be required, planners say.

In June 2013, the national assembly controlled by President Daniel Ortega

and the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) approved the project with little debate, to “free Nicaragua from global economic imperialism”. A 100-year concession controlling a vast swath of Nicaragua was awarded to Chinese telecommunications magnate Wang Jing, giving him broad powers as he and his newly formed Hong Kong Nicaragua Canal Development Investment Co. (HKND) build and manage the 173-mile-long waterway. He claims it will be finished and operational in five years.

Work on the canal as well as a system of seaports, an oil pipeline, airport, free-trade zones and other infrastructure will begin this year. The canal route was unveiled in July and will pass close to Santo Tomas, raising hopes of desperately needed employment. The FSLN government estimates it will lift more than 400,000 people out of poverty by 2018 with the help of revenues created by the project.

Supporters are calling it the largest construction effort “in the history of mankind” — in one of the hemisphere’s poorest countries.

Others worry about the environmental effects. The canal will cut through Lake Cocibolca and skirt below Ometepe Island, Bainbridge’s sister island since 1986. “Cocibolca” is an indigenous word meaning “sweet water”; the 3,000-square-mile inland sea is a major source of drinking water for Nicaragua.

Ocean liners, super tankers and cargo ships much larger than those the Panama Canal can handle will traverse the waterway, raising the risk of oil-spill contamination. The Nicaraguan Academy of Sciences calculated that nearly 1 million acres of tropical forest and wetlands could be destroyed by the project, jeopardizing ecosystems, fishing and wildlife habitats.

“Few people oppose a canal per se,” said Jaime Morales, a congressman who served as vice president under Ortega until 2012. “But one that won’t harm the lake. Water is Nicaragua’s greatest patrimony.... Expectation of great wealth makes many ignore what might happen to the lake.” (Tracy Wilkinson, Los Angeles Times, September 9 2014) —Revista Envio

For more on this issue, please see the online August 2014 issue of Revista Envio.

SHOWING AT THE OLYMPIA FILM SOCIETY

Calvary

October 4 through October 9

One of the remarkable things about “Calvary” is that while Father James knows the identity of his would-be assassin from the start, the audience is in the dark. The priest honors the dictates of the confessional. After all, the murder has not been committed yet, so there is hope. ...It’s an enlightened reply in a dark and profoundly funny tale of an institution failing its sheep and its best shepherds.

—Lisa Kennedy, The Denver Post

Love is Strange

October 24 though November 1

Love Is Strange goes in for the unexpected in its affecting story of aging New York gay couple Ben and George, played by John Lithgow and Alfred Molina, who suddenly lose their home, comforts and dignity...Many directors would have made this a human rights story and pursued the injustice of intolerance. The issue is there, but director Ira Sachs prefers to paint an unforgettable portrait, set to a dazzling soundtrack of Chopin piano pieces.

—Peter Howell, Toronto Star

Frank

October 17 through October 23

The papier-mâché head is the most noticeable oddity about Frank, mad-genius leader of an experimental punk band and the focus of a quirky, utterly engaging film that manages to be amusing, dark, surprising and poignant without wasting a single one of its 95 minutes. ...Frank is a symbol of the adoration inspired by people blessed with creative brilliance and charisma for whom mental illness only serves to enhance their appeal.

—Kristin Tillotson, Star Tribune

Night of the Living Tribute Bands

October 31

It’s time once again for the Night of the Living Tribute Bands! Behold as seven frightfully awesome cover bands—Weezer, Hole, The Cult, Neil Diamond, Garbage, Hall & Oates, Bon Jovi—transform into Rock Stars before your very eyes, for one night only!! And don’t forget the freak-tastic. COSTUME CONTEST!! From pulse-pounding pop to bone-rattling rock, this night is sure to mesmerize you with devilish delight! This creepshow always sells out, so get your tickets early, Shirley!

—Olympia Film Society

CAPITOL THEATER, 206 FIFTH AVENUE SE, DOWNTOWN OLYMPIA

What makes *Works In Progress* happen

This is how we roll

Works In Progress is in a symbiotic dance with the local community--a perfectly imperfect waltz that reflects the skills and understandings of those who participate. Birthed from activists almost 25 years ago, *WIP* may sometimes jolt and jerk, linger or trip, but it always finds a way to move forward.

Often mistaken for a traditional publication with a staff of reporters, it's not uncommon for people to send in topics or events they think need to be covered. This is understandable. US culture assumes the best way to get things done is to pay someone to do it. But is that really what motivates people? Or does it just get in the way of what actually needs to be done?

Consider this: If given a choice, would Boeing employees choose to continue building giant jets that pollute the atmosphere or would they rather work in an equally giant factory that produces inexpensive, electric, enclosed tricycles for the masses to reduce pollution and save the planet?

The people who are involved in *Work In Progress* do so because of who they are and what they believe. It is a labor of love and purpose.

Please consider becoming involved in some way.

HISTORY

Works In Progress (WIP) was established in 1990 by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. At that time, activists/groups did not have an effective way of communicating with each other or the progressive community. Most folks did not own personal computers and cell phones were still the size of large bricks. The only way to reach people in the area (outside of KAOS) was *The Olympian*, which was then owned by the politically-conservative Gannett Corporation--today's largest US newspaper publisher best known for its national publication USA Today. Needless to say, little was mentioned in the daily paper about progressive activities in town. In fact, in 1990 little was mentioned about anything going on in Thurston County. Gannett's *The Olympian*, "affectionately" called The Zero, The Zip, or The Five-Minute Read, was the primary reason for WIP's creation.

In May 1990, the first issue of WIP was printed at the Shelton-Mason Journal--then owned by the Gay family--40 minutes away in Shelton. About a dozen of the original WIPsters went along to witness the hand delivery of the layout pages to the *Journal* office. *Works In Progress* would continue to be printed at that location for the next 23 years.

From the beginning, *Works In Progress* gave voice to many stories that would not have been covered by the commercial press. Notable among them was the construction of the DNR building with non-union labor. Mark Bean, union organizer for the Carpenters' Union, provided coverage of the hard won struggle to convince Washington State to require contractors bidding on state government projects to hire union labor. Another was the only published photo (Kendra Jennings Mapp) of the takeover of the legislative building in protest of the first Iraq invasion in 1991. And there were many more that can be found on WIP's website.

At present day, *WIP* continues to publish the works of writers in the social justice community and encourages both writers and readers to participate in the production of future issues. Social justice is a neverending cause.



STRUCTURE

Works In Progress has a minimal amount of structure or, as it might be said, as little as we can get by on. The organization's structure is primarily formed by function. Most people have taken on regular roles of responsibility and the others work in *WIP* when they have time or on a specific project. Both types of participation are valued as one gives stability and the other, variety.

As an all-volunteer organization, no one can be told what to do or where to go. (It's occasionally tried, but if the person doesn't want to do it, it ain't gonna fly.) So while there traditionally has been a focal person that people tend to look toward, in reality, all are in charge and no one is in charge simultaneously. Daunting, you may think, and yet pretty amazing that the paper has lasted more than two decades. And people really do

want to make a difference even though it may mean not making a buck. (While we do care about people's financial survival and will compensate when possible, with this nonprofit, funds are not always available. In fact, rarely. Our apologies.)

With this loose structure, it is very important that people attempt to maintain positive attitudes. Sometimes this is hard as things can become difficult since we are all human and perfectly imperfect. There will be miscommunications, disagreements, and, every once in a while, a bad decision. As the saying goes, "shit happens." Yet this, too, shall pass and *WIP* will carry on.

We ask that people are respectful of different levels of understanding. We're all working on figuring things out; some have just been on the path a bit longer. In addition, it's also important that

people be aware of the baggage they may carry from personal experiences that can harm their abilities to interact with others. We can sympathize with those who have experienced sexual abuse, domestic violence, rape, military duty, child abuse, and other painful situations. Unfortunately, *Works In Progress* is not an ideal place to work through one's personal issues. We highly recommend counseling (and not just for our sakes).

Submitting your work to *WIP*

Some people have claimed to feel a bit intimidated in submitting content to *Works In Progress*. Let us explain why this is unnecessary.

WIP's original purpose was to provide people in the social justice community a way to communicate to each other. From there it soon added its intent to become a voice for the disenfranchised as well as a forum to explore issues of importance. While some who participate may have professional skills, the majority do not. People who submit work to *WIP* are not paid, at least, not by us!

Works In Progress does not have reporters. It is only in the last year that we formed the Writers' Group whose members have, at times, volunteered to write assigned stories, but this is not usual. Most of the content in *WIP* is written by individuals in the community who have chosen to spend the time and effort to share what they believe is important for others to know.

The following is what's most essential to keep in mind when writing for *Works In Progress*:

Works In Progress is committed to stories misrepresented or ignored by the mainstream media. We value local, well-researched news stories, accounts of personal experience, and reflections by local authors. Opinion pieces, also valued, are often best supported by facts, examples, and sources, and we encourage writers to include these elements to submissions. We're also looking for graphics, poetry, cartoons, and articles that push the boundaries of conventional journalism.

Another thing to remember is that there are *WIP* members who edit submissions and will work with authors to maximize readability and clarity. We want you to look good, too.

For more information, please contact *Works In Progress* at olywip@gmail.com. We are also on Facebook.

WIP's WORKING GROUPS

Writers' Group

The Writers' Group is probably the most dynamic of *WIP*'s organization. Peopled by regular *WIP* contributors, the group is primarily focused on content (articles, photos, graphics, and other submissions). This is an opportunity for individuals to discuss their planned contributions, topics that should be covered in *WIP*--if possible, and by whom--and photos or graphics to accompany content. This group also shares the responsibility of editorial decisions with the Editing Group and works to improve coverage of issues important to the progressive community.

This group meets for one hour at Traditions Café at 5:30 pm on the first Thursday of the month.

DISTRIBUTION/OUTREACH GROUP

The Distribution/Outreach Group is a lively group that has the tasks of overseeing the physical distribution of *Works In Progress* and community outreach, which includes tabling at local events. In both duties, people skills and self-motivation are equally important because, at many times during each month, distribution members are the public faces of *WIP*.

This group meets the second Thursday of the month when necessary. Location varies.

EDITING GROUP

The Editing Group makes editorial decisions regarding content submitted to *Works In Progress*. It is responsible for editing articles, fact checking, and working with authors to resolve any problems regarding their submissions. Most of the work is done during the two-hour meeting on a Tuesday evening, though a few articles may require more attention during the next couple of days. Those individuals with editing skills and an attention to detail are highly valued. This is a great group if you love to nitpick. (We'd appreciate it!)

Layout Group

The Layout Group is the most isolated group as its primary responsibility is the digital layout of the paper edition. Individual members work separately on computers using the publishing software InDesign and communicate primarily by email and phone. Most of the efforts by this group is during the week before the last Monday of the month. The amount of work required for each individual is negotiated.

Active Layout Group members who

are involved in the layout of pending issues are required to attend that issue's editing and proofreading meetings.

Proofreading Group

The Proofreading Group is the friendliest collection of people in *WIP* and even more nitpicky than the Editing Group. Responsible for finding errors big and small, they are also the most quiet and sometimes not at all. They are also responsible for revising headlines, when needed, and making last minute decisions on just about anything regarding the pending issue.

This group meets at 1 pm on the Saturday before the last Monday of the month. Red pens are provided.

WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA GROUP

The Website/Social Media Group is the latest addition to *WIP*. It is responsible for maintaining the website, which includes updating the website, uploading the digital issue each month, and promoting *WIP* on social media. *WIP* is eager for more people to become involved in order to move *Works In Progress* more fully into the 21st century.

For more information on any of the above *WIP* groups, please do not hesitate to us at olywip@gmail.com

Homelessness Leadership Summit

Taking re-housing programs to scale

Discussing what works and what does not

Theresa Slusher

We know what works to resolve homelessness for people:

- Short-term assistance back into housing
- Long-term housing and supports for those with severe disabilities
- Coordinated access into programs that provide the above
- Plan-Implement-Measure-Improve, adopt a cycle of oversight and management

Homeless shelter and housing providers across the nation are taking themselves out of the “ending poverty” game and are instead re-tooling local systems to more rapidly assist people back into housing. Rather than tracking performance in terms of how many people go in and out of our programs, we track performance by how many people leave our programs into stable housing. We are now focusing on *outcomes*, not outputs.

An analysis of gaps in our local system of homeless housing and services was completed at the beginning of 2013 and local funding has prioritized programs aimed at filling those gaps. Creating coordinated access to shelters and housing programs has been in development over the past year and a

written plan will be in place by the end of December.

This is the good news....now for the bad news. While we work to improve the effectiveness of our programs, plugging gaps and coordinating access, *resources for this work are shrinking*. The largest revenue source the county has to address homelessness, document recording fees, shrunk in the first quarter of this calendar year by 42%. The devastating effects of this drop in resources will be felt soon. Program contracts with reductions in funding took effect September 1. Agencies are struggling to plug funding gaps with private donors, fundraisers, and grant writing. How effective they will be remains to be seen.

At the Homelessness Leadership Summit in May, leveraging additional resources to help fund re-housing activities was the topic of several small group conversations. The main idea discussed was creating a local housing levy to increase resources for both affordable housing and homeless housing. To take this idea more broadly, we could create a *local housing trust fund*, funded through a variety of sources; philanthropic, individual donors and, yes, potentially a housing levy.

The cities of Seattle and Bellingham have passed levies for affordable housing; Bellingham most recently in 2012. Their levy revenue comes from a property tax assessment of 36 cents per thousand dollars of assessed value, costing the owner of the averaged home less than

\$7.00 per month for seven years. It will raise \$21 million dollars over that time and leverage many times that amount in additional public and private investment. Most of the funds are for production of new rental housing, affordable to very low-income households and for preservation of at-risk, affordable housing. There are smaller amounts of the levy

Rather than tracking how many people go in and out of our programs, we track performance by how many people leave our programs into stable housing.

funds dedicated for rental assistance and supportive services to help new special needs housing operate successfully. There is a modest amount of funding for low-income homeownership and workforce housing, and an opportunity fund to provide short-term loans for the purpose of acquiring land for future affordable housing development.

As an outcome of the Homelessness Leadership Summit, there is a small group meeting to learn more about how a housing levy would work and to determine the feasibility of creating such a campaign in our community. If you, dear reader, would like to be involved, please email me at coordinatethurston@gmail.com.

The hope expressed at the Home-

lessness Leadership Summit was that creating affordable housing and the capacity to quickly resolve homelessness, for those in our community faced with that reality, would at the same time revitalize Olympia’s downtown. It would do this by creating housing that the people who work there could afford to live in. Today, a downtown employee earning minimum wage would have to work *two full-time jobs to afford the average downtown apartment*.

I want to emphasize that a housing levy is only one method of creating the desperately needed resources to respond to the growing issue of homelessness. But is an important option that would be irresponsible to not seriously consider.

The numbers of kids in public schools experiencing homelessness soared from 1,123 a few years ago to 1,584 last school year. The number of people left on the street during our annual one-day count each January rose as well; from 237 in 2013 to 263 this year.

We know how to effectively rehouse people experiencing homelessness, even those with the most difficulty accessing and maintain housing due to chronic mental and physical health issues. And we know how to do it faster, more effectively and for less cost than ever before. We simply need the resources to take our crisis response system *to scale*.

This article is the third in a series coming out of the Olympia Homelessness Summit held in May of 2014. The Summit was meant to be a convening of leaders, but was also meant to be the start of a longer community conversation.

Please visit the Facebook page dedicated to continuing this important conversation: facebook.com/homelessnessleadershipcirc leofolympia.

<div>October 2014</div> <div>historical calendar</div>							<div>Remove from them that stubborn pride which imagines itself to be above and beyond criticism. Forgive them the blunders they have committed. US Senate chaplain, Barry C. Black</div>
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
“Secrecy surrounding the drones program gives the US administration a license to kill beyond the reach of the courts or basic standards of international law. It’s time for the USA to come clean about the drones program and hold those responsible for these violations to account.” Mustafa Qadri, Amnesty International			1 2013: The US government enters a shut-down and furloughs 800,000 workers while curtailing most routine operations.	2 2013: Many of low income won’t be covered in the expansion of Medicaid because they live in Republican-controlled states.	3 2011: An Italian appeals court overturns Amanda Knox’s 26-year sentence for murder and sexual assault.	4 2011: The Italian Wikipedia shuts down in protest of privacy law that will impose restrictions on newspapers/Internet pages.	
5 2013: Defence Sec. Hagel says he is bringing most of his department’s 350,000 furloughed workers back to work immediately.	6 2009: Attorney Gen. Eric Holder said it will be tough to meet the fast-approaching January deadline to close Guantanamo.	7 2010: China issues new regulations that require the managers of mines to accompany workers down the shafts.	8 2012: Hugo Chavez re-elected to 4th term. 2012: top leader of Los Zetas was killed in shootout; his body is stolen by gunmen.	9 2012: 15-year-old women’s rights activist shot by Taliban. 2012: Jerry Sandusky receives 30 years for child molestation.	10 2011: For role in film critical of Iran policies on the arts, actress Marziah Vafamehr is sentenced to 90 lashes / one year in jail.	11 2013: Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons wins Nobel Peace Prize. 2013: France upholds a ban on fracking.	
12 2012: The high court of Botswana overturns customary law that prevents women from inheriting the family house.	13 2010: In China, 23 elder members of the Communist Party of China call for ending the country’s restrictions on free speech.	14 2012: Occupy activists chain themselves to the pulpit of St Paul’s Cathedral in solidarity with Pussy Riot.	15 2012: The Portuguese government announces details of its draft budget for 2013 as protests continue against austerity.	16 2013: Former Liberian Pres.Charles Taylor arrives in UK to serve the rest of a 50-year sentence for his conviction for war crimes.	17 2013: Obama signs bipartisan deal reached by Congress the day before to end the government shutdown and avoid default.	18 2013: Constitutional Council of France rules that the country’s mayors cannot refuse to officiate at same-sex marriages.	
19 2013: Justice Dept and JP Morgan Chase reach tentative \$13 billion settlement for selling bad mortgage loans to investors.	20 2012: Noam Chomsky visits Gaza for the first time and attends seminar alongside Gazan thinkers and intellectuals.	21 2012: Senator George McGovern died. 2013: French foreign minister summons US ambassador for tapping French phones.	22 2013: Australian Capital Territory is first to legalize same-sex marriage. Australia federal gov. launches legal challenge.	23 2011: Autopsy results reveal that former Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi was killed by a gunshot to the head.	24 2013: Germany summons US ambassador over claims US monitored Chancellor of Germany Angela Merkel’s mobile phone.	25 2011: Tsunami off the coast of Sumatra, Indonesia, kills over 400 people and leaves hundreds missing.	
26 2012: Hurricane Sandy makes landfall in the Bahamas, killing two and causing \$300,000,000 in damage.	27 2009: McDonald is closing it restaurants in Iceland claiming the country’s financial crisis has made them too expensive to operate.	28 2011: Police arrest 75 people outside Oakland City Hall in California while clearing the Occupy Oakland protest campsite.	29 2012: Hurrican Sandy makes landfall in New Jersey--110 deaths, \$50 billion in damage, and the NY Stock Exchange closes.	30 2013: UK’s Privy Council grants a Royal Charter on regulating the British press after the industry loses a last minute injunction.	31 2012: NY Stock Exchange reopens. 2013: The U.S. FAA finally permits limited use of electronic gadgets on planes.	The United States continues to rely on a “global war” doctrine to attempt to justify a borderless war. Amnesty Int’l	