



# Shooting Review Board questions officer's actions

## A close look at the internal investigation of OPD Officer Ryan Donald

Candace Mercer

WIP has conducted an extensive review into documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) relating to the Olympia Police Department's Shooting Review Board internal investigation into Officer Ryan Donald's shooting of brothers Bryson and André Chaplin-Thompson on May 21, 2015. WIP found that members of the Board shared many of the same questions about Donald's use of force that the community has raised. However, due to OPD Use of Force guidelines, Donald was exonerated and returned to service with no written plan for reintroduction. Both Chaplin and Thompson were hospitalized after the shooting, and Chaplin is paralyzed from the waist down, a bullet lodged near his spine. It is not clear if he will walk again.

### Eight days to decide

The Shooting Review Board [SRB, or Board] met on September 21, 2015, and was given a comprehensive 886-page binder with only eight days to examine it before reconvening on September 29, 2015. The Board consisted of three members of the OPD: Deputy Chief Steve Nelson, Lieutenant Aaron Jelcick and Officer Jason Winner, as well as Deputy City Attorney Darren Nienaber and Edward Prince, Executive Director of the Commission of African American Affairs. No other community stakeholders were allowed to participate.

The binder contained documents produced by the investigation into the shooting conducted by the Thurston County Critical Incident Team led by the Thurston County Sheriff's Office [TCSO], including investigators from the Lacey and Tumwater Police Departments. There were witness statements, investigative, forensic and medical reports, transcripts of audio recordings, scene schematics as well as photographs of the scene of the shooting, evidence collected and the men's injuries. There were also excerpts from OPD's use of force guidelines.

All members were given the confidential binder with instructions not to write in it or alter it in anyway. The board was instructed to use a provided notepad to make any notes and was informed that any written

material produced would be retained and become part of the public record.

### Two questions to consider

The Board was tasked with answering two questions. The first was, "Did the force used by Officer Donald adhere to the policies of the Olympia Police Department?" and the second, "Did the actions of Officer Donald precipitate the course of events that ultimately led to the use(s) of force? If so, were those actions reasonable and appropriate?"

### SRB presses Donald for answers

On September 29, 2016, the Board reconvened to visit the site of the shooting. They then heard testimony from OPD Officers Paul Evers and Luke O'Brien, who were on the scene at the time of the shooting, before interviewing Officer Donald.

Notes made by the SRB show they

had questions about Donald's actions. During Donald's testimony "members were afforded the opportunity to ask the officers any questions about the incident, about department policies, and about the involved officer's training and experience" according to the Review Board Memorandum found on the city's website.

Lt. Jelcick had prepared four typewritten pages of questions. It wasn't

Many members expressed concern if it was reasonable for Donald to attempt to detain the suspects without backup and wanted to know if he considered waiting, as the danger to the public was "weak" according to a note made by Chief Nelson. One member wrote there was "no light on the road, black, pitch black," which is contrary to the best practice of conducting such interactions in well-lit areas.

Chief Nelson noted that Donald had not turned on the light bar on his dark black vehicle, nor his emergency lights, which would have both established his authority and made the situation safer for himself, the suspects and any other vehicles coming upon the scene. Chief Nelson's notes read that when Donald was asked if he identified himself he replied, "Not at this time." Another member questioned "How did they know you were police?" There is no answer recorded in their notes.

At this point, Donald was taking cover behind the driver's side door of his

► **SHOOTING**, continued on page 12

## Chief Nelson's notes read that when Donald was asked if he identified himself he replied, "Not at this time." Another member questioned "How did they know you were police?"

clear if all were asked of Donald, but Jelcick made notes of Donald's responses to about a third of the questions, most involving Donald's second contact with the suspects. [See sidebar for an overview including a transcript of Jelcick's handwritten notes on page 12]

# Sacred Stones speak

## In support of Standing Rock and their efforts to protect the water.

Karin Kraft and Aleta DeBee

Hundreds of tribes from the United States and Canada are gathered along the Cannonball River next to the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation in North Dakota. They have come together to stand as one in opposition to the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL). The camp is located on treaty land ceded by the Sioux Nation (Oceti Sakowin, or Seven Council Fires) in 1851 and 1868, at the junction of the Cannonball and Missouri Rivers. The Cannonball empties into Lake Oahe, a portion of the Missouri River extending from near Bismarck, North Dakota, 230 miles south to Pierre, South Dakota. Lake Oahe is the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's primary source of domestic and

irrigation water as well as a source of recreation for the region. The Missouri is in turn the main tributary of the Mississippi River.

Energy Transfer Partners, owner of DAPL, expects to move approximately 500,000 barrels of crude oil per day from the Bakken oil fields of North Dakota

through South Dakota, Iowa and into Illinois. The pipeline contract is worth \$3.8 billion. Present plans call for routing the pipeline under Lake Oahe. This portion of the route was originally planned to cross under the river near Bismarck, the capital of North Dakota, but the mapping was altered to avoid Bismarck. The pipeline reminds Native people of ancient Indigenous prophecies that told of a "black snake" that would cross the land and bring an end to the world.



The swirling water of a whirlpool at the mouth of the Cannonball River shaped river rocks such that the native people called it River that Makes the Sacred Stones, thus the name of the camp where the water protectors converged. Like the whirlpool, this area has been a vortex of human and natural history. Three to four hundred Sioux were massacred by the U.S. Army in 1863 approximately 50 miles east of here in the Whitestone Massacre. In the late 1950s, the Army Corps of Engineers began building the Oahe Dam which altered this portion of the Missouri River and displaced most of the tribal

► **SACRED STONES**, continued on page 10



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](mailto:olywip@gmail.com) or mail to *Works In Progress*, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295.

Governing Tool

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*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](http://www.olywip.org)

WORKERS IN PROGRESS

**Editing:** Emily Lardner, Russ Frizzell, Scott Yoos, Stephanie Frizzell, Sylvia Smith, and Wendy Tanowitz  
**Graphics:** Craig Williams, and WIP staff  
**Layout:** Sylvia Smith  
**Proofreading:** Russ Frizzell, Scott Frizzell, Stephanie Frizzell, and Sylvia Smith  
**Mailings:** Jeff Sowers  
**Finances:** Pat Tassoni  
**Website:** Emily Lardner  
**Distribution:** David Groves, Enrique Quintero, Mike Pelly, Sandia Slaby, Scott Yoos, T. Magster, and room for more!

Submission Deadline

Monday, October 24  
[olywip@gmail.com](mailto:olywip@gmail.com)

Proofreading Meeting

Saturday ♦ October 29 ♦ 1 pm  
Lacey Timberland Library  
(in the group study area)

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On the front cover —

“X does mark the spot”

Graphic Artist: Craig Williams

Plight of inmates in the Thurston County Corrections Facility

Johnathan Stanley

The plight of inmates in the rather newly built Thurston County Corrections facility, which only opened its doors late 2015, is becoming drastic. The inmate overcrowding is a threatening problem that exceeds the purpose for which the jail was constructed; to accommodate the influx of inmates that the previous jail is alleged to have possessed an inadequacy for doing so.

Due to the Thurston County Corrections facility being underfunded and incompletely constructed, there is an insufficient amount of space to properly house inmates, leading to inmates being forced to shoulder the weight of unjust treatment that equates to inmates rights being trampled upon and hammered by a gavel of injustice.

Day after day, night after night inmates are herded three to a cell that is designed and constructed to only house two. The third inmates is resigned to sleeping on a mat on the concrete floor next to the toilet, while being refused the required bed to elevate himself up off of the floor and is often forced to exist under these circumstances for time periods spanning upwards of a month.

Frequently an inmate is known to be violent, mentally ill, physically ill, or in the throes of withdrawal at the time that the inmate is placed in the cell with you. When forced to coexist three to a cell under twenty-two to twenty-three hour-day periods. It is no stretch of the imagination that physical illnesses will be contracted and violence will be given birth in these confined quarters.

On multiple occasions, that are rather frequent, inmates report being assaulted by one or both of their cellmates. Recently a twenty-three-year-

old mentally ill man diagnosed with schizophrenia was violently assaulted by one of his cellmates while housed in a cell with the two other individuals. After suffering through those terrifying moments of assault when this inmate was unsure of whether he should fight, flight, or freeze, the mentally ill

Day after day, night after night inmates are herded three to a cell that is designed and constructed to only house two. The third inmates is resigned to sleeping on a mat on the concrete floor next to the toilet...

individual was then stripped of his cell and then moved into my cell where he occupied the floor for three weeks.

With three confined a cell, contracting physical illnesses from one another is a likelihood that is beyond obvious. Once an inmate contracts a physical illness, whether infectious or not, he is left to recuperate in a cell with two other inmates regardless of these inmates' objections and concerns for their personal health.

In one incident an inmates was placed in a cell with two other individuals after informing medical staff and deputies that he had bronchitis, where immediately afterwards one of his cellmates, last Hill, contracted bronchitis. When inmate Hill informed deputies of his recently contracted illness he was told to “consider it a lesson.”

When any of these individuals inform jail staff of what they are forced to ensure they are responded to with abrasiveness and told to file a grievance. However, when an inmate requests a grievance form he is informed that his issue is non-grievable by deputies that are not qualified to make that judgment or simply seek to protect their

co-workers and employer; the Thurston County Jail/Sheriff's Department.

It is exactly inhumane treatment by those who are sworn to uphold the ethical principles of justice—while remaining accountable to no one—that is the weight of injustice. When those who are sworn to uphold justice pound you with a fist of injustice, then who are you to turn to for justice? The Thurston County Corrections facility, which is responsible for securing and ensuring an inmate's safety and individual rights, is the exact entity that jeopardizes that safety and holds an inmate's individual rights at gun point.

Whether African-American (as I am, Hispanic, Native-American, or white, ensuring that an inmates safety, personal health, and individual rights is a guarantee rather than a privilege in the Thurston County Corrections facility, remains a work in progress...

*Johnathan Stanley was held in the Thurston County Corrections facility until recently.*

Vote For Jill Stein

Work 9 to 5, catch bull at four  
What do I deserve?  
I'm just the working poor  
Do I deserve to vote for someone I cannot respect?  
Or is there an alternative, a third box to check?  
It's not a Republican or Democrat  
And I hate to slander Bernie  
But I really think he should've switched to the Green Party  
Otherwise the party's over  
At least four years before another chance  
And if it turns out to be eight  
I'm moving to France!  
by broKEN

*Kenneth is an Evergreener, a poet (duh)/artist, and is currently spending his eleventh year as a resident of Olympia. He is voting his favorite color (green) and his conscience... while he still has one.*

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# The right thing to do for the community

Ready to vote? General election ballots will start arriving in a few weeks. Be sure to complete your whole ballot and vote YES on Proposition 1, Opportunity for Olympia, by November 8.

Danielle Westbrook

Higher education has become increasingly out of reach for too many of Olympia’s college-bound kids as public college tuition has doubled, and in some cases even tripled, since 1990. That’s likely why a quarter of Olympia’s high school graduates don’t continue on to community or technical college.

Starting in March 2016, campaign volunteers worked tirelessly to collect over 8,000 signatures in support of this ballot measure. “I spoke with many citizens who were in favor of this important initiative. Some were college graduates saddled with huge student loan debt; others were parents struggling to help pay their child’s tuition. In most cases, voters saw what a benefit this college fund grant program would be to Olympia,” said Ray Guerra, volunteer coordinator for Opportunity for Olympia.

Prop 1 will ensure that every future public high school graduate in Olympia has access to at least 1 year of free community college or job training courses at a technical college. Teachers, parents

and students strongly support Yes on Prop 1, including the Olympia Education Association, Washington Education Association, United Faculty of Evergreen and many more.

We believe a college education provides opportunity. It doesn’t just pre-

A college education provides opportunity. It doesn’t just prepare young people for careers – it also creates a better-educated workforce that can attract businesses and better-paying jobs.

pare young people for careers – it also creates a better-educated workforce that can attract businesses and better-paying jobs.

That’s why more than a dozen small businesses in Olympia support Yes on Prop 1 - because it will grow our economy. Trade unions, like the Teamsters and Machinists, also support Yes on Prop 1, because it will provide skills and job training critical to attracting good paying jobs to Olympia.

Prop 1 raises millions of dollars for



Olympia’s college grant fund from a small (1.5%) tax that only applies to the wealthiest 3% of households in Olympia.

Right now, the bottom 97% of households pay more than 11% of their income in taxes. Those at the top pay less than 3.5%. Prop 1 will ensure the wealthiest pay their fair share to support our community’s success. This initiative gives ordinary voters the chance to show that we can grow the economy and create a legacy of opportunity for our kids when the wealthiest 3% start paying their fair share – just like the rest of us.

Proposition 1 also has safeguards – only 5% can go for administrative costs, and the city auditor is required to conduct annual audits to make sure the fund is being used properly.

Proposition 1 is strongly supported by progressive elected leaders, education organizations, and small businesses including: State Representative Sam Hunt, social justice attorney Leslie Owen, Reeves Middle School PTA, Traditions, Olympia Education Association, United Faculty of Evergreen, Deschutes River Cyclery, South Puget Sound Community College Student Council, Washington Federation of State Employees Council 28, Washington Education Association, and many more.

This campaign is opposed by the Koch Brothers’ funded Freedom Foundation and is being watched closely by Tim Eyman.

*Opportunity for Olympia is currently seeking volunteers to help win this election for the citizens of Olympia. For more information, visit [www.opportunityforolympia.com](http://www.opportunityforolympia.com).*

## Swoon's farewell performance

Featuring New Born Babies, Teach Me Equals, and RedRumsey

Oct. 8 @ McCoy's Tavern, \$5

Playback Theatre Performance

### Stories of Where Are We Going?

A global initiative of the Centre for Playback Theatre

Friday, April 8, 7:30 pm  
Traditions Cafe, Olympia

This month we collaborate with The Centre for Playback Theatre - created by Jonathan Fox, the co-founder of Playback Theatre with Jo Salas - supports the ethical and artistic development of Playback Theatre worldwide, thereby promoting healthier, more civically engaged and inclusive communities.

Its mission is uphold to excellence and ethical practice in Playback Theatre around the world as it offers comprehensive international training, serves as an educational resource, and supports practitioners through its network of Accredited Trainers and Affiliate Schools.

A nonprofit 501(c)3 corporation, the Centre for Playback Theatre is committed to combating injustice based on race, gender, sexual orientation, economic status, disability, and religion. Suggested Donation \$7.00-\$12.00 (No one is turned away)

#### Background information about Playback Theatre:

*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.*

## ARAB FESTIVAL — SHURUQ III



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 5-10 PM

ARAB CAFE AT THE OLYMPIA-RAFAH SOLIDARITY MURAL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 11 AM-5 PM

THE OLYMPIA CENTER, 222 COLUMBIA ST. NW

THIS PROGRAM IS SUPPORTED IN PART BY A GRANT FROM THE WASHINGTON STATE ARTS COMMISSION AND THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS.

Rachel Corrie Foundation for Peace and Justice  
203 East Fourth Avenue, Suite 402, Olympia, WA 98501

## Special Events

**Olympia CopWatch**  
Every Thursday, 4 pm  
Traditions Cafe

We collect stories in oral, written, or video formats and use these to compile an on-going document of interactions between the officers of the OPD and the public for whom they are charged to serve and protect.

**OLYMPIA ZINE FEST 2016!**  
September 30 - October 2, 2016

Olympia Zine Fest is a celebration of zines and DIY culture in Olympia

#### FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

**Friday, September 30, 7pm**  
Olympia Timberland Library  
313 8th Ave. SE, Olympia

Olympia Zine Fest Kick-Off with guest of honor Osa Atoe! It's an all-ages punk show featuring bands whose members also make zines. The bands: Spider and the Webs; Dr. Identity; and VOG.

**Saturday, October 1, 11am to 5pm**  
Olympia Center  
222 Columbia St. NW

Tabling Expo with 70 zine-makers, distros and libraries on-site who will be sharing, trading and selling their work.

Teaching with Zines - a workshop for educators & youth advocates, facilitated by Greg Hatcher and Cathy Camper, 2 to 3:30pm

**Sunday, October 2nd, 11am to 5pm**

Workshop Day at Obsidian (414 4th Ave. E) and the Mixx 96 Meeting Room (119 Washington St).

**Second Saturdays Chalk The Police**

**Saturday, October 8, 6 PM**  
**Olympia Police Department**  
**601 4th Ave E, Olympia**

This event will occur every second saturday of the month.. No permits will be sought or discussed, its a public sidewalk. The purpose of this action is to create a visible and accessible monthly public event for calling out law enforcement for terrorism. The names of persons murdered and victimized by law enforcement written on the sidewalk in chalk will serve as a temporary vigil and monthly reminder of what happens when the racist police state continues to exist.

**Arts Walk Halloweenish Dance Oly Dance House Party**  
**Saturday, October 8 at 10 PM - 2 AM**  
**The PineApple Upside Down House**  
**821 Thomas St SW, Olympia**

10:00pm - 11:00pm: DJ Lady Hawk

11:00pm - Midnight: Recording of the Dance Oly Dance House Party episode

Midnight - 12:30am: Doctor Sleep

12:30am - 1:15am: Dove Boy

1:15am - 2:00am: More DJ's and/or live music performer(s).

Special appearance by the Olympia community UFO.

**Bryson and André Chaplin-Thompsons' trial begins**  
**Tuesday, October 11**  
**Thurston County Courthouse**  
**2000 Lakeview Dr SW, Olympia**

The Chaplin-Thompson family has requested that the community support them by showing up at court. Seating is limited, but overflow crowds will be accommodated in another room with a live feed. Check the Courthouse schedule for more information.

**TIME TO GET I-873 ON THE BALLOT RALLY**  
**Thursday, October 20 at 1 PM - 4 PM**  
**Washington State Capitol**  
**416 Sid Snyder Ave SW, Olympia**

Please join many victims families of police brutality in Washington. These families are taking a stand together to demand that no more citizens in Washington be killed while unarmed by police officers who don't respect the badge, their partners or the people they are suppose to serve and protect.

We will also be signing a new family charter and speak loud as one voice whom to endorse in our upcoming election.



# Vote Jill, not Hill[ary]!

## Make your vote count in Washington State

Chris Stegman

I was inspired by Ralph Nader’s Green Party bid in 2000. He talked openly about the two-party “duopoly” and how corporations controlled the policies of both major parties from the top down and, not infrequently, from the bottom up. When I read the Green Party’s website for the first time in December 1999, I realized that my values had evolved to the point that I felt in alignment with the Green Party. So I joined and became a local organizer, focusing on the Nader campaign. He was generating excitement with tens of thousands attending his rallies. In the end he got 2.7% of the popular vote (around 3 million) and we (the Green Party) were blamed for Gore’s presumed loss in Florida (actually, when all the votes were finally counted, Gore had won). People should not have a choice, they said, in who they vote for. We were labeled ‘spoilers’ for getting in the way of their sham democracy.

When I was in the Green Party from 2000-2008 I learned firsthand why Ralph Nader called our political system a “duopoly”. It’s basically a closed system where the two parties share the power and don’t let anyone in to disturb that power. Our political system is completely rigged against any competitive ‘bidders’. We live in a two party dictatorship. No outsiders will be allowed to threaten their mutual hold on power. Political power can become intoxicating! Most politicians are addicted to this system and feed off of it throughout their careers in politics.

It would be quite possible to switch to a voting system like Instant Runoff Voting that allows three or more viable parties, but the Ds and the Rs will not hear of it. They would rather lose elections through “spoiling” than allow a third party to live.

Bernie Sanders learned the power structure early on in his career and determined not to challenge it. That is the main reason he decided to run in the Democratic primary. That’s also the main reason he endorsed Hilary Clinton against Donald Trump after he was defeated by the DNC’s ‘dirty tricks’ (Wikileaks!) and the mainstream media (Super Delegates count!). And why he refused to even consider Jill Stein’s offer to become the Green Party presidential candidate once he ‘lost’ the DP primary.

### Being a lifelong independent leftist/socialist

Since my early 20s (I’m 65 now) I had never even considered joining the Democratic Party (DP) until Bernie decided to run against Hilary. I joined the local Bernie campaign, became a Precinct Committee Officer in the Democratic Party and made it thru the state party convention as a Bernie delegate. The whole process, from organizing the precinct caucuses, to the Legislative and Congressional caucuses, county convention and state convention were, for me, maddening, demoralizing and highly frustrating experiences. They felt like exercises in futility, disorganized, dysfunctional and with very little time left at the end for any meaningful discussion, debate or genuine dialogue on the issues that confront us all.

In spite of all that, Bernie’s call for

a “political revolution” galvanized the support of millions during the primary process, especially millennials and Gen X’ers, but also a lot of older folks, especially Boomers like myself, who had long been aware of our corrupt corporate



dominated two party system.

And make no mistake about it the Democratic primary was heavily rigged in Clinton’s favor—from use of ‘unpledged’ Super Delegates by the mainstream media to bolster Clinton’s “lead”, to the closed primaries, wasted provisional ballots, exclusion of independent voters and younger voters, burdensome state

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party registration rules (different in each state), drastic reduction of polling sites, as well as documented evidence of voting machines that were rigged to ‘flip’ votes to the other candidate and outcomes that were in wide variance from the exit polls which are touted as the standard used to verify clean elections.

And in spite of it all, Bernie still won the primaries in 22 states with around 13 million voters casting their ballots for him. He garnered 46% of the pledged delegates.

As shown in a recent report by a group called Election Justice USA, there was clear and direct election fraud in up to 11 states, which were crucial for Hilary’s victory. Their report indicates that had the elections been conducted fairly and democratically Bernie would have won an additional 184 pledged delegates—putting him in the *lead* going into the Democratic National Convention: 2070 for Sanders to 2021 for Clinton. That would have been a game-changer,

forcing the Super Delegates to vote for the winner of the popular vote or be seen as the establishment backers that they (mostly) were.

Deplorable M #KGB @MalyndaNyc  
Tweet to Bernie Sanders July 13<sup>th</sup>  
8:05am

We didnt donate \$230M to vote for a warmonger with 4 superPACs  
Scam charity  
\$150M speeches  
who sabotaged your campaign

But it was not to be. On July 12, two weeks before the start of the contested Democratic National Convention, and true to his word, Bernie officially threw in the towel and endorsed Hilary as the party’s nominee, which caused immediate consternation and demoralization amongst his supporters. This led to a major split in his movement with the majority of his supporters either leaving the movement or going over to the Green Party to help with the Jill Stein campaign with the remainder following Bernie’s lead in supporting Clinton against Trump.

Jill had invited Bernie to consider joining her at the TOP of the Green Party ticket but he never so much as returned her calls. So Berners began in mass to ‘DemExit’ (leave the Democratic Party) and join Jill’s side. She was seen as the continuity of the ‘political revolution’ that Bernie had advocated. Many millions felt betrayed by Bernie from that moment on.

Jill’s popularity on social media went through the roof in the weeks that led up to the Philly convention—with social media hits up over 1000%

and with ‘Bernie or Bust’ers contributing \$500,000 (\$1 million including federal matching funds) to Jill’s campaign that same week. Thousands switched over and helped Jill get on the ballot in pending states. She went from being on the ballot in 23 states in mid-July to 47 states by early September with another three—Kentucky, Nevada and

North Carolina—having disqualified her with burdensome legalistic maneuvers by Democratic operatives.

Meanwhile, the nationwide effort to build support for the Jill Stein/Amaju Baraka campaign bodes well for the short-term growth of the Green Party. Whether this growth spurt will carry over into the next period, lead to greater diversity in the party rank and file or lead to more GP candidates running for office in the near term is uncertain but likely.

In any case, chances are better than at any time in the GP’s history to influence millions of voters in the direction of forging an alternative politics to the two-party system. And Jill is firmly rooted in the party whereas Nader was not beyond the election of 2000. She will provide leadership to the national party for years to come and a new, more diverse, leadership will emerge.

The Green Party passed a resolution for the first time at this year’s convention declaring itself “eco-socialist” which

## A brief overview of the Green Party of the United States

The Green Party in the United States is now in its fourth decade. Founded in 1984, the party has run a national ticket in every presidential election since 1996. In 2000, Green nominee Ralph Nader received nearly three million votes; in 2012, Jill Stein received the most votes for a woman in a presidential election in U.S. history. Currently we have 130+ elected officials across the United States — and over 1,000 Greens have been elected since our party’s founding. At least 137 Greens in 16 states currently hold elected office in the United States. For featured candidates go to [http://www.gp.org/featured\\_candidates](http://www.gp.org/featured_candidates)

The Green Party runs hundreds of candidates across the country during each election cycle. These candidates are directly challenging the political power structure and bringing important issues to the table that are too often ignored by the candidates of the major parties. They also get our name out in their communities, provide a focus for local Green groups, and attract new people to join the Party.

While most elected Greens are working at the municipal and county level and don’t get a lot of publicity, the changes they are making are very real. With the help of people around the country who are ready for real change, as well as with electoral reform that creates a more level playing field for multiple parties, we’ll be electing more people to higher offices in the future.

-- www.gp.org

should help with an effort to work more closely with groups like Socialist Alternative.

Kashama Sawant of Socialist Alternative, and the first elected Socialist to the Seattle City Council in over 100 years, is endorsing Jill Stein’s campaign and is pushing to build the movements that could lead to a mass based independent anti-capitalist “party of the 99%” to challenge the two-party dictatorship and to challenge the coming reign of Hilary Clinton.

When the Green Party’s percentage at the ballot box reaches 35% or 40%, the Ds and Rs will be forced to get on board with a better voting system, one that does not cancel out all the votes for the party that comes in third. But that’s not likely to happen until one of THEM will be the one coming in third.

To get involved with the local Green Party of South Puget Sound’s Jill Stein campaign, go to [www.gp-sps.org](http://www.gp-sps.org) and join us! Also, please join our local (public) Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/groups/gpsps](http://www.facebook.com/groups/gpsps). We have monthly meetings and our members are involved in and supportive of a number of issues based campaigns. Our focus thru November 7, 2016, will be on getting out the vote for Jill Stein. We are the party that is dedicated to political, social, environmental and racial justice. Join us!

Chris Stegman is a long-time member of the local Green Party.

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## Centralia Square Antique Mall

Antiques ▪ Restaurant ▪ Hotel

Directions from Olympia  
South on Interstate 5  
Off at Exit 82 (Factory Outlets)  
East on Harrison  
Right on Pearl  
201 S Pearl & Locust

