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Serving the Olympia community and the cause of social justice since 1990.

February 2019

Crossing (out) the divide A visit to rural Thurston County

Bethany Weidner

Since 2000 there's been the notion that there are red states and blue states. People in red states—mostly inland and southern—are said to be the sort who never saw a regulation they liked, refer to undocumented residents as illegal aliens and shout "USA, USA" at Trump rallies. On the other hand, the view of people in blue states—mostly coastal and northern—is that they would offer excuses for anyone who doesn't have a job, are always ready to pay higher taxes, and tune in every night to comedy shows making fun of Donald Trump.

The motivation to get away from those characterizations is limited—we're all victims of a news media determined to promote these clichés, including Fox News (the hard sell) and NPR (the soft sell). Election results seem to corroborate the idea of a nation split between more rural and conservative "red" parts of the country that vote Republican, and more liberal urban "blue" areas that vote Democratic. Check the color-coded maps of the midterms and you'll see a big swath of red covering the middle of the country, bordered by blue on the West Coast and Northeast. This is similar to our state where almost the whole of Eastern Washington down to the Columbia River votes Republican, while a strip of western counties along the water vote Democratic.

But the two-party system seems like a pretty blunt instrument to use as a measure of anything.

Maybe the clichés distort reality. Do these voting patterns really tell us something useful about who we are?

I decided to visit a rural part of Thurston County with this question in mind. In the recent election for County Commissioner, Bud Blake, the incumbent running as an independent with Republican endorsements, got 70% of the vote in Rochester's 5 precincts, as compared to Tye Menser 30%, running as a Democrat. It was almost exactly the reverse in Olympia's precincts. Menser got 71% of the vote and Blake 29%.

In addition to party orientation, the candidates were subject to some other red/blue preconceptions. Blake was raised in the South, retired from an Army career and is clean-shaven. Menser, on the other hand, graduated from Harvard, worked as a public defender, and has a beard. Mind you, Blake is fluent in Russian, and Menser plays bluegrass guitar – but never mind that.

Rochester is an unincorporated town about 20 miles south of Olympia. I talked in mid-January with Kellie McNelly about the town as she knows it. McNelly has been executive director of ROOF (Rochester Organization of Families) for 20 years. With an annual budget of \$300,000, ROOF runs a food bank, after-school tutoring classes for 50 kids, an ESL program for adults and a summer camp among other programs.

The town feels far from any urban core, though many people who live there drive into Centralia and Olympia for work. The biggest local employers are the school district and Great Wolf Lodge, run by the Chehalis Tribe. Briarwood Farms is a chicken processing and egg operation that employs many of the Hispanic people who live in the community. There are several small farms that are part of the movement to grow organic produce, along with more traditional dairies. Providence Hospital has a clinic in town, but there's no hospital.

There is little interest in incorporating. With a population of about 2500, the town lacks the tax base to allow for self-sufficiency. There is little infrastructure that a municipality would

be responsible for: homes are on wells and septic system, not on municipal water or sewer. This means there are no apartment buildings—a couple of private companies operate well-water utilities that serve multiple homes.

the two-party system seems like a pretty blunt instrument to use as a measure of anything.

Roads are the responsibility of the county, police protection the task of the sheriff.

County land-use regulations and building codes appear hardly less complex than those that apply to Olympia residents—and in some cases, more so. Property-owners in Rochester and elsewhere were infuriated with the county in 2014 when the feds declared the Mazama pocket gophers a protected species. People suddenly discovered that, before they could get a permit to build almost anything, they were subject to convoluted and time-consuming inspections and expenses based on the presence of "protected critical habitat." More recent irritation arose when the county was newly

tasked to determine the presence of sufficient water before new permit-exempt wells could be drilled.

Action by government can be welcome. The state and county stepped in in 2007 when the Chehalis River flooded and caused more than \$3 million in damage to 165 homes in Rochester and threatened people's lives. They have continued since then to collaborate with other jurisdictions on projects to minimize the consequences of future flooding. In the fall of 2017, a 385-acre fire started in a residential area destroying and damaging homes and other structures in Rochester and burning a third of the Scatter Creek Wildlife Area. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife manages that area and is implementing a restoration plan.

Rochester is not immune to other conditions we associate with urban life. There is a drug problem, mainly evidenced by the presence of discarded syringes. There are homeless, though not visible in tents. In this rural area, they occupy RVs, campers, or squat in abandoned outbuildings. There is poverty perhaps hinted at by the number of recent house fires associated with wood-burning stoves. Briarwood Farms was accused by animal activists of keeping its chickens in abusive conditions. There is no public transportation, and a seemingly high incidence

► **Rural Thurston**, cont. on page 6

Where's the water? The League of Women Voters of Thurston County wants you to know!

Esther Kronenberg

Imagine a container with a paper coffee filter inserted at the top. Say the filter represents the bed of a stream and the water you pour into the container is rain adding to groundwater. You can pour almost a full glass of water before you'll reach the level of the filter.

The same relationship exists between rain, groundwater and streamflow. Unless the aquifer—the groundwater—is at a healthy level, streams can diminish to a trickle or even dry up. And even though the South Sound often seems to be a watery paradise, our streams are in danger of going dry.

That's why the League of Women Voters of Thurston County, together with The Olympian, is presenting a series of public forums on water policy concerns in Thurston County. The series is entitled "Where's the Water?" The information derived in the forums will contribute to an update of the

League's 2008 study, *Thurston County Water Realities in Relation to Planned Development*.

A new life for the Nisqually

The inaugural forum on February 5 will feature Kevin Hansen, hydrogeologist for Thurston County, speaking about the relationship of ground water to streamflows and David Troutt, Natural Resources Director for the Nisqually Indian Tribe, who will speak about the Nisqually River and Estuary and the proposal to create a causeway where I-5 now crosses the Nisqually to allow it to flow unimpeded to Puget Sound. A recent editorial in *The Olympian* supported this proposal (see link below). The inaugural forum will be followed by four meetings to explore specific water issues facing the county.

A court decision provokes a legislative response

Rural development was shut down when the State Supreme Court is-

sued a decision ("Hirst") that required counties to ensure the presence of sufficient water before issuing permits for new exempt wells.

The legislature responded with a law (ESSB 6091) that allowed developers to continue to drill exempt wells while counties developed plans for designated "Water Resource Inventory Areas" (WRIAs) to offset the impacts of such wells.

Limited supply, unlimited demand

Maia Bellon of the Department of Ecology will describe the Hirst decision and its ramifications, and Marc Daily, Executive Director of Thurston Regional Planning Council, will discuss how the new law affects development in Thurston County.

As can be seen in the analogy that begins this article, many wells pulling water from the same area can keep

► **Where?** continued on page 10

Works In Progress

Works in Progress (WIP) is a community newspaper based in Olympia, Washington and published monthly. The paper was established by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition which published the first issue in May 1990.

Our mission. The aim of WIP is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on justice in the economic, political, environmental and social realms and across classes, races and genders.

How WIP is produced. WIP depends on a volunteer managing editor, supported by the Publishing Committee, to see to the accomplishment of nearly all organizational, administrative and editorial tasks.

How WIP is supported. First and foremost, WIP depends for survival on the contributions and participation of writers, activists, students, organizers, and other members of the community, broadly defined. We also receive support from the Workers' Defense Fund whose purpose is to strengthen organizations that engage in struggle against the powerful for the empowerment of the powerless.

Guidelines for writing for WIP. Our priority is to focus on stories that are ignored or misrepresented in the mainstream media, especially those that relate directly to our mission.

To this end, we seek well-researched news stories, serious analyses of issues confronting our communities and accounts of personal experiences or reflections by local writers. We also consider poetry, graphics, cartoons and articles that challenge the boundaries of conventional journalism.

Submitting your writing: Send an email to olywip@gmail.com with the word SUBMISSION on the subject line. Attach your submission as a word document. Include your name, a brief bio and contact information. WIP volunteer editors will contact you if there is significant editing needed. Send pictures etc as attachments. Pictures should be high resolution with dimensions in relation to the content. Generally 300 pixels is one inch.

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Advertising. Rates are approximately \$10 per column inch, with set rates for standard sizes. Discounts may be available for long-term ads, for nonprofits and for micro businesses.

Subscription rates. Annual subscription is \$35/year. Purchase one for yourself or an incarcerated person mailed first class each month.

Contact WIP. Online at olywip@gmail.com. or via snail mail to: *Works in Progress*, P.O. Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507.

Submission deadline next issue
Sunday, February 17
olywip@gmail.com

Proofreading Meeting
Sunday, February 24, 1pm
Buck's Fifth Avenue, upstairs

On the cover: collage
by Kelly Miller.



An invitation to join the WIP team: become a WIPster!

Want to get your name in the paper? There's an easy way: contribute to Works in Progress! There are lots of ways, big or small, we need them all. (Even poetry is welcome, you see.) Since Works in Progress (WIP) is a free, all-volunteer community newspaper with a mission to publish news that is ignored or misrepresented, we rely on submissions from you, as well as articles we solicit.

Just now, WIP is looking for help in a number of areas. Writing, of course, is the big one. If you look at the column on the left side of this page, you'll see what our publishing mission is and how to submit your writing, along with some indications of the kind of writing we hope for. We also need people to help with the myriad tasks that don't involve writing.

You could sign up for a job, either “on-call” or as a regular part of the team:

- we are in serious need of graphics, photographs & doodles
- we're always in the market for poetry
- if you are adept at Photoshop, we need you
- have an idea for the cover? Tell us. it needs to print at 7.5 x 8"
- we need detail-oriented proofreaders—one Sunday a month—willing to learn
- take responsibility for our regular feature - “then this happened”
- contact us about doing a book review
- liaison with an advertiser - bring in a new advertiser
- distribute the paper or hand it out to groups you're part of.

WIP is just about the last print medium standing in Thurston County and surrounding area. We print and distribute 3000 copies every month, and post the paper on line at olywip.org. (We're working on a major upgrade of that website.)

We can help you edit your work—especially if you send it in timely. Deadline is the Sunday before the last Sunday each month. If you're an experienced editor, we need those, too. Not just copy-editing, but serious good old-fashioned structural work.

If you're interested and want to find out more, email us at olywip@gmail.com with a little bit about yourself, your skills, your interests. Or write us a letter and send it to WIP, PO Box 295, Olympia 98507.

Bethany Weidner, Managing Editor

And then this happened...

In September of last year, President Trump made a major policy address to the United Nations assembly. He offered assurances to other countries that they need not fear interference from his Administration in their internal affairs:

“...America will always choose independence and cooperation over global governance, control, and domination. I honor the right of every nation in this room to pursue its own customs, beliefs, and traditions. The United States will not tell you how to live or work or worship.”

And then—oops, at the end of this very speech, Trump abandoned the policy:

“Not long ago, Venezuela was one of the richest countries on Earth. Today, socialism has bankrupted the oil-rich

Theme for this issue:

For February, we invited stories that might speak to the idea of a rural/urban divide. So we have a visit to Rochester, a look at water which of course knows no real boundaries, checking in on the “rural” side of the moon, an idea of how jobs and the environment can be compatible in Grays Harbor County, a reminder that indigenous tribes who never ceded the title to their remote areas are threatened by fossil fuel zealots, and a report on how a small town in Oregon stepped up to fix a problem.

Theme for March:

Justice in all its dimensions. The multi-faceted and omni-present criminal justice system is the most concrete and consequential manifestation of what justice means in material terms in the US.

Yet concepts of justice float in and out of political consciousness in many ways. At a national level we are witness to ongoing debates about procedural justice: who has to follow what set of rules, and why, and when don't they apply?

Debates about whether to sharply increase tax rates on earnings of over ten million dollars, or to tax capital gains in the same way that income might be taxed, rest on beliefs about justice—about whether we as a state or country have an obligation to ensure, as Martha Nussbaum puts it, a threshold of real opportunity to all citizens.



Justice threads its way through debates about how we respond to climate change—whose problem is it when the level of the sea rises? Weigh in with your ideas and stories. The deadline for the March issue is February 17.

Upcoming themes

April: the food issue! Production, consumption, transformation.

May: International Workers' Day and the evolution of work.

Special events

Mutual Aid Mondays

Mondays beginning Feb 4, 7 pm at the Billy Frank lot.
Hosted by OlySol, JustHousing and Olympia IWW.

Promoting Peace in Palestine: BDS and Alternatives

Mon., Feb 4, 4-5:30, Purce Lecture Hall 4 at The Evergreen State College.
Dr. Cary Nelson has edited books that analyze and contextualize the challenges that face Israelis, Palestinians, their neighbors, and activists in Europe and the US.
Semicircle reading group
Wed., Feb 6 and Feb 20.

Last Word Books on Cherry St.
Listen to local writers share their creative and/or personal work - public intimacy from text to speech. More information: email: olysemicircle@gmail.com

Winona LaDuke speaks on Honor the Earth and White Earth Land Recovery Project

Thurs., Feb 7, 7:30 pm, South Puget Sound Community College,
Tickets@OlyTix.org or call 360-753-8586.
For information: spsc.eduALSeries

Six Workshops on Nonviolent Organizing

Saturdays beginning Feb 9, 10 am - noon.
Glen Anderson. For details go to www.parallaxperspectives.org or contact Glen at glenanderson@integra.net

South Sound Sierra Club

Wed., Feb 13 at 6:00 pm. At the Mekong Restaurant,
for information about topics: <https://www.sierraclub.org/washington/south-sound-group>

Medicare for all barnstorm

Wed., Feb 13, 6:30 pm, WSLC Labor Temple.
Barnstorming - an energizing, mass organizing rally where you learn how to get involved in the movement to make Medicare for All a reality. This event is part of a National Medicare for All Week of Action being organized by National Nurses United and Our Revolution. Co-hosted locally by Our Revolution Thurston, South Sound Democratic Socialists, Green Party of South Puget Sound, and 22nd Legislative District Democrats. See medicare4all.org for more info and local contact.

Lobby Day 2019

Mon., Feb 18, 10 am - 3 pm. Meet at Washington State Labor Council, 906 Columbia St. SW.
Head to the state capitol to spend the day advocating for issues you care about including healthcare, criminal justice reform, housing reform justice and immigrant rights. Register at: <https://wcan.washingtoncan.org/civicism/event>

Oceania Rising: Peace Pivot to the Pacific

Tues., Feb 19, 7-9 pm, Purce Hall 1, TESC.
Three Indigenous women organizers from Okinawa, Guam, and Hawai'i will discuss the growing movements against US military bases on Indigenous lands, and for a demilitarized, nuclear-free, and independent Pacific.

Following the Whale's Tail: An Icon in Danger

Thurs., Feb 21 7-08:30 pm, at WET Science Center.
Cindy Hansen of Orca Network. Learn about our local orcas and how you can help save them. The Estuary's Discovery Speaker Series is a free event in partnership with LOTT's WET Science Center. For information: SSEAcenter.org/DSS

WCLM presents Rosa Clemente, organizer & political commentator

Wed, Feb 27, 11:30-1 pm, Lecture Hall 1, The Evergreen State College.Thu., Feb 28, 3-5 pm, workshop, Longhouse, TESC

The Women of Color in Leadership Movement along with TESC, the Willi Unsoeld family, Media Island KOWA and the City of Olympia is proud to bring this amazing journalist, activist, and scholar to our community. Come and gain knowledge for centering and supporting leadership by women of color.. Details at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/3478468693907591>

For a comprehensive listing of events and activities of interest to the South Sound's politically active community and friends, go to the Community Calendar at LocalMotive.org. For WIP listings visit our FB page.

►Special, continued on page 12

Chris Carson was an expert grassroots organizer

by Glen Anderson

Chris Carson died January 6 at St. Peter Hospital.

Without being an elected official, a business owner, a public entertainer, or any of the other roles that give a person official prominence and power, Chris Carson was one of Olympia's most influential persons. She achieved powerful influence because she was an expert grassroots organizer who was grounded in nonviolence and connected with everybody and inspired everybody to take positive actions.

Chris Carson was ubiquitous. She was everywhere. She attended many organizations' meetings—sometimes briefly so she could attend other meetings occurring elsewhere at the same time.

She "connected the dots" between issues. She practiced the "connect-the-dots" strategy that people now call "intersectionality." She connected the movements for peace, women's rights, economic justice, progressive politics, the climate, prisoners' right to read books, and many, many other issues.

Besides connecting these on an issue-to-issue basis, she also connected these issues on a people-to-people basis throughout our community. She was always organizing strategically smart and creative ways for people to learn and take action. She accomplished much public outreach and education by organizing film showings, musical performances, social gatherings, big events and small conversations.

She did all of this without owning a computer at home, and without a reliable phone answering machine. She was most effective organizing the old-fashioned way, person-to-person, face-to-face.

Chris had her own unique voice. She was not shy about offering insights, experiences, suggestions for effective actions, and encouragements for



Chris, left, classically connecting with women in local government. Photo by Tracey Carlos

how other people could help support grassroots efforts on important issues. Her suggestions and encouragements often were strategically useful for strengthening local interpersonal and community-based connections and empowerment that are absolutely necessary for achieving effective political and social progress.

She did not bog down in academic or technical knowledge. She knew that what we need most are empowerment and strategies for organizing so we can accomplish effective actions.

Chris always saw the big picture, and she also saw the importance of paying attention to small details that would make an event bigger and more effective.

In the same way, besides working on big issues and big events, Chris also valued each individual person. Face-to-face conversations were important. During our memorial event on Monday January 14 at Capitol Theater, one of the speakers asked audience members to raise their hands if they had given Chris a ride home, and about a hundred hands shot up. Very often after driving Chris home, she would engage her drivers in long conversations

in their cars in front of her house. She was practicing one-to-one organizing there too.

Many people at that memorial event at Capitol Theater expressed apprecia-

tion for Chris's positive attitude, the twinkle in her eye, and so forth. Her personal demeanor and organizing strategies were always based in a profound grounding in nonviolence. Nonviolence is not only the goal we seek for our local community, nation and world, but profound nonviolence also is crucial for how to organize successfully to achieve our goals.

Although limited in health and finances, Chris was generous in many ways: with her time and energy, with bringing food for potlucks, and in her generosity of spirit for other persons. For Chris, it was more important to prioritize doing good work rather than meet her own needs, including her own health.

Anyone wanting to do good work in the world could learn much and be inspired deeply by Chris Carson as a role model.

Glen Anderson has vigorously organized in Olympia for many issues related to peace, social justice, and economics since 1975, and worked closely with Chris Carson on many issues and activities for most of that time.

Energizing labor and environmentalists A Green New Deal for rural economies

Linda Orgel

"People talk often about the infrastructure investment that has to happen.... but there's also an industrial plan that needs to happen to build entirely new industries. It's sort of like the moonshot. When JFK said America was going to go to the moon, none of the things we needed to get to the moon at that point existed. But we tried and we did it. The Green New Deal touches everything—it's basically a massive system upgrade for the economy."—Saikat Chakrabarti, Chief of Staff to Rep. Octavio-Cortez.

Recently, Representative Derek Kilmer, 6th Congressional District, met with regional representatives of federal agencies, state agencies and private groups, along with Grays Harbor County government leaders, businesses, and individuals, to discuss economic development in the County. It got me wondering whether there were any representatives from labor unions or environmental groups, both active in the area. Perhaps there were, but I'm doubtful. Economic development discussions often exclude these groups.

Who sees that we need resources for the future as well as the present

There is a clear explanation for isolating those two groups. Conventional opinion is that union and environmental activities burden a company's profits. In reality, such activities are essential to economic growth over time. Both the labor and the environmental movements grew out of the same seed: the desire for safe and healthy workplaces and communities.

Historically, the labor movement in America was created in an effort to protect people at work from abuses such as long hours and unsafe working conditions. The emergence of unions reflected the fact that working people needed economic and legal protection from exploiting employers.

Correcting problems in the 60s promoted growth in the 70s
Workplaces of the mid-twentieth cen-

tury faced multiple environmental problems, with pollution, toxic emissions, and unsafe plant conditions. Employers provided no information about health hazards or even what hazards existed. Factory owners and industrialists resisted efforts to improve conditions on the basis that if they ensured decent working conditions, it would reduce their profits.

The environmental movement emerged to address additional harms. Environmental concerns focused on clean water supply, more efficient removal of raw sewage, and reduction of crowded and unsanitary living conditions. The industries responsible for much of the water and air pollution balked at efforts to reduce toxic emissions solely because it would add to their costs. They simply ignored harmful and dangerous effects on human and animal populations.


Labor and environmental groups share goals

During the 1970s, unions and environmentalists came together to fight for a safer, greener world, including at the workplace. The President of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union (OCAW) stated at that time, "Organized Labor must emphatically support environmental efforts and must never get into the position of opposing such efforts on the grounds of economic hardship. Our position must be that nearly all polluting facilities can be corrected without hardships to the workers, and that in those few cases where corrections are not possible new job opportunities or compensation must be provided for the workers."

The International Woodworkers of America supported wilderness preservation to give its members a place to rejuvenate in their free time, while green organizations assisted the union in trying to clean up toxic workplaces that threatened its members' health.

It is not a coincidence that so many laws passed to protect our communities
► **Energizing**, continued on page 5

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Top down educational reforms impoverish our schools, our teachers, our communities

Sarah Ringler

Teachers are stressed. A recent survey in British Columbia found that two-thirds of teachers felt “stressed and emotionally exhausted all, or most of the time.” In the United Kingdom, 86% of teachers reported increased workplace stress. In the United States, 40% of teachers quit teaching within five years, leaving schools with inexperienced teachers who often are assigned to teach the most challenging and vulnerable students.

It’s not the kids.

Most people become teachers because they want to make a difference in children’s lives. Educating students in a well-structured and supportive school is a positive experience for all. Evidence from a Northwest Evaluation Association survey in 2014 found 90% of students believe their teachers care about their learning.

What about top down education “reform?”

Could it be the degradation, commercialization and devaluation of public education caused by top down educational reform—driven by greed and the false measure of standardized test scores? Teachers at a conference I just returned from think so. Over 200 union educators came from all over Canada, Mexico and the United States as well as Great Britain, Ecuador, Belize, Argentina and Puerto Rico. They had in common a frustration with “educational reform” as described above. They came to the conference with their research and experiences in hopes of coming up with ways to work together to defend public education.

The XIII Tri-National Conference in the Defense of Public Education took place in the mountain town of Orizaba, Veracruz, Mexico. Historically, the town is notable for the Rio Blanco Strike, seen as a main event leading to the Mexican Revolution. On January 7, 1907, striking textile workers battled with mounted police and Federal troops leaving seventy strikers dead and hundreds injured. Stories and photographs of dead workers circulated around Mexico and stirred up revulsion against Porfirio Diaz’s corrupt regime.

Before the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) went into effect, education union organizers from Canada, Mexico and the United States learned of a plan for an “education common market” that would support NAFTA’s economic integration by creating a “North American identity.” One of those organizers, Dan Leahy, Director of the Evergreen Labor Education Center in Olympia, Washington, convened a conference on “The Future of Public Education in North America” in January of 1993. The conference was attended by over 200 education union delegates from the three countries.

Many of them came together again in Mexico City in February of 1995—one year after NAFTA was signed—to form the Tri-National Coalition in Defense of Public Education. Since that time, every two to three years, the Tri-National Coalition meets to dissect and analyze the effects of NAFTA and its neoliberal policies on public education. .

Policies and practices that erode respect

Teachers no longer feel respected. A British Columbia Teachers’ Federation survey of 38,000 teachers from 2017 found that 92% felt disrespected by their government, 72% by the media and 72% by their own district-level administration. The disrespect comes from the lack of meaningful professional support, not enough time for peer collaboration, inadequate preparation time, insufficient student services, bureaucratic requirements that have little to do with educating, poor working conditions, lack of access to resources and, pointedly, school reform that comes from above, not out of teacher or student needs.

Using test scores to sort and eliminate students, teachers and schools

Disingenuous school reforms from outside the classroom lead to the degradation of public education. Standardized tests that treat students like they are all the same disregard individual, community and cultural differences. I taught second language students who took the same tests and were evaluated as if they were the same as native speakers with college-educated parents.

The United Kingdom in 2001 decided to turn some public schools into academies based on “low test scores.” Parents, seen as consumers, were offered the “illusion of choice and the fetish of quality” according to Louise Regan, President of the National Education Union. Financial incentives encouraged them to enroll their children in the academies. Today, 47% of UK students attend these academies with no democratic oversight. Students who don’t do well are “off rolled,” removed from attendance rosters like they no longer exist.

Poor test scores are also used as an excuse to cut services. In Chicago, officials are closing schools, and presiding over a system with greater segregation than before Brown v Board of Education, the landmark Supreme Court ruling that outlawed separate public schools for White and Black students. The solution in Chicago was “Turn Around Schools.” They either changed the principal, changed the entire staff, or closed the school. School closings can have a dire effect on communities when students have to travel farther away from their homes to, in some cases, more dangerous areas.

Along with tests, replacing teachers with technology

A major component of top down school reform is the belief in technology as the savior of education. Closing schools, cutting staff and programs and reducing teacher autonomy, is accompanied by the myth that technology will make up the difference. In a small high school in the outskirts Orizaba, the myth is all there is. As part of the conference, we visited local schools around the area.

We took a twenty-minute drive to El Encinar, a Distance Learning TeleHigh School that offers a “Telebachillerato de Veracruz,” a TV diploma. There are over 1,000 TV schools in the Mexican state of Veracruz. They are supposed to reach the poorest students and by delivering teaching via satellite with “scripted learning” guided by teachers on site. This school had one television for 130 students. Most of the school’s six classrooms had only desks, a table and a white board. The school was not free; parents paid \$70 and a materials fee each semester. The teachers there are the lowest paid in the state.

El Encinar teacher Enrique Reyes was lucid. “Greed knows no limits. Teachers are kept busy and in a constant crisis mode that deters organizing. It

started in Mexico with airlines and then went to higher education. Concepts like privatization and commercialization have invaded schooling, along with entrepreneurship. Original concepts are marginalized as old style or from the past. Education is now a business. Directors become more concerned with making profit to keep schools going than with the quality of education. We need to fight this.”

Although Canadian and American teachers didn’t complain about a shortage of technology, there were concerns about the quality of the software, and the safety of their and their students’ data and how it is used by corporations. Maria Santiago, a Mexican teacher from Oaxaca describes how the government provided computer software with instruction in English, while her students speak Zapotec or Mixteco. Similarly, Professor Elizabeth Escobar criticized a Mexican law that requires students to work on the Internet—in communities where there is no electricity.

Taking action to defend public education and restore respect

Teachers and students are taking action. Mexican teachers, who have felt the worst effects of educational reform, have demonstrated all over Mexico. Teachers went on a five-month strike in Veracruz in 2013 and, according to Lucia Morales, were ambushed by police, tear-gassed, and attacked by dogs. In the US, teachers in West Virginia, Arizona, and California have carried out successful strikes. Philippa Harvey, past president of Great Britain’s National Union of Teachers, reported on “unprecedented actions by students who are walking on Parliament with placards. They have flipped 3/4 million votes nationally to Labor through their activism.”

The conference closed with the kind of camaraderie that comes from sharing meals, stories and dances. We made agreements to go back home and keep the stories and issues alive. Union members agreed to make teachers’ health and stress a bargaining issue using the example of Ontario’s union who recently bargained a one-year moratorium on any new Ministry of Education or local school board initiatives or programs.

Since the XIII Tri-National in Orizaba ended November 11, a new Mexican president, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, has taken office. In his inaugural address on December 1, he made the gratifying announcement that he will end education reform. This could bring on a new era of public education in Mexico that serves the needs of students, communities, and their teachers, not business interests.

Sarah Ringler retired from teaching at Pajaro Valley Middle School, and as Vice President Pajaro Valley Federation of Teachers Local 1936.

A Playback Theatre performance This is Me!

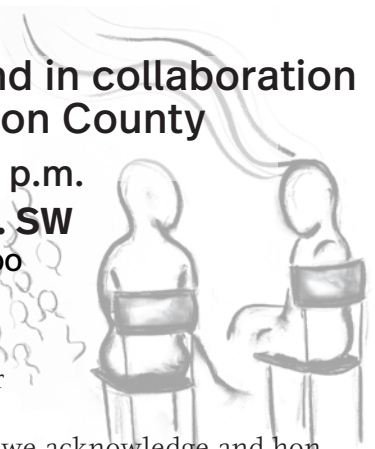
Featuring The Thunders and in collaboration with People First of Thurston County

Friday, February 8, 2019 • 7:30 p.m.
Traditions Café – 300 5th Ave. SW
Cost: Suggested Donation \$7.00-\$12.00
(No one is turned away)

Each month we invite a guest artist(s), community organization, arts program or social service agency to be a part of our performance. Through this collaboration we acknowledge and honor the work individuals and organizations do in our community.

This month we feature **The Thunders** and collaborate with **People First of Thurston County** whose mission is to empower adults with developmental disabilities to become involved in their community and to impact service systems.

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A Green New Deal promotes sustainability, resilience and growth

Greg Carlock and Emily Mangan

I. A Green New Deal addresses both urban and rural needs

Establish a national fund for urban and rural resilience

Cities and communities across America need to upgrade their infrastructure now to withstand the effects of climate change, including extreme heat, increased rain and snow, sea level rise, and extreme weather. A national adaptation fund, and analogous funds at the state and local level, could support investments in urban and rural stormwater management, green infrastructure, community hardening, and disaster preparedness. This fund will supplement the expansion of existing infrastructure and urban planning grant programs for sustainable communities and smart growth.

Expand public green space and recreational lands and waters

As cities and suburban areas grow, citizens need greater opportunities to access open and green space and outdoor recreation than exist today. Green space can enhance the beauty and environmental quality of a community, as well as improve emotional

health and build a sense of community. This should also include the doubling in size of dedicated public recreational lands and waters, including, in part, National and State parks.

Modernize urban mobility and mass transit

The growth of cities, the rapid change in vehicle technology, and the need for low-carbon transportation means that the way in which we move ourselves and goods from one place to another is going to change forever. This transition needs to be executed thoughtfully to meet the needs of cities and the scale of change required. Large investments are needed to increase access to safe pedestrian and bicycle travel, low-carbon bus rapid transit, and electrified light rail.

33 million people will live in counties directly on the shoreline by 2020, and 41 million Americans live in 100-year floodplains. That number is expected to grow by 50 percent by 2050.

II. A Green New Deal achieves job growth in three ways:

Private sector growth

A Green New Deal can have a multiplier effect—every dollar of government spending generates more than a dol-

lar in local economic growth. A Green New Deal will produce immense demand for new goods and services that the private sector can provide. This includes clean energy technology, energy efficient goods and appliance installation services, zero-emission vehicles and charging infrastructure, building construction and retrofits, environmental remediation and restoration, agriculture, forestry, tourism, and recreation—to name some. A Green New Deal creates signals that encourages private capital to move into these new and expanding markets, and new businesses will generate demand for more workers. This also means reinstating the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Green Jobs Initiative for accurate tracking of green job growth.

Workforce development and job training

There is a mismatch between the number of green jobs required under a Green New Deal and the current availability of skilled labor in the market. That is why a key component of the Green New Deal is workforce development and job training to implement the priorities in each sector and provide Americans access to full-time, sustainable employment in these fields.

A Green New Deal will expand funding and programs that provide train-

ing, certification, and apprenticeships. Such programs help workers afford training that will increase their earning potential without taking on debt. They also reduce the burden on employers to find or train enough qualified workers.

A green job guarantee

A job guarantee is more than just the direct hiring of workers by the federal or state governments, and more than an entitlement program like unemployment insurance. A job guarantee is a legal right that obligates the federal government to provide a job for anyone who asks for one and to pay them a livable wage. The more states and communities that participate in a federal job guarantee, the more public works projects can be completed across the country.

A Green New Deal requires a massive workforce for the construction, operations, and administration of projects, and a federal job guarantee program can ensure there are enough workers to meet that need.

This is an exerpt from Green New Deal Report, written by Greg Carlock (lead author) and Emily Mangan (contributing author), and posted on Data for Progress, Sean McElwee, Executive Producer. Find the full report plus data and information about other initiatives at .https://www.dataforprogress.org.



Energizing environmentalists

From page 3

involved environmental and workplace impacts and were supported by both labor and environmentalists: Fair Labor Standards Act 1938 and subsequent amendments; Clean Air Act 1963; Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) 1970; Clean Water Act 1972; Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act 1983, to name a few.

Preventing or eliminating damage

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) 1970 preamble makes clear the goal of making sure that increased industrialization and growth was balanced with quality of life:

“To declare national policy which will encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment; to promote efforts which will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of man ...”

Workers are more productive, bosses take the fruits

Since that time, however, both labor and environmentalists—along with our communities—have lost ground. As corporate power increased, labor unions lost membership. This is no accident, but a dedicated effort by industry to realize an ever-greater share of profit for its executives and shareholders by keeping wages and benefits down. In 2018, US bosses now earn 312 times the average pay of a worker. Wages fall as corporate profits rise. Working conditions in many industries have deteriorated as companies demand speed up and higher production.

Simultaneously, the pushback on environmental protections and the denigration of the environmental movement achieved the same result. Employers enlisted workers to rally against en-

vironmental measures by threatening layoffs or a complete shutdown of operations if such measures were pursued. Often presented as “jobs versus the environment,” these conflicts have captured the most attention and helped to shape the perception that environmental protection is antithetical to economic expansion, job preservation, the interests of workers, and the survival of communities.

...acting together [labor and environmental organizations] can advance policies that protect both working people and the natural environment.

This corporate lie has helped to erode the strength of unions and to undermine support for environmental protection. Corporations have used the two groups, labor and environmentalists, as pawns in the ongoing game of corporate exploitation of working people and of natural resources.

Blackmailing rural areas

Rural areas, which are often depressed areas where people have fewer options for work also often contain the last vestiges of an unspoiled natural environment. Thus rural communities become battlegrounds for “jobs vs. environment.” Even our children’s education in Washington State is being held hostage as state lawmakers blame their inability to properly fund schools as a battle of jobs vs. the endangered Marbled Murrelet, creating the same false dichotomy they employed with the Spotted Owl.

Counter the CEO alliance with a labor-environmental alliance
Brian Obach, writing in his book *La-*

bor and the Environmental Movement, argues that

Labor unions and environmental movement organizations are among the most powerful social movement sectors in the United States. When they are capable of acting together they can advance policies that protect both working people and the natural environment. Yet divisions between these two actors can yield environmental devastation and attacks on the interests of workers and their unions. The creation of a just and sustainable economy depends on the ability of these two social movement sectors to come together to advance this common goal.

“When unions and environmentalists have positive relations with one another and form an ongoing alliance, they present a formidable political force potentially capable of redirecting economic and environmental policy in fundamental ways. A recent example of this was the collective action by treaty tribes, community citizens, railroad, longshore workers, maritime workers, and environmental organizations to preserve Grays Harbor and its waterways from the dangers posed by an

influx of crude oil tankers. This collective effort could foster tremendous job opportunities if allowed to flourish.

A Green New Deal is the way forward

Rather than fall victim to corporate propaganda, labor and environmentalists should join forces to bring new manufacturing and innovative technologies to our communities. The Green New Deal just such an opportunity. This initiative can support our community in generating industries that use local materials and create goods which can be used locally as well as exported to other markets. There is no reason why family living wage jobs cannot also be safe for both the workers and the environment. We need to break out of the old dichotomy and strive for a united front to work on solutions with each other and our elected officials.

Let’s make sure the next time our community leaders meet to discuss economic development, we are sitting at the table.

Linda Orgel lives in rural Grays Harbor County on the south shore of Grays Harbor Estuary. Along with her partner RD Grunbaum, she is active in community groups fighting for environmental, social, and economic justice.



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It takes an organizer to build a movement, and we really need to build a movement

Mark Bean

I have spent four months writing about how a group of Olympia carpenters learned to get organized and act as a community of carpenters. I told the story of how building a community .and finding allies created something beyond just the interests of carpenters. In the course of my writing two questions emerged: What does it mean to be an organizer? Why we do need them now?

My early experiences as a non-union carpenter led me to the union, and eventually to learning the skills necessary to become an organizer. But I also derived an understanding of who I was from my mother and her family. My father's family were small business people, organized differently, but nonetheless organized. I recognized I was working class from family.

I worked many types of jobs prior to becoming a union carpenter. All were for wages. None had the protection of a union contract. A change in my working life began when I went to work for a concrete subcontractor on a job at the Washington Center for Performing Arts around 1983. It was a prevailing wage job, where carpenters were supposed to be paid an hourly wage equal to the pay of a union carpenter

I discovered that my fellow carpenters and I weren't being paid the prevailing wage: we were being cheated. I set out to learn about the situation, and made a prevailing wage claim for myself and a few other carpenters with the Department of Labor & Industries. We won—and received the balance owed us. I think that was my first organizing effort.

It was also the first time I visited my Carpenters local, seeking help. But they turned me away because I wasn't a union member. The Business Agent also kept me from joining the local. I kept digging and found that the Tacoma Carpenters Local had a more liberal policy when it came to joining. I “tested-in” as a journeyman. I received my journeyman's card in March 1985 and continue as a member of the Carpenters' Union to this day.

So, in answer to the first question; what does it mean to be an organizer? It

took a personal experience of injustice to move me to act; to join with others experiencing the same injustice and to lose my fear; to right wrongs and fight for change. It is easier to do this when you're part of a group. I learned then that organizers have a desire to make social change. I had found myself on the short end of the stick, and I didn't want to be there, nor did I want the other carpenters to be there. Coupled with that desire was my perception that the culture of the union would also need to change, if it was to return to its original mission: organizing carpenters. All this was because I had once been turned away.

Organizing doesn't take some mysterious ability. It's a skill that can be taught and learned. I was lucky and seized the opportunity to attend an organizing school in our backyard at the Labor Center of The Evergreen State College. It took nine months of study, discussion, and practice. We learned to listen and be patient, and respectful of others, accepting them from where they were, not where we thought they should be. We were taught to make estimates and think strategically. I learned that an organizer has to be reliable, dependable, show up on time, and take responsibility. We looked for common beliefs and ideas in a group. Organizers also continue to learn new skills. They stay grounded in their community in order to learn from others.

I'm writing this on MLK Day and thinking of the work and inspiration Dr. King's organizing brought to that social movement. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had a dream that envisioned a just and equal society—in the distance, on a mountaintop. In his metaphor. was the mission of the Civil Rights Movement. But it took skilled organizers, from the Highlander Center in Tennessee, and across the country, to build organizations with enough power to take-on the racists and racist institutions of our country to end Jim Crow. This was not dreaming, but acting.

In the early 20th century, organizers helped workers build enough power to convince capital to share part of the pie created by labor productivity. Washington State history celebrates

how labor took local government in the Seattle General Strike of 1919. These large social movements did not just spring up overnight. They were the fruit of organizing over months and years in churches, union halls, and neighborhoods. Rosa Parks was not just an individual who didn't give up her seat to a white man. She was a Highlander School-trained organizer.

We need organizers in order to rebuild our neighborhoods and communities to act for more just purposes.

The Montgomery Bus Boycott began with her act after much planning and organizing.

Recently on a walk around the Port of Olympia area, I ran into a group of retired carpenters working on an old wooden sailboat. I had worked with them out of the hall back in the day. They were resurrecting the Megan S into an exhibit for the Hands-On Children's Museum. Here was a bunch of guys that had also been together during our organizing in the 90s. It was easy to join the crew the next day on the boat. It felt good to be working with tools. joining together to create something outside myself. An organizer is trained to see what brings people together for a purpose, even one as simple as refurbishing a boat.

Similarly, we all know people, friends and neighbors living together through common experiences, some very good,

some not so pleasant. And many of us do good works as individuals, helping those less fortunate than ourselves. We are members of groups, formal and informal. This is where an organizer looks to build a movement of people to build power and strategy towards some better future for all.

I know that in the core of these older carpenters is that spark and memory of marching together for our common good with a purpose, born through our experience. I think our neighbors too have that same feeling. However, they aren't organized to reach a goal together. It will take organizers to help them to act by bringing them together to see and hear each other. This is the way we build energy to change social circumstances.

We need organizers in order to rebuild our neighborhoods and communities to act for more just purposes. Organizers educate people in order to organize them. This is why we need organizers now. Our position as working people has been eroded and worsened by political organizations and powerful corporate interests. The future of a cooperative, just and equal society will depend on our organizers and ourselves.

Mark Bean is a retired carpenter and organizer. He was born and grew up on the westside of Olympia.

Rural Thurston

From page 1

of accidents that coexists with other traffic problems and the fact there's no place to go without driving. At 2 pm on a recent Tuesday, traffic was backed up so far on Hiway 12 that it took two changes of the light to get through the town's main intersection.

Rochester relies on a level of volunteerism that takes on tasks that might elsewhere be carried out by government. ROOF performs the social service functions listed earlier. Their budget comes 55% from foundation grants. ROOF has applied for and received grants from a Community Investment Partnership (CIP) but those monies come and go. At the time of my visit, the food bank was flush with holiday contributions, including stacked containers of food from a Great Wolf food drive and other local contribution. By summer, according to McNelly, the abundance will have disappeared. The shelves of a decent-sized small library are filled with random donated books. Significantly there is a computer terminal maintained by the Timberland Library System so people can order specific books and materials. Volunteers cover the two days per week the library is open. Volunteers staff a fire department, and recently they have been busy with those house fires.

There are a couple of social spaces where the Rochester community comes together. Swede Hall preserves a rural tradition with its once-a-month dance. It's also the host of “Swede Day” and a parade every June. No surprise: it's also the place where the Chamber of Commerce held a candidates' forum with Bud Blake and Tye Menser last fall. Swede Hall preserves a rural tradition with dances once a month, as well as being the site of the “Swede Day” picnic and parade in June. The other traditional aspect of social life in

Rochester revolves around their thriving public school, with a full fledged academic and sports program.

In response to a question about why Rochester voted in such disproportionate numbers for Bud Blake, the answer was that people saw no particular reason to change. And—maybe—that people in the community were not interested in having to follow “city” rules and regulations. There were frustrations around pocket gopher rules that seemed irrational, along with an enduring belief in the idea of independence.

When I looked back over my notes and some other election results, I came up with a new thought about an urban/rural divide. For one thing, closer to half of Rochester's voters said yes to Initiative 940, limiting impunity for police, which suggests a willingness to consider new regulations under some circumstances. There's also this bit of information: population density in Olympia is 2600 people per square mile; in Rochester, it's less than 800. When you live cheek by jowl, you might invite a number of explicit rules about who can do what. When it seems like you've got all the room in the world, why would you think it necessary for an outside entity to tell you what to do?

It turns out that Rochester, even with a cursory look, has a version of some of the same issues as do we in Olympia: insufficient public transportation, poverty, drugs, threatening flood waters, homelessness and burdensome regulations that seem unrelated to reality. Both communities might support government proposals that tried to eliminate these problems rather than to regulate them.

Bethany Weidner has lived in places as big as Washington, DC and as small as Bow, Washington.

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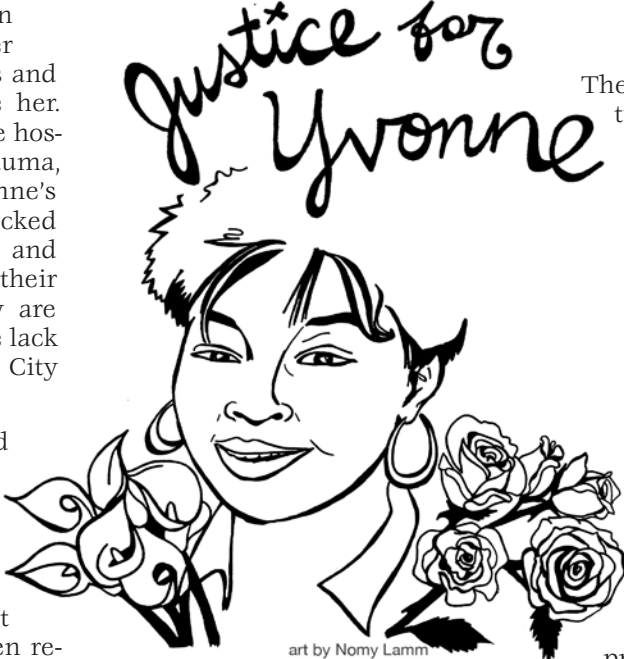
Say her name: The death of Yvonne McDonald

Lisa Ganser

Black, 56 year old, former Evergreen student and activist Yvonne McDonald was found by a street sweeper near her home in Olympia on the morning of August 7th, 2018. Yvonne was covered in scratches, cuts and bruises, her clothes were torn, and her shoes and purse were placed eerily beside her. Yvonne died later that night at the hospital, having suffered severe trauma, hypothermia and blood loss. Yvonne's family and community are shocked and heartbroken by the sudden and frightening circumstances of their loved one's violent death. They are equally outraged and angry at the lack of care and investigation by the City of Olympia.

Instead of following leads and pursuing justice for Yvonne, the Olympia Police Dept. and coroner's office have pushed narratives that blame Yvonne for her own death. City of Olympia officials have repeatedly said that they are waiting on the tox screen re-

Yvonne demanded justice for others. In her death, others must make this demand for her.



sults of Yvonne's body, as if having chemicals in her body justifies the violence she did not survive. Yvonne's family has been waiting six months with no resolution.

The city manager and police don't return calls or information requests from Yvonne's family. The crime scene was not treated as a crime scene, there've been no interviews of potential witnesses, and evidence has been lost or destroyed. Possible leads—including potential evidence of a vehicular assault—have been dismissed by the coroner's office.

Yvonne McDonald survived and resisted sexism, violence, racial bias, and anti-Black racism in her 56 years. Those systematic oppressions continue after her death, with the lack of investigation by Olympia police and their co-workers at the coroner's and prosecutor's office. In life, Yvonne

demanded justice for others. In death, it is others who must make this demand for her.

Lisa Ganser is a white, Disabled, genderqueer, sidewalk chalker and Poverty Scholar. They live on Squaxin, Chehalis and Nisqually land and are the daughter of a Momma named Sam.

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Concern for animal rights highlighted by protesters at the Wet Science Center

Heather Sundean

At a recent showing of live animals by the Reptile Zoo, local animal rights activists “came together from different pockets of the community to protest zoos and the lies they spread to children” according to Sady Sparks who coordinated the protest. Sparks co-runs The Evergreen Vegan Club at TESC and organizes a variety of animal rights activities in the community.

The Reptile Zoo has a facility in Monroe, Washington, and also tours a show of eight to twelve reptiles, including turtles, snakes, small alligators, and other species. Presenters give information about the animals for about 40 minutes, after which community members are allowed to pet and handle the non-venomous species for approximately 15 minutes.

Reptile Zoo claims contradicted by treatment of animals

As animal rights activists looked on, about 30 community members entered the Wet Science Center to watch

and participate in the reptile show. Activists greeted families as they passed, discouraged them from entering the show, and offered up vegan cookies and outreach materials.

The Reptile Zoo claims to have a mission of educating the public about wildlife conservation and respect for animals. However, the Reptile Zoo is a for-profit business, not a sanctuary or rescue operation that offers refuge or a natural, healthy en-

vironment for animals that are abused, neglected, or whose habitat has been destroyed. The Reptile Zoo confines animals in small plastic tubs for many hours per day, during transportation and while waiting to be shown. The animals are often taken to multiple shows per day, where they are repeatedly handled by hundreds of children and adults at schools and other venues.

...the Reptile Zoo is a for-profit business, not a sanctuary or rescue operation that offers refuge or a natural, healthy environment for animals



and well-being matters to that animal. Animals deserve, and have a right to, the fundamental respect of being free from exploitation by humans as the means to an end. Thus, they cannot be used, period—for food, clothing, entertainment, or any other purpose.

Sparks met with two environmental educators on staff at the Wet Science Center one week prior to the event. The educators declined to cancel hosting the Reptile Zoo, but did respectfully give an hour to hear the animal rights community's perspective on zoos. They stated that the Center would take this perspective into serious consideration when planning future events.

Opportunities to support positive treatment of animals

Concern for animal rights is a burgeoning movement in Olympia. Local activists connect through social media, local events calendars and postings, and The Evergreen Vegan Club to organize protests, street outreach, and workshops. The next opportunity to meet local vegan activists and get involved is at an Introduction to Veganism workshop on Monday, February 4 from 5:30 to 7:30 at the Olympia Timberland Library. This workshop is the second in an ongoing series of free, once-per-month classes offered by local activists to educate and empower community members to become vegans.

If you and your family enjoy opportunities to see and learn about animals while creating a better world for them, there are places to visit like Pasado's Safe Haven in Sultan, Washington or Pig's Peace Sanctuary in Stanwood, Washington, with a strong track record for providing sanctuary to animals.

Heather Sundean lives in Tumwater and is a long-time vegan. She also helps with the WIP website.

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Will women on the move turn into a movement?

The energy and hunger expressed in the original Women's March helped to embolden women from outside the establishment to run for office. It helped make them winners at the polls. They brought radical views and a drive to redirect government in favor of the mass of people into state and federal offices.

Can this energy and hunger be organized into a movement that preserves that boldness? Note this reminder from The People's Summit convened by the National Nurses United in 2017: "Movements and electoral politics nourish each other. But electoral politics can also smother movements. The challenge is how to keep the movements alive. Movements flourish when there are politicians in office who have reasons to be afraid of them."

Women on the move

National Nurses United converged at Women's Marches in January to highlight the importance of unions to women and working people. Teachers—women by and large—have emerged to demand quality public education. United Teachers of LA organized in their schools, with parents, and communities for 4 years. When they could not get a contract that supported public schools, their organizing work paid off in a powerful and successful strike.

So, in the third year of the Trump administration, throngs of women showed up on January 19, in Olympia, in Seattle, in cities across the US and across the world, signaling their continued presence. Demanding attention to the issues that affect our day-to-day lives: inequality, poverty, racism, demonization of immigrants and others, greed... Telling everyone that what is at stake is our communities, our families, our future. The task now is to form the energy and hunger into a durable movement.

Photos on these pages were taken January 19 by Ricky Osbourne (in Olympia) and Lindsey Dalthorpe (in Seattle).



Photo by Ricky Osbourne



Photo by Ricky Osbourne





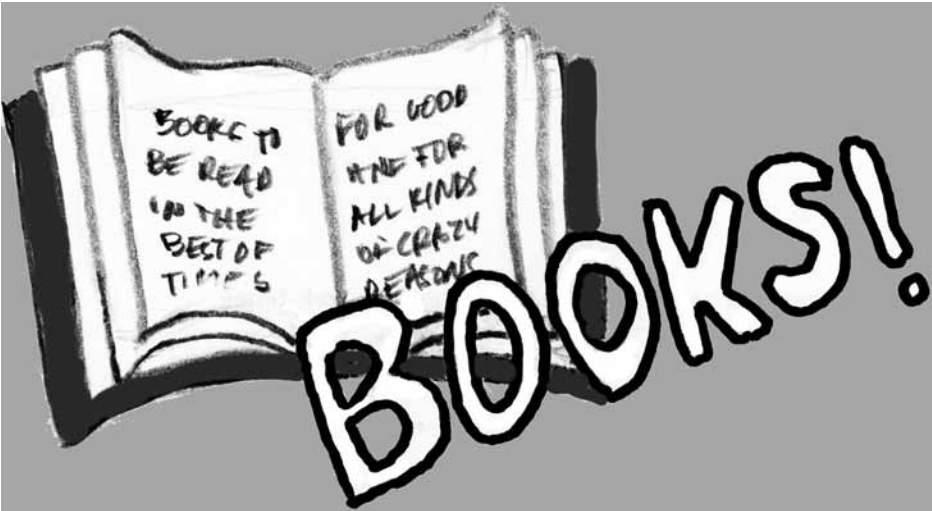
Photos by Lindsey Dalthorpe



Photo by Lindsey Dalthorpe



Photo by Ricky Osbourne



Listen to the living world around you

Braiding Sweetgrass
by Robin Wall Kimmerer
Milkweed Editions, 2013

Jean Maust

As a scientist and an enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Robin Kimmerer weaves together stories of indigenous traditions, her experiences as a botanist, professor, mother, and practitioner of crafting and harvesting. And always, she is listening to the living world around her.

Braiding Sweetgrass has five sections, each naming an interaction of the author and sweetgrass: planting, tending, picking, braiding and burning. The essays describe both literal and spiritual relationships. For example, when Kimmerer talks about tending sweetgrass she says she does not take without receiving consent, does not take without

giving thanks or an offering of some kind, and does not take it all.

“We don’t have to figure everything by ourselves: there are intelligences other than our own, teachers all around us. Imagine how much less lonely the world would be,” Kimmerer says in a chapter that beautifully illustrates how cultural and spiritual perspectives shape language—and vice versa.

Her words are vivid, precise, gentle and lyrical. She expresses gratitude for the generosity in nature and asks herself and her readers what we can give back to the earth. “Whatever our gift, we are called to give it and to dance for the renewal of the world. In return for the privilege of breath.”

Jean Maust lives in Tenino and is an active reader.

Where's the water?

From page 1

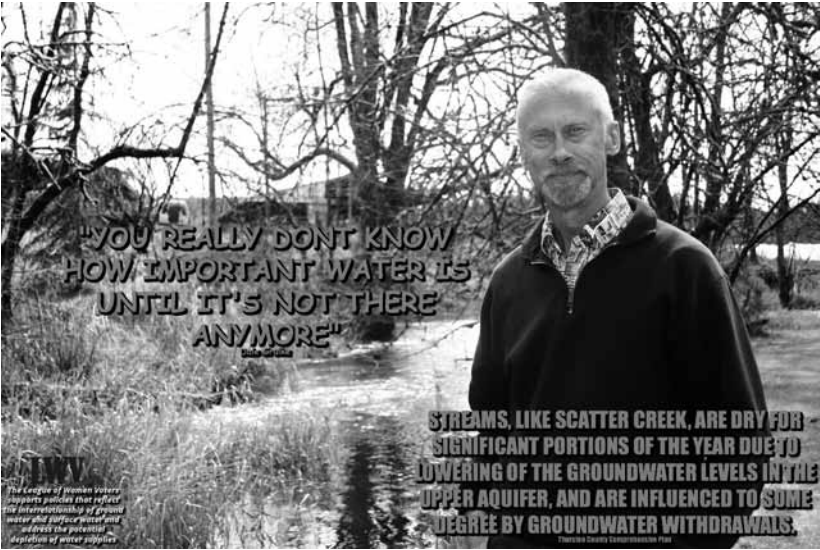
the water level of an aquifer below that needed for minimum streamflow. The smaller the stream, the more significant the effect. Some wells can continue to pump water from the ground long after a stream runs dry.

Consider that most water consumption is used outside in summer when streams are already running low. Consider also that 80% of the water used outside the home for irrigation is lost to evaporation compared to only 10% loss of water used indoors that drains into a home septic system. Though the new law has no requirement to address climate change, its projected effects will only exacerbate our water woes as summers become more dry and the winter rainy season becomes shorter and more intense, so that aquifers do not fully recharge.

Will mitigation work?
ESSB 6091’s criteria for an acceptable project to mitigate the effect of future permit-exempt wells on streamflows rests on the concept of “net ecological benefit” (NEB). Ideally, mitigation would replace water from the same stream at the same time of year. However, Ecology’s definition of a NEB is quite broad. It would allow mitigation to occur anywhere in the same sub-basin of the watershed. Projects that are most beneficial to fish would get higher priority, though there are no specifics on actually monitoring the net benefits of a project after it is completed.

So far, WRIA 11, the Nisqually watershed, has completed its plan. George

Walter, Environmental Program Supervisor for the Nisqually Indian Tribe will speak on the history of the Nisqually River and will describe the Nisqually Watershed plan. The proposed projects now await Department of Ecology approval and subsequent approval of funds to implement them. The State has allocated just \$20 million per year for water projects to enhance stream flows across the entire state. WRIA 11



water is life
nni wiconi

will be competing for these funds with projects in other watersheds.

The other Thurston County WRIs, encompassing the Deschutes, Chehalis and Kennedy/Goldsboro watersheds, are at the beginning stages of the process and have until 2021 to complete their plans.

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WIP wants you to read a book and tell us about it. Last Word Books will supply the book, you supply the eyes and the pen. Here are some suggestions we'd like to see reviewed.

Anne Patchet—*Baby you're gonna be mine*

Richard Powers—*Overstory*

Todd Miller—*Storming the Wall: Climate Change, Migration and Homeland Security*

Nomi Prins—*It takes a Pillage*

Rob Nixon—*Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor*

Francisco Cantu—*The Line Becomes a River*

Peter Gabel—*The Desire for Mutual Recognition: Social Movements and the Dissolution of the False Self*

Opportunities available to rural communities
Another forum, to be held in Yelm, will focus on rural communities and the challenges to, along with solutions for, their water issues.

Representatives from the Thurston Conservation District will talk about strategies residents can use to conserve water and help recharge aquifers. Without a recharged aquifer, residential development, agriculture and stream life will all suffer. Agriculture, as a major consumer of water in the summer months when water is scarce, has the ability to help preserve our watershed through efficient methods of irrigation. The Conservation District continues to work with farmers to help them make the best use of their natural resources through its Voluntary Stewardship Program.

Information will also be available from Nutriculture Northwest about the use of biochar as a fertilizer and soil enhancer, as well as a means to conserve water. A Department of Ecology soil scientist said, “Biochar is one of the most significant and game-changing solutions we have for stabilizing carbon in soil and realizing the agricultural benefits of fertilizer use efficiency and moisture retention.” Its use by gardeners and farmers would help enrich our soil to grow nutrient dense food, sequester carbon, transform organic waste to fertilizer and conserve water.

Water is life
The League encourages members of the public to attend any or all of the forums - watch for details of time and place in WIP and elsewhere. Growing demand for water puts pressure on

our resources and poses challenges that need the understanding and participation of all of us. Refresh yourself and your knowledge -- get the information you'll need to have a voice in decisions about our environment.

Esther Kronenberg is a member of the Water Study Group of the League of Women Voters of Thurston County

<https://www.theolympian.com/opinion/editorials/article224270305.html>

Where's the water series

This series of presentations on water in Thurston County is presented by the League of Women Voters. Presentations are at the Olympia Center, except for the third meeting which will be in Yelm.

Tuesday, Feb 5 at 6 pm.
Ground Water and Streamflow in Thurston County, Kevin Hansen, County Hydrogeologist.

The Nisqually River and Estuary at I-5 as a Dam, David Troutt, Natural Resources Director for the Nisqually Tribe

Tuesday, March 5 at 6 pm.
Water for People, Water for Fish

Tuesday, March 16 at 6 pm
at the Yelm Community Center. Rural Water Challenges and Solutions

Tuesday, April 2 at 6 pm.
Storm Water and Toxic Runoff

Tuesday, May 7 at 6 pm.
Streams, Salmon and Orca

Not by rushing to the center: The example of Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez

Enrique Quintero

*Little events, ordinary things,
smashed and reconstituted.
Suddenly they become the bleached
bones of a story*

—Arundhaty Roy,
The God of Small Things

The small drop of water from the Bronx

You and I know that a small drop of water can sometimes reflect the sun. That is, it has the ability to throw light back to those able to see it. The drop of water reflects without any interest in absorbing or keeping the light. All it needs is the appropriate weather conditions and people willing to pay attention to their immediate surroundings.

Like a particularly brilliant drop of water, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (AOC) has found the right weather conditions and people are paying attention. The light Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez shares with us is political, grounded in knowledge of two things: first, the knowledge that most Americans live in grinding socio-economic conditions characterized by poverty and inequality, while a miniscule group of individuals lives under conditions of obscene wealth, unregulated behavior, and demented political power.

Second, she understands that grass root activism in service of community matters. This was confirmed during a visit to Standing Rock where AOC witnessed the struggle of Native People to stop the Dakota Access Pipeline. According to an interview published in June 2018 by *The Cut*, watching others “putting their whole lives and everything they had on the line for the protection of their community” led AOC to change her perception that the necessary conditions for running for office included being wealthy and having power and political influence.

In relative terms, one might say that in that moment in North Dakota, AOC ‘squared the circle’ in terms of understanding the material and subjective basis for progressive and radical politics. Perhaps in that moment in North Dakota, AOC realized what type of knowledge is essential to defeat the current version of this corroded America.

This moment of reckoning illustrates the convergence of knowledge that Keeanga-Yamahтта Taylor described in a *Monthly Review* article: “The ability to distinguish between the ideology of the American Dream and the experience of the American Nightmare requires political analysis, history, and often struggle.” AOC’s political analysis, informed both by history and her knowledge of current struggles, coupled with her political praxis, is what the former waitress and working-class activist from the Bronx, now radical member of the US House of Representatives, has to offer to all of us in the

process of transforming America.

The biblical sin of knowledge in the Age of Finance Capital

The Romanian philosopher E.M. Cioran once suggested that the biblical myth about the sin of knowledge is the deepest myth imagined by humanity. (God in the book of Genesis forbids the first man and woman to eat from the tree of knowledge.) Throughout history, life has been tough for humans with a predisposition for knowledge. For those who simply dare to know or dare to know different things in different ways, or things not contemplated in the official narrative or code of belief, the consequences have more of

“Last year we brought the power to the polls, and this year we need to make sure we translate that power into policy.”

ten than not been catastrophic.

History provides us with a long list of how existing powers at a given time dealt with individuals with a proclivity for learning, understanding, and critical thinking. This ranges from the original sinners cast out of Paradise by ‘God in person,’ to Socrates forced to switch to hemlock as a key ingredient in his last meal, to the Roman Empire’s executions of the first Christians (which gave a macabre connotation to the ‘Roman Circus’ festivities), to the thousands of people burned at the stake by the combined power of the Spanish, Portuguese and Roman Catholic inquisitions (do we still remember Giordano Bruno?), to the Galileo Galileis, and the Baruch Spinozas of all time who saw their work placed in the Index of Forbidden Books.

We may delude ourselves that this punitive mentality no longer exists. Modernity and liberal democracies welcome all forms of knowledge; tolerance and diversity of ideas constitute the jingle of our times. Nonetheless, when we frame this belief in historical terms and compare it against the material reality of existing social conditions, we note the lack of accuracy, and verify the delusional aspect of this view.

The many instances in which our ‘Short Fingered Vulgarian’ (a term borrowed from *Vanity Fair*) and his administration have dishonored the principles of tolerance and diversity constitute proof that the sin of knowledge persists. Nonetheless, it is important to consider that Trump’s behavior is not simply the result of his personality traits, but his behavior (aberrant as it may be) must also be understood as part of an attitude embedded in all levels of society, a society that does not exist in the abstract, but is closely imbricated with a particular form of capitalism.

The castigatory eye of society

Punishment for the alleged ‘sin of knowledge’ has gradually morphed to focus its castigatory and panoptical-eye on the realm of revolutionary politics. Particularly in America, there has not been a single revolutionary leader or political organization that has not become a target for elimination, neutralization, cooptation, or plain intimidation. From the slave rebellions of Gabriel Prosser in Virginia (1800), Denmark Vesey in South Carolina (1820), and Nat Turner in Virginia (1831), to the Socialist, Anarchist, and Communists militants and trade union leaders during the first half of the 20th Century, to Civil Rights and human rights leaders like Martin Luther King and Malcolm X, the American Indian Movement, revolutionary student orga-

nizations, the Black Panthers and the Anti-War Movement in the 60s and early 70s—all have experienced the castigatory eye. They all partook of the forbidden fruits of the tree of knowledge, the tree of political consciousness towards real transformation. This is the tree from which American capitalism does not want you to eat, either in this country or overseas.

The punitive mind of American society has evolved in sync with the development of its historical forms of capitalism. The merchant model that predominated during the first decades of the republic was followed by an industrial and technological model prevalent until the latter part of the 20th century. Finally there arrived the present form in which finance capital becomes the center of gravity with a direct impact on the totality of the elements of society and the planet: individuals, organizations, institutions, and nature itself. At this historical moment, finance capital has hegemonic control not only over the economy but over our modes of existence and modes of thinking through subtle and not too subtle mechanisms of ideological person, manipulation and surveillance.

The effectiveness of these mechanisms must not be doubted. It is not casual that since the advent of Reagan in the 80s, America appears dormant and complacent before the eyes of the world, in spite of the rapid acceleration of internal social inequality and damaged physical surroundings. Not until the Occupy Movement in 2011, the advent of the Black Lives Matter Movement in 2013, the resurgence of ecological awareness, and the impact of Bernie Sanders’ movement which agglutinated over a dozen million dis-

contents not afraid of the word socialism has a potentially dangerous fissure in the existent political solace of American finance capital and its state institutions been so clearly marked, and from so many different lenses: race, class, gender, environment.

It is within this broader context that we must understand the multifaceted hostility displayed against Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez by the Trumpian republican media and its political apparatus. It not because she dresses in inexpensive off-the-rack garments or conversely because one day she wore expensive shoes. It’s not because she cannot afford a DC apartment and another home in New York. It’s not because there is a video of her dancing while she was in college or another one showing that she still knows how to dance and in the Capitol no less; and not because she is second only to Trump in Twitter power.

The attacks and the failed campaign of vilification against AOC are the expression of a capitalist political unconscious triggered by the fact that her presence is a constant reminder of her sinful knowledge—her political awareness (in her case, based on class, gender and ethnicity) combined with an understanding of the necessary organizational steps needed to transcend the current system—and the threat this poses to their political interests. As she put it during the women’s march in NYC: “last year we brought the power to the polls, and this year we need to make sure we translate that power into policy.”

Not by rushing to the center!

The battle against capitalism (the only battle worth fighting) has been a long and difficult one. Along this path, the Left has experienced many defeats, either for its own shortcomings or because of the malevolence of others. When the Left has proclaimed victories, even if short lived, they have been grounded in the interest and support of people at the core of the struggle. This conviction and this support will motivate the battles to come. Shortly after her victory in New York’s 14th Congressional District, in an interview with Amy Goodman, AOC summarized her strategy as follows:

I knew we were going to win. The way that progressives win on an unapologetic message is by expanding the electorate. That is the only way that we can win strategically. It is not by rushing to the center. It’s not by trying to win spending all of our energy winning over those who have other opinions. It’s by expanding the electorate, speaking to those who feel disenchanting, dejected, cynical about our politics, and letting them know that we are fighting for them.

The true sin is that AOC’s knowledge threatens the Trumpian republicans. As is to be expected, defenders of finance capitalism have her squarely within their castigatory eye. In a better world, knowledge would not be a sin. Until that time, let us all become better, bolder sinners for the cause.

Enrique Quintero writes regularly in *Works in Progress* and is a member of the Publishing Committee.

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Painting over graffiti and grasping an opportunity in rural Oregon

Rural Organizing Project

[Ed note: We received this communication from a member of the Rural Organizing Project describing a recent occurrence in the small town of Cave Junction, Oregon, which is one of the communities that ROP works with..]

On Saturday morning, January 5, 2019, the community of Cave Junction, Oregon woke up to discover “KKK” had been spray-painted in bright red paint all over their town. Vehicles, homes, and businesses were covered, and weapons wrapped in a Don’t Tread On Me flag were found nearby, sparking fear and outrage.

Neighbors immediately joined together to build a stronger community, to paint over white supremacist symbols, and to demonstrate loud and clear: hate has no place in Cave Junction!

As soon as folks saw the spraypainting, several community members reached out to homes and businesses, offering details of what happened and help covering up the symbols. People gathered donations on social media and in town to pay for paint. Shortly after, teams of volunteers got to work painting.

While a suspect was quickly identified and taken into custody, rumors gained momentum that blamed young people in the community. Some commu-

nity members began dismissing the need to respond to “kids being kids.” City leadership knew they needed to condemn the spray-painting of hate symbols and address the situation to interrupt the scapegoating the youth of their community. At the Cave Junction City Council meeting the next Monday, Councilor Lindsey Jones delivered a statement that emphasized how the community’s immediate response upheld their shared values:

Tonight, I would like to use the privilege of my time in front of the microphone to condemn the acts of hate that occurred in Cave Junction over last Friday night. I, like many of you, learned Saturday morning of graffiti representing hate groups and dangerous paraphernalia that were discovered throughout the town. The offense was found on residents’ private property and on local businesses.

It makes me simultaneously sad for and infuriated at the offending party. It makes me ashamed that these hurtful messages occurred in our town. This is not who we are. Hate crimes are unwelcome and unacceptable here.

But more than talk about that offense, I would like to highlight and praise our community’s reactions.



Rural life in the metropolis

Tent living in downtown Seattle—rural life in the metropolis? Although one time, tents might have been associated with getting out of town to go camping, we now refer to “tent cities.” They once were set up without authorization by homeless people or protesters but now they are becoming a normalized part of the shelter continuum: box, tent, accessory dwelling unit, apartment, house, mansion, gated complex. Another increasingly familiar version consists of set up by governments and the military to house refugees, evacuees, detainees, soldiers...and so on and on.

First, to hardworking and justice-seeking community leader, Jimmy Evans I give my everlasting gratitude for all of your service in our city. Thank you for alerting the community to the situation and ensuring law enforcement was contacted. Thank you and your team at CJ Patrol for keeping watch over our city and for helping victims recover from wrongdoings.

Second, to those of you who offered to help and offered resources to help clean up the offense, Thank you. Your generosity and community pride is evident. Let’s continue to find ways to work together to make our town more beautiful and equitable for all. And to those who speak out courageously against this crime and the injustice that it represents, keep it up. Lift up your voice and support others who do the same. And know, that you are not alone and that I am here with you.

And finally, an observation. I observed many making knee-jerk judgments that this act was committed by a teen. It’s offensive and discouraging to blame our local youth without evidence. In my direct work with our teens in our community, I have proof that we have a cohort of kind, generous and creative youth. Let us lift them up, let us lift up those qualities and let’s celebrate their successes rather than placing blame, especially when it does not belong to them. And perhaps by blaming it on “kids being kids” we are trying to lessen the impact of the disgusting messages that that graffiti represented. Trying to lessen the pain or sweep that hate under the rug, ignoring this problem won’t make it better. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. famously said, “darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only Love can do that.”

So, dear community let us be the light and love that uplifts and THAT is who our community is and that is what we are about.

Councilor Jones’ statement was met with applause from the audience, and outrage was accompanied by hope and community pride. Members of Cave Junction Homeless Alliance spoke of the potential for a task force or group of volunteers to address the spray-painting because they faced several challenges during the initial clean-up, including finding paint that matched the buildings, getting permission from

business owners who were out of town, and inclement weather. Members of the Alliance requested City cooperation for the task force, including a plan to cover vandalism and hate symbols that could be implemented if business owners are not able to be reached. The ideas surfaced at the City Council meeting will be further discussed and put into motion!

When a community is shaken by brazen acts of white supremacy, we demonstrate our power together through our response, no matter how simple it may seem. Folks in Cave Junction joined together to show that they are a community of love who will show up when their neighbors are targeted with hate. City leadership also delivered an immediate and powerful response in solidarity with the community, denouncing the hateful message and taking community concerns seriously. Together, community members and elected officials responded in a unified voice to declare that hate has no place in Cave Junction. Let us be in the light!

The Rural Organizing Project with a tiny staff coordinates hundreds of volunteer leaders and thousands of supporters in small towns to counter the Right on every front in rural Oregon. The group’s structure enables and requires ROP to focus on organizing and grassroots leadership development to maintain the depth and breadth of movement-building work. The issues addressed by this work include Militia/Patriot movement and rural organizing tools, Democracy and civic participation, immigrant fairness, LGBTQ justice, Economic justice and the Cost of war

Spiritual and conscientious groundings for doing good work

The February 2019 interview on “Glen’s Parallax Perspectives” series provides insights and examples for different spiritual and conscientious paths people can take throughout their lives that inspire and motivate them to do good work for peace, social justice, and other meaningful purposes.

We can make our world a better place—and improve our local communities too—by drawing upon intangible motivations to inspire and guide our efforts. Many people do good work because they are moved by motivations grounded far below the merely practical level. People who work hard to help humanity and our environment might refer to conscience—or religion—or spirituality—or other meaningful groundings that inspire and guide their efforts.

Three guests—Selena Kilmoyer, Bob Delastrada, and Carol McKinley—share their personal stories of faith journeys and personal efforts to promote peace, social justice and other goals for a better world. (I also share just briefly how my own faith journey has moved me to do the work I’ve been doing since the 1960s.) Our three guests live in Olympia now, but all came from elsewhere. Their journeys have been not only geographical but—more importantly—spiritual journeys that have grounded them for their positive ef-

forts to help humanity.

The end of my blog post (see below) offers some of the many sources of information.

Watch Powerfully Insightful and Important TV Programs Through Your Computer or on TCTV

Everyone everywhere can watch this interview—and/or read a thorough summary of what we said—through the “TV Programs” part of my blog, www.parallaxperspectives.org. Each program and thorough summary are also posted to one or more categories listed on the blog. In this case, they are also posted to my blog’s “Religion and Spirituality” category.

Cable TV subscribers in Thurston County can watch this interview on Thurston Community Television (TCTV) three times a week throughout the entire month: every Monday at 1:30 pm, every Wednesday at 5:00 pm, and every Thursday at 9:00 pm.

Questions?

Contact Glen Anderson, the TV series’ producer/host at (360) 491-9093 glenanderson@integrane.net

Glen’s Parallax Perspectives

Special events

From page 2

Community gathering to honor Black Lives Matter

Thurs., Feb 28, 6-8 pm, Lacey Community Center, 6729 Pacific Ave. Dinner and discussion of issues, hosted by ASHHO. Tickets at brownpapertickets.com. Early bird, student & elder discounts. More information at Facebook: ASHHOVOICES

Tenants of the South Sound

March 2, 2-4 pm, United Churches of Olympia, 110 11th Ave. SE.

Launch meeting for this organization of tenants standing together against landlords, gentrification, discrimination and rent. For information: tenantsofthesouthsound@gmail.com

Taking the struggle for immigrant rights to our state Legislature

Lin Nelson and Bob Zeigler

Amid the hundreds of draft bills that will cross the desks of lawmakers during the 2019 Washington State legislature, there will be a few reflecting the urgent needs, plans and commitments of the immigrant rights movement. These bills don't suddenly materialize. They represent the hard work and movement building needed to tell the story of conditions experienced around the state. Two of the key advocates and strategists are WAISN (WA Immigrant Solidarity Network) and NWIRP (Northwest Immigrant Rights Project). Both are connected to a wide range of organizations, large and small. The American Immigration Lawyers' Association (AILA) is another key advocacy organization that collaborates

and consults with WAISN and NWIRP. **Some key pieces of legislation that are being promoted:**

Keep Washington Working (SB 5497) This is at the center of the immigrant rights policy effort this session, with strong backing from the Caucus of Color in the legislature. The bill provides comprehensive immigrant protection across the state, directing law enforcement agencies not to coordinate with ICE/CBP (Immigration & Customs Enforcement, Customs & Border Protection). It would strengthen Washington's status as a Sanctuary State—in contrast to federal initiatives to criminalize all undocumented immigration. *Bridge Act for Victims of Trafficking (SB 5164)* This provides state medical and

economic support to victims of trafficking and abuse when people apply for Federal immigration benefits. *Extending State Healthcare Access to Young Adults* All residents of Washington, regardless of immigration status, would be eligible for state health care until the age of 26. *Safe School Bill* This draft has emerged from the Olympia-area Strengthening Sanctuary group, based on extensive interviews across the state with school staff and impacted families. It would prevent or greatly restrict Federal authorities' access to students in schools and provide a stronger measure of privacy in the paperwork that students and their families are asked to provide. Additionally, AILA is monitoring and advocating for other bills addressing

a range of issues: improving language access in public schools; removing the US residency requirement for statutory survivors in wrongful death lawsuits; allowing DACA recipients to participate in the WA College Promise Scholarship program; establishing the office of H-2A compliance and farm labor; establishing a food assistance program, providing eligibility for state family assistance programs, and requiring medical care services for victims of human trafficking; adding citizenship and immigration status to the state law against discrimination. **Refugee Rights Advocacy Day** On February 5, WAISN will hold an Immigrant and Refugee Rights Advocacy Day in Olympia. This day-long event will involve workshops on the policy initiatives of the immigrant community, a noon rally and meetings with legislators. Communities from around the state will be represented, from the agricultural areas of Eastern and Northwest Washington, to King County, to folks from the Thurston County area and the Olympic Peninsula.

Olympia's Sanctuary City Declaration The local Strengthening Sanctuary group has urged the Olympia City Council to renew its very important Sanctuary Declaration of December 2016 by shaping a new resolution that would convey Olympia's sanctuary commitment to the legislature. The resolution would urge the Governor and representatives to work toward laws—such as the bills outlined above – to reduce the climate of fear and affirm the dignity and safety of immigrants living in Washington.

To learn more, follow bills and send messages to legislators go to **www.leg.wa.gov**. Legislators in the 22nd District – Representative Beth Doglio, Representative Laurie Dolan and Senator Sam Hunt—are supportive of these efforts and are involved in shaping a bill on School Safety. **<https://actionnetwork.org/events/waisn-immigrant-and-refugee-advocacy-day-dia-de-cabildeo-de-inmigrantes-y-refugiados>** Advocacy Day announcement **<https://waimmigrantsolidaritynetwork.org>** WAISN's website **www.nwirp.org** NWIRP provides legal services, analyses, and the latest news and information regarding immigration law and litigation. *For information on immigration legislation and actions, contact Lin Nelson linnells@gmail.com or Bob Zeigler zeiglerbob@msn.com with Olympia area Strengthening Sanctuary.*

Some speculations on the far side of the moon

Russ Frizzell

New Year's Day saw three spectacular events in space exploration: New Horizons fly-by of Ultima Thule; orbital insertion of NASA's OSIRIS-Rex space probe at Near earth Asteroid Bennu, and China landed the cutest rover ever on the moon's rural outback. China had a bountiful year in 2018 with 39 rocket launches, while NASA and all commercial rocket companies in the US combined had only 34. Russia, Europe, India, Japan, and the rest of the world launched 41.

China's rover, named "Yutu 2, the Jade Rabbit," is the most immediately productive mission of the three. The Jade Rabbit is there to measure temperatures, soil chemicals, and cosmic rays; observe space with a radio telescope; observe the sun's corona; and use China's own communication relay satellite to communicate with earth. Since NASA is forbidden by Congress to collaborate with China, our Far East neighbors are doing it themselves. NASA is in the picture with its "moon to Mars" program that includes using the moon as a stepping stone to the much bigger prize of Mars. But China will likely have a base on the moon before NASA.

Many men on the moon? Colonizing the moon is a difficult proposition. NASA concluded back in the 1970s that it was simply not worth the cost. Low earth orbit was more strategic at that time. The 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing is a moment of great celebration at NASA - but an opportunity was

missed. We could have had a thriving Moon City by now. **Aiming for the moon** The economic rewards of that are unclear but the cultural benefits are mind boggling. SpaceX has plans to fly a crew and passengers around the moon for just that reason. The project is called "dearmoon." Japanese billionaire Yusaku Maezawa is financially backing the project. He wants to send specially chosen artists on the space tourism adventure of a lifetime, so that the artists could share the experience when they return. The plan is to send the first SpaceX "Starship" on the upcoming "Super Heavy" rocket, hopefully within the next five years.

Since NASA is forbidden by Congress to collaborate with China, our Far East neighbors are going it alone.

China's exploration of the moon's south polar region is a brilliant move. In this area, the Von Karman Crater, in the Aitken Basin shows some of the most interesting geology in our solar system. Water and ice reserves may exist in deep craters, and the mountains have peaks that receive year-round sunlight. This far side of the moon is free of radio chatter from earth and will be a great location for astronomical research.

Will the new "rural China" be the moon? The surface area of the moon is 37 million square kilometers. A square kilometer is about the size of Priest

Point Park. An eventual US colony on the moon might occupy 100 square kilometers. China would be free to claim the rest, equivalent to almost four times their current land mass. With 1.4 billion people in China now, it must be an enticing prospect for them to grow as a nation. Colonizing the moon will be also be a dangerous business. Rocket flight and space living has many hazards. For example, China allows rocket stages to separate and fall to earth in populated areas. This is especially terrifying since these contain highly toxic hypergolic fuels. **Needed: an act of Congress** We have been playing the US versus them game far too long. We will all benefit by collaborating with China and their scientists. They are doing amazing things; we have a great deal to learn from one another. It will require an act of Congress to restore relations with the ambitious Chinese National Space Administration. We cooperate with Russia in space; we should be able to cooperate with China. *Russ Frizzell lives in Olympia and graduated from The Evergreen State College in 2013.*



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An open letter to the Trump Administration

Cease interfering in Venezuela’s internal politics

The United States government must cease interfering in Venezuela's internal politics, especially for the purpose of overthrowing the country's government. Actions by the Trump administration and its allies in the hemisphere are almost certain to make the situation in Venezuela worse, leading to unnecessary human suffering, violence, and instability.

US intention to remove Venezuela’s president is long-standing

Venezuela's political polarization is not new; the country has long been divided along racial and socioeconomic lines. But the polarization has deepened in recent years. This is partly due to US support for an opposition strategy aimed at removing the government of Nicolás Maduro through extra-electoral means. While the opposition has been divided on this strategy, US support has backed hardline opposition sectors in their goal of ousting the Maduro government through often violent protests, a military coup d'etat, or other avenues that sidestep the ballot box.

US sanctions helped cause the disastrous economy

Under the Trump administration, aggressive rhetoric against the Venezuelan government has ratcheted up to a more extreme and threatening level,

with Trump administration officials talking of “military action” and condemning Venezuela, along with Cuba and Nicaragua, as part of a “troika of tyranny.” Problems resulting from Venezuelan government policy have been worsened by US economic sanctions, illegal under the Organization of American States and the United Nations as well as US law and other international treaties and conventions. These sanctions have cut off the means by which the Venezuelan government could escape from its economic recession, while causing a dramatic falloff in oil production and worsening the economic crisis, and causing many people to die because they can't get access to life-saving medicines. Meanwhile, the US and other governments continue to blame the Venezuelan government solely for the economic damage, even that caused by the US sanctions.

Trump Administration works to force a coup d’etat

Now the US and its allies, including OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro and Brazil's far-right president, Jair Bolsonaro, have pushed Venezuela to the precipice. By recognizing National Assembly President Juan Guaido

as the new president of Venezuela something illegal under the OAS Charter the Trump administration has sharply accelerated Venezuela's political crisis in the hopes of dividing the Venezuelan military and further polarizing the populace, forcing them to choose sides. The obvious, and sometimes stated goal, is to force Maduro out via a *coup d'etat*.

The US should have learned something from its regime change ventures in Iraq, Syria, Libya, and its long, violent history of sponsoring regime change in Latin America.

Pushing toward bloodshed, chaos and instability

The reality is that despite hyperinflation, shortages, and a deep depression, Venezuela remains a politically polarized country. The US and its allies must cease encouraging violence by pushing for violent, extralegal regime change. If the Trump administration and its allies continue to pursue their reckless course in Venezuela, the most likely result will be bloodshed, chaos, and instability. The US should have learned something from its re-

gime change ventures in Iraq, Syria, Libya, and its long, violent history of sponsoring regime change in Latin America.

No answer in US-backed regime change

Neither side in Venezuela can simply vanquish the other. The military, for example, has at least 235,000 front-line members, and there are at least 1.6 million in militias. Many of these people will fight, not only on the basis of a belief in national sovereignty that is widely held in Latin America in the face of what increasingly appears to be a US-led intervention but also to protect themselves from likely repression if the opposition topples the government by force.

International actors can mediate a negotiated outcome

In such situations, the only solution is a negotiated settlement, as has happened in the past in Latin American countries when politically polarized societies were unable to resolve their differences through elections.

There have been efforts, such as those led by the Vatican in the fall of 2016, that had potential, but they received no support from Washington and its allies who favored regime change. This strategy must change if there is to be any viable solution to the ongoing crisis in Venezuela.

For the sake of the Venezuelan people, the region, and for the principle of national sovereignty, these international actors should instead support negotiations between the Venezuelan government and its opponents that will allow the country to finally emerge from its political and economic crisis.

Among the journalists, academics and experts who are signers of this letter: Noam Chomsky, Professor Emeritus, MIT and Laureate Professor, University of Arizona/Laura Carlsen, Director, Americas Program, Center for International Policy/Greg Grandin, Professor of History, New York University/Miguel Tinker Salas, Professor of Latin American History and Chicano/a Latino/a Studies at Pomona College/Sujatha Fernandes, Professor of Political Economy and Sociology, University of Sydney/Steve Ellner, Associate Managing Editor of Latin American Perspectives/Alfred de Zayas, former UN Independent Expert on the Promotion of a Democratic and Equitable International Order and only UN rapporteur to have visited Venezuela in 21 years/Boots Riley, Writer/Director of Sorry to Bother You/The full list of more than 70 signers can be found in the online edition of Works in Progress at www.olywip.org

The crisis in Venezuela and the role of US government sanctions

For more than a decade, the United States has employed sanctions as a tool to punish the leadership of the Venezuelan government with the aim of forcing regime change in a country that had turned to socialism under Hugo Chavez. Along with mismanagement of the Venezuelan economy and a sharp decline in the price of oil, these actions by the US have contributed to hyperinflation, soaring rates of hunger, disease, crime and death, and massive emigration out of the country. With current actions by the US escalating the crisis, will the result for Venezuela be civil war or negotiations?

US laws reach into the pockets of foreign officials

Under various laws (Arms Export Control Act, Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act) Presidents Obama and Trump froze the assets of the Venezuelan government and various individuals on the grounds that they were involved in terrorism, drug trafficking, antidemocratic actions, corruption, etc. In December 2014 Congress passed the Venezuela Defense of Human Rights and Civil Society Act which opened the door to a more aggressive approach and broader economic sanctions.

Starving Venezuela of capital

In August 2017, President Trump issued an executive order prohibiting access to the US financial markets by the Venezuelan government, including Venezuela's state oil company, Petróleos de Venezuela, PdVSA, with certain exceptions to minimize the impact on the Venezuelan people and US economic interests. The order also denied Venezuela any return of the profits from CITGO's operations in the US.

These sanctions sought to restrict the Venezuelan government's access to

US debt and equity markets. Among the exceptions are transactions for new debt by CITGO, owned by PdVSA; transactions by US owners of Venezuelan/PdVSA bonds on secondary markets; financing for agricultural and medical exports; and short-term



financing to facilitate trade

In March 2018, President Trump issued another order prohibiting additional financial transactions including any related to the purchase of Venezuelan debt, including accounts receivable, and to any debt owed to Venezuela pledged as collateral. US officials assert the action was intended to deny corrupt Venezuelan officials the ability to improperly value and sell off public assets in return for kickbacks.

More sanctions pending

On November 1, 2018, Trump issued an order setting out a framework to block the assets of, and prohibit certain transactions with, any person

determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to be operating in a sector of the economy that involves deceptive practices. At times, the Trump Administration has indicated it was considering broader sanctions, such as an embargo on certain US exports to and/or imports from Venezuela (such as oil) or a prohibition on all financial transactions with PdVSA. So far, no one has been blocked under this order.

Making things worse isn’t always the best policy

Although stronger economic sanction could influence the Venezuelan government's behavior, they also could have negative effects and unintended consequences. Analysts are concerned that stronger sanctions could exacerbate Venezuela's difficult humanitarian situation, which has been marked by shortages of food and medicines, increased poverty, and mass migration. Many Venezuelan civil society groups oppose sanctions that could worsen humanitarian conditions.

Another concern is the effect that stronger sanctions could have on the US economy, including potential increased costs for US consumers and oil refiners that import Venezuelan oil. A complicating factor is that PdVSA owns CITGO, which operates three crude oil refineries, three pipelines, and numerous petroleum product terminals in the United States.

The information about sanctions in this article is excerpted from the Congressional Research Service report, Venezuela: Overview of US Sanctions, issued November 21, 2018.

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To curtail carbon emissions, accept indigenous peoples’ control over their land

[Ed note: On January 8, rallies expressing solidarity with the Wet'suwet'en people resisting use of their territory for access to a new gas pipeline took place in 30 cities across Canada and internationally. A group led by Canadian musicians on January 21 issued an open letter backing hereditary chiefs fighting against a natural gas pipeline project in British Columbia.. "Those in power who care for the future of life on this planet have no business building more pipelines, Your hereditary government

is showing more leadership in climate action than Canadian elected officials. For that strength and commitment we are grateful."]

Smithers, BC. Hereditary Leaders from across BC stand behind Wet'suwet'en and the assertion of their traditional laws. On January 16, hundreds of hereditary leaders, supporters and allies from across BC gathered on Wet'suwet'en territory to stand in solidarity with the Wet'suwet'en Chiefs as

they affirmed their title, rights, and responsibilities to protect their ancestral lands. The Wet'suwet'en are overwhelmed by the massive outpouring of support around the world, and are forever grateful for their support and honoured that they stand behind us as we continue to affirm our rightful title to our traditional territories.

On January 7, in support of a fracked gas pipeline, a military-scale assault by RCMP armed with assault weap-

ons aggressively forced entry at the Gitdumt'en checkpoint and forcibly removed unarmed Wet'suwet'en members from their land.

The Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs quelled the one-sided violence under duress to ensure the protection of .the Unist'ot'en community with a temporary truce.

The Hereditary Chiefs maintain that not only are their people's rights to protect their lands, but even Canada's laws are on their side. "Our rights to these lands have never been extinguished, the assumed and presumed jurisdiction of the provincial and federal governments is misleading and false," said Chief Na'Moks of the Wet'suwet'en. "Today's show of support from our neighbours and allies around the world proves the Wet'suwet'en do not stand alone. Our rights to water, air and land are not only Indigenous rights but human rights."

No more fattening frogs: A dispatch from the Surrealist frontier

Amphibians for Decolonization

The Unist'ot'en are the Big Frog clan of the Wet'suwet'en nation. They defiantly croak at the colonizer's yoke without reservation. They are hungry for decolonization. We honor their spirited resistance to colonial authority and offer our wholehearted solidarity.

That the Canadian government would like to fatten indigenous peoples up for the kill should come as no surprise. One aspect of colonial policy has always been to "fatten frogs for snakes," either by cajolery, bribery or by the deadening domestication of the feedlot. In this case, the snakes are the extractive tentacles of the fossil fuel industry whose serpentine form is the pipeline. That venomous symbol is the opposite of the lifegiving phallus of Eros. It is the symbol of destruction of the land and death to the people of the land.

The autonomy of the Unist'ot'en frog pond is in danger as unceded territory outside the confines of the reserve is threatened by TransCanada/Coastal GasLink predators. "Why not just cut your losses and fatten up at the corporate trough," say the colonizers with a wink. But the hereditary chiefs refuse to allow the living body of the land to be carved up without a fight. They yearn for long-term sustenance rather

than the empty calories of fast-food trickery. In contrast, the reservation band councils have signed on with the LNG industry for the chance to get a piece of the pie after having so long been restricted to crumbs from the colonial table. But the whole frackin' pie is rotten! It has been (half) baked by the same people who came to these lands from Europe over 150 years ago with a bible in one hand



..the hereditary chiefs refuse to allow the living body of the land to be carved up without a fight. They yearn for long-term sustenance rather than the empty calories of fast-food trickery.

and a gun in the other. They were the missionaries of cultural genocide who sought to colonize the minds of each generation in the residential schools.

And the colonial drive for assimilation is not dead yet. Take your pick says the latest, Great White Father, Justin "Sunny Ways" Trudeau: the bureaucratic carrot of government-sponsored "reconciliation" or the military stick of RCMP invasion. These are the current faces of the ongoing Canadian policy of assimilation, which often amounts to little more than guilt-ridden calls

for "healing" on the part of the descendants of the settlers, while the "hurting" still goes on in relation to indigenous communities. While bewildered settlers, hypocritical politicians and smug media talking heads arrogantly presume that strawman "consultations" are enough to smooth over historic antagonisms, the colonizers relentlessly continue to drain the pond of its nutrients and pollute the groundwater of life that still flows in the veins of the land.

We stand with those traditional chiefs responsible for the health of the land in their opposition to the toxic pipeline and its world. Proudly they proclaim the sovereign basis for their actions in protecting their own territory: "We are not protestors. We are Wet'suwet'en!"

As surrealists opposed to the institutional violence of the Canadian state and the physical violence of the RCMP's war on the Unist'ot'en land defenders, we dream of a mighty "rain of frogs" to cleanse the Earth!

A Joint Declaration by Amphibians for Decolonization-- Inner Island Surrealist Group (K'ómoks/Pentlatch territory) + Ottawa Surrealist Group (Algonquin Anishnaabeg territory)

The 22,000 square km of Wet'suwet'en Territory is divided into 5 clans and 13 house groups. Each clan within the Wet'suwet'en Nation has full jurisdiction under their law to control their territory. Chief Kloum Kuhn stated, "The five clans of the Wet'suwet'en will never support the Coastal Gaslink (CGL) project and remain opposed to any pipelines on our traditional lands. There is no legitimate agreement with CGL as reported in the media, and we stand behind the Unist'ot'en and Gitdumt'en. Under 'Anuc niwh'it'en, Wet'suwet'en rule of law, all five clans of the Wet'suwet'en have unanimously opposed all pipeline proposals and given no authority to Coastal Gaslink/TransCanada to do work on Wet'suwet'en lands."

The fossil fuel fantasy continues with LNG

There are currently five natural gas pipelines proposed or underway across the northern Canada wilderness, headed for LNG projects on the coast. (Plants are also proposed in Tacoma, WA and Coos Bay, OR.) The one crossing Wet'suwet'in territory is part of TransCanada Corp which wants to move the gas to a facility near Kitimat where it would be converted to a liquid form by LNG Canada for export to Asian markets. The investor and government rap on LNG is that it will reduce carbon emissions overall, but that is strongly disputed.

Producing, trans-

porting and liquifying natural gas is acknowledged to produce high levels of carbon. The proponents argue this won't matter because LNG will replace coal in foreign countries; and in BC,



the government is proposing financial incentives and other measures to reduce and offset LNG carbon pollution. If these optimistic claims aren't realized, the result will take BC backward on its climate goals.

In a 2016 letter opposing one of Canada's LNG projects, 90 climate experts from around the world dismissed arguments that selling LNG to other countries would cut GHG emissions in those countries by allowing them to stop burning coal. Environmental troubles brought by LNG tankers to marine communities are ignored: "Industrial society is really at a crossroads. We are at a time when we have to decide between business as usual, which is bringing about massive climate change, or doing those things that are absolutely necessary if we wish to maintain any orderly civilization on this planet."

—BW

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Works In Progress

This issue: the rural/urban divide



Just now, WIP is looking for help in a number of areas.

Writing, of course, is the big one. If you look at the column on the left side of page 2, you'll see what our *publishing mission* is and how to submit your writing, along with some indications of the kind of writing we hope for. We also need people to help with the **myriad tasks** that don't involve writing.

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