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

July 2019

# Olympia’s rising tax exempt skyline

Dan Leahy

I came home to Olympia in late May after a trip to Ireland and began to see the Olympia skyline.

Yes, the seven story 123 4th Ave building was still there with its noodle shop, empty retail spaces and rumors of vacancies, but now the nine story, 138-unit Mistake by the Lake was taking shape on the 5th Avenue flood plain with rumors of Russian money.

### One, two, many new buildings

A seven story Harbor Heights was rising near the Farmer's Market with 116 luxury apartments for the 55-plus crowd. Annie's Lofts on Adams street with 48 units was getting ready to open. Les Schwab on State had morphed from the 44 unit Dockside Flats to the "Laurana," named after Captain Sam Percival's wife.

Matt Scheibmeir, the Centralia lawyer hired by Mayor and Council as Hearing Examiner to make controversial decisions, followed his approval of the Dockside Flats and the Mistake by the Lake "Views on Fifth," by approving the 86-unit Westman Mill on leased Port-owned property between State and the Children's Museum. The Rants Group was promoting Olympia's first "upscale condominium community" near Gardner's restaurant with purchase prices between \$750,000 and \$1.4 million.

Even with all this, there was still more on the "skyline." Walker John dropped a million dollars and bought two vacant lots at State and Water for his aptly named 5-story, 60 unit "State and Water" project. At the same time he took ownership of the 222 Market complex on Capitol Way North, and proposed a 5-story "Market Flats" on the next door parking lot.

The City of Olympia has joined in with plans for a "Water Street Redevelopment" project on two lots purchased for \$585,000 at Water and 4th, followed up by the purchase of two lots on Adams street next to Fertile Ground (\$315,000) in August 2018, followed by lots containing Ben Moore's for \$950,000 in December 2018.

### Giving a little nudge to “market forces”

What's going on here? There are two key elements. First, this is all "market rate" housing in a community with a great need for affordable housing. Second, this market rate housing is promoted by the Mayor and City Council who grant building owners property tax exemptions for eight years.

We've all noticed the 123 building on

4th Avenue. The Mayor and Council gave its owner, Columbia Heights Partnership, an 8-year exemption from property taxes. The Mayor and Council granted three other recent 8-year tax exemptions: 19-unit 600 Franklin building housing the 3 Magnets and the 36-unit Lofts at 321 Legion, both owned by LLCs governed by Walker John. Another recipient is the Campus Lofts townhouses at 512 12th Avenue at Jefferson. These are owned by one of the best named LLCs—"CSV CDOW SK."

According to City documents, there are three other current requests for 8-year tax exemptions. Walker John wants one on his Annie's Lofts. J. Brent McKinley with LLC Columbia Place wants one for Harbor Heights and Mike Auderer with 924 State LLC wants one for this four unit building on State Avenue.

What surprised me the most, however, was that the Rants Group expected an exemption for its "upscale" Percival Condo project on Columbia Street. As set forth in its own Percival Condominium News:

"The Rants Group estimates that the savings to condominium buyers from the exemption could be \$60,000 to \$120,000 over the eight-year period. The exemption starts one year after completion of the building, so buy-

ers will realize the vast reduction in property taxes in years 2 through 9 of ownership." The last line of that paragraph reads: "The final Tax Exemption Agreement has been produced and is awaiting signature by the Olympia City Manager." (author's emphasis).

### How to get a tax exemption for your building

The Mayor and City Council issue these 8-year tax exemptions under Chapter 5.86 of the Municipal Code. Under provisions of this chapter, entitled "Multi-Family Dwelling Tax Exemptions," the City must first receive an application for the exemption; then a contract with the City must be "approved by the City Council," at which point a "Conditional Certificate of Acceptance of Tax Exemption" must be issued. A final Tax Exemption Agreement must be filed with Thurston County's Assessor's Office. According to Kieth Stahley, Director of the City's Community Planning and Development Department, the person who manages the exemption program is his Deputy Director, Leonard Bauer. It's Mr. Bauer who sends the "Final Certificate of Tax Exemption" to the County Assessor.

It turns out that there is a 12 year tax exemption available—but it asks for 20% of the units to be "affordable" units. An eight year exemption does

not require that any portion of the units be affordable. The requirement for getting an exemption downtown is siting the project in a target area. The owner then pays property tax only on the land and any associated retail or commercial space. The residential part of the building is exempt—in other words, tax free. So, who picks up the tax bill for this residential portion? You guessed it. The rest of us.

### What happens to our property tax as a result of the exemptions?

The County distributes our property taxes to thirteen different "districts." These include the City itself, Medic One, the Port, the PUD, the School District, etc. If the Mayor and City Council exempt a developer from property taxes, the amount due the districts doesn't change. What happens is that people who actually pay their property taxes pick up the balance.

In other words, the public subsidizes those who don't pay. More specifically, the Mayor and City Council are using our increased property taxes, paid directly or through rents we pay, as a public subsidy to those who own the tax exempt, market rate apartment buildings or condos that increase in asset value regardless of rental income.

► Exempt, continued on page 5

8 Year tax exemptions on multi-family units Olympia Municipal Code Chapter 5.86							
Location	# units	Owner	2019 Exempted Amount	Mill 2019	Public Subsidy per Year	Public Subsidy 8 yrs @	Agreement signed between City and Owner—in place
123 4th W at Columbia	138	Columbia Heights Partners LLC	\$23,182,900	12.26	\$284,222	\$2,273,776	3/16/2015 Mark Barber, City Atty Shur Lou
600 Franklin (3 Magnets)	19	Urban Olympia 3 LLC Walker John	\$1,699,562	12.26	\$20,836	\$166,693	1/30/2015 Steve Hall, City Mgr. Walker John
321 Legion (Lofts)	36	Urban Olympia 3 LLC Walker John	\$4,549,800	12.26	\$ 55,780	\$446,244	5/16/16 Jay Burney, Asst City Mg Walker John
512 12th at Jefferson	43	CSV CDOW SK LLC. Charles Dow Stephen Kwok. 3rd Gen Investment Group, LLC. Walker John	\$5,272,072	12.26	\$64,635	\$517,084	5/16/2016 Jay Burney, Asst City Mg Walker John
Totals	230		\$34,704,334		\$425,473	\$3,403,797	
Exemption agreements requested not yet acted upon							
Owner applicant	Location		# units	Date agreement requested			
Urban Olympia 4 LLC, Walker John	322 5th (400 Adams) Annie's Lofts		46	8/7/17			
924 State LLC, Mike Auderer	924 State NE		4	No date on application			
500 Columbia Place LLC, J. Brent McKinley	500 Columbia Harbor Hts		116	5/26/19			



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 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.

Informed opinion pieces are welcome, especially when accompanied by facts, examples and sources. Writing that stereotypes groups or categories of people will not be accepted for publication.

We discourage writing where a key point is stated as fact when it is unproven or in serious dispute. Once we receive a submission we may choose to publish it, or not. Articles can relate to the theme but material on other topics is important. Editing that extends beyond that needed for clarity will be reviewed with the author who always has the option to withdraw a piece. While the views expressed in the material we print are those of the author alone, WIP typically will favor material that is consistent with our mission.

**Submitting your writing.** Your piece should be submitted in the following manner: Send an email to [olywip@gmail.com](mailto:olywip@gmail.com) with the word SUBMISSION as part of the subject line. Attach your submission as a word document (formatted as indicated below). Include your name, a brief bio to run and where to contact you. Ideally, your writing will offer a unique progressive perspective and appeal to local and regional readers.

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

Submission deadline next issue

Sunday, July 21

[olywip@gmail.com](mailto:olywip@gmail.com)

Proofreading Meeting

Sunday, July 28

115 Legion Way SW



The community we want to build

For all practical purposes we live in a society fixated on increasing the economic value of those who are already wealthy by decreasing the economic value of the other humans. The success of the first project requires the completion of the second: the two states are directly proportional to each other.

From a biological perspective, one could argue that we all belong to a single community because we are a single species. From a social perspective, the biological basis for such human communality necessarily becomes fragmented as a multitude of large or small collectivities such as the Nation, the State, the city, and the neighborhood. Any unitary notions of human community must also be disassembled in the face of consequential differences including class, gender, race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation and so on.

The problem with biological argument that we are a single species and thus form a single community is that relations within and among all the existing collectivities are not abstract but social. Rather, these social relations among and between groups have specific functions for the way a given society organizes to produce, distribute and consume the wealth and benefits generated by that society. Members of all social collectivities, therefore, can also be said to either own the means of production (i.e. industries, land, and capital in general) or work as direct or indirect producers for those who own the modes of production. In other words, at a basic level, two antagonistic communities exist in the world: the community of labor and the community of capital. In terms of group size, the community of wealthy represents a tiny minority, while the community of those who are disenfranchised is large and getting larger.

As the 4th of July and the upcoming Presidential elections approach, we are witnessing the way in which the official propaganda of the White House and the Republican Party cloaks itself in the bloated sounds of patriotic slogans like “Make America Great” and “America First.” By using patriotic language, their intent is to create a false representation of the US as a unified national community (inaccurately described in the Pledge of Allegiance as “One nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all” ) while

at the same instilling docility and acceptance among people by implying that criticism of the status quo is anti-patriotic and anti-national.

The insincerity and inconsistency of this patriotic language is demonstrated by the fact that in America, the government's real loyalty lies not with the majority of people but instead favors the obscene accumulation of wealth by corporations with ties to the financial-industrial-military complex and the unconditional support of corrupt political institutions. Evidence of this bias can be found in the current extremes in income inequality, racism, discrimination, environmental destruction, as well as in the lack of significant health and social services for most American people.

The current social and political situation of the nation—gloomy as it is—has come to pass not so much because a few multi-billionaires and right-wing politicians wanted this to happen, but because a large mass of American citizens seems to have abdicated their responsibility and let things be.

It is time to call into being a new type of community willing to put in the White House and the nation a re-purposed State and Government. It is time to call into being a community forged by all “collective workers” of the nation willing to struggle in solidarity against capitalism and all forms of exploitation. Only then, at last, will the last words of the American Pledge of Allegiance make some sense: “With Liberty and Justice for All.”

—EQ

**Theme for August: Who’s running the show?** (deadline July 21)  
We encourage you to submit reports and reflections that answer this question for your workplace, your family, City Hall where you live, the educational system—or your school—the political system, the business sector, your church, the US of A and so on.

**Theme for September: What future are we creating?** (deadline Aug. 18)

**Theme for October: The rest of the world**

**About the cover:** Will the market support 674 new high-priced residential units and 90.000 square feet of commercial space coming on line in downtown Olympia? Photos by Lori Lively.



Then this happened...

**Maybe consider building affordable housing, Pat?**  
Our June issue was about the huge gap between how much money people have to live on, and the developers' firm belief in expensive housing. We included a photo of the Rants Group's planned luxury condos in downtown Olympia.

According to *The Olympian*, in 2017 Rants told the paper that the time was right for condo development downtown, especially at a site with waterfront views and close to fine dining. (Did he miss the food bank just two blocks away?)

Surprise! Rants has cancelled the condos, which were priced at \$750,000 to \$1.5 million.

“We just weren’t able to attract enough people at those prices,” said company president Pat Rants, noting the company is now looking at other possible uses for the land. (Thanks, PR)

We like to think that *Works in Progress* had some small part in opening Mr. Rants eyes to what's not needed in Olympia.. Anyone prepared to build apartments that a working person can afford?

Special events

Pier Peer at Boston Harbor Marina

Wed July 10, 8 – 9:30 pm.

Come out in our warm summer night and explore amazing creatures living right under the pier, from nudibranch to sea stars, you never know what you'll find. More information and to register, go to Puget Sound Estuarium.

Love letters from the end of the World

Fri July 12, 7 – 8:30 pm. Octapas Restaurant on 4th Ave.

Nonbinary artists from the Pacific NW sharing stories of the heart and beyond. Donation at the door.

Green Party of South Puget Sound candidate picnic

Sat July 13, 12 noon – 3pm.

Decatur Woods Park (1015 Decatur SW, Olympia).

Meet Port and City Council candidates before the primary. You're encouraged ( but not required) to bring a dish to share.

Bridge Music Project Dance Contest!

Sat July 13, Event starts at 5 pm, dance battle at 6 SHARP.

Percival Landing.

The Bridge Music Project hosts its annual all-styles dance battle. The winner will qualify to compete in the Allstyle Sweet 16 Finals, Sept 14th. Music by: DJ Drop B, Judges: Maverick, Jensine San aka Ra & Ben Vo. Free, everyone welcome.

Edible weeds

Sun, July 14, 1 – 2:30pm at GRuB (Garden-Raised Bounty), 2016 Elliott Ave NW.

A class that will cover gathering and foraging; recipes, processing and preserving; responsible harvesting. Handouts will be provided. Kate Tossey, facilitator. For more info visit [olympiafood.coop/healthy-food/community-classes](http://olympiafood.coop/healthy-food/community-classes)

“Caught in the Act”

Tue July 16, 7-9 pm. Rhythm & Rye, Capitol Way, Olympia.

Community members come together to share, compete and tell true stories based on the theme. StoryOly aims to encourage and develop community engagement and connection through the medium of storytelling.

Community Expo and Street Fair

Fri, July 19, 11:30 am – 6:30 pm. Railroad Ave., Shelton, WA.

Wander the streets of this old mill town as the community gathers to showcase its unique features.

Bridge Music Project concert on the Isthmus

Sat July 20, 5 pm, at the Isthmus Park.

Bridge Music mentors young people, relying on music and performance to equip them with tools for self-expression and understanding that they will carry the rest of their lives.

Paddle to Lummi 2019

Wed July 24, 10 am,

The Lummi Nation welcomes you, your friends, families and relatives to the Paddle to Lummi 2019 Official Landing day of over 70+ canoes at the Lummi Stommish Grounds beginning (at/ around) 10:00am.

GRuB Carnival!

Thu August 1, 5 – 8 pm, at GRuB Farm, 2016 Elliott Ave NW Olympia.

At GruB's annual carnival there willl be fun & games for the whole family. Dunk tank! Magic show! Face painting! Take a tour of the GRuB farm and learn about their awesome programs for kids, community, families and the earth itself.

For a fuller listing of events of June events, go to [LocalMotive.org](http://LocalMotive.org). For some events posted to WIP after the deadline, check out the WIP Facebook page.



# How hard work and a family dream created a community business

The best food is often hidden away in the corners of nondescript strip malls. These types of family-run multi-generational businesses must work hard to stay ahead of corporate outlets. They succeed by connecting with the community and by reflecting the values of their employees and customers, in contrast with bland chain stores that primarily serve to funnel profits to their remote corporate headquarters.

So it is that Ramirez Mexican Store and Restaurant can be found near an auto parts store and next to a nail salon in Tumwater. Signs in the window supporting local labor unions and tales of the many local school groups who have received numerous rounds of fundraising support are just one indication of how integrated Ramirez Mexican Store is in the community.

### A labor of love

The moment you meet Maria Jimenez and her family, owners of the store and restaurant it is apparent how much they love their work, their family recipes, their customers, and their community. That might explain why they've had one of the most highly rated restaurants and stores in the area for more than ten years.

Maria is from Jalisco and her husband José Ramirez is from the neighboring state of Zacatecas in central Mexico. Starting this business was a longtime family dream for them. José was a hard worker, often having two jobs at the same time. Maria worked to support him in creating a family business they could own for themselves.

### Family is part of the culture

What does Maria mean when she says “family business?” In addition to her husband, Maria's three sons (Andres, Oscar, and Sergio), her mother, daughters-in-law, brother, brother-in-law, and three nephews all work together in the business. The definition has expanded so that Maria feels that all the employees in the business are family to them.

And it isn't just the employees—it's the neighborhood vibe with a stream of locals coming for a meal, or take-out, or some Mexican groceries. The way children can entertain themselves checking out shelves of exotic food while their parents enjoy a meal—or even a drink. Groups are welcome to hold celebrations and other events in the bar area. There's a Washington Federation of State Employees (WFSE) sign in the front window of the store and Maria says they are proud to work with the labor union to provide food for many WFSE events. They've even been part of weddings—preparing food for as many as 500 guests.

### Offering the flavors of a different world

Maria and José started with a small store in 2008. Over the next 12 years the store has grown to encompass a

enchiladas, tortas, seafood platters including *mojarra frita* (fried whole tilapia), salmon, and red snapper—and breakfast too.

In 2014, the family opened Ramirez To Go—yes, tucked away next to a service station on Olympia's Westside—run by their son Sergio. The menu is shorter, but it's the same delicious food.

After they added a bar to the Tumwater location in 2018, Maria began referring to seating areas as Section A for the store portion which is a little quieter and more private, Section B for the restaurant portion which has more space and natural light from the windows, and Section C for the bar portion where groups

Anyone who has experienced the tradition of a family getting together to make tamales during the Christmas holiday season knows this is a huge labor of love. Even though the store makes its own *masa*, it is less labor intensive for a restaurant kitchen like theirs to structure operations to produce large batches of tamales. Many customers appreciate that they can buy authentic, traditional made-from-scratch tamales by the dozen from the Ramirez Store when they aren't able to turn their home kitchen into a full fledged tamale factory. Tamales are available year-round, but thousands upon thousands are sold from Thanksgiving to New Year's, so pre-ordering is wise.

As for the beans, many customers beg Maria for her recipe (which she graciously shares on occasion), but few are able to master the process. They come back to her to say “they still didn't taste as good as yours.” Maria replies with a wink and a smile “maybe my husband puts extra love into our version.”

When asked what is her favorite thing about working together with so many family members Maria enthusiastically replies “that I have them all with me and we are growing together.” She then follows up with “if I had to choose all over I would do it again in a heartbeat, we really appreciate our customers and really enjoy serving our community”.

Ramirez Mexican Store, 5105 Capitol Blvd. SW #C, Tumwater, WA 98501

Ramirez To Go, 2400 Harrison Ave SW Olympia, WA 98501

www.ramirezmxicanstore.com

The author grew up in the Pacific NW—except for a stint in Southern California (where he learned to love authentic Mexican food) and travels to other far flung parts of the world.

## Over the years...the store has grown to encompass a whole south-of-the-border world

whole south-of-the-border world: dried chilies and spices, a range of produce with whole and prepared nopales cactus, imported canned and packaged goods, a drinks section with hard-to-find guava Jarritos, Mexican candy. A large refrigerated case is filled with containers of sauces, entrees, condiments, desserts made from scratch from Ramirez family recipes—mainly the mothers of Maria and José. In time, they added a tortilla factory to produce that traditional staple without which there is no authentic Mexican meal—fresh corn tortillas.

At the meat counter there are cuts familiar to anyone who's traveled in Mexico or learned to love Mexican food, many of them seasoned with the flavors of Mexico and ready for grilling. Adventurous home cooks come to the store with printed recipes, looking to find some of the ingredients they need and often thrilled to discover they can find everything on their list at the Ramirez store.

### Building on success

With the success of the store, the next step was to offer prepared food in a restaurant setting as well as catering. Like the store, the restaurant is a world in reach of your fork and spoon: six different varieties of soups, tacos with 11 filling options, burritos, bowls,

sometimes like to throw birthday parties and celebration events. On Friday nights you might encounter a happy crowd of locals in for the karaoke.

### Sharing the love

Maria's eyes light up when she describes two more specialties of the Mexican table: tamales and beans.

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# Getting wise to the smartgrid, Part one

Leslie Shankman

Somewhat quietly, the next generation of wireless technology, 5G (for 5th Generation), is sprouting up in cities around the globe. At this juncture, communities would ideally be given the opportunity to weigh in on these fundamental questions. Do people want this kind of future? What impact will this technology have on health, the environment, culture, values and innate human perception?

Unfortunately, categorizing the global rollout of 5G as a “stealth” operation is not unduly dramatic. Communities are starting to weigh in, but many are only able to do so during or after installation of 5G infrastructure as they come to realize what is happening.

The 2018 rollout of 5G in parts of Asia, Europe and the United States surfs in on the vision that the vast potential of this new iteration will allow us to design our way into the future. The telecom literature is heavy on how we have to bite the bullet and lay in the infrastructure now to open and support the possibilities for a flourishing connected future.

With 5G no longer selling just the promise of faster connectivity speed, but the broader notion of offering the technology that will support a whole new way of thinking, playing and working (see pro 5G chart on this page).

Satellites, phased array and exponential radiation: the true nature of 5G

Arthur Firstenberg, author and activist who founded the Cellular Phone Task Force, is a leading voice in matters related to electromagnetic frequencies (EMFs). The task force was formed in 1996 in response to the health and environmental threats posed by the launch of the wireless revolution in the United States. It serves as a global clearinghouse for information about wireless technology’s injurious effects, and provides a national support network for people injured or disabled by electromagnetic fields.

Firstenberg equates going from 4G to 5G as going from “blankets to bullets.” And this does not mean that he thinks 4G is a safe fuzzy blanket. Rather, he is graphically pointing out how different in character and consequence the 5G frequency is compared to the longer wave form of 4G that travels from a distant cell phone tower.

Firstenberg explains that the most important fact to understand about 5G is called “phased array.” In order to connect so many things to the internet to make them “Smart” and do what we want them to do, a much greater bandwidth is needed. However, the greater the

bandwidth, the shorter the waves. Put very simply, many small antennas are required to produce these short waves, which are then focused into a beam that can be directed at a specific target.

Firstenberg says this “will totally change the way cell towers and cell phones are constructed and will transform the blanket of radiation which has enveloped our world for two decades into a million powerful beams

“We the undersigned scientists, doctors, environmental organizations and citizens from 187 countries, urgently call for a halt to the deployment of the 5G (fifth generation) wireless network, including 5G from space satellites.”

whizzing by us at all times.” Hence, his characterization of 5G frequencies as “bullets.”

To support and direct these short waves, there need to be cellular base stations placed very closely together, about 500 feet apart along every street.

Since the boxes must blast their signals in order to get them inside homes and buildings, the only way to do this economically is with phased arrays and focused beams that are aimed directly at their targets. Think—there will be transmitting cellular base stations everywhere; on utility poles, on bus stops, on buildings including hospitals and schools, to achieve the needed close proximity.

But the proliferation of closely spaced cellular boxes does not complete the connection of everything. To achieve the connection of everything, it is necessary to launch 20,000 satellites that will send their highly focused beams of microwave radiation to 5G devices on the ground. And in turn, each device will send a beam of radiation back to the satellite.

Now extrapolate—since the telecom vision is to connect everything, many more things than cell phones will be communicating by shooting beams through our atmosphere, our walls and our bodies (and the bodies of all living things—plants, animals, insects, microbes) as they travel between base stations, satellites and devices. Hence, radiation levels and exposure become exponential.

Firstenberg also informs us that “another important fact about radiation from phased array antennas is this: it penetrates much deeper into the human body and the assumptions that the Federal Communication Commission’s (FCC) exposure limits are based on

do not apply. When an ordinary electromagnetic field enters the body, it causes charges to move and currents to flow. But when extremely short electromagnetic pulses enter the body, something else happens: the moving charges themselves become little antennas that re-radiate the electromagnetic field and send it deeper into the body.”

Physiological dangers of EMF exposure

Martin Pall, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Biochemistry and Basic Medical Sciences, Washington State University, offers a 90-page, seven-chapter document discussing the effects of 5G EMFs in the body, and also the corruption of international science investigating this. Pall feels that the effects we now see from lower frequency EMFs will be much more severe with 5G EMFs.

history of the world.”

Ongoing rocket deployment and ozone depletion

But now back to the 20,000 necessary satellites — two 5G test satellites were launched by SpaceX in February 2018. On March 29, 2018, the FCC gave approval to SpaceX to launch 4,425 satellites into low orbit around the Earth, and it is expected that hundreds of satellites will be launched into low and midrange orbit in 2019. All 20,000 satellites could be put into orbit over the next two years. The companies with the biggest plans to launch satellites include:

- SpaceX: 12,000 satellites
- OneWeb: 4,560 satellites
- Boeing: 2,956 satellites
- Spire Global: 972 satellites

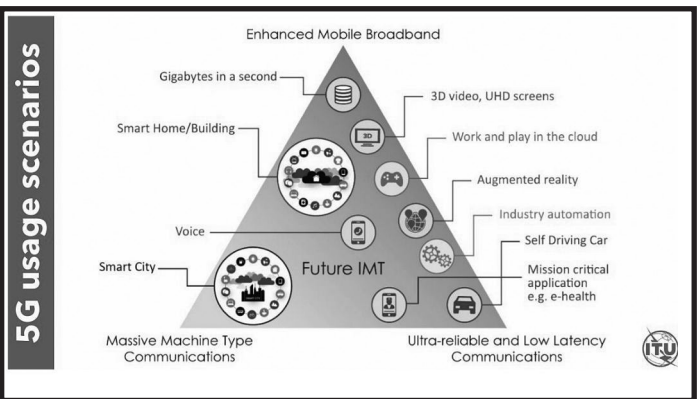
There are several ways to fuel a rocket launch and none of them are friendly to the environment. Rockets that use solid fuel create massive ozone depletion. Liquid kerosene can also be used and while this fuel destroys less ozone, it releases massive amounts of black carbon soot into the air, especially at high altitudes.

Computer models suggest that if the number of annual rocket launches increases by 10 or more times, the combination of ozone depletion and the black soot could produce a 3-degree warming effect over the Antarctic and reduce the ozone in the world’s atmosphere by 4 percent. And, since 5G satellites have a lifespan of about five years, there will need to be ongoing launches.

A third mercury-based rocket propulsion system is currently being developed by Apollo Fusion. This works on the basis of ion propulsion and uses powerful magnets to push away small charged particles at high speeds, thereby generating thrust. But, if there was ever a malfunction causing this type of engine to explode, the environmental consequences would be enormous as mercury, an extremely strong neurotoxin, would spread throughout the atmosphere and over the Earth.

In addition, these satellites, which are each the size of a small refrigerator and weigh about 880 pounds, will contribute to an enormous amount of space junk over time as they complete

► Smartgrid, continued on next page



Particularly concerning are the effects of these EMFs on the eye. Given the cellular reactions caused by these frequencies, we may encounter a “gigantic epidemic of each of the four types of blindness: cataracts, detached retinas, glaucoma and macular degeneration.” Pall also cites a concern for kidney dysfunction. Since the kidneys have so much fluid in the form of blood and what will become urine, 5G EMFs “may be expected to impact both glomerular filtration and reabsorption, both essential to kidney function.”

Pall has said that installing essentially millions of 5G antennae without having done any biological testing is the “stupidest idea anyone has had in the

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# Smartgrid

From previous page

their life span and are no longer operational. Eventually they will fall back to the Earth burning upon re-entry, with the hazardous materials in these satellites released into the atmosphere and floating to the ground as dust or in raindrops.

Leslie Shankman became aware of 5G in early 2019 when a friend in Taos, NM became debilitatingly ill from a 5G cell box placed on her property, forcing a move. Currently a writer and editor, Shankman has worked in business, lived and worked at a yoga institute, and assisted seniors with living and dying. She has lived in Bellingham since 1993.

Reprinted with permission from Whatcom Watch, June 2019 issue, [www.whatcomwatch.org](http://www.whatcomwatch.org). It is supported by almost 30 references, all of which are available at [olywip.org](http://olywip.org).

## 5gspaceappeal.org\*

\*A personal version of this petition, directed to the United Nations, World Health Organization, European Union, Council of Europe and governments of all nations, can be signed at [5gspaceappeal.org](http://5gspaceappeal.org).

# Technological evolution of 5G and birth of the Smartgrid

The lineage of technology generations started in the early 1980s when 1G was released, supporting cell phones with the analog transmission of voice-only calls. These first phones had poor battery life and voice quality, little security, and were prone to dropped calls. 2G was released in the early 1990s, evolving from analog to digital operation, which introduced call and text encryption, along with data services that created the capacity for different kinds of picture and text messaging.

The introduction of 3G networks in 1998 ushered in faster data-transmission speeds allowing cell phones to be used in more data-demanding ways, such as for video calling and mobile internet access. The term “mobile broadband” came about with 3G cellular technology. The fourth generation, 4G, was released in 2008. Going beyond the mobile web access of 3G, 4G also supports gaming

services, HD mobile TV, video conferencing, 3D TV, and other features that demand high speeds. Most current cell phone models support both 4G and 3G technologies. (1)

The applications supported by 4G have evolved to offer connected cars, cheaper monitors and TVs, digital health devices that can report data directly to doctors, laptop/tablet combinations, curved TVs, 3-D printers, smart homes allowing a wide range of remote functions from afar, and wearables such as smart watches. In the tech world, these creative applications have spawned the vision of connecting all kinds of things through the internet. (2)

In a January 13, 2014, *Time* magazine article, Tim Bjarin wrote that “The Internet of Everything (IOE) has become a catch-all phrase to describe adding connectivity and intelligence to just about every device in order to give them special functions.” He

went on to describe the advent of everything “Smart,” that we are now so familiar with — “... All end up with the ‘smart’ moniker in front of them when they become tied to the Internet and interconnect to ecosystems of devices, software and services.” Note: Now, these years hence, this is more commonly referred to as the Internet of Things — IoT).

Bjarin pointed out that developing this market would yield an enormous financial impact as well:

“... during a meeting I had with the CEO of Cisco, John Chambers, he outlined Cisco's thinking on IOE. The financial numbers he predicts for the impact of IOE in the public sector alone: \$4.6 trillion. He believes it will have a dramatic impact on everything from city planning, first responders, military, health and dozens of other environments.”

# Exempt

From page 1

The chart accompanying this article shows the current four owners who have received an 8-year property tax exemption from the Mayor and City Council for their market rate housing. To calculate the public subsidy, I multiplied the Exempted Amount by 12.26, the millage rate for 2019. Our public subsidy to these four owners comes to \$425,473 for 2019 and \$3,403,797 for the 8-year period.

Another way of thinking about it is to look at what a building owner pays, in contrast to what they would have paid without the tax exemption. The owners of 123 4th Avenue are taxed on an assessed value of only \$3,106,300. Based on this and the millage rate of 12.16, they pay \$38,098. The assessed value of both the land and the residential portion comes to total of \$26,289,200. Without the exemption, the owners would be paying \$360,388. Who pays the \$322,290 they saved? The rest of us.

Remember Walker John's LLC taking ownership of the 222 Market Build-

ing on Capitol Way? Just six days after Walker's LLC took possession of the complex, City Manager Steve Hall approved a “special valuation” for that property as “historic.” This mean Walker John's LLC, beginning in 2020, does not have to pay property taxes on the \$1,261,833 portion of the commercial building's assessment of \$2,475,200. At the 2019 millage rate of 12.26, this means he does not pay \$15,470/year or \$123,760 over 8 years. We do.

## Despite the interventions, the market is a rascally beast, so beware

If the distorted real estate market in Seattle or the anticipated arrival of climate refugees is creating the demand for market rate housing here in Olympia, I might understand all the building. What I don't understand is why it requires a public subsidy. Responding to a distorted real estate market with more distortion or to a climate crisis you refuse to acknowledge does not appear to be sound public policy.

In addition, I worry about what all this means to the existing, moderately priced rental units in downtown Olympia, let alone to the people we

abandon to the bridges, doorways and woods. With all this new, City-subsidized market rate housing, the incentive will be to raise rents in older apartment buildings. The 29-unit Angelus Apartments above the Cascadia Grill was purchased in April of this year for \$1.9 million by TAC 2 LLC, governed by Thomas Glaspie and Andre Scott. Tenants are already being removed. Another classic, the 21-unit Martin was purchased for \$4.5 million in December 2018 by an LLC out of Boca Raton, Florida. Unless you believe in the Guido Sarducci school of “supply and demand” economics, you know rents will go up, not down.

On the other hand, maybe the Rants Group cancellation of their million-dollar luxury condo project in mid-June is an indication of what's coming. Maybe the reason they canceled the project was not due to their claimed “social climate” of homelessness, but due to their own flawed analysis of market demand, even with the tax subsidy they anticipated. We'll see.

Dan Leahy grew up in the Irish-Italian-Hungarian working class neighborhood of Seattle's Queen Anne Hill, now turned into a rich man's automobile park with homes that rent for \$4200 per month or are bulldozed as “tear downs” for high priced four story condos..

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# City Council candidates in their own words

[Works in Progress invited the unknown challengers for Olympia City Council races to submit a statement about their positions. These three candidates replied.]

## Phyllis Booth

(candidate for Pos. 2 held by Jessica Bateman)

Democracy is a primary value for me. In my three decades of volunteer work, I have attended 7 years of City Council meetings, worked with the Friends of the Waterfront, the Carnegie Group, Public Funds for Public Purposes, the local Hospice services; served social justice and homeless organizations, and fund with two United Methodist Churches in Olympia and Centralia (Centralia UMC is one of the only churches that welcomes the LG-BTQ community), and Quixote Village from 2007 to the present (my husband and I were recently awarded a “Tiny House Hero Award”).

I gathered 3,000 signatures to defeat a corporate conference center, leaving those funds available for a Children’s Museum.

I’ve been a school volunteer at three schools for twelve years, a Legislative District 22 Chair and Democratic Platform Chair in 2018 and more.

Lately, I worked for 17 months with Olympians for Smart Development and Livable Neighborhoods. We are asking the City of Olympia to start over with the Missing Middle. I think it violates the democratically developed Comprehensive Plan for growth. I also followed and protested House Bill 1923 that cuts citizens rights to appeal land use decisions in their neighborhoods. I am currently serving as a volunteer nurse at the Olympia Free Clinic, and I am serving my eighth year as a Democratic Precinct Officer.

### How would I promote an inclusive community in Olympia?

My primary goal is to welcome all citizens to the table of political decision-making at City Hall. I will do so by pushing for more public outreach where everyone can hear everyone else, and not be separated out into different groups. The City appears to make efforts to engage the community via public hearings, the Engage Olympia website, and surveys. However, on each of these platforms, we listen to a narrative that is often augmented by the City’s hand-picked stakeholders. Examples include the Missing Middle zoning changes, the Olympia Conference center, and other development projects.

### As your councilmember, I will promote:

- A newsletter of all important decisions concerning major city policies, how tax money is spent, and upcoming public hearings, to be included in your City utility bill.
- Citizen education course about how to be involved, effective, and exercise your rights.
- Dealing with problems, projects, or city business using direct, televised, two-way conversations between diverse citizens, council, and city staff.

### What I plan to address in office: Sea level rise

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, we will have eight feet of sea level rise by the end of the century. We need to encourage development away from the

low-lying areas of Olympia, as the sea level rise will affect our area. It’s also time to remove the dam and let the estuary heal.

### Environment

Since I am concerned with dioxin in Puget Sound, I consulted with our local expert Harry Branch who served as a licensed professional captain of research and fishing vessels and holds a Master’s Degree in Environmental Studies. He said “There are unidentified and uncontrolled sources of dioxin entering Budd Inlet. The Sediment Characterization was supposed to lead us to identifying these sources prior to development. This is important because contamination left in place will continue to spread. The process has been reversed. We’re first choosing which sites to develop, and then doing limited remediation of those sites.”

Additionally, our streams must be daylighted so that our salmon runs can be healthy.

### Affordable housing

Vote NO against city implementation of House Bill 1923, which is Missing Middle on steroids as it cuts citizens out of an appeal process. Instead, I will promote alternative housing that modifies current city codes:

Build KOA-style communities, with shared bathrooms, kitchens in one common building, and heated cabins.

Preserve mobile home parks for affordable housing.

Promote shared housing for singles. Rooming houses are a good idea when they have supportive green space and parking, do not overload schools, and pay full impact fees for parks, schools, roads, and sewers.

### Efficient use of taxpayer dollars

As your council member, I want to prevent socialized costs (taxpayer money) and privatized profits (developer deals). If the City sells city-owned property where tax monies were spent on cleaning up contaminants, I will require the new owner to reimburse the city for the cost of clean up. I will push for policies that make developers pay their impact fees and not push costs off in the form of higher property taxes. Impact fees pay for infrastructure needs such as roads, sewers, schools and parks that serve new development.

Additionally, I will oppose property tax breaks for luxury housing. Currently, millions are allowed.

### Transportation

I would like to be on the Transportation Committee.

Support policies that encourage more bus shelters (because we live in a rainy area), and safer bus stops (so we don’t have to wait in the middle of the streets), especially in northeast neighborhoods.

Enhance interest in bus ridership with both Intercity Transit and local school buses through education on the merits of mass transit such as reduced air pollution, reduced transportation costs, and less traffic congestion.

Coordinate community activities like Procession of the Species, with bus transportation to downtown community events from the neighborhoods.

Increase bus service at night.

### Endorsements

Leading community members have endorsed this campaign such as for-

mer Olympia Mayor and leading parks advocate Bob Jacobs; former Green Pages Editor and environmental activist Krag Unsoeld; former PUD Commissioner Jim Lazar; Gary Kline, Black Lake Organic founder who received and Environmental Excellence Award from the Department of Ecology; current PUD Commissioner Chris Stearns; and former Olympia Planning Commissioner and land use expert on the Missing Middle, Judy Bardin; Community organizer Sherri Goulet; retired Olympia High School physics teacher Jay Elder; and neighborhood activist Angie Warner-Rein and the Washington State Progressive Caucus.

More information at [www.pbooth.org](http://www.pbooth.org)

## Alyssa Humbert

(candidate for Pos. 2 held by Jessica Bateman)

### Devin and Alyssa Humbert

I never planned to become a politician. I don’t have a degree in public administration, I’m not a very polished speaker, and—although I’ve fundraised for causes like children’s literacy, animal rights, and environmental issues—I’m not very good at raising money for myself. I never envisioned running for city council as the next step in my career ladder. I’m a real person, not a professional politician. In a better world, I would be content living a private life with my family, trying to make things better in small ways: picking up litter, voting, being a friendly neighbor.

But this world is not a perfect one, and I haven’t figured out how to silence the voice inside me that demands I do my part. That’s why I am running for Olympia City Council: I’m done being patient. I’m done waiting for others to deliver a perfect world. The 2016 election has taught us that justice is not inevitable, that we cannot simply wait. Underrepresented groups—people of color, women, LGBTQIA+ people, the disabled—must no longer wait for the privileged to help us. We must insist that our voices be heard at all levels of government. We must make it clear that our vote can no longer be bought with empty promises of justice someday. Our support has been taken for granted. I can no longer stomach being told by the privileged to “be patient.”

I describe myself in many ways: a woman, an Asian-American, a first-generation American, an activist, a mother. My mother, an immigrant, taught me how to be an American. She has been a (proud union) postal worker for over thirty years, and a US Navy veteran before that. She taught me what being American means. She chose to come here, and raised me to believe in the American dream. She came from a country where the voices of most people, especially women, were not heard. She taught me that sometimes we have to fight to have our voices heard.

I want those in power to hear what I have to say. I want to ensure that they hear what you have to say.

To that end, I volunteer on the board of the Family Support Center of South

Sound, doing whatever I can to amplify the voices of homeless families, and ensuring that victims of domestic violence are not silenced. I volunteer on the board of my local neighborhood association, to ensure that our neighborhood is fairly represented in the city. I volunteer with the Washington Trails Association, advocating for our planet, whose voiceless breath gives us all life.

Besides my volunteer experience, I was previously the director of operations for a nonprofit organization that built libraries in developing nations, and taught refugee children in the United States how to read. Watching these children learn to read, many of whom had only ever known war and poverty, brought home to me the fact that it is my duty to do whatever I can to fight for those who have not been as fortunate as I have been. Prior to that, I assisted children with learning and physical disabilities. That experience taught me how privileged I was, and obliged me to do whatever I could to give those children the same advantages that I had.

Most of us will never face such severe challenges. But we still wonder how we’re going to make rent, are unsure if we will have a job next year, and worry about the future of our community. I do not have all the answers. That’s why I’m running for city council — I think that you have the answers, you just need somebody to listen. Here are some of the ideas that I have heard so far:

- A \$15 minimum wage that is indexed to inflation, to fairly compensate for annual increases in cost of living and inflation.
- Prioritizing union workers and workplaces, and lowering the barrier to unionization where possible.
- Creating an office of Wage Standards, to ensure that if workers are not paid fairly, they have somewhere to turn to resolve their issues.

This office will educate employees and employers about labor laws and wage theft, provide a hotline to submit claims without repercussion, investigate those claims, and hold hearings to ensure fair treatment.

- Creating an office of Civil Rights to help lower barriers to equity by enforcing laws against discrimination in employment, housing, city contracts, etc. This office will be empowered to educate

Olympians about their rights and obligations, as well as investigate cases of discrimination.

- Holding the city to its comprehensive plan for housing which develops housing along transit lines to encourage the use of public transportation, multi-use housing complexes, and protecting historic and cultural areas. I want to hold city government accountable for ensuring affordable housing is a priority, while also protecting green and public spaces.
- Addressing houselessness with housing first because a person can only succeed once they have housing.

In support of the Green New Deal, I pledge not to accept contributions from fossil fuel industries. Companies and governmental organizations who pollute need to be held accountable with punitive fines that are actually enforced, and consequences such as not renewing city contracts with those





### Humbert, continued

who repeatedly violate standards. I want public buildings to adhere to sustainable standards, and old buildings retrofitted for energy efficiency.

I have heard from many families about the need for affordable and trustworthy childcare in our city’s public spaces. One concrete step forward that I will push for is to provide childcare during council meetings so that families can be civically engaged.

I am not foolish enough to believe that I can fix every problem that afflicts every Olympian. I can promise that I will listen to what you have to say, and do my best to represent you. I promise that I will not only do what I think is best for you, I will try to empower you to do what you think best for yourself.

## A conversation with Dr. Matt Goldenberg

(candidate for Pos. 3 held by Nathaniel Jones)

Jeff Sowers

Like much of the Country, the City of Olympia is in crisis. Widespread and growing houselessness, rampant drug addiction and untreated mental illness, skyrocketing rents, lack of police accountability and transparency, and climate change are among the daunting challenges facing our city at the southern tip of the Salish Sea. It was with all this in mind that I sat down to have a conversation with Matt Goldenberg. I have felt frustrated with how the City Council has dealt with a number of these pressing issues, including homeless camp sweeps, the Missing Middle rezone, and the handling by the Olympia Police Department of Yvonne McDonald’s unexplained death. I was curious and anxious to find out how Matt Goldenberg planned to take on these challenges.

Matt is running for position 3, which was abandoned by Nathaniel Jones who is now running for mayor. His challengers in the race are Dani Madrone and Boudicca Walsh.

Dr. Goldenberg is a clinical psychologist with a small, active practice here in Olympia where he specializes in

treating trauma; specifically trauma from oppression due to various forms of racism, sexism, xenophobia, homophobia, etc. In addition to his practice, he also teaches part-time as an adjunct professor at South Puget Sound Community College, and works as an “equity consultant” for schools and government agencies. He consults with staff to address biased attitudes, hiring practices, and establish nondiscrimination policies. He is married and has two children. He is also openly transgender, making him the second transgender candidate in this race, along with Boudicca Walsh.

One of the things most important to Dr. Goldenberg, and a main reason he gives for running for office, is his belief that we need a mental health provider on the council who understands what “trauma informed policy” means. Matt is passionate about helping others develop an understanding about how trauma in its various forms affects people, in particular those suffering from oppression -- those in the houseless community, racial minorities, and the LGBTQ community. He believes that the absence of a trauma-informed perspective on the Council undermines the city’s ability to work effectively with the whole community in a manner that respects the rights and needs of everyone. Examples of situations that raised concern for Matt include too much “tone policing” at city council meetings, lack of outreach and communication with residents of unsanctioned camps, and treatment of the family of Yvonne McDonald.

Matt passionately believes we need a council member who has direct service experience with the houseless community. He points to his own experience on King County’s first mobile crisis team where he worked with chronically homeless adults. He also worked at Childhaven, a therapeutic daycare for infants who were homeless and/or insecurely housed, and as the on-site therapist for Neighborcare in their drop-in homeless youth clinic.



### How Matt would promote an inclusive community in Olympia

With his background in treating trauma in oppressed communities, as an educator, and as an equity consultant, Matt believes he has the skills to lead the council toward creating a more inclusive community in Olympia. He

would like to see the whole council receive equity training, as well as racial bias training for the Olympia Police Department. He talked about a “Human Rights Commission” that could address issues of police accountability and transparency, as well as human rights concerns for all city residents. In general he wants to see the council make more of an effort to reach out to the houseless community, such as by holding a Council meeting at a houseless campsite.

He would build community by pushing for action on the City’s “sanctuary city” status. Just declaring Olympia to be a sanctuary city is not enough, We need to offer more substantial forms of support for undocumented immigrants living here. He would also like to see a city-led coalition to connect entrepreneurs of color with local credit unions and small business consultants in order to “diversify our market and ensure that we are creating opportunities for all families to thrive.”

### Houseless crisis

Matt strongly opposes the sweeps of unsanctioned camps, and the idea of criminalizing houselessness generally whether camping, public urination, or other “crimes of poverty.” He is calling for additional mitigation sites, and for unsanctioned camps to be left where they are if reasonably possible. If relocation is needed he would like to see residents included in developing relocation plans, and for the city to work more closely with mental health professionals and other service providers as they formulate houseless policy. He is also calling for an increase in needle exchange sites, and wants to see an interlocal agreement between government bodies to share responsibility for

addressing the houseless crisis.

### Missing Middle and low income housing

Matt has serious concerns with the Missing Middle rezone ordinance, including its failure to include any low income housing provisions, shortcutting environmental review processes, and exemptions to on-site parking requirements. While the Missing Middle ordinance had no provisions for low income housing, Matt supports the idea of establishing a low income housing impact fee or an “inclusionary zoning” ordinance that would require new housing developments to include a set percentage of units designated as low income. He does not believe that bypassing environmental impact reviews for “Missing Middle” developments is a good idea.

With regard to the shortage of low income housing, Matt is particularly concerned with what will happen with our low income senior population as baby boomers move into their senior years. Another measure Matt would like to see in response to the low income housing crisis is a city-supported and formalized tenants union. He believes that “residents should be given increased time to respond to evictions” and that “housing applicants should receive exact copies of their credit reports when collected by landlords, so that applicants don’t need to pay multiple fees as they search for housing.”

The last thing we discussed was the minimum wage, which he supports raising to \$15 per hour. Personally, I find it surprising that a City as progressive as Olympia has not already adopted a \$15 minimum wage. A recent Quinnipiac Poll showed that 57% of Americans support raising the minimum wage to \$15, and support in Olympia must be significantly higher than this. Who is our City Council listening to?

Fortunately, we have some great candidates running this year, and I think Dr. Matt Goldenberg is clearly one of them. We need fresh perspectives on the Council, and Matt clearly has a valuable perspective and needed skills to offer. He is definitely worth voters’ serious consideration for Olympia City Council, position 3.

You can find our more about Matt’s campaign at [www.electmattgoldenberg.com](http://www.electmattgoldenberg.com).

# Relation of Progressives to the Democratic Party

Dave Jette

### The current situation

Donald Trump is not simply the worst President in recent history—he is systematically bringing about fascism. For a detailed exposition on this, please see ‘Neo-Fascism in the White House’ in the April 2017 issue of *Monthly Review* and “Trump in the White House: Tragedy and Farce” (*Monthly Review Press*, 2017), both by John Bellamy Foster.

This fascism will be based upon White Supremacy, as seen most recently in Trump’s reaction to the Charlottesville White Nationalist event, his support for retaining Confederate statues (“thing of beauty”), and his pardoning of former Sheriff Joe Arpaio.

In his inaugural address, Trump exclaimed in words which Hitler might have used:

“From this moment on, it’s going to be America First. ... At the bedrock of our politics will be a total allegiance to the United States of America. ... When America is united, America is totally unstoppable ... Most im-

portantly, we are protected by God ... Together, We Will Make America Strong Again. We Will Make American Wealthy Again. We Will Make America Proud Again. We Will Make America Safe Again. And, Yes, Together, We Will Make America Great Again.” (Quoted on page 9 of the Foster article.)

One reaction to the Trump agenda within the Democratic Party has been that it needs to swing (further) right, in order to win back Trump voters. However, there is also enthusiasm among active supporters of the Bernie Sanders campaign for trying to take over the Democratic Party in order to have it advance a liberal agenda along the lines of the Sanders campaign.

### Relating to the masses

A great many people support decent living conditions for everyone. Progressives realize that this can be accomplished only through fundamen-

tal change away from our current capitalist system. Liberals believe it is possible to effect needed reforms without drastically altering our present economic system. Even self-identified conservatives will often support salient reform policies, especially if

Progressives realize that [decent living conditions for everyone] can be accomplished only through fundamental change away from our current capitalist system.

they are of libertarian bent.

In order to be effective, progressives have got to link up politically with liberals and many conservatives; without doing this, we have no chance of overthrowing the rule of the 1%. Such linkage will usually be of the form of mutual participation in particular, well-defined struggles for progressive social change, rather than broad agreement on necessary social change. Such mass struggle with progressives integrally involved is the

necessary mechanism for transforming our society in a progressive direction. (Historically, the tendency not to associate with persons who don’t fully accept the ‘correct line’ has been a great weakness of the Left in our country, and it must be overcome.

However, the electoral arena is also critically important, for, like it or not, that is where most people are at, in looking to bring about positive change in living conditions. This venue gives us the opportunity to propagate widely our ideas about necessary changes to make in our society.

Thus some progressives may choose to involve themselves in electoral politics, while realizing that fundamental transformation of our society can be achieved only through mass struggle. Electoral work can nonetheless play a critical supporting role by actually electing to office people who can implement progressive demands to some extent at least, and by tying together (ideologically) the various progressive struggles, so that people see the need to address all these issues as a whole, for their own liberation.

► Progressives, continued on page 14.



perspectives

# Whizzing past public process: Will Kaiser Woods become a playground for mountain bikers?

Evonne Hedgepeth, Ph.D

*"Developments never die. They just come back in another form." Andy McMillan*

In March I received a postcard from the Olympia Parks and Recreation Department announcing its plan to develop the 68.67 acre forested natural area above our neighborhood as a "dedicated mountain bike park."

This is how many Westbrook Park neighbors first learned that the site we had worked hard for six years to protect from three housing projects had already been repurposed. Like many of them, I felt as if I had been gut-punched. OPARD had renamed Park Heights "Kaiser Woods." This meant that many neighbors most directly affected didn't realize the postcard referred to the beloved park at the top of the dead-end main road in their own neighborhood.

The notice invited recipients to visit [engageolympia.org](http://engageolympia.org) to view the results of a feasibility study that had already been performed and to fill out a survey with feedback.

As residents within 600 feet of the property, we were the most affected stakeholders. But we had been left out of the planning process while a coalition of mountain biking organizations had been working with OPARD staff for at least two years to plan the park's new designation.

A lack of transparency

The morning after the notice arrived, I called OPARD Assistant Director Johnathon Turlove with concerns about the park and that the process had excluded neighboring stakeholders. I noted the survey had a short time

frame for response, could be filled out multiple times by one individual, and was tailored to bikers. After first refusing, Turlove eventually agreed to extend the survey deadline and allow a public meeting.

Concerned neighbors and environmentalists came to the meeting with a list of questions about the plan but they were outnumbered 10 to 1 by bike park supporters. When a Westbrook Park resident attempted to ask a question, she was told that only questions about OPARD's presentation would be entertained.

Looking beneath the surface

I decided to look through the files of Andy McMillan, one of the original visionaries who proposed Kaiser Woods be designated as a neighborhood, open space park with hiking and biking trails. To understand the implications of the City's plan, I studied Andy's copies of developer plats, hydrology reports, a traffic study and his notes and correspondence. I discussed the plan with people in the park. I conducted interviews with mountain bikers, hikers, Westbrook Park and Ken Lake neighbors, environmentalists, state agency specialists, OPARD staff, staff at the Department of Natural Resources-Capitol Forest (where there are 166 miles of biking trails for all skill levels), park planners from other mountain bike parks in the state, and the resource manager of Manke Timberland, which owns 800

acres right next to Kaiser Woods and contains numerous intermediate and advanced trails for bikers.

I discovered that OPARD had inaccurately scored "Kaiser Woods" on three key criteria in feasibility studies and site plans it conducted for four parks—Watershed Park, Fraser Trails, Kaiser Woods and LBA Woods. This had the effect of pushing Kaiser Woods to the top of the list as the preferred site for off-road mountain biking.

Over a six week period I uncovered other serious questions about the plan. The 2018 feasibility study for the project, for example, had overlooked the two wetlands and two streams on the site. The private mountain biking advocacy group, Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance (hired to produce three plans for the park) didn't address them in their designs, despite having spent many hours studying the site.

When I alerted OPARD staff about the wetlands and streams, they said they were moving forward anyway and could "mitigate for the wetlands later."

Meanwhile, Westbrook Park and Ken Lake residents inquiring about the status and timeframe for the park's development were told repeatedly that nothing was likely to happen at the park anytime soon and that their desire to be involved in the planning process was "premature."

Other key people and groups were aligned with the mountain biking park advocates, including two law firms and two state agency staffers who claimed "conflict of interest" and/or refused to pursue concerns about impacts on wildlife and possible misuse of the grant monies, the latter acknowledging they are bikers who support the park's creation.

The Ken Lake Homeowner Association board also decided to remain "neutral," despite the increased risks to their residents of flooding, waterborne illness, sedimentation, changing water levels and toxic algal bloom in the lake if Kaiser Woods becomes a mountain bike park. Several Ken Lake residents reported that communications about the park were not relayed to them.



But, according to the Washington State Department of Ecology website, the first step of the state's mitigation sequence is to avoid the wet areas in the first place.

"Nothing going on here..."

The deeper I dug, the clearer it became that OPARD's decision rested on no rationale other than enthusiastic support from three local mountain biking organizations named specifically as the key stakeholders in the new plan: Friends of Capitol Forest, South Sound Mountain Biking Alliance and Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance. The City's plan is for volunteers from these groups to design, build and maintain the park.

The culture of mountain biking

Mountain bikers are a diverse group, but one with its own ethics, language, beliefs and practices. Some describe their sport as high risk, thrill-seeking, expansionist (to acquire more trails) and addictive. Many bikers wear protective gear such as a full face mask and body armor. Mountain bike parks post signs to warn other users that they should enter the park only "at their own risk."

► Kaiser, continued on next page

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# Kaiser Woods

From previous page

Some bikers are environmental stewards, but the state's largest mountain biking advocacy group says their mission is to acquire as much public land as possible for new trails while simultaneously focusing on “sustainable recreation, trail maintenance, advocacy, education, volunteerism and trail building.” As one advanced biker said about biking on clear-cut land: “We’re here for the trails, not the trees.”

Because bikers move faster than hikers and the risk of collisions with pedestrians is high; bikers have the right of way in mountain biking parks. Many bikers exercise caution around hikers but also expect people to get out of their way, quickly.

**Fast-tracked decision-making process**

Like mountain bikers themselves, the decision-making process for Kaiser Woods has moved fast, seems to have appeared out of nowhere and expects other stakeholders to get out of the way. Bike park advocates kept their planning with OPARD staff secret even from their own members, announcing on their website only two months before the City publicized their plans.

OPARD staff kept the secret as well. At least two long-time Kaiser Woods park stewards were outraged when the decision was unveiled at the same time as the flawed feasibility results along with a survey that would skew results and inflate “vote” counts giving a false picture of public support for the plan. “We were lied to,” says Dave Stevenson, Westbrook Park resident.

## Extensive changes projected

An on-line survey revealed the disconnect between what bikers want and what's possible at Kaiser Woods. Bikers named campgrounds; a shelter and restrooms for camps by Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance; showers for bikers and their bikes; dual biking trails; electrical plug-ins for food trucks; an equipped tool shed for bike

repairs; a safe spot to take a break; a clear-cut space for the Medivac helicopter to land; and “the fewer rules, the better.”

Has anyone noted there is currently no water or electric power at Kaiser Woods? Does the City plan to

shallow soils over fractured basalt rock.

One of the stated reasons for turning Kaiser Woods into a mountain bike part is that it provides access to Manke Timberland trails. These are on land that could be foreclosed at any time

### Apparent Decision-Making about Kaiser Woods to Date

#### Citizen Input

OPARD Priority-Setting via Public Meetings prioritize “hiking trails, restrooms & swimming opportunities”	2015
Elway research-based survey of citizens identifies priority of “hiking and biking trails”	2016
Citizen inquiries about park plans delayed by staff as “premature”	2017
Citizen inquiries about park plans still dismissed by staff as “premature”	2018
Neighbors notified by postcard about “KW as MBP” & on-line survey with 3 week advance notice. No public meetings planned.	2019

#### OPARD Actions

KW purchased with “a mountain bike park in mind” (per Turlove)
Wildlife/Conservation and City CFP grants proposed for “hiking and biking trails”
City grant calls for assessment of potential impacts on neighbors
Site feasibility study mis-scored, names KW as “most desirable site.” EMBA hired to design plans.*
Engage Olympia opens on-line survey of mountain bikers to solicit input on three concept plans.* Survey states that KW as a MBP is “decided.” No option offered to say “No MBP at KW.”

*\*Friends of Capitol Forest had at least two month advance notice of the survey. Possible respondents not limited to Olympia citizens. Multiple entries possible. Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance has been involved for at least two years prior to 2019 (per Turlove).*

add these utilities? At what— and whose— expense? The plan mentions using volunteer labor. If this labor pool is untrained or unvetted, development could compromise the park environment and worsen flooding in the neighborhoods below it. The quiet, personal safety, security, property values and traffic safety of Westbrook Park (already a problem on Park Drive's four blind curves) will be negatively affected if the neighborhood becomes a thoroughfare and overflow parking lot for large biker work parties and meets.

## Environmental and other concerns

Some mountain bikers are vocal about the disturbing trend of damaging the environment with aggressive, irresponsible biking and leaving trash and human waste on trails. Research on environmental impacts of mountain biking reveals many reasons for concern about the fragile Kaiser Woods site, which has

and sold to become the site for a large multi-sports park (which would itself include extensive mountain biking and running trails). If the Manke land is sold to developers, the Kaiser Woods property may be needed as a natural space buffer between that facility and

the neighborhoods below it, an impossibility if it already has been developed as a mountain bike facility.

From hiking and open space to exclusive high-risk recreation?

Olympians voiced their park priorities in a 2016 OPARD process that identified participants' preference for “neighborhood parks, open space, preservation of wetlands, walking paths and restrooms.” The current plan ignores these priorities, will have serious impacts on park neighbors, and is unrealistic, environmentally destructive, socially irresponsible and short-sighted. As one online survey respondent commented, mountain bikers’ desire for a park within city limits “skates dangerously close to privatization of public land.”

We may look back some day and regret allowing over-development of Kaiser Woods for one user group, instead of retaining it as a low-impact, neighborhood park with some hiking and biking trails—which also would honor the legacy of Andy McMillan. This genie should be called back into the bottle by its master—the citizenry of Olympia.

*Evonne Hedgepeth, Ph.D. is a long-time resident of Westbrook Park and widow of Andy McMillan, a wetlands biologist who led the neighborhood's fight to defeat developments at Kaiser Woods from 2006–2012. Not long after he died in 2014, the City moved towards fulfilling Andy's wish to have the site developed as a park by purchasing it for that purpose.*

*For more details, visit [www.evonne.life/resources-and-tools](http://www.evonne.life/resources-and-tools).*

# Houselessness, human dignity, and the right to survive

The July 2019 interview on “Glen’s Parallax Perspectives” series. provides information and insights about the growing number of people who do not have reliable places to live.

Two savvy guests – Jamie Joy and Tye Gundel – take a fresh look at problems and solutions related to homelessness. (We explain why “houselessness” is a better term.) We dispel some of the myths that interfere with realistic understanding and smart solutions.

attitudes and economy), and we need short-term solutions to meet immediate needs so every person will have a decent, reliable place to live. Research proves that stabilizing a person’s housing is the first step before dealing with personal or behavioral problems.

A crucial first step toward solving the problem is to bring the affected people directly into the conversation. Houseless people themselves have first-hand knowledge and insights. This interview’s houseless guests have shown that they can help our society solve problems.

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Everyone everywhere can watch this interview—and/or read a thorough summary of what we said (and a great list of links to further information) – through Glen’s blog, **[www.parallaxperspectives.org](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org)**. Each program and thorough summary are also posted to the blog’s “TV Programs” category and one or more additional categories (in this case, the blog’s “Energy” and “Olympia Area” categories).

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@integra.net](mailto:glenanderson@integra.net)**

Workable solutions do exist, and our society can end houselessness if we muster the political will. We need to reject stereotypes and understand the problems accurately. Houselessness is a social and economic issue rather than a law-enforcement issue. We need to work for long-term solutions (changing our society’s values,

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# Block parties: A recipe for creating community

Robin Ivey-Black

I know a recipe for instant community. No, I'm not kidding. It works! First you have a few of your friendly neighbors over to your house from your block and the block next to you. You add laughter and refreshments and chat your way into organizing a block party. If you don't know your neighbors yet, you can make this simple recipe all by yourself and you will have accomplished a very good deed.

Twenty-five years ago a few of us met and planned our first gathering, which included dividing up simple tasks. Most important is for one or two people to go door to door and meet each resident, talk up the event, and also gain acceptance to close the street for a few hours by applying for a permit with the city. Then make posters to take door-to-door, and provide chairs, tables, grills and recycling for the event.

After all these years we pretty much know our assignments. Because we now have a well-oiled machine, we smoothly gather with friends, family and most importantly for me, folks that have just moved into our two block area. I love that no one has to feel isolated. Newcomers can quickly make lots of connections before the winter rains set in and we all become moles in our homes!

It is a fun thing to be able to take back the street for a time and the city is supportive of such community-building encounters. They have been 100% consistent with dropping off barriers at the ends of the street well before our event. Ownership of the asphalt provides room for whatever activities you like. We always have a potluck and barbecue, followed by acoustical music and singing. Some years we have children's activities such as a painted children parade and chalk drawing. One year we even had instruction in Tango dancing and last year we had a good clothing exchange.

Before we block the street, we have a huge yard sale from 9am-2pm at

Mary's house. Those in the 'hood who want to sell items get a letter from our master of accounting, Doug. You mark your items with the letter. Different people volunteer to take money and everything you sell is noted under your letter. This in itself is a fun social time as we gather to take turns at the checkout table, eat scones

Being our 25th year, I thought it would be interesting to interview some of our participants, young and not-so-

Most important is for one or two people to go door to door and meet each resident, talk up the event...



Aaliyah Varpness, age 9, on the left, and Nani Rondeau, age 10 on the right.

made by Keith and Alice, and purchase each others items. There is a running joke that we purchase our items back every few years. There is truth to it because I have done it!

Ok, I admit our Block Party is a bit of a marathon and as we have gotten older we actually note on our poster that from 3-5 pm we have Relaxation time which is code for a nap if we need it! But your block party does not have to be as intense. It can and should be whatever you like.

young. Greg enjoys rolling out his grill and cooking, and also loves to play music and get people singing. He said, "We meet the kids that live on our block and can look out for them during the course of the year and appreciate seeing them going to school or playing in the neighborhood." Also, "Our yard sale is a great way for items to be reused thus improving our environment. We take items left over to the Free Store at the Olympia Westside Co-op or to Goodwill."



A number of people mentioned that much of the time everyone on the block is so busy going to work or somewhere that the block party gives people a chance to just relax and spend time together. Nine-year old Aaliyah says "Even in my family everyone including my grandmother, mom and sisters are always busy and this way

we get to hang out with each other too."

Mary, who graciously hosts the yard sale every year, said "Getting to know each other leads to more friendliness and caring. If we didn't know each other we could not create a support system. I hold the Block party as very special and I don't take it lightly."

Sadie, who lives two doors up from Mary, said "I like to hear the Grateful Dead and Neil Young songs. And the homemade food and the fresh fruit pies are great!" (The fresh fruit pies were mentioned by several people.) Sadie also thought it was neat that her daughter Nani got the chance to run free in the street.

Nani, age 10, said "I like the music, the good food, and it brings people together that you don't know." At one of the block parties Molly, a violin player who loves to come and play music, introduced Nani to her instrument. It became one of the reasons she has taken violin classes in school this year.

Other tips for having a block party The city's computer access to the permit process is a little fussy. I suggest googling 'Block Parties City of Olympia' and calling the present facilitator, Marygrace Goddu, who is very helpful, at 360-753-8031

Don't feel like you have failed if not everyone comes. There will be some people who never come, some that sometimes come, and those that will come for part of the event.

Hopefully many will join with you to grow a safer, stronger, healthier, and happier neighborhood because after all, we are social beings.

Robin Ivey-Black is an Olympia writer, artist and community builder.

# Stand up and be counted

Carolyn Barclift

On Saturday, June 15, 168 community members came together in downtown Olympia to call for the initiation of the impeachment inquiry process. Olympia Indivisible, Puget Sound Communities4Impeachment, and local members of ByThePeople hosted this event. It was part of a National Day of Action called for by Indivisible, MoveOn, ByThePeople and other partners. The responses from our community were overwhelmingly supportive of this effort.

The Mueller Report confirmed what we've always known: The President abuses his authority, has violated the law and tried repeatedly to obstruct justice. Daily he becomes more emboldened to behave as a king. He has declared himself above the law. He has committed impeachable offenses. If Attorney General William Barr has proven anything, it's that he's a political hack, a Constitutional outlier hired specifically to protect the President and not our democracy.

It's up to Congress to do what Barr will not. As the ultimate power lies with us, We The People, we must keep telling Congress— #FindYourSpine and sign onto H.Res.257 to begin an inquiry into the details of this President's actions and crimes, particularly those that merit his impeachment.

We made it clear we want Rep. Heck to

join the supporters of this Resolution. He was invited to attend but was unavailable. His staff responded, "Right now he's an active participant in the House Intelligence Committee's ongoing counterintelligence investigation and hasn't ruled out supporting the start of an impeach inquiry as part of the House's broader investigative work." We were joined by a handful of Trump supporters who apparently had insufficient numbers to organize their own event in opposition to impeachment.

On Sunday, June 16, 2019, on a morning news program, Rep. Heck said: the House Intelligence Committee is continuing to investigate, and their investigation has borne fruit recently. Their successes include two court cases compelling document production, two witnesses (Don Jr and Hope Hicks) coming in for closed hearings, working to determine the status of twelve additional investigations, and determining what other investigations may ultimately be necessary on additional concerns. Rep. Heck's fully engaged

in the Intelligence Committee's investigation and feels it is important to continue with it, as do we.



Let's be clear: even if the President likely won't be removed from office, opening an impeachment inquiry into Trump is the right thing to do. Congress must fulfill its obligations. This President is exactly why our Founding Fathers put impeachment into the Constitution. And, We The People deserve to know the truth and the extent of lawlessness this administration wallows in.

Please call your US representative and urge them to support H.Res.257 and call for commencing an impeachment inquiry into President Trump's lawlessness and corruption.

Carolyn Barclift is a member of the Olympia Indivisible Steering Committee

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port report re:port

# Introducing the Port of Olympia

Esther Kronenberg

[Ed note: This is the first of a regular column on recent activities at the Port of Olympia. Its purpose is to offer information and ask questions about Port operations with the hope that informed public input will help guide the Port to fulfill its mission.]

The city of Olympia developed around the waterfront in the mid-1850's and became a hub of maritime commerce. From 1911-1912, 22 blocks were added to the downtown area through a huge dredging effort intended to create a deep water harbor. After WWI, Olympia became a center of lumber processing, and the Port, created by vote in 1922, served as a hub for log exports and a magnet for new industries along the waterfront. The idea behind ports governed by the public was to offer a means for the public to conserve local resources and guide commerce for the benefit of the community.

## Progressives

From page 7

### Relation to the Democratic Party

The Democratic Party has always functioned as the servant of the capitalist class, particularly (now) of the 1%. For untold decades its role has been to absorb and emasculate progressive struggles, and attempts to ‘reform’ it or to take it over have always ended in failure. Recognizing this fact, many progressives may decide to have nothing to do with the Democratic Party, except as necessary to stave off the imminent prospect of outright fascism.

Other progressives may choose to run in elections as Democrats for tactical and/or strategic reasons. In primary elections, their opponents (mainstream Democrats) should be fought. Unrelentingly by progressives, as Bernie Sanders and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez have demonstrated to substantial extent. The challenger should not hold back in offering a progressive alternative to what the mainstream Democrat stands for, even if so exposing the mainstream Democrat may weaken her/his chances in the general election. (A dubious, self-serving claim to make!) The progressive may even pull off an upset victory over the centrist, as has happily started to happen, but the point is that we must not water down our progressive politics when we have a mass forum for expressing them.

Furthermore, after the progressive candidate (presumably) loses in the primary election, it no longer is the time to continue the attack on the mainstream Democrat's politics, for what then become foremost is the need to fight against the right-wing onslaught. So the progressive candidate may endorse her/his opponent's campaign and even use her/his campaign organization to get out the vote for that person, but only in the context (expressed publicly) that it is important to vote for the Democrat in order to defeat the Republican, not because the Democrat's politics are now beyond reproach.

### Dealing with Progressive Democrats

There are definite limitations which genuine progressives running for or holding office as Democrats will en-

### Following the money

This public purpose is reflected in an elected board of commissioners who set the direction for each district. Ports can fund activities to accomplish their mission in several ways. As property developers themselves, ports collect lease and rental income. Whether these revenue streams cover the costs to the Port of developing property is an issue this column will explore. The Port also collects fees or charges from users of their services - whether these charges cover the cost of the services is another question for the Port Report. Finally, our Commissioners also have authority to levy a tax on local assessed property – the Port's average tax levy per household of \$55-60 per year rose 27% in the last 2 years to become one of the highest in Washington State. We will also provide information – and possibly raise questions – about the Port's several millions in outstanding General Obligation bonds.



### Should we subsidize huge private corporations?

When I-5 was constructed in the 1950s, Olympia's Port lost much of its competitive advantage to better situated ports in Seattle and Tacoma. The only business that still benefits from our location are those exporting logs from the immediate vicinity. The Port's main clients today are large private lumber companies, predominantly Weyerhaeuser. Weyerhaeuser is one of the world's largest owners of timber-

### The Port as property developer

The Port of Olympia's mission statement is “Creating economic opportunities by connecting Thurston County to the world by air, land, and sea.”

It has been suggested that the Port should more rightly be named the Port of Thurston County. Besides operating the Swantown Marina and Boatworks, Harbor Patrol and the downtown Marine Terminal where raw logs are exported, the Port also has extensive real estate holdings in Lacey and Tumwater. In Tumwater, the Port owns and leases 1,540 acres including the Olympia Regional Airport and land west all the way to I-5.

### What the community looks for from the Port

In an outreach to the community, the Port recently invited the public to

complete a Vision 2050 survey asking for input on how they would like the Port to look, feel and function in the years ahead. So far, 1,048 community members have responded to the Vision 2050 survey. Among the highest of the priorities selected were 1) working with the City of Olympia to create a more welcoming downtown, 2) adding amenities and access along the waterfront, 3) pursuing green energy production alternatives, 4) supporting family wage jobs, 5) exploring ferry, water taxi service and regional air commuter service, and 6) providing transparency in budget planning. Environmental concerns topped the list with 84% of respondents wanting the Port to sustain legacy pollution clean-up projects in Budd Inlet. Maintaining the Marine Terminal cargo functions and looking for ways to leverage more tax levies garnered the least support in the survey.

### Stay tuned to this column

Will the Port use these results to guide their actions? Stay tuned to this column as we explore the answer to this question along with more details on how the Port is spending our money. This is especially timely, since an election for Port Commissioner in the fall between Commissioner Joe Downing and Dr. Helen Wheatley could bring new energy to the Port and County.

Esther Kronenberg is a member of the Observer Corps of the League of Women Voters of Thurston County.

<https://www.helenforport.com>  
<https://re-electjoe-downing.com>

## Lesson 1 – Rethinking everything

Civil disobedience is not our problem. Civil obedience is our problem. Our problem is that people all over the world have obeyed the dictates of leaders. And millions have been killed because of this obedience. Our problem is that people all over the world have been obedient in the face of poverty, and starvation and stupidity and war and cruelty. Our problem is that people have been obedient while the jails are full of petty thieves and the grand thieves are running the country. That's our problem.

—Howard Zinn

counter, in order to be able to work effectively with their Democratic colleagues, for example Sanders' necessary endorsement of Clinton in spite of her dirty tricks. While we must push back against egregious politics, we also should cut progressive Democratic office-holders some slack, and concentrate on our important mass work. Realizing these structural limitations on progressive Democratic office-holders, we must not rely on them to effect the fundamental change needed in our society, but should welcome whatever support they are able to give to this effort.

In any case, the crucial point regarding relating to the Democratic Party is to avoid submerging progressive struggles to the needs of building that organization, as has occurred so often in the past to the acute detriment of the progressive movement. Doing this leads nowhere.

*Dave Jette holds a Ph.D. in theoretical physics, and taught at Rush University in Chicago. He is one of the original founders of Works in Progress. He lives in Seattle, where he has been active in progressive struggles for fifty years, particularly in the electoral sphere. He's an avid backpacker as well.*

*This article is reprinted from A Reformulation of Dialectical Materialism, by Dave Jette and available on-line from Lulu. The argument incorporates feminist theory into the traditional Marxist presentation of the science of dialectical materialism.*

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# in praise of print

## High Voltage Women: Freedom is a constant struggle

Alice Rogoff

Ellie Belew's book *High Voltage Women: Breaking Barriers at Seattle City Light* (Red Letter Press, 2019) is a major feat of researching, organizing and writing what is very complicated information. It is also an inspiring Pacific Northwest story that is an illustration of the song "Freedom is a Constant Struggle."

The book begins with the social background of federal, county and city legislation as it applies to the construction industry and projects. After Affirmative Action was initiated in the 1970s, Clara Fraser developed the Electrical Trades Trainee program for ten women at Seattle City Light.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the city of Seattle, Seattle City Light, the ACLU, the National Lawyers Guild, Radical Women and the Freedom Socialist Party are all key players in what became a prolonged series of discrimination cases against Seattle City Light.

The obstacles the women faced were sexual harassment, improper pay, im-

proper termination and layoffs, lack of facilities and red-baiting because of the political views of some of the trainees who belonged to Radical Women and the Freedom Socialist Party.

The women had problems advancing from appren-

Fraser and the trainees eventually were victorious, regaining their jobs and back pay.

tice to journey positions. As Helen Gilbert described, "common accusations against Clara Fraser were that she was being 'abrasive,' 'defiant,' and 'controlling,' reflecting a deep discomfort at a woman exhibiting strong traits that would have been tolerable in a male." The management of Seattle City Light led by Superintendent Gordon Vickery often resorted to retaliation when faced with complaints.



This was in a job that is very dangerous and involved climbing light poles and lethal levels of electricity. The book is enhanced by photos of the work and bios and stories of the individual trainees, some of whom had bad accidents. As Kathleen Merrigan says, "Discrimination is a safety issue."

One admires the tenacity of the women to continue their fight. Belew details the sagas of the parallel legal cases of Clara Fraser and the Electrical Trades Trainees. The book describes their organizing efforts, including the role of the

Radical Women and Freedom Socialist Party as well as many other community groups, and shows how other unions helped the trainees even when their own union did not. Eventually, there were rallies and community outreach. Appendices are helpful to get a good idea of all the legal cases.

An interesting point is the more helpful attitude of Black male workers as opposed to the hostility of the White male co-workers. There is also a focus on the experience of the African-American trainees.

Clara Fraser has an individual chapter which spotlights her freedom of speech case. Fraser and the trainees eventually were victorious, regaining their jobs and back pay. Looking at how worker solidarity in general created a bond among women of different

backgrounds and goals adds greater understanding as to how their victories were accomplished (one trainee did not participate in the cases).

Belew includes a humorous satiric song, "The Ballad of Clara Fraser" by Patrick Haggerty, as well as a harrowing poem by Joanne Ward, a crew chief, about the dangers of the job, which I found good additions to the material.

The book ends with an update on what the trainees are doing today, how many women are going into the trades and the legacy of the program. It leads one to consider the importance of Affirmative Action which became outlawed in Washington State. While there have not been substantially more women electricians at Seattle City Light, women who are in the trade and other jobs have more often been inspired to raise issues and complaints. An Afterword also looks at the input of the MeToo movement.

I would recommend this book to anyone interested in civil rights or labor law, and any woman going into a male-dominated trade.

Alice Elizabeth Rogoff has received awards for her writing about women labor organizers in San Francisco. She is a contributor to *Giving Voice*, a LaborFest writers group anthology. In 1970, her suit for sexual discrimination resulted in the company being barred from discriminating against women in a job requiring moving horses at night. She belongs to CWA and CLUW. Her dad worked for a company that made electrical connectors, and another that sold lights.

High Voltage Women is available from Orca Books in Olympia. Order by mail or learn more about the book at <http://www.redletterpress.org/highvoltagewomen.html>

# Protecting captive workers brought in to harvest Washington's apples and grapes

From news services

On June 12, farmworkers at King Fuji Ranch in Mattawa began a strike after reaching a tipping point of abuse. The Mattawa workers are here on H-2A visas, which are designed to bring agricultural workers from abroad when an employer expects a shortage of workers domestically. Most of the guest workers at King Fuji Ranch are men recruited from Mexico, subject to various restrictions during their temporary stay.

### Working conditions enforced by threats

The H-2A workers in these apple orchards and grape vineyards faced untenable production quotas imposed by the company and enforced by supervisors using intimidation and threats. King Fuji Ranch consistently retaliated against farmworkers who have spoken out, using tactics including firing, blacklisting, and sending groups of workers back to Mexico.

In February of this year dozens of workers reported getting hypothermia after working in below freezing temperatures. In early May the company quarantined over 100 workers who were exposed to mumps, isolating them from each other and making it nearly impossible for them to get to town to seek medical attention. At the same time, farm management has taken no measures to ensure

its housing meets safety and health standards; workers have concerns that other illnesses could spread.

Workers at King Fuji were told that if they "work harder" they would be tak-

dation tactics said "enough!"

### Stiffed by the feds

The practices that led to the strike by workers at King Fuji are common throughout the agricultural sector. H-2A workers are restricted in many ways. The fact that they are tied to a single employer makes them vulnerable to abuses; and subject to coercion. Groups like Community to Community Development and Familias Unidas por la Justicia (FUJ) have organized to demand oversight of the program as H2A workers' reports of abuse get little response from state agencies. The program requirements are set by the federal government, which provides states with a level of funds drastically lower than the cost of managing the program.

### Washington legislators step up

Help may be on the way, in the form of a law creating and funding and a new state office to monitor labor, housing, and health and safety requirements for farms using the H2A program. Rosalinda Guillen from Community to Community pointed out that It is long overdue that corporate farms like King Fuji Ranch end worker abuses

and dangerous working conditions. "It's time the agricultural industry in Washington changes its labor practices, ends the culture of retaliation and recognizes us as human beings that want to work in a food system free from exploitation and rooted in dignity and fairness," said Ramon Torres, President of Familias Unidas por la Justicia.

Months and years of organizing for fair working conditions for people who've been brought here specifically to grow and harvest our food came to fruition when Representatives Debra Lekanoff (D-40th District) and Senator Jon McCoy (D-38th district) championed SB 5438, which was signed into law by Governor Inslee in May.

### These workers are keeping their part of the bargain

Rep. Lekanoff, the first Native American woman to serve in Washington's state legislature, speaking at a hearing said, "Washington state is the third largest user of H2A workers. It is also a fact that these workers boost our economy. In 2017 each worker provided a benefit of approximately \$5000. That is a contribution of about \$123 million to the economy. The feds are not showing up to help us, so we as the Washington state legislature will take control of this issue. Though this bill is not what we hoped for, it is where we are today. We will strive to do better, we will strive to work harder, we will strive to take care of those H2A workers who have come to rely upon us to welcome them into our America."



en off any blacklists. In other words, if they didn't speak out and accepted to work under unsafe conditions with untenable quotas, they could keep their jobs. However, after at least three instances this year of groups demanding better working conditions being sent back to Mexico, this June new H2A workers experiencing the same intimi-



# “I am the master of my fate” – and the fate of “the other”

Jeff Nygaard

A state that deprives some people of equal rights and privileges can not call itself an egalitarian, democratic state. Yet we’re taught that a commitment to equal rights and democracy is exactly what makes the United States “exceptional.”

So the dissonance between the practices of exclusion that were defining aspects of the early United States (and the European project of which it is a part), on the one hand, and the soaring rhetoric of democracy, on the other, had to be addressed. The way it was addressed was to define some people as “subpersons,” as less than human. Once that is accomplished, then any injustices visited upon these lower creatures would not be moral crimes, but would simply be the necessary actions of superior beings as they imposed order and justice upon the inferior species.

**We don’t need to think about those other “people”**

This is not only a historical problem. The idea that some people are not really people is still with us, and it’s wreaking havoc on people of color throughout the world and here at home.

Consider the innocent victims of US drone strikes in Iraq, Yemen, Afghanistan and elsewhere, the scanty coverage of which (if they are covered at all in this country), would be inconceivable were the victims white.

The racial “otherness” of the major targets of US military might—Iraq and Afghanistan—is used to justify US failure even to count the innocent victims. Or the not-so-innocent, for that matter. The European colonial project of “civilizing” native peoples in order to elevate them from their savage state has strong echoes in the modern era when US military might is seen as one side in a “battle of civilizations.”

**Dehumanization in real time**

Here at home, examples of the tragic effects of the ongoing dehumanization of people of color are endless. One example: When testifying about his 2014 shooting of black teenager Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, officer Darren Wilson said that Brown looked “like a demon” to him. The defense, apparently, is that shooting a “demon” is different than shooting a human being.

Another example: When Hillary Clinton referenced in 1996 “kids that are called superpredators — no conscience, no empathy,” everyone knew she was talking about black kids. Locking up a superpredator is different than locking up a human being.

The historical European imperialist project required the subjugation, enslavement, and murder of untold numbers of people whose existence as people stood in the way of white European dominance in the emerging global order. The horrors were so great, caused so much cognitive dissonance, and were so difficult to justify, that the victims had to be reduced to “subpersons;” to something less than human.

**Just because the world is different, do we have to rethink everything?**

Eventually an entire thought system evolved with “the ironic outcome that whites will, in general, be unable to understand the world that they themselves have made.”

**This observation is from Charles W. Mills, who adds,**

One could say, then, as a general rule, that white misunderstanding, misrepresentation, evasion, and self-deception on matters related to race are among the most pervasive mental phenomena of the past few hundred years, a cognitive and moral economy psychically required for conquest, colonization, and enslavement. And

that’s why the Black Lives Matter movement and the indigenous resistance to the Dakota Access Pipeline project, centered in North Dakota, are so threatening. By questioning the very basis of the racial and economic ideology of the dominant (white) culture, these movements are demanding that we “rethink everything.”

these phenomena are in no way accidental, but prescribed by the terms of the Racial Contract, which requires a certain schedule of structured blindnesses and opacities in order to establish and maintain the white polity.

What Mills calls “pervasive mental phenomena” I call a Thought System. And while Mills speaks of matters “related to race,” the problem with a thought system is that, regardless of the conditions from which it has arisen, it ends up shaping our thinking about everything. At the core of our blindness and confusion is an idea called Individualism.

In an earlier edition of Nygaard Notes I quoted Mills saying that “The simple central innovation is to posit a group domination contract which is exclusionary rather than genuinely inclusive, and then rethink everything from that perspective.”

The key word here is “group.” Mills is saying that, once we move away from an individualistic thought pattern, the world looks different. But does he really mean we have to rethink everything? I think he does. That’s certainly what I mean!

**“Individualism - at the very core of American culture”**

In his book *The American Ideology*, political scientist E. C. Ladd states that “The American Ideology is ‘liberal individualism.’” That is, it originated in European liberalism, with its emphasis on property rights and limited

government. . . . At the heart of what resulted was an extraordinary and far-reaching individualism, which pervades and shapes all of the other components of the core American values, giving them their distinctive cast.”

The authors of the book *Habits of the Heart*, put it more simply, saying that “Individualism lies at the very core of American culture.”

How Individualism serves to obscure the historical, and current, dynamic of group domination is summarized in a 2010 essay entitled “Why Can’t We All Just Be Individuals: Countering the Discourse of Individualism in Antiracist Education,” by educator Robin DiAngelo. DiAngelo explains that what she calls the “Discourse of Individualism”

is a specific set of ideas, words, symbols, and metaphors—a storyline or narrative—that creates, communicates, reproduces, and reinforces the concept that each of us is a unique individual and that our group memberships, such as our race, class, or gender, are not important or relevant to our opportunities.

Of course, each of us is a unique individual. But we are individuals who exist in society, where power is unequally distributed. And it’s not only our opportunities and security that are affected by our location in the social structure.

Many of our thoughts and ideas are imposed on us, or inherited from those who came before us or are in other ways socially constructed. This is the case with the idea of Individualism, which ironically denies, or at least minimizes, the social aspects of our personalities and our mental processes.

**Endless debates about who is to blame or who will lead us**

Why is Individualism so deeply-rooted in US culture? It certainly has to do with race, but the deeply-embedded ideology of Individualism shapes our thinking about so many things. We can’t, after all, think one way about some issues and another way about others. Journalists functioning in an Individualistic culture, for example,

see and report things in certain ways.

What we get are endless debates about who is to blame for something, or which politician or executive can “turn things around,” or who is a “strong leader.” What we almost never get—due in large part to this unconscious bias towards the individual—is a serious discussion of how systems and institutions work, and how they have lives of their own.

**The ideology designed to justify conquest is still powerful**

Here we come full circle. White people create a thought system meant to obscure the reality of the crimes committed during the Age of Conquest (and continuing). Centuries of struggle by the victims of the conquest meet with some success, but the basic ideology (at the core of which is Individualism) survives, and is wielded as a weapon to deny the reality of those most affected by the truths behind the myth.

**Either “rethink everything” or deny the future**

More irony: The most ignorant are at the same time the most powerful, since the system was set up to benefit them. And that’s why the Black Lives Matter movement and the indigenous resistance to the Dakota Access Pipeline project, centered in North Dakota, are so threatening. By questioning the very basis of the racial and economic ideology of the dominant (white) culture, these movements are demanding that we “rethink everything.”

All of this is highly relevant to the hateful and xenophobic “movement” ignited by the Donald Trump campaign, and helps to explain why it has so much energy behind it. The call to “Make America Great Again” has less to do with traveling back to the past than it has to do with denying the future.

The Census Bureau projects that the white population will make up less than 50 percent of the UD sometime around the year 2045. That can’t be stopped, and white people fear (perhaps rightly) that as the demographics change, the increasingly-visible cracks in the wall of ideology that has protected white people may cause the wall to collapse completely, with results that are impossible to predict.

**Rethinking individualism in pursuit of a new consciousness**

How history will view the current period won’t be known until long after we’re gone. But I believe that, at this historical moment, what we are witnessing may be a fraying of the global system of white supremacy that was erected over more than five centuries. The transition to what comes next won’t be easy—there’s great conflict already—but in order even to begin to understand what is happening, and what we might do, we need to challenge the prevailing Individualistic Thought System, and learn to think in new ways.

Working to dismantle racism and the Individualistic Thought System that supports it is a good place to start. After all, changes in consciousness lead to changes in social structures and policies. And changes in structures and policies change our consciousness. So, let’s work on one or the other or—better yet—both!

*This essay was published with the title “Race and Individualism” in Nygaard Notes, an independent newsletter written and published by Jeff Nygaard (subscription info here). It’s part of a series illuminating the function of individualism in justifying and preserving white western dominance. Nygaard Notes offers informed and entertaining essays on a broad variety of current issues.*

## Lesson 2 - Rethinking everything

The practical thing for a traveler who is uncertain of the path is not to proceed rapidly in the wrong direction: it is to consider how to find the right one. And the practical thing for a nation that has stumbled on one of the turning points of history is not to behave as though nothing very important were involved, providing that it continue doing with a little more energy what it has done hitherto; but to consider whether what it has done hitherto is wise; and if it is not wise, to alter it.

—R. H. Tawney in *The Acquisitive Society*.



# Settling in with Anatolian Muslims:

## Reflections on community and contemplation

Michael L. Basile

Ever since the attacks of September, 2001, we Americans have been subjected to a relentless barrage of news, analyses, studies, and reports about terrorism. In light of recent terrorist incidents in Europe as well as our homeland, we are tempted to conclude that Islam itself is somehow to blame; that inherent in this faith is a call to violence. Whenever tempted to submit to this, our collective 21st century national dread, I look back gratefully on the time I spent in a Turkish village 50 years ago.

For the urgency of today's anxieties prods me to think back on time spent among slik's huddled compounds of grayish and sometimes whitewashed walls so intensely that it's as if I were there in body again. Sharply isolated from modern urban life, set in the midst of the conservative, pre-modern, and rural plains of central Anatolia, the village was typical of rural living, values, customs, and rituals of its time. While isolation afforded variation among villages, particularly from region to region, many things were shared across the country: universal belief in the modern Turkish state, one common language, trust in political leadership, a shared religion, and pride of heritage.

True it was that in 1965 when the Peace Corps was in its fifth year of existence, the world was far less troubled. When I moved to slik, smack in the middle of Konya's flatland province, I was aware that in his mission work nearly 2,000 years ago, St. Paul had traveled through that very region. Over succeeding centuries the whole area had grown to embody the juncture of western and Middle Eastern history: the remnants of a Roman road lay less than a mile north; the city of Konya's Ottoman-style government buildings were still occupied and used as such; the village's houses were built entirely of mud-brick, as they had been for generations.

There was no electricity, running water, or reliably passable road that could accommodate transportation beyond jeeps or horse-drawn wooden carts, and just one telephone in the only tea house.

The people there were religiously conservative. In my three-month intensive training I had been taught the basics of the Turkish language, the current idea of community development theory and practice, and lots about local cultural norms and customs. This included the villagers' strict observance of the five pillars of Islam: open profession of faith in the

merciful one God and his last prophet Mohammed, alms giving, pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in a lifetime, ritual prayer five times daily, and daily fasting during the holy month of Ramadan, which coincided that year



with my first days there.

Thankfully, I was assigned the first of my two years with a fellow volunteer who had grown up on a Mennonite farm in northern Indiana. I was fortunate, because I grew up almost totally deprived of farm experience in Amherst, Massachusetts college town.

We arrived in Islik in late August via village bus from Konya to a village seared under dry summer heat.

Dust funnels whirled in the distance. What trees there were had to be tended in family compounds, as they could not survive the dry winds from across the plains in the open. The entire landscape, all 360 degrees of it, was near arid, the only plant life visible being the cultivated parched grain fields surrounding the village. It was harvest time.

The village itself seemed like a monotone of dust and gray-brown walls. Having loaded our furnishings onto the roof of the village-circuit bus, we came to a stop in the middle of a dusty, brown, nearly barren square. After a few calls from the bus assistant, our landlord, Mevlut, appeared to show us where to take our cots, mattresses, kitchen implements, what have you, to his neighborhood "guesthouse." It was a mud-brick, dilapidated-looking structure of one room with an ante-room set above a straw and donkey storage bin.

With his and others' help, we got our furnishings and belongings up the stone stairs and set them onto the mat-covered, whitewashed dirt floor of the 10x20-ft room. Shared by related families in that part of the village, our compound had no walls to separate us from casual passers-by. To our great relief, the first evening Mevlut invited us for a meal in his family compound's guest room.

What I saw inside its cooling, three-foot thick adobe walls was surprising and comforting at the same time. Tacked onto the main wall just below the requisite photo of modern Turkey's revered founder, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, was a collage of old magazine photos of the Kennedy family—the two kids, Jacqueline, and John himself. Now what could this display of respect and affection be about? How was it that in the midst of this remote land, without ready, two-way communication, where most of its inhabitants could neither read nor write, the American president's family merited a place on the guest room wall just below Turkey's founder? In this remote village of about 340 families!

Over the succeeding months we were frequently visited in the evening by the men of the village, young and old. We'd sometimes play cards, smoke sub-standard cigarettes and talk. Mostly they came around, I guess, out of

curiosity. We were the entertainment. But as time went on and our Turkish got better, conversations about life in America, our families, work, customs, wealth, schooling, and religion became more involved.

So, too, did discussions about world events. I can still feel the intimacy that developed among us as alien presences. Their will to understand their foreign visitors proved penetrating and persistent, exceeding ours by far. I recall an early, potentially inflammatory question, perhaps asked many times over until we could understand it, that went something like, "Did you know that it was Johnson who had Kennedy killed?"

Yet, as I ponder the conversations, I am struck with how civil they were in tone. They did not argue or press the truth. Instead, they probed, pushed for fuller response, stretching our abilities to reason in this new tongue. Here we were among men whose lives—with the exception of compulsory two years' military service in a remote part of the country—had in all likelihood been spent within a radius of 10 miles or so whose curiosity was as boundless as it was constant.

After the visitors, I often found myself spending solitary evenings inside by the light of a kerosene lantern. It was during these quiet moments that my mulling over of villagers' questions developed into a pattern of introspection. I wrote letters to my mother and father, college faculty that I had liked, and others that entered my imagination (none of the letters to the latter got sent anywhere, of course).

On especially self-probing occasions I came to insights about the social, religious, cultural influences that made me who I was as person, son, brother, American, Catholic, and human being.

So what is it exactly that these rural sheep, goat, and grain farmers gave me there and then that still sits in my mind like a library compendium, an album of pictures and recordings that, over time, morphed into a progression of insights on the meaning and means of communication between strangers?

Foremost, they made me think. Yep, here was I fresh with my University of Massachusetts political science degree being pressed by what in my innermost private moments of frustration I silently dubbed a "gang of illiterates." But over time, I became aware of the veneers and conventions of received education and culture layered deep within me.

By all that was holy, here I was among them, a representative of modernity and the great American experiment. I was stymied that all my "superior" background and education were getting us nowhere. Alone, late one cold night, I paced up and down by the dying embers of the sheet-metal stove. A stream of questions took shape in the silence. They revolved around one overriding question: just who did I think I was to tell them how and why they should change? And into what?

I wasn't prepared to explain in clear and logical terms what I had been trained to bring them: modern benefits like "community development," "cooperation," forming irrigation cooperatives, following the advice of their government agriculture extension agent, and so on.

It took me a long time to comprehend that in their world any change in practice involved risk beyond their means. My world was an abstraction, even to

me; theirs was flesh and blood. I had nothing at stake. They had their very way of life on the line.

So weeks turned into months, seasons turned, winter froze everything, even the breath, blankets got covered with dew by morning, every morning without end. I got down. This was hard, harder than I had ever gone through in my previous life of comfort and social underpinnings of friends, family, and teachers.

Finally, though, something came together, not at once, but in the way of a slow dawning that incubated in my physical and emotional state as it got worn down and exposed to their relentless search for why I was there among them. By late winter I came to accept that I had so far been unable to give even a whit of satisfaction to my inquisitors. They had gotten to me. If you want to be unkind, you could call this a humiliation. Yep, my "band of illiterates" had done it. Not only my outside skin was exposed to the harsh and unforgiving winter winds as they howled through the thatched roof of the house, but so were my insides. This hurt.

What got me through? Why did I persevere? In the end, it was, I believe, the accumulation of all those journeys into introspection after the departure of my visitors. I realized that the dialogic encounters were turning into a refuge, a place and moment of connection between the pinnacles of two cultures. And they changed me where it counts, deep inside.

What does this have to do with our state of affairs today? A lot. Our future as culturally shaped beings depends on growth, on change, change that can deepen only if it penetrates the mind and heart. And that involves peaceful, constant, and long encounters with the "other." Peace Corps is one way of doing that when we're young enough to become vulnerable and not run away. When our will to learn is stronger than our fear of what we have not yet come to understand. There are other ways, too.

*Michael Basile was a Peace Corps volunteer in Turkey in the 1960s. The Turkey program began in 1963 and ended in 1971. This reflection was originally published in Buralarda a publication by volunteers assigned to that country.*

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# “We can do more together than alone”

## Community connections and collaboration

### Thurston Food Rescue

[Ed note: As WIP is going to press, Ziegler and her team are completing the Lacey Food Bank community art project. Concrete is poured and the stencils described below to be incorporated into the sidewalk. Make time for a visit to the bank at 7027 Martin Way in July.]

Art is more than a pretty picture. It's a way to speak out using shape and color. It's a call to action sculpted by its creator. Local artist, Carrie Ziegler is using her art and the art of local students to encourage her community to rescue food and fight hunger.

“I use art as a way to teach and inspire,” explained Ziegler. “In college, I started melding art and science. Throughout my evolution, I have held firmly that blending art, the sciences, and community education results in collective action.”

Ziegler’s background includes working for Thurston County Solid Waste. For a number of years, she was an educator active in the “Food to Flow-ers” program. This composting-based program made a difference by send-

ing less food to landfills, but the idea of stopping the food from ever getting to the compost pile came to the fore-front. “My job suddenly shifted from composting to food rescue,” she said. “It makes so much sense to have a food rescue program.”

When community leaders began plan-ning the Lacey Food Bank, they want-ed to include a strong art piece. “The food bank approached me to create an art installation and community en-gagement project around food rescue,” explained Ziegler. “It was an assign-ment I was uniquely qualified for with my background and approach to art and science.”

“My process is a collaborative one,” shared Ziegler. Early on she involved North Thurston School District stu-dents in creating concepts for the art installation intended for the Lacey Food Bank. She held several work-shops to help come up with concepts for the art installation design.

First, Ziegler presented data and im-agery demonstrating the need to and benefits of rescuing food. During the workshop, she gave students the cre-ative constraints for the art installa-

tion and encouraged them use their imaginations. Constraints like involv-ing many people, using durable ma-terials, and illustrating how rescuing food at home, in school, and at work is a solution to hunger that positively impacts our lives and shared environ-ment.

With the knowledge of food rescue solutions, students worked rapidly to generate impactful, thoughtful, and creative installation ideas. “There were so many amazing ideas,” said Ziegler. “We had great conversations during the brainstorming process. The students and teachers were really into it. It was quite a wonderful ex-perience. I collected their themes and presented their ideas to the food bank.”

This collaborative and creative process resulted in a sculpted art design to be made of concrete. The six-foot sculp-ture will have three hands coming out of the ground like roots that turn into a tree. Within the tree is an apple that reflects the imagery of the earth. With this centerpiece in mind, students were asked to collaborate again with Ziegler to create artwork that would adorn the pathways leading from the

sculpture to different food bank struc-tures and elements – including a spa-cious courtyard and large garden area.

“We decided to install a mosaic of leaves in the concrete walkways,” said Ziegler. During subsequent educa-tional workshops with Ziegler, almost a thousand students designed and cut-out images that resulted in leaf shaped stencils. Each student's leaf is unique and contains a visual message to adorn walkways around the Lacey Food Bank.

While food rescue is at the heart of all art installation elements, the primary focus is on developing and sustaining a healthy Lacey community. Accord-ing to Ziegler, “The students we chose to work with live near the yet to be built Lacey Food Bank. This is their fu-ture. They and their families are going to take on food rescue – for their own benefit, to help others, and to better their community.”

If you would like to help rescue food anywhere in Thurston County, please visit **www.thurstonfoodrescue** and get involved.

# Community Sustaining Fund: An independent entirely community–created entity

### Sustaining Fund Leadership Group

Do you ever “round up” for the Com-munity Sustaining Fund (CSF) when making a purchase at the Olympia Food Co-op (OFC)? The spare change left when you round up to the next whole dollar, instead of jingling in your pocket, adds up to become sustaining fund grants, and an opportunity for social, envi-ronmental and economic justice projects. Funding for CSF grants comes from those who round up at OFC, and from other businesses and fundraising efforts.

Around 1985, a group of com-munity activists identified the need to create grants for social change projects that had no funding opportunity or source of revenue. Of-ten the ideas for action were outside the mainstream. The grants were in-tended to act as seed money for grass-roots projects to take hold, with the expectation and hope that the proj-ects become self-sustaining. The CSF founders established principles and organized a system to raise grant allot-ment money and identify individuals or groups with innovative ideas that met the principles. The formation of community around actions would help sustain efforts into the future.

After much hard work and com-mitment, the founders created the CSF in 1987 to provide start-up funds for projects that would otherwise go unfunded. In the spring and fall each year the CSF accepts applications for grants up to \$1000 for projects meeting cer-tain criteria intended to fulfill its mission:

CSF provides grant support for pro-gressive, community-oriented proj-ects in Thurston County. CSF funding is aimed at creating a democratic, just, nonviolent and ecologically sound so-ciety.

The grant criteria fall into the catego-

ries social justice, community build-ing and environment. CSF grants go to groups working to address the ma-jor categories through education, en-vironmental defense, civil liberties, la-bor issues and many other innovative methods and ideas.

A key principle established in the be-ginning was a consensus decision-making process. The CSF lead-ership group reviews grant applications to evaluate project ideas and fund-ing requests. Appli-cants are invited to in-person interviews, currently held at the Community Room at MIXX96 in the heart of downtown Olympia. For the interviews, CSF provides ap-plicants with specific questions about how their projects will trans-late into social/environmental/eco-nomic justice actions. Directly follow-ing the interviews, the CSF leadership group debates the fund award for each project until consensus is reached.

CSF has provided micro grants to proj-ects in the community twice a year for over 30 years. Groups that have received CSF funding are a veritable who's who of radical progressive in-dividuals and groups in Thurston

Groups that have received CSF funding are a veritable who’s who of radical progressive individuals and groups in Thurston County.

County. Many of those projects have taken root and continue to provide a resource to the community.

For over 30 years, the board of CSF has reviewed grant applications for a wide variety of projects like Fertile Ground, Heartsparkle Players, Bridge Music Project, and Sidewalk, to name a few.

The CSF has provided about \$125,000 to more than 200 projects in Thurston County.

CSF has supported environmental projects like the Estuarium, Westside Central Park, the Blue Heron Rook-ery; social justice efforts through Vet-erans for Peace, and Sanctuary Know your Rights; and community-building through the Common Cause Property Alliance.

Like many of the funded projects, CSF is an independent, entirely commu-nity-created-and-maintained entity. Even a small amount of dollars can make a big difference where no other funding is available. These dollars al-low many projects to move forward. For instance a number of community gardens around the area use funds to continue operation and remain open for community use. Over 99 percent of funds raised go directly into the community grants.

Many of the individuals and organiza-tions who have received grant funds have formed a long-term relationship in support of CSF. The Olympia Food Co-op is a key partner with CSF. The Co-op Board has designated a perma-nent CSF Liaison position to maintain good communication between the Co-op and CSF. Members of the CSF lead-ership group have presented to the OFC at general meetings, and staff and committee meetings, extolling the virtue and value of providing micro grants to a multitude of worthy groups and causes.

Elements of the OFC mission closely align with the CSF principles. Partly as a result of CSF activism, the check out system at the co-op stores now has an opt-in option to round up. OFC members can also “opt-in” by sign-ing up with member services. When checking out at the register with their purchase, opt-in members will receive a reminder from the cashier, asking if you want to round up. You can choose CSF or another cause at the time of

purchase. Or say “not today.” There is no obligation, only a reminder. If you are able to “round up” at the Olympia Food Coop, please do. Every penny counts. ..

Leadership group members volunteer time to publicize grant cycles, orga-nize fund-raising, review applications and make consensus-based decisions. CSF is always seeking new board members who can bring time, energy and enthusiasm to the process. Join us in our good work in support of the community! You can contact CSF at [thurstoncsf@comcast.net](mailto:thurstoncsf@comcast.net).

Many of the projects CSF funds would not be eligible for funding from any other source. The original goal of pro-viding a fund source where no other is available continues to fill a need in our community.

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# Worth re-tweeting

On June 17, 2019 (as though she knew it was the WIP theme for July) Caitlin Johnstone @caitoz tweeted:

**“Rugged individualism will not save humanity from the crises it faces. We only win this thing as a collective. The trouble is that malignant manipulators hijack our healthy impulse to move as a collective and get us collaborating against our own interests. They’re the problem.”**

*Some of the (printable) responses:*

In harsh times or frontier conditions, communicators and collectivists survive while rugged individualists die off.

Yes! Rugged individualism is a darned lie. We are all interdependent from birth. If someone doesn’t teach us we die. And the wealthy who live in houses they didn’t build, eat food others grew and use tech they don’t understand are as far from rugged individualism as can be.

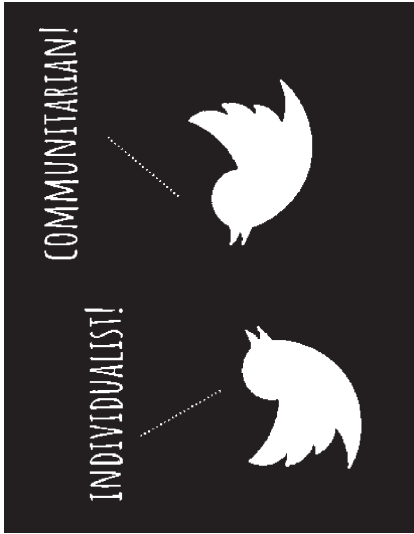
People see collectivism as a legacy idea. In fact it is the next stage of evolution. The world is now too small for individualism and anyone who persists with that idea is a fool. The damaged adolescent mind can’t grasp that within collectivism there is still uniqueness.

*Rugged individualism is the only thing that can bring down the biggest and most perverse form of collectivism there is: the all-pervasive American surveillance/security state. You’re one of those rugged individuals who speaks the truth and thus has an outsized influence.*

“There are no passengers on Spaceship Earth. We are all crew.” – Marshall McLuhan

When the time comes to topple the power structure it will look nothing like a Twitter thread. There will be destruction, much blood, and much death. My guess is most folks here will be shaking in a closet with pooppy drawers.

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# Works In Progress

