

Works in Progress Transitions to Online Issues

Lisa Riner

Works in Progress, or *WIP*, is transitioning. The workers of the past few years will no longer be with the paper; also, a key philanthropist has died and we must adjust to the loss of his funding. Until other sources of funding can be secured, after this *WIP* will be an online paper. We hope to return to print when finances have stabilized.

Meanwhile, look for the first “online only” issue in January.

As many of you know, *WIP* was founded by members of the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition in 1990. That was a long time ago.

Many of us attended the Evergreen State College back then, and enjoyed the fiery articles about issues of the day, including Ronald Reagan’s failed policies and each new war the US entered. *WIP* has gradually segued into a paper that focuses on local issues, for which our own citizens can be the experts.



Ann Vandeman, Bethany Weidner and Carolyn Roos at the WRAP party at Heritage Room, Olympia, October 20, 2023.

Thank you to all the volunteers that made *WIP* possible for 33 years!

Photo by Eddie Dupuy

In this new iteration, *WIP* will be run by a motley group of *WIP* workers trying to continue *WIP*’s tradition of publishing local news connected to justice issues.

They won’t have an easy time! People have stepped up for the critical tasks of outreach, editing, arranging finances, creating the on-line version, and more. However, the new crew would be glad for even more volunteers!

The new group of *WIP* workers welcome article submissions from the general community. These articles have been pouring in for

years by local writers, young and old. They educate our community as to what is actually happening in our towns, our cities, our waterfront, and our beautiful countryside – often that’s different from what the electeds would have you think. These articles shine a spotlight on the diverse viewpoints of the members of our community.

We hope that readers will continue to send in their art work, poetry, articles, cartoons, and book reviews, and their ideas for how to keep Works in Progress thriving for many more years. ♦

WIP will be **ONLY** online starting January at ***olywip.org***

To volunteer or contribute, email ***olywip@gmail.org***

Gaza

Anonymous

*In vain I search
for words
to wrap around genocide
and slip the truth of it
inside the human heart*

*like medicine,
bitter medicine, we’d otherwise
avoid
to our own
eventual
pale
anemic
death.*

*The truth of it -
tough and gamy and full of blood
tender blood
of innocents
children whose eyes were bright
before they were bludgeoned
whose hands were soft like petals
before shrapnel shredded through
whose hearts were full to the brim
with love*
(cont. on page 3)

A Thriving Community Gathering Place: Traditions Fair Trade

Charlotte Persons

Since 1996 Traditions Fair Trade has provided a special space for community gatherings, concerts, and justice events in downtown Olympia. The cafe closed in January, but the international fair trade shop is a robust business. Events of all kinds take place many times a week. “We’ve been working with community members to expand use of the space as a ‘gathering place’ in the spirit of a nonprofit,” stated owner Jody Mackey.

Many community organizations rent the space for meetings and fundraisers. The rental price is \$50 per hour, with a discount or inspired community-building groups. Traditions also sponsors one nonprofit each month to have an event for free.



Jacqueline Tabor sings at Traditions cafe on September 30, 2023.

Photo by Wendy Davis.

Examples are October’s Halloween party for houseless parents and their children and November’s fundraiser for the BrenRose Foundation.

In addition to 50 professional bands a year from across the US and the globe, events that give beginners a chance include Kids Jam, Oly Poetry, and Olympia Musical Theater, with pianist Troy Fisher accompanying vocalists singing Broadway tunes.

The venue is also filled with birthday parties, local concerts, recitals and classes.

This gathering space is inviting—and unique. The walls have brightly colored decorations from many cultures, and a floor-to-ceiling window offers an impressive view of the Capitol building towering above Heritage Park. Amenities include a piano, a stage, a projector and screen, and a sound system with speakers, mics and monitors. The maximum capacity is 76, with 55 seated at tables and the rest in rows of chairs.

Traditions can provide many homemade specialties that are customer favorites, such as soups, cheese or hummus plates, and desserts. A wide variety of beverages, from beer and wine to chai, is also available. ♦

Charlotte Persons is a life-long environmental activist and a contributor to WIP since 2021.

To schedule events at Traditions, call (360) 705-2819 or email NewTraditions33@gmail.com.

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

Submissions:

Works In Progress is committed to stories misrepresented or ignored by the mainstream media. We value local, well-researched news articles, accounts of personal experience, book reviews, and reflections by local and regional authors.

Opinion pieces (also valued) are often best supported by facts, examples, and sources. We're also looking for graphics, poetry, cartoons, and articles that push the boundaries of conventional journalism.

Writing that stereotypes groups or categories of people will not be accepted. Please fact check your work and cite your sources. Edit and proof-read all work before you submit it. Please request the complete guidelines for contributors.

WIP reserves the right to publish, in whole or part, all submissions. Contributions may be reprinted or may appear in the future pages on our website. Unless copyrighted by the author, all original material published by *WIP* is under Creative Commons license CC-BY-NC-ND.

Please submit articles, photos, and artwork to olywip@gmail.com with "submission" in the subject line. For editing purposes, enclose your phone number. *WIP* may find it necessary to edit submissions but will check with the contributor that any changes are acceptable.

Mission Statement:

WIP's mission is to contribute to the struggle for justice across economic, social, environmental and political realms, and to expand participatory democracy for working people, all races, and all genders.

Anti-Discrimination Clause:

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

WIP Volunteers

Current Working Group: Glen Anderson, Kim Dobson, Larry Dzieza, Thistle Grey, David Groves, Janet Jordan, Nick Kohnen, Esther Kronenberg, Patty Imani, Rick Fellows, Mike Pelly, Charlotte Persons, Lisa Riner, Sylvia Smith, Scott Yoos.

Lee Miller, Carolyn Roos, Ann Vandeman, and Bethany Weidner were particularly helpful in publishing the November 2023 edition of *WIP*.

Thank you!

About the Cover:

Eleanor Stevens is an illustrator and activist who got her start in Santa Fe, New Mexico. A former bilingual second grade teacher, she currently works as a Spanish interpreter with WA DSHS and teaches ESL with CIELO.



OPINION

Nonviolence Is Both Practical and Powerful

Glen Anderson

Most people assume that violence solves problems. Actually violence only makes problems worse. We must replace the cycle of violence with fresh nonviolent strategies and actions.

Some people think that nonviolence is too weak for the real world. Actually, violence does not work. Nonviolence is the truly practical alternative that really does work!

Our nation is immersed in violence. Our foreign policy is extremely violent. Violence also pervades our domestic systems. Poverty, racism and sexism are inherently violent. Our criminal justice system relies upon violence. Capitalism violently hurts the environment.

We need to replace those violent systems with nonviolent ways of running our society.

People are taught that the only two responses to a problem are "fight" or "flight." Either use violence or run away. Actually, nonviolence is a third alternative that usually works better. It helps us deal with the problem with smart, ethical strategies instead of violence. 100 years ago World War I's supporters promised it would be "the war to end all wars." Did WW 1 accomplish that?

The U.S. trapped itself in a chronically violent foreign policy of many endless wars. If your only tool is a hammer, you'll treat every problem as if it were a nail. Instead of solving problems, the US's wars have made problems worse and antagonized the rest of the world.

Our federal budget also prioritizes military violence. Instead, we should spend that money to meet human needs.

Should thousands of trees be removed from residences in Thurston County?

Charlotte Persons

That sounds like a crazy question! Most people love trees, especially mature ones. Besides being beautiful, trees absorb the greenhouse gas carbon and emit oxygen, reduce air pollution, cool houses and neighborhoods in summer, reduce urban heat sinks that cause deaths from cardiovascular disease, retain soil moisture, reduce flooding and stabilize slopes.

But the new Wildland-Urban Interface Code (WUIC) will result in thousands of trees being cleared. It applies to Intermix/Interface and wildland areas designated by a map published by the Washington Department of Natural Resources.

In Thurston County the WUIC will apply everywhere that people can live, including rural agricultural areas, except the urban cores of Olympia, Tumwater, and Lacey. In fact, part of Olympia, half of Lacey, two-thirds of Tumwater and all of the small towns in the county are designated as Intermix/Interface areas.

The WUIC requires all new residences to use expensive ignition-resistant materials and construction methods. For existing residences, the code will apply when the owner asks for a permit to do exterior construction, such as roofing or adding an extension.

The code also requires 30, 50 or 100 feet of defensible space around residences. The amount of defensible space required is determined by the slope of the land, access roads, access to water, and proximity to any kind of dense vegetation, from meadows and fields to prairies and parks.

While the WUIC allows trees in defensible spaces, each tree canopy must be 10 feet from other tree canopies, buildings, and overhead electrical wires. The result? Small lots will have at most two to four trees. Over the years thousands of trees will be lost. In addition, groves of trees are less susceptible to drought, wind damage, and disease, but this code will eliminate them.

The purpose of defensible space around a house is to slow a wildfire so firefighters can defend the residence. However, recent wildfire science shows that the best defense is to use fire-resistant materials because embers and firebrands can be blown thousands of feet. Clearing trees is not effective except in a narrow zone five to ten feet around a house.

This WUIC has other problems. Maybe creating defensible space was never intended by the state legislature—defensible space is not mentioned in the legislation. According to a letter from the Association of Washington Cities, the code is also confusing and unclear on many points. Even more confusion will result from the code's conflicts with seven state laws and hundreds of local ordinances. These laws and ordinances protect trees because of the many services they offer us, services listed in the first part of this article.

Violence keeps us "stuck." Nonviolence offers a creative alternative.

Conflict will always exist. Nonviolence changes the dynamics of conflict to promote workable solutions. Nonviolence rewrites the script of how the conflict can play out. ♦

Since the late 1960s Glen Anderson has devoted his life to working as a volunteer for peace, nonviolence, social justice, and progressive political issues. He has lived in Lacey since 1975.

Research proves that nonviolence really does work better than violence. Information resources on my blog: <https://parallaxperspectives.org/resources-for-organizing-nonviolent-grassroots-movements-2>

Many other resources are in the "Nonviolence" category of my blog: <https://parallaxperspectives.org/>

For more information, phone me at (360) 491-9093 or e-mail me at glen@parallaxperspectives.org

Many people have questioned the accuracy of the WA DNR map that designates interface/intermix and wildland areas where the code will apply. These designations are based on population density, not where the risk of wildfire is greatest. The map has "definition" only down to three miles, so it will be difficult to determine whether a particular land parcel is within the intermix/interface zone or not.

This poorly designed code is the result of well-intentioned legislation to protect people and their homes from wildfires as global heating brings more drought to Washington over the fifty years. "Home-hardening" with fire-resistant materials will offer that protection. Since homes last fifty years or more, it makes sense to start requiring these materials now. However, we need to hold onto our trees as long as possible to mitigate climate change, reduce drought and bring down summer temperatures.

Fortunately, the State Building Code Council can buy time to research all the unintended consequences of the WUIC. At their meetings on November 17 and 28, 2023, they can pass an emergency rule to remove the defensible space requirements or to pause the whole code. Then the SBCC will have three years in their regular code creation cycle to work on the WUIC. ♦

Charlotte Persons is a life-long environmental activist and a contributor to WIP since 2021.



A very brief history of the current conflict in Palestine

Lawrence Mosqueda PhD

The roots of the current conflict did not start in the past week, nor was it “unprovoked” as the mainstream media would have us believe.

2023 is the 75th anniversary of the violent creation of the state of Israel. Palestinians and much of the world call this event the “Nakba” or “The Catastrophe.” For 75 years there has been repression, oppression, and especially occupation of the West Bank and Gaza since 1967, and a siege and control of Gaza for the past 16 years. (1)

The UN has been tracking deaths in the conflict and data from 2008-2020 shows 5,590 Palestinian deaths and 251 Israeli deaths. (2)

US citizens and residents have a special obligation and opportunity to stop the madness

When Jimmy Carter mentioned Israeli Apartheid in his 2007 book Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid, he was roundly condemned. Now it has been demonstrated to all, except Congress, with recent in-depth reports by leading Human Right groups such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, B’Tselem-The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories (leading Israeli Human Rights group) showing in great detail how Apartheid works in Israel and the Occupied Territories. (3)

Many important Jewish groups and Israeli luminaries, while not excusing the gross excesses of some of the Hamas attacks, especially on the first day, point out the root causes of the violence are Israeli repression, oppression, and occupation.

For example, Jewish Voice for Peace stated while on 10/7/23, that they were terrified for their loves ones on the ground,

"The Israeli government may have just declared war, but its war on Palestinians started over 75 years ago. Israeli apartheid and occupation — and United States complicity in that oppression— are the source of all this violence.

Reality is shaped by when you start the clock. For the past year, the most racist, fundamentalist, far-right government in Israeli history has ruthlessly escalated its military occupation over Palestinians in the name of Jewish supremacy with violent expulsions and home demolitions, mass killings, military raids on refugee camps, unrelenting siege and daily humiliation. In recent

weeks, Israeli forces repeatedly stormed the holiest Muslim sites in Jerusalem.

For 16 years, the Israeli government has suffocated Palestinians in Gaza under a draconian air, sea and land military blockade, imprisoning and starving two million people and denying them medical aid....

The bloodshed of today and the past 75 years traces back directly to U.S. complicity in the oppression and horror caused by Israel’s military occupation. The U.S. government consistently enables Israeli violence and bears blame for this moment." (4)

Eminent Israeli Historian Ilan Pappé has recently (10/10/23) written in “My Israeli Friends: This is Why I Support Palestinians,”.... It is this moral compass {to resist settler colonialism} that led me, and others in our society, to stand by the Palestinian people in every way possible.... It is not always easy to stick to your moral compass, but if it does point north —towards decolonization and liberation— then it will most likely guide you through the fog of poisonous propaganda, hypocritical policies and the inhumanity, often perpetrated in the name of ‘our common Western values’.” (5)

As Jewish Voice for Peace notes, US citizens and residents have a special obligation and opportunity to try stop the madness by becoming more informed and informing others, demonstrating, and especially contacting their members of congress to support ending military aid to Israel, including supporting H.R.3103 Defending the Human Rights of Palestine Children and Families Under Israeli Military

Occupation Act. The road will be hard, but if we do not follow our North Star —towards decolonization and liberation— the road will be much harder or may not exist at all.

In addition to the sources highlighted in this short essay and the endnotes, the list of sources alongside this article are excellent to counteract the US mainstream media and that have been trusted sources for years. ♦

Lawrence Mosqueda is Professor Emeritus of Political Economy at the Evergreen State College. He is also a long-time activist and solidarity activist with Central America and Palestine.

PALESTINIAN STATISTICS IN GAZA

- Half of the Gaza population are under the age of 18
- 70% of the population living in the Gaza Strip are under the age of 30
- The poverty rate that stands at 53%.
- The unemployment rate stands at 70%
- The Israeli blockade on Gaza (and enforced by Egypt)
 - limits the import of food, fuel and construction material,
 - limits how far Gaza’s fishermen can go out to sea
 - bans almost all exports
 - imposes strict limitations on the movement of people into and out of Gaza
 - routinely denies sick patients the permits they need to receive medical care outside of Gaza
 - students with scholarships to study abroad often are unable to leave

- Gaza lacks very basic health needs for the people living there
- Life expectancy for Palestinians there is 10 years less than for Israelis living a few miles away.
- 71% of Gazans (91% of children) show signs of depression and high levels of PTSD (World Bank)
- Gaza has insufficient water for drinking and sanitation.

... ♦

Source: Maha Nassar, Professor of Middle Eastern and North African Studies, University of Arizona

Endnotes

1. Rashid Khaldi, The Hundred Years War on Palestine; Edward Said, The Question of Palestine; Noam Chomsky, Fateful Triangle: The United States, Israel, and the Palestinians: N. Chomsky and Ilan Pappé, On Palestine (among many other books by these authors)
2. <https://www.statista.com/chart/16516/israeli-palestinian-casualties-by-in-gaza-and-the-west-bank/>
3. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2022/02/israels-system-of-apartheid/>
<https://www.hrw.org/report/2021/04/27/threshold-crossed/israeli-authorities-and-crimes-apartheid-and-persecution>
<https://www.btselem.org/>
4. <https://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org/2023/10/statement23-10-07/>
5. <https://www.palestinechronicle.com/my-israeli-friends-this-is-why-i-support-palestinians-ilan-pappe/>

Information Sources

- PALESTINE CHRONICLE—<https://www.palestinechronicle.com/>
- ELECTRONIC INTIFADA—<https://electronicintifada.net/>
- JEWISH VOICE FOR PEACE—<https://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org/>
Read “THE WIRE”
- MONDOWEISS—<https://mondoweiss.net/>
- ALJAZEERA—<https://www.aljazeera.com/>
- COMMON DREAMS—<https://www.commondreams.org/>
- DEMOCRACY NOW—<https://democracynow.org/>
Available on-line and on Olympia KAOS radio 89.3 at 9am M-F

(cont. from page 1)
*before the fear, terror, agony, grief
before the rubble collapsed
killing everyone who ever loved
them
everyone on whom
their own existence
depends*

*I sit to write
because otherwise
the tears block up my vessels,
inside -
turn to clots, block the flow of
life inside
until I too
crumple
like a bombed hospital
falling to earth
with screams inside*

*until my unborn children
are borne down to death
like new babies, cord still pulsing
blasted out of this world
the moment they entered it*

*like a father zipped into a body bag
arm cradling his infant daughter
together in death
going to earth*

*I reach for words
to wrap around genocide
and slip the truth of it
inside the human heart*

*where maybe, just maybe
the pulsing warmth of love, grief,
witness
can give life to their memories*

*where maybe, just maybe
Truth, and they
can both live
again. ♦*

Community Spotlight

Native Art Exhibition
October 16 – December 30, 2023.

Past, Present, and Future:
Showcasing Roots of Indigenous Artists
The Evergreen State College
Gallery, Daniel J. Evans Library
This show is dedicated to Veterans past and present.
Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM — 5:00 PM, and by appointment.



Native Art Exhibition: Chehalis Baskets
November 13 to December 8, 2023.

15th Annual Native Art Exhibition:
Honoring the Hazel Pete Legacy:
Chehalis Basketry
South Puget Sound Community College, Fuller Gallery
The exhibition highlights traditional and contemporary basketry woven by the Hazel Pete family. Hazel Pete was a 6th generation weaver from treaty negotiation times in western Washington – 7th, 8th, and 9th generation weavers will be featured in this exhibit.
Monday – Friday, 12:00 PM — 6:00 PM.



Interfaith Sacred Meal
November 19, 2023

Resetting Our Sacred Table: An Annual, Autumnal Celebration of Community, Culture, and Music
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 1515 Harrison Ave NW, Olympia.
Presented by Interfaith Works. We will welcome and celebrate the Nisqually Indian tribe as central contributors. Our theme this year is about story, and how our stories draw connections between us and help us relate to the journeys we each are on.” Free to the public. Family-friendly event.
2:00PM — 3:30 PM.



How to be a More Effective Activist
November 21, 2023

The Olympia Observer Meetup
Traditions Cafe, 300 5th Ave. SW, Olympia.
If you're an activist, advocate, lobbyist, journalist, or otherwise concerned citizen - come learn practical techniques you can use to move issues you care about while networking with your peers across disciplines and policy areas.
Doors open for refreshments and drinks at 5:00 PM. First presentation and discussion at 5:30 PM.



Storytelling
November 24, 2023

Tellebration!
Traditions Cafe, 300 5th Ave. SW, Olympia.
The South Sound Story Guild invites you to a concert of oral storytelling action packed with folk tales, personal adventures, literary tales and historical stories! Told without notes by tellers from the storytelling guild.
7:00 PM — 9:00 PM.



YWCA Youth Program
December 1, 2023

Monthly Youth Night: Ice Skating! Friendship Hall at YWCA Olympia.
First Friday of every month. Movies, workshops, game night, dance parties and more...! Contact YWCA for registration form and location.
5:50 PM — 8:00 PM.



Bad Girl Makeover Market
Decenmer 2nd, 2023

Maker market featuring local artists
The Olympia Armory, 515 Eastside St. SE
A market for people of all genders who feel cute. Featuring tarot, and vintage and handmade wares.
12:00 PM — 5:00 PM

Olympia Toy Run
December 2, 2023

46th Annual Toy Run
Sears in South Sound Center, Lacey, 98503
The Olympia Toy Run is the First Saturday in December and "It's All About the Kids." Bikers will gather at Lacey's South Sound Center and Ride to Marathon Park, Downtown Olympia. Entry is a new unwrapped toy or \$10.00 single, \$15.00 couple, and only street legal bikes are allowed. 9:00 AM — 2:00 PM.



Cultural Bazaar
December 2, 2023

ASHHO Cultural Center, 5757 Littlerock Rd. SW #4, Tumwater (across from Tumwater Costco)
A great way to spend the day supporting your community and celebrating diversity. So come out and enjoy the food, the music, and the art!
Every first Saturday through May.
11:00 AM — 3:00 PM.



Olympia's History
December 9, 2023

Blacks in Thurston County, Washington 1950-1975: A Community Album
United Churches of Olympia, 110 11th Ave SE, Olympia
Sponsored by the League of Women Voters Thurston County.
Dr. Theima Jackson talks about her book, the result of a 10-year project. It is a collection of 55 short biographies highlighting the experiences of Black individuals in Thurston County.
2:00 PM.



Works in Progress

Advocating for social justice since 1990



BDS

#BDS #FREEPALESTINE