A pattern of conduct by the Chair and another Board member eventually provoked complaints of disruptive behavior serious enough to merit investigation by the state. The loss of funding has led to the departure of staff, as well as the sacrifice of important functions of the District. At this time, only 7 of 15 employees remain, and many programs have been eliminated. “Staff is drowning in work-load,” says Executive Director Sarah Moorehead.

The Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC) oversees the TCD as it recently completed its investigation of the District and recommended possible removal of two board members—Eric Johnson and Richard Mankamyer.

The investigation found that the two board members engaged in acts that constitute neglect of duty and malfeasance. A hearing to consider the report and the two board members’ response will be scheduled at a special meeting of the SCC on August 29. That meeting is open to the public.

Functions of the Thurston Conservation District are being compromised

TCD has had to curtail agriculture workshops and classes. Its farm equipment rental program and soil testing for the public are in jeopardy. Recently, the two Board members who were subjects of the investigation refused to vote on a contract that would have continued the TCD in its role as fiscal agent for $260,000 to help with salmon recovery. Their inaction could lead to the County losing those irreplaceable funds.

In November, 2017, Thurston County’s Environmental Health Director wrote “reducing or eliminating TCD services in 2018 will have a significant impact on Thurston County residents and jeopardize many successful programs.” Programs affected include the Shellfish Protection District, the Deschutes Non-point Source Pollution Program, and the Voluntary Stewardship Program. These programs work because they enlist the voluntary support of the landowner to fix problems on their land.

An Environmental Health staffer also addressed the consequences of losing the District

...the even bigger impact to our program is the lack of someone to send farm operators and land owners high quality technical assistance... The Conservation District works with many property owners to develop stream-side restoration plans, and can help cost-share the cost of the plants, site preparation, and plant installation. They can manage a class or two of students on a restoration site and get plants properly in the ground. Currently when health department water quality staff identify a property that is polluting water, our first approach is to talk with the property owner or farm operator and refer them to the Conservation District for assistance. Most property owners take advantage of the service, and most of our problems can be remedied this way. If the Conservation District closes, that will leave a huge gap in assistance for residents and I worry about the impact to our water.”

Staff continues to operate other key programs

Educating. Clear Choices for Clean Water educates landowners in the Henderson and Nisqually Shellfish Protection Areas to help restore and protect water quality and shellfish tidelands.

South Sound GREEN educates students in watershed studies. Over the years, thousands of kids have gone on field trips with marine biologists.

The Envirothon is a hands-on, outdoor environmental science competition for high school students from surrounding counties where students demonstrate knowledge of soils, forestry, aquatics, and wildlife among other topics.

Restoring habitat The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Project (CREP) is a partnership between the state and Federal governments that plants native trees and shrubs along streams to restore and protect critical habitat and protect water quality.

CREP works with landowners to develop a site specific buffer, pays the full installation costs of plantings, fencing, and a watering facility if necessary, and pays the first 5 years of maintenance. Landowners receive a yearly rental payment for the length of the contract, either 10 or 15 years. At Riverbend Ranch on the Skookumchuk river, CREP recently installed 7000’ of fencing and planted a riparian buffer to restore 0.3 miles of the stream.

TCD runs the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) to protect critical areas on agricultural land. Often referred to by the County’s Environmental Health Department, farmers work closely with TCD’s resource technician to develop voluntary, site-specific conservation plans.

TCD provides free technical assistance for residents of Thurston County to assist landowners with all types of questions on land management such as crop and livestock advice or riparian habitat enhancement.

Leveraging resources TCD has been the lead entity for the South Puget Salmon Enhancement group, helping restore salmon habitat at Mission Creek near Priest Point Park by ripping out a road and concrete to restore the area to a natural estuary.

TCD partnered with the Capitol Land Trust to acquire and enhance Harmony Farms in Henderson Inlet.

TCD supported a landowner for a fish passage project on the East Fork of McLane Creek. When complete, a bridge will replace a culvert that now acts as a fish barrier.

A new era of public awareness TCD is a form of local government that originated in the Dustbowl of the 1930s. Drought and dust storms created a national disaster that was solved only with the cooperation of local citizens. Today conservation districts help people preserve the health of farms, forests, urban yards, rivers, lakes, and coastlines. TCD has operated with volunteer leadership since 1947, winning awards and recognition for its work.

Over the past two years, under the leadership of Chair Eric Johnson and Richard Mankamyer, the TCD descended into a period of turmoil that has prompted renewed attention from the public. In the most recent Board election, Paul Pickett, who ran on a promise to stop the dismantling and restore the District’s viability, swamped his opponent, a high school friend of Johnson.

“We are beginning a new era where the Conservation District is adopted by Thurston County residents who care about the environment, sustainable agriculture and social justice. We are just beginning that effort—first stop the bleeding,” says Paul Pickett. Thurston Conservation District’s future health depends on the County Board of Commissioners’ voting to approve the District’s request for funding through 2019 via a “rates and Charges” assessment.”

Esther Kronenberg is a member of the observer corps for Thurston League of Women Voters.

Supporters can help by writing letters and emails urging Commissioners to approve TCD’s Rates and Charges this fall. https://www.thurstoncountygov.gov/boss/ The WSCC report including the response by Johnson and Mankamyer can be found at http://sec.wa.gov/ecl/072018/
Your writing in 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 Coalition, which published the first issue in May 1999.

Our mission. The aim of WIP is to con- tribute to the development of a po- licy, the organizing work of the Truth, and the struggle for an organized, se- ries and 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 ma- jor media, especially those that re- late to our communities.

To this end, we seek well-researched news stories, serious analyses of im- portant issues and events, and accounts of personal experiences or reflections by local writers. We also accept fiction, poetry, and articles that challenge the boundaries of representation.

Submitting your writing: Send an e-mail to olywip@gmail.com with the subject line “Submission” and attach your document. The maximum length for each submission is 500 words. For fiction and poetry, please keep your submission to 500 words. Include your name, and a brief bio with your submission.

Copyright and reprinting. We will protect your work’s integrity while content may be copied for non-commercial use if at- tributed (Creative Commons BY-NC 3.0 license terms apply).

Workers in Progress Publishing Committee: Emily Land- treer, Mike Pelly, Sandia Slaby, Ellen Shortt, Lee Miller
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Submissions: Karen Leaby

Contributions this issue: Fred Silsky, Kevin, Janet, Chris, Scott, Dan, Kelly, TV

Advertising. Rates are approximately $60 per column inch, with set rates for standard sizes. Discounts may be avail- able for long-term ads, for nonprofits and for micro businesses.

Subscription rates. Annual subscription is $35/year. Purchase one for yourself or an incarcerated friend, monthly, first class each month.

Contact WIP. Online at olywip@gmail.com or by mail at Works in Progress, P.O. Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507.

Submission deadline next issue. Sunday, September 16

Staff Writer

In April 2017, Works in Progress report- ed an increase in the number of people who are attempting suicide. The rise is likely due to a lack of affordable mental health care services. The rise is also likely due to a lack of affordable mental health care services.

In this issue, we will focus on stories that are ignored or misrepresented in the mainstream media, especially those that relate to our communities.

To this end, we seek well-researched news stories, serious analyses of is- sues confronting our communities and accounts of personal experienc- es or reflections by local writers. In- formed opinion pieces are welcome, especially when accompanied by facts, examples and sources.

Theme for this issue—Democracy and Elections.

Our readers will find a conversation conducted from different angles — on the upcoming election and its impact on the political life of our immediate community and the na- tion. On November 6, 2018 all seats in the United States House of Represen- tatives and 35 of the 100 seats in the United States Senate will be elected.

Given the oppressive political context created by the Trump administration, and the continued silence of the Re- publicans, both in the House and the Senate, the upcoming elections offer the possibility to alter the right-wing scenario dominant in the American Congress.

We think that most Americans are alive to the need for social changes that will steer public policies, through the actions of government agencies and programs that are away from the exclusive service of big corpo- rations and the super-rich, to the de- crease of working people’s life conditions and the wellbeing of the planet. We believe that the mid- terms election will offer the opportu- nity to replace some notorious figures with progressive and radical candi- dates or independent candidates, to expand important social policies and programs that are products of hard- fought struggles by the people.

Being aware of the potential that elec- tions have to shape our public and private lives, we are at the same time aware of their limitations. Elections in this country work primarily as a tool of the political parties, since through them, advanced forms of capi- talism are protected and strengthened. This is particularly true in areas like health or education, and this is a big election and the right-wing forces promote more egalitarian forms of social orga- nization. Ultimately, the people, must go from being allowed every few years to decide which particular representatives of the right-wing classes are going to ‘represent’ and oppress us, to supporting genuine left-wing candi- dates or independent candidates, who will alter the existing political power relations, promoting independence from the corporate-dominated traditional political system and engender an ideologi- cal message for the nation, one that strives for equity and social justice.

Theme for October—Immigration.

The October issue of WIP offers an ex- periment in this volunteer-based proj- ect. At a WIP public meeting in May many people expressed a desire to create a WIP cover over the critical issue of immi- gration. Anne Fischel, long-time WIP member, proposed to assemble a set of articles from varied perspectives that would give WIP readers an informed sense of current immigration policies and is- sues. Much of the October issue will be dedicated to those topics, but sub- missions on other issues are sought as well. We welcome reader feedback about this approach to organizing an issue, including ideas for the future.

Theme for November—The Public Good.

We think that most Americans are alive to the need for social changes that will steer public policies, through the actions of government agencies and programs that are away from the exclusive service of big corpo- rations and the super-rich, to the de- crease of working people’s life conditions and the wellbeing of the planet. We believe that the mid- terms election will offer the opportu- nity to replace some notorious figures with progressive and radical candi- dates or independent candidates, to expand important social policies and programs that are products of hard- fought struggles by the people.

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For caregivers, care receivers, and other caregivers.

Community Peace Walk
September 22, 3 to 5 PM at Priest Point Park.

We will sing familiar songs of peace and so- cial justice, wear purple as a symbol of our support for people living at Long Lake, hosted by the Olympia Peace Choir.

Thurston County Conservation
Community Meeting
September 25, 2 to 5 PM, 2925 Fergun St

Citizen monitoring of Budd Inlet, to iden- tify trends and observations. Let’s look to organize our political actions will be limited or expanded in direct relationship to our practice of political decision-making about the meaning of the public good. Making a distinction between public goods and the public good is an essential concept for all of us.

EQ

And then this happened:
Congress votes $77 billion increase in Defense Dept Budget

For a comprehensive listing of events and activities of interest to the South Sound political community, please visit the South Sound Political Community on Facebook.

Special events

Fundraiser for Capital Homecare Cooperative
September 3, 5 to 8 PM at Pizzeria La Gitana

For caregivers, care receivers, and other caregivers.

What’s Blossoming in Budd

Petition Delivery
September 15 at 4:30 PM at St Patrick Catholic Church.

Out of Darkness Walk
September 19, 9 to 11 AM, at Heritage Park

Thurston County Prosecutor Candidates Forum
September 27, 2015, 7:00 - 8:00 PM at the Olympia University Universalist Congregation, 2315 Division Street NW.

Community Peace Walk September 22, 3 to 5 PM at Priest Point Park.

WIP public meeting that will focus on nuclear weapons, environmental protection, and research programs for the National Health Institute and Na- tional Science Foundation.

For caregivers, care receivers, and other caregivers.

Let’s Talk About It:
Asian Women, Stereotypes, and Feminism
September 30, September 25, 6 to 8 PM at 402 Legion Way

Hosted by Planned Parenthood Votes NW and HW

Thurston County Prosecutor Candidates Forum
September 25, 2 to 5 PM, 2925 Fergun St

For caregivers, care receivers, and other caregivers.

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EQ
If we can’t protect our water and air, let’s give nature the right to protect itself

Harry Branch
Protecting critical water habitat
Mothers and fathers ask the question of our children: “Is there something really wrong happening in our environment?” The ghosts that wander our urban region plagued by madness and drugs, in turn support water quality. There is no more critical habitat on earth than a salmon-bearing estuary like Olympia’s Moxlie Creek. We took the challenge of cleaning up our beloved Sound seriously when we created a whole new agency, “The Puget Sound Partnership.” This cabinetry-level agency was akin to a state version of the Department of Home security, created in response to a serious threat in our backyard. That was over a decade ago and we no longer hear much from or about this agency, probably because the news is never good and it pains us to hear it. We gave ourselves until 2020 to reach our shores, where Tahoma’s salmon or grebe: “I will be damaged by this action in the following ways.” Well, why not? And why do we lose our legal system treat nature as property instead of rights-bearing entities?

"Rights of Nature” could give the environment a voice

The proposed Westman Mill development would lie in the historic center of the Moxlie Creek estuary. The entire estuary area totals several hundred acres. An estuary can only be protected where it is. It can’t be remediated elsewhere. This is the only portion of the historic estuary that’s available.

Nature remains unprotected in the courtroom
The development moved easily through the review process, ultimately securing a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Determination of Non-Significance (DNS). The intent of the SEPA checklist grows out of the state’s mandate to “no-net-loss.” In actuality, by not fixing damaged places, we continue to see losses. As long as Olympia is sitting on 160 miles of culverted surface waters, we’ll continue to see downward spirals in species and water quality in Budd Inlet and Puget Sound.

Last month OUWL appealed the DNS before Olympia’s Hearing Examiner, the third appeal of its type in two months pertaining to real estate determinations of non-significance. All were thrown out for “lack of standing” – the appellants failed to prove they would be immediately, personally damaged by the developer’s actions.

One reason other species don’t have standing is because they can’t stand up in court and talk. A human would have to speak on behalf of an orca, salmon or grebe: “I will be damaged by this action in the following ways.” Well, why not? And why do we lose our legal system treat nature as property instead of rights-bearing entities?

The orca’s mourning
Trent Kelly
A mother whale bearing its dead child plies the local waters. Why does the image get to us so?

It is surely a poignant one but its image gets to us so?

It is a tragic metaphor of Shakespearian proportions. It is also disturbing. Like the homeless person on the street corner that stares mumbling at you through the glass of your car. It is also disheartening. It is also disheartening.

The ghosts that wander our urban region plagued by madness and drugs, in turn support water quality. There is no more critical habitat on earth than a salmon-bearing estuary like Olympia’s Moxlie Creek. We took the challenge of cleaning up our beloved Sound seriously when we created a whole new agency, “The Puget Sound Partnership.” This cabinetry-level agency was akin to a state version of the Department of Homeland security, created in response to a serious threat in our backyard.

That was over a decade ago and we no longer hear much from or about this agency, probably because the news is never good and it pains us to hear it. We gave ourselves until 2020 to reach our shores, where Tahoma’s salmon or grebe: “I will be damaged by this action in the following ways.” Well, why not? And why do we lose our legal system treat nature as property instead of rights-bearing entities?

"Rights of Nature” could give the environment a voice

On this inland sea, there are other worlds where we slip like water in the mouth where orcas and otters slide along fed by the Nisqually, the Deschutes, and the Duvawinn. Before us, before photographs, bridges, or oil trains, and gardeners with shovels, a misty, mythical world. When we’re gone, there will be new worlds others estuaries to claim. Nisqually reaches a wet tongue, a reclamation of tidelands once damned.

Listening to the Elwha, one hears salmon travel a river’s route home to die. River revered, river as healer, river as last rite.

Many friends have died here where Salish fingers reach our shores, where Tahoma’s mammal heart watches over our waters, slumbering in uncertain solidity. Tahoma, the word ends, in air in fire in awe.

Kathleen Byrd

Olympia and other words for water

(It’s important to remember that Salish refers to the Lushootseed language and then the Sea received its name)

On this inland sea, there are other worlds where we slip like water in the mouth where orcas and otters slide along fed by the Nisqually, the Deschutes, and the Duvawinn. Before us, before photographs, bridges, or oil trains, and gardeners with shovels, a misty, mythical world. When we’re gone, there will be new worlds others estuaries to claim. Nisqually reaches a wet tongue, a reclamation of tidelands once damned.

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Kathleen Byrd

"Rights of Nature” could solve the burden otherwise posed by the requirement that someone be immediately harmed in order to have “standing” to sue in a court of law. An approach based on “Rights of Nature” advocates legal representation for natural objects in the environment, or the environment as a whole. It acknowledges that nature itself has value and holds rights that must be respected—the right to exist, persist, maintain and regenerate vital cycles. Mankind thus has the legal authority and responsibility to enforce those rights on behalf of ecosystems.

In the last decade, several municipalities in the US adopted ordinances enshrining a legal right for nature within their boundaries. Tamaqua Borough and Pittsburg, PA are two examples. Of course, this view represents a shift from the Western legal culture of consumerism, capitalism and predation of nature, to one more attuned to present understanding of human and natural interrelationships as well as to philosophies from indigenous groups.

Harry Branch is a long-time sailor and community member who has been working for decades on ecological issues in the Pacific Northwest.

Trent Kelly is a local writer who comments on local and regional topics. His work can be found at hiddenharborlounge.com

Olympia 106.5 FM 24/7 Public Affairs REALITY RADIO for OLYMPIA Also LiveStream us at: www.kowal.com
The contrast between Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Elizabeth Warren

First things first: Should the Left participate in bourgeois democratic elections? Yes—for the following reasons.

1) Parliaments are a living, politically alive form in the functioning of American democracy. Although we know that in the next life we should commit more errors, given the present condition of the parliamentary system, it would be a mistake to vacate this political space and leave it to the control of the dominant classes. Granted, elections in a liberal, democratic like ours tend to legitimizethe power and interests of big corporations and capital to the detriment of the needs and interests of most working or unemployed people. On the other hand, we must go where the masses are. (1.3 million Americans went to the polls in the 2016 elections, which represents 58% of eligible voters.)

2) Voter suppression. Although both Republicans and Democrats are guilty of using various ways to avoid electoral competition, the last decade these dubious practices have become almost exclusively the sole purview of the Republican Party. According to Michael D. Rea- gan in his book, Over 14 states included in the union ‘installed new restrictive voting laws hurting the turnout of black and Hispanic voters.’

This type of legislation implement-ed by Republicans aims consciously to dismantle mechanisms into political somnolence and disenfranchise-ment. In this context, forsaking your registration campaign and avoiding promoting cognizant elec-toral participation creates a distur-bing omission for the Left and the most conservative forces of the country. There will be no ‘mor-n-of-the-party-poll’ (like the critical med-ical cabinet after such a questionable affair.

3) Parliamentary participation. Voting with higher forms of struggle this becomes a useful and indispensable tool used by the masses to press for higher and more egalitarian forms of socio-economic organization. The most notorious examples are the 1960s anti-war de-mocracy movement, which gained power based on the anti-war activity and the anti-war movement. Using parliamentary elections in order to protect the struggle for socialism, rather, it gives the left an opportunity to unveil the contradictions of the electoral system.

Midterm elections: To the Left! To the Left! To the Left!

It would be a mistake to vacate [the electoral] space and leave it to the exclusive control of the dominant classes. If improvements in the material living conditions of working people are not addressed, and the main beneficiaries are not, or have not been, the majority of the people, it becomes imperative that we not support that candidate, organization, or policy.

The mass line. Progressive political leadership primarily uses what is known as the mass line, and the mass perspec-tive. “Mass line” aims for the improvement of the living conditions of the masses by taking three steps: First, the masses the needs and ideas of the people, second, processing those ideas and needs into a political platform; and finally, returning those collected ideas and popular needs to the masses in the form of a doable political platform which improve the conditions of the masses.

Mass perspective. This is, in contrast, more of a philosophical-political standpoint but it can also be summarized in three points. First, it acknowled-ges that the masses are the makers of history and that social change cannot take place unless it is made by the masses themselves. In other words, the course of history is not determined by isolated individu-als or politicians, regardless of their as-sumed importance but rather it is de-termined by the people. Second, mass perspective assumes that the struggle is not only necessary but possible. Finally, mass perspective as-sumes that the role of progressive and revolutionary people is to actively join the struggle of the people in order to help shift the struggle to higher politi-cal levels.

The specter of socialism and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez In spite of what Fox News may broadcast, socialism is not just around the corner holding hands with the revolu-tion. Nonetheless, it is a growing liv-ing reality in the political unconscious of many Americans. This is illus-trated by the 28-year-old Democratic Socialist Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez’s shocking victory against longstanding Democrat Representative Joe Crowley, casting what the “Business Insider” calls “the biggest political upset of the year.” Alexandria’s victory, unprecedented by similar politi-cal nominations strengthened by her support in other states, shows the end of the party’s comeuppance and end in New York. Add to this the growing number of Democrats that are anti-Trump and, along with those willing to identify with social reforms advo-cated by the Democratic Socialists of America. It is not surprising then that the Democratic Party finds itself in in-ternal disarray, trying to exercise the specter of socialism within its ranks, while trying to keep some level of credibility among voters.

According to Anne McElvoy in The Guardian, "Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of the Democratic Socialist of America has galvanized disillusioned voters." The DSA, in McElvoy’s opinion “is the alfahite of the 2016 Bernie Sanders campaign, but with roots in a move-ment reaching back a century that peaked in a post-Depression quest for a ‘New Deal.’” In a Gallup poll pub-lished early this month, 57% of Dem-ocrats have a positive view of social-ism, while only 47% of them perceive capitalism as positive, down from 56% in 2016. The same poll indicates that fewer than half (43%) of young Americans view capitalism positively.

Alexandria’s victory cannot be explained within the traditional logic party, single candidate, group, organization, PAC, lobbyist, newspaper, union, media, etc. is taken by asking two simple, related yet distinct questions: First, which class interests does the party, candidate, or group in question represent? And second, who, are or will be the main beneficiaries of the policies proposed by that entity?

The DSA, in McElvoy’s opinion “is the single biggest national security threat for the United States and the single big-est threat to worldwide industrialized civilization.” Implement a carbon-free

Midterm, next page.
It’s no secret we need a better voting system. The US has a plurality system, where the party with the most votes wins, even if it’s not a majority. Elizabeth Warren, a liberal Democrat who all of a sudden finds herself as a centrist or a capitalist, in the cross-eyed view of the far right, is her most recent attempt to ameliorate capitalism via the Accountable Capitalism Act.

Among other things, this would require big companies to recognize obligations to society. The problem with Senator Warren’s position is not that all her intentions are bad, but that her solution is inadequate. In fact, the structural problems of American society are not due to a simple malfunction of the system but rather because of the very essence of the market functions.

Candidly, or perhaps defensively, in a video interview with John Harwood, Warren said, “Of course I am a capitalist.” You that “Of course I am a capitalist, come on!”

You shouldn’t worry much Senator Warren, for this is a new kind of capitalist. The constant of her 13 years in congress is that Elizabeth Warren, a Harvard law professor, and now a Democrat, is a natural capitalist. She is a natural capitalist because of her., an ignitement of a real capitalist.
Water is Life.

Water is life, everywhere in the world. Andino is the newly hired, first-ever Executive Director of Friendly Water for the World in 2010. With a "simple technology" he and his wife saw the filter as "something of a wonder." How does a small, modestly funded project provide clean water for almost 2000 people, stop cholera epidemics—with just one BioSand filter? How could people find out more? There are many, many other ripples from those first drops of clean water in Minova. Maybe the most important thing about it, from Friendly Water’s perspective—which takes us back to that one-word answer above—is that one was the title of the official Energy Globe National Award. Empowering the Women of Minova through Clean Water Technologies.

I told Curt Andino about the poster in my neighbor’s window. “Yeah, I’ve seen those around Olympia—didn’t they come out of the Standing Rock movement? It’s what we’re about—the Friendly Water movement: Water is Life!”

How could people find out more? “There are many more amazing stories we can tell, and we’re always looking for volunteers, collaborators and donors. Periodically we do trainings in construction of the BioSand Filters, and are most happy to do presentations on our work.”

James O’Barr is a recent transplant from New York’s Hudson Valley, where he worked in health care for migrant and seasonal farmworkers, theatre in the community and in prison, and writing as way opened. Friendly Water for the World can be reached at info@friendlywater.net, or by phone at (360) 910.3642. Their website is www.friendlywater.net.

Curt Andino: It’s a ‘point-of-use’ or household water purification system, using sand and gravel. An environmental engineering professor at the University of Calgary, Dr. David Manz, adapted an old sand filter technology dating back to the 1800s. He developed and field-tested it, and patented it as the BioSand filter in 1993. The filter is made from a 3’ x 1’ metal mold, using concrete for the form with gradations of sand and gravel inside. Dirty water is poured in the top and flows through a biologically-active “biomass” layer. By the time it gets to the bottom and rises up a plastic tube to an outlet, 95 to 99% of bacteria and viruses have been removed along with 100% of worms, parasites, amoeba, protozoa, and other noxious or poisonous substances.

Friendly Water does the training and provides the molds. The filters can be made locally by the people themselves. We estimate the materials cost for the filter at $50, more or less—the molds cost about $500 but are loaned for free as long as they’re in use. In many places the filters and the clean water itself have become a source of income. The filters can produce 23-24 gallons of water a day, and can last as long as 30 years with minimal maintenance. Countries where Friendly Water has projects range across the entire globe. And while each project serves people’s health and well-being, each community has its unique set of variables, needs, and conditions. How does a small, modestly funded organization, run for the most part by volunteers, operate on such a small scale? And how do we do that? Well, each project would have a somewhat different story, reflecting its unique circumstances.

The only thing they’d have in common is that the people themselves, in their determination, resourcefulness, inventiveness, intelligence, in their love and generosity, would be front and center.

In June of this year, Friendly Water for the World was given the Energy Globe National Award for the Congo—sometimes called ‘Nature’s Nobel Prize’—for our work with the women of Minova, Congo. In 2012, the women were the victims of a mass rape by members of their own national army. Some became pregnant, some contracted HIV, many were abandoned by their husbands. They had to withdraw their children from school because they could no longer afford the cost. Everything was made worse by the endemic water-borne illnesses—diarrhea, dysentery, typhoid, cholera—for which there was no money to treat.

In October of 2016, with a $3200 grant, we trained the women of Minova in fabrication of BioSand Filters, and in community hygiene and sanitation. By January of 2017, they had built and sold 172 BioSand Filters, enough to provide clean water for almost 2000 people, generating $8000 in income. Since then, they have built and installed more than a thousand filters, stopped dysentery, typhoid and cholera epidemics—with just potable water!—in two refugee camps. They’ve started two more BioSand projects in collaboration with similar circumstances.

For those of us in the “first” world who think of the garden faucet or a public tap as simple technology, the The BioSand filter sounds like something of a wonder.

Curt Andino: It’s a ‘point-of-use’ or household water purification system, using sand and gravel. An environmental engineering professor at the University of Calgary, Dr. David Manz, adapted an old sand filter technology dating back to the 1800s. He developed and field-tested it, and patented it as the BioSand filter in 1993. The filter is made from a 3’ x 1’ metal mold, using
canceled if the voter does not vote in two federal general elections. (Go back to Item #1)

What else does the WA Secretary of State do to maintain valid voter rolls?
Three times a year, the Secretary of State, through a process monitored by the Department of Corrections and the state court system to screen the list and remove convicted felons. If you are registered to vote, but are ineligible because of a felony conviction, they will send you a letter explaining that your registration will be cancelled in 30 days. The letter provides information on how to reinstate the cancellation. Assuming you got the letter…you can vote if you’ve had a change in circumstances, but you’ll have to register again under the supervision of the DOC (but you have to register or re-register).

And… the Secretary of State’s office continuously compares its voter registration database to lists of deaths and felony convictions. They look for duplicates very closely.

How do they know the ballot you mailed in was yours to vote? If you really want to know, these two provisions of state law are the answer.

RCW 29A.60.050 requires that when the people who count the ballots have a question about validity, they make a return address on the ballot and the ballot to the “cannassing board.” The ballot is rejected only if it’s been re-marked, re-touched, or repainted and then it has to be preserved just in case.

RCW 29A.60.300 statewide survey of ballot rejection rates and reasons for rejections

Every odd-numbered year, the secrecy of state must conduct and publish a statewide survey of local ballot rejection rates and reasons for rejections by county auditors and canvassing boards.

RCW 29A.60.300 requires the Secretary of State to make study every 2 years of rejection rates (and reasons for rejections) for ballots having been rejected across all counties. They’re supposed to analyze auditors’ practices and recommend improvements to minimize rejections – among other things. The report has to be available to the public.
The Northwest Detention Center (NWDC) is located on a Superfund site in the tidflats of Tacoma. It is privately owned by the GEO Group—the second largest private prison company in the US—and can hold up to 1,575 people. All are imprisoned here to await a court hearing that will determine whether they will be deported or granted asylum or possibly some other legal status. In August, fifty of us gathered outside this immigration facility for one of the monthly rallies held by NWDC Resistance, which is led by undocumented people. We were blessed with the presence of Maru Mora-Villalpando, who has devoted her life in this country to advocating for the undocumented. Maru is fierce and fearless—intensely so, as we learned during the deportation proceedings initiated by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in January 2017.

At the rally we spoke with Shutterie, whose family member is inside, and heard from others inside who called Maru on her cell phone. (We have changed their names.)

Shutterie Stankus. My husband has been locked up for seven months. He has issues in his back—neither he, nor the GEO Group, nor the court have taken any physical therapy, and he now has permanent disability. He's going blind in one eye, and his vision in the other eye is failing. His medication is not being provided. He has seen an eye doctor but there's no follow-up. My husband is a veteran and he should be treated like one. Lots of people inside are fighting for their lives with untreated illnesses. Detainees held in ICE Group need to be held accountable for the harm they are doing to families, to people who matter.

Arnoldo (calling from inside): Walls of showers are moldy, I’m sick and sad and had to wait two hours to get to the hospital. They decided to release him in 2018, and he had been in for 18 months of a 23-year sentence. We bring him food because the wheelchairs are broken. He spent six days in isolation—completely alone. He said, “I’ve been sick with an infection in my right hand was injured due to a work accident.” I have an open case with La Contessa. I’ve been in detention three months. The food is horrible. I’ve been sick with an infection in my right hand for three days. I’ve not gotten any treatment. There are lots of people with medical issues here. We face discrimination because people don’t speak English. I came in with a head injury and the guards refuse to help me. I even prodded the warden, he said he has nothing to do about it. We are grateful for the attention of folks like you.

Shutterie’s husband. We are only getting the minimum wage. I’m paid $1.00/day, there’s no incentive to work. They are not teaching them to address the medical needs of detainees. We are also working with Conor McCarthy, who’s on the Tacoma City Council.

Lifting the spirits of those inside

It’s very important for them to know we are outside thinking of them. One man, Mr. Garcia, won his case, yet he is still detained. He went on a hunger strike for five days. On the first day of the hunger strike, Thursday, he was placed in solitary confinement, but on Saturday he was placed in medical isolation—completely alone. He said, “Not eating and not drinking water is not that difficult. What is difficult is being alone. These people know how to break someone’s spirit. He called us and we were able to get him legal representation.

Our work was to answer the phone and make sure we would talk to him and send people to see him, to make sure his spirit wouldn’t be broken. Since he ended the hunger strike, he called us to say hello. He’s continuing his fight and his mom texted me this morning: “I just wanted to say thank you for what you did for my son. My son is so grateful for everything—we sent him a photo of a vigil and he cried, ‘There are people who don’t even know us, but they support us.’”

Bringing the voices of those inside the NWDC to the public

Determined people lead us, we are committed to bringing their voices to the attention of those who have a class action lawsuit moving in the court against GEO. Thousands of workers, if this succeeds, will get back money that GEO has stolen from them. This is one of three lawsuits filed against the $1/day program at NWDC. The most important part is that you only have lawsuits if you have plaintiffs. These plaintiffs are detained, which requires a lot of bravery. We should not forget that every lawsuit exists because people have chosen to fight back regardless of being detained.

NWDC Resistance is becoming a model, for real change to occur and to hold accounts of detained people. We are working with groups from The Dalleys, Oregon—Norror County Jail is there. We also work with a California group—Inland Coalition for Immigration Justice in Victorville, CA—fighting the contract ICE has with GEO. We are working with Northwest Detention Center Private (NWDC) to the public. There is a class action lawsuit against the $1/day program at NWDC, but that case moved out of court.

Small contributions make a difference

I’m not a fan of donating money to nonprofit organizations about human rights, but sometimes you need to. We have a fund to help people. A $20 donation will give a detainee $15 (there’s a $4.50 processing fee). A dad who was separated from his son at the border received $45 and was able to make calls to relatives who picked up his son—a major miracle.

Messages from inside and those detained are how we sustain the work. Sometimes you think you are not making an impact, but actually it’s huge.

Wendy Tanowitz cares about justice. She works on issues related to mass incarceration and immigration.

Resources

NWDC Resistance is a movement led by undocumented people working to end detention of immigrants and stop deportations. They support and follow the leadership of those detained at the NWDC in Tacoma, documents their experiences and conditions. www.mwcrestection.com AIDNW (aid to Immigrants in Detention NW) trains volunteers to visit detainees, operates a Welcome Center outside the NWDC, and offers hospitality and post-detention accompaniment. aidnw.org decrw@gmail.com (253) 572-8659
“All our work was there, we lived there, our memories were there,” said Idrees Talib, Palestinian theater director. “I gave my colleagues some hope that a change would happen, but I don’t know what I can say to them after the destruction of our place.”

On Thursday, August 9th, 2018, the Israeli military carried out a missile attack that completely destroyed the Said Al-Mishal Center for Culture & Science, one of few large venues in Gaza for cultural events such as theater and musical performances. The center, located in the densely populated Gaza City, was a hub for activity, community building, and inspiring creative expression for Gazans living under occupation.

In the early evening, residents in the area received alerts from the Israeli army to get back. In this case, Israeli forces also fired shots at the building, not to destroy or kill, but to warn. Palestinians in Gaza call these warnings with dancers, actors and artists.” (The Guardian, US Edition, August 22, 2018)

Gaza's ministry of health said.

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No action is not an option

Olympia City Council works to refine emergency housing proposals

Tye Gundel

The Olympia City Council is considering a proposal for two city-sanctioned emergency housing facilities, which, if approved, would temporarily shelter at least 80 of Olympia’s unhoused residents.

One proposed location, referred to as The Nurturing Village, would host 40 individuals in tiny home structures. This facility would be located near the intersection of Union Avenue and Plum Street.

The other proposed facility, referred to as The Martin Way Village, would be sited at 2628 Martin Way. The long-term goal is for permanent supportive housing to be constructed at this site.

In the interim, Council is considering relocating The Interfaith Works Emergency Overnight Shelter to the Martin Way Village, to allow for 24/7 operation. Residents would be housed in portable structures. This site might also provide spaces for car camping and host a respite center.

The emergency housing facilities would serve single adults and couples without children and would prioritize the most vulnerable for placement.

The updated proposal for the Martin Way Village represents a shift from an earlier version, which was to temporarily shelter 40 individuals in tiny homes, prior to constructing permanent supportive housing. The original proposal also included possibility using an on-site building in part as an Urban Rest Stop.

The proposal was altered because of feedback from local social service providers.

Exploring financing options

One-time costs include the purchase of the Martin Way property for $1.35 million, covered by an Interfund Loan which the city will repay over the next few years. The annual cost of operation, originally estimated just shy of $1 million will likely increase as a result of changes to the proposal. Staff are exploring the possibility of using a combination of funds accumulated through sources like the Home Fund, utility taxes, and Community Development Block Grants.

The Council has largely accepted the necessity of pursuing short-term responses to meet emergency needs, in conjunction with long-term solutions, as would be the case in any other crisis. The goal of the recently approved Home Fund envisions only 336 units of affordable housing over the next 10 years. To achieve an adequate stock of affordable housing will take much longer. In the meantime creating safe and legal options today can help alleviate the dangers of illegal camping both for the homeless and nearby neighborhoods.

Growing in homelessness demands a new approach

The Olympia City Council initially responded to the growing crisis of homelessness by a "No-Sit-Lie" ordinance. Council and staff were originally slow to support these kinds of measures as they worried about the risks of criminalization. The Council has also tried doing nothing and it isn’t working.

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The lessons learned have resulted in a series of recent actions by the City of Olympia, including, but not limited to, a Declaration of a Public Health State of Emergency Related to Homelessness, amendments to Olympia’s Temporary Emergency Housing Facilities Ordinance, and new consideration of a proposal for two city-sanctioned emergency housing facilities.

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Olympia City Council asks state Investment Board to assess risk of fossil fuel holdings

Pension Board losses tied to oil industry

On August 21, The Olympia City Council voted again to urge the Washington State Investment Board to address risk tied to fossil fuel investments. In May of 2013, Olympia and Thurston County had asked the Board to begin divesting from fossil fuel holdings. Since then, these funds have sustained substantial losses and future returns are not expected to improve.

Concerned pensioners estimate past losses of $650 million over 18 months for funds managed by the Investment Board. In one case, the Board held onto coal investments until the company went bankrupt.

Divestment from carbon-based investments may be necessary

The American Medical Association has also jettisoned fossil fuel stocks. Analysis of the S&P 500 showed that, over the last year, holdings in fossil stocks provided 18% larger yields. And in July, the country of Ireland announced it will withdraw all public funds from coal, oil and gas.

Giant oil companies are the target of major lawsuits by New York City, San Francisco, Oakland, and the State of Rhode Island, adding further financial uncertainty for these investments.

Olympia City Council asks state Investment Board to assess risk of fossil fuel holdings

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Residents of the Applehill neighbor- hood in NE Olympia were shocked when we learned through social me- dia that the City was proposing to es- tablish a legal encampment for the unhoused in our neighborhood, along with an ‘Urban Rest Stop’ that would serve a larger number of homeless. We quickly organized to oppose the involvement of Interfaith Works given Residents appeared in large numbers, with an “Urban Rest Stop” that would establish a legal encampment for the unhoused in our neighborhood, along with an ‘Urban Rest Stop’ that would serve a larger number of homeless.

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Because of our history, we are cautiously optimistic about the in- volvement of Interfaith Works given that they are a non-profit that has served our community for years. We also have concern over population limits.

Historical unsanctioned camps on Patton Street

I moved to Patton St. five years ago, surprised there even was a neighbor-

Candace Mercer

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The Month of Labor—September

Labor Day – 3 September 2018

Mark Bean

The first Labor Day was celebrated 136 years ago on a Tuesday, September 5, 1882 at a time when working people took their grievances to the street, and their organizations embodied that spirit. Rank and file workers have begun to remind us that through organizing, victory is possible. 39,000 Verizon workers ended a 45-day strike that forced their predatory company to back off out-sourcing call center jobs. 40,000 Chrysler workers forced their leaders in the UAW back to the table to negotiate a path to standard wages for members subject to Tier 2 wages. Labor is not dead.

This year there are echoes of that spirit in the teachers’ fight for livable wages and better schools in Arizona, Colorado, Oklahoma, West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky, and North Carolina. These are predominately Republican Party-controlled, conservative states. The strikes have been referred to as the “Red State Revolt.” Teachers are taking to the streets and protesting not only for salary boosts, but also for additional school funding, racial justice, gender equality and gun control.

Missouri workers defeated a right-to-work ballot proposition in August. The coordinated effort by labor leaders and shoe leather on the street from the rank and file produced a lopsided result in favor of workers: 67% no and 33% yes out of 1,389,316 votes cast. Since only 8.7% of employed Missouri workers are union, it’s clear that the wave that swept through Missouri in this fight included far more than union members.

Down I-5 in Portland, Burgerville fast food workers got organized by the IWW. In the past two years other fast food workers have walked out of their restaurants to demand a pay raise to $15 per hour and the right to unionize. Also in Portland, temp workers for the Metro regional government partnered with 15 New Portland to win major increases in a first contract through AFSCME Local 3580.

The Thurston Lewis Mason Labor Council will hail Labor Day this year with a picnic at Pioneer Park in Tumwater. We will celebrate our holiday with shouts for organizing many who turn the wheels of the economic system. We will be proud to demand our equal share, and justice for those who do not have justice.

These examples show a worker groundswell from below, inclusive and running counter to the status quo thinking and advice of institutionalized Labor, and Environmental organizations. It will take a Movement from Below to overturn the dominant One-Percenters wielding their financial grip, state-sponsored surveillance, and law enforcement in order to control our country and its workers.

Labor could support such a movement, turning its organizations toward the fight for a new racial equality, the new “illegal” immigrants, and yes, even the so-called Patriot Army of Trump, who are really fellow workers who have no sense of their radical working-class heritage. Alexander Cockburn took note of these Patriots in The Nation, back in June 1995; “these young workers should be getting decent radical analysis and some respectful attention.” Perhaps the new Labor groundswell will learn and employ the models presented by the Occupy Movement, or the swift tactical methods of those who in 5 days shook the world when the WTO met in Seattle in 1999. New times require new thinking, organisation and action.

Mark Bean was born and raised on Olympia’s Westside.
Declining population and growing clout: Demographic shifts that undermine democracy

Gary Murrell

Sometime between the years 2040 and 2050, the demographics of the US will have shifted to such an extent that seven states will collectively account for just fifteen states. Put another way, thirty percent of the population will live in thirty-five states.

Those thirty-five states will hold the most rural, politically conservative, religious, and least least-formally educated people in the country, and their overwhelming control over the US Senate will bring on a crisis of democracy unlike any the United States has seen since its founding.

We’ve all read our Madison or been exposed to his reasoning for creating the government he helped found. Madison knew that his class—consisting of white property-less white men, women, Indian and African Americans, both male and female, slave and free—made up only a small portion of the people, and those who held and those who are without property,” Madison wrote in Federalist 10, “are never united by any ties [classes] in society.”

To put it more bluntly, Madison worried that his class—consisting of white men with property including both land and slaves—was in the minority position subject to the majority of property-less white men, women, Indian and African Americans, both male and female, slave and free. The found an answer to the dangers of democracy is familiar to us—a government with three co-equal branches: legislative, executive, and judicial.

With this system the founders also grappled with other problems. How was power to be apportioned between slave states and free states? How were states’ rights to be honored? After all, in the Articles of Confederation, the first attempt to create a government after the revolution, every state had been sovereign, free and independent, and every state had an equal voice in the formation of a new government.

To solve those latter problems the founders created a bi-cameral legislature—House and Senate—and devised a system we call a Unitary System to the Electoral College, to choose a president. Members of the House of Representatives, as Madison characterized it, had two year terms, and were to be popularly elected. Each state would have members apportioned according to their population—one for every 39,000 originally, now about 730,000. But each state would have at least one member.

The Senate, the upper chamber with its longer terms would represent the states and the property and slave-holding classes, and every state would have a number of representatives chosen by the state legislatures, the Senate has been a popularly elected body since the ratification of the 17th Amendment in 1913.

In essence, the executive and Congress mirrored the British system of representation: the one, king/president; the few, House of Lords/Senate; the many, House of Commons/House of Representatives. The Electoral College, that eighteenth century anachronism devised to keep the control of a president in the hands of the ruling class, drew its members from appointments made in each state legislature.

The number of electors in each state matched the number of House members plus the two Senators. For example, Washington State now fields eleven electors in Presidential elections, equal to one member of the House and two Senators. The Electoral College currently has 538 members.

Looking to the Electoral College, the total electoral vote controlled by those fifteen states would be 155, considerably more than the 267 majority required to elect a President.

Since the Democratic Party currently enjoys a significant lead in urban votes, the population shift could benefit that party enormously. The population shift might also, perhaps, end the anomaly the country has experienced twice in this century, when the Electoral College has been out of sync with the popular vote.

However, the easiest solution to these problems with the Electoral College would be simply to get rid of it and elect the President by popular vote, which would certainly produce a more democratic outcome.

The most difficult and intractable problem with the population shift will come with the makeup of the Senate. The founders’ configuration of the Senate the Constitution was a step to the smaller, less populated states, a way to provide some equality. Currently the Senate dramatically under-represents the most populous states by a ratio of about 70 to 1. 51 percent of the population lives in 10 states but claim only 20 percent of US Senators.

Looking to the Electoral College, the total electoral vote controlled by those fifteen states would be 155, considerably more than the 267 majority required to elect a President.

When 30 percent of the population controls 70 percent of the seats in the US Senate, the United States will have government by minority.

Gary Murrell is Professor Emeritus of History at Grays Harbor College and is a resident of Grays Harbor County where he writes and tends his garden.

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Guerry Hodderson

In the debates over the causes of wage stagnation, the decline in union power has not received nearly as much attention as globalization, technological changes, as well as union assaults by the Koch brothers and their ilk. However, the right-to-work laws divide and fragment the movement of people on the streets.

Today labor unions and other organizations fighting for working-class people in the US are in an ideological war with economic populists who want to turn the clock back on the liberal welfare state and repeal the New Deal. The Kochtopus, the net of foundations, think tanks, media outlets, so-called scholars, hand-picked politicians, and phony public interest groups that work to legitimize corporate agendas and weaken labor unions' effectiveness, is called Dark Money.

The Freedom Foundation is a key player in this right-wing, anti-union movement. The Freedom Foundation, the non-profit that hired the Building Industry Association of Washington State for 21 years and gave $600,000 to the Freedom Foundation between 2011 and 2015. The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, another rabidly anti-union group, gave $600,000 to the Freedom Foundation between 2011 and 2015. Harry Bradley was an early supporter of the rabidly racist and reactionary John Birch Society which smeared the Black Civil Rights movement as a Moscow front. The Bradley family foundation has raised more than $750 million since 1989. Their far right, corporate agenda including backing a little-known county executive named Scott Walker. Walker went on to bust public worker unions as the governor of Wisconsin.

A tentacle in the Kochtopus

The Freedom Foundation is a tentacle in the Kochtopus. The Kochtopus is the network of foundations, think tanks, media outlets, so-called scholars, hand-picked politicians, and phony public interest groups that work to legitimate corporate agendas. They are working to reverse the stranglehold right-to-work states and thereby decimate union membership.

 unions, especially in industries and regions where they are historically strong, have weakened the wages of all workers by establishing right-to-work states in which unionism is voluntary, not required by law in the public interest. Unions are now only a shell of their former strength.

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Right-to-work laws were popularized in the 1950s to about 1 in 20 today. Andy Puzder, former CEO of CKE Restaurants, the parent company of the Carl’s Jr. and Hardee’s burger chains, to which 500,000 workers are employed, has said unions are costing companies money by exploding wages and better working conditions. His goal is to make Wall Street Journal

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While union-busting is the main focus of the Kochtopus, it also advocates extreme property rights to the point of opposing any and all environmental protections and laws that regulate pollution and land use planning.

According to their website, they are “working to reverse the stranglehold public sector unions have on our government” as well as “vileifying teachers’ right to strike and supporting privatization of our education system,” which opposes raising the minimum wage and expanding sick leave laws. It advocates for “free enterprise” and “protectionist” state orders and Seattle’s new tax on high income earners. It is also trying to stop public service drivers by Uber and Lyft drivers.

A wide-ranging reactionary agenda

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Complaint for and women and workers

If all that was not enough, the foundation is also anti-abortions and anti-immigrant and anti-immigration reform advocates. In a November 2013 meeting, Puzder was President Trump’s nominee for Labor Secretary until it was withdrawn. The Kochtopus is the net of foundations, think tanks, media outlets, so-called scholars, hand-picked politicians, and phony public interest groups that work to legitimate corporate agendas. They are working to reverse the stranglehold right-to-work states and thereby decimate union membership.
Thoughts on the Second Amendment and ‘a well-regulated militia’

Larry Mosqueda

In November 2018 there will be a bal-
lot initiative to have more gun regula-
tions in Washington State.

Initiative 1639, if passed, would raise the age to buy a semi-automatic weapon to 21 and require enhanced back-
ground checks as well as training and wait-
ing periods. It would also require gun owners to safely secure any fire-
arms in their homes.

Opponents of gun regulation usually cite the Second Amend-
ment to the US Constitution as a reason to put no restrictions on gun ownership. These arguments are almost always wrong.

Gun culture never was about hunting

In her book Loaded: A Disarming History of the Second Amend-
ment (City Lights, 2018), Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz examines the creation of “gun culture” in America before the writing of the Constitution. She also explores the history of the time when the Second Amendment was written (1791) and its application in the mod-
ern era. Much of the information in this article comes from this book.

The Second Amendment itself is very precise and short and can easily be memorized by all who argue for or against its application to the present. It reads in full: “A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the Security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”

From slave patrols to police culture

The Second Amendment is one of the few places in the Constitution that has the exact reason for its existence writ-
ten into it, i.e. “being necessary to the security of a free state.”

In his article, “The Second Amend-
ment was ratified,” Thom Hartmann argues that the “well regulated militia” referred to in the amendment was not a national slave patrol. Well-armed white men were needed as slave patrollers in the case of runaway slaves. The free state re-
furred to in the amendment was actu-
ally a slave state that needed to protect its freely held property (i.e. African human beings).

Dunbar-Ortiz notes that by the late 1600s settler militias helped to set the “basis for US police culture after slav-
ing people was illegaliz[ed],” i.e. after the Civil War.

This was readily apparent in the post-
war period of 1865-1954 and the more modern era as explored in Michelle Alexander’s The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblind-
ness and Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor’s From #Black Lives Matter to Black Lib-
eration. One of the primary groups that has twisted the current interpretation of the Second Amend-
ment is the National Rifle Association (NRA). In her book, Dunbar-Ortiz cov-
ers the history of the group and its evo-
lution. Originally the NRA was a post-
Civil War organization that provided education on how to shoot and handle a gun. It was not always against regu-
lations of guns, but over the years and especially since the Reagan era, the NRA became an extreme right-wing organization that worked to weaken or do away with almost any restrictions on any aspect of gun use and ownership.

Dunbar-Ortiz also explains in detail the historical connection between the Second Amendment, US gun culture and US foreign policies and wars. A National Rifle Association connection may be in order. The current presi-
dent of the NRA is Oliver North, Presi-
dent Reagan’s right-hand man during the Contra war against the people of Nicaragua in the 1980s. In 1994, North ran for US senator in Virginia. His opponent, Senator Chuck Robb (D. Va.) concisely described North’s career to that point:

“Your opponent is a document-shredding, Constitution-trashing, commander-in-chief-bashing, Ayatollah-loving, civil-war-profiteering, criminal-background, resume-enhancing, Noriega-coddling, Swiss-banking, law-breaking, letter-writing, self-serving, smoke-oil, man who can’t tell the difference be-
tween the truth and a lie.”

North narrowly lost the election, be-
came a FOX News host and now con-
continues his career at the NRA.

Dunbar-Ortiz notes that the NRA has written on its lobby wall in Fairfax, Virginia only one position of the Second Amendment: “The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.”

In reality the original wording of the Second Amendment has neither been amended nor altered. A good place to begin our self-education about this amendment would be to read and ex-
amine Dunbar-Ortiz’s new book and educate others about adopting a mod-
er version of the concept of “well reg-
ulated” when it comes to the subject of gun control.

Larry Mosqueda is Political Economy Faculty Emeritus at The Evergreen State College and has been active for decades in Olympia Movement for Peace & Justice, and other groups.

From a publication of the Thurston County Auditor and Public Defense

In Washington, you have the right to vote — Even with a criminal record

You may vote if you:
- have not been convicted of a
felony or a Class C Misdemeanor
- have not been discharged from
 the military under dishonorable
 conditions
- are a US citizen
- are registered to vote or are a stu-
 dent in the military.

You may vote if you vote once you are no longer under state-supervised parole or proba-
tion.

You may register to vote if you have existing court-ordered legal financial obligations (LFOs), such as fines, fees, and restitution. If you do not comply with all of the terms of your LFO, you may lose your right to vote.

Learn more about your right to vote:
- Thurstonvotes.org
- thurstonvotes.org/vote/rights
- thurstoncountyclerlices.com
- From a publication of the Thurston County Auditor and Public Defense

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233 Division St NW
(360) 943-8044
Wildwood
(360) 688-1234

Faculty Emeritus at The Evergreen State College
—Mary Hall
Thurston County Auditor

In the US 17th and 18th centuries a main purpose of gun regulation was to re-
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Traditions Café September concerts

September 2018 • Concerts at 7:30pm unless otherwise noted

Advance ticket sales available for performances.

Sunday, September 2 • 2:30 PM, Free

Jazz Jam

The Jazz Jam is regularly the 1st Sunday of the month. A fine rhythm section of piano, drums, and bass will play throughout the jam with the musicians who sign up to play. Although the jam is free, donations for that rhythm section are gladly accepted.

Friday, September 7 • 7:30 PM • Free

REDS Band

This is a CD Release Party for REDS, and the event is FREE to all ages. There's nothing quite as Pacific Northwestern as Olympia's teen fiddle-and-folk band, REDS Band. With no shortage of musical talent, REDS perform a mix of original, popular and traditional music across Washington state, using the bodhran, cello, fiddle, guitar, and mandolin.

Saturday, September 8 • 7:30 PM

Alberto Cumplido & Gwen Franz

Multi-faceted masters of their instruments, Chilean guitarist Alberto Cumplido and Pacific Northwest violist Gwen Franz bring a varied buffet of music to this concert. Items on the menu include beautiful arrangements of Bach violin sonatas, a sampling of jazz tunes, folk songs by Benjamin Britten, and the North American premier of Alberto's new piece, El Mito de Sisifo, written especially for this duo. Something for everyone at this show!

Tickets: $15, Student/low income: $10

Sunday, September 16 • 2:00 PM, Free

A Bluegrass and Acoustic Music Jam

This is a 3rd Sunday monthly jam of bluegrass and acoustic musicians

Friday, September 21 • 7:30 PM

Michael Jerome Browne

We are happy to present for the first time a Traditions three-time Canadian Folk Music Award winner (Traditional Singer, 2015; Solo Artist, 2012 & 2006), Maple Blues Award Winner (with 30 nominations since 1999), Kerrville (Texas) New Folk Finalist, Four-time Juno Award Nominee in both the Roots/Traditional and Blues categories- MJB is a multi-instrumentalist, a songwriter, and a living encyclopedia of American Roots music.

Tickets: $15, Student/low income: $10

Sunday, September 23

Hootenanny • 2:00 PM, free

An open sing-along of favorite songs from the 60's on up to the current day. A number of performers present songs and Holly Gwinn Graham hosts the event.

Choro das 3 • 7:00 PM

We are so glad that this Brazilian family can return for a concert. We had an outstanding show with them when they were here. Choro das 3 is a Brazilian instrumental group of three sisters and their father that first started to play as a band in 2002. The music they play is called Choro, a form of urban jazz native to Brazil that shares a similar feel with New Orleans jazz or ragtime or bluegrass. They have performed around the world.

Tickets: $20, Student/low income: $15

For more information, call Traditions at 360-705-2819.