I see that community members sometimes feel their specific issues are not being addressed. But even as we take on these issues we have to be sure water is clean, city parks are open, and we have fire trucks available to respond to emergencies. There are other, and I believe better, ways to manage contentious meetings. Councilmembers along with members of advisory boards and commissions recently participated in ‘Jurassic Parliament’ about how to do so. Our trainer, Ann Macfarlane, made the point that the First Amendment applies to government meetings. Our job as elected leaders is to listen to each speaker as if they are the only person in the room and try to hear their concerns. For me, creating opportunities for authentic dialogue that informs policy and action is the job of City Council. Our municipal code specifies that the Council is the legislative branch of Olympia values and priorities. The current process offers few opportunities for questions or input on the draft budget. The Council has hearings on the budget, receives comments from the few people who have had time to read it, and passes it. Like many organizations, Olympia City Council focuses on the very small portion of the budget that is considered discretionary, spending hours debating where to put a $5,000 grant while giving scant consideration of the allocation of tens of millions of dollars. We should open up our process in order to be clear about how its budget will affect real people. The impacts should be stated in writing in the budget document itself. Last year, I hosted an experimental People’s Budget Forum that asked a group of 60 or so people to state their priorities for spending by the city. I think it is time for the entire City Council to engage and host a forum to broadly consider city spending and income, before we make the final decision about what to put in the budget. We spend a great deal of time and energy maintaining a long-range plan for growth. Perhaps it is time to similarly consider a long-range look at spending and income. We need to hear from a broad spectrum of people as to their priorities for the budget.

The Big “C”

By Trent Kelly

Be wary of those who say they’re on your side when it comes to the war on cancer. Cancer seems to be on everyone’s radar these days. The struggle against the disease is discussed openly in everyday conversation and constantly referenced in the media. But that’s a good thing, right? I’m old enough to remember when “the big C” was a dark secret, discussed in hushed tones by folks who shuddered and shook their heads sadly upon hearing the news about a relative or friend. Cancer used to be a hopeless topic and the subject of short conversations for good reason. The proverbial death sentence diagnosis and the ultimate negative lottery. Today, the topic of cancer no longer lives in the shadows. Now, nearly all of us know somebody battling the disease and many who are ‘winning’ surviving what was once a death sentence, or at least living with it for years longer than before. We are told that cancer rates are improving and that we as a society may just whip cancer all together if we raise enough research dollars. We have the best minds and the most money America can offer to fight this scourge, it’s the ‘moon shot’ for our generation.

The noble fight against cancer has become a part of business in America. It’s more than just out in the open now; cancer care advertising is in your face every day, hawked at a fever pitch, right up there with beer, cars and cell phones.

The noble fight against cancer has become a part of business in America. Everywhere you look some hospital is touting their team as the most adept at fighting a cancer diagnosis. It’s more than just out in the open now; cancer care advertising is in your face every day, hawked at a fever pitch, right up there with beer, cars and cell phones. But should we all be cheering along? Is it a good thing, right? I’m old enough to remember when “the big C” was a dark secret, discussed in hushed tones by folks who shuddered and shook their heads sadly upon hearing the news about a relative or friend. Cancer used to be a hopeless topic and the subject of short conversations for good reason. The proverbial death sentence diagnosis and the ultimate negative lottery. Today, the topic of cancer no longer lives in the shadows. Now, nearly all of us know somebody battling the disease and many who are ‘winning’ surviving what was once a death sentence, or at least living with it for years longer than before. We are told that cancer rates are improving and that we as a society may just whip cancer all together if we raise enough research dollars. We have the best minds and the most money America can offer to fight this scourge, it’s the ‘moon shot’ for our generation.

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people in the world, and hopes that it, we're waiting to hear from you! If you wish to submit an article to be reprinted, include the permission, we expect to acknowledge it and the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach the mainstream media. We seek to con- trary democracy based on economic, so- cial, and environmental justice. Works in Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusion of any practices that seek to silence the op- pressed. Submissions: Our goal is to publish sto- ries that are ignored or misrepresented by the mainstream media. We seek lo- cal, people-focused news and stories, analyses of issues confronting our com- munities, and creative work in the for- mance or reflections by local authors. In- formed opinion pieces are also welcome, especially when accompanied by dates and sources. We also look for graphics, poetry, cartoons, and articles that push the boundaries of conventional journalism. WIP reserves the right to publish any material submitted in whole or in part.

Submissions deadline for the next issue is August 27. We accept for consideration artwork and graphics, poetry, cartoons, and articles for our printed edition. We do not accept unsolicited fiction or personal essays. WIP reserves the right to edit submissions. Send submissions to olywp@olywp.com or mail to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295.

Mission Statement: Our aim is to con- tinue the work started in 1988 to create a paper that people writing about what's important to others. We'd like to migrate from our clunky, email-based submission practices to something more streamlined, ditto our lissome, and we con- sider it important to keep our com- mitment in the past, we want you to think about the impact your organization just wants to send us a press release, that's great—but it could be a regular contributor, or just send in an article once in a while.

In mid-June, the Board of Directors—though members of the Board of Directors—were going strong. Check out the next issue for more compelling content. WIP looks for news and re- cognition, a concern for the welfare of the people of the state of Washington, who don't go unacknowledged. We reserve the right to edit submissions. Send submissions to olywp@olywp.com or mail to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295.

Prominently displayed on the front page is an article on page 11. The Rose Garden in Priest Point Park. All welcome. See related www.DemocracyConvention.org. Benefit potluck for CIELO Wednesday, August 23, 2017, 5 PM at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd 160 North St., SE CIELO serves those facing deportation and others. Sponsored by Interfaith Works

Total eclipse of the sun! Monday, August 21, 10:15 - 11:27 AM (approx) The path of the eclipse runs through Ou- garten, Lebanon, Washington, Oregon, California, and Arizona. These states all have a total eclipse at about 11:25. See related articles in this issue. Sierra Club Annual Picnic Wednesday, August 23, 2017, 5 PM Priests Point Park, Kitchen 1 Luke major, Cadillac, and brief speakers: Bring a side dish. Green Party Annual Meeting (picnic) Friday, August 25, 5 PM Bigelow Park All are welcome. Love Your Local Northeast Neighborhood Assn At the intersection of Bethel Street and San Francisco Street NE Sunday August 27, 1 - 9 PM Saltwater food network, filing re- ports, outreach to organizations who are in the same boat as WIP, seeking out stories, running the whole show, attending the board meeting, jumping in with both feet. Now's the time.

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Restoring creeks and competition

Enhancing economic and ecological function

by Harry Branch

The words “ecology” and “economy” stem from the same root, both derived from the Greek word “oikos” meaning the family and the family’s property. The two disciplines are founded on many of the same principles. Citizens working toward a better world face challenges that overlap and fall under the umbrella of our more equitable society. We hope to guarantee that everyone has a chance at health and sustenance. To have sustenance, people need sources of food and the means of purchase. Locally, the most productive source of both is the marine environment, which we have degraded and refuse to fix.

Manufacturing salmon and sea life
We think we can manufacture a more productive system than nature, that for example by growing salmon in net pens we can increase production. Wild salmon go to sea where they feed and grow and then return. Aquaculture will not come up to the same level of productivity as millions of salmon returning from the sea.

Geoducks naturally grow in the sub-tidal zone, below the beach. Growing three geoducks on every square foot of intertidal beach is going to displace other species and imperil outmigrating forage fish. The impacts on salmons, herring, rockfish and shellfish vary by where they naturally proliferate a certainty.

Government efforts fail short
The State with the help of a few non-profits is attempting to identify beach-front properties which are observed spawning and provide them with special protection. Given that forage fish populations are already in decline a better approach would be to determine which beaches meet physical parameters needed for spawning and protect those. An even better approach would be to determine where physical parameters could be enhanced and re-store and enhance them.

Washington State operates under a paradigm called “No Net Loss”. If we cannot demonstrate that an ecological function in one place, we “mitigate” the loss somewhere else. In our arrogance we tell ourselves that we can buffer a wetland where one didn’t exist that will be equal to one that nature built over millions of years. If we cannot maintain some sameness we won’t see continuing loss through interactions between diminished populations and degraded habitats.

Big money wants to grow bigger
The challenge in all cases is the influence of big money. The captains of big business represent big money and they want that money to grow. They demand to develop for profit. They want species harvested by their big businesses, not by big businesses. Meager incomes for workers and dwindling supplies of marine food from the same source – the demand by a small number of very wealthy people to make even more.

Foretelling the non-existence of Moxie Creek
Work will soon begin on parcels two and three across State Ave from Cherry Street in what was the Moxie Creek Estuary prior to its being filled in the 1980s. Real estate developer Walker/Robinson plans to build 85 market rate housing units with retail and office space on the ground floor. There is little that will stand in the way at this point. There’s also no sampling for dense populations of liquids like creosote, the actual chemicals of concern, no assessment of oceanographic parameters like primary and secondary production and basic water quality. There’s thousands of odd pages pertaining to parcels two and three, Moxie Creek literally does not exist!

Elsewhere, officials begin to restore estuaries
Last week officials in Blaine stopped development in the estuary of California Creek. Officials in other cities have taken similar steps: Kingston restored the Carpenter Creek estuary, Olalla restored the Clear Creek estuary, Seattle daylighted a long section of Thornton Creek. California’s laws require the Lake Merritt estuary and Alviso Marsh in San Francisco Bay, Elkhorn Slough in Moss Landing and the Bolsa Chica reserve in Los Angeles. Restoration of the Los Angeles River is in the planning stage. There are many other examples of urban stream and estuary restorations up and down the West Coast. Olympia has by far fallen far behind, its head in a proverbial hole.

Overlapping jurisdictions and diminishing opportunity
One problem here is that we have so many overlapping jurisdictions none of which wants to step on the others’ toes. We have Thurston County, the Cities of Walker, Lacey plans to build a water, LOTT sewage treatment and the Port of Olympia, six separate local governing bodies. By contrast, the City and County of San Francisco is one governing body that oversees its port and sewage treatment. The system is more efficient, it plans and works more toward the general good and it’s less susceptible to special interests.

Big money generates undue influence.
We might remember though that the first instances of writing were ledgers and IOUs. Money marked the beginning of civilization. Competitive free enterprise for all its defects is self correcting and efficient. Perhaps the problem is that our current corporate-dominated system is not free enterprise—competition diminishes as competitors gobbles each other up. Perhaps what we’ve lost in today’s economy is opportunity.

Minimum wage and maximum rent
A few decades ago, driving down West Bay Drive past all the lumber and plywood mills, one would see car after car with bumper stickers that read “Don’t Export Logs and Jobs.” That’s exactly what the Port does today. All the mills are gone and young people are expected to work for minimum wage to service-industry jobs. Working full time a person might make $20000 per year. After taxes and other subtractions a person is supposed to pay $700 per month rent. The City’s response is to encourage construction of new low income housing projects, where rents will in reality still be unaffordable for a significant portion of our community. The true intent once again is to funnel money through tax breaks and other incentives into the pockets of developers. The State meanwhile is increasing property taxes to pay for education—and in many cases landlords will pass on that increase to renters.

What happened to Adam Smith’s hand?
What if we were to require government to make money the old fashioned way. All the means of resource extraction might be government owned and operated. Any business that grows beyond the point of competition might be purchased and operated by governing bodies. Independent businesses, for example, might benefit from online marketing and the online marketing system might be government operated at a profit. The independent makers of knives or cabinets as well as farmers, restauranteurs and others would pay no taxes. Though there might be lines and delays the intent would be to let Adam Smith’s invisible hand run the show day to day. Whatever the solution, we’ll all benefit if we could somehow take some control back from the influence wielded by the masters of big money.

Harry Branch is a devoted Westsider who has worked on a variety of ecological projects here and abroad. His hobby is thinking.
KOWA 106.5 low power radio makes for high quality listening

The station is a project of Media Island International, operating out of quarters on Adams Street, with new energy coming from station manager Shavna Hawk and a team of dedicated programmers and volunteers.

The programmers are revamping the schedule, looking to the community, to the internet and to Pacifica archives for inspiration. You can see their Arts Writing section as a video on the KOWA website, but they’ve also hung out at Rainy Day Records, TESC, and elsewhere in search of ideas and volunteers to become part of the station. Events at Media Island also provide an opportunity for people in the community to find KOWA, and for KOWA to find new listeners.

Shavna Hawk and Jamie Madison point to several programs that illustrate the new efforts –

• current and breaking news with Flashpoints, Between the Lines, Sea Change news with an environmental edge, Sojourner Truth, and many others

• political analysis like Tim Wise on "Trumpism" ("The really breaks it down"). "Hard Knock Radio" where host Dave D gets guests like Mos Def, Saul Williams, Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney to tell more of their stories than usual, Rising Up with Sonali (a favorite)

• women’s rights on Feminist Hour and Women’s Magazine, plus a new segment on "progressive masculinity," that includes "Tough Guise" featuring conversations about rape culture and the media, because "we’re all in this together"

• science programs including Biocentrism, Quarks and Quarks, Planet Watch, Mayo Clinic radio and more you’ve never heard of!

• plus music (a local show "Vibrahaling" with DJ Hawk plays every other Saturday), spoken word (another local segment, "The Word") after 10 when the FCC’s asleep), culture (First Voices, history (even Thom as Jefferson?) – and this list doesn’t tell you the half of it.

You must go to the KOWA website programming page to get the full richness. Or, better yet, turn your dial to 106.5 and just let a new piece of magic in.

In can’t tune in KOWA on your car radio or at home (its range is downtown and the immediately adja cent neighborhoods – on the westside it’s audible til about the intersection of Cooper Point and Black Lake), you can go to the website and click "listen online" for the streaming source.

Washington Legislature fails at basic governing task after three overtime sessions

[Ed note: When the legislature left Olympia on July 20 this year (after three extra sessions) they had agreed on the amount and detail of the budget that funds all state supported capital projects.

It’s just that the Senate Republicans]

City Hall

From page 1

how we spend money, rather than the city simply telling people what will happen with their tax dollars.

Staying present

City Council should be listening re spectfully to many, many voices small retailers, service industry work ers, state workers, the homeless, builders, developers, educators and others we plan for the next 20 years and beyond. It’s my responsibility and that of our people to hold city government accountable. It’s tempting to re treat from difficult conversations and demand a demagogue denoting respect based on our position and authority. Staying present and listening hard to the brilliance in our community – the many facts, ideas, and opinions around each issue – is the right thing to do.

Resources

For more information about Ann MacFarlane’s advice for democratic and effective local government take a look at her fantastic Pacifica website (https://www.pacificaweb.org). For more ideas about greater citizen involvement in City budget priorities check out the People’s Budget Review in St. Petersburg, Florida (PBR2017.org). Clark Gilman is an Olympia City Councilmember and president of the board of The Bridge Music Project. He is also a long-time union organizer and resident of Olympia’s Westside. He is a candidate for re-election to the Council this fall. He can be reached at www.clark-gilman.com.
Early morning in the garden of poetry and hope

Sandra Yannone

Last issue I had intended to publish an essay about the power of protest poetry, particularly highlighting the work in the 2016 anthology Of Poetry and Protest from Emigrant Till to Trojan Martin, edited by Philip Cushway and Michael Warr against the backdrop of more unjust verdicts, more tragic shootings, and more international terrorism targeting Muslims. But honestly, as I contemplated my intended task, my exhaustion from the lived experience of all the spring strife at Evergreen, of the anniversary of the Pulse night club massacre, of the death of a dear friend, and of world events got the best of me. As the WIP deadline loomed, the writing just wouldn’t come. I missed the deadline.

The inertia I continue to feel reminds me of how I struggled to create last summer, too. I found that writing two essays, including one with an accompanying poem about Orlando, zapped my capacity to generate anything that registered on the same emotional plane as those pieces. I wrote something lighter, something that my brain and heart could handle: an essay about writing sonnets collaboratively, an essay that demonstrated how writing can come from places that are not always conceived initially from the need to produce narratives consciously from a social justice lens.

These summer months feel the same and different. While I could justify all too easily skipping this month, too, the difference is that I know that I have a responsibility to write. Something. It is not a responsibility to the dedicated readers of WIP. It is not a ploy to keep me in good standing with the indefatigable WIP editor. It is a commitment to myself. It is a knowing that anything I write breaks through the wall that I easily can construct around myself that encourages me to believe that I have nothing of value to say.

So, the deadline is here. I need to write. I need to trust that the very nature of writing is its own political act that fulfills my obligations to this important publication. I need to accept that I cannot produce my best work every time I write. My job is to write. Period.

I reach back to my recent April trip to Ireland where I celebrated a friend’s book launch and gave a few poetry readings. One early morning I found myself in the garden of one of Ireland’s most prominent poetry editors, Salmon Poetry’s Jessie Lendennie. In 1981, cognizant of the trends in Irish poetry that kept women’s voices at the margins, Lendennie began Salmon Poetry. Her vision continues today in a modest bookstore in Ennistymon, tucked between the Cliffs of Moher and the City of Limerick (or at least that is my orientation).

Through curating Even the Daybreak: 35 Years of Salmon Poetry (Salmon Poetry, 2016), Lendennie accomplishes the creation of a poetic history of women who have been engaged in the most personally intimate to the world at large, in terms of the climate of change and the politics of power, and the work that we do in the kind of work that we do.

As moved by her garden as I was by her storied place in international conversations, and as those pieces. I wrote some- thing lighter, something that my brain and heart could handle: an essay about writing sonnets collaboratively, an essay that demonstrated how writing can come from places that are not always conceived initially from the need to produce narratives consciously from a social justice lens.

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In Lacey as elsewhere: An old, unworkable and always at hand approach to homelessness

By Janine Gates

Reprinted with permission from Janine’s Little Hollywood, 7/28/17

The City of Lacey just turned 50, and the city council heard public testimony on a proposed ordinance at its meeting Thurs- day night for those who made the year-long deliberation process. The accolades, though well deserved, could not have been more poorly timed. Ironically, the city also had on their agenda consideration of an ordinance related to the prohibition of camping on public property.

Tens of community members, social workers, and advocates for street people filled the room in opposition to the ordinance. Hasty conversations between council members just prior to the start of the meeting was observed. When it came time to approve the agenda, Mayor Andy Ryder made a motion to table the controversial agenda item, saying he wanted people to have a chance to comment on it.

City councils typically do not allow public comment on items already on the agenda. There had been no previous public discussion about the proposed ordinance.

City attorney Dave Schneider gave a brief report, then the council unanimously put the item on the agenda for discussion at their next work session, scheduled for August 3 at 7:00 p.m., Lacey City Council chambers.

The staff report, which lists no disadvantages to the ordinance, reads, “Increasingly, people are camping in public areas in cities and towns across the country. Such camping is taking place in areas that are not designated as, or intended for, camping. The allowance of camping in such areas presents health and safety concerns for the public. Other Washington cities have begun to regulate camping activities.”

“Currently there is limited regulation on this type of camping in the City of Lacey. Recent case law suggests that regulating camping in public areas is permissible provided adequate shelter options are available for those camping due to lack of shelter. In the Lacey-Olympia-Tumwater area there are several such shelters available, some partly funded by public means. Accordingly, the City of Lacey may legally regulate camping.”

The proposed ordinance would prohibit camping in any park, on any street, or publicly owned parking lot or publicly owned area. Violators would be subject to a $1,000 fine or by imprisonment not to exceed ninety days, or both.

A “compulsory enforcement” section states that the investigating officer shall determine whether the camping is due to homelessness. If the officer determines that the individual is homeless, that the officer shall determine whether any known homeless shelters within the cities of Lacey, Olympia, or Tumwater have adequate space and facilities available to accommodate the subject of the citations.

If the officer determines that all such shelter space is full, the officer shall not issue a citation. If the officer determines that there is shelter space available, the officer may, within or under her discretion, issue a citation, provide directions to the shelter and/or offer one-time transportation to the shelter.

A wide range of representatives and volunteers from area homeless support organizations such as Sidewalk, Interfaith Works Emergency Overnight Shelter, and Just Housing argued that there are not enough shelters in the region to house the homeless. The City of Lacey does not have a homeless shelter.

Community activists with veteran support groups, the Libertarian Party, the Thurston County Democratic Party, and variousessim provided information to council members.

“Tens of community members, social workers, and advocates for street people filled the room in opposition to the ordinance. Others literally came out of the woods to speak for themselves, telling first-hand stories of their experiences with homelessness.”

In all, thirty articulate, passionate speakers spoke to council members.

Just Housing arranged carpools for several people to attend the meeting. Many speakers handed flowers to council members.

The flowers, some with names attached, signified those who have passed away on the streets or those who are surviving on the streets without shelter.

“I can’t give you an address,” Patrick Helprer started, going on to fill the typical requirement requested by public bodies when speakers approach the podium to speak.

He said he and his wife have been married for 34 years. Their home was foreclosed, and both have medical issues, making them unable to work.

They receive Social Security, and park their motorhome in the parking lot of a Lacey business.

The couple says there aren’t enough recreational vehicle parks in the area and Capitol Forest changed its rules, allowing camping ten days in a calendar year.

“We don’t litter or leave trash. … We’re not criminals, we don’t do drugs, we’re just down on our luck! What are we supposed to do? We want to know!”

Eric Miller said that this proposed ordinance hit home for him because he and his brother grew up homeless in Lacey.

When he was about 13 years old, his family developed agoraphobia, a fear of leaving the house, which they eventually did not have. He did as many odd jobs as he could. Friends would let them sleep in their garage or on couches. They also lived on the streets.

Through all that, he was vice president of his student body, graduated from South Sound High School, and received a community service award.

“I don’t tell people this very much, but my childhood was not easy, but one benefit that I feel like we had was that my mom didn’t have to run from the police or worry about our RV getting towed or impounded. We did have a lot of other things to worry about, but to me, at a time that income inequality is growing further, we need to look for a way to reach out to the most vulnerable and make things easier for them instead of figuring out new ways to attack them,” he said in an interview before the meeting.

James Blair, of Yelm, is chair of the Libertarian Party of Thurston County.

“When this meeting started, each and every one of you stood up and said The Pledge of Allegiance. The last sentence is, ‘with liberty and justice for all’. This ordinance does not promote liberty and assuredly does not promote justice,” he said.

“Don’t tell people this very much, but for nine months, I slept in my truck… Multiple times, wherever I parked, I was told to move… Everyone in this room could end up in the same situation… this doesn’t target homeless people… That’s the only people it’s targeting… You say other cities have this similar ordinances… If someone jumps off a cliff, would you? It’s wrong, and Lacey needs to stand forward and find a different solution.”

TL LaRocque spoke as a private citizen in opposition to the ordinance.

LaRocque works for Providence St. Peter Hospital and is the staff manager for the Providence Community Care Center currently under construction in downtown Olympia. The center will provide wrap-around health and wellness services along with shelter services.

He said that if the ordinance was enacted, it would be difficult to reverse, and that the City of Olympia’s ordinance, which is similar to the case proposed by Lacey, has caused damage to the community.

“Even if this is with the best of intentions and meant to be coordinat-ed around the homeless, there is no way to separate an ordinance like this from homelessness,” he said, saying that the majority of those who are car camping are families who could best be helped with rent assistance and rapid rehousing.

Since Lacey does not have a downtown, he said he does not want to see the ordinance push people out of Lacey and into a concentrated area like downtown Olympia.

“And when people are looking at shelter, or not there are enough shelter beds, we fail as a commu-nity,” referring to the 200 people per night who showed up per at Interfaith Works temporary warming center in downtown Olympia this past winter.

Eric Franks, a man who is disabled and homeless, said he doesn’t have a homeless shelter and that the Thurston County Democratic Party and “liberal” politicians made it illegal for persons with “ugly,” or “unsightly” disabilities to appear in public.

“This ordinance criminalizes human-ity, we don’t want to go backwards,” he said.

Phoenix Wendt, who lives in the woods, is active in finding solutions. She participated in the drafting of a resolution that will be introduced to the Olympia City Council at its meeting next Tuesday. If passed, it could result in a standing committee on homelessness.

Before the meeting, Wendt was circumspect about her situation.

“I love everyone and I appreciate ev-eryone to the point that, yeah, I may have a difficult past but this is the best I can give you right now. Why is it that evil is still in this world? Why does it still exist? It is to make us humble to have the pain and suffering to move us aside to be able to find joy, and beautiful mercy and compassion for others. It brings us closer togeth-er,” she said.
Puyallup tribe and friends battle unsafe fracked gas plant

by Megan Cornish

The Puyallup tribe and other environmental activists are waging a heroic and determined fight against a disastrous liquid natural gas (LNG) plant at the Port of Tacoma, Wash. Planned and approved within the city, the site was finalized, yet the city refuses to approve immigration prison, whose 1,500 detainees would be trapped in a populated area within the city. The site is also adjacent to tribal land, mere feet from its salmon restoration project. Close by is the NW Detention Center, a for-profit immigration prison, whose 1,500 detainees would be trapped in an area.

Dangers, toxic, treaty-violating and climate changing

Parallels to the Dakota Access Pipeline fought by the Standing Rock Sioux last year are striking. The Port Commission ignored the Puylallup’s treaty right to be consulted along with its fishing rights, which depend on clean water. Preliminary construction has already started, even though the all-important fire permit and others have not been obtained, and the tribe is still fighting the project. The Port notified only those residents within 400 feet of the site, for an end run around the public right to know. The environmental review was a cruel joke that admitted only the possibility of a pipe leak, not a fire leak. The owners made major changes to the plan after the Environmental Impact Statement was finalized, yet the city refuses to require a supplemental review.

Like Dakota Access, even the need for the project is debatable. The only customer signed up in advance with Puget Sound Energy (owned by Aus-

trian financial conglomerate the Macquarie Group) has since canceled, announcing it doesn’t know whether or when it may retrofit its ships to use natural gas fuel.

A majority of the gas will come from hydraulic fracturing, which pollutes enormous amounts of fresh water, contaminates ground water, and typically leaks significant amounts of methane, a powerful greenhouse gas. Contrary to the claims of the industry, that will also be stored in huge tanks on site. The plant would essentially be built on the Tacoma Tideflats, a landfill, between two superfund sites. Toxic chemicals already in the soil can melt steel! Compounding existing pollution — especially next door to the Puyallup tribal land — is outrageous.

The tribe has sued over the violation of treaty rights. It is sponsored a November 2016 march in support of Standing Rock and against the liquid natural gas plant. With increasing public support, young members led a 24-hour vigil next to the construction site for five days in June. In early July, they held a three-day 100-mile Save the Salish Sea walk from Seattle to Tacoma.

Holding ongoing protests, the “No LNG” advocates have attended many Tacoma City Council meetings, and local health department and Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission hearings. Two observers sued successfully to force the plant’s emergency response plan to be made public, and exposed its serious inadequacy. During a May 2017 demonstration, six protesters with Tacoma Direct Action chained themselves to drill equipment and halted construction. Originally charged with felonies, they stand trial this month.

Continuing public pressure is vital. To get involved, visit RedLineTacoma.org, or check out Tacoma Direct Action or RedLine Tacoma Community Forum on Facebook.

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universal single-payer health care is the real solution

Thus far, the system is very timely and informative. Although Obama’s Affordable Care Act (“Obamacare”) helped in some ways, it has failed to cover many millions of Americans and failed to control costs. Republicans are trying to repeal the ACA for right-wing reasons. The real solution is universal single-payer health care, which other modern countries use to produce far better results at far lower cost. Olympia FOR’s August August TV program—watchable through our website—proposes universal single-payer as the real remedy for Americans’ lack of access to affordable, high quality health care. We aired the program in December 2015, and it is timely again now.

Our guest is Dr. Sarah K. Weinberg. She knows a lot about the problems, and has been working for universal single-payer health care as the best solution. She has worked very hard with two non-profit organizations, Health Care for All — Washington and Physicians for a National Health Program. We list websites for these two organizations and other resources at the end of our TV program and the description posted on our website.

Please watch the program and/or read the very informative summary of what we said, plus much additional information. Visit the “TV Programs” part of www.olympiafor.org.

Topics include:

Cost and affordability of health care in the U.S. vs. other nations

How a system can work

What has the Affordable Care Act ("Obamacare") accomplished? How does Obamacare (the Affordable Care Act) fall short of meeting our needs? Summary and encouragement Two excellent books, or short videos, several non-profit organizations Watch powerfully insightful and important TV programs through your computer or on TCTV. For 30 years the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation has been producing powerfully informative TV programs on important issues. You can watch our current program and more than 160 of our previous ones through the Olympia FOR’s website at your convenience, even if you don’t watch on our current program on TCTV cable channel 22 in Thurston County (Mondays 1:30 pm, Wednesdays 5:00 pm, Thursdays 9:00 pm).

Simply visit www.olympiafor.org, click the “TV Programs” link, and scroll down past the brief description of the current program. Previous programs are listed chronologically. Click the link for the program you want to watch. Also, next to each program’s link is a link to a thorough summary of the program. Read that by clicking the “Word” and/or “pdf” link. You can watch more than 160 programs through www.olympiafor.org.

Questions? Contact Glen Anderson, the Olympia FOR TV series’ producer/host at (360) 491-9093 or glen@olympiafor.org
Dear WIP,

Here is a recap of the July 17 hearing in Seattle, where the issue is remaining in the spotlight: Judge Paul deFonzo spent some time to mark exhibits and make sure each party had their chance to present. The government side wanted Zahid’s witnesses “sequestered.” Ann Chaudhry and Zahid’s attorneys were told to leave the courtroom.

Government’s long cross questioning of Zahid caused court to run out of time and leave the case for tomorrow. The federal hearing Judge Paul deFonzo wants to hear from Ann. So this hearing has been “continued” to a later date. Judge Paul deFonzo first suggested September 11th, and a groan went out from supporters in the courtroom.

Ann and Zahid want to express their gratitude to the following:

To all the folks from Lacey, Olympia, Tumwater, Chehalis & south, and Seattle area and up north. To all the drivers of car and vans. To Elissa Goss for her tireless energy, time and care for doing what needed to be done.

To all the writers of letters of support; To all the feverish writing, creators for facebook, twitter, email, and other networks. To all the sign and slogan makers, sign holders, & chanters; To all the im- portant shoulders, hugs, & caring words.

There is something wrong with the situation and it is folly to turn our attention away from this reality in pursuit of a miracle cure. Those who profit from the increased emphasis on corporate profitability are the same that are thought to have no natural resources US corporations covet nor do they have the wealth to make large weapons purchases from American arms merchants. At a time when the US President openly flouts the law, racial and religious prejudice is seen as a winning political strategy, and spurious national security arguments are used in support of eroding basic constitutional protections.

According to a recent poll released by the Arab American Institute, since 2000, American attitudes toward Arabs and Muslims, have had a continued erosion of the favorable ratings given to both communities, perpetuating a threat on the rights of Arabs and American Muslims. Favorability scores have continued to decline – from 45% in 2010 to 32% in 2014 for Arabs, and from 35% in 2010 to 23% in 2014 for Muslims.

The current climate of Islamophobia in America is reminiscent of the anti-Semitism that was rife in early twenti- eth century in both America and Euro- pean countries. Jews were persecuted for religious and racial hatred as a means to manipulate the willful ignorant population who could tell themselves that it had nothing to do with them. This looks an awful lot like the subtle and not so subtle message we hear and see daily from those who control the propaganda machine in this country. According to George Orwell, “Power is not produced by human minds to pieces and putting them together again in new shapes of your own choosing.”

Larry Kerschner
peacegoer@gmail.com

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cares rates and cures do not shed light on why individuals are getting sick in the first place. Is because a focus on sur- vival and not prevention, just more upbeat and positive message?
Or is it because focusing on preven- tion offers little in terms of a busi- ness model that healthcare has become big business in America. Our nation spends nearly one fifth of our gross domestic product on healthcare. That’s more than $3 trillion annually – about the same as the entire economic output of Japan. Once we were cared for by local independent practitioners and hospitals with firm roots in the communities. Now our care is meted out by “health systems” that are drawing money in support of military engagement, so we should be wary when our gov- ernment vilifies a convenient demon – but that only goes so far in explain- ing the broader more fundamental approach to making this world safer for successive generations.

Trent Kelly is a freelance writer who lives in Olympia, Washington. He can be reached at his website: hiddenharborlounge.com
Progressives don’t need to be reminded about the importance of acting on climate change, but the world will face a so many so dramatical-ly while still managing to remain near the issues we face. It is truly a sitting in Washington, D.C. It is of critical, and Thurston County has a number of ex-cellent organizations pushing for just. Here that in Washington State, while not yet where we’d like to be, we re-main committed to policies to reduce our collective carbon footprint.

**US is the world’s second largest carbon emitter**

That said, climate change is a global problem, and even the most significant actions and behaviors we can adopt on a local level will have limited effect on the global scale. The United States is the single country most able to influence policies of others. Is there any hope, given the current political situation, that the federal government would be willing to move forward soon enough to mitigate the worst of the effects that will increas-ingly burden us, our children, and our grandchildren?

### Enacting a Carbon Fee & Dividend is realistic

I’m going to argue that a Carbon Fee and Dividend (CFD) approach, which is the policy proposed by the Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) provides us just such a hope. I believe that getting a CFD passed in Congress for the current congress and thus we need to push our representatives to support it. I’m going to argue that the CFD proposal manages, simu-ltaneously, to be both progressive and that can actually garner some Republican support (I’m also going to argue that progressives ought to be OK with that last thought).

### How a carbon fee & dividend would work

In brief, CFD would have the Treasury Department impose a fee of $3 per ton of CO2 emitted on all fuels containing carbon at the point where they first enter the economy. [https://citizensclimatelobby.org/remi-report/](https://citizensclimatelobby.org/remi-report/) has in-dicated that such a dividend program, 53% of households (58% of the population) would get a net eco-nomic benefit despite paying more energy. Importantly, the proportion of households in the lowest fifth per-capita income coming out ahead would be 86% (with only 2% coming out worse and 12% about the same), and among the next lowest fifth, 72% would come out ahead (with 9% coming out worse).

Wealthy folks with multiple homes and high incomes may pay more. But modestly more in energy costs than they’d get back in their dividend, but they could afford to. So CFD manages to incentivize all of us to move toward renewables (it is, after all, a problem we all share) without burdening those with the least means. CFD on average also provides a similar benefit vs. cost to people of color relative to whites ([https://citizensclimatelobby.org/household-impact-study/](https://citizensclimatelobby.org/household-impact-study/)).

### Why CFD is the best answer

The idea is that, once we have good carbon-reduction policies in place human beings are the best at understanding and solving problems, but from climate scien-tists such as James Hansen. A word more about revenue neutrality, a core principle of the CFD approach. There is a legitimate anxiety from progressives that an even better approach would be to deliberately apply funds obtained by a carbon tax to im-proving the lives of those disproportionately affected by climate change. The US is the world’s second largest carbon emitter (China has an allure, but is susceptible to the prognostications of Yoram Bauman and others). It is, after all, a problem we all share (as in the US has recently discovered) because it’s impossible to predict exactly how much revenue will be generated from a CFD.

Washington’s failed carbon tax initiative I732 was premised on revenue neutrality, and was vulnerable to the concern that it could end up rev-enue negative. Good as the predictions of James Baker and George Schultz, con-sider this: very similar proposals have per capita dividends are, by nature, progressive because they constitute a transfer of family budgets to low-income than wealthy folks. The US has commis-sioned by independent econo-mists (summary and pdf available at [https://citizensclimatelobby.org/remi-report/](https://citizensclimatelobby.org/remi-report/)) have in-dicated that such a dividend program, 53% of households (58% of the population) would get a net economic benefit despite paying more energy. Importantly, the proportion of households in the lowest fifth per-capita income coming out ahead would be 86% (with only 2% coming out worse and 12% about the same), and among the next lowest fifth, 72% would come out ahead (with 9% coming out worse).

### The need for a “border adjustment tax”

One more component of Citizen Clime Lobby (CCL) provides us with a similar benefit vs. cost the “border tax adjustment.” Tariffs are assessed on goods entering the US from countries that lack carbon reduction costs), back to the public on a per capita basis via a dividend (as in the CCL proposal) is redistributive, providing more benefit to those most in need, in this case, all carbon emissions were allocated programatically, lower in-come folks would be vulnerable to the adverse impacts of rising gasoline and heating oil, and it’s very likely that even the best tailored programs of policymakers worldwide would fall short of [3] promising to fund specific new pro-grams—desirable as they are—from the proceeds of the tax. (As in the US it is, after all, a problem we all share). It’s ironic that a similar though not identical CFD proposal has been float-ed by a group of conservatives known as the Climate Leadership Council. If you are leery of supporting a proposal pushed by old-guard conservatives like James Baker and George Schultz, con-sider this: very similar proposals have been also floated by none other than Bernie Sanders and Washington’s own (recently-retired) Jim McDermott. Bernie’s proposed “Climate Protection and Justice Act” is centered on a CFD mechanism broadly similar to that advanced by CCL McDermott’s “Man-aheim, we think that today's concern (de-tails on both available at [https://www.carbontracks.org/bills/](https://www.carbontracks.org/bills/)).

### The power of partnering across political lines

Many of us might not mind that if funds are spent for the public good, Republicans are simply not going to support that, regardless of the argument. We can hope for the day when those of us who care most about the power of partnering across political lines, but the climate isn’t waiting around. All of you, let’s continue working with the hopeful and progressive legislators at all levels, but the bill will be here. We can hope for the day when those of us who care most about the power of partnering across political lines, but the climate isn’t waiting around. All of you, let’s continue working with the hopeful and progressive legislators at all levels, but the bill will be here. We.

### How can we talk about climate change?

A key point about climate change is that many people don’t know how to talk about it. But the more important point is that even if we talk about it, the science is often too complex for our lay audience to understand. That is why it is important to make climate change relevant to people’s daily lives. One way to do this is to use the power of partnership across political lines. By working together, we can create a narrative that resonates with people of all backgrounds, and helps them see the urgency of the issue.
Seattle City Council votes a tax on high incomes

Stepping up to pay for critical public needs

By Adam Ziemkowski

Seattle further cemented its reputation as one of the most progressive cities in the U.S. last week, when its City Council passed a law to tax the rich, sponsored by socialist City Councilmember Kshama Sawant along with City Councilmember Joe Woolsey. The law places a 2.25% tax on individual income over $250,000 for single filers and over $500,000 for married couples. It’s expected to raise as much as $175 million to fund affordable housing, climate justice, and other critical needs.

"Tax us and we’ll leave..."

Recently, in the wake of the passage of Seattle’s new tax on the rich, the Los Angeles Times reported, "a number of cities have adopted local income taxes, but no other city has solely targeted high earners and few have adopted so high a tax rate. The measure has opened the door to political warfare in the state."

Shortly before the vote, former Microsoft CEO and Seattle resident Steve Ballmer warned city officials, most of whose campaigns are financed by big business donations, they knew that a tax on the rich would "drive up wages here and create [company executives] to go somewhere else. That will certainly happen."

Despite this, the City Council unanimously passed the tax on the rich and a chorus of Democratic establishment politicians sang its praises. Seattle Mayor Ed Murray declared, "Our goal is to replace our regressive tax system with a new formula for fairness, while ensuring Seattle stands up to President Trump and leads on climate change and political independence."

Changing the incentives for those who govern

This is an important change of tune for activists in an organization, Socialist Alternative, that have been fighting to institute a socialist and democratic politics for many years. Seattle politician Mary Lawless Bercovar praises the new tax as "a powerful and important moment for our movement."

The Seattle City Council’s action is just one of many changes in the last few years that have made our city a beacon of progressive change.

Building relationships with ordinary people

It was the growing might of our social movement that led to this major victory. The establishment may have ultimately voted 'yes,' but not because they suddenly support taxing the rich. Mayor Murray and establishment Councilmembers like Tim Burgess and Lindakate Archibald voted for it because we built a powerful movement over a number of years which made their continued opposition politically untenable. During our election campaigns, Socialist Alternative members spoke with hundreds of thousands of voters at the door and on the phone and, eventually, hundreds of thousands of voters at the ballot box. It was a rally-building effort that raised a record-breaking half a million dollars from ordinary people with the bold and unambiguous demand to "tax the rich." It was a pillar of our 2015 campaign and we made it clear to everyone we talked to that we wanted to make big business and the wealthy elite pay to fund public needs.

Building coalitions with extraordinary groups

Working people and people of color in Seattle City Council, Sawant worked with activists from the Transit Riders Union on the proposal to remove a regressive sales tax and instead fund Seattle’s Metro bus system with a tax on business and a commercial parking fee increase. We lost that vote, but over the past months the Transit Riders Union, led by Katie Wilson, a former Seattle City Councilmember and former Center for Community Change executive Joseph Henchman complained, “If it was just about the law, it couldn’t survive, but my sense is the judges will think about other considerations.”

Our movement brought together transit and neighborhood advocates, climate justice and affordable housing activists, socialists, retirees, teachers, and unions into a coalition. It met regularly to discuss and decide on the legislation and build a campaign to win it.

Rejecting the liberal ‘compromises’

Critically, even as our movement picked up steam and corporate politicians started hopping on the tax-the-rich bandwagon, we resisted the siren song of an “easier path to victory” through collaboration with the establishment, rather than class struggle. Our movement maintained an unrelenting political independence and our activist base stubbornly refused to take establishment politicians at their word. Coalition members flooded City Council offices with emails and phone calls and packed City Hall for every discussion and vote, to demand Councilmembers’ support and to warn them not to oppose or water down the legislation.

Relying on our own strength

This approach effectively took back the conservative wing of the Council, which scandalously put out a push poll to test the viability of replacing the tax-the-rich ordinance with a high regressive “flat tax” proposal. This model of staking out a bold demand, building a movement independent of the city establishment, and relying on our own strength to win it came pretty naturally this time around.

That’s not surprising. It’s the hallmark of our movement in Seattle has used to win the Fight for 15, defeat four times increases on low-income tenants, replace a regressive sales tax with a new progressive one, and build a movement independent of the City Council, and relying on our own strength to win it. The coalition organized Town Halls in each district, dragging along dozens of emails and phone calls and packed City Hall for every discussion and vote, to demand acceptance to the Democratic establishment and big business. Or do we build movements that fight for bold demands and are prepared to use radical tactics, including civil disobedience?

No trust in corporate politicians

The victories in Seattle – from the Fight for 15 to tax the rich – provide activists with clear answers to these questions. Building determined movements alongside having a voice in City Hall, Socialist Alternative’s Kshama Sawant, is a powerful combination. While we will work in unity with broader forces, including Democrats like those who ultimately voted unanimously for the tax the rich proposal, we do not put our trust in corporate politicians or limit our demands to what they or their big business backers are prepared to accept. As thousands swell the ranks of socialists and socialist organizations, the Seattle model has a potential to expand and win gains around the country, if the right strategies and tactics are applied.

The fight for a fairer tax system is on-going

In Seattle, the tax-the-rich fight is far from over. The right wing Freedom Foundation has already filed a lawsuit saying the tax violates a Washington state law barring cities from taxing net income. State Republican Party Chairperson, Susan Hutchison, in a press conference where she was surrounded by “tax the rich” placards, called for “civil disobedience” and to “forcefully resist the Seattle establishment coalition along with the Economic Opportunity Institute, led by John Pickovsky. The Trump Proof Seattle coalition, of which Socialist Alternative and Kshama Sawant were a part, joined the leadership role in this year’s fight to win Seattle’s tax on the rich.

Our movement brought together transit and neighborhood advocates, climate justice and affordable housing activists, socialists, retirees, teachers, and unions into a coalition. It met regularly to discuss and decide on the legislation and build a campaign to win it. We have momentum

Many of these new activists are grappling with the right strategies and tactics are applied.

An independent movement or support for Democrats?

Donald Trump’s election upset the ante, and in the months that followed, millions took to the streets to defend the basic rights of immigrants, women, LGBTQ+ people, Muslims, unions, and workers. Ordinary people are flooding into activist organizations like Trump Proof Seattle and the Neighboring Action Councils. Socialist organizations like Democratic Socialists of America and Socialist Alternative are seeing a rapid increase in membership.

Many of these new activists are grappling with the question of how we can build a movement that can defend the basic rights of ordinary people and win gains around the country, if the right strategies and tactics are applied.

We have momentum

In the meantime, we are not resting on our laurels. We are channeling the energy that won a tax on the rich into a bold campaign for affordable housing and rent control, and knocking on thousands of doors to build a winning coalition of ordinary people and their elected officials in the city of Seattle and beyond. Our movement is ready to take our fight into the courthouse and back onto the streets.

This article is reprinted from The Socialist Alternative Newspaper, July 21, 2017

Centralia Antique Mall

Antiques • Restaurant • Hotel

Directions from Olympia

South on Interstate 5

Exit 99, Factory Outlet

East on Harrison

Right on Pearl

201 S Pearl • Lewis

Open 7 days

Sun-Mon-Sat
An end to the war in Syria?

By Eric Margolies

Many Americans voted for Donald Trump because he vowed to end the foreign conflicts in which the US had become entangled. So far, they have been disappointed. But this week a light flashed at the end of the tunnel: President Trump, according to numerous reliable Washington sources, has decided to end US arms supplies and logistic support to Syria’s jihadist rebels that have fuelled the bloody six-year conflict. Washington, and its allies the UK and France, have persistently denied arming Syria’s jihadist rebels fighting to bring down the Russian-backed government of President Bashar Assad.

Former President George W Bush actively considered invading Syria around 2008 in collusion with Israel. But the Israelis then pointed out that there were no Western-friendly groups to replace Assad, only extreme militant Sonni Musulmans whom Bush regarded as the usually reckless Bush called off the invasion of Syria.

By contrast, Barack Obama gave a green light to the CIA to arm, train and logistically support anti-Assad jihadist groups. The US government was widely unpopular among Western governments even as the US-backed feudal Arab oil monarchies, a huge player in the Middle East, were paying the Russian and American air campaign in Syria.

The objective of this operation was to overthrow President Assad and his Shi’ite-leaning regime, which was supported by Iran, a bogeyman to all the countries of the region. But Russia, and France, has persistently denied arming Syria’s jihadist rebels fighting to bring down the Russian-backed government of President Bashar Assad.

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Serbia, Bulgaria and Azerbaijan. Once again, the Gulf Arabs paid the bill.

The offensive against Syria was accompanied by a powerful barrage of anti-Assad propaganda from the US and British media. From the background, Israel, and its partisans beat the war drum against the Assad government.

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Two of Syria’s greatest and oldest cities, Damascus and Aleppo, have been pounded into ruins. Jihadist massacres and Russian and American strikes have ravaged once beautiful, relatively prosperous Syria. Its ancient monuments, such as the cradle of civilization in Mesopotamia and the pyramids in Egypt, are crumbling. The once great city of Aleppo has resembled a war zone with the US-backed Kurdish yesevolutionaries in full control. And the US-backed第五届 regime, which was supported by Iran, a bogeyman to all the countries of the region. But Russia, and France, has persistently denied arming Syria’s jihadist rebels fighting to bring down the Russian-backed government of President Bashar Assad.

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By Eric Margolies

The Great American Eclipse

By Russ Frizzell

It’s right around the corner now. On August 21st, 2017, the new moon will pass in front of the morning sun and completely block out the entire disk. I have yet to see a total eclipse myself but I’ve heard it is an experience so sublime it can restore that sense of joy and wonder which we scare children with. The eclipse happens.

The path of totality will pass just south of Salem, Oregon and continue right across the nation and digitally cover the Mideast. The US is now relying almost entirely on Kurdish militias, know in Syria as YPG, to attack ISIS and galaxies all seem to be waiting for us. We should like to know more about them, I think.

The author is an activist living in Olympia and a graduate of Evergreen.

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Works in Progress is still building its team....

writers, illustrators, number-crunchers, editors, and other scribes and talents—
you too could be part of a crew that cranks out a monthly publication in your community. See page 2 for more details!