Deported youth missing in Mexico

Martín Morales: young, disabled, and caught in a ‘broken’ immigration system

Alice Nelson/Miles Nowlin

Note: Some names in this story have been changed or omitted. The names of Martín Morales, of public officials, and of anyone directly quoted are real.

These days, people of all political stripes commonly refer to “our broken immigration system,” while holding drastically different views about what exactly is broken and how to fix it. As legislative and legal battles rage on, the “broken” debate has been ongoing, involving well-oiled collisions among local law enforcement, the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and corporations such as GEO that profit from the detention business. Rarely do upper-echelon policy debates acknowledge the pervasive negative effects of current practices that criminalize and terrorize communities of color. Even greater is the silence surrounding those with additional vulnerabilities—such as grinding poverty, violence in the home, or mental health issues—who wind up in the detention system. The story of Martín Morales, a young man from Shelton, powerfully reveals gaps in our immigration system that disproportionately affect the young and socially disadvantaged, domestic violence survivors, and the disabled.

Martín’s Story

Martín’s family arrived in the US in 1999, when he was 6 or 7 years old. Martín was one of seven children born to Juan Carlos and Elena, immigrants from Mexico who, after a time in Texas, found work in Shelton’s ornamental greens industry. Martín entered 4th grade at the Green Elementary School, where his teachers described him as well adapted and smart: he was especially skilled at math. In 8th grade, Martín’s parents separated, due to ongoing domestic violence stemming from Juan Carlos’s alcoholism. Despite these challenges, Arleen Sandifer, Martín’s 8th grade English (ELL) teacher at Oakland Bay Junior High, recalls: “Martín was funny, animated, bright, curious and displayed the normal ‘goofy’ adolescent attitude at times. He was kind, gentle and expressed his desire to become a teacher.”

Shortly after the marital separation and without Elena’s permission, Juan Carlos took three of the children, Mar- tín among them, to California, where they eventually attended school for a while, dropping out to work. The children supported the family in lieu of their father’s income, and remained overtly abusive and neglectful. One day, Martín went out to the streets and returned home seriously inebriated; according to his brothers, Martín seemed “crazy,” vacant and unable to focus. His brothers attribute this dramatic shift, which became permanent, to Martín’s exposure that day to a powerful drug: years of malnourishment and neglect likely also contributed to his deterioration. When his mother, fearful but desperate to retrieve her children, tracked them down in California nearly a year later, she found her ex-husband severely ill from alcoholism and his children—two boys and a girl—kept busy working for survival. Because, and Mar- tín, emaciated, unkempt and unresponsive, intermittently able to recognize close family and track conversations. Elena brought the entire family back to Olympia, took refuge from Juan Carlos’s abuse in Safe Place domestic violence shelter, and enrolled Martín in 9th grade at River

Initiative filed to protect cannabis patients from Initiative-502

Washington Safe Cannabis Act

In December, two Washington pa- tients filed a proposed Initiative to the People entitled the Washington Safe Cannabis Act. The initiative will remove cannabis from the Con- trolled Substances Act, offer arrest protections for pa- tients as well as Driving Under the Influence of Cannabis (DUC) protections, redefine [industri- al] hemp, and attempt to keep the federal govern- ment out of the state’s medical cannabis patients business.

Mimi Meiwes and Sarah Short, co-authors and both cannabis patients, say they don’t feel safe with the current law. The Washington State legis- lature has had more than enough time to provide the protections that Meiwes and Short wrote into their initiative. The two also point out that hemp as a controlled substance is nothing but a joke considering the THC content is negligible at best. “They can’t seem to get it right, so we felt the need to try ourselves,” explained Mimi, who says they spent many hours pouring over other initia- tives in order to know how to write one themselves. “There is no how-to man- ual that we could find, so we just had to figure it out.”

There are so many things that need more research, so much this cannabis can help,” adds Sarah, “and then you get into the hemp end of things and the uses and benefits are astonishing.” The social impact of just producing and processing the raw materials in our state would provide welcome relief to our bag-

Stories reveal the need for systemic change

Emily Elena Johnson

Snow dusts the streets outside of Darby’s as we sit inside completing the POWER workshop on storytelling. POWER stands for Parents Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights. Why does this mean something to me? I was two when my father left my mother. She supported him for four years as he made his way through law school. When he’d gotten a high-paying job at a law firm, and my mother had given birth to my sister, he left her. We lived off of state support and the child sup- port my father paid sporadically. I re- member when my mother put food in front of us and then sat down at the table with nothing to eat for herself, it weighed on me to know she was hun- gry. My mother is the hardest working woman I know. She was our crafty bud- get balancer—which we have learned from recent budget cuts isn’t the easiest thing to do, even for highly educat- ed politicians.

I finish writing my story and look around to see other people finish- ing theirs. People begin sharing their stories. All of the different narratives familiarize me with a room full of hard-working people who have been affected by the recent budget cuts.

The day of the workshop and march is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Words from his speech, “Beyond Vietnam,” given on April 4, 1967, played on the radio as we drove to the campus that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is ap- proaching spiritual doom.” Monica Peabody, the executive direc- tor of POWER, added another layer to this quote. “It is true that with a small portion of what we’ve spent on the war, we could restore human rights and end suffering, but what shocks me even more is an article I read say- ing that we’ve spent more on bailouts to the wealthy than all of the wars of this country combined.” http://www. aim.org/on-target-blog/bailout-cost-exceeds-all-american-wars/

Nationalpriorities.org estimates that since the Bush-Era Tax Cuts in 2001, we’ve spent $1,035,202,163,345 on tax cuts for the top five percent. A couple sitting across from me in the workshop posed a question with their story that hung in my mind for the rest of the day. “How is corporate welfare somehow sacred but social services are not?”

In the workshop we talk about the importance of taking up space, look- ing through the lens of the US economic system. Our stories are woven in the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to commu- nicate to our legislators how the recent budget cuts have affected families.
The Thurston Public Power Initiative: Storm shows need for change

John Pearce

At Thurston Public Power Initiative are hard at work collecting petition signatures and getting our message out—“Neighbors bringing neighbors reliable electric power at a fair rate”. Thurston County was slammed very hard by the January snow, ice, and wind storms. We are collecting our neighbors’ signatures and posting them on our website. Tell your story and read others’ at www.ThurstonPublicPower.org/Janu ary2012Outage.html.

We heard the other day from a lineman who was brought in from the Washington coast to work the January outages. He told us that one of the main reasons power was out for so long is that the Macquarie Group (the largest Australian investment bank nicknamed the Millionaire Factory) purchased Puget Sound Energy (PSE) and turned it private, they got rid of all the meter readers in favor of an automated meter reading system. That meant saved them a lot of money, but it cost them (and their customers) valuable resources.

The meter reader knew the streets, the poles, the wires—the infrastructure—intimately. Back before Macquarie, when the power went out, meter readers were able to direct the crews to specific locations very quickly. Now, out-of-county and out-of-state workers are left on their own to find obscure locations that only the local residents know well enough to find on the first attempt.

PSE has the great majority of their resources centralized at their Renton Call Center. There are only five one-person line trucks based in Thurston County, and each is permitted to work alone on single-phase issues under PSE. Anything beyond that—including every downed pole and most of the outages from the storm—requires the one-person truck to evaluate the situation before calling the Renton Call Center to request more equipment, materials, and personnel. This delays almost all Thurston County repairs by hours. To restore power to the thousands of customers in the dark just in Thurston County, PSE had to bring in crews from all over the Pacific Northwest.

What makes it even worse for every one of PSE’s customers is that the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission guarantees Macquarie a profit of more than 10% on their investment in Puget Sound Energy.

Interior

February 2012

CANNABIS, continued from page 1

garden county, the two insist.

The two patients finally began writing their initiative because of concerns with the strict and unsci entific EU laws dictating an $1,500, which recently went to the legislature and will likely be on the November ballot. What they really want to try to come up with what would help them feel safe as patients, their list began to grow and grew.

Their first draft was just that; “something we wrote down as two patients who had nothing to lose.” When a leaked copy received such a positive re sponse from others, the two knew they had something worth writing about and earnestly rewrote, purging over count less initiatives, rewriting, changing and finally coming up with something that could actually be presented to the people for petition to the ballot. Okay, so Tim Lyman does it all the time, nothing special, right?

Except that Mimi has spent most of her working career as a registered nurse, and Sarah was slated for the Olympic Swim Team, each dropping out as their disease took hold of their lives. Mimi suffers from end stage kidney disease due to an autoimmune disease, while Sarah fights a brain tumor that is difficult to get to, much less remove. The two patients—neither owns a business or is interested in politics—wrote the Washington Safe Cannabis Act for no other reason than “it was the right thing to do.”

Cannabis does not belong on the Controlled Substances list, hemp certainly has no basis for being listed. Won’t you do the right thing?

Get the Washington Safe Cannabis Act on the ballot. You can reach Mimi and Sarah at Washington Safe Cannabis Act via email at WSCA12@gmail.com. A website is currently under development and should be available soon.

Thanks to KXKO for their generous support in providing much-needed space for our production meetings.
The sun will come out...
Saturday, February 18th
Capitol Theatre
2-5 pm
Sing-a-long!
Costume parade!
Have your picture taken as Little Orphan Annie!

A benefit for Parents Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights.
For more information, call 360-352-9716 or email info@mamapower.org

Stop oppressive budget cuts that kill communities
Building a local legislative solidarity movement – part three
Carole Willey, BSW

A reputable, independent business or center for public policy research & analysis is needed to further our work to analyze these four and other tax bills. Can Olympia Coalition for a Fair Budget and others step forward to take the lead to gather information for the forming of a social action network geared solely for a legislative budget advocacy fight in 2012?

During the Legislative Session
Tracking bills during the legislative session, your legislative agenda with bills of interest is the most important responsibility and task. Primary tasks will be tracking bills on your Legislative Agenda and Bills of Interest list, updating the list for your web site, sending out email alerts for people to attend hearings, and introduce your participants to Legislative Information Center's tracking bills functions/links.

Really Simple Syndication (RSS)
About three years ago an easier method came about for tracking bills or finding out late in the session when a new bill is introduced. It's a great method to find out any issue on such as elections. This means any meetings, reports, presentations, etc are available to watch. This includes being able to keep track of all state agencies policies, procedures, and practices throughout the year. This method is used for tracking bills and related announcements, including meeting cancellations. It can be very useful throughout the legislative session for the most avid activist.

Easy Access to Government Reports
A 2010 pilot program was developed and approved for the general public to have access to all Washington State presentations and reports given by state agency's staff at all Legislative hearings and meetings to be made available at www.leg.wa.gov.
I've learned how important it is for coalition members to receive online links for current up-to-date information of state presentations and reports that are essential data. For example, for state agencies’ studies and reports to the Legislature, go to the above mentioned web site under Committee Agendas & Schedules to find the information you want. Industry reports are kept there, too. These reports are usually in PDF files and can be printed by you or your staff. This immediate sharing of information is accessible and available for all. These reports are available to you and your allies for review. (http://www.leg.wa.gov/reports-to-thelegislature)
At this point in my career, I have been encouraging as many non-profit organizations to write their own bills to create the state statutes / public policies that they want and desire as opposed to only being reactionary to say budget cuts. We can create the world we want.

Disastrously bad bills that create unacceptable public policy, have to fought. And now is the time for building a local legislative action network!
Carole Willey is a local community organizer and strategist with legislative and capitol campus expertise.

OCCUPY OLYMPIA
OCCUPY PRESIDENTS’ DAY
RALLY IN SYLVESTER PARK    10 AM
MARCH TO THE CAPITOL       NOON
STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION/UPDATES:
FACEBOOK:  WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/OccupySolidarity
TWITTER:  TWITTER.COM/OSSF2012

KAOS 89.3 FM
OLYMPIA'S COMMUNITY RADIO
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Community owned since 1978
West: 991 N Rogers (360) 754-7666
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Fresh. Local. Affordable.

Stop oppressive budget cuts that kill communities
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Blocking the gate at Bangor

Peace activists occupy nuclear sub base entrance to honor MLK

Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action

On January 14, 2012 activists from a local peace group blocked entry to the main gate at the Navy’s West coast Trident nuclear submarine base for nearly a half hour in an act of civil resistance to nuclear weapons.

Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action held a peaceful vigil and nonviolent direct action at the main gate to Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor in Silverdale, Wash. The group protested the U.S. government’s continued deployment of the Trident nuclear weapons system. Its continued reliance on nuclear weapons as an instrument of foreign policy is in contradiction of both U.S. and international laws.

The Trident submarine base at Bangor, just 20 miles from Seattle, contains the largest concentration of operational nuclear weapons in the U.S. arsenal. Each of the 8 Trident submarines at Bangor carries up to 24 Trident II (D5) missiles, each capable of being armed with as many as eight independently targetable nuclear warheads. Each nuclear warhead has an explosive force of between 100 and 475 kilotons (up to 30 times the force of the Hiroshima bomb).

On Saturday afternoon the group maintained a peaceful vigil on the road-side outside the base entrance. Nine protesters entered the roadway carrying banners and blocked all inbound traffic lanes. One banner had a quote from Martin Luther King, Jr., “When scientific power outruns spiritual power, we end up with guided missiles and misguided men.” One side of the second banner read “Pedestrians on Roadway Unlawfully,” a traffic infraction. On two different occasions, May 7, 2011 and August 8, 2011, the activists blocked the entrance to Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, symbolically closing the base as a statement against the U.S. government’s continued deployment of the Trident first strike nuclear weapons system.

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The defendants on trial January 4th wereatti, Larry Kerns, Larry LeValle, Peggy Love, Jack Smith, Carlo Voli, Marion Ward, Robert Whittlock, and Alice Zillah. Arresters’ ages range from 33 to 73 years.

The day planned in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. began in the morning at Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action where participants learned about the effects of nuclear weapons (with an emphasis on the Trident system) and U.S. nuclear weapons policy. They also participated in nonviolence training and discussed the implications of the Occupy movement in relation to the movement to abolish nuclear weapons.

Participants in the vigil and action included activists from the Kitsap Peninsula Ground Zero Action, which holds vigils and nonviolent direct actions at the Bangor base each year around Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday, Mother’s Day, and the anniversaries of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Activists have their say in court for the abolition of nuclear weapons

Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action

Peace activists made their case for the abolition of nuclear weapons, specifically the Trident nuclear weapons system, while on trial in a Kitsap County courtroom on January 4th and 5th for blocking the entrance to a local nuclear weapons base.

The ten defendants in two separate trials were charged with being “Pedestrians on Roadway Unlawfully,” a traffic infraction. On two different occasions, May 7, 2011 and August 8, 2011, the activists blocked the entrance to Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, symbolically closing the base as a statement against the U.S. government’s continued deployment of the Trident first strike nuclear weapons system.

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All of Bangor’s Trident submarines carry 24 Trident II missiles, each with up to eight independently targetable nuclear warheads that have explosive yields up to 30 times that of the Hiroshima bomb.

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The defendants were incorrectly charged, the government’s continued reliance on nuclear weapons while neglecting to lead long as possible...wanted to make people aware of the immorality and illegality of what was going on in that base.” When asked “What part did religion have to do with your motivation?” by Rutzik, she said “my calling is to follow Jesus...it is an action against the civilian nuclear war.”

Dave Hall: “My commitment is to love justice and it is an anathema to be willing to work with Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action.

Alice Zilah: “Trident is a cold war era weapon system that the defendants believed could and should be done in our name.”

Shirley Morrison: “These weapons are immoral and illegal.”

Brenda McMillan: “Nuclear weapons are immoral, horrific.”

Betsy Lamb: “We follow in the steps of Martin Luther King, Gandhi, Jackie Hudson, and Jesus himself...feel called to take these drastic steps.”

In his ruling Judge Riehl said that the defendants’ compelling testimony “rings true,” and that it has been “a long battle in this courtroom for people working on this issue.”

Although the judge believes “the cause is just,” he said that he must “uphold the rule of law.” Consistent with both the rule of law and the circumstances surrounding the defendants’ actions he found them guilty of the traffic infraction, fined them the full $36, and mitigated that to $25.

The eleven defendants are participants with Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, which holds vigils and nonviolent direct actions at the Bangor base each year around Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday, Mother’s Day, and the anniversaries of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
There is no way that any person, particularly single women who are the heads of households, move into their own brilliance and figure out that they’re a part of the solution to solve a problem when they are in survival mode. And what the budget cuts do is move more people into survival mode and into isolation. It becomes ‘how do I take care of mine,’ rather than ‘how is it we can extend what we already have into our community?’ If we don’t value the work that is done in the home as legitimate work and cut spending on social services, many single mothers and fathers are left in survival mode.

Children march with us and their presence gives clarity and focus to our cause. I ask Jenson, who is a single mother, why it is important to have her daughter here with her. “This word is not acceptable right now. It is not acceptable for me to pass on to my daugh-
ter. We honor the fact that we are raising the next leaders, and we need to treat them with kindness and respect and fairness. It is important for me to make sure my daughter feels safe in this world and that she can speak her voice to make it heard.”

One of MOM’s banners asserts, “Bud-
get Cuts Leave Families Dangling.” Pea-
bos are having the hard time finding a bud-
get that does not hurt poor people. “The largest population living in poverty is in low-wage jobs. Children and people with disabilities don’t have an option to earn a living and are being most hurt by the budget cuts. They’re not lazy, yet they’re being thrown under the bus right now. Legislators need to respect the rights of a priority.”

What does it look like to raise rev-

enue in a way that doesn’t hurt poor people? Some think that an increase in sales tax could be the solution. It might lessen the budget cuts that are affecting so many families, though Peabody calls it a regressive tax. A single mother of three participating in the MLK Day event, Linda Sanders has an idea about what we might do instead of increasing the sales tax. “I looked at a chart that said if they taxed 5% of people who made over $200,000 a year it would balance the budget in nothing flat. I think that is what needs to be done. Raising the sales tax isn’t fair; everybody pays the same thing. Right around 9% of income under $10,000 a year goes towards sales tax, and when you get clear up to the $200,000 a year mark, it’s around .06% of their income. Everybody pays the same sales tax, but it affects the poor people more because it’s a higher percentage of their total in-
come.”

Congressman John Fleming, a Tea Party Republican from Louisiana, was confronted by Jansing about his salary of over $6 million in an interview on MSNBC’s Jansing & Company broad-
cast September 19, 2011. His response? “Yeah, that’s before you pay 500 employ-
ees, you pay rent, you pay equipment and food. Since my net income — and that’s the individual rate that I told you about — the amount that I have to rein-
vest in my business and feed my family is more like $600,000 of that $6.3 mil-
lion. And so by the time I feed my family, I have maybe $400,000 left to invest in new locations, upgrade my locations, buy more equipment.”

In response, Jansing said, “You do understand, Congressman, the aver-
age person out there making 40, 50, 80, 100 thousand dollars a year, they hear that you have $400,000 left over, it’s not exactly a sympathetic position? You understand that?” To which Fleming answered, “Again, class warfares never created a job. That’s people that will not get jobs. This is all about creating jobs. It’s not about attacking people who make cer-
tain incomes. You know, in this country, most people feel that being successful in their businesses is a virtue, not a vice.”

And once we begin to identify it as a vice, this country is going down.”

With his corporate businesses—Sub-
way sandwich shops and UPS stores—he plans to provide jobs to the lazy Ameri-
cans who aren’t ambitious enough to climb to the top of the corporate ladder. Those Americans who just couldn’t catch a break to monopolize wealth in such a way that they’re able to ‘feed’ their fami-
lies with $200,000 a year. By the way, he and his wife have four grown children, but assuming the children still live with their parents, Congressman Fleming is budgeting more than 10 times the aver-
egage yearly food cost for a family his size—according to an article on DailyFinance.

com by Bruce Watson called “Does it really cost this Tea Party Congressman $200,000 to feed his family?” Amanda Lucas, also participating in the MLK day event, is a single mother struggling to support her family while trying to find time to write her thesis and earn her graduate degree in the face of recent budget cuts. She said, “We’ve been in this system of wealth inequality for so long. It’s very easy to see how it’s not even, and how it’s disempowering. We need to re-structure everything. So-
cial services aren’t working. One thing that is ridiculous about Washington’s WorkFirst program is that everyone is just cycling through the same jobs over and over again. You hear stories of a lady who works at McDonalds for three years—that’s not a job. You’re not get-
ing paid well for three years, you’re going back to WorkFirst, you’re getting laid off. If you work in the service industry, you’re at risk of getting laid off. And we’re just cycling people with the same job skills, and blaming them for not working. We just need to restructure and really look at why people keep going through this cycle, it has nothing to do with the person, ev-
eryone wants to work hard, everyone wants to provide.” It’s important to emphasize that in or-
der to make change we must solve prob-
lems on a systemic level rather than creating symptoms. The families organiz-

Participants in P.O.W.E.R.’s MLK Day event at the Capitol. photos: Berd Whitlock

The Occupy Solidarity Social Forum will be happening in the workshops of the 18th through 20th of Febru-
ary. It will be an opportunity for people to gather and share about their experiences relating to Oc-
cupy Wall Street. What has Occupy Wall Street meant to you? Come and meet with fellow Occupationists and other activists. Where might the movement go from here? Brain-
storm, and begin to organize! Registration is $30. Locals are working on food and accommoda-
tions for visitors. (If you can volun-
teer to help with accommodations, please call Bruce Wilkinson at (360) 742-0864.) You’re encouraged to submit workshop proposals; the deadline for submitting is around the end of the first week in Feb-
uary. Participant registration is on the website: www.osss2012.org or again please call Bruce at (360)742-
0864.

Check for updates on: Facebook- www.facebook.com/ OccupySolidarity Twitter: twitter.com/oss2012

Occupy Solidarity Social Forum February 18th through the 20th
Olympia, Washington

Reading Olympia Since 2002 Publishing, screenprinting, full-service printing, & more books and zines 211 4th Ave E, Olympia, WA 360-786-9673 www.lastwordbooks.org

Last Word Books
Wal-Mart. In May 2011, he was found for stealing $16 worth of snack food at Walmart. In May 2011, he was found car prowling and was arrested and detained in Mason County Jail. According to family members, they were allowed only intermittent visits while Martin was incarcerated.

Despite his continued presence in Mason County Jail, the court ordered that Martin's mental health be evaluated at Western State Hospital so that he could stand trial. Although this evaluation never took place, Martin's case was dismissed in July 2011 at the request of the City Prosecutor. According to court records, the reason for dismissal was that Martin had been arrested for stealing $16 worth of snack food at Walmart. In May 2011, he was found car prowling and was arrested and detained in Mason County Jail. According to family members, they were allowed only intermittent visits while Martin was incarcerated.

In April 2010, the family returned to Shelton and Martin enrolled in Shelton High School. His mental health was compromised at this time. He was still a federal detainee, and even though he had been convicted; upon dismissal of the court case, the reason for dismissal was that Martin had been arrested for stealing $16 worth of snack food at Walmart. In May 2011, he was found car prowling and was arrested and detained in Mason County Jail. According to family members, they were allowed only intermittent visits while Martin was incarcerated.

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with children born in the United States. TANF has also recently been reduced to a modest $25 per month for families with a child. For Elena, Undocumented-children, this system has been a lifetime. Last November, Elena lost her TANF for life at the same time that the father of her youngest child withdrew his support. Facing the prospect of homelessness, Elena again found a minimum wage job on a crew doing dock work out of Portland. She leaves Shelton at around four in the evening, and returns home each day in the dark morning hours.

Other families will face similar hardships. In the most recent rounds of budget cut proposals for the 2013-2015 biennium, the TANF limit is to be shortened to 36 months, and 1,200 families who are not documented citizens will lose their benefits. Health care for undocumented children will be eliminated, along with the basic health program and all state naturalization programs. Undocumented immigrants in need of systems services are often faced with the barrier of fear. Despite the fact that Elena and her children had been victims of domestic violence on multiple occasions, never once did she make a criminal report to the police. With the fear of incarceration and deportation constantly looming, the primary system of public safety was assumed inaccessible. The four oldest children may have been eligible to apply for US visas as victims of domestic violence, if there had been some criminal paper trial. The issue of deportation and unfounded fear has become a reality among undocumented families with the introduction of the Secure Communities program and strict state legislation such as Alabama’s house bill SB256, which requires children to disclose their immigration status on school registration forms. There is still much work to be done to spread awareness about the effects of harsh policies and discriminatory tactics such as Secure Communities, as well as the recent budget cuts that disproportionately affect families such as Martin’s. Immigration attorney Lisa Siefert adds: “The immigrant community needs to keep getting the word out that once in a detention center, a person should and has a right to file a complaint and should talk with an attorney before making any decision to leave voluntarily.”

For Undocumented children, the return to their countries of origin poses a serious risk to the safety of the child. There is need for comprehensive and standardized policy development and implementation to address the learning disabilities who are entering the system without even understanding what is happening to them. We can now focus on fighting for the right to counsel so that they receive a fair hearing.

Social Services
In the world of education and social services, Martin was defined as a “multi-systems child.” Because of Martin’s special needs, he had been involved in multiple federal and state support programs. After his return from California, Martin was placed on a Special Education Plan to address his learning disabilities and behavioral issues. He also got involved in the juvenile justice system when he was caught shoplifting at Wal-Mart as a teenager. His family as a whole was in a position since immigrating to the US. Elena and her children accessed services including the federal Head Start, HUD low-income apartment programs, Medicaid health care programs, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (welfare for families with children, TANF), and the Basic Food Program.

Washington State social services have traditionally been supportive of immigrants, understanding that immigrants come from environments where they are often forced into hard jobs, like the annual fruit harvest in Eastern Washington. Healthcare has been available for all children regardless of their immigration status. Washington has hosted a number of naturalization programs that have helped thousands of immigrants find a path to residency and citizenship.

But when Washington State faced billions of dollars in revenue shortfalls starting in 2009, its progressive history was set aside. In early 2011 the State legis- lature made cuts to social and health programs that affected low-income immigrant children and children of color. Some of these programs included the Apple Health for Kids program (which provides health coverage for 37,000 immigrant children), the Basic Health Program (affordable health coverage accessed by those eligible for the State Food Assistance Program (food stamps). The legislature attempted to eliminate the basic food program for all immigrants who had not lived in the US for more than 5 years, but a federal court order placed a restraining order on the action. In February 2011, the legislature adopted a program reorganization of the TANF program, which became effective in November 2011. This program has been named “Secure Communities,” among other low-income families, with parents who may be undocumented but

Changes needed in the deportation of minors by federal government agencies
The following are some of the recommendations from The Center for Public Policy Priorities 2008 report, A Child Alone and Without Papers: A report on the return and repatriation of unaccompanied undocumented children by the United States.

Actions needed to be taken by United States agencies
Guaranteed Right to Counsel
The long standing practice of denying representation to unaccompanied immigrant children held in U.S. detention should be re-examined. Criminals, custodians, children in custody of child welfare systems, US citizens in custody facing mental health commitment proceedings, and US citizens in custody held to communicable disease quarantines all have a right to counsel. Our failure to provide children and youth in custody of US immigration officials the same protections is inconsistent with core American values related both to the treatment of children and rights of due process in law.

Oversight by Child Welfare Experts
All immigration court decisions to remove an unaccompanied child from the United States should be subject to review by an independent child welfare expert and eligible for appeal if a safe and sustainable placement cannot be identified.

There is a need for comprehensive and standardized policy development and training on interviewing children, detecting child trafficking victims, and treating and transporting children in custody.

The development of standardized protocols and trainings must be reviewed and over time expanded.

Policy development should include language that acknowledges children as children and encourages agencies to adopt a culture of sensitivity to this reality both in language and actions.

Mandatory Assessment and Planning for Child’s Safe Return
The United States must transition the return of unaccompanied children to their country of origin from the current rigid and cabinet driven removal approach to a new paradigm based on the best interest of the child and safe repatriation.

An individual pre-removal assessment of the child’s situation and needs is necessary to ensure the child’s safe return and to prevent repeat migration.

A central authority must be designated as responsible and accountable for developing and executing the pre-return assessment and the plan for the child’s physical and psychological well-being.

The United States should not return any child to his country of origin without first confirming a secure and sustainable plan for their safe placement in a family environment and a mechanism for ensuring that plan’s implementation.

Transparent and Consistent Standards for Removal and Repatriation
The United States must establish clear, transparent, and consistent standards, and remove protocols that result in unsafe and inhumane environments for children. There is need for comprehensive and standardized policy development and implementation to address the learning disabilities who are entering the system without even understanding what is happening to them. We can now focus on fighting for the right to counsel so that they receive a fair hearing.

Standardized Inter-Agency Data Collection and Sharing
The United States should begin to collect consistent statistics and documenta- tion on all unaccompanied children. A reliable record of the circumstances facing individual cases for children subject to, and in the process of, removal should allow for the analysis of information specific to the class of unaccompanied children.

Information should be available to the public and actively shared with stakeholders, including country-of-origin counterparts.

Change US practices for the protection of children
Establish Safe Child Escort Protocols
The United States should establish limits on the number of children who can be transported during a specified period of time, in accordance with country-of-origin protocols and the capacity of country-of-origin authorities to receive the children safely. These limits must include establishing a child-to-escort ratio appropriate to the safety and well-being of the child and the mode of transportation.

Establish and Enforce Safe Transportation Standards
The United States must discontinue policies that place children at unnecessary risk, such as:
• The use of covered pick-up trucks for transport;
• The return of unaccompanied children on jatp (Justice Department Flights);
• The return of children to their home countries without advance notice and confirmed arrival at their destination.

Return Children to Port-of-Entry Nearest to Home
Children should be returned to the port-of-entry closest to their ultimate destina- tion to encourage family reunion and prevent returning the child to an unsafe environment.

Commit to protecting unaccompanied children through treaties and legislation
The United States should commit to the safety of all children by incor- porating the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Hague Convention on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Co-operation in Matters of Parental Responsibility and Protection of Children. Congress should also pass the Unaccompanied Alien Child Protection Act.

The Center for Public Policy Priorities (CPPP) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit 501(c)(3) policy institute committed to improving public policies to better the economic and social conditions of low- and moderate-income Texans.
Sending cub scouts and brownies to a street fight

Rckdal’s bill to generate revenues is the meeting’s brightest moment

Mike Coday

Molly Gibbes, of Move To Amend Olympia, arranged a meeting on January 3, 2012, with Thurston County Democrats to discuss the Special Session and to discuss the regular session underway. The three legislators who represent the 22nd District are not firebrands, but as a group representing a single coalition, they are a formidable force. Chris Reykdal, Sam Hunt and Karen Fraser are — perhaps more than an ideological group as any community could send to Olympia to develop Washington State public policy.

We (a bunch of leftists activists of various stripes) had met these legislators (minus Reykdalll) in November 2011 to discuss the Special Session. It was clear in the November meeting that Senator Karen Fraser and Representative Sam Hunt are really fine people with all of the right intentions but willing to discuss how road killers (person, not political party) who represent us by continuous compromise and surrender to an ideologically-driven right-wing politics are road killers of a different sort. They are reasonable people in the room of road killers who represent us by continuous compromise and surrender to an ideologically-driven right-wing politics.

The road “kill caucus” is one thing, pseudo democrats who are as offensive in their true political view as road-kill is in flattened flesh. But the more progressive democrats are road-kill of a different sort. They are reasonable people in the room of road killers who represent us by continuous compromise and surrender to an ideologically-driven right-wing politics.

There was some sense of dread from Fraser about the “big achievement” of the recent Special Session that was able to cut $4 billion to resolve the budget deficit. That’s about 25% of the amount that is assumed (accepted?) will need to be cut. There was some sense of dread from Fraser and Hunt about the next step — the process of cutting another $1 billion from the State next year. It seems clear that the battle is going to be front and center in the Regular Session. And there should be a majority about that.

Eyman and his lackeys in the legislature are firebrands, but as a group representing a sin

Page 8 Works In Progress February 2012

About as liberal a group as any community could send to Olympia to develop Washington State public policy.

Thurston County Democrats

That’s what we should be talking about: the budget battle. Make no mistake, Eyman and his lackeys in the legislature are firebrands who are focused on the long game. They are not wringing their hands when they fail on an agenda, they are back to writing initiatives and planning the next round of their campaign.

Don Sherwood’s seat would have been overwhelmingly ours, if his mistress wasn’t writhing about being throttled.

“We’re trying to change the toning in the state capital — and turn them toward bitter nastiness and partisanship.”

“I don’t want to abolish government. I simply want to reduce it to the size where I can drag it into the bathroom and drown it in the bathtub.”

Senator Fraser, keep your eye on the prize. Focus on the goals, values, and the power of a true coalition.

next month

Monday, February 6th

Potluck 5:30–6:00pm, Presentation 6:00–8:00pm

Darby’s Cafe • 211 5th Ave. SE, Downtown Olympia

Childcare provided by the Olympia Childcare Collective

Child Protective Services was created to protect children from abuse, but nearly 90% of dependency cases these days are established due to “neglect,” which is vaguely defined. These policies allow for children to often be placed in foster care because their parents are poor or because a report is made by someone who does not understand the family’s culture.

Sharonda Amamlo, an attorney who works with parents who are involved in CPS dependency cases will present information for parents who want to know what their rights are and what to do if CPS comes to your door. For more information, contact SFirah at Pow (((Parents Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights)) at (360) 352-9716 or at power outlets@comcast.net

styling: colors: deep

The Childcare Collective is a community-based, non-profit organization that has been providing pregnancy and infant care support to pregnant and new mothers since 1972. The group offers classes, workshops, and support groups for expectant mothers and their families. They also have a daycare center that serves as a support network for parents and their children. The Childcare Collective is committed to supporting and promoting healthy lifestyles for pregnant and new mothers and their families. They believe that every child deserves the best possible start in life. For more information, you can visit their website at childcarecollective.org. They can be reached at (360) 352-9716 or by email at pow outlets@comcast.net.
In late December, the court dismissed a lawsuit brought by students at UC Berkeley who claimed that they faced anti-Semitism on campus. The court determined the plaintiffs could not provide evidence to support their allegations.

Klein, a longtime human rights activist, told The Electronic Intifada that he would continue to support online campaigns and lobby groups "to spread the word and to make sure that students can use the Internet as a tool to organize and make a difference." He added that there has not yet been any indication that his website or tenured position are in jeopardy.

However, despite the open letter, the inflammatory communication within the Israeli-Study Abroad program itself, and enormous statewide budget cuts that have resulted in reduced educational resources, the CSU administration announced in mid-December that it was "pleased to announce the re-opening of its program in Israel starting Fall 2012."

Disturbing trend on US campuses

Klein, a human rights activist and professor at the University of California, Berkeley, is a supporter of Israel and has been subjected to academic punishment. In addition to hosting the website, Klein has also been attacked by outside lobby groups and individuals.

Along with public support, Klein said "there is a growing number of students who are not only speaking up but also taking action," and added that there is "a real opportunity for universities to take a stand against anti-Semitism." He also noted that the CSU-Northridge program "could face a similar situation" in the future.

Klein said that while the situation in Israel is "horrifying," it is important to remember that anti-Semitism exists in the United States as well. "There are people who are suffering in our own country," he said.

Klein added that the CSU-Northridge program "is a model for how universities can support students who are engaged in activism and promote academic freedom." He also noted that the program "is not only a way to win but also a way to challenge the status quo."
opportunities that exist each and every moment. You will feel better and you will govern better if you stop thinking about the citizenry, so I guess for State employees, etc. There is a capital fair tax system. Talk about the Washington legislative district because of population demand for state services. It doesn't matter if you are thinking about public education, the budget — the budget for buildings, schools, etc. — that can be raised from bonds. Another is the transportation budget that is funded from gas taxes primarily. The struggle is over the operational budget. This may be self-evident to state policy wonks, legislators and citizen activists, but is less well-understood by the citizenry, so I guess it makes even more for Mr. Hunt to go over that and to have it repeated.

Sam Hunt also reminded us that Washington State has been given a tenth federal legislative district because of population growth. Our state government budget has been growing like its population has been rising. These two trends are out of synch. Population equals demand for state services and the budget is inexorably linked to the demand for state services. It doesn't matter if you are thinking about public education, Department of Revenue, or folks behind the counter who need your driver's license — payroll tax demand for state services and that requires money. Instead we are looking at state government receiving a 40-year low in tax revenue as a percentage of GDP.

The brightest moment in the Jan 3 meeting with Rep. Hunt and Reps. Hunt and Reykdal came when Chris Reykdal took the opportunity to talk about breaking the impasse. He was talking about generating revenue for the state in the Regular Session.

Reykdal campaigned for election to the legislature saying he would and he is being to make efforts on that project. Chris Reykdal’s argument is that the expansion of sales tax to services would be self-financed by the states. His tax proposal is expected to be attractive to the Republicans. According to Reykdal, Republicans really hate the B&O tax. I would take that at his word on that, but I haven’t been able to identify any tax that our current generation of Republicans don’t hate. But there is an argument that Republicans prefer regressive taxes like sales taxes that are paid disproportionally by middle- and low-income citizens.

Elimination of the B&O tax may or may not make a difference for low-income small businesses, but it makes a huge difference for the new generation of small business owners who pays the B&O tax each year. Last year I was pleasantly surprised to find out that my small business owners was in effect that reduced my annual payment by a significant amount. I have chatted with others and other small business owners whose scale of business is much larger than mine and have been told that they did not notice any reduction in the B&O tax. So, the elimination of the B&O tax may be fairly regressive if that tax has been paid, but the progressive tax increase by not taxing low-income small businesses, but I think the jury is out on that. I think there is no question that the B&O tax raises a lot of revenue for the State, so elimination of that tax structure raises the question about how that lost revenue will be replaced.

The second part of the HOPE Act would reduce State sales tax from 6.5% to a flat 5%. Sales tax revenue is clearly regressive, so a reduction of the sales tax rate (State part only, local add-ons assumed to be left fully in effect) is clearly progressive. But like the elimination of B&O taxes, the sales tax reduction is a loss of revenue for the state and that translates into cuts in services. Reykdal and Frockt could probably pass these tax cut elements with 100% support from the Nonquist Tax Patrons, but we probably would have to reduce education funding in the State from K-12 to K-4. Most folks who get through the fourth grade with the hard set of skills should be able to operate a deep-fryer or a touch screen cash register, or put out how to stock shelves at a big box store, so this model works for a state economy based on 32 flavors of fast food and lowest prices, guaranteed, but there are many of us who think that there is a problem with the consumer utopian society, so we may have to replace lost revenue and then some.

So, revenue generation: this is where Reykdal/Frockt’s proposal gets interesting. This proposal seeks to increase state revenue by expanding the 5% state sales tax (we should assume that all local add-ons will follow suit) to include all services. So, the bill from your attorney, doctor, tax preparer, and more would start arriving with a sales tax bite. There are a large number of small-business owners (I look in the mirror and see one) who will now need to start collecting and turning over sales tax if the Reykdal/Frockt proposal becomes law. Reykdal noted that the transition of sales to everything, would not include sales tax on food. OK, it’s a good thing to keep the sales tax off foods. That’s progressive. A small, but relevant detail about the sales tax on “everything.” It’s not quite evi- dence that airplanes are exempt and would continue to be exempt. Planes are a movable feast and buyers might insist on taking delivery of their plane in flight over the Cayman Islands to avoid paying a sales tax, so Reykdal says the only way to gener- ate state tax revenue if you have a company that builds and sells airplanes in your state is through a state income tax. Hmm. There will continue to be some tax loopholes so large you can fly an airplane through them. I am not sure how progressive the expa- nsion of sales tax to services is because I am experiencing a bit of resistance to a new tax requirement for my small business opera- tion. Like a lot of small-business owners, I am wondering if I am really going to be able to add this tax without losing some business or if I am going to need to absorb some portion of the sales tax as a business cost that would not be that different from the other regressive taxes. I think the Nina the sales tax v. B&O tax suggests that my small business will be collecting and paying through the B&O tax. Revenue with sales tax than I currently pay with the B&O tax (and that’s before I factor in the additional payroll taxes that I would pay). Revenue with sales tax than I currently pay with the B&O tax (and that’s before I factor in the additional payroll taxes that I would pay). I think it’s fair to say that businesses that are really regressive (like collect- ing sales tax are going to be lukewarm at best about the expansion of sales tax to serv- ices. The historical analysis of expansion of sales tax to services suggests that this tax is regressive, but less so than a simple tax rate increase, so businesses are ready to go that way to raise revenue).

The capper on the Reykdal/Frockt tax fairness proposal is implementation of a 1% state income tax. The Washington State Constitution limits state income tax to 1%. That’s a pretty small state income tax, but Washington voters have repeatedly rejected a state income tax. And the representatives and senators in Olympia who represent the 1% are going to have a predictable response to that. The representatives and senators in Olympia who represent the 1% are going to have a predictable response to that. The representatives and senators in Olympia who represent the 1% are going to have a predictable response to that. There is no question that this tax is going to raise revenue and have instant tax fair- ness and we are the most regressive state in the nation! Well, maybe we are number 50.

The state income tax is going to be a bat- tle, people (or ought to be) ready to get behind this bill. Bring the fight. Eyman has been wagging the State's budget for long enough. It’s time for the legislature to take back responsibility for the budget and rev- enue generation.

Well done, Chris.

Sadie is down to her short count now, a hundred days from King Day to May Day. Soon she’ll be biking to the New Moon Cafe and hiking back into the woods at least, after many years in the federal pen for the crime of killing some SLUs. Shouldn’t there be a medal for that, or are medals just for killing people?

She’s read every word of Dickens and Doyle and all her long list of Victorian classics, but she’ll find the world has grown weirder with the mechanical hive mind of neethes, where more and more former bookworms can no longer concentrate on novels and there are so many symptoms of decline, but after all that she has handled, she can handle whatever there is.

Today, Sadie, you’ll tune your radio to Prairie Home Companion. (I do know your routine by now.) Back when we started writing these letters, you were still in the county jail and they were branding you a terrorist, when all you wanted was a liberated Earth more like your beloved salmon forest. Not really so unreasonable a vision, with room for old bookstores and NPR, but much too radical for a time when the only issue is money. The world of February 17-19, 1973 in Salt Lake City. At least 1,300 mem- bers and delegates are expected to attend the rally, which is being organized, including one from Olympia. Join the Justice Party and be a part of history in the making. — Chris Stegman

Chris Stegman is the ballot access coordinator for the Justice Party in Washington and a member of the Justice Party state working group.

New Progressive Party on the rise

On December 12, 2011 the newly formed Justice Party USA unfurled its banner. It is the party of progressives, the party of Occupy Wall Street, the party of the 99%. It stands squarely for economic, environmental and political justice for all.

It’s candidate for President is Rocky Anderson, a former mayor of Salt Lake City, and a progressive through and through. Rocky has been the State’s Taxpayer of the Year and is a candidate for the US Senate seat in Utah right here in Olympia back in 2006. He has long been a proponent of a global green energy transition and an economic and environmental justice. For a full bio, go to www.JusticePar- tyUSA.org

The Justice Party of Washington has been established at www.jus- ticepartywa.org and local working groups are forming in preparation to help get the Justice Party candidates on the ballot in November.

The party listserve is on the internet. Membership is established when you subscribe to the party listserve. Groups are forming in Seattle, Spokane, Vancouver, Olympia and many other locations throughout the state.

If you are interested in helping to organize locally please contact Chris Stegman at csteinman007@ comcast.net

The founding convention will be held on the weekend of February 17-19, 2012 in Salt Lake City. At least 1,300 mem-

bers and delegates are expected to attend the rally, which is being organized, including one from Olympia. Join the Justice Party and be a part of history in the making. — Chris Stegman
Volunteer at Books to Prisoners

This special gathering of music lovers with Books to Prisoners, you can become welcome new volunteers. As a volunteer Momenti Rubati.

Live music unites a community together for our regularly-scheduled hours of operation, and relax to the beautiful sounds of the and новые сорта выращивают в своем саду. Мы можем также использовать некоторые из этих методов для получения высококачественных овощей прямо у нас в саду. Основное преимущество этих сортов - их устойчивость к разным погодным условиям, что позволяет им расти и плодоносить в течение многих лет. Кроме того, эти сорта могут быть использованы не только как декоративные, но и как элемент садового дизайна. Все это делает их отличным дополнением к нашему саду.
We're still looking for a few good WIPsters.

Works In Progress is always looking for a few positive, mature (not necessarily referring to age), responsible, and self-motivated progressives—preferably WIP-readers—who can work co-operatively and respectfully with others. We currently have an opening for an advertising representative. All those interested, please contact WIP at olywip@gmail. Thanks for reading!