A visit to rural Thurston County

Bethany Weidner

Since 2008 there’s been the notion that there are red states and blue states. People in red states—mostly inland and southern—are said by the New York Times to be “whiter” and more conservative. In contrast, the blue states are said by the New York Times to be more liberal, particularly New York City, California, and the politics of President Barack Obama. Would voters in the South Sound vote the same? A visit to rural Thurston County can offer some insights.

Rochester is an unincorporated town about 20 miles south of Olympia. It is a community where people like to drive in a rural setting. The town has a population of about 1,100, and it is the largest incorporated town in Thurston County. Rochester is located in the south part of the county, along the Columbia River. The town is close to the Nisqually Indian Reservation and the Scatter Creek Wildlife Area.

The town feels far from any urban core, though many people live there. It is a rural community with a population of about 1,100. The town has a clinic in town, but there is no hospital. There is a visitation area at the hospital. The town is served by the Columbia County Sheriff.

The two-party system seems like a pretty blunt instrument to use as a measure of anything. However, there are red states and blue states. People in red states—mostly inland and northern—are said by the New York Times to be “whiter” and more conservative. In contrast, the blue states are said by the New York Times to be more liberal, particularly New York City, California, and the politics of President Barack Obama. Would voters in the South Sound vote the same? A visit to rural Thurston County can offer some insights.

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An invitation to join the WIP team: become a WIPster!

Want to get your name in the paper? There’s an easy way to contribute to Works In Progress! There are lots of ways, big or small, we need them all. (Send a letter to the editor, a book review, a poem, a short story, an essay, a comic, a photo, a cartoon, a graphic, a letter to the editor, a column, a letter to the editor, a video, a audio, a podcast, a blog post, a web page, a Facebook post, a Twitter tweet, a LinkedIn status update, a YouTube video, a TikTok video, a Instagram post, a Pinterest pin, a Reddit post, a DeviantArt submission, a Wattpad story, a SoundCloud track, a Bandcamp album, a Bandcamp track, a Spotify playlist, a Apple Music playlist, a Google Play Music playlist, a Bandcamp stream, a SoundCloud stream, a Spotify stream, a Apple Music stream, a Google Play Music stream, a Bandcamp download, a SoundCloud download, a Spotify download, a Apple Music download, a Google Play Music download, a Bandcamp book, a SoundCloud book, a Spotify book, a Apple Music book, a Google Play Music book, a Bandcamp magazine, a SoundCloud magazine, a Spotify magazine, a Apple Music magazine, a Google Play Music magazine, a Bandcamp newspaper, a SoundCloud newspaper, a Spotify newspaper, a Apple Music newspaper, a Google Play Music newspaper, a Bandcamp newspaper, a SoundCloud newspaper, a Spotify newspaper, a Apple Music newspaper, a Google Play Music newspaper, a Bandcamp movie, a SoundCloud movie, a Spotify movie, a Apple Music movie, a Google Play Music movie, a Bandcamp TV show, a SoundCloud TV show, a Spotify TV show, a Apple Music TV show, a Google Play Music TV show, a Bandcamp podcast, a SoundCloud podcast, a Spotify podcast, a Apple Music podcast, a Google Play Music podcast, a Bandcamp radio station, a SoundCloud radio station, a Spotify radio station, a Apple Music radio station, a Google Play Music radio station, a Bandcamp live performance, a SoundCloud live performance, a Spotify live performance, a Apple Music live performance, a Google Play Music live performance, a Bandcamp live stream, a SoundCloud live stream, a Spotify live stream, a Apple Music live stream, a Google Play Music live stream, a Bandcamp live concert, a SoundCloud live concert, a Spotify live concert, a Apple Music live concert, a Google Play Music live concert, a Bandcamp live show, a SoundCloud live show, a Spotify live show, a Apple Music live show, a Google Play Music live show, a Bandcamp live performance, a SoundCloud live performance, a Spotify live performance, a Apple Music live performance, a Google Play Music live performance, a Bandcamp live stream, a SoundCloud live stream, a Spotify live stream, a Apple Music live stream, a Google Play Music live stream, a Bandcamp live concert, a SoundCloud live concert, a Spotify live concert, a Apple Music live concert, a Google Play Music live concert, a Bandcamp live show, a SoundCloud live show, a Spotify live show, a Apple Music live show, a Google Play Music live show, a Bandcamp live performance, a SoundCloud live performance, a Spotify live performance, a Apple Music live performance, a Google Play Music live performance, a Bandcamp live stream, a SoundCloud live stream, a Spotify live stream, a Apple Music live stream, a Google Play Music live stream, a Bandcamp live concert, a SoundCloud live concert, a Spotify live concert, a Apple Music live concert, a Google Play Music live concert, a Bandcamp live show, a SoundCloud live show, a Spotify live show, a Apple Music live show, a Google Play Music live show.

Theme for March:
Justice in all its dimensions. The multi-faceted and omnipresent criminal justice system is the most concrete and consequential manifestation of what justice means in material terms in the US. Yet concepts of justice float in and out of political consciousness in many ways. At a national level we are witnessing ongoing debates about procedural justice: who has to follow what rules, and why, and when do they apply? Debates about whether to sharply increase tax rates on earnings of over ten million dollars, or to tax capital gains in the same way that income might be taxed, rest on beliefs about justice—and no matter whether we are at the state or country level, there are obligations to ensure, as Martha Nussbaum puts it, a threshold of real opportunity to all citizens.

In September of last year, President Trump made a major policy address to the United Nations assembly. He offered assurances to other countries that they need not fear interference in their administration in their internal affairs. “America will always choose independence and cooperation over globalism and domination. I honor the right of every nation in this room to pursue its own interests and ambitions.” The nations[@] of the world will not tell you how to live or work or worship. And then—oops, at the end of this very speech, Trump abandoned the policy. Not long ago, Venezuela was one of the richest countries on Earth. Today, socialism has bankrupted the oil-rich nation and driven its people into abject poverty. In that spirit, today, we are announcing another attack against the repressive regime, targeting [Venezuelan President] Maduro’s inner circle and close advisors.” And not long after that, people in the US embassy in Caracas, along with officials from our National Security Council, were worked up into an absolute frenzy by the knowledge of the government’s intention to arrest President Maduro’s. They decided on a strategy, got Trump on board, and gave VP Mike Pence the job of calling a young leader of the Venezuelan opposition to tell him that the US would back him as “Interim President.” It appears our enthusiasm for seeking “regime change” in oil producing nations has not abated.

In the final analysis it seems that this is the way to change—by what we respond to change—whose problem is it when the climate rises? Weigh in with your ideas and stories. The deadline for the March issue is February 17.

Theme for April:
April: the food issue! Production, consumption, transformation.
May: International Workers’ Day and the evolution of work.

And then this happened...

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Theme for this issue:
For February, we invited stories that might speak to the idea of a rural-urban divide. So we have a visit to Rochester, a look at water which of course is always moving no real boundaries, checking in on the “rural” side of the moon, an idea of how jobs and the environment ought to be compared in Grays Harbor County, a reminder that indigenous tribes who never ceded the title to their remote areas are threatened by fossil fuel zealots, and a report on how a small town in Oregon stepped up to fix a problem.

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May: International Workers’ Day and the evolution of work.
Chris Carson was an expert grassroots organizer

by Glen Anderson

Chris Carson died January 6 at St. Pe- ter Hospital.

Without being an elected official, a business owner, a public entertainer, or any of the other roles that give a person official prominence and power, Chris Carson was one of Olympia's most influential persons. She achieved powerful influence because she was an expert grassroots organizer who was grounded in nonviolence and connected with everybody and inspired everybody to take positive action.

Chris Carson was ubiquitous. She was everywhere. She attended many organizations' meetings—sometimes briefly so she could attend other meetings occurring elsewhere at the same time.

She "connected the dots" between issues. She practiced the "connect-the-dots" strategy that people now call "intersectionality." She connected the movements for peace, women's rights, economic justice, progressive politics, the climate, prisoners' right to read books, and many, many other issues.

Besides connecting these on an issue-to-issue basis, she also connected those issues on a people-to-people basis throughout our community. She was always organizing strategically smart and creative ways for people to learn and take action. She accomplished much of this work by organizing film showings, musical performances, social gatherings, big events and small conversations.

She did all of this without owning a computer at home, without a reliable phone answering machine. She was most effective organizing the old-fashioned way, person-to-person, face-to-face.

Chris had her own unique voice. She was not shy about offering insights, experiences, suggestions for effective actions, and encouragements for how other people could help support grassroots efforts on important issues. Her suggestions and encouragements often were strategically useful for strengthening local interpersonal and community-based connections and empowerment that are absolutely necessary for achieving effective political and social progress.

She did not hog down in academic or technical knowledge. She knew that what we need most are empowerment and strategies for organizing so we can accomplish effective actions.

Chris always saw the big picture, and she also saw the importance of paying attention to small details that would make an event bigger and more effective.

In the same way, besides working on big issues and big events, Chris also valued each individual person. Face-to-face conversations were important. During our memorial event on Mon- day January 14 at Capitol Theater, one of the speakers asked audience members to raise their hands if they had driven Chris home, and about a hundred hands shot up. Very often after driving Chris home, she would engage her drivers in long conversations.

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Chris Carson was an expert grassroots organizer who was grounded in nonviolence and connected with everybody and inspired everybody to take positive action.

Chris, left, classically connecting with women in local government. Photo by Tracyj Carlos

Energizing labor and environmentalists

A Green New Deal for rural economies

Linda Orgel

“People talk often about the infrastruc- ture investment that has to happen... but there’s also an industrial plan that needs to happen to build entirely new industries. It’s sort of like the moon-shot. When JFK said America was go- ing to go to the moon, none of the things we needed to get to the moon at that point existed. But we tried and we did it. The Green New Deal touches everything—it’s ba- sically a massive system upgrade for the economy.”

Saskat Chakrabarti, Chief of Staff to Rep. Octavio-Cortez

Recently, Representative Der- ek Kilmer, 6th Congressional District, met with regional representatives of federal agencies, state agencies and private groups, along with Gray Harbor County government leaders, busi- nesses, and individuals, to discuss economic development in the County.

It got me wondering whether there were any representatives from labor unions or environmental groups, both active in the area. Perhaps there were, but I’m doubtful. Economic develop- ment discussions often exclude these groups.

Who sees that we need resources for the future as well as the present? There is a clear explanation for isolat- ing these two groups. Convventional opinion is that union and environ- mental activities burden a company’s profits. In reality, such activities are essential to economic growth over time. Both the labor and the environ- mental movements grew out of the same seed: the desire for safe and healthy workplaces and communities.

Historically, the labor movement in America was created in an effort to protect people at work from abuses such as long hours and unsafe working conditions. The emergence of unions reflected the fact that working people found grounding in nonviolence. Non- violence is crucial for how to organize success- fully to achieve our goals.

Although limited in health and fi- nances, Chris was generous in many ways. She was efficient in using her time and energy, with bringing food for potlucks, and in her generosity of spirit for other persons. For Chris, it was more important to prioritize doing good work than to meet her own needs, including her own health.

Anyone wanting to do good work in the world could learn much and be inspired deeply by Chris Carson as a role model.

Glen Anderson has vigorously orga- nized in Olympia for many issues related to peace, social justice, and eco- nomics since 1975, and worked closely with Chris Carson on many issues and activities for most of that time.
Top down educational reforms impoverish our schools, our teachers, our communities

Sarah Ringer

Teachers are distressed. A recent survey in British Columbia found that two-thirds of teachers felt “stressed and emotionally exhausted all, or most of the time.” In the United States, 40% of teachers reported being “very stressed” in five years, leaving schools with inexperienced teachers who often are assigned to teach the most challenging and vulnerable students.

It’s not the kids.

Most people become teachers because they want to make a difference in children’s lives. Educating students in a well-structured and supportive school is a positive experience for all. Evidence from a Northwest Evaluation Association survey in 2014 found 90% of them believe their teachers care about their learning.

What about top down education “reform”?

Could it be the degradation, commercialization and privatization of public education caused by top down educational reform—driven by greed and the false measure of standardized test scores? Teachers at a conference I just returned from think so. Over 200 union educators came from all over Canada, Mexico and the United States as well as Great Britain, Ecuador, Belize, and Pakistan. They had in common a frustration with “educational reform” as described above. They came to the conference with their research and experiences in hopes of coming up with ways to work together to defend public education.

The XIII Tri-National Conference in the Defense of Public Education took place in the mountain town of Orizaba, Veracruz, Mexico. Historically, the town is notable for the Rio Blanco Strike, seen as a main event leading to the Mexican Revolution. On January 7, 1907, striking textile workers battled with mounted police and Federal troops leaving seventy strikers dead and hundreds injured. Stories and photographs of dead workers circulated and stirred up revulsion against Porfirio Diaz’s corrupt regime.

Before the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) went into effect, education union organizers from Canada, Mexico and the United States learned of a plan for an “educational reform campaign” that would support NAFTA’s economic integration by creating a “North American identity.” Organizers in those countries, Dan Leal, Director of the Evergreen Labor Education Center in Olympia, Washington, and the conference “Future of Public Education in North America” in January of 1993. The conference was attended by over 200 education union delegates from the three countries.

Many of them came together again in Mexico City in February of 1995—one year after NAFTA was signed—to form the Tri-National Coalition in Defense of Public Education. Since that time, every two to three years, the Tri-National Coalition meets to dissect and analyze the effects of NAFTA and its neoliberal policies on public education.

Policies and practices that erode public education

Teachers no longer feel respected. A British Columbia Teachers’ Federation survey of 38,000 teachers from 2017 found that 92% felt disrespected by their government, 72% by the media and 72% by their own district-level administration. The disrespect comes from the lack of meaningful professional support, not enough time for collaborative planning, preparation time, insufficient student services, bureaucratic requirements that have little to do with educating, poor working conditions, lack of access to resources and, pointedly, school reform that comes from above, not out of teacher or student needs.

Using test scores to sort and eliminate students, teachers and schools

Disenfranchised school reforms from outside the classroom lead to the degradation of public education. Standardized tests that treat students like they are all the same disregard individual, community and cultural differences. Taught second language students who took the same tests and were evaluated as if they were the same as native speakers with college-educated parents.

The United Kingdom in 2001 decided to turn some public schools into academies based on “low test scores.” Parents, some as concerned about the “illusion of choice and the fetish of quality” according to Louise Regan, President of the National Education Union. Financial incentives encouraged them to enroll their children in the academies. Today, 47% of UK students attend these academies with no democratic oversight. Students who don’t do well are “off rolled” removed from attendance rosters like they no longer exist.

Poor test scores are also used as an excuse to cut services. In Chicago, officials are closing schools, and presiding over a system with greater segregation than before Brown v Board of Education, the landmark Supreme Court ruling that outlawed separate public schools for White and Black students. The solution in Chicago was “Turn Around Schools.” They either changed the principal, charged the entire staff or closed the school. School closings can have a dire effect on communities when students have to travel further away from their homes to, in some cases, more dangerous areas.

Along with tests, replacing teachers with technology

A major component of top down school reform is the belief in technology as the savior of education. Cutting staff and programs and reducing teacher autonomy, is accompanied by the myth that technology will make up for the difference. In a small high school in the outskirts Orizaba, the myth is all there is. As part of the conference, we visited local schools around the area.

We took a twenty-minute drive to El Encinar, a Distance Learning TeleHigh School that offers “Telebachilleres de Veracruz,” a TV diploma. There are over 1,000 TV schools in the Mexican state of Veracruz. They are supposed to reach the poorest students and by delivering teaching via satellite with “scripted learning” guided by teachers on site. This school had one television for 130 students. Most of the schools in the area had only desks, a table and a white board. The school was not free, parents paid $70 and a materials fee of $40 a semester. The teachers are the lowest paid in the state.

El Encinar teacher Enrique Reyes was lucid. “Greed knows no limits. Teachers are kept busy and in a constant crisis mode that deters organizing. It started in Mexico with airlines and then went to higher education. Concepts like privatization and commercialization have invaded schooling, along with entrepreneurship. Original concepts are marginalized as old style or from the past. Education is now a business. Directors become more concerned with making profit to keep schools going than with the quality of education. We need to fight this.”

Although Canadian and American teachers didn’t complain about a shortage of technology, there were concerns about the quality of the software, and the safety of their and their students’ data and how it is used by 3.4 million votes nationally to Labor through their activism.”

The conference closed with the kind of camaraderie that comes from sharing meals, stories and dances. We made agreements to go back home and keep the stories and issues alive. Union members agreed to make teachers’ health and stress a bargaining issue using the example of Ontario’s union who recently bargained a one-year moratorium on any new Ministry of Education or local school board initiatives or programs.

Since the XIII Tri-National in Orizaba ended November 11, a new Mexican president, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, has taken office. The new president, in a recent radio address on December 1, he made the gratifying announcement that he will work to end the debilitating monetary crisis and bring on a new era of public education in Mexico that serves the needs of students, communities and their teachers, not business interests.

Sarah Ringer retired from teaching at Paparo Valley Middle School, and as Vice President Paparo Valley Federation of Teachers Local 2058.

A Playback Theatre performance

This is Me!

Featuring The Thunders and in collaboration with People First of Thurston County

Friday, February 8, 2019 • 7:30 p.m.
Traditions Café – 300 5th Ave. SW
Cost: Suggested Donation $7.00-$12.00
Free Pick Up & Delivery

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Each month we invite a guest artist(s), or the work individuals and organizations do in our community. Through this collaboration we acknowledge and honor the work individuals and organizations do in our community.

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This is Me! A Playback Theatre performance

Sarah Ringler
A Green New Deal promotes sustainability, resilience and growth

Greg Carlock and Emily Mangan

1. A Green New Deal addresses both urban and rural needs

As cities and suburban areas grow, and as corporate power increased, labor and environmentalists—along with their communities—have lost ground. Since that time, however, both labor and environmentalists—along with their communities—have lost ground. This corporate lie has helped to undermine support for environmental protection. Corporations have pursued. Often presented as “jobs versus the environment,” these conflicts have captured the most attention and helped to shape the perception that environmental protection is antithetical to economic expansion, job preser-
avation, the interests of workers, and the survival of communities.

“...to declare national policy which will encourage pro-
ductive and enjoyable har-
mony between man and his environment, to promote efforts which will prevent or eliminate damage by the expansion of con-
sumerism and biohazard and stimulate the health and safety of man...”

Workers are more productive,
bosses take the fruits

Workers are more productive, bosses take the fruits of profit for its executives and shareholders. Often presented as “jobs versus the environment,” these conflicts have captured the most attention and helped to shape the perception that environmental protection is not compatible with economic growth. This has had the effect of draining human capital, and thus, the human capital that can advance policies that protect both working people and the natural environment. Corporations have pursued. Often presented as “jobs versus the environment,” these conflicts have captured the most attention and helped to shape the perception that environmental protection is not compatible with economic growth. This has had the effect of draining human capital, and thus, the human capital that can advance policies that protect both working people and the natural environment.

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...acting together [labor and environmental organizations] can advance policies that protect both working people and the natural environment.

From page 3 involved environmental and workplace impacts and were supported by both labor and environmentalists. Fair Labor Standards Act 1938 and subsequent amendments, the Occupational Safety & Health Adminis-

Preventing or eliminating damage

When unions and environmental organizations form an alliance, they can advance policies that protect both working people and the natural environment. This corporate lie has helped to undermine support for environmental protection. Corporations have pursued. Often presented as “jobs versus the environment,” these conflicts have captured the most attention and helped to shape the perception that environmental protection is not compatible with economic growth. This has had the effect of draining human capital, and thus, the human capital that can advance policies that protect both working people and the natural environment. This corporate lie has helped to undermine support for environmental protection. Corporations have pursued. Often presented as “jobs versus the environment,” these conflicts have captured the most attention and helped to shape the perception that environmental protection is not compatible with economic growth. This has had the effect of draining human capital, and thus, the human capital that can advance policies that protect both working people and the natural environment. This corporate lie has helped to undermine support for environmental protection. Corporations have pursued. Often presented as “jobs versus the environment,” these conflicts have captured the most attention and helped to shape the perception that environmental protection is not compatible with economic growth. This has had the effect of draining human capital, and thus, the human capital that can advance policies that protect both working people and the natural environment. This corporate lie has helped to undermine support for environmental protection. Corporations have pursued. Often presented as “jobs versus the environment,” these conflicts have captured the most attention and helped to shape the perception that environmental protection is not compatible with economic growth. This has had the effect of draining human capital, and thus, the human capital that can advance policies that protect both working people and the natural environment. This corporate lie has helped to undermine support for environmental protection.

They also reduce the burden on em-
ployers and the Environment Movement, argues that labor unions and environmental movement organizations are among the most powerful social movement sectors in the United States. When they are capable of acting together they can advance policies that protect both working people and the natural environment. This corporate lie has helped to undermine support for environmental protection. Corporations have pursued. Often presented as “jobs versus the environment,” these conflicts have captured the most attention and helped to shape the perception that environmental protection is not compatible with economic growth. This has had the effect of draining human capital, and thus, the human capital that can advance policies that protect both working people and the natural environment. This corporate lie has helped to undermine support for environmental protection. Corporations have pursued. Often presented as “jobs versus the environment,” these conflicts have captured the most attention and helped to shape the perception that environmental protection is not compatible with economic growth. This has had the effect of draining human capital, and thus, the human capital that can advance policies that protect both working people and the natural environment.

A Green New Deal is the way forward

A Green New Deal is the way forward. It calls for a transformation of our economy, our infrastructure, and how we move ourselves from one place to another and form an alliance with treaty-tribes, community citizens, railroad, longshore workers, maritime work-
ners, farmers, local environmental organizations, and business leaders to preserve Grays Harbor and its wa-
terways from the dangers posed by an influx of crude oil tankers. This collect-
eive effort could foster tremendous job opportunities if allowed to flourish.

Linda Orgel lives in rural Grays Harbor County on the south shore of Grays Harbor Estuary. Along with her husband and family, she is active in community groups fighting for environmental, social, and economic justice.

A Green New Deal requires a massive workforce for the construction, opera-
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It takes an organizer to build a movement, and we really need to build a movement

Mark Bean

I have spent four months writing about how a group of Olympia carpenters learned to get organized and act as a community of carpenters. I told the story of how building a community and finding allies created something beyond just the interests of carpenters. In the course of my writing two questions emerged: What does it mean to be an organizer? Why do we need them now?

My early experiences as a non-union carpenter led me to the union, and eventually to learning the skills necessary to become an organizer. But I also derived an understanding of who I was from my mother and her family. My father's family were small business people who organized differently, but nonetheless organized. I recognized I was working class from family.

I worked many types of jobs prior to becoming a union carpenter. All were for wages. None had the protection of a union contract. A change in my working life began when I worked for a concrete subcontractor on a job at the Washington Center for Performing Arts around 1983. It was a prevailing wage job, where carpenters were supposed to be paid an hourly wage equal to the pay of a union carpenter. I discovered that my fellow carpenters and I weren't being paid the prevailing wage; we were being cheated. I set out to learn about the situation, and made a prevailing wage claim for myself and a few other carpenters with the Department of Labor & Industries. We won—and received the balance owed to us. I think that was my first organizing effort.

Organizing doesn't take some mysterious ability. It's a skill that can be taught and learned. I was lucky and seized the opportunity to attend an organizing school in our backyard at the Labor Center of The Evergreen State College. It took nine months of study, discussion, and practice. We learned to listen and be patient, and respectful of others, accepting them from where they were, and helping them to grow. We were taught to make estimates and think strategically. I learned that an organizer has to be reliable, dependable, and able to show up on time, and take responsibility. We looked for common beliefs and ideas in a group. Organizers also continue to learn new skills. They stay grounded in their community in order to learn from their experience.

I'm writing this on MLK Day and thinking of the work and inspiration Dr. King's organizing brought to that social movement. Martin Luther King, Jr. had a dream that envisioned a just and equal society—in the distance, on a mountaintop. In his metaphor, he saw organizers as the mission of the Civil Rights Movement. But it took skilled organizers, from the Highlander School-trained organizer to the Swede Hall organizer across the country, to build organizations with enough power to take on the racist and racist institutions of our country to end Jim Crow. This was not dreaming, but acting.

In the early 20th century, organizers worked hard enough and convincing enough to convince part of the pie created by labor productivity. Washington state history celebrates how labor took local government in the Washington State General Election of 1919. These large social movements did not just spring up overnight. They were the result of organizing effort—years and years in churches, union halls, and neighborhoods. Rosa Parks was born in an individual act of courage, to get up her seat to a white woman. She was a Highlander School-trained organizer.

We need organizers in order to rebuild our neighborhoods and communities to act for more just purposes.

The Montgomery Bus Boycott began with her act after much planning and organizing. Recently on a walk around the Port of Olympia area, I ran into a group of retired carpenters working on an old wooden sailboat. I had worked with them out of the hall in the back. They were resurrecting the Megan S into an exhibit for the Hands-On Children's Museum. Here was a bunch of guys that had also been together during the organizing effort they had to do to get easy to join the crew the next day on the boat. It felt good to be working together, joining together to do something outside myself. An organizer is trained to see what people want and are ready for a purpose, even one as simple as refurbishing a boat.

Similarly, we all know people, friends and neighbors living together through common experiences, some very good, some not so pleasant. And many of us desire to make a difference, to make things better for those less fortunate than ourselves. We are members of groups, formal and informal, and in those groups is where an organizer looks to build a movement of people to build power and strategy towards some better future.

I know that in the core of these older carpenters is that spark and memory of marching together for our common good with a purpose, born through our experience. It is our neighbors too have that same feeling. However, they aren't organized to reach a goal together. It will take organizers to help them to act by bringing them together to see and hear each other. This is the way we build energy to change social circumstances.

We need organizers in order to rebuild our neighborhoods and communities to act for more just purposes. Organizers educate people in order to organize. Organizers help workers and organizers now. Our position as working people has been eroded and worsened by rules and regulations. There are powerful corporate interests. The future of a cooperative, just and equal society will depend on our organizers and ourselves.

Mark Bean is a retired carpenter and organizer. He was born and grew up on the westside of Olympia.

Rural Thurston

From page 1 of accidents that coexist with other traffic problems and the fact there's no place to go without driving. At 2 pm on a recent Tuesday, traffic was backed up so far on Hiway 12 that it took two changes of the light to get through the tough left turn intersection.

Rochester relies on a level of volunteerism that takes on tasks that might elsewhere be carried out by government. ROOF performs the social services functions listed earlier. Their budget comes 55% from foundation grants. ROOF has applied for and received grants from a Community Investment Partnership (CIP) but those monies come and go. At the time of my visit, the food bank was flush with holiday contributions, including stacked containers of food from a Great Wolf food drive and other local contribution. By summer, according to McNelly, the abundance will have disappeared. The shelves of a decent-sized small library are filled with random donated books. Significantly there is a computer terminal maintained by the Timberland Library System so people can order books and materials. Volunteers cover the two days per week the library is open. Volunteers staff a fire museum, and related issues. They have been busy with those house fires.

There are a couple of social spaces where the Rochester community comes together. Swede Hall preserves a rural tradition with its once-a-month dance. It’s also the host of “Swede Day” and memory of marching together for our common good with a purpose, born through our experience. It is our neighbors too have that same feeling. However, they aren’t organized to reach a goal together. It will take organizers to help them to act by bringing them together to see and hear each other. This is the way we build energy to change social circumstances.

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The death of Yvonne McDonald

At a recent showing of live animals by The Reptile Zoo has a facility in Monroe, Washington, and also tours a show to area schools and other venues. The Reptile Zoo, but did respect-fully give an hour to hear the animal rights community’s perspective on zoos. They stated that the Wet Science Center would take this perspective into serious consideration when planning future events.

Opportunities to support positive treatment of animals

Concern for animal rights is a burgeoning movement in Olympia. Local activists connect through social media, local events calendars and postings, and The Evergreen Vegan Club to organize protests, street outreach, and workshops. The next opportunity to meet local vegan activists and get involved is an Introduction to Veganism workshop on Monday, February 4 from 5:30 to 7:30 at the Olympia Timberland Library. This workshop is the second in an ongoing series of free, once-per-month classes offered by local activists to educate and empower community members to become vegans.

If you and your family enjoy opportunities to see and learn about animals while creating a better world for them, there are places to visit like Pasado’s Safe Haven in Sultan, Washington or Pig’s Peace Sanctuary in Stanwood, Washington, with a strong track record for providing sanctuary to animals.

Heather Sundeen lives in Tumwater and is a long-time vegan. She also helps with the WIP website.

Lisa Ganser is a white, Disabled, genderqueer, sidewalk chalker and Poverty Scholar. They live on Squaxin, Chehalis and Nisqually land and are the daughter of a Momma named Sam.

Concern for animal rights highlighted by protesters at the Wet Science Center

Yvonne demanded justice for others. In her death, others must make this demand for her.

Lisa Ganser

Black, 56 year old, former Evergreen student and activist Yvonne McDonald was found by a street sweeper near her home in Olympia on the morning of August 7th, 2016. Yvonne was covered in scratches, cuts and bruises, her clothes were torn, and her shoes and purse were placed eerily beside her. Yvonne died later that night at the hospital, having suffered severe trauma, hypothermia and blood loss. Yvonne’s family and community are shocked and heartbroken by the sudden and frightening circumstances of their loved one’s violent death. They are equally outraged and angry at the lack of care and investigation by the City of Olympia.

Instead of following leads and pursuing justice for Yvonne, the Olympia Police Dept. and coroner’s office have pushed narratives that blame Yvonne for her own death. City of Olympia officials have repeatedly said that they are waiting on the toxic screen results of Yvonne’s body, as if having chemicals in her body justifies the violence she did not survive. Yvonne’s family has been waiting six months with no resolution.

The city manager and police don’t return calls or information requests from Yvonne’s family. The crime scene was not treated as a crime scene, there’ve been no interviews of potential witnesses, and evidence has been lost or destroyed. Possible leads—including potential evidence of a vehicular assault—have been dismissed by the coroner’s office.

Yvonne McDonald survived and resisted sexism, violence, racial bias, and anti-Black racism in her 56 years. Those systemic oppressions continue after her death, with the lack of investigation by Olympia police and their co-workers at the coroner’s and prosecutor’s office. In life, Yvonne demanded justice for others. In death, it is others who must make this demand for her.

The Reptile Zoo claims to have a mission of educating the public about wildlife conservation and respect for animals. However, the Reptile Zoo is a for-profit business, not a sanctuary or rescue operation that offers refuge or a natural, healthy environment for animals.

The Reptile Zoo’s cruel and counterproductive practices reinforce the attitude that animals exist for the use of humans, and set dangerous examples for children to understand what respect for animals truly means.

Animals too have a right to be respected From an animal rights perspective, the Reptile Zoo’s practices are clearly in violation of animals’ inherent value as sentient beings. Each animal’s life and well-being matters to that animal. Animals deserve, and have a right to, the fundamental respect of being free from exploitation by humans as the means to an end. Thus, they cannot be used, period—for food, clothing, entertainment, or any other purpose.

Sparks met with two environmental educators on staff at the Wet Science Center one week prior to the event. The educators declined to cancel hosting the Reptile Zoo, but did respectfully give an hour to hear the animal rights community’s perspective on zoos. They stated that the Wet Science Center would take this perspective into serious consideration when planning future events.

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The Reptile Zoo’s practice of using animals for entertainment, to the strong detriment of the well-being of the animals themselves, does not support its supposed “mission” of wildlife conservation and appreciation for animals. The Reptile Zoo’s cruel and counterproductive practices reinforce the attitude that animals exist for the use of humans, and set dangerous examples for children to understand what respect for animals truly means.

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Will women on the move turn into a movement?

The energy and hunger expressed in the original Women’s March helped to embolden women from outside the establishment to run for office. It helped make them winners at the polls. They brought radical views and a drive to redirect government in favor of the mass of people into state and federal offices.

Can this energy and hunger be organized into a movement that preserves that boldness? Note this reminder from The People’s Summit convened by the National Nurses United in 2017: “Movements and electoral politics nourish each other. But electoral politics can also smother movements. The challenge is how to keep the movements alive. Movements flourish when there are politicians in office who have reasons to be afraid of them.”

Women on the move

National Nurses United converged at Women’s Marches in January to highlight the importance of unions to women and working people. Teachers—women by and large—have emerged to demand quality public education. United Teachers of LA organized in their schools, with parents, and communities for 4 years. When they could not get a contract that supported public schools, their organizing work paid off in a powerful and successful strike.

So, in the third year of the Trump administration, throngs of women showed up on January 19, in Olympia, in Seattle, in cities across the US and across the world, signaling their continued presence. Demanding attention to the issues that affect our day-to-day lives: inequality, poverty, racism, demonization of immigrants and others, greed… Telling everyone that what is at stake is our communities, our families, our future. The task now is to form the energy and hunger into a durable movement.

Photos on these pages were taken January 19 by Ricky Osbourne (in Olympia) and Lindsey Dalthorpe (in Seattle).
February 2019 Works In Progress Page 9

Photo by Ricky Osbourne

Photo by Lindsey Dalthorpe

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Photo by Ricky Osbourne

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Listen to the living world around you

**Braiding Sweetgrass**
by Robin Wall Kimmerer
Milkweed Editions, 2013

Jean Maust

As a scientist and an enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Robin Wall Kimmerer weaves together stories of indigenous traditions, her experiences as a botanist, her sensuous mother, and practitioner of crafting and harvesting. And always, she is listening to the living world around her.

Braiding Sweetgrass has five sections, each naming an interaction of the author and sweetgrass: planting, tending, picking, braiding and burning. The essay describes both literal and spiritual relationships. For example, when Kimmerer talks about tending sweetgrass, she says she does not take without receiving consent, does not take without giving thanks or an offering of some kind, and does not take it all.

“We don’t have to figure everything out by ourselves: there are intelligences other than our own, teachers all around us. Imagine how much less lonely the world would be,” Kimmerer says in a chapter that beautifully illustrates how cultural and spiritual perspectives shape language—and vice versa.

Her words are vivid, precise, gentle and lyrical. She expresses gratitude for the generosity in nature and asks herself and her readers what we can give back to the earth. “Whatever our gift, we are called to give it and to dance for the renewal of the world. In return for the privilege of breath.”

Jean Maust lives in Tenino and is an active reader.

Where's the water?

From page 1

The water level of an aquifer below that needed for minimum streamflow. The smaller the stream, the more significant the effect. Some wells can continue to pump water from the ground long after a stream runs dry.

Consider that most water consumption is used outside in summer when streams are already running low. Consider also that 80% of the water used outside the home for irrigation is lost to evaporation compared to only 10% loss of water used indoors that drains into a home septic system. Though the new law has no requirement to address climate change its projected effects will only exacerbate our water woes as summers become more dry and the winter rainy season becomes shorter and more intense, so that aquifers do not fully recharge.

Will mitigation work?

ESRB 6969 criteria for an acceptable project to mitigate the effect of future permit exempt wells on streamflows rests on the concept of “net ecologically beneficial” (NEB). Ideally, mitigation would replace water from the same stream at the same time of year. However, Ecology’s definition of a NEB is quite broad. It would allow mitigation to occur anywhere in the same subbasin of the watershed. Projects that are most beneficial to fish would get higher priority, though there are no specifics on actually monitoring the net benefits of a project after it is completed.

So far, WRIA 11, the Nisqually watershed, has completed its plan. George Water, Environmental Program Supervisor for the Nisqually Indian Tribe will speak on the history of the Nisqually Watershed plan. The proposed projects now await Department of Ecology approval and subsequent approval of funds to implement them. The State has allocated just $20 million per year for water projects to enhance stream flows across the entire state. WRIA 11 will be competing for these funds with projects in other watersheds.

Opportunities available to rural communities

Another forum, to be held in Yelm, will focus rural communities and the challenges to, along with solutions for, their water issues.

Representatives from the Thurston Conservation District will talk about strategies residents can use to conserve water and help recharge aquifers. Without a recharged aquifer, residential development, agriculture and stream life will all suffer. Agriculture, as a major consumer of water in the summer months when water is scarce, has the ability to help preserve our watershed through efficient methods of irrigation. The Conservation District continues to work with farmers to help them make the best use of their natural resources through its Voluntary Stewardship Program.

Information will also be available from NutriCulture Northwest about the use of biochar as a fertilizer and soil enhancer, as well as a means to conserve water. A Department of Ecology soil scientist said, “Biochar is one of the most significant and game-changing solutions we have for stabilizing carbon in soil and realizing the agricultural benefits of fertilizer use efficiency and moisture retention.” Its use by gardeners and farmers would help enrich our soil to grow nutrient dense food, sequester carbon, transform organic waste to fertilizer and conserve water.

Water is life

The League encourages members of the public to attend any or all of the forums - watch for details of time and place in WIP and elsewhere. Growing demand for water puts pressure on our resources and poses challenges that need the understanding and participation of all of us. Refresh yourself and your knowledge – get the information you’ll need to have a voice in decisions about our environment.

Esther Kronenberg is a member of the Water Study Group of the League of Women Voters of Thurston County https://www.thelysmpian.com/opin/ editorial/article224270305.html

Where's the water series

This series of presentations on water in Thurston County is presented by the League of Women Voters. Presentations are at the Olympia Center, except for the third meeting which will be in Yelm.

Tuesday, Feb 5 at 6 pm. General Water and Streamflow in Thurston County, Kevin Hansen, County Hydrogeologist. The Nisqually River and Estuary at I-5 as a Dam, David Troutt, Natural Resources Director for the Nisqually Tribe.

Tuesday, March 5 at 6 pm. Women Voters of Thurston County, Tuesday, March 16 at 6 pm. Women Voters. Presentations are at the Olympia Center, except for the third meeting which will be in Yelm.

Tuesday, May 7 at 6 pm. Storm Water and Toxic Runoff.

Todd Miller—Storming the Wall. Climate Change, Migration and Homeland Security.
Nomi Prins—It takes a Pillage. Rob Nixon—Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor.
Francisco Cantu—The Line Becomes a River.
Peter Gabel—The Desire for Mutual Recognition. Social Movements and the Dissolution of the False Self.
The small drop of water can sometimes reflect the sun. This moment of reckoning illustrates that is, it has the ability to throw light on the concealed reality of the political untruths. Keeping this in mind, we need to make sure we translate that power into policy.

Last year we brought the power to the polls, and this year we need to make sure we translate that power into policy.

The attacks and the failed campaign of “victorisation” against AOC are the expression of a capitalist political untruth. It is conscious triggered by the fact that her presence is a constant reminder of the failure of the American capitalist system. The Left has proclaimed victories, even if short lived, they have been governors and mayors that are willing to provide support of people at the core of the struggle. This conviction and this support will motivate the battles to come. Shortly after her victory in New York’s 14th Congressional District, in an interview with Amy Goodman, AOC summarized her strategy as follows: “I knew we were going to win. The way that progressives win on an unapologetic message is by expanding the electorate. That is the only way that we can win strategically. It is not by rushing to the center. It is not by trying to win spending all of our energy winning over those who have been broken by the capitalist system. It is expanding the electorate, speaking to those who feel disenfranchised, dejected, cynical about our politics, and letting them know that we are fighting for them.”

The true sin is that AOC’s knowledge thrives within the “progressive bubble.” As is to be expected, defenders of finance capitalism have their square within their castegory eye. The more serious world, knowledge would not be a sin. Until that time, let us all become better, bolder sinners for the cause.

Enrique Quintero writes regularly in Monthly Review and is a member of the Publishing Committee.
As soon as folks saw the spraypainting, volunteers got to work painting. Weapons wrapped in a Don’t Tread On Me flag were found nearby, sparking outrage. Neighbors immediately joined together to build a stronger community, to condemn the spray-painting of hate symbols and address the situation to interrupt the scapegoating of youth by their community. At the Cave Junction City Council meeting the next Monday, Councilor Lindsey Jones delivered a statement that emphasized how the community’s immediate response upheld their shared values:

Tonight, I would like to use the privilege of my time in front of the City Council to condemn the spray-painting of hate symbols and hate crimes that occurred in Cave Junction over last Friday night. I, like many of you, learned Saturday morning of graffiti representing hate groups and dangerous paraphernalia that were discovered throughout the town. The offense was found on residents’ private property and on local businesses.

It makes me simultaneously sad for and infuriated at the offending party. It makes me ashamed that these hurtful images occurred in our town. This is not who we are. Hate crimes are unacceptable and unaccept- able here.

But more than talk about that offense, I would like to highlight and praise our community’s reactions.

First, to hardworking and justice-seek- ing community leader, Jimmy Evans I give my everlasting gratitude for all of your service in our city. Thank you for alerting the community to the situation and ensuring law enforcement was contacted. Thank you and your team at CJ Patrol for keeping watch over our city and for helping victims recover from wrongdoings.

Second, to those of you who offered to help and offered resources to condemn the offense, That’s you. Your generosity and communi- ty pride is evident. Let’s continue to find ways to work together to make our town more beautiful and equi- table for all. And to those who speak out courageously against this crime and the injustice that it represents, keep it up. Lift up your voice and support others who do the same. And know, that you are not alone and that I am here with you.

And finally, an observation. I observed many making judgments that this act was committed by a teen. It’s offensive and dis- couraging to blame our local youth without evidence. In my direct work with our teens in our community, I have proof that we have a cohort of kind, generous and creative youth. Let us lift them up, let us lift up those qualities and let’s celebrate their successes rather than placing blame, especially when it does not belong to them. And perhaps by blaming it on “kids being kids” we are trying to lessen the impact of the disgusting messages that that graffiti represented. Trying to lessen the pain or sweep that hate under the rug, ignoring this problem won’t make it better. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr famously said, “darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only Love can do that.”

So, dear community, let us be the light and love that uplift and THAT is who our community is and that is what we are about.

Councilor Jones’ statement was met with applause from the audience, and outrage was accompanied by hope and community pride. Members of Cave Junction Homeless Alliance spoke to the potential for a task force or group of volunteers to address the spray-painting because they faced several challenges during the initial clean-up, including finding paint that matched the buildings, getting permission from business owners who were out of town, and inclement weather. Members of the Alliance requested City coopera- tion for the task force, including a plan to cover vandalism and hate symbols that could be implemented if business owners are not able to be reached. The ideals surfaced at the City Council meeting will be further discussed and put into motion!

When a community is shaken by bra- zed acts of white supremacy, we dem- onstrate our power together through our response, no matter how simple it may seem. Folks in Cave Junction joined together to show that they are a community of love who will show up when their neighbors are targeted with hate. City leadership also deliv- ered an immediate and powerful re- sponse in solidarity with the commu- nity, denouncing the hateful message and taking community concerns seri- ously. Together, community members and elected officials responded in a unified voice to declare that hate has no place in Cave Junction. Let us be in the light!

The Rural Organizing Project with a tiny staff coordinates hundreds of volunteer leaders and thousands of supporters in communities across the state on every front in rural Oregon. The group’s structure— enables and requires ROP to focus on organizing and grassroots leadership development to maintain the depth and breadth of movement-building work. The issues addressed by this work include Militia/Patriot movement and hate symbols, First Amendment and free speech, LGBTQ justice, Economic justice and the Cost of war.

Sprinkled throughout the world, people are gathering to honor the memory of a movement that踉跄了 112 years ago. We’re talking about civil rights.

Contact Glen Anderson, Councilor at (541) 672-9003, or email Back to top

Glen’s Parallax Perspectives

Footnotes to help humanity.

The end of my blog post (see below) offers some of the many sources of inspiration.

Watch Powerfully Insightful and Important TV Programs Through Your Computer or on TCTV

Everyone can watch this interview—and/or read a thorough summary of what we said—through the “TV Programs” part of my blog, www.parallaxperspectives.org. Each program and thorough summary are also posted to one or more categories listed on the blog. In this case, they are also posted to my blog’s “Religion—and Spirituality” category.

Cable TV subscribers in Thurston County can watch this interview on Thurston County Television (TCTV) three times a week throughout the entire month: Monday at 1:30 pm, every Wednesday at 5:00 pm, and every Thursday at 9:00 pm.

Questions?
Contact Glen Anderson
the TV series’ producer/host at (360) 491-9093
glenderson@integrastudio.net

Spiritual and conscientious groundings for doing good work

The February 2019 interview on Glen’s Parallax Perspectives’ series provides insight and examples for paths people can take throughout their lives that inspire and motivate them to do good work for peace, social justice, and other meaningful purposes.

We can make our world a better place—and improve our local commu- nities too—by drawing upon ins- tangible motivations to inspire and guide our efforts. Many people do good work because they are moved by motivations grounded far below the merely practical level. People who work hard to help humanity and our environment might do so to conscience—or religion—or spiritu- ality—or other meaningful groundings that inspire and guide their ef- forts.

Three guests—Selena Kilmoyer, Bob Delastrada, and Carol McKinley—share their personal stories of faith journeys and personal efforts to promote peace, social justice and other goals for a better world. (I was there just briefly how my own faith jour- ney has moved me to do the work I’ve been doing since the 1970s.) Our three guests live in Olympia now, but all came from elsewhere. Their journeys have been not only geographical but—more impor- tant—spiritual journeys that have grounded them for their positive ef- forts to help humanity.

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Rural life in the metropolis

Tenants of the South Sound

Tenants of the South Sound meeting for this organization of tenants standing together against land- lords, gentrification, discrimination and rent. For information: tenantsouthsound@gmail.com

Painting over graffiti and grasping an opportunity in rural Oregon

Rural Organizing Project
Taking the struggle for immigrant rights to our state Legislature

Lin Nelson and Bob Zeigler

Amid the hundreds of draft bills that will cross the desks of lawmakers during the 2019 Washington State legislature, there will be a few reflecting the urgent needs, plans and commitments of the immigrant rights movement.

These bills don’t suddenly materialize. They require the hard work and movement building needed to tell the story of conditions experienced around the state. Two of the key advocates and strategists are WAISN (WA Immigration and Refugee Rights) and NWIRP (Northwest Immigrant Rights Project). Both are connected to a wide range of organizations, large and small. The American Immigration Lawyers’ Association (AILA) is another key advocacy organization that collaborates and consults with WAISN and NWIRP.

Some key pieces of legislation that are being promoted:

Keep Washington Working (SB 5497)
This is at the center of immigrant rights policy this session, with strong backing from the Caucus of Color in the legislature. This bill provides comprehensive immigrant protection across the state, directing law enforcement agencies not to cooperate with ICE/ICEB (Immigration & Customs Enforcement, Customs & Border Protection). It would strengthen Washington’s status as a Sanctuary State—in contrast to federal initiatives to criminalize all undocumented immigration.

Bridge Act for Victims of Trafficking (SB 5164)
This provides state medical and economic support to victims of trafficking and abuse when people apply for Federal immigration benefits.

Extending State Healthcare Access to Young Adults
All residents of Washington, regardless of immigration status, would be eligible for state health care until the age of 26.

Safe School Bill
This draft has emerged from the Olympia-area Strengthening Sanctuary group, based on extensive interviews across the state with school staff and impacted families. It would prevent or greatly restrict Federal authorities’ access to students in schools and provide a stronger measure of privacy in the paperwork that students and their families are asked to provide.

Additionally, AILA is monitoring and advocating for other bills addressing a range of issues: improving language access in public schools, removing the US residency requirement for statutory survivors in wrongful death law suits; allowing DACA recipients to participate in the WA College Promise Scholarship program, establishing the office of H-2A compliance and farm labor; establishing a food assistance program, providing eligibility for state family assistance programs, and requiring medical care services for victims of human trafficking, adding citizenship and immigration status to the state law against discrimination.

Refugee Rights Advocacy Day
On February 5, WAISN will hold an Immigrant and Refugee Rights Advocacy Day in Olympia. This day-long event will involve workshops on the policy initiatives of the immigrant community, a noon rally and meetings with legislators. Communities from around the state will be represented, from the agricultural areas of Eastern and Northwestern Washington, to King County, to folks from the Thurston County Refugee Coalition to learn more, follow bills and send messages to legislators go to www.leg.wa.gov. Legislators in the 22nd District – Representative Beth Doglio, Representative Laurie Dolan and Senator Sam Hunt—are supportive of these efforts and are involved in shaping a bill on School Safety.

March 1 and 2
The local Strengthening Sanctuary group has urged the Olympia City Council to renew its very important Sanctuary Declaration of December 2016 by sharing a new resolution that would convey Olympia’s sanctuary commitment to the legislature. The resolution would urge the Governor and representatives to work toward laws—such as the bills outlined above—to reduce the climate of fear and affirm the dignity and safety of immigrants living in Washington.

To learn more, follow bills and send messages to legislators go to www.leg.wa.gov. For more information about this program, providing eligibility for state family assistance programs, and requiring medical care services for victims of human trafficking, adding citizenship and immigration status to the state law against discrimination, go to www.nwirp.org.

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Some speculations on the far side of the moon

Russ Frizzell

New Year’s Day saw three spectacular events in space exploration: New Horizons’ fly-by of Ultima Thule, orbital insertion of NASA’s OSIRIS-REx space probe at Near Earth Asteroid Bennu, and China landed the cutest rover ever on the lunar surface. Since NASA

Since NASA is forbidden by Congress to collaborate with China, our Far East neighbors are going it alone.

China’s rover, named “Yutu 2,” the Jade Rabbit,” is the most immediately productive mission of the three. The Jade Rabbit is there to learn from one another. It will require China. We have been playing the US versus China, our Far East neighbors are going it alone.

China’s exploration of the moon’s south polar region is a brilliant move. In this area, the Von Karman Crater, in the Aitken Basin shows some of the most interesting geology in our solar system. Water and ice reserves may exist in deep craters, and the mountains have peaks that receive year-round sunlight. This far side of the moon is free of radio chatter from earth and will be a great location for astronomical research.

Will the new “rural China” be the moon?
The surface area of the moon is 37 million square kilometers. A square kilometer is about the size of Priest Point Park. An eventual US colony on the moon might occupy 100 square kilometers. China would be free to claim the equivalent to almost four times their current land mass. With 1.4 billion people in China now, it must be an enticing prospect for them to grow as a nation.

Colonizing the moon will be also be a dangerous business. Rocket flight and space living has many hazards. For example, China allows rocket stages to separate and fall to earth in populated areas. This is especially terrifying since these contain highly toxic hypergolic fuels.

Needed: an act of Congress
We have been playing the US versus China, and their scientists. They are doing amazing things, we have a great deal to learn from one another. It will require an act of Congress to restore relations with the ambitious Chinese National Space Administration. We cooperate with Russia in space; we should be able to cooperate with China.

Russ Frizzell lives in Olympia and graduated from The Evergreen State College in 2013.

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Russ Frizzell lives in Olympia and graduated from The Evergreen State College in 2013.
An open letter to the Trump Administration
Cease interfering in Venezuela’s internal politics

The United States government must cease interfering in Venezuela’s internal politics, because the situation in the country is already ratcheting up to a more extreme and threatening level, with Trump administration officials talking of “military action” and consolidating their hold over the Venezuelan people. The upcoming presidential election in Venezuela is the best opportunity to reverse the US policy of overthrowing the government of Nicolás Maduro through extraelectoral means. While the opposition might argue that increasing the pressure on the government could allow for a more peaceful transition of power, the US support for the scenario is likely to cause the Venezuelan government to escape from its economic recession, while causing many people to die because they can’t get access to life-saving medicines.

Trump Administration works to force a coup d’état

Now the US and its allies, including OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro and Brazil’s far-right president, Jair Bolsonaro, have pushed Venezuela to the brink of civil war by recognizing National Assembly President Juan Guaidó as the new president of Venezuela and something illegal under the OAS Charter. The US’s designation has sharply accelerated Venezuela’s political crisis in the hopes of dividing the opposition, further polarizing the populace, forcing them to choose sides. The obvious, and sometimes stated goal, is to force Maduro out via a coup d’état.

The US should have learned something from its regime change ventures in Iraq, Syria, Libya, and its long, violent history of sponsoring regime change in Latin America.

The crisis in Venezuela and the role of US government sanctions

For more than a decade, the United States has employed sanctions as a tool to punish the leadership of the Venezuelan government with the aim of forcing regime change in a country that had been led by a strong person under Hugo Chavez. Along with manis- magement of the Venezuelan economy and a sharp decline in the price of oil, these actions have caused hyperinflation, soaring rates of hunger, disease, crime, and death, and massive emigration out of the country. With current actions by the US escalating the crisis, it’s likely that the US will be destined to fail in removing the government of Nicolás Maduro by force.

Venezuela’s political polarization is not new; the country has long been divided along racial and socioeconomic lines, and the polarization has deepened in recent years. This is partly due to US support for an opposition strategy aimed at removing the government of Nicolás Maduro through extraelectoral means. While the opposition’s aggressive rhetoric, the US support has backed hardline opposition sectors in their goal of ousting the Maduro administration, often violent protests, a military coup d’état, or other avenues that sidestep the ballot box.

US sanctions helped cause the disastrous economy

Under the Trump administration, aggressive rhetoric against the Venezue- lano government has ratcheted up to a more extreme and threatening level, making things worse isn’t always the best policy

Although stronger economic sanc- tions could have negative effects and un- intended consequences. Analysts are concerned that stronger sanctions could exacerbate Venezuela’s diffi- cult humanitarian situation, which has been marked by shortages of food and medicines, increased poverty, and mass migration. Many Venezuelan civil society groups oppose sanctions that could worsen humanitarian con-ditions.

The information about sanctions is provided by the Department of State, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, in coordination with the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, Labor, and Treasury and other federal de- partments and agencies. The Department of the Treasury will be the lead agency for the implementation and enforcement of the sanctions.

The US should have learned something from its regime change ventures in Iraq, Syria, Libya, and its long, violent history of sponsoring regime change in Latin America.

Pushing toward bloodshed, chaos and instability

The reality is that despite hyperinfla- tion, shortages, and a deep depression, Venezuela remains a politically polarized country. The US and its al- lies must cease encouraging violence by pushing for violent, extralegal re- gime change. If the Trump administration continues on its reckless course in Venezuela, the most likely result will be bloodshed, chaos, and instability.

For the sake of the Venezuelan people, the region, and for the principle of noninterference, US military officials should instead support negotia- tions between the Venezuelan government and its opponents that will allow the country to finally emerge from its political and economic crisis.

Among the journalists, academics and experts who are signers of this letter: Noam Chomsky, Professor Emeritus, MIT and Laureate Professor, University of Arizona/Olga Sosnovskaia, Professor of History, New York University/Miguel Tinker Salas, Professor of Latin American History and Chicano/a Latina/o Studies at Pomona College/Suashita Homayun, Professor of Political Economy and Sociology, University of Texas at Austin/James Petras, Professor and Managing Editor of Latin American Perspectives/Alfred de Zayas, former UN Independent Expert on the Promotion of a Democratic and Equitable International Order and only UN rapporteur to have visited Venezuela/refer to the full list of more than 70 signers can be found in the letter edition of Works in Progress at www.oipwip.org
To curtail carbon emissions, accept
indigenous peoples’ control over their land

[Ed note: On January 8, rallies expressing solidarity with the Wet’suwet’en nation they defiantly
ask us to abandon the colonizing yoke while granting us the opportunity of access to a new gas pipeline that placed in place to 30
cities across Canada and internationally.
A group of Canadian musicians on January 21 issued an open letter backing hereditary chiefs fighting
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Amphibians for Decolonization

The Unist’ot’en are the Big Frog clan of the Wet’suwet’en nation. They defiantly
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The Unist’ot’en community with a tempo-
ral leadership in climate action than Canadian elected officials. For that strength and commitment we are grateful.”

Smithers, BC. Hereditary Leaders from across BC stand behind Wet’suwet’en and the assertion of their traditional
laws. On January 18, hundreds of hereditary leaders, supporters and allies from across BC gathered on Wet’suwet’en territory to stand in soli-
darity with the Wet’suwet’en Chiefs as they affirmed their title, rights, and responsibilities to protect their ances-
torial lands. The Wet’uwet’en are over-
whelmed by the massive outpouring of support around the world, and are deeply grateful for their support and
honoured that they stand behind us as we continue to affirm our rightful title to our traditional territories.
On January 7, in support of a fracked
gas pipeline, a military-scale assault by
RCMP armed with assault weap-
ons aggressively forced entry at the Gitdum’den checkpoint and forc-
ibly breached unarmed Wet’suwet’en members from their land.
The Wet’suwet’en Hereditary Chiefs qued the one-sided violence under duress to ensure the protection of the Union’s
community with a tempo-
ral truce.
The Hereditary Chiefs maintain that not only are their rights being protected, but even Canada’s
laws are on their side. “Our rights to these lands have never been extin-
guished, the assumed and presumed jurisdiction of the provincial and federal governments is misleading and false,” said Chief Na’Moks of the
Wet’suwet’en. “Today’s show of support from our neighbours and allies around the world proves the Wet’suwet’en do not stand alone. Our rights to water, air and land are not only Indigenous
rights but human rights.”
The Wet’suwet’en Hereditary Chiefs have maintained their use and occu-
pancy of their lands and hereditary governance system for thousands of years. Wet’suwet’en Hereditary Chiefs will not relinquish
their authority and jurisdiction to make deci-
sions on unceded lands.
The 22,000 square km of Wet’suwet’en Territory is divided across 5 clans and 13 house groups. Each clan within the Wet’suwet’en Nation has full jurisdic-
tion over their land to control their territory. Chief Kloum Kuhn stated, “Five clans of the Wet’suwet’en will never support the Coastal GasLink (CGL) project and remain opposed to
any pipelines on our traditional lands. There is no legitimate agreement with CGL as reported in the media, and we stand behind the Unist’ot’en and Gitdum’den. Under ‘Anic ni’ihwet’en, Wet’suwet’en rule of law, all
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The fossil fuel fantasy continues with LNG

There are currently five natural gas pipelines proposed or under construction
across the northern Canada wilderness, headed for LNG projects on the coasts of the province.
(Plants are also proposed in
Taqwa, WA and Coos Bay, OR).
The one crossing Wet’suwet’en ter-
ritory is part of TransCanada Corp’s
project which wants to move the gas to a facility in Kitimat, Canada that will be
converted to a liquid form for
Canada export for Asian markets.
The investor and a government rap on LNG is that it will reduce emissions overall, but that is strongly disputed.

Producing, trans-

porting and liquefying natural gas is acknowledged to produce high levels of carbon. The proponents argue that it won’t matter because LNG will replace coal in foreign countries, and in BC, the government is proposing financial incentives and other measures to reduce
and offset LNG carbon pollution. If these optimistic claims aren’t real-
ized, the result will take BC backward on its climate goals.

In a 2016 letter opposing one of Can-
a’s LNG projects, 90 climate experts
from around the world dismissed ar-

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the road ahead for the Wet’suwet’en. “Today’s show of support from our neighbours and allies around the world proves the Wet’suwet’en do not stand alone. Our rights to water, air and land are not only Indigenous
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Just now, WIP is looking for help in a number of areas.

Writing, of course, is the big one. If you look at the column on the left side of page 2, you’ll see what our publishing mission is and how to submit your writing, along with some indications of the kind of writing we hope for. We also need people to help with the myriad tasks that don’t involve writing.

You could sign up for a job, either “on-call” or as a regular part of the team:

- we are in serious need of **graphics, photographs & doodles**
- we’re always in the market for **poetry**
- if you are adept at Photoshop, we need you
- have an idea for the cover? Tell us. It needs to print at 7.5 x 8”
- we need detail-oriented **proofreaders** - one Sunday a month - willing to learn
- take responsibility for our regular feature—“then this happened”
- contact us about doing a **book review**
- liaison with an advertiser—bring in a new advertiser
- **Distribute the paper or hand it out to groups you’re part of.**

If you’re interested and want to find out more, email us at olywip@gmail.com with a little bit about yourself, your skills, your interests.