Homelessness is not the problem — it’s a symptom

Mary Jo Dolis

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You can’t “cure” homelessness. Seeing homelessness as the problem
defined a benchmark to measure the success of their efforts to address homelessness. They set a target of redu-
ducing homelessness by 50% (to 220 people) and the homeless population in public schools by 50% (to 327 stu-
dents) by 2015. This didn’t happen.

In 2018, 835 people were counted as homeless in Thurston County. This
den was a 56% increase, and 301 more peo-
ple, than were counted in 2017. The number of homeless students in 2018 rose to 1679, more than 10% above the previous year and a 155% increase

25 years of Real Change
Seattle’s street paper embeds its vendors in a caring community

Tim Harris founded and is the Execu-
tive Director of Real Change, a weekly progressive street newspaper based in Seattle, Washington. He was inter-
viewed by Matt Crichton this May.

Matt Crichton: Why did you start Real Change?

Tim Harris: I started my first newspa-
per in college, and was involved with alternative publications in Boston. When I saw what Street News was do-
ing in New York, I thought “that’s the answer to my dilemma.” Street News

As it was the third time that hap-
pened, I got the message that I need-
ed to adapt and rethink my role as an organizer and how power works in an organization. I aspired to a more cross-class model involving people who could bring different kinds of as-
ssets to the table. I moved to Seattle in March ’94, and had the first issue of Street Roots on the street the following August.

MC: When’s the biggest change in Se-
attle since you started the paper?

TH: The radical change is that Seattle has gone from a working class city where poor people were comfortable to a city built around affluence. After the city lifted height restrictions for downtown residential buildings in the late 2000s, Seattle had more cranes on our skyline that any other city in America. Since then, rents have steadily risen. Poor people have been largely priced out of the city and now middle class people are being priced out too. The disparity of wealth has created instability and the attrition of affordable housing has radically esca-
lated homelessness.

MC: How does Real Change help peo-
ple?

TH: Our mission is to provide oppor-
tunity and voice to homeless and low-
income people, while taking action on economic, social and racial justice. At its most fundamental level, Real Change is a low-threshold employ-
ment opportunity, where vendors buy papers for 50 cents each, sell them for $2 plus and keep whatever they make from that. We have 300 active vendors a month. Over the course of the year, about 700 people sell the paper.

Vendors find a voice through partici-
pation in the newspaper. We publish their stories in the paper as a means

Since the 2006 baseline of 654 stu-
dents.

Individual behavior vs social condi-
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The most recent report (2018) on Thur-
ston County’s count of homeless peo-
ple stated “causes” of the huge increase in homelessness. Participants in focus groups viewed rent increases and lim-
ited housing availability as the culprit. Many also recognized the presence of addiction (drug and alcohol) as well as mental health as major causes.

Homelessness is an issue of people them-
- selves, responding to a sea of social issues. Today, the 300 vendors, listed job loss or unemploy-
ment, eviction or other loss of housing, rejection by the family or domestic violence.

Except for rent increases and limited housing availability, these “causes” all look to individual circumstances. What’s miss-
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dents.
In the current circumstances, it's hard to conceive of a phrase laden with more cynicism than “home is where your heart is.” Under the sugar-coated im- agery of political, environmental and social progress, the word “home” is defined by an act of love lies the con- cealed notion that fulfilling human needs requires no material basis. In the wealthiest nation in human history, so many Americans cannot go not where home is, but rather where the government so servile and obs- cenity is sustained, and maybe things that extend beyond that needed for clar- ification is that Iran will not negotiate for every 100 extremely low-income renting households, only 29 affordable rental homes were available.

Given all this, perhaps attention needs to go where home is, but rather why in the wealthiest nation in human history, so many Americans cannot find an affordable home except in the form of a cardboard box under a free- way overpass. Why do eleven million Americans need to spend 50% of their income on rent, leaving very little money to cover other basic needs? Why in the US does chronic poverty engulf over 47 million people, 14% of the population? Why, at the same time, is there so much money available for the military which has an insane bud- get of over seven hundred billion dol- lars—higher than the combined budget of the ten wealthiest nations on earth? Why, in this context, did the current administration push aside the housing for 40 or more single adults and couples without children. Many of the Plum Street homes were built by volunteers, but men confined in the Cedar Creek Corrections Cen- ter also build tiny houses. Each is 8’ x 12’ insulated, with electricity and heat, windows, and a lockable door. There is also a security house, a communal kitchen, meeting space, bathrooms, showers, laundry, a management office, and 24/7 staff pro- viding security and management. The Cedar Creek program is run by Cen- tralia College in partnership with the new Income Housing Group of the Pacific Northwest. LIHI also manages the Billy Frank Jr. Place low income apartments on State Avenue in downtown Olympia, and a community, a communal kitchen, meeting space, bathrooms, showers, laundry, a management office, and 24/7 staffing. Why is the government so serve and ob- scenity is sustained, and maybe things that extend beyond that needed for clar- ification is that Iran will not negotiate for every 100 extremely low-income renting households, only 29 affordable rental homes were available.

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Lawmakers and activists combine to ensure immigrant rights

Bob Zeigler & Lin Nelson

Washington State will have the strongest immigrant protection legislation in the country, according to ACLU Coordinator Eric Gonzales. “Keep Washington Working,” just passed by our legislature, ensures the rights and dignity of all residents and recognizes the importance of immigrants. The legislation repeals two anti-immigrant bills that have been on the books since 1925—research and need for legislation to provide policy guidance. These inter-actions helped our District 22 legislators become much more involved as immigrant advocates in the legislature. Laurie Dolan worked on a minor amendment to save the Keep Washington Working bill when it failed in the first House Floor vote. Activities that helped push Keep Washington Working across the finish line:

Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network (WAISN), ACLU, WA State Labor Council, Northwest Immigrants’ Rights Project (NWIRP), Faith and Action Network, local CIELO and Strengthening Sanctuary have been working to press for passage of this immigrant protection legislation. Many other groups such as One America, Thurston County League of Women Voters, and others across the state have also pressed for it.

Strengthening Sanctuary members Debi Hardy and Gayle Mar-Chun, who are retired school administrators, encouraged the legislature to adopt an additional bill to make schools safe for immigrant students. Because we got involved too late the bill did not proceed after being sent to committee. The school administrators impressed our legislators with the school community’s passion.

The legislation repeals two anti-immigrant bills that have been on the books since 1925—

ACLU on Mondays and WAISN on Tuesdays had statewide non-hour conference calls to describe where the legislation was at and actions needed each week of session.

Calls and emails to legislators from members of Strengthening Sanctuary, Thurston County League of Women Voters and other supporters around the state. Folks went to House and Senate Hearings on the bills and signed in as “pro” to be counted and reported to the Committee.

The bill will not totally stop ICE from arresting and deporting immigrants in Washington State, but it will make a real difference in the lives of immigrants. In the past ICE (and before that INS) tended not to have high visibility in areas where there was strong immigrant support. But with the vindictive Trump Administration, there could be increased activity as a result of the bill. To counter this, WAISN is planning deportation defense strategies. (To report ICE or other immigration activities you may call 1-844-724-3737.)

As it is much easier to kill than to pass a bill, there were disappointments this legislative session. SB 5164 would have provided assistance to immigrant victims of trafficking. It sailed through the Senate, but died in the House when it was argued that a piece of the title was unconstitutional. It will be corrected and re-introduced next year.

Strong legislative session in support of immigrant rights

Overall, it was a strong session in support of immigrant rights. Here are comments from Lizé Tomás Rebúgo, Field Director for ACLU of WA.

No matter where we come from, how we speak, or what we look like, all people have a right to be treated with dignity and respect. The Keep Washington Working Act recognizes the right to an identity that is seen and valued—not feared and ostracized. Communities across the state will benefit from this important legislation, which affirms the inherent worth of all immigrants and the important contributions immigrants make to our state’s economy and culture.

The effort to strengthen sanctuary policies in support of immigrant rights is connected to a broader movement for justice here in the region. WAISN is a key organizer among more than 100 groups, large and small, that organize around immigrant rights. WAISN is especially strong on identifying and strengthening youth lead- ership, grants, and other resources on protecting local communities, disentangling local law enforcement from federal immigration enforcement. Another important passage is the Workforce Education Investment Act. It provides for major investments into workforce education throughout the state.

This act will give families making around $60,000 or less (70% of the state’s median family income) a full-tuition scholarship to college or technical training. It will significantly help immigrant families. It is paid for by an increase in the Business & Occupation tax on lawyers, engineers and other professionals.

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How Amazon and Boeing ate Seattle

Linda Averill

When Amazon unleashed its building wave to offer $5 billion in incentives to entice 200 cities offered mind-blowing sums of money to lure the e-commerce giant, Cori Domschot, a member of MomsRising and a member of MomsRising. Cori Domschot is a mother living in Olympia and a member of MomsRising. Information in this piece is from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, "Working Families Tax Relief Act Would Help At Million Households, Cut Poverty and Deep Poverty." A priority for elected officials? And the Washington Working Families Tax Relief Act (WFTRA) is introduced in the US Senate, which would help moms like me. In fact, 15.3 million working moms would see an increase in their EITC or CTC from the Working Families Tax Relief Act. This last month would boost the incomes of about 44 million households, benefiting more than 112 million people. My family and many of my friends would be among them. A simple fix The bill would do this by expanding the EITC by roughly 25 percent and raising the maximum benefit for a family with two children to $7,290, making the CTC fully refundable by creating a new, fully refundable Young Child Tax Credit (YCTC) for children under age 6. That is my ear because we've learned from personal experience that no matter how carefully a family plans, all the expenses that come with having a young child is nearly impossible. Coupled with state action The tax credits would be amplified by state action as well. Washington State Sen. Jon Nguyen and State Rep. Debra Entenman have introduced a proposal for a new Working Families Tax Credit. It would provide a rebate to Washington families, including workers in low- and moderate-income families like mine and also extend the tax credit to all families, not just those with children. High Tech and Radical Activism In light of the havoc Amazon continues to wreak on the nation, especially Washington State, Cori Domschot is an example of how solidarity can stand up against big business bullies. In light of the havoc Amazon continually use extortion to get even more perks. In 2013 Boeing demanded — and got — a record $8.2 billion in state subsidies by threatening to take production elsewhere. At the same time, it ramped up a concessionary contract down the throat of its blue-collar workforce. Machinists Local 751 fought valiantly but ultimately lost against a coalition that included Boeing bosses and politicians of both the Democratic and Republica...
I have seen the faces of homelessness

Mary Watt

Do I have a right to exist in America? Do you? Answering should be easy; of course, we do. Because we are here, we are alive, we are human. Do people who do not have decent housing have a right to exist? That answer is not always so easy, especially in a culture that has demonized our homeless folks for our entire adult life, since 1970. When I was a kid I heard aboutbums, said to be men who were lazy and did not want to work. This has now changed. We see women who are homeless, families with children who are homeless, veterans who are homeless, teenagers who are homeless.

No place to go

I have met many homeless folks in downtown Olympia. I served as a volunteer many times last summer in front of City Hall. We watched them run out of food. I met a young woman, 26, who sleeps at Interfaith shelter. She has a "permanent bed" for medical reasons. Great that she has a bed at the shelter, right? But everyone at the shelter has to leave at 7 a.m. and cannot return until 5 p.m. Every night at 5 p.m. homeless folks put their name in a lottery to try to get a bed for one night.

What about Providence Community Care Center on State Avenue? It is packed with people inside and in the courtyard every day that they’re open, especially when it’s raining or cold. Their hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Help is not set up to take chronic ill individuals. I have been told by homeless folks that Providence St. Peter Hospital tells them that there is nothing wrong with them and sends them packing. Contrast this with a retired man that I know. He went to the same ER for gastrointestinal issues and was given extensive tests and kept overnight. The difference is that he is retired from the State of Washington and has excellent insurance.

No places to rent

A rising cause of homelessness is lack of affordable housing, eviction huge increases in rent, and refusal to pay a living wage. Folks on social security disability usually receive about $750 a month. What about low-income housing programs? The Federal Section 8 housing program has been closed to new applicants for months or years, depending on the state. State and community programs for low-income housing have low wait times.

With 78% of Americans living pay-check to paycheck how many more will lose their housing? As more folks wind up homeless it gets worse. A one-bedroom apartment for low-income is $700 and up. We are talking Seattle, it’s born in Olympia, Lacey, Tumwater, Belfair, Shelton. Even if you have been approved for rental assistance through programs like Sidewalk in Olympia, you often cannot find a landlord who will rent to you.

The homeless I know did not have the privilege of making good choices. They had to choose between bad choices— and worse choices. These are women who had to escape an abuser, who grew up in one foster home after another, who was abusive. Some lost everything because of medical bills, having a bad injury or accident and then being unable to work.

Members of this community

I have seen the faces of homelessness and talked to the people experiencing it. Our homeless neighbors are members of our community. They aren't coming here in cars, from other towns, most of them are local to the Northwest. Most of them are not on hard-core drugs. Their number one need is housing. Bar nonprofit organizations are stretched to the limit and beyond. Well-meaning folks do good work to help our neighbors. But we can never solve the problem without leaders in government who have the moral courage to do what is right.

Political leadership necessary

We have to change the direction the USA has been going since the Reagan years. We need leaders who will take bold action to help those who are suffering the most.

We also need better leaders on the Olympia City Council, leaders who will commit to doing what is needed. Giving tax breaks, not for condos for the wealthy, as they do now, but for low income.

Mary Watt was born in Olympia in 1952. She lived in Tucson, AZ for thirty years before retiring as a librarian and technical writer. She lives in Lacey with her cat, Miss Sally.

---MK---

Blessed always with a safety net

I don’t remember when my parents kicked out of their apartment. I was one, my older brother was two, and a younger brother was just born. The landlord told my parents that he can’t have three little kids in his apartment. We moved in with my grandparent for three years until my parents bought a small two bedroom house. Then since I’ve always had a house to go to that felt like home. I heard a definition once that a home is a place that is always with a safety net—a structure, a place. I’ve been lucky and blessed to have had a home of my life, a place with shared values and caring for one another, with sleep come easily with no worries of the power being turned off or of gun fire. We can walk downtown, to shops and schools and churches. In walking we get to know our neighbors. We didn’t want to live somewhere where a car is necessary to get around. Our parents instilled in us the importance of education and being a hard worker, and they were honorable people. I was lucky and blessed always with a safety net—a home. Not everyone is—MK
The incentive—and the reality—is to build to make money, not to provide homes for people.

The ensuing decades saw more of the same, and today a new addition to Trump City is under construction: Hudson Yards, a luxury development meant to create investment properties for the global rich. Its towers stand in stark contrast to the nearby Penn Station, once the gateway to an era when workers could walk to work. Hudson Yards has received $7 billion in tax breaks from the state and city, and another $1 billion in bonds funded in part up to $3 billion in city-issued bonds. If the development is not built, the city has said it will pay the interest to bondholders out of tax revenue. In other words, while the city continues to pay the housing working class, it guarantees profits for the ultra-rich.

Predictably, the developers are seeking to sell as many apartments as possible with no nonunion labor, provoking a show-down with New York City’s building trades. Tagged as the #CountMeIn movement, a drumbeat of job actions denounced nonunion labor and its pro-corporate impact. The ensuing decades saw more of the same, and today a new addition to Trump City is under construction: Hudson Yards, a luxury development meant to create investment properties for the global rich. Its towers stand in stark contrast to the nearby Penn Station, once the gateway to an era when workers could walk to work. Hudson Yards has received $7 billion in tax breaks from the state and city, and another $1 billion in bonds funded in part up to $3 billion in city-issued bonds. If the development is not built, the city has said it will pay the interest to bondholders out of tax revenue. In other words, while the city continues to pay the housing working class, it guarantees profits for the ultra-rich.

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How unions can solve the housing crisis

Erik Foreman

Dr. James Peter Warbs wrote in the journal Co-operation, “Once the people of New York City lived in their own houses, but those days have gone. ... The houses are owned by landlords who conduct them, not for the purpose of domiciling the people in health and comfort, but for the single purpose of making money out of tenants.” That was in 1919.

A forgotten strategy

A century later, things have gone from bad to worse. A quarter of US households live in poverty; 1 in 6 American children live in poverty. Since World War II, New York City’s labor movement had won something approaching social democracy at a municipal level. The city government sponsored a miniature welfare state, complete with free higher education at the City University of New York, an affordable and functional subway system, controlled rents and more. But the discipline required would be beyond most of us, and the slightest glitch would result in eviction.

Moving in tandem: poverty-housing prices-homelessness Thurston County prides itself on its healthy median household income—it was over $60,000 in 2018 (as reported by Thurston Regional Council of Governments). On the other hand, a “living wage” calculated for one adult in Thurston County at $12.56 brings in $24,000 (less than $2000/month)—if it is full-time. A lot of low-wage jobs in Thurston County are not. In any case, $2800 is an amount unlikely to sustain a $1000 monthly rent and still have a job. The discipline required would be beyond most of us, and the slightest glitch would result in eviction.

Median income—touted in discussions of “affordability”—is completely misused in terms of activity to rent or own a home. Real estate tracking data (Sperling’s Best Places) calculate that a family of four earn under $20,000 per year. TRPC shows that the number of individuals living in poverty keeps increasing. According to the 2013-17 American Community Survey data, 11.6% of Thurston County residents live below the federal poverty level. This is reflected in the possibility finding shelter. One in five households can afford $66,000 in 2018 (as reported by Thurston County, and one conclusion of his stuck in my head: social phenomena have so many causes. When hundreds and thousands of people experience the same situation, it’s a social phenomenon. You won’t be able to get to the bottom of why it’s happening if you keep searching for the answer in “individual choices,” “bad behavior,” or even “bad luck.”

The incentive—and the reality—is to build to make money, not to provide homes for people.
Whether a renter or a homeowner, we can all celebrate the increased tenant protections Washington residents gained this legislative session. Not the people who have been most affected by weak tenant protections—people of color, women, seniors, people with disabilities, LGBTQs, veterans, low-wage workers and families —will have additional protections to remain housed.

Recently signed into law, SB 5600 provides tenants 14 days’ notice, instead of 3, when served an eviction notice. This could mean one more paycheck or the necessary time to access community support services to catch up on rent and remain housed. No one should lose their housing because they experienced an emergency or fell behind on bills one month.

Thankfully, judges can now examine the full circumstances of the late or non-payment of rent and institute payment plans with tenants instead of completing an eviction. Another bill, HB 1440 requires landlords to give 60 days’ notice for rent increases, which is 30 days more than previously, now allowing more time to make budget adjustments. The dozens of people, community organizations, unions, faith networks, and service providers that testified and advocated for this legislation know that a stable home means a stable community.

Despite these incredible wins, the work to increase tenant protections continues across the state. Some legislators chose to protect the financial interests of the few over the fundamental needs of the many. Month-to-month tenants can still be sent a 20-day notice to vacate for any reason. Because landlords don’t have to prove a legitimate business reason, tenants are not protected against discrimination or retaliation.

Tenants deserve to be given a cause for eviction because housing is an essential need we all share. Further, good cause eviction policy will only affect landlords who evict tenants without a cause. If landlords have for eviction—non-payment of rent, broken lease, damages, illegal activity, etc.—they still have the power to evict tenants. Stable Homes Federal Way is working to advance these “good cause” tenant protections by collecting over 7,000 signatures in Federal Way by June 6. Over the past several years, community members have passed strong renter protections on the local and state levels.

Yet, even in the face of the region’s worst housing crisis, there is incredible resistance from lawmakers to support protections like good-cause eviction that keep families and communities stably housed,” said Xochitl Maykovich, campaign manager for Stable Homes Federal Way. “Given that similar legislation did not pass the legislature even with such profound need for these protections, we felt obligated to take the fight to the ballot.”

The conversations had while collecting signatures made it clear that poor and working-class families, people of color, women and immigrants are routinely taken advantage of by landlords, experiencing a high rate of no-cause evictions. Numerous people who are now homeless due to a no-cause eviction rejoiced when they learned they could help stop that from happening to somebody else. Federal Way City Council and lawmakers supported protections will be won because black, brown and white folks have united for stable homes just as we have for other landmark legislation at state and federal levels.

This year Washington state legislators passed critical legislation in the fight for tenant protections. What wasn’t won statewide can still be won at the local level and further signal to our legislators that Washington residents want common sense reforms that address our collective needs for stable housing.

Cities do not need to bear the burden of legislative inaction. Rather, cities can fund affordable housing like Tacoma, Olympia and Tumwater can take the necessary actions to implement additional tenant protections and support advancing them statewide in the next legislative session.

Sarah Stockholm is a community organizer and popular educator working with Washington Community Action Network at the intersections of race, class, community and legislation.

Unions

From previous page

invested in the construction of one of the luxury towers, and the union does not support the protests—though in-creasingly rank-and-file carpenters are joining the movement.

There is deep irony in union funds building nonunion housing that most workers will be unable to afford. Labor is quite literally investing in its own destruction.

It doesn’t need to be this way. Most of the necessary conditions for unions to develop housing are in place. The city is seeking affordable housing developer- ers for parcels of land across the bor-oughs. Financing is available through Low Income Housing Tax Credits and union pension funds invested in the AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust. And the state still grants tax abate- ments for affordable housing develop- ments.

The 40,000 units of housing built by UHF are the embers of a vision that once fired the labor movement: Build for human need, not for profit. The
City of Segregation
100 years of struggle for housing in Los Angeles
(verso 2018), by Andrea Gibbons

Adam Tomes

(Ed note: Covenants preventing African-Americans, Native Americans, Filipinos and other "colored" persons from buying a home in certain areas existed in Oklahoma during at least 1919. In the SW neighborhood, there were deeds that specified that no colored person could live in the property—with an exception for domestic servants.)

Los Angeles is a vast, sprawling, fragmented American metropolis, which has been etched into the consciousness of the modern world with the glamorous veneer of Hollywood stars allegiance to style and streets of South Central depicted in Straight Outta Compton (2015). It is a checkboard of desperate poverty and immense wealth with segregation as the linchpin of racial stratification.

Some people don’t get to choose where to live
The segregation is not natural; it is not down to individual choice as to where to live, as Milton Friedman argued, but is rather a product of a combination of regulation, discrimination, structural inequality and violence. Only white Americans have the freedom to use their wealth to buy a home wherever they like, and they use that freedom to isolate themselves from others. This has led to life defining levels of inequality with more than half of black families living in the poorest quarter of neighbourhoods in consecutive generations, whilst that figure is only 7% for white families (p.2).

Reserves Authority. They plan to renovate Lifta and surround the buildings with a fence. In December of 1947, Mamo and her family were preparing to move to West Los Angeles. In 1947 the Hagannah (Jewish paramilitary organization during the British Mandate) targeted Lifta and surrounding towns. In December of 1947, Mamo and her family were preparing for Christmas. She was working on the corner store stocking shelves.

In 1947 four hundred Palestinians lived in the town of Lifta. There were coffeehouses, shops, an elementary school, and a social club. Lifta was a suburb of Jerusalem. In 1947 the Hagannah (Jewish paramilitary organization during the British Mandate) targeted Lifta and surrounding towns.

All of David was spray painted on the wall. The pool of water that was falling down, and the animals. As Umar spoke a group of young settlers played and swam in the pool of water that was previously for drinking and cooking.

I am able to visit Lifta, but Palestinians of Lifta are not able to come home.

Across the street there is a sign with the name Mei Nafsho in English and Hebrew. The word Lifta had been scratched off.

We continued the walk to the pools that are fed by the Wadi Al-Shami springs. Umar explained that Palestinians of Lifta constructed three pools, each feeding into the other. The top pool for drinking and cooking, the second for washing, and the third to water the animals. As Umar spoke a group of young settlers played and swam in the pool of water that was previously for drinking and cooking.

As the walk continued, we passed homes that were falling down and the building that was once a school. Umar stopped to point out the two houses that had been renovated and that Jewish settlers now live in. Buildings were covered in graffiti. In the Mosque, a Star of David was spray painted on the wall.

As we walk through Lifta, I think about Mamo who is 86. I know that she was raised in Gregory Street in Whittier, California. While she does not live there now, I am able to go there any time. The name of the town and street she played in Lifta is still in my language. Whittier can be found on any map of the United States.

I hold in honor the history that we walk through, remembering that I am able to visit Lifta, but Palestinians of Lifta are not able to come home.

This is an eyewitness account by Whitney Faulkner, who was part of the Environmental Justice and Olive Harvest Delegation organized by EyeWitness Palestine. Whitney is Executive Director of the Rachel Corrie Foundation.

The nature of this book is to explore how ideology, economics, politics and space have come together in LA to ‘create this kind of segregation, to think about how these dynamics continue in new forms to the present, and above all to think about how we might do better’. LA, despite differences from other cities, is an excellent subject for study as it is connected to other US cities through the patterns of the flow of capital and deindustrialisation at the centre with reindustrialisation in the suburbs. In the outer areas, unionised, higher skilled and higher paid work was available alongside a ‘shared history of white discrimination and violence.’ Andrea Gibbons, as a former activist organiser in LA, is well placed to map both the history of discrimination and struggle along lines of race, class and gender.

Capital, ideology and space
Andrea Gibbons draws upon two distinct academic traditions in the writing of this book. On the one hand, there is the theory developed by authors such as Mike Davis and David Harvey that seeks to understand the ‘connections between capital, ideology and space’. Whilst the author believes that these studies start to see where class and race intersect, she perceives them as taking capital as the starting point for analysis rather than understanding ‘that capital has been structured by race’. This challenge to class based analysis is one that the author argues strongly throughout by drawing on the tradition of racialized geographies of poverty, power and privilege such as W. E. B. Du Bois’ The Philadelphia Negro (1889).

Gated communities, exclusive suburbs, gentrification
This approach throws up some deep insights such as the application of W.E.B Du Bois’ concept of the veil. The veil is a clear physical line of difference and as W. E. B. Du Bois’ concept of the veil. The veil is a clear physical line of difference and as W. E. B. Du Bois’ concept of the veil.

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The Carnegie Group and how it helped guide a new era of growth

by Zena Hartung

Joining others of like mind and working on a shared goal is a hallmark of what it means to be human. In many of our pursuits, there are ready-made organizations—such as Tai Chi or Rotary—that we seek out and discover. Some, however, are more difficult to pursue. So it was with the Carnegie Group.

The Carnegie Group grew out of some frustrations that residents of Olympia, Lacey, and Thurston County were experiencing at the end of the 20th century. What follows is a first-person account of how this very local and spontaneous group developed and grew.

The cast of characters

This look back begins with interviews with those who were there in the beginning: people like Jim Weber, Walt Jorgensen, Stephen Langer, Anne Buck, Linda and Lanny Carpenter and Ken Filak. Some we could not interview were also there from the start: people like Bernie Friedman and Herb Legg, Eve Johnson, Jerry Parker and Gene Dzurecz. This section is as much about those who have passed away as those who are still in the fight today.

Questioning growth

The Carnegie Group's origin story has several threads. According to Linda, the Group grew out of early frustrations about being heard in opposition to plans for LOTT water utility. Jim Weber recalls success in quashing plans for a convention center in Olympia. Jerry Johnson, Jerry Parker and Gene Dzurecz. This section is as much about those who have passed away as those who are still in the fight today.

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Minimum protocol, maximum commitment

It was a common cause that sparked this assembly every Monday, yet if you asked individuals, then as now, you'd get an array of answers. Anne Buck says it is because this group put action before protocol. To this day, there is no minimum protocol, no maximum membership. Jim Weber points to some real Carnegie Group successes. Confronted with a large golf course and houses in 340 acres of Woodland Creek basin, the regular Monday meetings allowed opponents to track every step of the review process. Keeping up with the Environmental Impact Statement, filing timely public comments, and following up with City Manager Greg Cuio, kept pressure on to preserve the wilderness. Today that area is a County Park serving to preserve wildlife in an increasingly crowded peninsula. Steve Langer recalls that Carnegie Group put pressure on LOTT to develop only as quickly as population pressure, acknowledging "build it and they will come" works with more than transportation.

More to come

Who did Carnegie Group back for local office? How did they manage to put a dollar on the table—testimony to your seriousness of purpose? Jim Weber says the glue was a common belief in protecting the environment, but Bob Jacob would say that's too narrow. Bob insists the overriding purpose is broader—good government itself. He may be a point of friction in the group, but have either run for office, held elected positions or worked on a campaign.

Responding to challenges

But whether the Carnegie Group is primarily a watchdog, a banner carrier, a squeaky wheel, or a whistle-blower, Carnegie Group made a name for itself; right from the beginning. Carnegie became known as a liberal response to the changes happening in Olympia and the greater area. By the election of 2002, some joked that to be endorsed for local office by the Carnegie Group was the kiss of death.

Compared to today it may seem tame, but those were challenging times. Downtown Olympia had lost its way. As anticipated, new malls on the Westside and in Lacey had drawn shoppers away from downtown. JC Penney closed its downtown store. But there was a new generation of business people and they opened eateries like Crackers and Urban Onion that drew regulars to the city's center. The Voyager was new and trendy. Randolf and Bronson moved to larger space across the street from its initial hole-in-the-wall. The newly built Washington Center began to change the feel of downtown Olympia.

Better government

Outside the church, there was not so welcome. There was a shift in where new housing was going in, moving from inside city limits, out to the county. It seemed the developers flowed to wherever they could make money, not to where there was the greatest need. Constructions on undeveloped land would trigger a demand for services like electric power lines, and schools and EMT. Providing those services required money from the existing tax base in support of new developments. Such changes were the stuff of discussion at Carnegie Group, which began to draw in more people. "Growth should pay for Growth" was a rallying cry that energized the group. The bumper stickers are still to be had for $1.00.

Preserving the environment

Jim Weber points to some real Carnegie Group successes. Confronted with a large golf course and houses in 340 acres of Woodland Creek basin, the regular Monday meetings allowed opponents to track every step of the review process. Keeping up with the Environmental Impact Statement, filing timely public comments, and following up with City Manager Greg Cuio, kept pressure on to preserve the wilderness. Today that area is a County Park serving to preserve wildlife in an increasingly crowded peninsula.

Home

At lunch in Ljubljana, Springsteen slides in softly on the box. A rush of home. I had a home place once. Certain—

Even though I, its loyal homeboy, made it up

Now there is no place—home

Only the familiar warmth of friends

And their fleeting momentary hugs.

On this one-way ticket.

The journey is home

From an early age, after growing up in Los Angeles, I took to the road, traveling, working, studying, living—in Europe, the east and west coasts of the U.S., in both parts of the country, and of Vietnam, courtesy of the U.S. Army. After more than a year and living and working in Central America, I stayed put for the longest spell in the Hudson Valley of New York—long enough to raise three kids and carve out full professional and creative lives. Two years ago, kids grown, and with a surprise offer of a new life on the west coast, where it all began, I moved to Olympia.

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On this one-way ticket.
Three simple goals: water, biomass, diversity

Paul Cereghino

Civilizations degrade ecosystem systems. Ours is no different (see the essay on restoration for a summary). Empowered by fossil fuels, our drive to power outpaces any potential for natural recovery. We are the global keystone species, and it isn't pretty. Our current condition is irrevocably both revealed and obscured by professional science and management. On one hand, professional science is able to imagine, detect and summarize our profound modification of the surface of the earth, from our doubling of nitrogen fixation, to shifting atmospheric composition, to declining global primary productivity and biodiversity. We are surrounded by systematic detailed peer-reviewed evidence. The language and analysis of scientific ecosystem management, on the other hand, is so arcane and inaccessible that most of our neighbors do not know the playbook, and may not even realize they are on the team. Government information workers decipher ecosystems and weigh social and economic significance, largely in private. We do a poor job building a shared base of knowledge. In back rooms, lawyers leverage every uncertainty in hand-to-hand combat over risk and liability. Legalism wrestles over words and numbers. What width of forest buffer, on average over a whole landscape, lets us avoid liability for killing fish? How many cases of cancer caused by polychlorinated bi-phylent ingestion can be glossed over during the next election? Questions like these reflect the underlying dereliction of our stewardship, more than reflecting the interests of people in communities. At the highest levels of leadership, we ask ourselves, "exactly how little do we have to do" or "what little more will satisfy popular demand?" A local leader does not yet need a coherent ecological platform to gain and hold power. In modern environmental management, communities are not participants in a web of life, they are "interested stakeholders." The truth is that we have lots of restoration projects, but very few restored watersheds. Projects are occasional, while deforestation and pollution are constant and grinding. If we do not effectively restore anything in particular, what are the chances of restoring the whole Salish Sea? Is ecosystem stewardship just another politicized industry and regulatory product competing in the marketplace of ideas? Do we chase after symptoms while ignoring the disease?

We need some simple ways to talk about ecosystems that help us think clearly. Understanding ecosystems does not have to be complicated. The best tool does good work with the least fuss. I would propose that three measures tell us most of what we need to know about our stewardship of a watershed.

Water
What do we do with the rain? We can either capture and store rain in wetlands, vegetation and groundwater, or we can send it as a polluted flood to the sea. Water is the first fertilizer. Our droughts are lengthening, and will bring more fire. We can directly observe our waste of water by walking the watershed in the rain. We could capture and store the rain and recover the functions of our cut forests with common tools, if it were not for proprietary rights and aquatic ecosystem regulation. Learning how to protect and store the water together is our first great challenge.

Biomass
The surface of the earth is cloaked and transformed by plants and their remains. Plants create soil, and I could have just rephrased the above. Biomass, but I’d be missing the forest. Our forested landscape is among the greatest carbon reservoirs of the earth, accumulating hundreds of tons per acre of mammoth tree boles and layered coarse woody debris. This biosphere is our home, and we are just little crumbly things on its surface. Before we learned how to burn fossil fuels, we were already busy cutting forests, overgrazing hill-slopes, and turning soil to dust and pavement, mostly to grow food, house people, or feed factory farms. We transformed the water cycle and forms the structure in which diversity resides. Rebuilding biomass while feeding ourselves is our second great challenge.

Diversity
When we restore water and biomass over a large surface of the earth, we create the conditions for life. The biosphere around us is a legacy from a once abundant world that we either cherish or degrade. Key biodiversity is disintegrating from agricultural development, elimination of predators, over harvest of key species, chemical disruption, habitat destruction, and our assisted migration of diseases to the new world. But this doesn’t stop works. As we destroy species, we diminish creation. As species form new combinations, or disappear, keystones are losing diversity, in a new and changing climate, we are likely to experience millennia of uniqueness. Whether we like it or not we are no longer in control (if we ever truly were) but we do profoundly influence the processes. Stewardship of diversity will be challenging and painful, but we can look deeply at the systems that remain and play our humble role, largely of self-restraint. Using our influence wisely to protect our evolutionary heritage is our third great challenge.

With these three goals in mind, all of us can work on our watersheds. Completely doesn’t help. Right where we live, we are either catching more rain, or less. Our biomass reserves are increasing, or decreasing. Keystone populations are expanding, or crashing. We can map our strengths and weaknesses, watershed by watershed and get to work. We can see change for better or worse, outside our door, and get to work. We can see change for better or worse, outside our door, and get to work. We can see change for better or worse, outside our door, and get to work. We can see change for better or worse, outside our door, and get to work. We can see change for better or worse, outside our door, and get to work.

A special thanks to John Liu and his vision for the simple goals of Ecosystem Restoration Camps.

Post Script—When I say “our” watershed, I am using the possessive primarily in the sense of our responsibility. The challenge before all others is to take responsibility for our own behaviors. Without a measure of self-discipline, all will be lost. When I ask you to consider “our” watersheds I mean ALL the watersheds from which we extract or derive our sustenance. If you buy beef from Brazil, then the Amazon is your watershed too. Once you put your hand on the balance, it cannot be undone. It’s the same in our forested foothills, as in America, disposable packaging, and disposable housing fuel the aggressive and endless clearcut in our forested, reducing the food cycles. We cannot tend our watersheds at the expense of another, and pretend any moral foundation, nor can we adequately steward our lands where we have relinquished our sovereignty.

Marsupials

*The word Possum was borrowed from the Powhatan language (Virginia Algonquian), which became extinct in the 1790’s when the speakers of the language, under duress, were forced to speak English. (Wikipedia 2018)

Marsupials carry in pouches—my unuttered thought. Marsupias, the unspoken word sings round in my mouth. Possums carry babies in pouches—my unuttered thought. Marsupials, the unspoken word sings round in my mouth. Pouches. Mammals carry babies in pouches—my unuttered thought. Marsupials, the unspoken word sings round in my mouth. Pouches. Mammals carry babies in pouches—my unuttered thought.

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The threat of US military intervention was palpable. When I awoke to hear gunshots out my window, it was 7 a.m. April 30th in Caracas. It was the day Nicholas Maduro and I were to step down as president and vice president, respectively. The opposition leader, Juan Guaidó, had been giving an ultimatum—the elected Venezuelan President had unraveled. Opposition leader Leopoldo López, who had broken from the government, was on the run. All the while, a prearranged story was unfolding. The next day 400,000 workers marched in a May Day rally, one of the largest pro-government mobilizations in the history of the Bolivarian revolution. Rather than the “mother of all marches,” Guaidó’s numbers paled in comparison to the scene on the street. “There’s a few thousand people, but my guess is Guaidó would have hoped for more. We saw Molotov cocktails being made but it’s peaceful.”

Swallowing the fabricated line

In the days since the aborted coup, reports have emerged that the real coup plotters—Elliot Abrams, Mike Pompeo and John Bolton—were themselves tricked in a plot laid by Venezuelan counterintelligence. They had been caught off guard by Foreign Minister Delcy Rodriguez and other two senior officials were going to defect based on discussions Abrams held with Padrino for several weeks. The day of the coup attempt, Abrams reportedly told Trump that there was a sure shot. The US media fell in line with Guaidó’s story. The New York Times reported there had been “a predawn takeover of a military base in the heart of the capital,” and that Guaidó had made a video message from the “white airbase” at La Carlota. The airbase was never in the hands of Guaidó or his supporters. Instead, some 2,000 of Guaidó’s supporters gathered on an overpass to watch the highway below where 200 or so violent protesters—likely paid—were firing on the military and throwing Molotov cocktails. The foreign reporter told me that Guaidó’s supporters were well-dressed, many women in BMW convertibles, with white cream on their faces to protect themselves from the sun and beating tear gas. After it was over, they were to the nearby luxurious Intercontinental Tamanaco Hotel and Guaidó was.last seen picking up the check for the room. A woman was staying at the same hotel.

The people of the world are asking the people of the US to oppose the illegal sanctions and intervention

May Day in Caracas

The support for the Bolivarian revolution and President Maduro appears stronger than ever, judging by the May Day outpatient. One participant later told me she had taken her mother and aunt to the rally for the first time. She said it was far different than last year’s May Day which was much smaller and on a visit to Vargas we saw a combined total of 420,000 people now live. Before 2011, most lived in shacks in the hillsides. In 2014, it was a flat oceanfront owned by four rich families. After the rains, the government took over the homes and built 1,700 new homes and 3,200 families. Nearly the entire state of Vargas has been rebuilt with new apartment buildings, new schools, new restaurants, and an additional 300,000 lives are at risk. Sanctions have prevented some of the new homes from being made but it’s peaceful. We saw Molotov cocktails being made but it’s peaceful.

Poder Popular and the Communes

More than 600 town squares have emerged that the real coup plotters—Elliot Abrams, Mike Pompeo and John Bolton—were themselves tricked in a plot laid by Venezuelan counterintelligence. They had been caught off guard by Foreign Minister Delcy Rodriguez and other two senior officials were going to defect based on discussions Abrams held with Padrino for several weeks. The day of the coup attempt, Abrams reportedly told Trump that there was a sure shot. The US media fell in line with Guaidó’s story. The New York Times reported there had been “a predawn takeover of a military base in the heart of the capital,” and that Guaidó had made a video message from the “white airbase” at La Carlota. The airbase was never in the hands of Guaidó or his supporters. Instead, some 2,000 of Guaidó’s supporters gathered on an overpass to watch the highway below where 200 or so violent protesters—likely paid—were firing on the military and throwing Molotov cocktails. The foreign reporter told me that Guaidó’s supporters were well-dressed, many women in BMW convertibles, with white cream on their faces to protect themselves from the sun and beating tear gas. After it was over, they were to the nearby luxurious Intercontinental Tamanaco Hotel and Guaidó was.last seen picking up the check for the room. A woman was staying at the same hotel.

The people of the world are asking the people of the US to oppose the illegal sanctions and intervention

May Day in Caracas

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André and Bryson who were charged multiple times each. A review of the trial as well as other Disabled community members. Donald was never held accountable for the shooting, both with PTSD and serious health complications. Officer Ryan Donald shot a bullet which remains in Bryson’s back, and he is now a wheelchair user as a result. Officer Ryan Donald was never held accountable for the harm he caused, and it was André and Bryson who were charged with “assault” and had to spend time in jail.

A review of the trial as well as other incidents involving Officer Ryan Donald tell us that keeping Donald on the Olympia police force puts every- one, especially Black, Brown, Poor And Disabled community members in mortal danger. During the trial that led to the incarceration of André and Bryson, Ryan Donald’s testimony was full of lies and contradictions. One of the most obvious falsehoods came when he tried to justify his use of lethal force by claiming André and Bryson had used their skateboards when he tried to tend to a power outage. He was in uniform, returning a work vehicle. Officer Ryan Donald drove past the CenturyLink building on Martin Way, “noticed an open gauge door and a dim light,” and saw Tyrone. He quickly asserted that “buh-gars were inside” and called for back-up. Tyrone now has PTSD from being thrown to the ground, and having five police officers pointing guns, including AR-15 assault rifles, at him while merely being black and at work.

As the May 21 anniversary of the shooting of André Thompson and Bryson Chaplin passed once again, closely as always to Mother’s Day, the Chaplin-Thompson family spent both days together, out of the public eye, and in celebration of life. They are currently engaged in a retrauma- tizing civil suit which stipulates “no public comment at this time.” The local chapter of SURJ, Showing Up for Racial Justice, is doing direct support of the Chaplin-Thompson family, and donations can be made at paypal.me/OlympiaSURJ.

Lisa Ganser works for Idries Stellay Foundation, writes for POOR Magazine and is a white, Poor, Disabled, Non Binary, Queer artist and organizer living in Olympia on stolen Squaxin, Chimakum and Nisqually land. They are a sidewalk chalker, a copy editor, a dog walker and the Daughter of a Momma named Sam.

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Letters to the editor and reader comments are welcome. Letters should be 100 words or less and submitted by email at kowalp@news.106.5FM Olympia 24/7 Public Affairs
Homelessness is fundamentally dehumanizing. Over the years, I've come to see Real Change as a project of humanization, where people go from relative anonymity and invisibility, still being embedded in the caring community of Real Change, coming to value themselves in a different way, and to see different kinds of potential for their own lives.

MC: Have you seen big changes in the project?

TH: At this point in our history, about half of our vendors are in housing. The majority are in some form of low-income housing. Selling the paper is part of a way of making their lives reasonable. Some vendors earn just enough from selling their paper to rent an apartment, often shared with somebody. Rent in Seattle is out of reach even for some people working full time. In Seattle, the wage you need to earn to afford the average rent is about $32/hour.

MC: Have you seen big changes in the attitude towards homeless people?

TH: In the late 2000s Seattle's mayor declared a policy of zero tolerance for urban camping and conducted a series of homeless sweeps where they just went and slashed people's tents open and threw away their stuff without out warning. It was brutal. The city backed this up with a narrative of 8th contagion, talking about urine, feces and needles. A protest and survival encampment started in West Seattle on a strip of industrial land with more than 100 people. It got a lot of media and public support before the city came down on it with arrests.

Favorable press coverage presented stories of the people in these encampments as a very humanizing way. People began to support survival camping because they could see that the city was not meeting the need for shelter for homeless people. The city eventually not only legalized homeless encampments, but also created sanctioned encampments on city property. I think we're in another shift with the Trump era where it's more acceptable to speak of marginalized people in deranging ways. There's a rise in online forums for hate. "Nextdoor" and others contain talk like "Nextdoor" and others contain talk about homeless people that can get a social and political impact on how people talk about and deal with homelessness.

MC: Do homeless people find a home in community?

TH: Yes, people find community in their homelessness. They try to achieve community and solidarity in a variety of ways: encampments like tents on public sidewalks in downtown Seattle—a form of community where people take care of each other. Small indoor shelter sites—homeless people create community. "Unsheltered" management. Sanctioned encampments: some host church property, some on city property, some in housing. People are figuring out survival encampments for about 3-4 years, build off the self-managed encampment model, and get a lot of support. Homelessness itself is very traumatizing. Trauma can be paralyzing. You lose your ability to think past the present moment. You're in fight or flight survival mode all the time.

I realize that the everyday issues I confront with people have an impact to what people on the street are going through. The mental health system that the PSE police is part of has not worked for them. The foster care system, that creates more trauma, goes with that. Being homeless itself is very traumatizing. You see somebody miserable on the street, and the self-comforting tendency is to tell ourselves well it must somehow be their fault because you know they deserve to be there. It's their personal failing. Sometimes that’s true, but in the majority of cases it's not due to personal failure, it's due to massive systemic failure.

I think it’s fine to get angry at what you see in the street. The problem is on the street is not right in any shape or form. But we have to remember that it is a system failure that brought us to this point. We should be angry about that, and not at the homeless person trying to survive.

To read Real Change online: realchangenews.org

Matt Crichton is a math support specialist at High School and a returned Peace Corps Volunteer.
A Mother’s Day call to eliminate the nuclear weapons deployed at Bangor

Leonard Eiger

Approximately thirty nuclear disarmament activists took part in a spirited rally at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor on Saturday, May 11 honoring the original antiwar message of Mothers Day, which called for the abolition of war and militarism. Activists blocked the entrance to the Trident Submarine Base Main Gate while holding up banners that read “Disarm Trident, Deploy Peace” and “Congress Wants $1Trillion for Nuclear Weapons. What Will Be Left For Our Children?” Supporter stood alongside the road holding signs reading “Abolish Nuclear Weapons” and “Our Children Deserve Better.”

State Patrol officers cited eight protesters and removed them from the roadway. Brenda McMillan of Port Townsend; Kathleen Kelly of Chicago, IL; kit Kittredge of Quilcene; Doug Miltholland of Port Townsend; Mona Lee of Seattle, Ramon Nacaynay of Shoreline, Larry Kerschner of Centralia, and James Manista of Olympia. Bob Delastrada of Olympia was arrested by Naval Security and cited for crossing the federal (blue) line.

Mother’s Day original purpose
In 1870, Julia Ward Howe envisioned a Mother’s Day for Peace in response to the carnage of the Civil War and other wars of her time. In that continued spirit Ground Zero Center believes that the world's children deserve better than to live under the threat of a renewed nuclear arms race and the catastrophic effects of any nuclear war. Increasing militarization and war steal resources desperately needed to mitigate climate change and improve people's lives, while increasing the risk of nuclear annihilation.

Voices for Creative Nonviolence

Eight of the US Navy’s fourteen Trident ballistic missile submarines are based at the Bangor Trident base, just 20 miles west of Seattle. The base is home to the largest concentration of deployed nuclear weapons in the US.

Training school: As a war tax refuser, Kelly has refused payment of all forms of federal income tax since 1980. Kelly and her colleagues believe the US should end all military and economic warfare and pay reparations for suffering already caused by US wars. For the past two years, Voices has helped organize vigils and forums about conflicts-driven near famine conditions in Yemen and northern Africa.

Nuclear weapons modernization

Today, the US government is accelerating nuclear weapons modernization, developing new nuclear weapons training school. As a war tax refuser, she has refused payment of all forms of federal income tax since 1980.

The Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action was founded in 1977. The center is on 3.8 acres adjoining the Trident base at Bangor, Washington. The Center offers the opportunity to explore the roots of violence and injustice in our world and to experience the transforming power of love through nonviolent direct action. We resist all nuclear weapons, especially the Trident ballistic missile system.

Summer Solstice Peace Gathering

Joining our hearts with the World Peace and Prayer Day

We come together as
All nations, all peoples, one purpose
One hope, one planet, one people of the Earth

Come Join Us Friday, June 21st, 10am to 6:30pm
1604 Union Ave. SE Olympia

10:00 – 11:00 – Opening, Blessing of the Space
12:00 – Singing Traditions
4:30 – 6:30 – Centering Prayer/Meditation (4 – 25 minute sits)

Come for 5 minutes or all day

Grounds, gardens, shrine and meditation house open to the public Persons of all traditions – and no tradition – welcome

For more info on the World Peace and Prayer Day go to: https://scnactiveamericancampaign.com/wppd2019

Sponsored by Brigid’s Well, a community devoted to contemplative practice, while mindful of the needs of our Earth, and those who are poor and marginalized.
La entrega de Assange
Nueva muestra de sumisión de Moreno

Juventud Socialista del Ecuador

Quito, 11 de abril de 2019. Ante el retiro del asilo político y posterior detención del periodista Julian Assange en Londres-Reino Unido, la juventud socialista del Ecuador expresa su total rechazo a la medida tomada por Lenin Moreno. Lo que se quiere presentar como supuesta acción soberana del estado ecuatoriano constituye a todas luces un acto de retaliación política y de indefensión en términos de los derechos humanos. Assange que re- 

bajo la ciudadanía ecuatoriana en diciembre pasado, ha sido expuesto y entregado por el propio estado que lo considera connacional.

El retiro del asilo no puede ser leído como un acto exclusivamente administrativo-diplomático. En el escenario global, los gestos juegan un papel preponderante y el gobierno ecuatoriano debía completar un conjunto de ellos para volver al regazo de la sumisión multilateral. No es casualidad que el boicot a UNASUR, en re reconocimiento a Guaidó en Venezuela y la entrega de Assange se den en el marco del FMI al país. Esta gestualidad lo costará caro a Ecuador, y la alta sociedad civil que ha acumulado sed de venganza durante los últimos años.

Para el campo popular y de la izquierda, no puede haber lugar para medios tints y reduccionismos presos de la coyuntura. La defensa de los derechos humanos y de la resistencia ante las contemporáneas formas de imperialismo deben ser causas inclaudicables de nuestra lucha, el asilo a Assange representaba ambas cosas. El gobierno ecuatoriano ha dado una nueva muestra de caminar en sentido contrario y de exponerse vergonzosamente ante la comunidad internacional. Moreno, su canciller Valencia y el entorno de

de la comunidad internacional. Moreno, su canciller Valencia y el entorno de

juicio a Assange en adelante. Retumban hoy con fuerza las palabras del viejo luchador Alfaro precursor del liberalismo popular en el Ecuador, quien expresara que “si en lugar de afrontar el peligro hubiera yo cometido la v ileza de pasarme al enemigo hubríamos tenido paz, mucha paz, la paz del coloniazmo. Como organización juvenil de izquierda, nos sumamos a todas las acciones que levanten la voz de protesta y evidencien la servil actuación del gobierno ecuatoriano. Hacemos, además, un llamado a las fuerzas progresistas a nivel mundial a denunciar públicamente lo sucedido y a permanecer en alerta ante posibles nuevas agresiones en este caso.

The delivery of Julian Assange
A new demonstration of Moreno’s submission

Socialist Youth of Ecuador

Quito, April 11, 2019. The Socialist Youth of Ecuador expresses its total re- 

jection of the measure taken by Lenin Moreno in the withdrawal of political 

asylum from the journalist Julian As- 

sange leading to his subsequent arrest 

in London. What is presented as an 

alleged sovereign action by the Ec- 

uadorian state is clearly an act of po- 

litical retaliation and defenselessness in terms of human rights. Assange, who received Ecuadorian citizenship 

last December, has been exposed and 

handed over by the very state that 

considers him to be a national.

The withdrawal of asylum cannot 

be read as an exclusively ad- 

ministrative-diplomatic act. On the 

global stage, gestures play a 

powerful role and the Ecuador- 

ian government had to complete 

a set of them in order to regain its place 

in the lap of multilateral submission. 

It is no coincidence that the boycott 

of UNASUR, the recognition of Guai- 

dó in Venezuela, and the surrender of As- 

sange, occurred within the framework 

of the return of the IMF to the country. This gesture will cost Ecuador dearly,

and confirms the cracking of its fragile 

democratic discourse. Inside the country,

the American embassy, the chambers 

of commerce, and high civil society 

have returned to rule with an ac- 

cumulated thirst for revenge.

For the popular camp and the left 

the enemy camp, we would have had 

peace, much peace, the peace of co-

colonialism.” As a youth organization 

remain alert for possible new aggres-

sions in this case.

Photo—Lockheed Martin’s sign gets 

graffitied painted with truth

End the bombing of Yemen

President Trump’s veto of a bill directing him to withdraw support for the war on Yemeni people confirms the President’s willingness to make the American people accomplices in delivering death and destruction to people in a land no American gives a damn about. The phrase “worst humanitar-

ian crisis in the world” has lost its power as it is repeated and repeated and 

yet we do nothing different, nothing changes in our hearts or our country’s 

policies. A collection of disturbing photographs might still be able to convey 

some of the losses we are responsible for. https://www.vice.com/en_uk/ article/5979p3/yemeni-photographers

As the 2020 election draws closer, US involvement in Yemen as well as the 

broader debate around congressional war pow-

ers will be important foreign policy litmus 

tests for candidates hoping to differen-

hate themselves from a 

president who has con-

tinued our role as assis-

pants to the Saudi gov-

ernment in five years of 

dropping bombs on the 

people of Yemen.

Photo—Lockheed Martin’s sign gets 

graffitied painted with truth

YWCA MISSION IMPACT: OUR COLLECTIVE FUTURE

LUNCHEON
TUESDAY, JUNE 4 - 11:30 AM TO 1:00 PM
SPSCC Lacey Campus
4220 6th Ave SE, Lacey
Tickets $20; Table of 8 $280. Scholarships available available!
Register at www.YWCAofolympia.org

What would a community that truly values all of its people look like?

“Completely different from ours” YWCA Youth Participant

YWCA Youth Participant

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“Completely different from ours” YWCA Youth Participant
Part of being a welcoming community means ensuring our newest neighbors have stable, safe, and healthy housing. By contributing to the IRC in Seattle’s Welcome Home Fund, you can help refugees and survivors of trafficking maintain housing as they rebuild their lives in Washington State. For many families, just a few hundred dollars in short-term rental assistance can mean the difference between homelessness and maintaining housing stability – and that stability is key to helping people heal and achieve their goals. This flexible fund will allow IRC case managers to address families’ housing needs while they transition into new jobs, undergo medical treatment, find safety from abuse or exploitation, or perhaps just need a little more time to settle into their new community.

**HOW TO HELP**

1. **Donate**
   Make a tax-deductible donation at bit.ly/IRCWelcomeHome. Everyone who donates by 6/28/19 is invited to an end-of-campaign celebration!

2. **Create your own fundraiser**
   Create a fundraising page at bit.ly/IRCWelcomeHome and encourage friends, family, colleagues, and neighbors to contribute. Find creative fundraising ideas on the site. Special thank-you gifts for those who raise $100+ or $500+!

3. **Spread the word**
   We understand not everyone is in a position to donate. You can help by spreading the word about the campaign among your networks!

*The International Rescue Committee provides opportunities for refugees, asylees, victims of human trafficking, survivors of torture, and other immigrants to thrive in America. The Seattle office has embarked on a special effort this spring to build a housing support fund. This will allow them to help more individuals and families to rebuild their lives, and reach the end of their journey from harm to home.*